



COMMUNITY PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

We're delighted to launch our "Spirit of Mortimer" **Community Photography Competition**, inviting residents to capture what makes our village special.

The competition is open to four categories: Below School Year 7, School Years 7–11, School Years 12–13, and Adult. Winners in each category will receive prizes of up to £50, with runner-up prizes also available. **Deadline for entries April 3.**

Winners will be decided by an online community vote. Winning photographs will be displayed at the Annual Parish Meeting and featured in our first community calendar, launching in 2027.

Let's celebrate the Spirit of Mortimer — residents only.

<https://tinyurl.com/23jkmf7c> (Submit your entry here)



COMMUNITY AWARD

A quick reminder to submit your nominations for the Community Award 2026.

If you know an individual who makes a real difference in our community, please take a moment to nominate them.

Full details and nomination information can be found on our website:

<https://tinyurl.com/2cx6ecm3>



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Join us on 27 April at 7:30pm at St John's Village Hall for the Annual Parish Meeting.

There will be presentations from guest speakers, the Community Award will be presented, and the winners of the Photography Competition will be announced.

RESERVED LAND- TOWER GARDENS

A planning application for the reserved land at Tower Gardens has been submitted by T A Fisher & Sons Ltd to West Berkshire Council.

The application has been called in to the Council's Eastern Area Planning Committee for debate and determination by West Berks Councillors.

Full details can be viewed on West Berkshire Council's planning portal.

<https://tinyurl.com/4nhmpcp4>



DATES IN MARCH

Dates:

- 1 March Cycleway clearance starts
- 12 March- Planning
- 12 March - Full Council



Stratfield Mortimer Neighbourhood Plan – Regulation 14 Consultation

The draft Neighbourhood Plan is moving to Reg 14 (pre-submission consultation). The Plan will be published for six weeks, giving residents, businesses and organisations the opportunity to comment via questionnaire.

All feedback will be considered before the Plan is finalised and submitted.

Further details will follow when the consultation opens – please take part. This is your Plan, and your views matter.

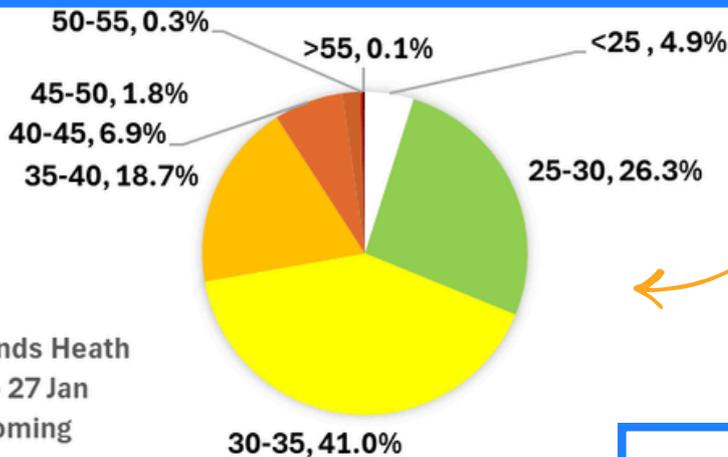
Update from the Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan Steering Group

Planning Officers at Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council are currently reviewing more than 4,250 responses to the Reg 18 consultation, including over 1,050 relating to the West End Farm site – thank you to everyone who submitted comments.

The next stage will be publication of the draft Local Plan under Reg 19 (expected Summer 2026), followed by a six-week consultation. At that stage, comments must focus specifically on the plan’s legal compliance and soundness.

We will provide a further update once the Reg 19 version is published.

VILLAGE SPEEDING DATA – JAN 2026



Over the period 10 to 27 January, 15,975 vehicles were recorded in Hammonds Heath coming from the Burghfield direction and heading towards the War Memorial.

69 % exceeded the 30 mph limit and 9% were over 40 mph. Four vehicles exceeded 60 mph.

St Catherines Hill had 9725 vehicles travelling south between 10 and 22 January.

56% exceeded the 30 mph limit and 5% were captured at over 40 mph.

Contact us to volunteer to man the devices which generate letters to speeders

