



Stockbridge Parish Council Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 2

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The Parish Council's High Street Survey

The Council has undertaken a survey on the High Street to gain an understanding of how parking problems affect visitors. The intention was to use this information to inform future discussions with HCC regarding possible parking regulation. The Council was very fortunate in that it had the expert advice of Mr Roger Tym to design the survey and analyse the results. The Council would very much like to thank Mr Tym and all the volunteers from the community that stepped forward to stand on the pavement to collect the data from the passers-by. The volunteers were Iain Bell, Diana Tym, Michael Woodhall, Robert Rancans, Mark Godwin, Michael Porter, Jean Boney, Robin Colenso, Susan Mantell, Helen Jackson, Bruce Williams, Mary Coleman and Ian Slight. The Council is very grateful to them for giving up their time because without them the project could not have taken place.

The Council would also like to thank Kudos Coffee for providing a coffee and a slice, free of charge, for all the volunteers.

The survey on the High Street took place in the middle of June. It consisted of a 12-questions that a passer-by could be taken quickly through. The intention was to achieve a snapshot of where the High Street users came from, why they were visiting Stockbridge, how long they would be staying and if they had any difficulties parking.

In all 639 people were stopped over a 4-day period (Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday) and completed the question-

naire. Of the 639, 491 were from outside the area and 533 had come by car; of these 437 had parked on the High Street, the others in Trafalgar Way or between the A30 roundabouts. Of these 374 found parking "easy", 96 "not easy", and 79 "difficult". It was noticeable that there was an increase in the "difficults" around lunchtime and these were visitors from outside the area. 284 respondents came to visit a café/restaurant/pub and of these only 31 found the parking difficult. Of the 337 respondents who came for the purposes of shopping (including "just browsing") only 56 found parking difficult but 241 found it easy.

The conclusion from the survey is that present day Stockbridge has a wide catchment area for visitors for its businesses, which sustains the vibrancy of the economy. However, like all



high street economies this vibrancy is dependent on there being no form of impediment to its attractiveness. There is clearly a reasonable equilibrium between the number of parking spaces available and the number of spenders and it is important that this should be recognised.





Flood Protections for Stockbridge

With thanks to Mr Roger Tym



Stockbridge has three levels of protections to keep the community safe in the event of flooding.

There are two types of floods that might take place in Stockbridge. Flash floods can occur after a long dry period and there is then torrential rain for a short period of time. The deluge of rain may cause the drainage system in the High Street and roads leading into it, to be overwhelmed and unable to cope with the volume of water but the flooding is usually short lived. At present the drains have been effective and this type of flooding has not occurred. However, if you are concerned sandbags placed in front of doorways and plywood boards with towels draped over, snugly fitting into doorways will provide protection.

Ground water flooding caused the severe damage to three houses behind the Grosvenor in 2014. Ground water floods typically occur if there has been continuous heavy rain for a prolonged period so that the level of the water below the surface of the ground rises, and the water continuing to fall out of the sky on to it, has nowhere to drain. Instead it sits on the surface and spreads. This type of flooding does not go away quickly.

Since the last ground water flood, Stockbridge has been protected by two new flood relief devices, one above the town and the other below. The spillway is installed on the river system above the Greyhound. The carrier here, in normal conditions, will be approx. 2 ft above the level of the main river opposite. The spillway ensures that should the level of water rise it can be directed out, across the meadow to the main river.

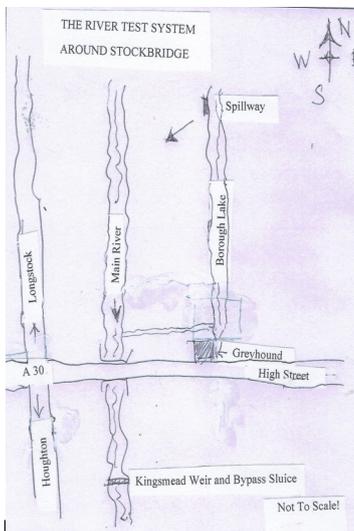
Further down, alongside the Kingsmead Wier, and about 200 yards below the bridge is the bypass sluice (pictured) which was installed at the same time as the spillway. This sluice is 8 feet

wide and consists of boards that fill the width of the sluice and stretch down to the riverbed. In emergencies, all these boards can be pulled out directing water coming from upstream to flow away onto the flood plain, lowering the level of water in the river up to and above the bridge.

These two projects were funded by both TVBC and HCC. They are continuously managed and if needed, repaired by the Houghton Fishing Club staff.

Stockbridge is fortunate that the river is not split into a myriad of separate owners but instead, above and below the town most of it is owned and managed by the Houghton Club. The Club employs permanent staff who continuously monitor and manage the flow of water through the main river and its side 'carriers' or streams. During the worst of times, they will be up all night making sure that there are no blockages, such as fallen trees, checking the water levels and should it prove necessary, opening the sluices.

We all know that climate change is occurring and it would be foolish to pretend that Stockbridge will never flood. What we can be certain of, however, is that Stockbridge is provided with three excellent ways of protecting itself from the worst of the flooding. Nevertheless be prepared. Sign up for email updates from the News Section of the Parish Council website. This is where any updates from the Houghton Fishing Club staff will be posted and if you sign up for the alerts the information will come straight to your inbox. If you consider yourself vulnerable in the case of flooding email clerk@stockbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk and she can ensure your details are passed to the emergency services, should that prove necessary.





Lily's path improvements

Although HCC had undertaken some work on the banks of Lily's path last year, a member of the public brought it to the Council's attention that the work, required to return the path to its pre-Covid condition, didn't end at the banks. The path seemed to have developed two levels – one level with the tarmac and a lower one running alongside. The difference in the two levels was very likely to be a trip hazard. The Council referred the matter to Cllr Drew (HCC), because the path is a right of way and the maintenance is therefore the responsibility for HCC. Cllr Drew took the matter up with the

Highways team.

In fact, the work to rectify this problem was undertaken by volunteers under the direction HCC's Rights of Way team. The work involved scalping the earth back and laying loose gravel and stones which were embedded down hard as far as possible. The result is a wider, far more even path which is well used by walkers and by the Nelson Close residents. The Parish Council will be able to maintain the path by strimming and by keeping the weeds out.



Herry Lawford

SPC Official Photographer

The Parish Council were very sad to learn that Herry Lawford had passed away recently. Herry was a valued and well known member of the Stockbridge community. He was always happy to help in any way that he could. In particular, Herry took many of the photographs for this newsletter (including this edition) over the past few years, at very

short notice he would turn up at an event with camera in hand. The intention was for the photographs to provide colour and vibrancy and to illustrate what Stockbridge has to offer to the community.

Herry will be sadly missed, and the Parish Council thank him for his kindness and dedication to us all.

*Herry was
always on hand
for photo
commissions
that illustrated
what
Stockbridge
has to offer.*

Trout Pond in the High Street

The Parish Council is very pleased to say that it has been successful in its application to TVBC for funding for the repairs to the Trout Pond. The grant application was supported by a petition from residents and visitors to Stockbridge. The repairs are needed because the rendering on the walls of the pond is wearing so thin that if the work was not undertaken the brickwork would soon be exposed and would need to be replaced. This would be a much more expensive and prolonged undertaking. The Council hoped that by making this application they could encourage other users of the pond to become involved and pro-

vide funding. The Council is pleased to say that both HCC and the Houghton Fishing Club have both now come forward to provide funding for the project. The Council is also grateful to Robjents and the Grosvenor Hotel, who are contributing too.

The contractor is now applying for a licence from the Environment Agency for the work. It is important that the project is undertaken in late October or November time so as not to disturb the spawning of the trout.

Supported by

Test Valley
Borough Council 





What's on in Stockbridge

When

Friday 14th October

Wednesday 19th October

Thursday 20th October

Friday 11th November

Wednesday 16th November

Thursday 17th November

Saturday 3rd December

Thursday 8th December

Where

Stockbridge Cinema

Stockbridge Cinema

Town Hall

Stockbridge Cinema

Stockbridge Cinema

Town Hall

Stockbridge High Street

Town Hall

What

The Magic Flute

Operation Mincemeat

Parish Council Meeting

Good Luck to you Leo Grande

Benediction

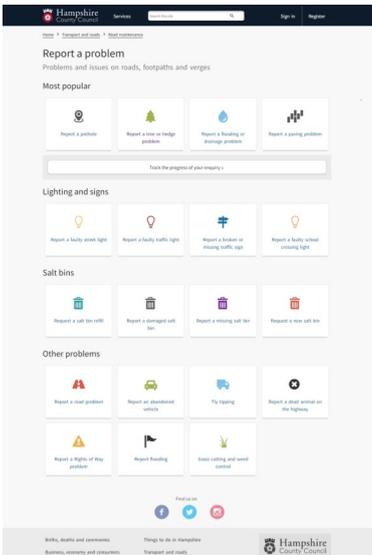
Parish Council Meeting

Christmas Lights Event

Parish Council Meeting

Please let the Clerk know if you would like to promote your event with a listing here.

Report IT



Have you ever come across a pot hole, an overhanging hedge, a raised pavement, a missing salt bin or a faulty street light that you have wanted to report to the authorities but didn't know how to. HCC has an excellent online facility ([Land, planning and environment | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](http://Land, planning and environment | Hampshire County Council (hants.gov.uk))) that allows resident to report problems on the roads, the rights of way and even flooding problems. The form asks for a description of the problem, it has a map with which you can drill down to pinpoint the exact loca-

tion, and an ability to submit photos for evidential support. The problem is then logged with HCC (you are given an enquiry number) and you can be kept up to date with HCC's progress in dealing with it.

This facility has been used by the Clerk (some time ago) to report the fallen tree on the roundabout, but sadly HCC does not see it as a priority. Perhaps if there were other submissions concerning this problem HCC would be encouraged to do something.....

A Quick Round- up of News

Following the sad announcement of the death of **Her Majesty the Queen**, the Council decided that out of respect the September meeting of the Council should be cancelled.

The **Stockbridge cemetery** suffered some damage from Storm Eunice in March and the Council has been trying to get this cleared away as cost effectively as possible. Cllr Foord had hoped to provide a solution but unfortunately there have been setbacks with this plan. It is likely that the Council will need to engage more expensive contractors to do the work. Would you be interested in volunteering to inspect the **Children's playground**? The Council are looking for anyone to check, regularly, the equipment however the Council's insurance only provides cover if it is done by a volunteer. The project to make **Old London Road** one way is progressing. HCC Consultants have pro-



duced a report which the Council has provided comment on. The Council awaits HCC's reply. Don't forget to sign up for **News and Event alerts** on the Parish Council website. When you do so the information posted will come direct to your inbox.