

SH & NLS NEWS

INSIDE THIS EDITION:

MVAS RESULTS

MAVIS'S QUIZ

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

THE BOOK CLUB

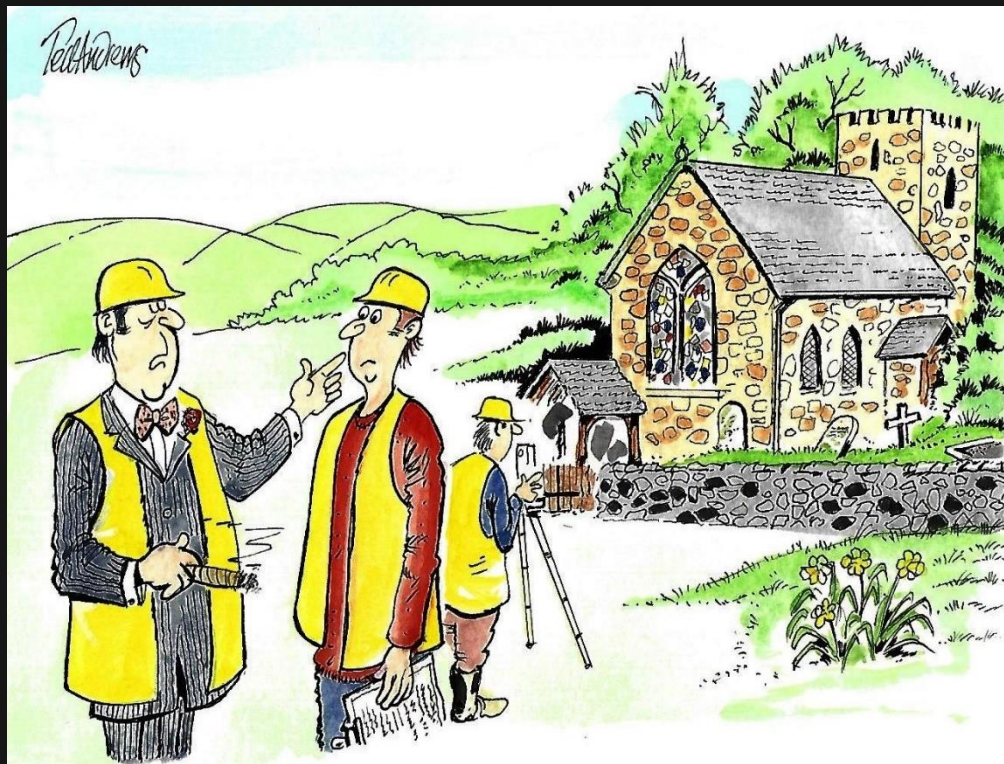
CHURCH NEWS

GOM & MUCH MORE

Stoke Hammond & Newton Leys South

October – November 2026

www.stokehammondpc.com



" OF COURSE THE CHURCH AND THE TREES WILL HAVE TO GO OR IT
WILL RUIN THE VIEW OF OUR NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENT ! "

As a tribute to Ted Andrews who sadly passed in August of this year, we reprint here an original cartoon of Ted's, first illustrated on the cover of this magazine in June of 2018, noting in those days this was then a monthly publication.

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ST LUKE'S STOKE HAMMOND CHURCH SERVICE DATES TO NOV 2026

OCTOBER

- 4th Oct: 09.30am Café Church - DW
11th Oct: 10.00am Holy Communion Benefice - VP
Note: *Joint Benefice service to be held at
St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill*
18th Oct: 09.30am St Luke's Day Service – tba
25th Oct: 09.30am Holy Communion – VP
Note: *Clocks go back 1hr at 2am on the 25th*



JH – Jeremy Hopkinson
DW – Dave Webber
VP – Rev Canon Val
Plumb
DH – Rev Canon David
Holloway

NOVEMBER

- 1st Nov: 11.00am Family Service - DW
1st Nov: 05.00pm All Souls Service - JH
Note: *Joint Benefice service to be held at
St Mary Magdalene, Little Brickhill*
8th Nov: 10.45am Remembrance Service - DW
15th Nov: 10.00am Holy Communion Benefice - VP
Note: *Joint Benefice service to be held at
All Saints, Bow Brickhill*
22nd Nov: 09.30am Holy Communion - DH
29th Nov: 04.00pm Advent Carols Benefice Service – JH
Note: *Joint Benefice service to be held at All Saints, Bow Brickhill*

*Refreshments unless
otherwise stated are
served after all
services at St Luke's
Church*

Details and any late changes to church services are posted on the Benefice Website:
www.brickhillchurches.org.uk

YOUR NEWTON LONGVILLE WARD COUNCILLORS



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Cllr Jilly Jordan Buckinghamshire Council
Email: jilly.jordan@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

It would be most remiss if as a Parish Council we didn't make mention and acknowledge the very sad passing in a matter of just a few weeks of some most significant members of our community. It was in the last edition of the SH & NLS News that there was a fitting tribute to the late Ian Mann, who with his wife Irene had been a resident of Stoke Hammond for some 40 years and among other things had been an active member and significant fundraiser for St Luke's Church. Now we have lost Eileen Curry, Hugh Standen, Margaret Owen and Ted Andrews. Eileen Curry (a tribute follows after this PC News) who had previously served as one of our Parish Councillors was the secretary to the Stoke Hammond Gardening Club and an active member of the SH Book Club. Hugh Standen among other things had until recently helped to maintain the St Luke's Church grounds, whilst Margaret Owen was the original founder of the aforementioned Book Club. Ted Andrews although not a resident of Stoke Hammond, it was for him like his second home, being the caretaker at our Community Centre for many years. Ted was also a very talented cartoonist producing works for national newspapers and comics, and for this edition of the SH & NLS News we have on the front cover reprinted an original piece of Ted's artwork that was first published on the cover back in June 2018, but now quite relevant given the ongoing discussions and debates around the possible new housing developments as covered in the Draft Bucks Local Plan.

Still on the subject of the Draft Bucks Local Plan (DBLP), and we do hope that many of you did submit your comments to Buckinghamshire Council before the deadline of 23.59hrs on the 6th September. We as a Parish Council did indeed do so, and for those of you who attended the Extraordinary PC Meeting held on the evening of Tuesday 11th August and there was some 47 members of the public (MoP) in attendance, will know that it was decided that we should employ the services of ONH the specialist planning consultants who prepared our Neighbourhood Plan to put together our response to the to the DBLP. ONH prior to the meeting had provided a breakdown of how they would employ their expertise to argue against the soundness of the DBLP in its Regulation 19 form and it was felt that the advised fee of £1795 + vat represented good value for money, and it was a unanimous vote by the PC to appoint ONH. You can view our submitted response as prepared by ONH on the PC website, alternatively a full reprint is available to read on the pages following the tribute to the late Eileen Curry.

No sooner than we had submitted our response to the DBLP that we then learnt of a further possible development to the southern entrance of Stoke Hammond village, in that a company called DevComms have approached ourselves and Soulbury Parish Council seeking a meeting with both to gain our comments on their supposedly very early stages proposals to build some 200 new homes on the site. You will see from the map on the next page, that if this was to go ahead, it would dramatically extend the southern boundaries of Stoke Hammond, more than two thirds of which actually fall within the Parish of Soulbury, hence the reason for both Parishes being contacted. Neither of these two land portions being included in our Neighbourhood Plan or indeed the DBLP. It was decided at our September Parish Council meeting, that before entering into any communication with DevComms that we should first seek a meeting with Soulbury PC so that we can understand and learn their take on this proposal, and whether we tackle this jointly or individually. We did learn at our PC Meeting that DevComms have provisionally booked the Community Centre for the 3rd November for what we believe will be a public consultation event, and we will of course publicise if and when this is confirmed.



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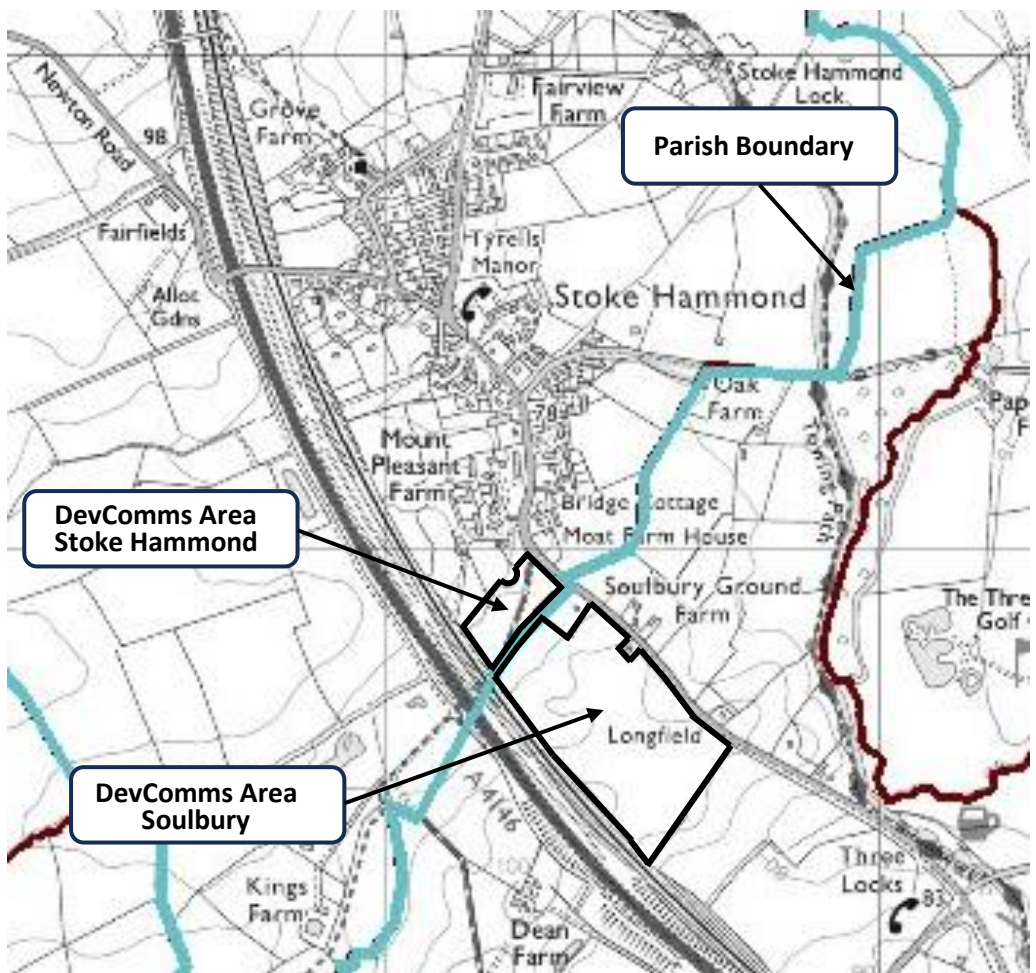
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At the same September PC meeting during the public participation session, a question was asked by a Member of the Public (MoP) if the PC would support a resident action group to fight against new developments, such as the aforementioned, that are in and around the parish. The group if setup being of a similar vein to those already established in some of our neighbouring communities such as Wing and Cheddington who have been identified in the DBLP as potentially having to accept a substantial increase in the size of their villages. In answering the question, the Chair of the meeting advised that if such a proposal was formally presented to the PC it would of course be considered, and whilst he could not speak on behalf of all Councillors, he believed the PC would be supportive of their ambitions, very much in a similar way to how the PC did some years ago support the ultimately successful 'Stop the Dorcas Wind Turbines' campaign.

Another question asked in the public session, was quite relevant as just that very afternoon the village had yet again experienced a power cut, something that has recently been occurring on an annoyingly regular basis, and the MoP wanted to know if the PC had anything to say. It is of course something outside of the PC's remit, but it

was agreed that the clerk would send a letter to UK Power Networks highlighting the issues and seeking an explanation as to why Stoke Hammond is being subject to these constant power outages. Well, a reply was received, which for your information we reprint in full below:

Thank you for your letter regarding the recent power interruptions affecting Stoke Hammond.

I am sorry to hear about the number of unplanned outages that the residents have experienced this year. I appreciate the impact these interruptions can have.

Having reviewed the outage history for your area, I can understand why residents are becoming concerned about the frequency of interruptions. Since 20 July 2026, there have been a number of short-duration supply interruptions affecting customers in the Stoke Hammond area. These have included two 11kV overhead line faults on 4 August and 27 August, along with several high-voltage network faults that were restored by switching operations, including incidents on 3 August, 9 September and 15 September. Whilst most of these interruptions were resolved within a matter of minutes, I fully recognise that even brief losses of power can be disruptive, particularly for customers working from home and relying on electronic equipment and internet connectivity.

Following the recent increase in fault activity, our Asset Resilience team has carried out a full patrol of the network supplying the area. During these inspections, a number of locations were identified where vegetation management works are required. Permission is currently being sought from the relevant landowners and these works are being planned for completion as soon as possible. In addition, the team identified a number of sites where vermin activity was present on or around network equipment, which can contribute to supply interruptions and faults.

We recognise that this feeder has experienced a higher than expected number of outages, and I fully understand the frustration this has caused. Please be assured that we are actively working to complete all identified remedial works and network improvements to reduce the likelihood of further interruptions and improve the reliability of the electricity supply to the area.

We appreciate your patience while we continue our work to improve network reliability in the Stoke Hammond area and reduce the number of interruptions affecting customers.

Once again, please accept our apologies for the inconvenience caused. If you require any further information, please contact us on **0800 028 4587** or reply to this email. Our office lines are open 08:30 – 17:00 Monday to Friday. If it's outside of these times, you can call our 24/7 faults line on 105.

Kind regards

Viv Roga - Customer Services Advisor

Customer Care at UK Power Networks

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Not sure that helps much, but at least UK Power Networks did respond to the letter we sent!

At the September meeting we were also joined by our Ward Councillor Caroline Cornell who gave updates on some ongoing parish matters, which included Old School Lane that Highways have identified as being in such a poor state, that it requires complete resurfacing along its whole length, but sadly Caroline could only advise that it's on Highway's list, but with no timescale yet given. In a similar vein, Caroline also advised the Head of Highways is currently on leave, so likewise no update could be provided on the Stoke Road layby and the passing of ownership to the Parish Council. There was however, some news on what has been an issue now for some several years, that being all the vehicles long term parked on the grass verge opposite Tommy's Car wash. Despite repeated requests and the Parish Council writing to nearby businesses who are believed to be the source/cause of these parked/stored vehicles, nothing has improved. Councillor Cornell was able to advise that having liaised with Bucks Council, the concept of installing yellow no parking lines along that length of road are now being considered, and this may hopefully lead to the vehicles moving or indeed being removed because they would then be deemed to be unlawfully parked. But again, Caroline could not give any timeline for when this might happen.

There were 4 planning applications to be considered at the September PC meeting details of which can be found in the 'Planning Section', and as for other items of interest discussed at the meeting which was held a little later in the month than is the norm on the 15th these were:

- During the Financial section of the meeting and having agreed and signed off the usual receipts and payments reports, the Council was advised by the clerk, that a change was required to one of the figures listed in 2025/26 external audit, whereby under point 9, the value shown for the adoption of the Fenny Road playpark and open space should be amended to £1.
- Our clerk was able to advise that the funding for the S106 field purchase was now available and ready for release by Bucks Council, but we are awaiting the go ahead from the land owners before the purchase can be completed.
- Under the item 'To report on any Parish Improvements and Enhancements, our clerk confirmed that 2 new dog waste bins had now been installed at the Honeybrook estate off the Fenny Road, one being on the Fenny Road itself at the entrance to Murphy Lane and the second further inwards towards Roman Field.
- Still on the subject of the Honeybrook estate, a resident request for a second more traditional flat swing to be installed in the playpark area, had been referred to the company who installed the play equipment to glean the practicality of doing so. Hopefully, if the information is forthcoming this can be added to the agenda for our October meeting.
- A MoP asked if it would be possible to consider the implementation of a 20mph speed limit on Bragenham Side, close the area of the sports field and play area. Currently Bucks Council do not support 20mph zones, albeit there is a campaign by some Parishes to change this. But a suggestion was made as if perhaps 20mph stickers could be affixed to bins and Parish owned street furniture on Bragenham Side to help promote lower vehicle speeds. It was agreed that our clerk would investigate costs for stickers and add this to the October PC meeting agenda.



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- Still on the subject of speed limits, a MoP asked as to why there are no speed signs on the Stoke Road as you enter from the bypass, but as this road is covered by the national speed limit of 60mph, signs will not be displayed.

The date for our next PC meeting will be the normal 1st Tuesday of the month being the 6th October at the Community Centre, Bragenham Side, starting at 7.30pm and for November the meeting date will be Tuesday 3rd with the venue to be confirmed. Member of the public are welcome to attend all meetings.

Just a note for December, that the PC do not normally hold a meeting, but one would be called if an urgent item arises

Should you wish to contact your Parish Council, please do so via our clerk:

Kelly Harris Tel: 07793 131810 Email: clerk@stokehammond-pc.gov.uk

www.stokehammondpc.com

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS EMAIL ADDRESSES.

Cllr Mubasshir Ajaz (Chair) – mubasshirajaz@stokehammond-pc.gov.uk

Cllr Craig Champion (Vice Chair) - craigchampion@stokehammond-pc.gov.uk

Cllr Greg Noble - gregnoble@stokehammond-pc.gov.uk

Cllr David Venn - davidvenn@stokehammond-pc.gov.uk

Cllr David Jonathan – davidjonathan@stokehammond-pc.gov.uk

Cllr Nikki Gladdish – nikkigladdish@stokehammond-pc.gov.uk

Cllr Andy Gladdish – andygladdish@stokehammond-pc.gov.uk



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Eileen Curry

17.09.39 – 20-08.26



I write this piece in memory of my beloved mother who sadly left us far too early and will be most dearly missed by Pete, her family and dear friends – Nicola Masters.

Mum was born in Bushey in 1939 and was brought up along with her brother Malcolm in the North London suburb of Edgware.

After leaving Orange Hill Grammar School with an impressive set of exam results, she worked as a secretary in London's West End for people including business tycoon John Bloom and MP Richard Reader Harris. Mum married Michael, an advertising exec, in her early 20's and they enjoyed a great social life in the Swinging Sixties. Their first home was in Roehampton and I was born in 1965.

In her 30's Mum moved out of London with her second husband John and my brothers Oliver and Adam were born. Initially we moved to Dunstable in Bedfordshire and then the village of Edlesborough in Buckinghamshire. Mum worked as a Housing Officer for Luton Borough Council, a job she loved and later for Social Services.

Cont/d over:

In the 90's she and Pete met and he persuaded her to leave Edlesborough for a new adventure at the Old Pump House on the Grand Union Canal here in Stoke Hammond. Pete built the house and together they created a unique and wonderful home in an idyllic spot. Mum



loved village life and the good friends she made here over the years. She was an enthusiastic member of the community, serving on the Parish Council and the Gardening Club committee and joining

the WI and later the Book Club. Over the last ten years, as one of the Wing Singers choir, she took part in numerous concerts. Once they retired Mum and Pete travelled the world visiting India, the US, China and Singapore and enjoyed regular exotic cruises.

For Mum family was everything. She was always there for me and my brothers to listen, laugh, support us and give wise advice and we will miss her every day. She doted on her seven grandchildren Stan, Aimee, Alice, Lily, Beatrice, Joseph and Georgina and was a brilliant and much loved Nanny.

*In Loving
Memory*



*In Loving
Memory*



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STOKE HAMMOND PARISH COUNCIL RESPONSE TO THE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL PLAN REGULATION 19 CONSULTATION REPRESENTATION

Further to the publication of the Regulation 19 Buckinghamshire Local Plan (LP4B) of 23 July 2026, Stoke Hammond Parish Council submits these formal representations to Buckinghamshire Council (BC).

As required by §36 of the 2024 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), these representations are framed using three of the tests of soundness of the Plan: is it justified, effective and consistent with national policy?

In those regards, the Parish Council considers the plan unsound for a number of reasons. In reviewing the documentation, it has reflected on the two distinct sets of proposals for the Parish: those around the village edges and those at Newton Leys.

Unjustified

The proposed spatial strategy has not been properly justified against the reasonable alternatives. Some alternatives have been tested but many others have not, rendering the Sustainability Appraisal invalid as a lawful or meaningful exercise.

At the heart of the unsound plan is the approach taken to the spatial strategy for housing in Policy SP2 and the underpinning Settlement Review. Its use of a crude set of facility thresholds has created many anomalies, crucially assumes a static operating environment for local services, and ignores the functional dependency of a village like Stoke Hammond on its neighbouring settlements, especially for school places.

As a result, the SP2 spatial strategy is based on an approach and data that are too simplistic and run a considerable risk of leading to development in unsustainable locations. We take each set of proposals in turn.

Stoke Hammond Village

In practice for a settlement to be capable of accommodating major housing development, and what would reasonably be expected of the residents of a sustainable settlement, it must contain at least three of the following primary features:

- a primary school (with room for expansion if serving a wider rural area and/or if the scale of housing growth planned warrants it);
- a village shop (for convenience goods purposes, either existing or where the scale of new housing development will finance the delivery of a new unit)
- a community facility (configured to enable a variety of indoor and outdoor recreation, leisure services and events to be provided throughout the day and evening through the full week, with car parking and with safe and convenient access by walking and cycling for a large majority of its residents)
- a quality bus service (i.e. unrestricted 7am – 7pm hourly services on weekdays and at least Saturday) connecting the settlement to at least one higher order (Tier) settlement that redresses any deficiency in the above features.

Any other feature, e.g. public house, post office, church and sources of employment, are secondary and should not be a determinant of a sustainable location. Villages with this range of primary and some secondary features are far more resilient to change in the future, with the facilities reinforcing each other as a critical mass and being bolstered by a suitable scale of housing growth.

Those villages, like Stoke Hammond, that do not, cannot sustain the loss of one or two features and the justification that allocating housing land will improve their 'vitality' has no basis in the evidence. Their car-dependency will simply increase.

Our village lies almost at the bottom of Tier 4 in the proposed hierarchy. It does not have a primary school, its community facility needs modernising to meet today's needs and its bus service is not of a quality that provides a meaningful alternative to the private care. Much of the older parts of the village still have no mains gas and rely on LPG. Fibre-based broadband only serves the newest housing schemes and most areas still have very poor broadband and mobile coverage. In addition, the whole village is now suffering from power cuts.

The four proposed site allocations total 325 homes and incorporate 19 of the 60 homes allocated in this year's made Neighbourhood Plan (NP). In completing the NP, the Parish Council was mindful of the late 2024 Standard Method calculation of local housing need for the village (13 homes/annum, or approx. 280 over the plan period to 2045). It was also mindful of the rapid expansion of the village in the previous decade through a sequence of unplanned housing schemes at Fenny Road, Brook Farm Close and Meadow Brook totalling more than 150 homes.

But also, it was clear that those expansions of the village had not seen any upgrade in local infrastructure and were all increasing the community's car dependency. With no prospect of the village having its own primary school, its children depend on securing places at Newton Leys, Great Brickhill and schools further away. Its secondary school pupils compete for non-selective places at Cottesloe School in Wing.

The fear is that with no coherent strategy in LP4B for aligning new primary and secondary schools' places – even with forecast falls in the birth rate – new provision will be haphazard and late. With the LP4B (and Milton Keynes Local Plan) proposals at Newton Leys (see below), near Great Brickhill ('Levant Gate') and at Wing, Stoke Hammond faces the real prospect of being out of catchment of all the local schools for its existing population, let alone those now proposed here.

It is for this reason the NP drew a line in how far it could go in meeting local housing need so that matters were not made worse. The Parish Council wanted a dialogue with BC during 2023 – 2025 to explain its dilemma and to agree how it could avoid LP4B overriding the NP strategy within months of it being made. BC was unwilling to do so and now provides no clear vision for the village or justification for how its proposals for 325 homes can be accommodated in this constrained settlement.

Furthermore, neither the Policy ST0002 allocation at Roman Field nor the SMA001 smaller allocations have been properly assessed and justified. All the sites were assessed by the Neighbourhood Plan and all were discounted for a mix of heritage, access, surface water flooding, landscape and ecology reasons. At no point did BC object to those assessments being inaccurate or unreasonable.

The Roman Field proposal is unjustified as it has not been shown that 245 homes can be accessed off Roman Field and Fenny Road; that an average density of 50dph can be achieved without making a significant harmful landscape impact (in an area currently designated as an 'Area of Attractive Landscape'; can avoid harm to the setting of nearby listed buildings or the Conservation Area; can overcome the extensive surface water flooding problems across at least half the site; that a safe and convenient connectivity route to the village centre can be achieved; that there is sufficient developable land to avoid harm to the adjoining woodland and priority habitats; or that its school age children will be able to secure a place at a local school.

Newton Leys

The proposals around Newton Leys in this Parish present a very significant increase to those indicated in the earlier LP4B and evidence base. It is now proposed to allocate land

for 3,780 homes in Policy ST01 off Drayton Road, in fact to create 'Greater Newton Leys' as a new, distinct settlement of 10,000 population beyond the edge of Milton Keynes. In addition, the Levante Gate strategic city extension in the submitted Milton Keynes Local Plan proposes another 1,250 homes adjoining the Parish boundary less than 0.5 km to the east of these proposals.

The Parish Council would expect proposals of such collective enormity in their composition and effects to have been thoroughly researched, evidenced, developed and planned with a wide range of stakeholders over a period of time. Instead, we note there has been no meaningful engagement yet with Milton Keynes Council, which is astonishing and undermines the soundness of the proposal.

It notes that, although the larger part of Newton Leys lies in Milton Keynes, many homes and green spaces lie in this Parish and it is absent from the LP4B hierarchy. Although broadly part of the 2025 'Approach 7', this proposal is the largest single allocation in the entire plan, exceeding all the NESS proposals, which have benefited from some degree of spatial analysis and master planning. Had that approach been taken here – and no explanation is given as to why it has not – then we and others could have scrutinised the evidence and assessed impacts as well as the veracity of the mitigation measures and delivery plan.

Instead, the published assessment of the land is woefully inadequate and incapable of any scrutiny beyond the policy and the supporting text. Neither the HELAA nor the SA contain assessment details; nor is there any identification of the proposals in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan or Strategic Transport Assessment, other than to references to PRoW upgrades and a repeat of the new primary school provision.

And yet, the Sustainability Appraisal warns of the risks. Its February 2026 version notes that in this location "... it will be crucially important to collaborate with Milton Keynes City Council in respect of community infrastructure capacity and also transport capacity; for example, it is important to note a series of proposed Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) / metro corridors" (§2.1.2). It goes on to acknowledge that "Stoke Hammond is located nearby and ... (where) there is significant potential supply spread across four sites, hence it will be important to ensure a strategic approach to growth in this area (Stoke Hammond linking to Milton Keynes)" (§2.1.4).

Implying that the evidence and spatial thinking to date are weak, it notes that, "... there is much work to do in order to establish site specific policies and potential concept development frameworks / masterplans for allocations. Whilst it is recognised that there will be good potential to set out detail following the LP4B it is important that the LP4B is adopted with sufficient confidence regarding what will be delivered by allocations (and what will not be delivered)" (§7.1.3). Its conclusions on the individual and cumulative effects of the largest allocation are very few, noting only that at "South of Milton Keynes ... the two large adjacent Cat 1 sites have limited sensitivity but avoiding sprawl towards Stoke Hammond is an important consideration" (§12.1.2) in assessing landscape effects. The final report supplements the above by noting that:

"Site 680 (is) on a strategic road corridor, but there is a need to liaise closely with MK regarding strategy, and there is a need to consider the gap to the Stoke Hammond Conservation Area. The western circa ¼ of the site was recently granted permission at appeal for 290 homes (24/03601/AOP), which highlights the need to carefully consider site capacity". (§5.4.29)

It also notes that in the Parish the proposals total 372 homes and that "a sensitivity relates to the proximity of the proposed strategic allocation to the south of MK (Site 680

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discussed above)” (§5.4.31). The Parish Council notes there has been no assessment of the likely cumulative transport or social infrastructure effects that a proposal for a new settlement of 3,780 homes (approx. 8,000 population) warrants.

All these justification failings have been needlessly accentuated by three fundamental errors by BC:

- to neither plan for the release of Green Belt in the south of the county - including of land in the National Landscape for non-major development sites to achieve exactly the type of vitality boosting of villages it argues here, but many of which have experienced population decline, dreadful access to affordable housing, and the loss of services as a result of being constrained by the Green Belt for decades – nor to make provision for any approved schemes in the Grey Belt in its windfall numbers, despite all the evidence to the contrary of approved schemes in the county since December 2024
- to accelerate the LP4B assessment, site selection and policy making processes since February 2026, with no meaningful engagement with any parties, which has not allowed for the individual and cumulative effects of the proposals to be properly considered and for reasonable judgements to be made
- its resistance to seeing local communities as plan-making partners that could have shared the responsibility for avoiding the superficial evidence analysis and simplistic spatial approach described above

In addition, many of the site assessments in the HELAA and in the allocation proposals in Appendix K contain errors, omissions and inconsistencies in the application of the assessment criteria. This is the result of an evidence base that is disproportionately weak in its breadth and depth to serve this purpose.

The LP4B displays none of this spatial planning understanding and as a result is unjustified versus the (untested) reasonable alternatives.

Ineffective

The unjustified spatial strategy and site allocations will also be ineffective, with unreasonable and unfounded expectations that it and they can be delivered over the plan period.

The Housing Strategy (per the Topic Paper) and Settlement Review are deeply flawed in their rationale and consistency of application across the Tier 4 and Tier 5 villages.

The strategy is fundamentally dependent on a very small number of very major development proposals in the northern half of the county only being successfully delivered late in the plan period.

The assumptions made about the timely availability of land, infrastructure and public and private sources of funding, let alone the ability of BC to consistently and effectively manage development and events over a twenty year period, are wholly unreasonable.

Such a choice of strategy was not inevitable nor the most effective of the reasonable alternatives. However, the final Sustainability Appraisal fails to be objective in the assessment of those alternatives. Its view that there is a ‘clear case’ for directing a significant proportion of growth to strategic-scale sites is not evidenced, nor the well-known weaknesses of such a strategy acknowledged. The fact that many Local Plans adopting this approach either fail, or their housing land supply positions fall soon after plan adoption, is not acknowledged either.

The risks of an evidence base and resulting strategy being pulled together at an accelerated pace, rather than being properly considered and engaged on with key

stakeholders, are very significant. The impact of failure will be substantial and their likelihood of happening also very high.

Again, the Appraisal ignores what would have been a very obvious reasonable alternative: a spatial strategy based on a different blended mix of the strategic options across the whole county, including the Metropolitan Green Belt and the Chilterns National Landscape with a much greater emphasis on smaller (< 200 home) sites and dispersed across genuinely sustainable locations. This is a fundamental failure and one that cannot be explained.

Even if there is a sound basis for allocating some additional land for housing development in Stoke Hammond, the site allocation policies in Appendix K are ineffective in excluding any attempt to establish the essential land use, design, development and infrastructure requirements for each site. These are fundamental principles in land allocation in development plans to give communities, land promoters and infrastructure providers certainty when detailed proposals are later made. Here, there is only one minor bullet point relating to one of the three sites.

With the new National Development Management Policies superseding the LP4B, unless there are main modifications resolving that, then a vital opportunity has been missed to ensure the effective implementation of these, and most other, allocations in Policy SMA001 and Appendix K.

In addition, Policy ST01 for Newton Leys is contradictory and therefore ineffective. On the one hand it requires “a comprehensive site masterplan (to) show the integration of the site into the settlement of Stoke Hammond to the south and take opportunities to enhance the key views”. On the other, it requires there to be “a long-term defensible boundary to the southern edge of Newton Leys”.

It is also ineffective in relying on future masterplanning and stakeholder liaison to resolve fundamental principles of the proposal, e.g. public transport links, school places and health service provision. The Parish Council has had to constantly remind itself that the proposals are not for a modest extension to Newton Leys – like that made in its own Neighbourhood Plan – but are for 3,780 homes.

In summary, even if there were the spatial rationale for the Stoke Hammond village allocations and Greater Newton Leys proposal, their respective policy provisions are wholly unfit for development management and infrastructure delivery purposes and are therefore grossly ineffective.

Consistency with National Policy

The plan is inconsistent with some key spatial planning and other policies in the NPPF:

- §16 – failing to bring forward the plan in a way that allowed for early, proportionate and effective engagement with communities, local organisations, businesses or infrastructure providers and in contravention of the legal requirements and guidance for carrying out the Regulation 18 consultation – the scale and importance of this failing cannot be overstated, especially in the acceleration of the process in recent months
- §72 – as made clear in its proposed housing supply trajectory, failing to identify a sufficient supply of deliverable and developable housing sites over the plan period and failing to operate a meaningful, accurate site assessment process
- §73 – failing to identify a sufficient supply of small and medium sized housing sites (approx. 5% versus the target 10%), a failure exacerbated by the failure to encourage and enable neighbourhood plans to serve this precise purpose

- §75 – failing to make provision for the inevitable, and likely very significant ‘windfall’ housing supply from approved schemes on land deemed as Grey Belt, and with no explanation
- §77 – failing to work with the support of our community in any meaningful way in planning the proposed housing allocations in the village; or to understand our constraints
- §83 – failing to make proposals in our rural area that will enhance or maintain the vitality of our community with no justification or explanation for how a larger, inevitably car-dependent population could thrive, rather than exacerbate existing problems
- §100 – failing to secure a sufficient choice of early years, school and post-16 places are available to meet the needs of Stoke Hammond village, which relies on primary and secondary school places provided in other villages, which themselves have strategic scale development proposed, i.e. Newton Leys, Great Brickhill and Wing respectively.
- §109 – failing to understand or address the potential individual or cumulative impacts of development on the local transport network, or to assess or consider the impacts of proximate site allocations southwest of Milton Keynes
- §110 – failing to justify or explain how the proposals at Stoke Hammond or Newton Leys at locations that are, or can be made, sustainable through limiting the need to travel and offering a genuine and timely choice of transport modes
- §129 – failing to take into account the desirability of maintaining an area’s prevailing character and setting, as the proposed increase in the village population would dramatically change the character of this rural community but deliver no uplift in community infrastructure, a fact common in the consistent refusal of planning applications to date
- §132 – failing to set out any meaningful design vision in the plan, which is instead focused entirely on planning for housing growth, or to formulate design policies with local communities
- §145-§147 – failing to build a coherent, evidenced case for the exceptional circumstances to alter Green Belt boundaries, when the spatial, economic and delivery consequences of that strategy compared to the reasonable alternatives are so stark and substantial
- §189 – failing to acknowledge that the objective of ‘conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Landscapes’ can allow for minor, medium and some major development of an appropriate scale and extent to be allocated as a distinct exercise to that of judging the exceptional circumstances for altering Green Belt boundaries and to support sustainable communities

There has also been a failure to have regard to §18 etc in respect of neighbourhood planning. The Stoke Hammond Neighbourhood Plan was examined and made between the February and July 2026 iterations of the LP4B. Its allocation proposals around the village and at Newtown Leys reflect the suitable, available and achievable sites assessed against their reasonable alternatives.

Although the LP4B spatial strategy must have been evolving through 2025, no opportunity was given to the Parish Council by BC to revisit the Plan’s proposals to determine if there was the possibility of the NP allocating more land for housing.

These failings are fundamental and are one of the main reasons why the proposed spatial strategy is unsound.

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Summary

As a result of these policies that are unjustified, ineffective and/or inconsistent with national policy, the Parish Council considers the proposed submission version of the LP4B to be wholly unsound. Furthermore, given the scale of its policy and process failings it appears very unlikely that changes are possible to make the plan sound.

The Parish Council takes no satisfaction in reaching this conclusion. BC's lengthy delay in bringing forward the Plan and the failure to maintain an adequate supply of housing land have resulted in unplanned and uncoordinated, speculative housing proposals that will harm the village.

The Parish Council gives notice that it will submit a statement to, and wish to participate in, the examination of the Local Plan, per section 20(6) of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

Given BC chose not to have a lawful, meaningful Regulation 18 consultation on a draft plan and its evidence and assessments, and with there now being only a six week period to comment (that coincides with the holiday period), there has been insufficient opportunity for us to provide a full response now. We will therefore use the period between now and the examination hearings to prepare and present our full response.



LADIES THAT LUNCH

There was no lunch in August and September giving myself and Jenny a rest. However, we are back in harness once more and the Lunch will happen on **TUESDAY 13 October**

at 12.30 in the Sports Club. The price remains at £3. The Dolphin Christmas Menu will be available. A deposit of £5 is needed to secure your booking. A £10 deposit per person is required by the Dolphin as soon as possible. Due to the death of Eileen Curry, I have reduced table numbers down to 20.

The November lunch will be on **TUESDAY 10th**. Same time, same venue. Menu: Homemade soups, Heinz tomato soup, rolls, tea, coffee and cake or fruit to follow. We hope to see you there.

Hazel and Jenny

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DETAILS



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STOKE HAMMOND SPORTS CLUB - NEWS

Another busy summer has come to an end at Stoke Hammond sports club. Our cricket teams have completed another successful season. The Saturday league team triumphantly won division 2 of the Four Counties Cricket League. The midweek team finished mid table of the Milton Keynes Midweek league division 1 and the Sunday friendly team completed a full set of friendly fixtures. We were pleased to see so many villagers and visitors enjoy our Village cricket day. Thank you to everyone who attended - watch out for similar events in next year's cricket itinerary!

We now look ahead to the football season starting, with teams from Leighton buzzard hiring the ground at various times at the weekend. Keep an eye on our Facebook pages for all upcoming fixtures.

Our Pool teams are midway through their league season. The A team sit in the top half of division 1 and the B team are currently in 1st place in Division 3. Do come along and support the teams - matches are Tuesday nights at 8pm.

Upcoming events at SHSC include the annual firework display which will be held on Friday 6th November. Full details will be found on our Facebook page in due course.

We also look forward to hosting another night of disco bingo on Saturday 28th November.

Please keep an eye on Facebook for more information on all our upcoming events.

As ever, we look forward to welcoming members and non-members alike to our clubhouse for a drink and to enjoy live sport on our large screens. We are open weekly, Monday - Friday from 18:30 and Saturday and Sunday from midday.

For any information about hiring the clubhouse or any general questions about SHSC please email shscsecretary@outlook.com or send us a message through our Facebook page - Stoke Hammond Sports Club.

Tom Tooth, Secretary.

Phone: 07494 179277

Email: shscsecretary@outlook.com



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MAVIS'S QUIZ

In case you missed them, here are the answers to the last quiz to see if you could identify the sport from the illustrated items.

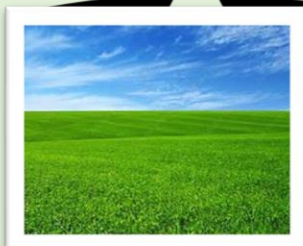
1/ Hurling 2/ Pickleball 3/ Badminton 4/ Croquet
5/ Table Tennis 6/ Baseball 7/ Racquetball 8/ Lacrosse
9/ Squash 10/ Padel

So, this time, can you work out the name of a well known, past or present person from the illustrations shown. To assist, here is an example.

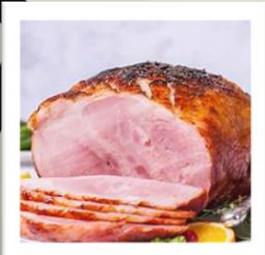


And the answer is 'Jack Whitehall' – Now for the Quiz.

1



2



3



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MAVIS'S QUIZ
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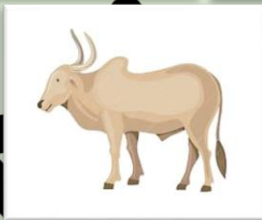
4



5



6



7



8



9



Best of luck, but to save you having to wait till the next edition, answers can be found at the end of this editions 'Grumpy Old Man' feature.



Protecting Students from Cyber Crime and Fraud: The University Student Guide

As thousands of students prepare to start or return to university this autumn, fraudsters and cyber criminals will be looking for opportunities to exploit the excitement and uncertainty that often comes with a new term.



Report cyber crime and fraud:
reportfraud.police.uk

Moving to a new city, arranging accommodation, managing finances and building new social networks can create opportunities for criminals to target students. Whether you're a student, parent, guardian, friend or family member, understanding the risks can help prevent cyber crime and fraud.

Criminals use a wide range of tactics to steal your money or obtain personal information that can be used later in a fraud attempt. They operate on websites and apps, by email, text, phone, post or in person, including on your doorstep.

Students are also frequently targeted through phishing emails, text messages and social media messages. These communications may appear to come from trusted organisations such as universities, banks, delivery companies or student finance providers. Their aim is to steal personal information, passwords or banking details.



Protecting Students from Cyber Crime and Fraud. The University Student Guide cont/d:

What can you do to protect yourself from cyber crime and fraud? These simple steps can make a big difference:

Be cautious of unexpected messages asking for personal or financial information. Secure your accounts, especially your email and bank account. Use passkeys over passwords wherever they are available. Where unavailable, use strong passwords, for example generated by a password manager and enable 2-step Verification (2SV). Keep devices updated with the latest security and software updates.

Back up your important data and check your account recovery options.

Cyber crime and fraud can affect anyone, but awareness remains one of the strongest forms of protection. By recognising common tactics and talking openly about potential risks, we can help students enjoy a safe and successful university experience.

To support students and their families, Report Fraud has produced a practical guide packed with advice, real-world examples and simple steps that students can take to protect themselves online and offline throughout university life.



STOKE HAMMOND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Why not hire the Community Centre or the Meeting Room for your party or business meeting. Discounted rates for residents of Stoke Hammond Parish. To book or discuss your requirements, please

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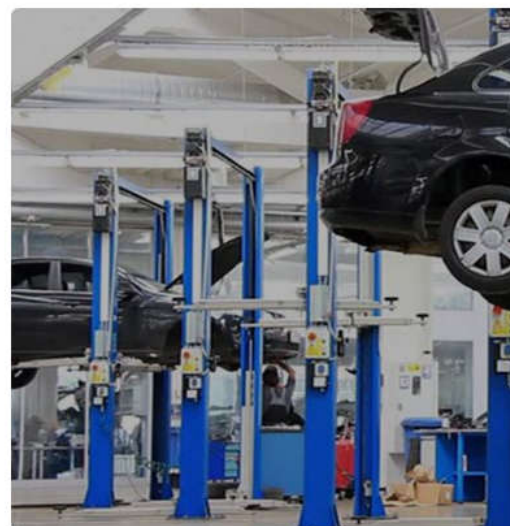


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STOKE HAMMOND BOOK CLUB



The last few weeks have been sad ones for the Stoke Hammond Book Club. Two enthusiastic and valued members, Margaret Owen and Eileen Curry, passed away unexpectedly. Margaret was the founder of the group and Eileen wrote the book reviews for these pages. They both made enormous contributions to the Book Club, and we will miss them both hugely.

I Capture the Castle – by Dodie Smith



Set during 6 months in 1934, the story takes place in a crumbling 12th - Century castle.

The novel is told through the journal entries of 17 year old Cassandra Mortmain, who lives with her gorgeous older sister Rose and her younger brother Thomas, her stepmother Topaz, and her father a once famous author.

Their unconventional lifestyle changes when the estate's new wealthy American owners arrive in the neighbourhood sparking frantic husband hunting schemes.

The group varied in their opinions. Very little substance, no direction and a poor ending, and no relevance to the title of the book.

In conclusion, this book was recommended by only two members.

Book Two review cont/d over



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to think about how much better her life could have been.

A couple of people found the subject matter difficult to deal with but most of the group enjoyed reading this imaginative book and felt that it made them reflect on their own life decisions in an entertaining way.

Next editions first book: The Essex Serpent by Sarah Perry.

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Organisations -

and national systems for no apparent reason other than that of job creation. I believe an economist once said it was better to have 6 people digging unwanted holes and 6 more filling them in again to ensure full employment.

Well sadly I require a monthly supply of medical items. For twenty plus years I have been completing a repeat prescription form and handing this to the surgery. They would contact the supplier and a box of said items would appear on my doorstep. Some years back this changed to my phoning the supplier direct (much simpler from my point of view). This system worked well for some years until last October when the "Buckingham, Oxfordshire and Berkshire Appliance Prescription Management Service" was created. I now had to phone the BOBAPMS who had to contact the surgery themselves to arrange a prescription (and no doubt to agree who the NHS paid). This continued for some 6 months when the system was reconstructed under the name of "Thames Valley Appliance Management Service". This body now operates from premises in Liverpool (?) and try to give me a monthly "wellbeing call" to check my stock.

Going off at a tangent I caught an item on the radio. Apparently, people are saying "thank you" to AI machines at the end of a conversation. Someone had calculated the cost in energy of this pointless exercise and it ran into tens of thousands of pounds!

So, following on from the above I considered the wasted energy in the follow up e-mails when buying things on-line.

Cont/d over:

PLANNING APPLICATION NEWS & UPDATES AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2026



In this section you will find details of planning applications received, comments made by your Parish Council, and any updates on previous planning applications.

NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

PL/26/06305/VRC – Pennhurst, Church Road, Stoke Hammond MK17 9BP

Variation of conditions 2 (Plans) attached to planning permission 24/02734/APP (Householder application for front porch and single storey rear extension) to change the finish materials.

Cllrs resolved they had NO OBJECTIONS to this application.

PL/26/06972/FA – Blackberry Grove, Hillersdon Chase, Stoke Hammond MK17 9DH

Single-storey side extension and front porch.

Cllrs resolved they had NO OBJECTIONS to this application.

PL/26/06951/FA – Land at Kings Farm, Leighton Road, Stoke Hammond MK17 9DD

Erection of agricultural building for the housing of Livestock together with associated concrete apron.

Cllrs resolved they had NO OBJECTIONS to this application.

PL/26/06539/KA – Fontaine House, Church Road, Stoke Hammond MK17 9BP

Notification of proposed works to trees in a conservation area. Holm Oak – Crown reduction 3m, Conifer topped by 5m, x2 Conifer topped by 4m.

Cllrs resolved they had NO OBJECTIONS to this application.

PLANNING UPDATES:

PL/26/03412/FA – Fairfield Farm, Newton Road, Stoke Hammond MK17 9DE

Demolition of 4no timber domestic storage outbuildings and replace with 1no steel portal framed domestic storage outbuilding

Your PC had previously resolved they had NO OBJECTIONS to this application which was subsequently approved by the planning authorities on the 4th September 2026.

Buckinghamshire Council have again recently updated their planning website, and as before the 4 separate planning regions have been combined into one single system, but they have also now done away with a separate site for viewing applications received before 8th August 2025, with there now being just one portal for all. To search for applications one can, enter the application reference or use the map search facility via the following website: <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-building-and-environment/applications-permission-and-advice/view-and-comment-on-a-planning-application/>

Please note that if however, the application you wish to view is older than 30 years, there is now a separate link for this purpose.

<https://maps.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/portal/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=293039ce9dce4481ae0db8df89f2c27a>

GOM cont/d...

My last purchase happened to be from "TVAMS" and I made a note of the follow up:

Tue. 8th September

Telephone order placed

TVAMS

Wed 10.01a.m.

"Prescription requested your order is being prepared for dispatch"

1.56p.m.

"Your order has been dispatched"

DPD

Wed 8.10p.m.

"We're expecting your parcel"

Thurs. a.m.

"Your parcel will be delivered between 12.12-13.12"

Thurs.12.12p.m.

"Your parcel has been delivered"

Thurs.12.32p.m.

"Would you like to review our service?"

And how much did that all cost?

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ANSWERS TO MAVIS'S QUIZ:

- 1 – Dusty Springfield
- 2 – Andy Burnham
- 3 – Pierce Brosnan
- 4 – Penelope Cruz
- 5 – Paul McCartney
- 6 – Sandra Bullock
- 7 – Morgan Freeman
- 8 – Murray Walker
- 9 – Venus Williams

Joyful Tots



Joyful Tots is an inclusive drop-in for parents, carers, those who are pregnant or anyone looking after a baby or preschool child. You can have a natter over a cuppa and babies & toddlers learn to play. Refreshments (inc. fruit) are included.

Your first session is free, then only £2 after that. We don't charge a termly fee because we know what it's like with little ones – you never know how they're feeling till the day.

We're back from our summer break now and trying to hold on to the last of the summer weather by playing outdoors when we can. We're also enjoying our messy tuff tray play and looking forward to playing with new toys.



There won't be a session on 30th October as it's Bucks half term week.



Our session hours are 10am - 11.30am on Friday mornings during (Bucks CC) term times in the side room at Stoke Hammond Community Centre.

If you'd like more information, please call Diane 01525 270409 or Ashlynn 07930 240926 or message us on Facebook (Joyful Tots)

High Ash Cubs & Scouts – Autumn Update

After a fantastic summer break, it has been great to welcome everyone back for the start of another busy Scouting year. We meet on Thursday nights in Stoke Hammond Community Centre and still have some spaces for cubs (boys and girls aged 8 to 10½) and scouts (10½ to 14). We have a growing contingent from Newton Leys but we welcome young people from lots of the local villages and nearby estates. If you would like to join us you can email join.highthash@mkscouts.org

The Scouts are already looking ahead to one of the highlights of the autumn programme – their Expedition Challenge at the beginning of October. They will be navigating their own route from the far side of Hanslope to the Quarries Scout Campsite at Cosgrove, carrying everything they need for the weekend on their backs. With a little luck, we're hoping the warm weather will hold out for just a couple more weeks! In preparation, they have been brushing up on their map-reading, first aid and food-planning skills to make sure they are ready for the challenge.

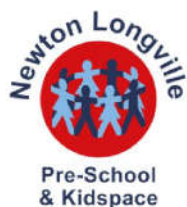
Meanwhile, the Cubs have been working towards the Money Skills badge, one of the newer additions to the badge programme. They have been learning how to budget for activities and events, discovering that with a little creativity you can often achieve far more than you first imagine.

The Cubs have also been completing their Naturalist badge. As the evenings have drawn in more quickly than expected, one of our planned tree

identification activities around the Stoke Hammond Sports Ground ended up taking place in near darkness! It



certainly added an extra challenge, but also proved that nature can be just as interesting after sunset.



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There is plenty to look forward to over the coming months. Both Cubs and Scouts will be taking part in JOTA/JOTI (Jamboree on the Air and Jamboree on the Internet), giving them the opportunity to spend a weekend making contact with Scouts from around the world using amateur radio and the internet, with the support of the Milton Keynes Radio Society.

The Scouts are also looking forward to their annual trip to London, where they hope to take in some of the capital's famous sights, enjoy a ride on the London Eye and, if timings allow, watch the King's Gun Salute in Green Park.

Finally, we hope to see many familiar faces from around the village at the Stoke Hammond Sports Club Fireworks Night on Friday 6th November, where we'll once again be running the BBQ. Please do come along, say hello and support the Scouts while enjoying what promises to be another fantastic community evening.



Dave Pollington (Baloo)

Group Lead Volunteer

High Ash Scout Group – MK District

dave.pollington@mkscouts.org

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CALLUM ANDERSON MP - Buckingham & Bletchley

**STATEMENT RELEASED ON THE 27th AUGUST 2026 REGARDING HIS VIEWS ON THE
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL PLAN**

Before I begin, I would like to thank local residents for bearing with me. Hopefully you will understand that I wanted my response to this to be measured, considered, and crafted through consultation with local people.

First of all, I would like to reiterate that I support housebuilding - including the housing targets set for Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes City Councils - and have always been clear about that. Throughout my time as a parliamentary candidate and now as a Member of Parliament, I have spoken to countless young people whose aspirations of owning a home or finding an affordable place to rent in the communities where they grew up feel increasingly out of reach. I am not prepared to turn my back on that challenge simply because it may be politically difficult.

At the same time, supporting housebuilding does not mean abandoning our countryside and our rural communities. The two are not mutually exclusive. I live in a Buckinghamshire village myself and value the rural character of our communities.

We can build the homes we need while protecting what makes Buckinghamshire such a special place to live.

I find it deeply regrettable that the Conservatives at Buckinghamshire Council have taken so long to bring forward a Local Plan at all. The Council had six years from its creation to prepare one. Instead, the Conservative administration allowed the situation to drift to the point where the Minister for Housing and Planning felt compelled to intervene and impose a deadline for the production of a Local Plan. That intervention should never have been necessary.

Over the past few months, I have heard loud and clear that this consultation has caused genuine distress across north Buckinghamshire, and I share many of the concerns that have been raised.

It is of course important to be clear about where responsibility lies. While the Government sets planning rules and housing targets, it is Conservative-led Buckinghamshire Council that decides where those homes go. These site allocations are not decisions made in Westminster. They are decisions made by Buckinghamshire Council.

Yet several parish councils have told me they have struggled to secure meaningful engagement from Buckinghamshire Council on their Neighbourhood Plans, and there is little in this draft Plan that reassures them that approach will change. I also have concerns about whether Buckinghamshire Council has properly discharged its Duty to Co-operate, particularly given the scale of development proposed close to the Milton Keynes boundary and the lack of clarity around engagement with Milton Keynes City Council.

That is why I am disappointed that the draft Plan prepared by Buckinghamshire Council is so disproportionate in how housing has been allocated across our county. The former Aylesbury Vale area accounts for just 29 per cent of identified housing need, yet it is allocated 92 per cent of all new homes in the Plan. By contrast, Wycombe accounts for 24 per cent of housing need but receives only 5 per cent of allocations. Chiltern accounts for 32 per cent of housing need but receives just 2 per cent of allocations, while South Buckinghamshire accounts for 15 per cent but receives only 0.4 per cent. Put simply, north Buckinghamshire is being treated as Buckinghamshire Council's housing release valve.

The impact is particularly stark in communities such as Winslow, Beachampton and Turweston. Residents in Winslow are being asked to absorb thousands of new homes, while proposals around Beachampton, Whaddon and west Milton Keynes would create a major new settlement on an unprecedented scale for this part of the county. Communities are understandably asking why such a significant proportion of Buckinghamshire's future growth is being concentrated here and whether the infrastructure needed to support it will actually be delivered.

Quite frankly, I am not convinced that we currently have the answers. I remain concerned about roads, healthcare, school places, water and sewage capacity, employment opportunities, sports and recreation facilities, renewable energy infrastructure and wider connectivity across the county. I have not seen sufficient evidence demonstrating how services will keep pace with the scale of growth being proposed.

These concerns are reinforced by the Council's wider strategic planning. While I welcomed Buckinghamshire's Economic Growth Plan to 2045, it is striking that communities expected to accommodate significant growth receive so little attention within it. Winslow, despite being expected to take thousands of new homes, is barely mentioned, while there is no meaningful town centre strategy for either Winslow or Buckingham.

I am also concerned by the Council's approach to affordable housing. While the Government's expectation is that at least 40 per cent of new homes should be affordable, Buckinghamshire Council proposes a minimum requirement of just 25 per cent in the north and centre of the county, compared with 40 per cent in the south and east. I can see no convincing reason why residents in north Buckinghamshire should have fewer opportunities to access affordable housing than those elsewhere in the county.

The south of Buckinghamshire has all the assets needed to take a greater role in accommodating growth. Communities with stronger economic and transport links to London are well placed to take a fair share of future development. Yet this Plan concentrates overwhelming levels of growth in the north while asking comparatively little of other parts of the county.

I do not say this lightly, but I fear that Buckinghamshire Council is playing party-political politics to a potentially damaging degree regarding an issue that is too important for that approach.

Ever since I first met the then Leader of Buckinghamshire Council in July 2024, I have found this administration's starting position too often to be one of "no, we can't". I am disappointed that this apparent mindset has produced a highly political

document, one that appears to place the greatest burden on those parts of our county that voted Labour at the last General Election, while sparing many areas represented by Conservative MPs and Conservative ward councillors. Housing is too important for political games. Communities deserve genuine political leadership and a Local Plan that is fair, evidence-led and balanced across the whole county. Instead, this Plan risks placing the overwhelming burden of growth on north Buckinghamshire, dividing communities against one another and creating a future political battleground rather than delivering a sustainable strategy for the county as a whole.

I will continue to support the homes Buckinghamshire needs, but I will also continue to stand up for the infrastructure, public services and investment that must come alongside that growth, as well as for a proportionate distribution of development across the county. That is the standard to which I will continue to hold this Plan.

The following web address will allow you to view Callum Anderson's official submittal/response to Buckinghamshire Councils Draft Local Plan

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/6431f8efb9e6be7f8e8c2ab4/t/6aa2bb37463b5076fd93830/1789049656452/Buckinghamshire%27s+Draft+Local+Plan+Statement.pdf>

Callum Anderson MP

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St Luke's Church News

The village and church community have been extremely shocked and distressed over the last few weeks as several of our active villagers have died. **Hugh Standen** was one of them. For many years he assisted Terry Turner in the churchyard by using his leaf blower to remove leaves and twigs on Saturdays, from the church path. He was a regular member at coffee mornings and drove villagers and others to and from their homes so they could attend. His funeral took place on 4 September, and he was buried in the churchyard. **Margaret Owen** died too, the wife of the late Dr Owen from Leighton Buzzard they moved from Soulbury to Stoke thirteen years ago. She went to Soulbury church but supported St Luke's by attending all the events, helping with the Christmas Tree Festival and winning the Christmas Hamper on at least one occasion. Margaret set up and ran the village Book Club. Most shockingly we then learnt that **Eileen Curry** had died extremely suddenly and unexpectedly. Eileen attended St Luke's when she was able and again supported the church by helping Hazel with the Christmas Tree Festival and attending events. She was a member of the Book Club, the Garden Club Secretary and a former Parish Councillor. Her cremation was held on Friday 25 September. **Ted Andrews** died the day before Eileen in Milton Keynes Hospital. He was a genuinely kind, wonderful, friendly person. He was well known as the caretaker for the Community Centre for many years. He attended church events, drew a magnificent A3 pictorial display of the church and its surroundings which were sold to villagers and guests alike helping our church raise much needed funds. His memorial event is being held at **Pochard Lake off Heath Road**, Great Brickhill on **Saturday 3rd October from 11.30am**. **Margaret**, his partner and his son Ben invite villagers to attend to remember him. St Luke's sends deepest sympathy and prayers to the all the families. Rest in Peace.

Fundraising:

Quiz Night: This was a success and David Webber said that fortunately there were enough jacket potatoes to go round so no one went hungry.

Harvest Festival: The Harvest Festival service went ahead on 27 September, thank you so much to all those who helped decorate the church with fresh flowers and provided tins and fresh food. The fresh food will be going to Willen Hospice and the tinned food to the local food bank. A Harvest Lunch took place after the service and was enjoyed by those that attended.

Stargazing: It is hoped that this **will take place as planned on Saturday 3rd October, at Tyrells Manor**, weather permitting. If the sky is very cloudy the event will be postponed until **24 October**. **David Webber** is the person to contact if you need to know more about it. Tickets are £45per person and include supper, champagne and a talk.

St Luke's Patronal Gift Day: St Luke's Patronal Day will be celebrated on **Saturday 17 October**. This year we are asking for financial gifts to help repair the boundary wall at the back of the church. Back in 2023 the Quinquennial report by the architect stated that the wall was bulging and 'could unexpectedly fail'. As can be seen by the kissing gate at the entrance to the public footpath the wall has started to fail. It is hoped to take the wall down and rebuild it to stop the rest of the wall collapsing. However, the cost is extremely high and leaves St Luke's in a vulnerable position if anything else should occur. The PCC has now set up a volunteer group to assist with routine church maintenance; Council members are grateful for all their help and ongoing assistance. Any financial gift villagers provide will be very gratefully received and will be put towards repair. The church service at 9.30 am the next day will include healing prayers.

Church Activities & Events:

Prayer Walk: A Prayer walk is planned for **Saturday 3rd October**, if you see a group of churchgoers stopping at various points round the village do not be alarmed. Further information, if you would like to join the cohort is available from David or Diane Webber on 01525 270409.



Community Breakfast: The monthly breakfast will be held on **Saturday 10 OCTOBER**. The November Breakfast will be held on **Saturday 7 November**. St Luke's continues to be extremely grateful to all those volunteers who assist in the smooth running of this monthly event. Orders are taken from **8.30 -10.30am**. **There's a wheelchair ramp, highchairs for babies**, and specific dietary needs are catered for. There's no charge but donations (cash or card) are accepted. Donations for the **Food Bank** are collected during this meal.

Foodbank: This is freely available and may be found inside the church porch and use is on **an ad hoc basis**. Places are listed on the noticeboard (above the foodbank) for those local people that are in regular need and support. There is a family box containing family and duplicate items. Donations to the foodbank and financial help towards the cost of purchasing items for it may be given to David or Diane Webber. Items needed include casseroles/pies, tinned meat/fish. Juice, coffee and sugar. Please note items must be in date and no alcohol or aerosols are stocked.



Toy Swap: This remains available within the church porch, there are books, games and toys for people to borrow. Please feel free to take them and return them in due course.

Remembrance: The annual service of Remembrance will take place at **10.45am** in church on **November 8th**.

Dates for your Diary:

Wing Singers: Twenty five members of the Wing Singers are coming to sing in St Luke's on **11th October**. Tea and Coffee will be served at **2.30pm** prior to the singers starting at **3pm**. They have kindly said they will sing for an hour. The event is FREE but donations are requested to help with the church maintenance fund.

Christmas Fayre: The Christmas Fayre will be held in the Community Centre on **Saturday 28 November 13.00 – 16.00**. The man in red may well appear. The usual stalls will be available, with suitable gifts, cakes, books, cards and other Christmas items. Anyone wanting a stall should in the first instance approach David Webber on 01525 270409.

Christmas Trees: Do you enjoy decorating Christmas trees? If so, perhaps you would like to come up to church and decorate one, sometime between **Tuesday 1st December – 4th December**. If anyone wants a theme to follow how about London Tube Stations? Contact Hazel on 01525 270404 and let her know when you want to come.

Bible Verse of the month

Isaiah 41:10: *"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."* **Meaning:**

Removes Fear: God tells you not to be afraid because He is right beside you.

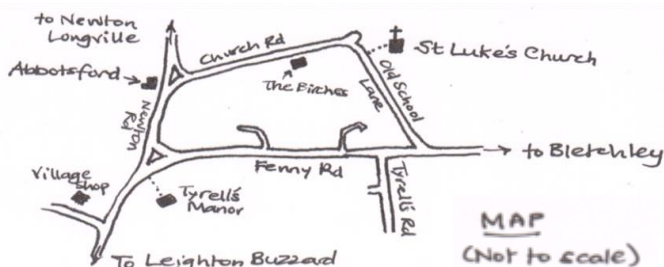
Offers Strength: When you feel weak, God promises to give you His own strength.

Provides Security: He holds you up when life feels too hard to face alone.

Finally:

Over the summer months and despite the heat volunteer Peter Tooth has been caring for the churchyard, mowing, picking up leaves, twigs and branches. The unsightly mess by the shed has been cleared. Meanwhile other volunteers have removed moss, weeds etc from the church wall and graves. The PCC sends sincere thanks to everyone who has assisted in any way. If anyone is recently retired and would like to assist do please contact our churchwarden, Harry Davies. Your help would be appreciated. Visiting clergy have all commented on the upkeep and how beautiful and peaceful our churchyard is. So once again Thank You!

The Benefice www.brickhillschurches.org.uk remains in an interregnum but if anyone requires a minister for funerals, weddings or baptism this may be arranged. Please contact : Churchwarden Harry Davies. Tel 07773 062571 or email with full details to: harrydavies470@btinternet.com



MOBILE VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGN (MVAS) RESULTS FOR LEIGHTON RD 23/07/26 TO 22/09/26

For Project: leighton road

Project Notes:

Location/Name: Incoming

Report Generated: 24/09/2026 12:35:06

Speed Intervals: 5 MPH

Time Intervals: Instant

Traffic Report From 23/07/2026 00:00:00 through 22/09/2026 10:59:59

85th Percentile Speed 37.9 MPH

85th Percentile Vehicles 96850

Max Speed 65 MPH

Total Vehicles 113941

AADT: 1853

Volumes -

weekly counts

Time	5 Day	7 Day
Average Daily	1931	1839
AM Peak	134	129
PM Peak	161	145

Speed

Speed Limit:

85th Percentile Speed:

50th Percentile Speed:

10 MPH Pace Interval:

Average Speed:

25.0 MPH to 35.0 MPH

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Count over limit	9758	9198	8960	10449	10504	8505	7576
% over limit	57.7	57.3	56.4	57.5	58.5	55.6	55.3
Avg Speeder	35.6	35.6	35.5	35.6	35.7	35.4	35.3
Avg Speed	13.0	12.8	12.8	12.7	12.9	13.8	14.0





News from Buckinghamshire Council

Dear Resident

7 September 2026

Every day, your council tax helps fund the local services that people across Buckinghamshire rely on, from caring for vulnerable adults and children to maintaining roads, supporting our communities, keeping neighbourhoods clean and safe and much, much more.

Earlier this summer, I wrote about the council's plans and priorities for Buckinghamshire, when we set out our vision for improving everyday life for all of our residents. We're now beginning the next stage of that process: deciding how the services that support this mission will be funded during the coming financial year.



This is where you come in.

The decisions we make about spending affect the services people rely on every day, and we want to hear your views before any final decisions are made. Your feedback (which can be given via a link later in this email) will help us understand what matters most to residents, communities and local businesses as we consider how best to use the council's budget in the financial year ahead. (1 April 2027 – 31 March 2028)

Like all councils, we have to balance our budget every year. Put simply, we can't spend more money than we receive. At the same time, demand for many services is increasing, while costs continue to rise. Last year, our government funding was also reduced by more than £44 million, plus central funding is being diverted to other parts of the country and away from places like Buckinghamshire, all of which adds to financial pressures here.

Also, three quarters of the council's budget is spent on four essential services that we are legally required to provide:

- adult social care
- children's services
- home-to-school transport
- temporary accommodation for people experiencing homelessness

While these pressures are significant, Buckinghamshire Council remains in a robust financial position. Through careful planning and responsible management, we have agreed a balanced three-year budget plan through to 2029.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Count over limit	3729	3626	3527	4051	4090	3365	2905
% over limit	22.2	22.7	22.4	22.3	22.4	21.2	21.6
Avg Speeder	34.5	34.4	34.4	34.3	34.5	34.3	34.4
Avg Speed	10.8	10.7	10.6	10.4	10.6	11.1	11.7

Over recent years we've made substantial savings while continuing to invest in the services residents value most. We've done this by finding smarter ways of working, making good use of technology, reducing waste and working closely with our partners, all while continuing to deliver value for money.

Our current plans include investment in:

- continuing weekly bin collections
- preventative road maintenance under record investment levels to help keep roads in better condition for longer
- council-run children's homes and additional fostering places
- planning enforcement
- town centre regeneration
- the Horizons programme and other work and skills initiative, helping more young people into work
- using artificial intelligence (AI) to help staff work more efficiently, improve customer service and automate routine tasks

Have your say

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey and tell us what you think. Your feedback will help shape our spending plans and make sure we continue to focus on the services that matter most to the people of Buckinghamshire. This year we've also included a few extra questions specifically to get views from organisations – so if you're a business owner or part of a community organisation do make sure the views of your organisation are also put forward to us.

The consultation is open from **7 September until 18 October 2026**, and I would encourage as many people as possible to get involved.

You can take part online at: [buckinghamshire.gov.uk/your-bucks-your-say](https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/your-bucks-your-say)

Household Recycling Centre closures at Aylesbury and Langley

Finally, I would like to remind residents about the [temporary closures of Aylesbury and Langley Household Recycling Centres](#) for essential drainage improvement works.

Aylesbury Household Recycling Centre will closed on Wed 2 September and is expected to reopen before the end of December. Langley Household Recycling Centre will closes from Wednesday 9 September and is expected to reopen before Easter 2027. These works are necessary to ensure both facilities can continue operating while meeting environmental requirements.

Residents who normally use Aylesbury are encouraged to use Aston Clinton or Buckingham Household Recycling Centres during the closure. Those who use Langley can visit Burnham or Beaconsfield Household Recycling Centres, with Burnham opening seven days a week during the closure period.

MOBILE VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGN (MVAS) RESULTS FOR NEWTON RD 23/07/26 TO 22/09/26

For Project: Newton Road

Project Notes:

Location/Name:

Report Generated:

Speed Intervals

Time Intervals

Traffic Report From

85th Percentile Speed

85th Percentile Vehicles

Max Speed

Total Vehicles

AADT:

Incoming
24/09/2026
14:25:58
5 MPH

Instant
23/07/2026
00:00:00
22/09/2026
10:59:59
29.4 MPH
through
21667
26/08/2026
15:00:00
55 MPH
on
25491
414



Volumes -

weekly counts

Time	5 Day	7 Day
Average Daily	441	411
AM Peak	32	26
PM Peak	47	41

Speed

Speed Limit:

85th Percentile Speed:

50th Percentile Speed:

10 MPH Pace Interval:

Average Speed:

30
29.4
25.1
20.0 MPH
24.8
to
30.0 MPH

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
428	388	345	393	446	335	253
10.8	10.6	9.4	9.8	10.7	10.2	9.2
33.2	33.2	33.4	33.2	33.3	33.3	33.3
16.6	16.7	15.9	16.3	16.5	17.4	18.0

Thank you, as always, for taking the time to read this update and for playing your part in making Buckinghamshire such a special place to live.

Yours,

Steven Broadbent

Steven Broadbent - Leader - Buckinghamshire Council

• GET IN TOUCH •



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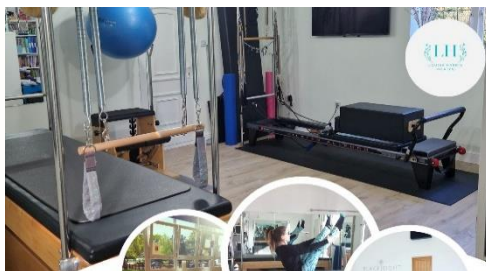
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- ✓ 7.15pm Intermediate/Mixed

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VILLAGE DIARY

Saturday 3 rd October	Stargazing Evening – Tyrells Manor – See Church News
Tuesday 6 th October	Parish Council Mtg – Community Centre – 19.30
Saturday 10 th October	Community Breakfast – Community Centre 08.30 – 10.30
Sunday 25 th October	Clocks go back 1hr – 2am
Tuesday 3 rd November	Parish Council Meeting – Venue tbc – 19.30
Friday 6 th November	Fireworks Event – Sports Club – See Sports Club News
Saturday 14 th November	Community Breakfast – Community Centre 08.30 – 10.30
Saturday 5 th December	Community Breakfast – Community Centre 08.30 – 10.30
Saturday 12 th December	Senior Citizens Xmas Lunch – Community Centre – 13.00

For Church dates/times please see the 'Church Services' section

ORGANISATIONS THAT USE THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

High Ash Scouts, Cubs (Beavers)

Thursday 17.30 – 21.30hrs

Contact: Dave Pollington 01525 270864

dave.pollington@mkscouts.org

www.scouts.org.uk

Louisa Harris Pilates

Monday day/evening

Contact: 07941 203589

Louisa.pilates@gmail.com

www.louisaharrisilates.co.uk

Chair Yoga

Wednesday 9.30 & 14.30 hrs

Contact: Sally Peers 07766 756199

sallyyogalondon@gmail.com

Buttons Pre-School

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Contact: 01908 533404

enquiries@buttonspreschools.co.uk

www.buttonspreschools.co.uk

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or Linda 07971 134497

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Registrar (<i>Marriages</i>)	01296-382481
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Stoke Mandeville Hospital	01296-315000
Luton & Dunstable Hospital	01582-491122
SH Gardening Club (<i>Eileen Curry</i>)	01525-270858
Clerk to the Parish Council (<i>Kelly Harris</i>)	07793-131810
Parish Council Chairman (<i>Mubasshir Ajaz</i>)	07775 932925
Newton Longville Ward Councillor (<i>Caroline Cornell</i>)	07976 853643
Newton Longville Ward Councillor (<i>Jilly Jordan</i>)	07740 308468
MP – Bucks & Bletchley (<i>Callum Anderson</i>)	callum.anderson.mp@parliament.uk
PCSO Tina Hobson	07779 586565
High Ash School	01525-261620
St Luke's Church Warden (Harry Davies)	07773 065271
Stewkley Methodist Church (Mary Cottrell)	01296 688741

Police non-emergency number 101

NHS Helpline non-emergency number 111

EDITORS NOTE

There has been a lot written, and quite rightly so, in this edition about the recent sad passing of some very prominent and influential members of our community, so I will simply add my sincere condolences to the partners, family members and close friends of those who have left us.

The possible future development to the Southern entrance of Stoke Hammond as detailed in the PC News Section is very worrying, for if this should ever get the go ahead, it would be a significant and dramatic extension to our village boundaries.

It was also interesting to read in the PC News section, the reply from UK Power Networks following the PC Clerk reaching out to them for an explanation for the bout of power interruptions we have been suffering. Surely, suggesting things like encroaching vegetation and vermin activity as possible causes, should be covered under regular site maintenance/ inspections, rather than waiting till an issue occurs?

For the final edition of 2026 but also the first of 2027 with that being the December 26/January 27 issue of the SH & NLS News, I would please require copy by the **20th November**.

Greg Noble, The Birches, Church Road, Stoke Hammond. MK17 9BP
01525 270744 E-mail: gregnoble1980@aol.com



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Wednesday 14 Oct		Wednesday 14 Oct	Wednesday 14 Oct
	Wednesday 21 Oct	Wednesday 21 Oct	
Wednesday 28 Oct		Wednesday 28 Oct	Wednesday 28 Oct
	Wednesday 4 Nov	Wednesday 4 Nov	
Wednesday 11 Nov		Wednesday 11 Nov	Wednesday 11 Nov
	Wednesday 18 Nov	Wednesday 18 Nov	
Wednesday 25 Nov		Wednesday 25 Nov	Wednesday 25 Nov
	Wednesday 2 Dec	Wednesday 2 Dec	

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