

News about Planning in Stansfield

Some news for residents of Upper Street/High Street about the field south of Pippin Post Close which backs on to their homes.

Also:

Changes being made to National Planning rules are unlikely to impact on Stansfield, parish councillors were told at their meeting in September.

Sustainability is a main premise of the proposed new rules. Because it has no public transport and very few facilities, Stansfield is not deemed to be a sustainable location for development.

The new Local Plan, which will set the rules for development across the whole of West Suffolk District until 2040, is at a very advanced stage, having been worked on and consulted on, for the past three years. It will be judged against the criteria and rules in place at the time of the General Election, rather than be re-worked to take into account the new

Government's Planning requirements^{*}, West Suffolk Councillor Sarah Pugh told Stansfield parish councillors.

Deep down in documents relating to the new Local Plan is the news about the field behind homes in Upper Street/High Street.

This field south of Pippin Post Close was submitted for potential housing development by the landowners H E Dennis and Son, along with other parcels of land in the village, as part of the Local Plan process. However this field, labelled WS167, has been specifically omitted.

The reasons given in the document (Ref: Place Services, West Suffolk Local

Plan Omission Sites Report 2024, page 181) for omitting this site from being allocated for housing development include:

1. Its relatively large size compared to the existing settlement. WSC planners consider that only small-scale built development, that respects the organic and loose character of villages like Stansfield, to be appropriate.
2. Stansfield is within a Landscape Character Area (LCA). The whole of the Upper Glem Valley from Hawkedon to Wickham Street/Stradishall is designated as an LCA in which “*the small-scale rural character of the villages in this landscape is particularly sensitive to change and merits conservation*”. A key characteristic is the wildlife habitat that the LCA affords.

The Omission Sites document in the Plan does warn though, that sites omitted now are not prevented from being put forward in the future, and that they could remain for consideration in future years, or in a future Local Plan process.

So, Landowners are not precluded from pressing for allocations. However, WSC planners have categorised Stansfield as a Type B village in which only limited infill (*of five homes or less*) or affordable housing exception sites, would be allowed, dependent on a proven housing need in a village. Examples of the few specific instances when small development might be allowed in Stansfield can be found on the Stansfield Parish Council website, stansfield.onesuffolk.net, under the heading Planning.

**For example , the new Government now requires a 50% increase in the number of new homes built each year in the West Suffolk District, from 809 to 1200.*

Intimidating Driving

Suffolk Police and Suffolk County Council Highways are to be told by Stansfield Parish Council that instances of intimidating driving

behaviour are on the increase on the narrow lanes in and around the village. Several councillors reported instances of being squeezed off the road by drivers travelling fast, particularly drivers of larger vans and lorries.

Assets of Community Value

The Village Hall, and playing field, the pub, the old village water pumps and the telephone kiosk (now a library), are some of the assets that could be registered as being of value to the community in Stansfield. The parish council is now asking residents to nominate more so they can complete a list to be lodged with West Suffolk Council. Please send nominations to the clerk, Anne Lines, stansfieldpc@outlook.com.

Footpaths

Parish Councillors approved the idea of putting a map of village footpaths outside the Village Hall, subject to the approval of the VH management committee. Many walkers park at the VH and then walk the beautiful routes around Stansfield.

Wildlife and Coffee ;

Nov. 2nd at the Village Hall 10.30am-1pm

Suffolk Wildlife Trust's Cathy Smith will be talking about wildlife in and around Stansfield and the importance of the Old Chapel Graveyard as a haven for wildlife. She has also asked that anyone coming along to bring photos and videos of wildlife locally. There will be an opportunity to ask questions and if the weather is suitable a visit to the Old Chapel Graveyard, which is cared for by the parish council, may be possible at the end. Cathy Smith has written a report on this site which is guiding its care.

Parish Councillors will also be on hand to discuss any ideas or concerns about the village in general. Refreshments are to be served by Good Neighbour scheme volunteers.

Entry is Free but any donations to Suffolk Wildlife Trust will be welcomed.

Old Chapel Graveyard

This has had a summer tidy up and a late Autumn clearance is planned. If you would like to help please contact Cllr. Ball at jab.73@yahoo.com or Cllr. Slater at martinslater101@gmail.com.

Diary Dates:

Next Parish Council Meeting: Wednesday 8th January, VH 7pm.

Then, Wednesday **12th March** followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting on **May 14th**.

The Annual Parish Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday **May 20th** (*this is an open meeting for residents in the village to bring up any topics of interest or concern.*)

The **Annual Village Tidy Up** is scheduled for Saturday morning, **April 26th**

Summer Fun Day: provisionally either 12th or 19th July just before the start of school summer holidays.

