

# Severn Stoke and Croome D'Abitot Parish Council

**Yellow Lines** - The parish council has received notice that additional yellow lines are to be placed at the entrance to Croome National Trust car park on or around 29th August. This is on a temporary, trial basis for 6 months. (Marked red on the map below)

Any written public objections/ comments, received from the public by the County Council during the initial 6-month period, would be taken into account and help to inform on the county council decision as to whether to keep the yellow lines permanently.

If residents wish to object /make representations about the yellow lines being made permanent, they must do so in writing to County Hall or email [roadtrafficroads@worcestershires.gov.uk](mailto:roadtrafficroads@worcestershires.gov.uk) by 28 February 2025 specifying the grounds on which they are made: Thomas Pollock, Head of Commercial Law, Legal and Governance, County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester WR5 2NP.

**Speeding and traffic** - At residents' request we now have four vehicle activated speed signs across the parish, one each for Kinnersley (purchased by the PC), Severn Stoke (gifted by Highways), Clifton (gifted by the Police Crime Commissioner) and High Green (gifted by the National Trust) and we move them around as regularly as our volunteers are able. The parish council continues to request speed traps along the A38 and has asked National Highways to look again at it's blasé, disruptive and upsetting approach to using our A38 communities as a diversion for the M5. It used to be a rule that National Highways could not divert along the same route for more than a set number of days. The parish council is asking for this to be reinstated.

**Phone box** – Our County Councillor Martin Allen has kindly agreed to help fund the repairs to the adopted red phone box at High Green. The parish council is seeking quotes and hopes to crack on asap. The parish council originally adopted this historical feature after residents agreed to support and volunteer with items of maintenance. We look forward to hearing from residents now that this project is moving forward.

**Flooding** – The environment agency reports *“after not being able to find an affordable contracting route over the winter that complies with the Government procurement rules, we are now exploring a contract with Worcestershire County Council (WCC) and their contractor. It will take several months before we know if WCC's contractor can offer an affordable price to build the scheme. We expect to be able to report back to you towards the end of this year to confirm or otherwise if the cost is within our budget. It is then that we will be able to provide you with an initial programme for the work.”* Thank you to our MP Harriett Baldwin and to the residents for pushing for this progress. The parish council continues to ask awkward questions on behalf of residents, who rightly raised concerns about affordability, source of material and much more, over two years ago. I think we can safely say that the bund will not be built this year and ask residents to contact the council if further/new/different flood planning is required to help you cope. The ‘near-miss’ last year where sandbags were promised from various sources outside the parish and where each source thought the other was providing them, has been raised with our MP, so that it does not happen again.

**Planning** – The parish council has been feeding back to the district council on a number of planning applications across High Green, Croome, Defford and Severn Stoke. High Green in particular has been a recent focus, with the historical value of the settlement entirely understated/absent in existing district planning and heritage statements. The parish council

has asked for this to be rectified – if the district council do make any changes to their planning policies, residents will be consulted by them. Planning matters at Croome National Trust are intricate and ongoing, in particular to amend the various opening hours of the separate aspects of the car park, main house and visitor centre. Residents are welcome to approach both the National Trust and the parish council with their input at any time.

**Social media** – We have listened to past parish councillors and residents who have asked us to modernise. The parish council will be trialling a series of mini Facebook and Instagram posts by way of bringing matters on an agenda to residents’ attention. We hope to make the parish council more accessible to residents of all ages by doing this. Our facebook page is **Parish Councillors SevernStoke Croome**. At the time of writing we hope our Instagram name will be **severnstokecroomepc**.

**Future budgeting** - The parish council has been approached to assist with funding for repairs to the **belfry** at St Denys’, approached for an annual contribution towards keeping the **library** open at Upton, and, anticipates a need to again contribute towards the various dial **bus** services provided by the county council. In addition, St Denys’ always needs the assistance of further funding to assist with **churchyard maintenance** and the upkeep of the fabric of the building. (It is a myth that they are always wholly funded by the Church of England– many church buildings were provided by the lord of the manor and kept up and running by the contributions of the parishioners). We are underway with replacing one of the **street light** columns in Stonnall Close, but the other two will also require replacement in the next couple of years. The parish council will also be required next year to cover costs to meet new legislative requirements whereby all cllrs are issued with a .gov.email address and where the parish council has a more accessible **website** that can also interact with social media. The county council will be closing their free website gifted to the parish council by mid 2025. So you can see that we will have a lot on our plate for a tiny parish council with only £14,000 in the bank at the start of any financial year and an incoming precept (council tax) of £10,000 per year. **We are setting out budget for 2025/2026 in October and we have hard decisions to make**. It is vitally important that residents write in or attend a meeting in order to tell us the projects you want to focus on and where you want us to cut back.

**Rights of way** – The parish council is due to warmly welcome a new volunteer who will help the parish by walking all routes and rights of way each year and reporting back any blockages, breakages or missing finger posts. Councillors are so grateful when residents get involved in this way and we do try to make it as easy as possible for everyone to volunteer. Get in touch if you would like to be involved in any of our vacancies... a. Organising litter picks in each village. b. St Denys’ Church Committee has various vacancies. c. Leaflet delivery volunteers wanted across the parish. d. Biodiversity parish champion. e. Become a parish councillor!

**NEXT MEETING:** Wed, 25th September 7.30pm, at the meeting room at Croome National Trust Visitor Centre. Lisa Stevens, Parish Council Clerk, T: 07950256363, E: [severnstokeandcda@gmail.com](mailto:severnstokeandcda@gmail.com) Your councillors are Susan Faulkner (Chair), Laurence Freeman (Deputy) Raymond Williams, Pat Preston, Royston Garrard, Nicola Sumner & Richard Hill. We have vacancies for parish councillors. Contact the parish clerk if you would like to know more or receive agendas or minutes by email or by post.

