

Severn Stoke and Croome d'Abitot Parish Council

On behalf of the Parish Council and our residents, we bid farewell to Councillor Royston Garrard after over three decades of service. Royston's experience and knowledge has helped to guide Croome and High Green through times of change, growth, and challenge. Royston, as you now step down from your role, please accept our sincere gratitude for everything you have achieved.

Also, again on behalf of the wider community, parish councillors would like to extend heartfelt thanks and appreciation to our Parish Lengthsman Simon Bott for ten years of outstanding service. Simon, your continued dedication makes a lasting difference to our community and does not go unnoticed.

Residents, we have a temporary addition to our lengthsman team this winter, so if you see a new face round and about, please make them very welcome.

Our Volunteer Footpaths Officer sat quietly in our last parish council meeting, listening for jobs that needed to be done and then promptly went out and did them. Fantastic Richard! We are chuffed to bits.

We received a lot of very helpful communication and support from Croome and Sandford residents both before and after our last parish council meeting and this was gratefully received. Shared personal experiences really do help the Parish Clerk in her job. Public input helps to broaden our understanding of the issues at hand and enables us to make more informed decisions on behalf of the community.

The parish council has adopted the much-neglected county council vehicle activated 'sharp bend' warning sign on Severn Bank and will now seek repairs and maintenance for this valuable equipment. If we can get it working again, then accidents at this location will hopefully be significantly reduced. We are writing to the County Council and the Police Crime Commissioner to explore why resident experiences and concerns about fast and dangerous roads do not match the official records.

The new bin in the A38 layby (Birch Green turning) is due to be installed this week. Thank you to residents for your patience – you requested this in April, and we very much wish that the supply chain had worked more efficiently.

We have been working with the County Councillor, Martin Allen, to ensure that planned roadworks and road closures are reasonable and that the diversions are suitable. Placed as we are along the A38 between the M5 and the River Severn, the options for diversions are limited but we continue to have input and represent the best for our residents.

We have been working with our District Councillors John Michael and David Harrison to keep up to date with ongoing planning applications and planning enforcement cases parish wide.

Ending on something that we are working very, very hard to resolve as quickly as we can.....we would like to inform residents that the old parish hall site at Severn Stoke will remain closed while the Parish Council seeks legal clarification regarding the terms of the lease associated with the site. It is important that we ensure all legal responsibilities and permissions are fully understood and complied with. We appreciate your patience and understanding during this time. Updates will be provided as soon as we are in a position to share more information.

NEXT MEETING of Severn Stoke and Croome d’Abitot Parish Council: 26th November 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, Laura McEwan-Hill, Pat Preston & Raymond Williams. We have 5 vacancies for immediate co-option and the additional more recent vacancy advertised as required.