

# Stanion Parish Council

## News

### *Issue 3 – Autumn/Winter 2019*

*Welcome to the Autumn/Winter 2019 issue of **Stanion Parish Council News**. We hope that you find this third edition interesting and informative, and we welcome your feedback. Please send your comments to the Clerk at: [stanion.clerk@gmail.com](mailto:stanion.clerk@gmail.com). Thank you.*

**A Quick Overview ...** We have been busy over the past six months negotiating arrangements with NCC to improve the appearance of the village, including: agreeing a programme of regular sweeping of the village roads, the replacement of old and rusty waste bins, cleaning street signs, path clearance, footway widening, and hedgerow tidying and de-weeding. In addition, we have appointed a Path Warden; resolved the LGPS issue and successfully exited the

Scheme; and contracted with *Finding Fitness* to provide a free three-week children's Summer Sports Programme, which was held at the Village Hall and sports field in July and August. The programme was funded by a grant we secured from the National Lottery Community Fund. A Total of 53 children attended the programme, with 20 children a day taking part in the planned activities. This event was such a tremendous success that we hope to be able to repeat the programme again next summer.

We continued to fight against unwanted commercial developments close to the village, sending clear and strong objections to the planners. And we have successfully argued the case with CBC for safety and visual improvements to the derelict Cardigan Arms site. We also resolved to purchase a WW1 memorial bench, which will be installed between the cherry trees on Corby Road (*information on the date for the dedication service for the bench will be published once confirmed*). And we have purchased a flagpole and flags, which will be sited at the entrance to the Village Hall car park. We also now have the Community Payback Team attending the village to undertake minor landscaping, litter picking, and other remedial work to paths and communal areas. In September they reinstated the defined edge to the grass verge along the north end of Corby Road and returned the footway to its full width along that road and into Reservoir Close. They did a great job and will be returning twice a month to do similar work at locations around the village. We have also set in place a programme to rewild parts of the village grassed areas with a variety of perennial wildflowers, which we hope to do this autumn, and the results of that work should be noticeable next year. And finally, we resolved to provide financial support for a range of external and internal improvements to the Village Hall and we are currently working with a professional *Grant Writer* to develop submissions for financial support to part fund the improvement work. We hope that the refurbishments can begin early next year, and that as the improvements take shape, you will agree that the work and the financial investment has been worthwhile.

***Bus Services Update*** ... A replacement contract for the number 8 and 18 services has been awarded to Whippet Coaches Ltd. The new service commenced on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October and services are secured until the end of July 2020. The timetables are comparable to the current timetables. Full details can be found at: <http://www.go-whippet.co.uk/latest-news/news/>

***The Value of a Volunteer*** ... *“Not everything that counts can be counted. And not everything that can be counted counts”.* – *Albert Einstein.* Why do people volunteer? The simple answer is they do so for a variety of reasons. Perhaps to gain new skills, promote a worthwhile activity, meet people, or just give something back to their community. Whatever the reason, there is no doubt that volunteering is a highly valuable activity that provides many tangible and intangible benefits both to the volunteer and to the organisations they support. One thing that volunteering is not about is saving money, and we believe that to attempt to determine the economic value of volunteering would simply reduce the activity to its cost and not its value, which is by far the more important consideration of the contribution made by a volunteer. The Parish Council recognises that there is still much to be done to enhance and maintain the appearance of the village and to develop amenities, but without the support of volunteers to take these activities forward, there is little chance of these projects maturing. If you would like to offer your services as a Parish Council Volunteer, please contact the Clerk at: [stanion.clerk@gmail.com](mailto:stanion.clerk@gmail.com)

***Councillor Vacancies*** ... We currently have vacancies for councillors and would welcome expressions of interest for co-option as a councillor. If you are interested in becoming a Stanion Parish Councillor, please contact the Clerk at: [Stanion.clerk@gmail.com](mailto:Stanion.clerk@gmail.com)

***The Operating Budget & Precept 2020/2021 ...*** The estimates for the 2020/2021 Budget and Precept request are planned for discussion and resolution at the November 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Parish Council. Details of the new Budget and Precept request will be published on the Parish Council website [www.StanionPC.net](http://www.StanionPC.net) and on the village notice boards.

***Keep Stanion Tidy ...*** We had a very successful autumn litter picking event in September and we are very grateful to all those volunteers who turned out to help us rid the village of litter. We filled many bags with litter collected from around the sports pitch, Village Hall, along Brigstock Road, and in the wooded areas bordering the A6116. Unfortunately, it appears that some people seem to regard the wooded area bordering Reservoir Close as a dumping ground for their garden waste and building rubble. Members of the litter picking team removed a huge amount of discarded building rubble, concrete, bricks and metal from that area. However, since that time, more rubble has been dumped in the wood opposite the junction of Reservoir Close and Warren Road. If you witness fly-tipping anywhere in the village, please report the incident to Corby Borough Council, who have a team authorised to investigate and prosecute such incidents.

We will be holding the **spring 2020 litter picking event on Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>**. If you can spare an hour or so, please do come along to the Village Hall at 10:30 am, where you will be provided with litter pickers and bags. And finally, to those dedicated residents who routinely pick up litter as they walk around the village, we thank you most sincerely for your efforts, and praise your community spirit and your resolve to keep Stanion tidy.

***Speeding on Stanion Roads ...*** Although there was a noticeable reduction in the number of vehicles exceeding the 30-mph speed limit on Corby Road over the period the temporary vehicle activated speed sign (TVAS) was in place, speeding has markedly

increased since its removal. We have raised the problem of speeding on village roads with Northamptonshire Police, and although we will continue to use the shared TVAS, we will soon begin to investigate options for a long-term solution to the speeding problem. The 30-mph speed limit is not a target. Observing the speed limit is not only the lawful and right thing to do, it may mean the difference between life and death to a pedestrian involved in a collision with a motor vehicle.

***Unlawful Vehicle Manoeuvres ...*** Concerns have been raised regarding dangerous vehicle manoeuvres on Corby Road and Reservoir Close. Including: driving over raised kerbs and pavements, parking too close to the Gray's Road junction, and parking on the pavements and grass verges. And, very worryingly, a driver routinely using the grass area at Reservoir Close as a shortcut to Corby Road. Such practices are extremely hazardous to pedestrians and other road users and many are unlawful. We take your concerns seriously and have raised them with Northamptonshire Police, NCC Highways and CBC. While it is not presently unlawful to park on a pavement outside London (*however, the law on this is under review*) we would ask those who do so, to stop and consider the impact of their actions on pedestrians, especially those who are sight impaired, use walking aids, or those with prams and pushchairs. Please do not force pedestrians to walk in the road. Please park your vehicle safely **on the road** and leave the pavement clear for its intended purpose .... the safe movement of pedestrians.

***Corby Road Hedgerow ...*** A more radical programme of weed reduction is required for this area and has been arranged to commence in mid-November. We are hopeful that this further work will keep the weeds under control, and we should begin to see the real benefits of the clearance work next spring.

***Stanion Pocket Park ...*** The Keeble's Field Pocket Park will celebrate 25 years as a Pocket Park next year. However, the lease will expire in July 2020 and will not be renewed unless a group can be formed to run and manage the Pocket Park. If the lease is not renewed early next year, then responsibility and control of the field will revert to Corby Borough Council, who will then decide the future use of the land. If you are interested in forming or joining a group to manage the natural habitat and develop and promote the use of the Pocket Park, please contact the Clerk at: [Stanion.clerk@gmail.com](mailto:Stanion.clerk@gmail.com)

### ***Northamptonshire Neighbourhood Alert ...***

Northamptonshire neighbourhood Alert is a free community messaging system facilitated by Northamptonshire Police. By signing up to the scheme, members receive messages about crime, witness appeals and general policing activity in their designated area. Signing up is free, quick and simple. You will be given options to select the type and frequency of the information that you wish to receive. Alerts are sent to you by email, and you can change your preferences or stop receiving the messages at any time. The system is controlled and operated by Northamptonshire Police and their partner organisations, such as Neighbourhood Watch groups. To sign up visit: [www.northamptonshireneighbourhoodalert.co.uk](http://www.northamptonshireneighbourhoodalert.co.uk)

### ***Into 2020 ....***

We would like to begin the development of a Neighbourhood Plan next year, but our current very limited numbers mean that we cannot begin such a challenging two-year project without some help. Although we have access to professional advice, we need your help to form a Neighbourhood Plan Development Team to ensure that we have the views of parishioners properly represented. If you are willing to become part of the Development Team and can give a few hours each month to take this work forward, then please contact the Clerk at the address below.

Do you have an interest in gardening or landscaping? If you are interested in forming a group to undertake small landscaping projects across the Village starting next spring, please do get in touch with the Clerk. However, if your skills and interest are in DIY projects, then we would welcome your help to refurbish and maintain the village benches, noticeboards and village sign. If you are interested in assisting with the development of the Neighbourhood Plan or any of the above, please contact the Clerk at: [Stanion.clerk@gmail.com](mailto:Stanion.clerk@gmail.com)

***Unitary Authority Update ...*** The Shadow Unitary Authority Councils are planned to come into being on 1 April 2020, with Vesting Day being 1 April 2021. Two new websites have been launched to provide the very latest information on the local government re-organisation. The website providing information for our new area (North Northamptonshire) is at: <http://futurenorthantsnorth.org> and for the west of the county at: <http://futurenorthantswest.org> The websites provide information on the process to date, progress updates from the public meetings, and other news, including details of the upcoming shadow authority elections in the local elections planned for May 2020.

***Parish Council Elections ...*** As things currently stand, Parish and Town Council elections will be held on 7 May 2020 and councillors elected then will have a five-year term until May 2025. Thereafter, the parish election cycle will be in 2029, 2033, 2037, in line with the unitary councils.

***The Vic Bright Christmas Lights Competition ...*** The judging for the 2019 Christmas Lights Competition will take place on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2019, and as usual, children from Stanion Primary School will judge the displays.

## ***Remembrance & Christmas Services St Peter's***

**Church ...** November 10 Remembrance Sunday 10:55 for an act of Remembrance at 11 am, followed by a short service; Christingle 4:30 pm on Christmas Eve; First Communion of Christmas at 10 pm on Christmas Eve. For further details of services at St Peter's, and other local village churches, please visit the Benefice website at: [www.harpersbrookanglicans.org.uk](http://www.harpersbrookanglicans.org.uk)

## ***VE Day 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations May 2020 ...***

Celebrations will be taking place all over the country on the weekend of 8-10 May 2020. Further details of what is planned in Stanion will be published on [www.StanionPC.net](http://www.StanionPC.net) and in the spring edition of Stanion Parish Council News.

***Meeting Dates ...*** The **Annual Meeting of the Parish Council** will be held on **Monday 11 May 2020** at 7 pm, preceded by the **Annual Parish Meeting at 6 pm**. Other planned meeting dates in 2020 may be found on the noticeboards and on the Parish Council website at: [www.StanionPC.net](http://www.StanionPC.net).

***And Finally, .... Hail & Farewell ...*** We welcome Cllr Suzanne Sharp to the Parish Council and Mrs Marika Iacobucci as our new RFO, and we say farewell to Cllrs Gerald Griffiths and Marina Skeete and our long-standing volunteer Mr Ken Hope. We thank them all for their efforts and wish them the best of luck in their future endeavours, and we sincerely thank Mr Hope for his dedication and efforts in keeping the village planters colourful and fully stocked over many years.

Finally, we wish all parishioners a peaceful and joyous Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous 2020. We will be back with more news in the spring.