

## Stratton Audley News Update March 2019

The Parish Council carries out regular door drops as well as constantly updating the website ([www.strattonaudley.org](http://www.strattonaudley.org)) and noticeboard plus Facebook page. We do this to encourage involvement in the community and appreciate your feedback. Please keep this sheet as a reminder. Additionally the Parish Council hold meetings usually on the first Wednesday of each month in the Red Lion at 7pm and you are welcome to attend.

### View Proposals for the 'Pound' - Tues March 12th

In October 2018 the Parish Council undertook clearance work on the piece of ground at the entrance to the Cross Bucks Way with a view to making the area more usable. In December we became aware of grant funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to develop green spaces in villages and towns. The deadline for the grant application was 25<sup>th</sup> January with a requirement to initiate plans prior to the end of March 2019. So to stand any chance we had to work very fast and make some decisions without time to engage with everyone. **The exciting news is that our plan has been successful and full funding has been approved with additional financial support coming from Cherwell DC. Given that works must start before the end of this month, the plan will be on display in the church this coming Tuesday from 4pm to 7pm for the community to view and pass on any comments. The plans are also being displayed on notice boards and at: [www.strattonaudley.org](http://www.strattonaudley.org)**

### Annual Parish Open Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> April

This meeting will take place in the Church on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April at the earlier start time of 7.00pm. It is organised by the Parish Council on behalf of all residents in the Parish, and as it is an Open meeting anyone can speak about any subject whether or not it is on the agenda. To provide a structure, we review the year and invite a number of speakers to cover subjects that are relevant to the Parish and should be of interest to all of us.

**This is your chance to find out first-hand what is going on and ask questions so please make an extra effort to attend. Everyone will get a chance to speak but will be asked to address their questions through the Chair in an orderly and courteous fashion.**

### Conservation Area Review

Cherwell District Council have undertaken a review of Stratton Audley's Conservation Area which was last updated in 1996. A number of meetings have taken place and a report is in the process of being finalised. As part of the consultation process and for the convenience of the community, the Parish Council has agreed to a display being set up in the Church on the same day as the Open Meeting, Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April and this will be manned from 6pm. This will be followed by a brief presentation and Q & A session during the Open Meeting.

### Elm Farm Quarry Development

Supported by the Parish Council, Oxford County Council served enforcement papers on the owners of the quarry (Bicester Heritage) prior to Christmas, requiring restoration works to be carried out to the site. An appeal has been lodged and given that the site now has a far greater flora and fauna importance and is subject to further environmental studies, more time is likely to be granted for the company to come up with a plan to clean up the area whilst maintaining its ecological values. The owners appear to be keen to play their part in protecting the biodiversity that has been established over recent years whilst utilising

the area for some recreational facilities as part of their wider leisure park offering. Bicester Heritage will be attending the Parish Open meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> April to present their vision for the park.

## Bicester Heritage Leisure Development

As you may have seen in the press, Bicester Heritage has created a new master brand -Bicester Motion and has unveiled outline plans for the next 10 years. Bicester Heritage will continue to be the lead brand but increasing the site will be promoted as a leisure, technology and business centre and historic motoring will be joined with current and future forms of automotive motion. They expect to attract a million visitors a year which should provide a big boost to the local economy. Their plans involve some track and driving facilities utilising the existing airfield site, together with pedestrian and cycle tracks extending into the newly acquired Elm Farm Quarry. The aim being to create a significant accessible nature reserve whilst also accommodating the possibility of some lodges located around the lakes.

The Parish Council wishes to see better cycle access to the village as well as some public use of the old quarry site and are engaging with the owners to that end. They in turn wish to be good neighbours and as previously mentioned have kindly accepted our offer to attend the Annual Open Meeting to explain more about their proposals and listen to the views of the community.

## Village Improvement Fund

As you may recall a small fund was set aside out of monies from the Street Festival in 2018. Various ideas have been put forward and an early one has been acted upon with the purchase of new smarter litter bins. Currently the plan is to invest in some new benches and improve the entrances to the village with stone flower troughs. Generally tidying up grass verges and other repairs are also on the list. Whilst we welcome further ideas from the community, what is really needed are more volunteers prepared to give up some time to make the ideas a reality.

## First Aid Awareness Training

We will be holding another First Aid Awareness Training Session **this Saturday 9th March at 10am** in the church. This is both for those who have previously attended a session as a refresher and anyone new who would like to be more aware and confident in case of an emergency. Additionally you will learn how simple it is to use the ‘heart-starting’ defibrillator which is located in the church porch. If you haven’t already put your name down for it please just turn up on Saturday morning and join in.

## Other Matters

- **Updated Emergency Plan.** The plan has been updated and can be viewed on the website and on the notice board located just inside the Church porch.
- **VAS.** The vehicle activated sign on the Bicester Road will remain in place for the time being, as this is the road that carries the most traffic through the village and it is proving to be effective in slowing down vehicles. In time we hope to acquire a second unit.
- **Footpaths & Bridleways.** These are overseen by Stewart Hopkins who needs a few volunteers to occasionally walk the paths and report back any damage or unpassable footpaths.
- **East West Rail.** Plans are at the public enquiry stage, although much preparatory work is underway and the full schedule is still due to begin later this year
- **The Expressway.** There is no further news and uncertainty continues to exist over the precise proposed route it will take out of Oxford or indeed, whether either route will ever be viable.
- **HS2.** No further news although there seems to be a growing debate over its cost!