

# **SAVE OUR STOCKBRIDGE**

## **SOS**

## **NEWS**

### **Proposed Development on Land Along the Houghton Road**

At the meeting of Stockbridge Parish Council held on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020 we learned about a proposal to develop land owned by the Busk Family Trust. The current proposal is to build 300 homes on the land to the south of Test Valley School which runs along the Houghton Road, just beyond the last house on the right hand side from the Stockbridge cross roads.

WYG plc, who are consultants, acting with promoters Obsidian Strategic, who are a development company specializing 'in maximizing land value' for landowners, have written to Stockbridge, Houghton and Longstock Parish Councils. They have asked all 3 Councils to meet them to hear about their proposals for this Busk Family Trust land. Stockbridge PC has resolved to agree to a meeting with the other Parish Councils but wants the meeting to be a public meeting. This would mean that the SOS committee could attend, as of course could you. Longstock PC agrees with this approach but Houghton PC are yet to meet to discuss the issue. So if all 3 Councils agree to a joint public meeting we will inform you in due course and let you know the date and venue.

Thus far SOS agrees with Stockbridge PC's approach as we support the idea that any largescale development affecting Stockbridge is a matter of real concern to everyone. Any meeting would be essentially to listen to what the promoters have to say about the proposal, not to enter into any discussion with them – that would be to risk playing into their hands - we would need to consider the proposals and have time to decide how to respond.

## **Stockbridge Community Planning**

The Community Planning Working Group, set up by the previous Stockbridge PC, reported at Stockbridge PC's meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020. Bruce Williams, a member of the SOS committee, was a member of the Group and they heard evidence from a number of people including Roger Tym, another SOS committee member. A majority of the Group considered that the way forward was to revise the Village Design Statement which was last drafted in 2002 but not to go down the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) route. After considerable discussion the Parish Council resolved not to undertake an NDP but to make submissions to TVBC about the Local Plan and to revise the Village Design Statement. A new Community Planning Group is to be set up to report back to the Council on these steps.

The Local Plan is a plan that is prepared by TVBC to provide a positive vision for the future for the area, and a framework for housing, economic, social and environmental needs. It has legal force and is used by TVBC to determine planning applications. The Local Plan is now being revised and Stockbridge PC envisages having input into this revision. A Village Design Statement is a Supplementary Planning Document and will be taken into account by TVBC when coming to any decisions about planning in Stockbridge, and again Stockbridge PC intends to have input into revising the current Statement.

## **Annual Parish Meeting**

The Annual Parish Meeting is to take place in Stockbridge Town Hall on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2020, at 7.30pm. The Chairman of the Parish Council will give an address and someone from Stockbridge Surgery is to attend to give a presentation. You may wish to note this in your diary as we all have an interest in the Parish Council and in the local Surgery.

## **Trees for Stockbridge**

A new initiative has been started to commemorate the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Gilbert White's birth. He was a world renowned Hampshire naturalist and East Hampshire District Council has launched a programme to plant a tree for every resident in East Hampshire. It is hoped to replicate that initiative in West Hampshire and Stockbridge Parish Council has declared an interest in planting more trees and encouraging others to do so. If you have a garden or land where you could sensibly think about planting one or more trees please get in touch with the Clerk to the Council ([clerk@stockbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@stockbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk)) who may be able to put you in touch with those who can provide help and advice. SOS thoroughly supports this initiative.

## **Flooding in Stockbridge**

Thus far Stockbridge has escaped flooding this year despite a flood warning affecting the High Street on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2020. This is in no small part down to the work of the Houghton Club, and in particular to Daniel Hawkins, for which we are most grateful. It is a timely reminder of the extreme weather we are experiencing every few years in the Test Valley and that any development may well add to that risk.

The SOS committee will continue to work on all the above matters to Save our Stockbridge and we do thank you all for your support.

Jean Boney  
Chair of SOS

23<sup>rd</sup> February 2020