

## KING'S STANLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Rumours are beginning to circulate about a development of 300 houses around here somewhere. Whilst there are doubtless any number of landowners who would love to sell their land for development – few wouldn't in the current climate, a rumour it remains.

Stroud District Council is certainly consulting on which of 7 Strategies to pursue as its “Core Strategy” for development of housing and employment in the District as a whole up to 2026. They will ultimately come up with a preferred strategy later this year, and that might eventually mean more housing in and around the Stanleys (it could mean potential developments or vastly varying sizes all over the District). We do not know where or how much. You can read all about that on their website and if you feel strongly, you should comment on any or all of them.

Deacon's Close, behind the Old Rectory in KS village, has long since been earmarked by SDC for development but has so far remained an undeveloped field. The charity which owns it, King's Stanley & Selsley United Charities, has the unenviable task of seeing how best it can carry that out. I don't speak for the Charity I understand that it is not a housing charity. It is an amalgamation of a number of very small charities which were set up to provide relief to local needy people from its incomes. Effectively helping the poor in modern times is, I feel, best done discretely, as poverty is all the more a very sensitive issue for being hidden. All charities need to stay in existence and must maximize their income, so it is no surprise that the most effective way of doing so is to sell land for housing.

Landowners everywhere are waiting on District Councils nationwide to see whether theirs is selected as a suitable place to develop housing – all subject to many central government policies & “guidance” as planning departments are not laws unto themselves. All Parish Councils need to think what might secure the best outcome for the sustainability of their Parishes – and everyone's collars are itching because whatever is decided will most definitely not be liked by someone!

Wherever you live, your Parish or Town Council or community may well have to bite a bullet and say, this is what the parish needs, and that need can best be satisfied by having a controlled development somewhere – and argue for it to make sure, as far as possible, that what is built is what is needed locally – a difficult argument. I can't tell you how many houses that might mean but I would be astonished if KSPC would want more than 50 homes in total as the last housing needs survey showed that what people wanted was affordable/modest you family homes and smaller homes that older people could move into which would free up their current home for others. That said, one has to wait to see what proposals come forward as planning applications.

Sustainability is a very important issue for both Stanleys parishes, so Parish Councillors can't just say NO, and object to everything because you (or they) don't like it, but they will not want our villages to be swamped with unwanted housing just because XYZ Builders Ltd., have come up with a persuasive plan.

At least, with Post Office services going over to the Co-op, local people have one thing less to worry about and will still be able to carry out their business without having to go further afield.

KS is still waiting for the Marville site off The Beeches to be developed – although no-one in our parishes agreed with the decision to put so many homes (10) there. That, and Deacon's Close would provide 25 new homes in total. KSPC is interested to see what will become of the Junior School building when it is no longer needed as a school – and would like to influence the outcome for the benefit of the parish.

Stroud Cricket Club plans to move home onto land off Ryeford industrial estate, a tiny segment of which is in our parish due to vagaries of boundary lines. A neglected field will be given a new use & it is

apparently not going to detrimentally affect drainage or flood risk. At least it is not going for housing development. But dog owners and fallow field lovers are not best pleased.

In this recession many plans must be on hold. Looking on the bright side, treat yourself to a look at the KSPC website, in its new format hosted by SDC – if only for a comfy chair photo-tour of the parish. No prize-winners, but hopefully good enough to encourage people to visit our parish.

I occasionally listen to The Archers, a radio soap older than “Corrie”. I’ve never heard who is Clerk to their Council but various Cllrs loom large, one of whom does guerilla gardening in her early morning spare time. Ambridge always seems such a perfect parish that surely does not need re-touching; however they are now experiencing serial graffiti artist attacks and are quite worked up about it and expecting the Parish Council to do something about it. Ambridge has also, over the years, had extra housing development, which has kept their village shop and post office going.

If anyone wants to indulge in a spot of guerilla gardening to tidy up a grot spot, or pick up some litter, please feel free as this can make a huge difference to everyone’s morale.

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