

# STOKE LODGE AND THE COMMON PARISH COUNCIL

OCTOBER 2017  
NEWSLETTER



Councillors were pleased to be able to maintain the parish precept, part of your Council rate, at the same rate as for the last two years, whilst quietly working away to improve the area and its amenities.

Currently Councillors are looking to replace the old bus shelter south bound on Stoke Lane, together with the installation of real time information display units and the raising of kerbs on both bus shelters on Stoke Lane. We are waiting for the final estimate for this work which will be approximately £29,000. What are your thoughts on this project? Will it be money well spent? Please drop us an email with letting us know your views.

20 mph signs have now been installed on all roads with the exception of Stoke Lane. Residents are politely reminded that 20 mph is the **maximum** speed not the minimum; this is for the safety of children attending one of the three primary schools in the area.

Car parking on the pavements in the Parish is still a big problem. Many of our senior citizens who use mobility aids, along with mothers with prams and young children, are being forced into the road. Please consider others – pavements are for pedestrians.

Advisory road markings are there for a reason. It is for the safety of both road users and pedestrians. Please do not park on these lines. Help keep our area safe. One vehicle no driver was parked one of our zebra crossings and the pavement.

New litter/dog poo bins have been purchased. Signs have been installed advising that those who do not clear up behind their dogs will be fined. New dog poo bins have been installed on The Common and litter bins have also been installed next to the two bus stops on the A38 and one adjacent to the lane that goes from Amberley Road to the A38. A dog poo bin has also been placed at the end of Standish Avenue.

Work has continued to improve and maintain the Pavilion. Reducing its running costs has been one of the challenges that we have made a priority. The Wheatpatch before and after school club are currently regular users as is Bradley Stoke Youth Football club. A new pre-school club is planning to open in October and the Brownies have started in September.

The Pavilion has greatly improved since the Parish took it over; the floor has been repaired, fully decorated and new electrical systems. We have installed new electric roller shutter doors, new patio doors, new guttering and fascia and it is now a building that we can be proud of; with an outside children's play area, a large field and adequate parking. It is an area where children can be safe away from main roads.

The Pavilion is available to hire for children's parties, christenings, family reunions or club activities. Further information is available from the Parish Clerk.

Residents are invited to attend Parish Council meetings, which are held at The Common Pavilion at 7pm on the second Thursday of each month, with the exception of August when the council do not meet.

We would like to ask all Residents, what would you like for your area? If you have any ideas please let the Council know, all suggestions will be considered.

Contact the Parish Clerk on 07546375221 or Andy Alsop on 01454 616878 or  
07470358678

Email-. [stokelodgeandthecommonpc@gmail.com](mailto:stokelodgeandthecommonpc@gmail.com)

We are currently developing a new Parish Council web site which should be up and running by mid-October. The web address will be:  
[stokelodgeandthecommonpc.gov.uk](http://stokelodgeandthecommonpc.gov.uk).

Would you like to become a councillor? Are you able to contribute to the Parish? We are a small team and are always looking for help with the running of the Parish. If you feel that you can help then please contact the Parish Clerk.

The Chairman would like to thank all those residents of The Common who helped with the recent threat of an illegal encampment of The Common playing field.

The Chairman would also like to express his gratitude to all the volunteers who help to keep the area litter free.

## **Garden Shrubs**

It has been brought to the parish council's attention that there are a large amount of garden shrubs and trees that are encroaching on to our public footpaths. Can we request that if your hedge or shrubs are growing into the public footpath that you please cut them back. In some areas of the parish, the growth is out of control; school children and our senior residents have to walk or ride with their walking aids in the road which is very dangerous. Homes with excessive garden growth will be contacted by the Council in the very near future. If you require help with this then please contact us. We have some very good tree surgeons who can offer a very competitive price for you.

Also, do you have large trees on your property? Please remember that the roots will spread far and wide and may cause neighbouring properties foundation damage. Your close neighbour has a right to light. Please respect this. Ask your neighbour if they have a problem with your tree. Consultation is far more neighbourly than conflict.

## **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

Sadly attendance at meetings of the Neighbourhood Watch has been in decline with very few residents attending. We do not want your Neighbourhood Watch to close, so please come and support it.

**Neighbourhood Watch is about you and your neighbours, coming together to have your say in the community and keeping it safe.**

There are clear benefits to being a member of a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme for you and your local community. It shows members of a community looking out for each other.

The Parish of Stoke Lodge and the Common is now a 'No Cold Calling Area'. Should you be approached by individuals cold calling do not hesitate to contact the police on 101; these individuals are committing an offence. The police are aware that recently a number of residents have been approached by three young individuals offering to clean drives and not wanting to take no for an answer. New signs have been ordered for The Common area

We work with the police and liaise with our local beat team in an effort to prevent and tackle crime. Police Officer Steve Bird and PCSO Mark Trueman are members of the Local Beat Team and encourage residents to engage with the Neighbourhood Watch in this area.

As a resident, are you aware that you are automatically a member of the local scheme and as such could be entitled to a discount on your home insurance?

Please do not give the opportunist thief a chance, be aware and remember to keep doors locked and windows closed. Currently, sheds, garages and mopeds are a favourite target for those determined to relieve you of your tools etc.

If you have any suggestions or ideas on ways to help or include the community please let us know or even join us at:

**Neighbourhood Watch meetings are held quarterly at Amberley Road Baptist Church at 7.30 pm. Dates of meetings are as below:**

**Thursday, 19 October 2017. Thursday, 18 January 2018.**

For further information contact: Andy Alsop on 01454-616878 or 07470358678.

The council is very pleased to announce a new pre-school club which will be starting in September

Tiddlypeeps pre-school, is excited to be opening in at The Common Pavilion, October 2017. They will be offering child care to children aged 2 ½ to 4 years, term time.

Tiddlypeeps Pre-school mission is to enable children to develop confidence and independence through exploration and discovery, by providing a supportive and enriching environment.

- Ofsted registered
- Owned and joint managed by qualified teacher
- NEG funding accepted for 2, 3 & 4 year olds

Open Term time only, 9 am - 3 pm. Various sessions available.

For more information contact Ellie or Hannah on 07561848079

Email: [preschool@tiddlypeepsnursery.co.uk](mailto:preschool@tiddlypeepsnursery.co.uk)

Explore and discover at Tiddlypeeps Pre-school!