



# Stockbridge Parish Council Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 4

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## Stockbridge Parish Council is up for Re-Election

Every 4 years the whole Parish Council, by law, is put forward for re-election and this will be happening on May 4<sup>th</sup> 2023. In practice an election only happens if more than 10 people put themselves forward to be elected as a Stockbridge Councillor but having an election strengthens the mandate of the Council and provides a robust democratic tier of local government for the community of Stockbridge.

In order to put yourself forward to be a Councillor you will need to be over 18, resident, or an owner of a property/land or your main place of work is in Stockbridge (for the last 12 months) and are not disqualified for standing for election. The disqualifications are complex so please email the clerk at [clerk@stockbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@stockbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk) or [elecrag@testvalley.gov.uk](mailto:elecrag@testvalley.gov.uk) for more information.

A Parish Council is the lowest level of local government in England but it does have authority and tax (precept) setting powers and a Councillor is your legal representative at this local level. Anybody who puts themselves up for election will need to commit themselves to attend the Parish Council meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month (except August and December (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday)). In practise a Councillor can miss 6 meetings before he/she is no longer a Councillor. The Council makes decisions collectively and is advised by their employee (the Clerk). Becoming a Parish Councillor should be seen as a way of contributing to your local community in an official and influential capacity. Being a Parish Councillor isn't just about looking at planning applications, the present Council which was elected in May 2019, has had to deal with Covid and the problems with the restrictions (including only being able to meet outside, see photo below) and enjoyed successes such as the war memorial renovation and the agreement of safety measures outside the primary school but there will be other projects such as Lancaster House and the Pocket Park which will need to be handed on.

The application process is open from 22<sup>nd</sup> March and candidates have until 4<sup>th</sup> April to submit their application to TVBC (the election authority). Forms are available on line from [www.TestValley.gov.uk/Elections/Elections2023](http://www.TestValley.gov.uk/Elections/Elections2023) . Applications need to be submitted by hand but not necessarily by the candidate and this should be done by appointment from [elecrag@testvalley.gov.uk](mailto:elecrag@testvalley.gov.uk) . Please contact this email address for more information or the SPC Clerk.





## Voter ID is Here

**Voter ID is coming!**

From 4 May 2023, you will need to show photographic ID to be able to vote in elections

You can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate if you do not have an accepted form of ID

You can apply online at [www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate](http://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate), contact Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) for a paper form, or visit the council offices in Andover and Romsey

For more information contact TVBC on 01264 368000 or 01794 527700, or email [elecereg@testvalley.gov.uk](mailto:elecereg@testvalley.gov.uk)

Test Valley Borough Council [www.testvalley.gov.uk/VoterID](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/VoterID)

*Remember to bring your Voter ID to the Polling station when you vote in the Borough and Parish Elections*

On 4<sup>th</sup> May there will be elections for Test Valley Borough Council and possibly Stockbridge Parish Council. Everyone needs to be aware that the rules for voting in these elections have now changed and **ALL** voters will need to produce photo ID at the polling station in order to vote. If you do not have photo ID then a Voter Authority certificate is available from WCC **Free of Charge**, via [Apply for photo ID to vote \(called a 'Voter Authority Certificate'\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate) 6 days (Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April) before the poll on 4<sup>th</sup> May

The acceptable forms of photographic ID are:

Passport; Driving licence; Immigration document; PASS Card.

A comprehensive list of acceptable IDs is available on TVBC's website. A recently out of date form of this ID will be acceptable provided the photograph is a likeness.

Other commonly used forms of

photo ID are **NOT** acceptable eg: work or student pass. Photographs of the ID will also not be accepted.

The Presiding officer must refuse an elector a ballot paper if they have reasonable doubt that the ID does not look like an elector or suspect that the documents are forged.

The Absent voting rules are also changing but from August 2023. Postal voters will need to make a fresh application every three years and the applications will require identity verification.

Also from August 2023 the 15 year rule for overseas electors will be removed and they will be entitled to vote so long as they are registered at a UK address (this will be the last one they were registered to vote at of the last one they lived at).

**Please remember to bring your voter or photo ID to the polling station you will not be allowed to vote without it.**

## Old London Road–Traffic Safety Improvements

SPC has agreed with HCC that the implementation of the one way street in OLR should be undertaken in a two stage approach. HCC believes that the first stage will fulfil the objective of the project, to make the road safer for school children at pickup and drop off times, effectively. In order to install a one way street HCC will have to make the turning into Old London Rd from the A3057 a sharp left hand corner, this will necessarily have the effect of slowing down the traffic as it enters OLR.

In addition to this the pavement on the opposite side to the White Hart will need to be built out to narrow the carriage way to single traffic. This will improve the safety of children crossing to the

school at this point (see illustration not HCC's). HCC will also install parking bays down OLR to create chicanes which again will slow down traffic as they are manoeuvred around. HCC is of the view that this plan will make the crossing to the school at the White Hart safer and it will slow down considerably, the traffic entering OLR. HCC will review the effectiveness of the implementation by visiting the site and will discuss with the PC if it will be necessary to implement stage two – a one way street. HCC cautions, however, that the legislation requires there to be a cycle lane separate from cars, no matter how many cycles are like to use it.





## Trout n'About

Most of us would agree that Trout 'n About has been a successful food and craft event for everyone to enjoy on the High Street and thousands of guests have been welcomed to Stockbridge over the years.

There is no doubt that the hard work of local people has brought this about and particularly that of Mr K Candler and Mr R Gueterbock. The Council would like to thank them for their efforts over the years the event has been running. However these two and other members of the original committee are now interested in moving on and a new team is now being formed under the guidance of Mr B Powell, Mr D Halle, Ms J Farnan and Ms E Wilkinson. It is in the early stages of being formed and they would like to invite other members of the community to join them. There are also voluntary roles that need to be filled either with the planning or on the day and these are available to be viewed at <https://www.tna2022.co.uk/volunteers>

[www.tna2022.co.uk/volunteers](https://www.tna2022.co.uk/volunteers). The committee would like to hear the views of residents and they ask the community to get in touch with any concerns or suggestions you may have.

The decision to hold the event was taken late last year as there were still uncertainties due to Covid. That meant there weren't the number of stalls, particularly food stalls, that would be preferred.

The committee's plans for this year are to move around 25% of stalls onto the Recreation Ground; giving greater focus on food that is prepared and can be eaten straight away; encouraging the business community to take a more prominent role in the event; and in focusing the stallholders' applications to make this as much of a local event as is possible.

Trout n'About will take place Sunday 6th August.



## “Report it” to HCC

Is there something on the highway that needs repairing? Pot holes? Uneven pavements? or perhaps a broken sign? Take a photo and report it to HCC online at [hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblem](https://hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblem).

The problem will be logged and dealt with in a reasonable timeframe (depending on its severity). This is the best way of bringing road problems to HCC's attention. If they don't know about it... they can't deal with it.

*Use Report IT  
for defects on  
the roads,  
pavements  
and Rights of  
Way*

## Recreation Ground Trust AGM

On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March the Stockbridge Recreation Ground Trust held it's AGM. The AGM is to elect the trustees of the Recreation Ground which include two representatives of the football club (as the regular user) and two representatives of the Stockbridge community. The Parish Council is a corporate trustee to the Recreation Ground charity and is therefore represented by two parish cllrs

The subsequent meeting of the Committee highlighted concerns that the football club, which has

traditionally maintained the Recreation Ground so successfully, for a number of years is likely to find it more difficult to rely upon volunteers for the work needed. A number of concerns were also raised regarding water damage occasioned in recent weeks to the club house and the changing rooms by the severe overnight cold weather. Whilst repairs, can on this occasion, be funded, this will deplete the Trusts reserves and it may be necessary, to look at other options in the future.





## What's on in Stockbridge

When	Where	What
Tuesday 5th April	Grosvenor Hotel	Countess of Brecknock Hospice
Friday 14th April	Stockbridge Cinema	Decision to Leave
Wednesday 19th April	Stockbridge Cinema	The Banshees of Inisherin
Thursday 20th April	Town Hall	Parish Council Meeting
Sunday 23rd April	Stockbridge Cinema	Matilda the Musical
Thursday 4th May	Town Hall	TVBC (possible SPC) elections
Friday 5th May	St Peter's Church	Stockbridge Music
Sunday 7th May	Recreation Ground	Coronation Lunch
Thursday 18th May	Town Hall	Parish Council Meeting
Friday 19th May	Stockbridge Cinema	Aftersun
Wednesday 24th May	Stockbridge Cinema	Living
Thursday 15th June	Town Hall	Parish Council Meeting

## Celebration Lunch for the Coronation



A Big Lunch to celebrate the special event of the King's Coronation is going to be held on Sunday 7th May between 12.30 and 15.00 at Stockbridge Recreation Ground. All Stockbridge residents are invited.

Please bring your own food, drink cutlery, plates, chairs and glasses. Please bring an extra

plate of finger food to share.

There will be a children's competition for the best crown.

Please let the organisers know if you would like to come via [stockbridge-big-lunch@outlook.com](mailto:stockbridge-big-lunch@outlook.com). Please park in the High Street. No dogs allowed.

**The Town Hall hope to screen the coronation, open to all. Please contact the clerk for more information.**

## A Quick Round-up of News

Please be careful with **dog leads on the High Street**. The propensity for long leads have created trip hazards for some residents. The **Phone boxes** will be having new doors and replacement glass where necessary, very soon. The PC has asked Sparsholt College to get involved with the **Pocket park** project. They can only help from September due to other commitments, but it is hoped the College will be drawing up designs to present to the community for you to decide the preferred solution. HCC has licensed the **planters for the crossing outside the Co-Op** for another year on the condition that the Council seeks a permanent solution. The Council has therefore approached HCC minor works to start the project going. The Council has still not received a **licence for the work on Trout Pond**. This is very disappointing and it is therefore likely that the work will not take place until October. A big thank you from the PC goes out to **Mr Paul Kidd** for supplying the photos for this edition of the newsletter. The Council has decided not to hold an **APM** this year due to the election. Please sign up for **News and Events** alerts from Council's website, the emails will keep you informed on what is happening in Stockbridge.

