

Severn Stoke and Croome d'Abitot Parish Council

Firstly, thank you to our outgoing Parish Councillor Sue Faulkner, who leaves us to devote her attentions to a happy retirement. We are incredibly grateful for Sue's work to champion updated IT, email and website services and in helping the parish to research and regain the valuable services of a volunteer footpaths officer and maintain membership of the Lengthsman Scheme. Thank you Sue for your service to our parish and in particular to Severn Stoke village and Knights Hill residents.

If any resident has a couple of hours free a month to join us on our Parish Council, they would be warmly welcomed. The role is 'what a person makes it' and the hours fit round whatever can be offered. We meet in person only once every two months for a couple of hours and need new parish councillors in particular to help us look over planning applications and with projects assisting biodiversity. Please contact the parish clerk if you are interested.

The forthcoming merger of county and district councils into a Unitary Authority has seemingly prompted a veritable flurry of council consultations, as local authorities aim to hand over ongoing projects. Residents can visit the Worcestershire County Council website to take part in the following consultations:

- Development of **Local Cycling Walking Infrastructure Plans** – Deadline for public input 31st October 2025.
- Online engagement tool to let residents suggest where they would like an **on-street EV charger**.
- Worcestershire **Local Nature Recovery Strategy** - Deadline for public input 26th September 2025.
- Review of Worcestershire County Council's **Rights of Way Improvement Plan** - Deadline for public input 26th October 2025.

The Parish Council recently wrote to those residents in Severn Stoke closest to the old parish hall site to explain about the closure of the car park. The site has been fully closed until further notice. This decision has been made following concerns noted by residents and councillors of the current high risk of impermissible use of the site, and after careful consideration of lease obligations and insurance requirements. The decision to close the site has been made with the safety and security of all in mind.

The Parish Council has been working with the county and district councils to try to solve the ongoing parking difficulties in Knights Hill. Signage funded by the District Council has been installed reminding residents to park sensibly in the turning areas. Unfortunately it does not look like the Highways Authority is willing to place traffic and parking restrictions in this residential area and your Parish Councillors are waiting for final confirmation of options.

Residents have asked the Parish Council for clarification on existing Traffic Prohibition Orders (TPOs) in the parish and who enforces them. As far as we can ascertain the following is applicable:

Traffic Prohibition Orders (TPOs) (often referred to as Traffic Regulation Orders) – are imposed by the County Council (Highways Authority) after consultation and are most usually enforced by the Police and by the District Council.

A TPO is a legal document that restricts or prohibits traffic movement on public highways. These orders are used to manage traffic, regulate traffic flow and parking on public roads, enhance road safety, and improve accessibility for all road users, including pedestrians.

TPOs sometimes include the use of **yellow lines** – imposed by the County Council (Highways Authority). Enforced by the District Council and the Police.

TPOs sometimes include the use of **weight restrictions** – imposed by the County Council (Highways Authority). Enforced by the Police only.

Residents can ask for TPOs to be imposed but criteria apply and residents should visit the county council website for more information on the process. Knights Hill is unlikely to be approved for a TPO for reasons we are trying to ascertain.

Thank you to residents that complied with social media requests from the Angling Association with regard to the **permissive path around Knightshill Pool** in Severn Stoke village. It is heartening to see so many residents working cooperatively with local organisations and groups. Our Volunteer Footpaths Officer has also cleared and reported defects on many of the rights of way in this area so that walkers have plenty of options when permissive paths are temporarily closed.

Thank you to all residents who have volunteered in a **new life-saving project**, funded by MHDC and supported by Community Action Malvern & District, called Heartstart West Worcestershire. We look forward to hearing about progress from the organisers.

The **GP Practice in Upton** has been in touch to ask if parish councils can help distribute their newsletters to residents. Please get in touch with your Parish Clerk to add your name to the list of those receiving this newsletter by email.

The County Council via the Broadband & Connectivity Team has been working to try to plug gaps in **broadband provision** across the parish. We are assured that some good news will be forthcoming soon for residents at Croome Corner at least. Please let your Parish Council know if you have any broadband provision issues and we can pass your details on to the Connectivity Team to see if they can help.

Please could **residents along the A38 at Clifton and Severn Stoke ensure that their hedges are cut back** if they are infringing on pedestrian footpaths and on access to bus shelters/stops. The Parish Council cannot cut these hedges for you and hedges CAN be cut during nesting season if paths and roads are being affected.

We continue to wait for the **new bin** to arrive for the layby near Sandford along the A38. ETA is mid-September. Thank you for your patience. Contractors willing to quote for installation would be welcome please.

NEXT MEETING of Severn Stoke and Croome d'Abitot Parish Council: 24th September 2025, 7.30pm – Croome National Trust Visitor Centre SOQ room. Parish Council Clerk, Lisa Stevens, T: 07950256363, E: parishclerk@severnstokeandcroomedabitot-pc.gov.uk
Your councillors are Richard Hill, Laurence Freeman, Ian Daly, Royston Garrard, Laura McEwan-Hill, Pat Preston & Raymond Williams. We have 4 vacancies for immediate co-option and the additional more recent vacancy advertised as required.