

## **Quick fire 5 minute update from the Parish Clerk for Severn Stoke and Croome d'Abitot June 2024**

I write this during a power cut, of which we have had one or two lately. The advantage is that the phone has stopped ringing and there is no wifi for the emails. I've checked on my neighbours, some of whom have back up generators for their medical equipment and their fish tanks. Now, with cup of tea in hand, below are some of the things we have been helping with lately in no particular order.....

Persistence by residents, staff at the National Trust, the parish council and our County Councillor has meant that the Police Crime Commissioner has made recommendations about parking enforcement at the entrance to Croome Court National Trust car park. An extended yellow line scheme will be trailed this summer after the current consultation. Thank you to all that are involved.

Residents sent a timely reminder for the zebra bollards at Croome London Arch to be tidied and trimmed. Our Lengthsman promptly popped over and dealt with this – thank you to him. He also travelled the parish removing graffiti from the speed signs and arranging for fly tipping to be removed by the district council. Residents can report flytipping direct to the District Council.

<https://www.malvern hills.gov.uk/report-it>

Residents have asked the parish council to arrange for the mud, grass and weeds to be cleared from the centre of the road down Madge Hill. The parish council arranged a site inspection but Highways have declined to clear on the basis that there are no safety issues.

After receiving a parishioner request, the hedges down Madge Hill have been inspected by Savills, who confirm that there are no pedestrian safety issues and that the hedges will be cut after the bird nesting season has finished.

Visitors to the parish have raised concerns about the condition of the informal layby at the top of Madge Hill (entrance to the Panorama). This has been passed to the National Trust and to our County Councillor for their consideration.

Residents have asked for the parish council to contact farmers and arable land tenants in the parish to remind them of their legal obligation to reinstate footpaths to a level surface after cultivation or to spray a marker line after the crop is established. A reminder has been sent to those that the parish council has contact details for. Specific problems should be reported via the County Council website. Search 'Worcestershire report a road or path issue'.

We've had an email about possible funding cuts to the Upton Library and parish councillors will debate this at the next meeting, once I have received a bit more detailed information about why this situation has arisen. We've had communication about a recent assessment of the church bells at St Denys' and parish councillors will wait for further information before bringing this to full council. Neither of these issues fall within the parish council's direct responsibility but councillors will consider if and how to be involved to try to ensure that such facilities continue.

The parish council received concerning news regarding the flood bund proposals, namely that material sources that were initially thought to be suitable were found on close examination not to be so, delaying further an appointment of a construction contractor. Parish councillors wanted to be quite sure that they understand the context of all this and so requested a meeting with the Environment Agency (EA) top managers (above and beyond our current EA liaison officer). This meeting was declined by the EA on the basis that we are in a pre-election period. Parish Councillors are not to be deterred and will continue to request a meeting – particularly in light of the fact that residents and councillors raised concerns about the soil quality at meetings with the EA in 2022 and 2023.

Parish Councillors continue to look at resident parking problems at Knights Hill. Some aspects of this may be a quick fix, some more long term. Resident cooperation is appreciated on this matter please.

A street light column in Stonnall Close is due to be replaced – residents will be notified if any road/lane closure is required with as much notice as possible.

I have been assisting some residents with ordering a bigger wheelie bin and I have been occasionally popping in to visit residents when their neighbours haven't seen them in a while and they get concerned.

Parish Councillors will continue to care for the old parish hall site in Severn Stoke whilst the Management Committee consults on the future of the Hall Charity and until the flood bund timetable is clarified. Options for planting wildflowers on the land were turned down by the site agents over concerns (real or imagined) that any future planning applications would be impacted by the presence of wildflowers.

Parish Council accounts for the 23/24 financial year are all audited, up-to-date and residents may request to view these up until 1<sup>st</sup> August, though in truth I will make our accounts available at any time if anyone asks.

We still have parish councillor vacancies. Please come join us – as you can see from the above, we get involved in an awful lot and it is interesting, varied and is very fulfilling.

Lisa Stevens, Parish Clerk, Severn Stoke and Croome d'Abitot. 07950256363