

## KING'S STANLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Both LS & KS PCs were contacted by concerned parishioners following the recent, very unfortunate dog attack but despite calls there was little either could actually “do about it” other than provide public discussion forums & contact the relevant bodies to confirm that they had done everything that needed doing. As the incident happened on a public right of way we even contacted the PROW officer but there was nothing she could do about it either. As the dog was allowed back the public has not felt at all reassured, especially as they feel that the site security regarding the animals is insufficient, although they see that the building seems extremely well secured. The best advice KSPC can give for the future is that individuals must themselves complain to the Dog Warden about any dog, wherever it lives, whose behaviour gives cause for concern. Whilst we would, of course, pass on complaints for you, we are but a third party whose evidence is hearsay. Many people are afraid to be identified personally and will only complain to their Parish Councils, but the relevant authorities may be unable to act if you do not tell them (give evidence) yourself.

Dog-related problems people usually want us to solve are mostly confined to the mess they leave behind & the Dog Warden is best placed to find out, with your help, who thoughtless owners are & take suitable action: 754478. BUT it is the Police you must contact if you fear something may happen or there is a more serious incident as the Police are responsible for dealing with reports of dangerous dogs. 0845 090 1234.

It was very sad to learn that the waste recycling trial could not continue. The recession seems mostly to blame but a lot of you are frustrated that what is a very successful pilot, which has shown the way forward for all, could not at least continue here. I know nothing of the finances but it was always going to be an uphill struggle to persuade ordinary people that they themselves must do something about their rubbish, not just carry on acquiring it & let it be dumped. Now, everyone seems unsure what to do with all the items we were happily recycling. Questions are being asked and work is going on behind the scenes to resume what has become “normal service” ASAP. Meanwhile, PLEASE try to minimize waste that enters your house (leave it at the shops) so less of it goes to landfill. Buy less food to waste. Compost green waste. Don't just dump old CDs & cases as they can be recycled in book banks at Tesco's Stroud & Cam & Sainsbury's. Use this link: [http://www.recycleforgloucestershire.com/where\\_you\\_live/stroud/recycling\\_banks.html](http://www.recycleforgloucestershire.com/where_you_live/stroud/recycling_banks.html)

You've probably all already looked around SDC's website but I only recently discovered a slot in Planning where you can enter yours or someone else's post-code for interesting & useful information, from whether the property selected is in the flood plain, AONB &/or Conservation Area, to local attractions, or census-derived statistics & what services are available. However, whilst the A-Z is useful it can be frustrating if you are looking for a particular something & still can't find it! Although many SDC staff are the same, I rarely have any special ways of contacting them or GCC & have to rely on this more than I used to.

Don't forget that if your property runs down to a stream or watercourse you are most likely to be what is termed “a riparian owner” and responsible for ensuring that your stretch remains unblocked. This includes KSPC itself as our small allotment patch runs down to the stream dividing us from LS Parish. We have managed to find 3 people willing to act as voluntary watercourse wardens for SDC. During the course of their local rambles they will be keeping an eye out for problems and will report on to prevent them from making matters worse for others downstream. Our thanks must go to them for being interested & caring.

GCC Highways are as I write starting to implement traffic calming measures for Ryeford Road, not nearly as much as was wanted locally because there was not enough room for a dedicated cycle lane and the pavement. Neither could we get the pavement widened for pedestrians' safety. We hope, at least, that it will highlight the dangers and reduce motorists' speed & make drivers more aware of other road users besides themselves.

GCC Highways works to a 10-page Safety Inspection Policy & does very regular inspections, though few of you are impressed with the state of our roads & you are often stumped as to why some pot-holes are filled & other defects nearby left un-repaired. The answer is that a day's work schedule is devised in response to the priority of the work required. Your call to the 08000 514 514 reporting line generates some of their work.

Various works requires different time-frame responses, the most serious take precedence – & yes, some spots that niggle you may be overlooked – though they are usually on a very long to-do list. There is always room for improvement but perfection takes a bit longer. Meanwhile, your call to 08000 514 514 still counts & soon it should fall on a much more local listening ear – people who know our area. If this does not satisfy you, contact your County Cllr (Stephen Glanfield for KS–Selsley) who will take up any highways issues you raise. The road through from LS-KS-Ryeford is down for resurfacing but a bit more patience (and possibly patching) is required before we see that happening.

KSPC asked local schoolchildren to help them design a logo for our use. Their help was tremendous as they spotted ideas that none of the Cllrs had thought of - and so very grateful thanks were sent to them and KSPC is rewarding them for their joint efforts. It is much more difficult to design a logo than you imagine; they have to be simple, yet capture the essence of the thing. No-one got it in one, very few golfers do either; but their splendid ideas are now being used by college students who are redesigning our home-made website as part of their course-work. So, we are all looking forward to seeing what they come up with!

The Marville application was recommended for planning permission by officers so it appears there is no valid planning reason for refusal, and though planning committees can over-rule such recommendations, it seems unlikely. So, local people will have to put up with the building & occupation of 10 housing units in 2 blocks of flats on a modest-sized plot that used to accommodate one family. We can only hope that they will live there peacefully and it will not mean having to put up with an overspill of yet more parked cars in the road. However, great care will be taken to ensure that no harm comes to the currently resident slow worms who will be re-housed sensitively.

Joanne at GOOD MORNING GLOUCESTERSHIRE an arm of Help the Aged supported by Zurich insurance writes: We are offering a free telephone support service to anyone 60+ living in Gloucestershire. Calls are made between 8.30am & 13.00pm Mon - Fri & at a time & day convenient for the client. We are a non-intrusive service whose aim is to help clients live as independently as possible & help them feel less isolated & lonely. They have produced leaflets which we hope to make available locally. They currently receive referrals from various professional bodies including Social Services, District Nurses, Doctors, etc. but at present have very few self-referrals & feel there must be people who would like to have a free call & a friendly chat. By this means they hope that word of the service will spread & attract more clients. If you need more information please do not hesitate to contact them. GOOD MORNING GLOUCESTERSHIRE City Works, Alfred Street, Gloucester. GLOS GL1 4DF Tel: 01452 382022 Fax: 01452 382033 Email: [joanne@goodmg.co.uk](mailto:joanne@goodmg.co.uk) OR [Joanne.Hilton@helptheaged.org.uk](mailto:Joanne.Hilton@helptheaged.org.uk)

It's good to read that local communities are fighting back, according to a recent GRCC publication which featured various communities' efforts to help themselves. Leonard Stanley's Community Enterprise Group was included & co-founder David Newton said "we wanted to bring people of all ages & from all parts of the community together to get to know each other & help decide what's needed in the village." There is no longer a shop in LS & one outcome was a community marketplace offering a range of local produce, arts & crafts. That was also a forum to discuss local matters. The perspective from KS is rather different as we are lucky to have a range of services that everyone can benefit from, including a great butcher, a caring Co-op, a hair-dresser, good Electrical shop, helpful Newsagents, a Post Office/fragrant gift shop, pub and now an aromatic Indian Restaurant above the pub – so use them or lose them.

You may like to know that KSPC supports, by subscriptions, environmentally useful organizations such as the Woodland Trust, Open Spaces Society & Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. As so many people can find out about them via their websites I will not do so here. Suffice to say that if we can't do something ourselves, we can support others who do valuable work that benefits us all.

Meanwhile, the walks booklets & CDs that Cllr John did so much to produce & promote are selling so well that more are almost certainly going to be needed – let's hope that translates into walking, not fire-side or bed-time reading! Pass your copy on if you are not going to use it yourself – and many thanks! It is

something of a lost-leader as we are not likely to cover all the costs of production, even with grants for the first run, but that is not the point. Many councils produce walks as a benefit to the community & visitors as many of you will realize if you have ever picked up a free leaflet. We have thought of other ways of covering the costs but sponsors in the current climate have yet to be found. This is something that you wanted us to do - and we have.

PS I use & and not "and" as it saves lots of space in an article.

Clerk, Jane Roberts 825660