



Stockbridge Parish Council Newsletter

Volume 4 Issue 17

Newsletter Date: Spring 2025

High Street Parking Survey

The Parish Council has recently received HCC's Report following their High Street Parking Survey conducted Summer 2023. This Report is available to read on the Parish Council's website. It is data driven and does not come to any conclusions or make recommendations.

One of the attractions of living in Stockbridge is the variety of shops and professional services on the doorstep, from the Co-op to the pharmacy, coffee shops and hairdressers to the Doctors surgery. It is a busy hub within the Test Valley region attracting shoppers from surrounding villages and visitors from farther afield who wish to walk the marsh, eat, drink and shop.

Stockbridge is poorly served by public transport so visitors need to drive and find parking. The availability of parking and the safety of pedestrians could certainly be improved by better and more considerate parking, eg. marked parking bays, cars not overhanging the pavement etc. The PC has considered these issues over many years but recognises that HCC is unwilling to make any changes that are not funded. In other words by installing paid parking.

The PC's view has been and continues to be that the unintended consequences of paid parking could be significant and need to be considered carefully. Fewer visitors may lead to shops, restaurants, pubs etc closing, altering the look of the High Street, making Stockbridge a less desirable place to live. Residents would be required to buy Parking Permits (the cost determined by HCC) whilst Trafalgar Way and Old London Rd would likely see a rise in non-residential parking. Traders are already facing an increase in overheads in the form of rates, the National Living Wage and Employer's NI. Staff, likely on NLW, are

reliant on their own transport and paid parking would be a significant cost to them.

The PC needs to understand the views of both residents and traders before responding to HCC and is, therefore, asking all residents and traders to respond to our short survey that simply asks if you would support paid parking (with its consequences) or not.

It is really important that as many people as possible respond to the survey (but only one response per person please). A copy of this survey should be available with this Newsletter. It is also available online at [2025 Parking Survey - Stockbridge Parish Council - Stockbridge Parish Council, Stockbridge](#) HCC's original survey and other information you may like to consider is also published there. If you would prefer

a paper version, please contact the Clerk and one will be mailed to you. The completed paper surveys can be returned via Hoxtons Bakehouse or Pregos.

The survey will close 30th April so please make sure we have your response in by then.

Figure 3.1: High Street Parking Stress per Hour Graph – 248 spaces

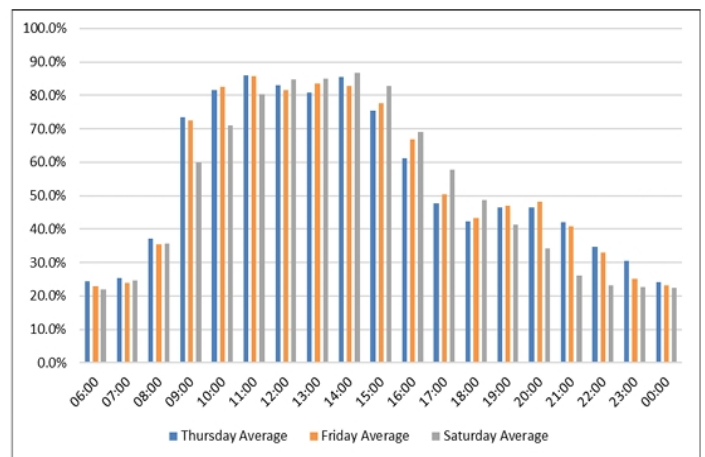
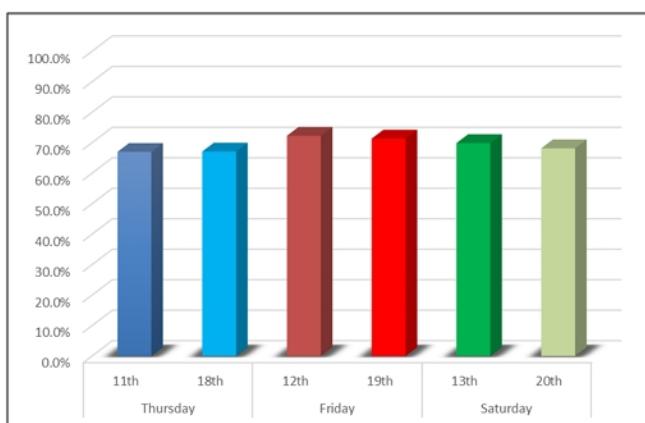


Figure 3.3: High Street Parking One-Hour Average Turnover Graph (248 spaces)





Trout 'n About



The TnA committee has already started planning for this year's TnA 3rd August. Following positive feedback received after closing the road for last year's successful festival, they are once again applying to close the High Street to traffic on the day. If you are a resident/business and have absolutely no choice but to use your vehicle between 08:00 to 16:30 a pass is available for you to use enabling you to return though the road closure. If you are simply leaving, and not returning before 16:30, then no pass is needed. The TnA Committee emphasises that one of the conditions of the road closure is that any car use is unavoidable. They are very grateful for your assistance given the large crowd

of pedestrians on the day. If you require a pass write to car-pass@tnastockbridge.com with your address and car registration details.

The TnA Committee hope that Stockbridge can have another very successful festival. In 2024 they managed to raise £10k for local good causes which was fantastic, because for the voluntary committee it made the hard work feel worth it.

Volunteers are always needed to make the event a success so please consider putting yourself forward to help on the day. It is a fun day and a great experience. The more volunteers from Stockbridge, the more funding will go back into the community.

Donations and sourcing of grants has meant that the PC has been able to reduce the Precept for 2025/2026

Your Precept

Stockbridge PC is very pleased to announce that the precept (the tax that is levied on Stockbridge householders) has been reduced by 8% from last year. The donation from Trout 'n About funded some of the items that the Council would have had to fund through the tax and the PC actively seeks grants and other sources of money

for many of the items that it buys. For example the kissing gate, soon to be installed on the Marsh path, has been funded through developer contributions.

The PC actively works with TVBC and HCC to source grant monies to ensure the precept is minimised.

Hampshire and IoW Devolution

The Government has put forward proposals to provide greater devolution in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight by creating a Mayor for the region. The Mayor will have new powers to make significant changes to the area and have access to government funding. He/She will also be the Police and Crime Commissioner. In consequence there will be no local elections this May and the election for the new Mayor will take place May 7th 2026.

The Government is also proposing that there is a merging of borough, county councils and the

unitary authorities of Southampton Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight, in order to create 3 or 4 (with the IoW being separate) unitary authorities in Hampshire, each with a population of over 500,000. These new authorities will deal with the type of matters that county and borough councils look after such as roads and rubbish collection.

It may well be, though this is yet to be confirmed, that parish councils will take on a more prominent role because they are they will be the only governing bodies dealing with matters at a very local level.





Q E II Memorial Garden

From this



To this



The Parish Council is very pleased to announce that the transformation of the land behind the toilets to the Queen Elizabeth II Memorial Garden is now complete.

The project has been ongoing since 2021 when Cllr Halle spotted the little used piece of land, often used as a dumping ground, and proposed to the PC that something better could be done with it. In 2023 the PC was lucky enough to engage with Sparsholt College who used the "pocket park" transformation as a project for their students. This resulted in a number of exciting and innovative designs, a selection of which were presented to the community, in an event last April, when a final design was made.

At the same time TVBC was allocat-

ing UK Govt grant funding for community projects through the Rural England Prosperity Fund. The PC successfully applied for a grant for 75% funding for the project and the PC used S106 developer contributions to make up the shortfall. The work included cutting down a diseased central tree and cutting back the other larger trees around the garden to let in more light. The main work was undertaken by Longstock Nursery who have done an excellent job planting out the beds, laying the turf, installing the path and benches.

Please join the PC, the Mayor and the Town Crier at the opening event on Thursday April 3rd at 3pm or come and use the garden to meet friends, in your lunch hour or just to have a takeaway coffee.

*The opening
event will be
held on
Thursday 3rd
April at 3pm.
Refreshments
will be served.
All welcome.*



**Funded by
UK Government**

A Call for Volunteers

Are you interested in doing more for your community? The Parish Council will always be able to use help from the community, whether it is maintaining the QE II Memorial Garden (above), clearing logs and branches in the Lancaster House site, or just directing parking for the annual Bean Club Daffodil Run.

The Council, via an HCC grant has purchased a brushcutter for a volunteer in order for him to be able to maintain the RoW's. Other volunteers will be always needed to cut back hedging and stray brambles. If you would like to volunteer the PC would love to hear from you, no contribution is too small.





What's on in Stockbridge

When	Where	What
29th March	Danebury School	Big Band Buffet
3rd April	QE II Memorial Garden	Formal garden opening
6th April	S'bridge High Street	Bean Club Daffodil Run
17th April	Town Hall	Parish Council meeting
25th April	S'bridge Cinema	The Room Next Door
26th April	S'bridge Cinema	Paddington in Peru
9th May	St Peter's Church	S'bridge Music— VOCES8
15th May	Town Hall	Annual Parish Council meeting
19th June	Town Hall	Parish Council meeting

Please contact the Clerk if you would like your event included in this listing.

Food Waste Collections to begin in Test Valley in October



TVBC's cabinet recently recommended launching food waste collections commencing 13th October. This is to meet the Govt's target of all food waste collections being in place by April 2026. Each household will be issued with a food waste caddy and these will be collected from the kerbside weekly.

The intention is for the food waste to be deposited in anaerobic digesters. A new fleet of specialist vehicles will be acquired by TVBC to take on this service.

A Quick Round-up of News

The **Big Band Buffet for the over 50s** will take place at Danebury school 29th March. This TVBC event is a great opportunity socialise and find out about available support. A volunteer has done some amazing work **clearing the moss from around the flints** in the High Street. The Council is very grateful for this excellent work which has made a huge difference to the appearance of the High Street. The PC is seeking quotations to restore and paint the **two telephone boxes** near the Town Hall. The PC would like to put these forward for community use. Please let the Clerk know if you have any ideas. If you would like to **mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day with a special event** this year TVBC has set up a VE Day 80th anniversary grant scheme which will enable communities to apply for up to £500 towards local celebrations to mark the event. Don't forget the **Community Bus to Salisbury**. The bus runs every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 10:00. Please contact 0845 0943713 to book on. Please sign up for the **email alerts from the PC's website** which gives you notifications of the latest news, road works, events and happenings in the community or **sign up for the village WhatsApp group** (contact the Clerk).

