

“We love Stansfield as it is”....but...

“we would love more children’s activities...more opportunities for families to get together...”

So..a summer family event is being planned at Stansfield Village Hall!

The messages which have prompted this action were given at the village coffee morning in February, and were discussed by Stansfield Parish Council at their March meeting. Dolly Whilems from the Village Hall committee and Cllr Pat Barnes for the PC and for Stansfield Good Neighbour Scheme, agreed with Parish Councillors to hold a summer family event at the VH, date to be decided and publicised to residents later.

“We had a clear message from many residents who attended the coffee morning that they valued living in the peace, tranquillity and beautiful landscape around Stansfield, particularly the views from the many footpaths. The whole valley is designated an LVL (Locally Valued Landscape) by West Suffolk Council which recognises that it is special with its ancient woodlands and field patterns and many listed buildings,” said Rex Barnes PC Chairman.

Also discussed in the meeting was the compilation of a list of assets valued by the community in Stansfield, such as the Village Hall, the pub and the old village pumps, but which were not actually listed buildings. “We would welcome ideas from residents on other things which might be included in this list,” added Rex. Please email suggestions to the PC on:

stansfieldpc@outlook.com.

D Day Stories

Do you know any stories or Stansfield connections to the D Day landings which took place on 6th June 1944? Do you have any relatives who took part ? If so we would like to hear them and plan to put on a display at the village family event in the summer.

Village Litter Pick

The annual Village Litter Pick is to be held on **Saturday April 6th from 10am to 1pm**. If you could help for a short time and tidy up a stretch of the village please let us know or just come along. Picking sticks and high viz tabards will be provided, and the event will be run from the Village Hall with refreshments there.

Old Chapel Graveyard

A report on the flora and fauna in the graveyard has been presented to the parish council by Suffolk Wildlife Trust. A working party is being set up by Cllr Martin Slater to discuss the recommendations. If you are interested in joining this, or in seeing the report, please contact Martin on 01284 789545.

Planning

Stansfield Parish Council has welcomed the recognition that our whole valley, from Hawkedon to Wickhambrook, is special.

In West Suffolk Council’s new draft Local Plan, which sets out parameters for development in the district for the next twenty years, the valley is designated as an LVL (Locally Valued

Landscape), which recognises its special character and quality. Stansfield Parish Council said in their submission to WSC that walks and views across the valley's ancient field patterns and woodlands are particularly valued by many Stansfield residents and visitors.

The PC also called for WSC to consider adding guidelines and criteria for undertaking housing surveys, before accepting survey results as giving accurate information about potential housing need in a village. The PC asked that the code of best practice for such surveys should be followed, also that residents should be involved in setting the questions and the results should be openly available, to avoid any suspicion of commercial or political pressure. The PC has offered to make the lessons learned in the recent failed survey in Stansfield available to WSC.

The PC also called for WSC to consider setting out criteria for the viability of rural exception sites and for them to limit any developer from seeking to vary planning permission at a later date to potentially increase the proportion of market housing against affordable homes on such sites, as witnessed in some local villages. This practice tends to erode public confidence in the planning system, the PC felt.

Next Stansfield Parish Council Meeting: AGM, Wednesday 8th May, Village Hall 7pm

Annual Stansfield Parish Meeting Tuesday 14th May, Village Hall 7pm

This is the annual open meeting for residents to raise and listen to ideas and concerns about the village. All residents are invited to attend and are free to speak about any village matters.