

Stoke Lodge and The Common Parish Council

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Parish Council News

Welcome to the new Parish Council newsletter. This newsletter will be circulated quarterly providing news and information for your new parish.

This new parish was formed because you the residents wanted to take control to help improve the area and spend the council precept on Stoke Lodge and the Common improvements. We, the councillors, have been working hard since our formation at the May local elections to improve our area.

Work will begin very soon on the Common pavilion refurbishment. This is detailed below.

We are working very closely with South Glos Street Care to improve all the green areas and hedging we have in our parish. Trees have been cut back near the Amberley Road and Stoke Lane crossing so visibility is greatly improved for pedestrians and drivers.

The two zebra crossings on Stoke Lane are proving a great success with much praise from the residents and children who use them.

Once the Pavilion project is complete the council will then move to improvement to the Chelford Grove shopping area. The area needs a makeover and brightening up. The pavements need resurfacing and with very kind help from Tiger Lilly, large flower tubs and hanging baskets will be added. Chelford Grove is the heart of our parish and we aim to make this something to be proud of.



Pavilion Refurbishment

The pavilion at the Common sports field is to have an interior and exterior upgrade. All of the rooms inside are to be decorated. New energy efficient lighting is to be installed. The wooden floor is to be totally refurbished and the kitchen is to be upgraded. New furniture has been ordered and the gas and electricity supplier has been changed which will greatly reduce the building running costs. All interior pipes are to be lagged as well.

The pavilion will be a great place for hire for birthdays and other events. The main hall is large enough for a bouncy castle and outside is a gated play area. There is a large car park as well. This overhaul will be complete over the next 3 months.

Employee News

I would like to give a very warm welcome to Melanie Reilly who will be joining us as parish clerk in October. Melanie will be looking after all clerical duties for the parish. Melanie lives in the parish and we all look forward to working with her.



Parish Councilors:

Andy Alsop, Chairman
Brian Hopkinson, Vice Chair
Brenda Stokes
Tracey Harrison-Ashe
Shirley Giles
Gina Hasler
Andy Dyer
John Blight
John Bowyer

Education

Our new parish will have close links with the three primary schools in our parish; The Holy Family, Stoke Lodge and St Chads. All three schools have been asked to take part in a design competition for our parish logo which will be used on all of our correspondence and newsletters. Each school will put forward their winning design and the best design will be chosen for our logo. Prizes will be awarded to all the winners.

Neighborhood Watch Minutes

Mr Alsop welcomed those present to the meeting held at the Amberley Road Baptist Church on Thursday 15th October 2015.

Police Report

Unfortunately we have nothing to report under this heading as there was not an officer available to attend the meeting.

Residents are politely reminded to be aware of the opportunist thief who will take advantage of open windows and doors.

There has been an increase in drug use in the parish. The car park at the Baptist church and the south end of the common playing field. Small capsules containing Nitrous Oxide which is mixed with other drugs are the main problem. The police have been informed and after a meeting in September with the local beat team they have agreed to increase patrols in the area.

Residents' Concerns

A large number of residents are concerned about the number of vehicles being parked on pavements and grass verges leaving drives empty. Drivers are putting lives at risk by forcing pedestrians to walk in the road; not easy when pushing a pushchair, walking with young children or using a mobility scooter. Kerb stones and pavements are also being damaged.

In the past the October meeting has been a joint meeting with the Safer and Stronger Community Group. Due to changes within South Gloucestershire the group is on hold until next year

Our Parish is a NO COLD CALLING AREA. New signs will be installed soon. Please be aware of rogue builders in the area offering to fix the ridge tiles on your roof. This is a scam.

Residents reported there had been a number of sheds and outbuildings broken into in the Stoke Lodge area. Residents are asked to be vigilant, secure all outbuildings and report any suspicious individuals or activities to the Police.

Resident's Concerns

A resident reported a lady had been knocked down on the pedestrian crossing on Stoke Lane near the top of Amberley Road. The other crossings on Stoke Lane are well used.

Parking.

Cars parking illegally outside the 3 schools in the parish have been given tickets by the police in the last month. This is an ongoing theme for the council. The safety of our children is of most importance. You have been warned.

Wanted

A Secretary is wanted for the Stoke Lodge and the Common Neighborhood Watch. The current Secretary is retiring at the next AGM which will be held in April 2016. Can you volunteer a few hours four times a year to support a very worthy group. Please contact Andy Alsop on 01454616878.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 21st January 2016 at 7.30pm at Amberley Road Baptist Church.

All Residents are welcome. Please call Andy on 07470358678 anytime.

Conservation Group

We are planning to form a local conservation group. This is to cover the whole of our Parish. Please contact **Andy Dyer on 07515298116**.

Volunteers

We would like to hold a local garden competition for residents commencing next year, and we would like to seek volunteers to help form and run this group.

Some of our senior parishioners are unable to maintain their gardens and we are seeking local volunteers who may be able to help.

Councillors Andy Alsop and John Bowyer have already helped a resident in Painswick Avenue who could no longer maintain her shrubs.

If you are able to offer your services, please contact Andy Alsop (Tel: 07470358678) or Andy Dyer.

Patchway Townswomen's Guild

The Guild meet at the Hut on the A38 (next to the Hungry Horse) every Monday afternoon at 2.00 pm for crafts, tea and a chat. New members welcome. Contact Margaret Young (Tel:

Parish Advertising

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Patchway Agency
130 Gloucester Road, Patchway BS34 5BP.
Tel: 0117 949 9537.

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