

## KING'S STANLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Can anyone help keep the Village Green Bus Shelter clean & tidy? We have only had occasional volunteers since our last cleaner. We can't offer much, £150 a year, payable September. You'd sweep up once a week to suit you, an occasional wet clean if necessary. KSPC supplies kit. Not many problems - some people can't seem to reach our litter bins!

SDC would like more parishes to offer a chipping service like Bisley's award-winning one. KSPC does not own land, except Elmlea corner and the small allotment plot behind St George's Close, so if anyone could offer a suitable piece of land for the purpose, that could be a catalyst to prise out a Champion or two to run a project here. How it works: take your garden waste to the site, someone else chops it up small if it is twiggy and piles it up in a neat heap. The more there is the hotter it gets, the quicker it composts, et voila! useful compost for the garden, and you have not had to drive it to Horsley. Lovely thought. Home composting is still great though. Throw into a compost bin (or home-made one) veg peelings, grass cuttings, tea bags, fruit, coffee grinds, dead headings, perennial prunings, shredded paper, fig leaves, anything herbaceous that gets in your way. Mix together and top up occasionally with urine (or water) if looking dry, leave in a warm out of the way place and you end up with free compost to top up unsightly areas of garden soil, use in pots or place around plants as a treat.

KSPC has submitted interim views on Stanley Mill development proposals. It recognises that something must now be done to create a more secure future for the unique Grade I listed structure and the complex, and accepts that in the current climate it is probably only a change of use from employment to housing that will accomplish that. There are however many big BUTS. The public meeting held to hear local people's views was of a similar view. KSPC took the opportunity to highlight **YOUR** serious concerns about traffic behaviour along Ryeford Road and those who did not attend the meeting should be pleased to know that some attendees wanted to start a series of meetings to consider that general area in a more holistic way. They feel that, with the restoration of the canal and the proximity of the Cotswold Way, issues like Ryeford Road, the nearby busy traffic junctions, the disused factory and the car storage yard, there ought to be a master-plan to co-ordinate improvements. There has been one meeting and I understand it is intended to involve English Heritage and the Environment Agency in further talks.

Developers working with KS and Selsley United Charity withdrew their revised application for 15 assorted homes on land behind Church Street but have now re-applied ref S.10/1371/FUL. There is still time to comment as it is unlikely to go to SDC Planning Committee until October, details on SDC website. They have updated the wildlife survey. The site is heavily constrained by trees, a sewer pipe, the stream & wildlife, so creating a plan to secure approval, ie not fall foul of any valid planning reasons for refusal, must be a challenge. KSPC understands that the Charity wants to sell the field as it is the only way it can make a serious sum of money to invest to do a great deal more good locally than it can now. Few people like the idea of developing the field for various reasons, but it could provide a mix of dwellings in a pleasant setting that could be a useful addition to the local housing stock which would help the Charity do more than hand out a few pounds here and there occasionally. KSPC maintains strong reservations about the current scheme but remains interested that a very small charity wants to do more for the local community for which it was established.

Parking on Crown Court registered Village Green has increased this year. Residents have been made aware that they have no right to park there yet it persists so KSPC is seeking ways of stopping it. Residents around there may well feel that they have nowhere else to park but it does not follow that they can encroach upon land that is not theirs. Some feel that the Council should provide them with parking space. It would be giving a personal privilege to a few people from public funds and it is illegal to remove a Village Green which is Common Land. KS has a village car park tho few use it fearing this or that issue. Alarms and locks can be fitted. The problem has increased since so many 17 year olds still living at home now routinely own a car. But it is not right that car owners should take the lion's share of public domain land, leaving humble pedestrians with stunted strips of pavements where overhanging growths dangle in their faces, and litter-strewn, weed-ridden roadside verges as the cyclists' share. All able-bodied car users should have a compulsory walking and cycling day to view it from a very different perspective.

KSPC does not know whether the King's Head will re-open with a new tenant but plenty of work is going on inside so KSPC wrote to ask what is happening, with some suggestions based on local people's comments. With the right tenants it could become a thriving business, serving food using local produce, hosting quiz and skittles evenings etc. If they could sell real ales it would probably attract more customers. The outside needs little attention but it does want a makeover inside to modernise it to appeal to female customers; then if it advertises coffee and tea etc it should appeal to a wide range of other visitors.

Be wary of collectors delivering bags for charities you do not recognise. You could look up the number quoted on the Charity Commission website. If not listed they are not bona fide & you should report it to GCC Trading Standards. You can't stop people delivering bags, but you can help others put a stop to this kind of business. As there has been a rash of them, bear in mind that whoever visits your home might notice gaps in your security..... 01452 426201 [tradstds@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:tradstds@gloucestershire.gov.uk) Visit their website (punch in trading standards glos) and see what your County Council does for you.

As a recipient of emailed Neighbourhood Watch messages I occasionally display them on our Notice Boards. We do not, fingers crossed, suffer much crime; some anti-social behaviour, some vandalism (KSPC always reports these where it affects "our" property), an occasional crime. Someone managed to remove wheels from a car near in Selsley recently so criminals always watch for opportunities. Do not let you be one. Bogus officials of one kind or another pop up regularly, be suspicious, don't believe a casual caller's story. Shut the door. Don't talk to unwanted phone callers, put the receiver down. Install and lock side gates. Look around your property as if you were a thief, deal with weaknesses, relax but remain alert for the unusual.

If a crime has happened to you, even if you think nothing will be done you must report it and get an incident number. 0845 090 1234. It is then logged and helps Police build up or complete a picture. They do investigate and, they will KNOW about it and are much more likely to be able to stop it happening again.

Clerk to KSPC Jane Roberts [www.kspc.org.uk](http://www.kspc.org.uk)