

KING'S STANLEY PARISH COUNCIL

The recession is making life very difficult for many people and KSPC resolved not to increase its precept above 2009's £21,500, reducing it by £500. The budget estimate was rather higher so if KSPC spends more it will dip into its modest reserves.

We hope Co-op will take over running Post Office services at Co-op from Mr & Mrs Grant, who kept it going through challenging times. We wish them well as they plan to sell up & move. We only heard over Christmas so hope you heard in time to tell PO Ltd the importance for you of keeping P O S in KS.

Parish Councils are urged to produce Emergency Plans, and local people should also be involved in their production. Gloucestershire Rural Community Council has just produced a guide which I hope can be put to you soon, perhaps at the Annual Parish Meeting on 31st March, as your help and co-operation is needed if our parish is to be resilient in emergency situations. However, Girl Guides' "Be Prepared" & bags of salty grit should now be every household motto.

I often mention Neighbourhood Watch. Relatively few join, hopefully preferring active neighbourliness. Members can benefit from occasional meetings and their ideas also help police. One is working together establishing "No cold calling zones". Signs on lamp-posts & doors say unmistakably NO! Others include involving younger people, more leaflets spreading particular messages & finding ways to engage appealingly with more of you. Neighbourhood Watch exists to help you; a modern, professional, co-ordinated body, but it cannot exist without people like you. www.valleysandvaleneighbourhoodwatch.co.uk

Want your street a NO COLD CALLER ZONE? Large Signs are supplied at entrance and exits where 50%+ residents agree & you fix stickers in doorways reinforcing the message. It may involve some leg-work &/or contacting PCSO Liz Ward or Police via 0845 090 1234 or SDC Neighbourhood Warden Kaz Elliott 754276/MOB 07739 591260 for advice/help.

Other ways of forging safer communities include becoming a KINS participant. Key Individual Networks are where people meet fairly formally to discuss policing priorities near you. Find out more: ask our Police Station or 0845 090 1234. Stroud District Council also has a Community Safety function; Manager Debbie Miles & Neighbourhood Wardens are already tackling ideas in liaison with police & others.

Ultimately, community safety is up to everyone working in different ways to reduce victims of crime, fraud or frailty. Don't ignore simple crime prevention tips which make a difference: watch for prowlers, be suspicious. Car key thefts are happening again; make yours harder to find; stay with your car when warming it up; insurance companies will not pay out if it is stolen. Digital switchover is nigh & police anticipate that fraudsters may try to get into your home under some pretext. No authorized person will cold call anyone or telephone you to arrange a call unless you call them first. If you are contacted call police immediately. 0845 090 1234.

Reported crime in Stroud District dropped nearly 20% in the past year, 44% locally, but don't become a statistic. Make it look like someone is home if you are not. Don't let people see inside. Be extra careful locking doors & windows, & opening your door. When out be alert to what is happening around **YOU**; don't be distracted. Don't carry much cash & keep it securely tucked away. Take cardboard boxes to recycling banks then strangers don't know what you bought. Don't leave them for refuse collectors as it goes to landfill; waste there does not compost but produces methane, exacerbating global warming.

Few doubt that we should all try to reduce global warming: 4,000+ climate scientists agree that it is an urgent problem to solve if our descendents are to live as well as us. While scientists devise ways of capturing carbon and harvesting sun energy, what can you do? Keep methane-producing rubbish out of landfill, turn off unnecessary lights, reduce energy usage by walking or cycling. You'll save your money, your health and our planet.

Most homes have at least 3 broken/unwanted small electrical items (hair dryers, kettles, mobiles etc) which contain valuable plastics & precious finite metals: gold, silver, copper & indium (for LCDs - liquid crystal displays). If it has a plug, a crossed-out wheelie bin logo on it, uses batteries or needs charging you can recycle it at Horsley. Some retailers take back your old electricals when you buy new or give you a bag to post it somewhere. Recycle your WEEE (Waste Electronic & Electrical Equipment) - or unwanted wii, should you have one! www.dontbinitbringit.org

Bad driving, big issue. KSPC and others are urging for measures to improve it around the villages & keep issues alive with GCC Highways, our County Cllr Stephen Glanfield & Police; others are collecting lobby data. Funding is unlikely for truly effective measures, we can but try. I can only listen & swap stories when cornered about aggressive drivers. Many are horribly impatient; being careful and considerate angers them, especially if you do not keep up with traffic flow or speed limits. All I can suggest is pull out cautiously, give way whenever possible, and if you become intimidated pull over & take a number to pass to police. 0845 090 1234. Bad roads post freeze: report potholes and defects to GCC on 08000 514 514 [giving full details](#), or do it online.

Redeveloping Grade 1 listed Stanley Mill complex for housing and businesses could enable its owners, who cannot use it economically, to relocate on site continuing a long tradition of employing local people. KSPC is still waiting to hear exactly what proposals may be made but I understand agents are preparing to give local people the opportunity to view proposals and comment at an exhibition. English Heritage would be involved as it is an important site and local decision-making body, SDC Planning Service, which interprets central government "guidance" via Local Plan policies, would also be considering a very significant decision.

Our new SDC hosted website should be live and kicking www.kspc.org.uk Cllr Symon Parsley constructed the skeleton; I am adding flesh and bones. Hope you find it useful. Constructive criticism & suggestions for content welcome. KSPC would be pleased to consider for inclusion historical items that you think should see the light of day. KSPC & LSPC are going for Walkers are Welcome status to encourage visitors to the parishes.

Someone contacted me recently, mistakenly believing we were Stroud Stroke Club as our number was published somewhere. SSC meets monthly on the first & third Wednesdays, 2-4pm Beeches Green Heath Centre. No local contact number. Stroke Association Helpline **0845 3033 100** email info@stroke.org.uk .

Our bus shelter came under fire recently - luckily firefighters attended & Police issued strong advice to 2 revellers, although they could not prove it was them - Anonymous cleared up the mess!

Plans for large extensions to consolidate KS school onto the Infant site were published recently. During the build children must use temporary classrooms in the field beside Junior school from 19 April, when they'll look forward to the exciting opening in September 2011.

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