

OCC / SODC

We’re happy to continue working with Jo Robb on issues related to SODC and, now, with Ben Higgins, our OCC councillor, on matters relating to Oxfordshire County Council

Planning and Development

We have been alerted to two planning matters in the parish to which we have responded or are monitoring. The first is the purchase of a field off Huntercombe End Lane on which the new owners erected fencing, put down hardcore and installed a mobile home and caravan – without planning approval. We joined with Swyncombe PC to raise the issue with SODC and then object to the subsequent, post facto, application. The application was rejected but later approved on appeal. The second is the sale of parcels of land in the woodland area to the north of the A4130 near Port Hill (Hogpen woods). The concern is that the purchasers are being softly encouraged to purchase the land in the belief that they may be able to build. We are monitoring the advertisements and activity in the area.

Golf Club

The golf club continues to cut the grass in Fred’s Field, which is greatly appreciated. We continue to monitor golf maintenance work and note that the club is in contact with SODC regarding tree work etc.

Parish infrastructure

We have continued to spend money on keeping the infrastructure of the parish in order. We regularly clear the pavement along the A4130 to Porthill, maintain the bus shelter on the A4130, clear the shrubs at the back of the layby at Porthill and keep Fred’s Field in order. We are looking to purchase a new notice board for parish news.

We also maintain the playground and ensure ROSPA compliance.

We are still in correspondence with OCC about the possibility of purchasing Fred’s Field. We feel that it would be a good asset for the parish and would do away with the admin requirements of both OCC and the parish council in collecting and paying rent. We have heard positive noises about this, but progress is slow.

Speeding and traffic noise

We have had the 30mph zone in Nuffield village reduced to a 20mph zone. We have launched a community speed monitoring initiative with a number of parishioners being trained to monitor speed levels through the village part of Nuffield. The initiative has only just been launched and we’re hoping to encourage more to get trained and take part.

Meanwhile, speeding traffic – particularly motorbikes – along the A4130 continues to be an issue. We still struggle to get the attention of the Police and Crime Commissioner or the local police on the issue. It’s frustrating to have to say (again) that, despite our efforts, and those of other parishes, the problem is not getting any better. The noise on sunny weekend days is extreme and very disturbing for parishioners.

There have been two motorcyclist deaths on the A4130 in the past year. One involved a collision with a crossing deer, the other was a collision with another vehicle on the road.

We are progressing with the possibility of having a pedestrian crossing across the A4130 in the 40mph zone between the bus stops. Pedestrians need to cross the road, there is no street lighting and, with speeding cars and bikes, crossing the road safely can be difficult. We are seeking support, through a feedback form or petition, to the crossing to add weight to our initiative and requests to OCC. We continue to discuss the issue with OCC.

We have also had requests for a lower speed limit generally along the A4130 which we are passing on to OCC. The recent deaths on the road would, we presume, be good reason for this to be reviewed.

Litter Picks

We continue to do our two litter picks per year across the parish. We’re grateful to those who come out to join the councillors to help clear the footpaths and verges.

Website and IT

We have upgraded our IT this year. The councillors now have new email addresses; we have a new website and document storage system.

Finances

We are managing our finances well and have managed to retain a steady level of reserves by spending only our precept plus any additional funding we get from SODC and OCC from grants. We're grateful for the grants that enable us to do discrete projects, such as playground improvement, in the parish.

Gill Austin
Nuffield PC Chair