

Severn Stoke and Croome d'Abitot Parish Council

Flood Bund planning conditions have been discharged and the project contract has been formalised with Griffiths. Mobilisation of the construction work started late April 2026 at the old hall site to set up the area for the welfare cabins. Stone has been imported to raise the cabins up out of flood level. Vegetation clearance started on 5th May. Some imported fill material for the flood bank is already on site and further material will be imported in the coming months. Ham Lane is hoped to be reopened in late June for the anglers, in accordance with their annual fishing calendar. Farm access is via a gatemaster system with summer harvest access fully accommodated. The aim is to complete construction around Christmas 2026/early 2027. Further planting and landscaping work will then follow into spring 2027. Dame H. Baldwin MP attended a site visit on 15th May to view progress. The bottle banks have been moved to St Denys' car park – thanks to the Friends of St Denys', to Savills and to MHDC for permissions. Thank you to residents who have had to accommodate archaeological works at short notice. Thanks also to residents who have reported concerns about mud on the road – this has been addressed by the site manager and a road sweeper is regularly on site. Social media reports about irregular construction site working hours can be addressed if residents contact the parish council or County/District Councillors direct.

Parish councillors are now looking to plan for life once the bund is complete. If residents have any questions or points to make about who/when/how the bund will be managed post construction, please let us know and we will add these to our meetings with the Environment Agency and County Council. Please keep an eye on our website for up-to-date bund information. <https://severstokeandcroomedabitot-pc.gov.uk/>



Tarmac has contacted the parish council to notify councillors of a proposals to vary the permitted scheme to work the area east of the A38. Once we know more about what this entails, information will be placed on the parish council website.

Speeding. The parish council is gradually replacing and repairing the Vehicle Activated Speed (VAS) signs around the parish. Thank you for your patience whilst we source new batteries. The vehicle activated sharp bend sign on Severn Bank was judged by Highways to have come to the end of its functional life span – the parish council begged to differ. It has now been fully repaired by a parish councillor team and has also been fully adopted by the parish council and so will remain in situ. A brand new sign along with a new solar panel would have cost £6,000+ to purchase, so this work represents a significant saving for the parish. Thank you to Martin Allen, John Michael and David Harrison for grants to help towards repairs. Our Lengthsman is spending an ever-increasing amount of time moving and changing and charging our VAS signs at the request of residents. This focus on speeding means that he is unable to spend as much time as we would like on tackling weeds and

vegetation, but, if you see an area that you think could benefit from a visit from the Lengthsman, please get in touch and we will try to prioritise that area.

The Parish Clerk and our **Volunteer Footpaths Officer** are getting their heads together about the outstanding rights of way issues parish wide....watch this space for volunteer opportunities.

We are aware of the poor condition of the **noticeboard at High Green** and will be getting this sorted as soon as we can, with full regard to the historical village setting.

Planning. The **National Trust** continues to keep us informed of progress with the new car park at Croome Court. We keep our eye on a number of **planning enforcement** actions across the parish and feed into district council consultations where required. We also continue to feed into the planning process at **Worcestershire Parkway**. The new 10,000-home community '**Wychavon Town**' will impact on local traffic and visitor attractions and we continue to push for proper assessments of these. We keep enquiring on progress for parish-wide **broadband** installation.

The **Village Hall Committee** keeps us updated on the potential to rebuild the village hall at Severn Stoke and have agreed to fund initial investigations to determine whether a rebuild project is viable now that the flood bund is being built.

We have been contacted by a number of charities in relation to the condition and water quality of the **River Severn**. We are unable to set aside resources to support this topic right now and instead will ask to be kept informed of progress in this matter.

The variety of support that we can give to important topics like this, and other topics that are raised, is limited by the size of the parish council. We can only give projects such as these our full attention if we have new volunteers step forward to become parish councillors. **We have only six councillors out of a possible twelve.** Please see our adverts elsewhere in this magazine and get in touch.

Join our friendly team and help us keep the **OK** in Severn St**OK**e and Croome d'Abitot!!

NEXT MEETINGS: 15th July, 30th September, 25th November 2026, 7.30pm at the SOQ meeting room, Croome National Trust Visitor Centre. Parish 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.