

Severn Stoke and Croome d'Abitot Parish Council

We bid cheerio to a much-loved Parish Councillor and former Chairman Laurence Freeman. Throughout his time in office, Larry worked closely with the National Trust at Croome Court, strengthening relationships, advocating practical context and focusing on how things work in practice rather than in theory. Larry's knowledge of the parish proved invaluable when providing context for planning applications, helping to guide thoughtful development while preserving the character of our area. It is not a complete goodbye however - his commitment continues through his volunteer work to maintain our parish speed awareness signs - a quiet testament to Larry's enduring care for the safety and wellbeing of residents. Good luck with the singing Larry!

We are delighted to warmly welcome Simon Bott to the Parish Council - a familiar and much-respected figure in the community through his dedicated service as our erstwhile Parish Lengthsman. Simon has long demonstrated a practical commitment to the upkeep and wellbeing of the parish, and he now hopes to continue that dedication in his new role as Parish Councillor. His knowledge and hands-on experience will transfer seamlessly to council work. We look forward to this new chapter of service to the parish.

As I write (17th Feb), a joint Environment Agency (EA) and County Council (WCC) flood bund Q&A drop in season is planned for next week in St Denys' Church. The parish council has requested to see the budget and costs of the project in advance of that meeting. Three Officers from the EA are due to attend, as well as Members from WCC and the contractor Griffiths. Any information received will be disseminated on our website <https://severnstokeandcroomedabitot-pc.gov.uk/>. The parish council has been liaising with WCC about many aspects of the project, including diversions, site infrastructure, signage etc but still has many questions to ask and be answered.

We are aware of the difficulties experienced with visitor parking at Croome during recent wet weather and particularly this half term. We have requested that the National Trust, Police and the County Council look again at possible control measures and enforcement and that the District Council enforces the existing yellow line restrictions.

Thank you to everyone that has helped with recent flytipping incidents and we are very grateful to see the number of residents that continue to volunteer with litter picking. It really makes a difference to our wonderful parish.

NEXT MEETING: Annual Parish Meeting of Residents of the Parish Areas of Severn Stoke and of Croome d'Abitot on 25 March 2026, 7.30pm at St Deny's Church, Severn Stoke. This meeting is an opportunity for parishioners to raise any matters of concern. It would be helpful to have written notice of any matters to be raised but it is not essential. A Standard parish council meeting will occur afterwards at 8.30pm approx. Parish Council Clerk, Lisa Stevens, T: 07950256363, E: parishclerk@severnstokeandcroomedabitot-pc.gov.uk

Your councillors are Richard Hill (Chair), Simon Bott, Ian Daly, Laura McEwan-Hill, Pat Preston and Raymond Williams. We have 6 vacancies for immediate co-option.