

# Stanwick Parish Council

## Summer 2016 Newsletter



Neighbourhood Plan.....Responsibilities of living next to a stream.....  
New play equipment..... Trim trail.....Heritage trail.....Community Garden.....

### Stanwick Neighbourhood Development Plan

We would like to thank everybody who took part in the Neighbourhood Plan consultation for their input and feedback. A number of questions and issues were raised that deserve an answer or an explanation. We will endeavour to answer as many relevant ones as possible here but there will also be a presentation that you can attend on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at Stanwick School in the main hall starting at 7.30pm.

A number of the comments made are outside of the scope of a Neighbourhood Plan. However, where possible, the Parish Council will look to take these further.

#### ***“Why can't we have a GP in Stanwick?”***

Only the NHS can set up a GP practice. From their point of view, Stanwick isn't big enough to warrant a medical practice. Any additional medical provision will most likely be put into Raunds

#### ***“Plain English please”***

There were a number of requests for plain English in the feedback. As the ultimate function of the Neighbourhood Plan is to manage future development, the policies need to be written in planning language. However, we have listened to this request and will be giving a public presentation that you can attend to explain the policies and to answer questions on 8<sup>th</sup> September.

#### ***“Why is there no mention of A45 dualling?”***

Quite simply because the A45 is the responsibility of Highways England, a government body, and as much as we would like to, the Neighbourhood Plan cannot influence dualling.

#### ***“Why can't you get money from developments outside of the parish to help Stanwick?”***

It would be great if we could get 'planning gain', money from developers building in Raunds, as we know that it will cause more traffic through Stanwick. But, the law does not allow us to.

#### ***“Can we have a weight limit through Stanwick?”***

Stanwick is already covered by a 7.5 ton vehicle weight limit. Vehicles over this limit are prohibited unless they are loading or unloading in Stanwick.

#### ***“What is a rural exception site?”***

Generally speaking, it is not permitted to build in open fields. Everything outside of the existing built up areas of the village is open country side and should not be built on. However under certain circumstances there may be a justification to build a few new houses, to meet the needs of older people for example, and an exception can be made. We have not identified any sites for this purpose.

#### ***“What is a proven need?”***

Documentary evidence is required to prove there is a genuine need for housing rather than developers knowing an area is a desirable place to live. The need for housing is determined by a 'housing needs survey.' It is different from knowing what types of housing are required.

***“We need housing for older people and first time buyers”***

In the supporting documents to the Neighbourhood Plan there is a report that assesses the types and size of dwellings in Stanwick. This is compared to the population profile to see if they match up and also compared to expected population changes (e.g. ageing population). We know from this report that there is a shortage of smaller properties. This is why our Plan state that new dwellings must meet our needs.

***“What does high quality design mean?”***

There are industry standards such as ‘Building for Life 12’ from the Design Council CABI who believe that housing should be attractive, functional and sustainable.

***“West Street and Spencer Parade should be one way”***

This isn't an option as the alternative route would be for traffic to pass along Villa Lane and High Street. The Stagecoach buses certainly will not fit and we wouldn't want to lose this service. Changes to the road layout are beyond the scope of the Neighbourhood Plan and would need to be implemented by the County Council.

***“Parking permits should be issued for Spencer Parade and West Street”***

Unfortunately this is beyond the scope of the Neighbourhood Plan. Also, the Parish Council would not look to introduce a scheme that inconvenienced existing residents.

***“Parking congestion in the centre of the village”***

Sadly we cannot magic up parking spaces where no realistic opportunity exists. The Neighbourhood Plan can only look to minimise further parking problems should there be any new developments.

***“Create parking bays on the opposite side of Spencer Parade”***

Unfortunately this is not within the powers of the Parish Council. The County Council would need to determine if it was feasible.

***“Open space but I can't get to it”***

There is a difference between open space and public open space. Open space on private property is important as it enhances our environment. It can add a ‘rural’ quality to our streets.

***“Bus services need extending..”***

There were four different suggestions for improvements to the bus services. These have been raised with the County Council. They are not a Neighbourhood Plan issue.

***“A bridge over the A45 is needed”***

We quite agree, but it is not within the scope of the Neighbourhood Plan to provide a bridge.

***“Poor water pressure”***

Anglian Water have said “residents experiencing problems relating to water pressure which are not related to internal plumbing should call Anglian Water on 03457 145 145” so that they can investigate further.

### **Stanwick Neighbourhood Development Plan – what's next?**

A final version of the report plus other documents are being finished off. The next stage is to submit it to East Northamptonshire Council prior to it being subject to an independent examination.

If all is found to be satisfactory, Stanwick residents will be asked to vote in a referendum on whether to accept it or not. If more than 50% of those whom vote, vote to accept the Neighbourhood Plan then it will be adopted by East Northamptonshire Council and cannot be overlooked by planners and developers. It will have legal status.

**If less than 50% of voters accept it will not be adopted and we will have much less influence over the type of development that takes place in Stanwick.**

*Make your vote count for Stanwick*

### **Stanwick Heritage trail?**

One of the suggestions in the Neighbourhood Plan feedback was for there to be a Stanwick Heritage Trail.

Would anyone like to devise one?

Contact the Parish Clerk if you do.

### **Fantastic new play area at Stanwick Rec gets the thumbs up!**

What a difference £50,000.00 makes! The decidedly ancient swings, roundabout and slide have made way for the latest play equipment that is more inclusive and child friendly. The play area has become very popular overnight.

The Parish Council secured a £37,500.00 grant from East Northamptonshire Council towards the project and contributed the balance of £12,500.00 from its own funds.

#### **Trim Trail**

The Parish Council has plans for a Trim Trail/ outdoor fitness equipment aimed at adults. It's still in the planning stages and grant funding will again be sought.

#### **What else?**

If there is an amenity that you think is lacking, that the Parish Council can investigate providing, please let the Council know. One suggestion has been a MUGA (multi use games area).

### **Have your say**

The Parish Council welcomes your ideas and suggestions. Councillors are in post to represent the views and wishes of the parish and to best do that, they need to know what you are thinking.

Contact the Council via [clerk.stanwickpc@outlook.com](mailto:clerk.stanwickpc@outlook.com) or 01933 461868 or speak to a councillor direct.

## **Do you live next to the stream? Then you have responsibilities**

If you own land adjoining, above or with a watercourse running through it, you have certain rights and responsibilities.

- If your land boundary is next to a watercourse it is assumed you own the land up to the centre of the watercourse, unless it is owned by someone else.
- If a watercourse runs alongside your garden wall or hedge you should check your property deeds to see if the wall or hedge marks your boundary. If the watercourse marks the boundary, it is assumed you own the land up to the centre of the watercourse.
- If you own land with a watercourse running through or underneath it, it is assumed you own the stretch of watercourse that runs through your land.
- You must let water flow through your land without any obstruction, pollution or diversion which affects the rights of others.
- You should keep the banks clear of anything that could cause an obstruction and increase flood risk, either on your land or downstream if it is washed away. You are responsible for maintaining the bed and banks of the watercourse and the trees and shrubs growing on the banks. You should also clear any litter and animal carcasses from the channel and banks, even if they did not come from your land.

An Environment Agency booklet 'Living on Edge' explains the issues of living next to a watercourse, such as our brook, in more detail. It can be downloaded from the parish council website.

## **Allotments & Community Gardens Open Day coupled with family fun day at Stanwick Pocket Park**

A date for the diary: Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2016. Look out for further details coming through your door.

## **Stanwick Community Garden and Allotments**

These can be found on Raunds Road, opposite Cumberland Avenue.

The Community Garden is an innovative project offering all residents whatever their age, experience and abilities, the chance to get their fingers dirty and enjoy gardening in a shared space.

One of the next planned projects is the creation of a sensory garden within the plot.

To get involved or if you would just like to have a go, contact the Stanwick Community Garden Group via [stanwickcgg@gmail.com](mailto:stanwickcgg@gmail.com) Dave, John, Carolyn and Brenda will be pleased to hear from you. Or call Dave on 07920 0095981

