

Signpost

Your news... your ECN!



Dear Readers - Welcome to this special, bumper edition of the ECN!

We are delighted to celebrate the recent Egg Hunt as a great example of our Community coming together - both to create and to enjoy - and the 28th Annual Spring Flower show, too - one of our many long-standing traditions.

This month also sees the opening of the new Skate Park and extra playground facilities at Snakey Lane. A fantastic achievement.

Our thanks to everyone involved in all our sizzling village projects.

With so much going on here, it might seem odd to see the word 'Frampton' so often in an Eastington Magazine! However note that the Beavers and Cubs are run

by Kim Jones (of Eastington) and many of our local children do attend there - but indeed, there *are* many social activities in Frampton to which we are welcome.

We do, of course, have many active and excellent groups of our own, but there is always scope for more! We are indebted to Anna-Marie for launching the new **Ladies of Eastington** Social Group this month. (Go Ladies!) And also to Jo-anne for revitalising **KER** at this time, to unite the voices of those opposed to the Ecotricity proposals.

Do you have a passion? Could you start a group? Eastington has excellent facilities both at the Village Hall and the Community centre, and you may find that there are resources available to you. We would be very happy to give you any information we can - and of course publicity and a showcase for your activities.

Jan, Mary and Tom, Your ECN Editors

Contact ECN: email info@ecn.me.uk Or Write (on paper!) to Hazel Cottage, Millend, GL10 3SF

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Walk for Longfield Friday 9 th June (see page 11)	Cotswold Youth Summer Concert Friday 9 th June (see page 14)	Walk - British Heart Foundation Saturday 17 th June (see page 11)
Open Garden at Ozleworth Park Sunday 18 th June (see page 11)	Ladies of Eastington 22 nd June, 7:30, Village Hall	Duck Races Sunday 25 th June, 12 noon - 3pm
Frampton Hidden Gardens Sunday 25 th June	Splash Party and BBQ Saturday 1 st July (see page 14)	Eastington Horse Show Saturday 5 th August

Next deadline for submission: Friday, July 21, 2017

Next Delivery: Weekend of 5th August

*Space is limited - we may have to omit, postpone or shorten articles.
The views expressed in ECN are not necessarily those of the editors.*

See all photographs from ECN in colour on our website: www.ecn.me.uk

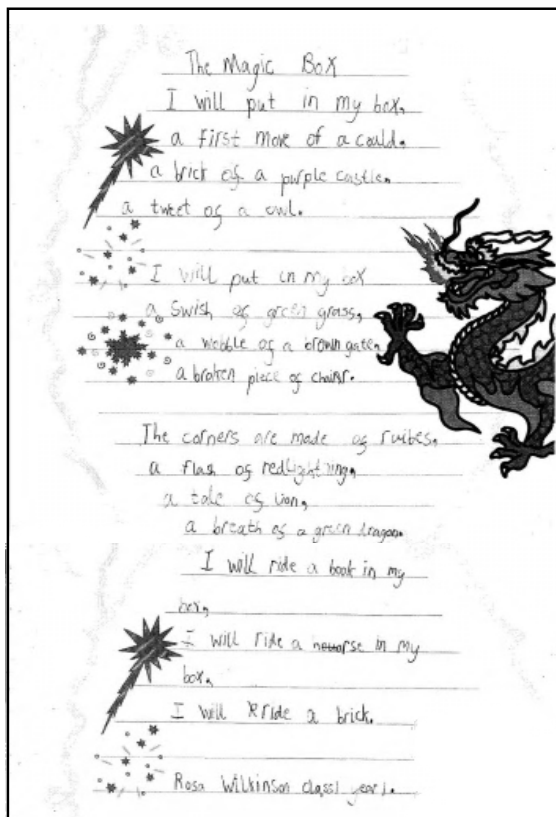
School

Eastington Primary School

The Magic Box

Class 1 have also been busy studying a poem called 'The Magic Box' by Kit Wright. They were inspired by his imagination and descriptions of a fantasy world and objects.

The children have decorated their own 'magic' boxes and placed inside their finished poems or verse. They all composed a super poem or verse full of original ideas and thoughtful description. Here is one of the finished pieces of work.



Our boxes and poems are magic! **By Class 1**

I will put in my box / a first move of a cloud
a brick of a purple castle / a tweet of an owl
I will put in my box / a swish of green grass
a wobble of a brown gate / a broken piece of chair
The corners are made of rubies / a flash of red lightning
a tail of lion / a breath of a green dragon
I will ride a book in my box / I will ride a horse in my box
I will ride a brick.

Rosa Wilkinson Class 1 Year 1

EASTINGTON HORSE SHOW & GYMKHANA

Saturday 5th August 2017

Dressage, Show jumping, Showing (In-hand & Ridden), Gymkhana etc.



At last years' venue on A419 East of Junc. 13 M5
Nearest postcode is GL10 3SQ (Little Chef Rdbt)

For schedules, please send SAE to
Show Secretary: Mrs Jane Hyatt, 21 Bradestone Way,
Eastington, Stonehouse, Glos. GL10 3FD

Tel: 01453 828 781 or Mob: 07776 044 930

Or visit & download from:

www.eastingtonhorseshow.co.uk

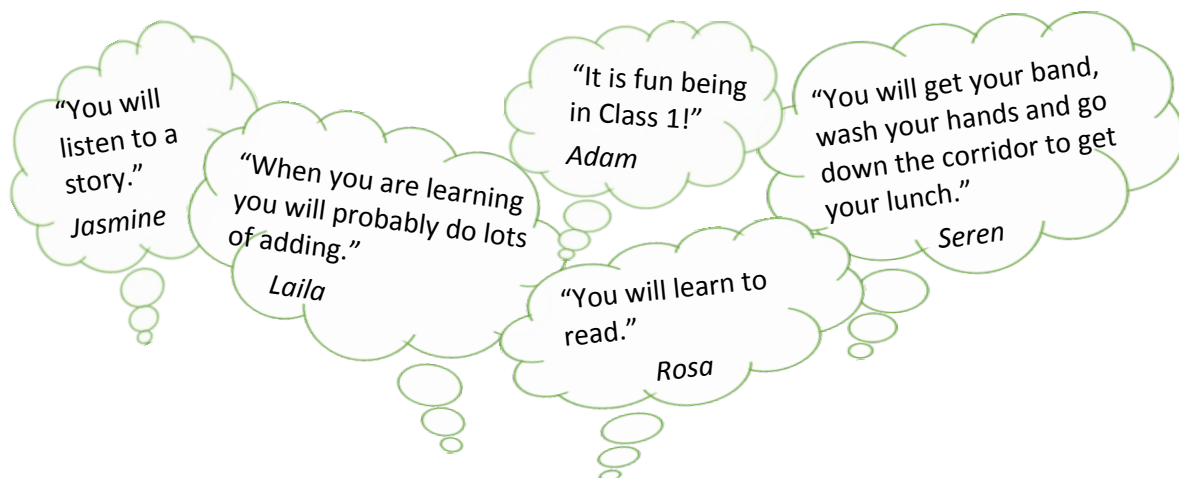
School

Eastington Primary School Welcome to Class 1

On Wednesday 10th May Eastington Primary School welcomed the children who will shortly begin their school career with us in September.

Class 1 were very excited about the visit and future sessions and together they all enjoyed a playtime on the trim-trail, in the sunshine.

The current members of Class 1 were asked to think about how they could help the children to settle in and so they thought about what they could reveal about life in Class 1. Here are some of their thoughts.



Eastington Duck Races



Eastington School PA have started planning for Eastington's annual summer funfest and this year it's looking better than ever!

Our unique take on the summer fete will be held on 25th June between 12 and 3pm. All the funds raised are used to support Eastington Primary School. Entry is free and the duck races are held in the field opposite the school.

We are hoping to be able to offer some great shows along side some live music. We will also have the ever popular bouncy castle, bar, teas, cakes, barbeque, an assault course and many lovely stalls.

New for this year we will be having a 'locally made' stall, so if you are a local crafts person and would like to donate an item or two please do get in touch. We have already had offers of knitted hats, cushions, pots and even children's clothing!

The cake competition is open to the whole village and is a great opportunity to show off your brilliant baking talents.

This is an event the whole village is welcome to get involved with so if you are able to help on a stall, bake a cake or donate an item please don't hesitate to get in touch - through the school or on Facebook.

Jennifer Empson

Groups

Children, babies and adults can enjoy musical fun times at TeddyTunes!



Come on down to the beautiful village of Frampton on Severn and have a good old 'sing song' with Vanessa, her guitar and all your friends.

No need to book, just turn up. It's a whole mornings entertainment full of fun, frolics and fabulous homemade cake!

See what my lovely parents have written.....

"This is such a fantastic group. We absolutely love it! Vanessa is brilliant - so enthusiastic and fun. The children love her. There is lots of variety, instruments, dancing, parachute, bubbles and some great new songs I haven't heard at other groups. Vanessa seems to be able to bring out the best in adults and children alike so that everyone gets involved and has a wonderful time." Rachel Marks-Jones".

"TeddyTunes is a really lovely interactive singing group. I have taken all three of my children in the past six years. Vanessa leads the singing whilst playing the guitar, provides a great array of percussion instruments for the children to try and the fun is followed by fresh fruit and cakes - time for a chat too. Perfect!" Abigail Howells.

TeddyTunes has been going strong for 13 years in Frampton which is testament to its continuing success. However, it would be nothing without my wonderfully talented toddlers, babies and parents...thank you!

Please pick up the phone or drop me an email, text or message (Vanessa Lavy Cousins). We have a lively Facebook page featuring cake recipe. Pay-as-you-go. Start any week. No need to book.

Adult and baby is £5, any additional siblings £1 on top. Extra adults welcome and pay only £1.

10:00 -11.30 am. Thursday's during term time at Frampton on Severn Village Hall.

Also available for children's parties. £75 (1 hour entertainment).

07806 802540 / 01453 828557 / www.teddytunes.co.uk / vanessa@teddytunes.co.uk



Eastington and Stonehouse Slimming World Groups

Summer is on it's way, days are longer and hopefully warmer so at group we've been enjoying sharing lots of fresh food ideas we can enjoy over the summer months ahead. Here's one of the group's favourites

Bacon and Pesto Pasta for 4 (Syns per serving:FREE)

Ingredients

500g dried penne pasta
Low calorie cooking spray
8 back bacon rashers, all fat removed, chopped
300g asparagus spears,
woody ends removed, cut into lengths
A handful of spinach

For the pesto sauce:

A large bunch of basil, roughly chopped
1 red chilli, deseeded and finely chopped
100g fat free fromage fraise
50ml vegetable stock
120g Parmesan cheese (60g for the pesto,
60g to sprinkle on top)
3 garlic cloves, peeled and crushed
Salt and freshly ground black pepper



Cook the pasta following pack instructions. Meanwhile, spray a pan with low calorie cooking spray and cook the bacon for 5 minutes. Then add the asparagus and cook together for a further 5 minutes.

Add all the sauce ingredients to a food processor. Season well and whizz until smooth.

Drain the cooked pasta and return to the pan. Add the pesto, cooked bacon and asparagus and a handful of spinach. Heat gently for a couple of minutes. Divide between four bowls and sprinkle with the remaining 60g of Parmesan. *Serve with a big Speed Free Food salad for the best weight loss results!*

Looks yummy doesn't it? So if you'd like to lose weight the healthy way with plenty of support and complete confidentiality come along to find out more at our welcoming and friendly groups.

Stonehouse group meet at the community centre at 9.30am on Wednesday mornings and Eastington Groups meet at 1st session 5pm and 2nd session at 7pm. I look forward to meeting you. Lorna 07974937830

Groups

LADIES OF EASTINGTON.....



I have great pleasure in announcing the first meeting of '*Ladies of Eastington*'

- to be held at Eastington Village Hall, **Thursday 22nd June at 7.30pm**

Hi I'm Anna-Marie, I'm a busy Mum of two, new to Eastington but not to the area having lived in the Stroud District since 1987. Life is great but if you need a bit of an escape, like me, once a month, please come and join me.

Ladies of Eastington will be a new community friendship group for any lady who wants to make new friends, catch up with old ones, learn new fun skills and generally have a relaxing, enjoyable evening.

Soft refreshments will be provided, all you need to do is turn up, if you have some ideas on how to help the group progress into the future then great, I would love to hear what you have to suggest.

And remember don't be shy, I'll be just as nervous meeting you too so what have you got to lose lol .

I'm forming this group with love and respect in mind, together we can do great things!!!

Jolly Joggers

Now recruiting new complete beginners

Hello! We are the Jollies...all kinds of people old and young and all abilities welcomed! Come and have some fabulous fun in the fresh air. Train with us and achieve your dreams...5k, 10k, half and full marathons...we currently have runners in all of these categories.

We meet every Wed 7pm pronto at the Co-op in Eastington come rain or shine. Check out our busy Facebook page for latest info.

- Feeling shy?....don't be!
- Feeling fed up with your weight?....don't be!
- Feeling unfit and miserable?...please don't be! Come along and join the Jollies!

It's a really good time to start getting fitter and healthier now the evenings are warmer. We have some lovely local routes to show you. Enjoy some gorgeous views and beautiful landscapes along the way.

We look after you at every stage, buddying you up with a group to suit your level of fitness. The group is completely free of charge, but please take care when you run with The Jollies. You are responsible for your own safety when you're out with us. Dogs on a lead are welcomed also.

If you're like me right now, I've done a fair amount of running in the past, but had a year off and need to get back to it. If you are a complete beginner you will find everything here to get you started. If you're a seasoned runner and want company on the dark nights or need access to other running buddies find friends on our Facebook page. If you're new to this running lark, We will start you off briskly walking and will work on aiming to get you to a slow jog. In no time and with regular practice you will find your stamina will build and your mileage will increase.

I will lead the beginners on a 5k route (3.1 miles) to start with which will build to 10k (6.3) in time. Let's take it slow to begin with. This takes approximately 1 hour 15. Join any week but please **book your place with me by phoning 07806 802540/01453 828557.**

We are a friendly group who are extremely supportive of each other. All you need is a good pair of trainers and bright, comfortable clothing. Pick up the phone and book your session now 07806 802540. We look forward to welcoming you!

Bye for now, Vanessa

Groups

Walkie Talkies

Eastington Community Walking Group 01453 828557 / 07806 802540

Regular 'dog friendly' walks for all ages and abilities.

Dear all

Having enjoyed many scenic and pleasurable walks over the past few months or so we will be entering a period of more 'sporadic' organised walks until Sunday 17th September where we will reconvene 1pm at The Badger as usual. We will then return to our regular 3rd Sunday of each month. (Dates at end of bulletin).

We welcome everyone of all ages and abilities with open arms! If you can cock your leg over a stile without too much difficulty you're in! We are proud and delighted to have members in their 80's and little ones as young as 3 (and babies in slings) have joined us many times. If you've got any concerns please don't hesitate to phone me any time, I will be happy to answer your questions.

The Eastington Community Walking Group was created to reach out to anyone that wanted to join in basically. To explore new territory within the parish (and elsewhere) and find all the lovely routes, views and pastures in the locality. We have had a lot of fun together, enjoying the simple pleasures; fresh air, good company, heated debates and great beer down The Badger!

Bill Edwards, as always, is my my inspiration and we wish his ankle a speedy recovery...come on Bill, come back to us soon. Bill is the Footpaths officer for the parish and works tirelessly to ensure our footpaths are clear and passable. You may see him walking around and about the village with a brace of 'stripy lurchers' (sorry not quite a precise description) in his shorts in all weathers. Thank you Bill for all your hard work!



Future walks:

Sunday 17th September

Sunday 15th October

Sunday 19th November

Sunday 17th December

(Rudolf's Ramble)

January 21st 2018

Please watch the Facebook site for walking events coming up over the summer. I will let you know if anything is happening or please phone to get the latest.

We show our events on both of the parish boards one outside The Badger and the other outside the Co-op. Also the 'ECN' of course and don't forget to look at our Facebook page.

So, I do hope you will join us at some point. We look forward to welcoming you!

All the best

Vanessa Cousins

Community

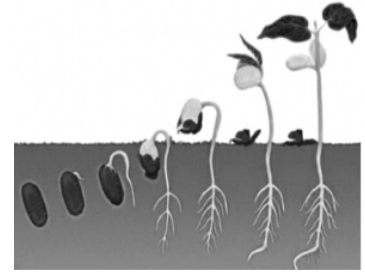


Eastington Playgroup

This half term we have been focusing on the world around us and we have been planting seeds at our allotment to learn about growth and changes. The children have been very interested in finding bugs and insects outside and learning about their features and habitats.



We have also been looking at space, stars, the sun and moon they have enjoyed dressing up as astronauts in our rocket tent and making dens too.



Fathers Day

After a lovely afternoon spent with Mum's and Grandma's for Mothers day afternoon tea we are planning on inviting Dad's and Grampa's along for a similar event. Something equally delicious will be made to eat by the children and we plan to spend some fun time together in at Playgroup in June.

Pre School sessions

Our children that will be leaving us in July to move to school have started to attend Pre-School sessions with Mandy and Donna at Eastington Primary School and this will help them to settle into routines,

Egg Hunt

Our village Egg Hunt jointly organised by our team of fundraisers together with the Eastington Primary Parents Association and was extremely popular and very successful and we would like to thank everyone who supported this event, we will all be organising another similar day next year.



We are currently taking reservations for September 2017
If you would like more details please contact Mandy Owen, Playleader
07977 342 742 – email eastingtonplaygroup@hotmail.com
or visit our website www.eastingtonplaygroup.wordpress.com

PROWD

At last, the weather is 'picking-up' and its great to be able to walk without getting too muddy.

We now have two new kissing gates installed in our Parish, one by the M5 underpass (EEA73) and one by Five Acre Grove (EEA67).

Thanks to all concerned, especially Alan Loveridge who, once again, has done a really great job on the installations.

I met with the County Footpaths Officer on Thursday 11th to look at a bridge that needs replacing, and to discuss future kissing gate installations,..... three in Frocester Parish that adjoin paths in our Parish. I also did some footpath clearance and way-marking.

If you have any concerns about footpath issues, please let me know!

Best wishes for a Happy, Healthy Summer. Bill Edwards tel: 824452

Councils



ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17

Eastington Parish Council

Mrs J Shirley – Parish Clerk
60 Hawk Close
Abbeydale
Gloucester
GL4 4WE

clerk@eastington-pc.gov.uk 01453 799616

Welcome to the Annual Report 2016-17 on the activities of the Council.

You will find details of how the Council spent its money and how the Council funds this expenditure.

The Parish Council consists of 9 councillors who represent an electorate of approximately 1,332. Elections are held once in every four years, the last one was uncontested in May 2016.

The Parish Council has a number of responsibilities in the village including: Burial ground, closed churchyard, play area, notice boards, bus shelters, and grass cutting of the parish owned open spaces.

The Parish Council employs 1 part-time member of staff (20 hours per week) to manage all Council matters.

The Council meets on the second Thursday of the month in the Village Hall in Eastington. Agendas are displayed on the village notice board and also on the website – www.eastington-pc.gov.uk. The public are welcome to attend these meetings and raise questions during the 20 minute public forum at the start of the meeting.

We keep residents updated on parish matters through our website, the Eastington Community News and you can follow us on Twitter (@Eastington_PC) or on Facebook (EastingtonPC).

Parish Councillors as at April 2017:

Pauline Allen	pauline.allen@eastington-pc.gov.uk	Jennifer Corrie	jennifer.corrie@eastington-pc.gov.uk
Alex Bomberg	alex.bomberg@eastington-pc.gov.uk	Andrew Cozens	andrew.cozens@eastington-pc.gov.uk
Muriel Bullock	muriel.bullock@eastington-pc.gov.uk	Alison Loveridge	alison.loveridge@eastington-pc.gov.uk
Mark Chatterley	mark.chatterley@eastington-pc.gov.uk	Jill Simmons	(no email) tel: 01453 825303
		Sharon Wells	sharon.wells@eastington-pc.gov.uk

Chairman's Report:

Another year has flown by in a flurry of activity. Sometimes it feels that as a Council we make slow progress but when you look back on the achievements of the past year it really has been quite busy. We launched a new website including email addresses for our councillors; the Neighbourhood Development Plan was adopted in October 2016; the long-awaited village gateways were ordered and should be installed during 2017; the skate area at Snakey Park is well underway all paid for through grants and developer funds and organised by the Friends of Snakey Park.

A review of dog and litter bins was undertaken and two new bins installed with more planned. The Council also achieved Quality in the Local Council Award Scheme and is currently putting together an application for Gold status. I'm sure you'll all agree we've achieved quite a lot for a small council with one part-time member of staff. As always, we're very grateful to our supporters and volunteers who help us with our projects. My personal thanks go to the Councillors who work incredibly hard to progress our plans.

Oldbury End (our preferred name for the development West of Stonehouse) will be starting this year; the detailed planning applications have started to come in and with the support of Stroud District Council we're making sure we receive the best development we can whilst retaining the unique historic characteristics of our hamlets.

Ecotricity plans for the land at junction 13 will likely be decided later this year; we're hopeful that the application won't be permitted; we remain very concerned about the impact on the A419 traffic and surrounding hamlets.

To keep up to date with Parish matters, please come along to our Council meetings or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

Clr Muriel Bullock - Chairman

Grants & Donations

The Parish Council manages the Solar Grant Fund (from the Cambridge Solar Farm income) and also a small grants & donations budget; we have been able to support the following groups and initiatives during the past year:	Citizens Advice Bureau	£100
	Public Rights of Way Defenders	£117.50
	Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	£100
	Community Heartbeat Trust (from donations received)	£1863
	Allsorts Gloucestershire	£182.50
	Eastington Community Land Trust (from Solar Grant Fund)	£2000
	TOTAL	£4363



Councils

Receipts & Payments Account for the Year Ending 31st March 2017				
	Yr ended 31 March 2017		Yr ended 31 March 2016	
Receipts				
Precept	66,570.00		60,300.00	
Local Council Tax Support Grant	0		1,785.00	
VAT refund	1,752.48		3,596.82	
Burials	2,330.00		3,715.00	
Bank interest received	22.27		31.44	
Rent and wayleaves	17.38		77.38	
Grants & Donations	60,378.25			
Other	6,020.95		11,613.77	
		£137091.33		£81119.41
Payments				
VAT	8,985.89		1,769.48	
Hall hire	274.83		357	
OHMG ground maintenance	0		1,921.02	
Greens and churchyard grass mtce.	10,280.00		4,450.00	
Office expenditure/phone	2,575.78		1,343.16	
Severn trent Water	52.68		44.22	
Audit & legal fees	885		485	
Grants and donations	4,313.00		574.6	
Subscriptions	255.5		954.68	
Training	454.5		517.5	
Loan repayments	5,522.96		5,522.96	
Insurance	726.07		763.36	
Payroll services	90		97.3	
Staff costs	18,798.72		16,338.21	
Expenses: Clerk and council	612.4		585.95	
Election expenses	0		0	
Graveyard Burial Ground repairs	3,159.50		2,647.00	
Footpaths and kissing gates	600		565	
Planning expenses	5,727.10		8,485.00	
Repair projects	1		0	
Professional representation fund	480		0	
NDP/Parish plan	1,500.00		9,356.87	
Roads and Transport	297.3		501.39	
Other	29.06		339.85	
Snakey Park (from grants)	33,501.69		0	
		£99122.98		£57619.55

Budget 2017/18

The Parish Council has requested a precept figure of £68,898 to support a budget of £77,643 .

The precept is slightly increased from last year and represents an increase of 1.29% on an average Council Tax Band D property.

In addition to the usual activities, we have budgeted to update the bus shelters and improve the burial ground footpath.

Councils

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL RECEIVES TOP AWARD IN NATIONAL SCHEME

Eastington Parish Council has been awarded the prestigious **Quality Gold award** as part of the Local Council Award Scheme, the third council in Gloucestershire to receive this award. This achievement recognises that the council achieves good practice in governance, community engagement and council improvement. Moreover, the Council goes above and beyond their legal obligations, leading the community and continuously seeking opportunities to improve and develop even further.

The Local Council Award Scheme is a peer assessed programme that has been designed to both provide the tools and encouragement to those councils at the beginning of their improvement journeys, as well as promoting and recognising councils that are at the cutting edge of the sector. It is through the sector working together to share best practice, drive up standards and supporting those who are committed to improving their offer to their communities that individual councils and the sector as a whole will reach its full potential.

The accreditation is valid for four years but the council won't be resting on it's laurels and looks forward to continuing to do all it can to improve.

Julie

MEETING NOTICE

Parish Council meeting 8 June 2017 will be at the Community Centre at OHMG (due to the elections using the village hall).

BURIAL GROUND NOTICE

All glass and china items will be removed from the burial ground as they can easily become broken and create a risk of injury to visitors.

The parish council carries out regular safety inspections and items will be placed for your collection in the bin storage area. Any items not collected within one month will be taken for rubbish.

Please help us by removing glass and china items from your loved one's grave as soon as possible.



CND Shellac & Nail Art
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Councils

District Council News

At the Stroud District Council Annual General meeting on May 18th, Cllr Norman Kay stood down as Council Chairman, and Cllr Gary Powell from Stonehouse was elected to serve for the coming year. Cllr Rachel Curley was appointed Vice Chair

The makeup of the 6 major Committees remained as before:-

- Cllr Steve Robinson remains as Chairman of the **Community Services and Licensing Committee**, with Cllr Jonathan Edmunds as Vice Chair.
- Cllr Simon Pickering is the Chair of the **Environment Committee**, with Cllr Paul Denny Vice Chair.
- Cllr Mattie Ross stays as Chair of the **Housing Committee**, with Cllr Chas Townley as Vice Chair.
- Cllr Steve Lydon is **Chair of Strategy and Resources**, with Cllr Doina Cornell his Vice Chair.
- Cllr Tom Williams stays as **Chair of Development Control Committee, (Planning)** with Cllr John Marjoram as Vice Chair.
- Cllr Nigel Studdert-Kennedy stay as Chairman of the **Audit and Standards Committee**, and Cllr Rachel Curley Vice Chair.

All in all, on the Committee set up, it is very much the Status Quo

As ever, your District Councillors for Severn Ward, which includes Eastington, can be contacted on any District Council matters by email or phone:-

Cllr Stephen Davies. Cllr.Stephen.Davies@stroud.gov.uk Tel 07802 595307

Cllr John Jones Cllr.john.jones@stroud.gov.uk Tel 07808 922918

Open Garden at Ozleworth Park

Wotton-Under-Edge, GL12 7QU **Sunday, 18th June from 2pm – 5.30pm**

to raise much-needed funds for **Citizens Advice Stroud District**.

These are beautiful gardens which have not been open to the public for some time.

The afternoon will include the **Nailsworth Silver Band**, delicious teas, plants, raffle and tombola. Entrance is £5.00 Children under 16 Free. Guide dogs are the only dogs admitted.

All proceeds will help to fund the support of our wonderful team of volunteers who help over 4,000 people a year across the Stroud District to resolve their problems, whatever they are.



This year's Walk for Longfield will be on **Friday 9th June**. A choice of walks, followed by a magical evening with bbq, live music and entertainment.

£10 per adult, £5 per child all in support of Longfield's amazing care for people in Gloucestershire with life-limiting illness.

See www.longfield.org.uk or 01453 886868 or e-mail events@longfield.org.uk.



Saturday 17th June 10:45 am

park and meet at Whitminster Village Hall details on facebook

Walking for British Heart Foundation. This will be a dog friendly and family friendly walk but sorry, not be accessible for pushchairs or wheelchairs.

Cost £2.50 - plus £2.50 if you want to enter the photo competition

Community

The Great Eastington Egg Hunt

The First Great Eastington Egg Hunt was a huge success! A huge amount of time, talent and cheerful hard work went into it - and the glorious weather was the icing on the cake (and there was cake!).

The day was only possible because of the epic volunteers, local companies who are amazing at supporting the community, egg hosts along the route who tolerated having things pinned to gates all day and amazing creative people who decorated eggs.

So our thanks to all those who joined in; volunteers, helpers, sponsors, supporters and participants alike - as well as giving everyone a great day out, you have helped to raise an astonishing £2,500 which will be split 50/50 between playgroup and the school to improve our childrens' learning environment.

Don't we live somewhere great?!

Please note: All volunteers are welcome for next years event!!! We will need people to man stalls, to make eggs, to allow us to put eggs on their land and generous companies to sponsor...

The P.A. and Playgroup

Key to all the eggs - as pictured on the centre pages:-

Egg no.	Story Book Theme	Egg made by	Sponsor
1	Thomas the Tank Engine	Eastington Playgroup	Smiths
2	Superworm	Hayley	Kopend Creations
3	Gruffalow	Ruffles Forest School	Raffels Forest School
4	How to Train your Dragon	Honour	New Horizons Martial Arts
5	Where's Wally	Poppy and Ollie	Lost and Found
6	Minions	Gaby	Westend suites
7	Jack and the Bean Stalk	Orange Class, Milestones School	Mother Goose
8	The Hungry caterpillar	Jan L	Steve Mills Roofing
9	Peter Rabbit	Marc F	Naylor Powell
10	Hairy Maclary	Aimee	Hair and Beauty House
11	Dig, Dig, Digging	Chris H	A Loveridge
12	Stick Man	Julie	Wickwar Brewrey
13	Rainbow Fish	Sarah L	Eastington Slimming World
14	Harry Potter	Sam S	A.C Electrical
15	What the Ladybird Heard	Emma H	Swinton Insurance
16	Megs Eggs	Chris H	Renishaws
17	Paw Patrol	Rebecca H	Forest Green Rovers
18	Tiddler	Rebecca H	Zeta printing
19	Wizard of Oz	Arc Enegry	Arc Enegry Resouces
20	Guess how much I love you	Sarah B	Ecotricity
21	Trolls	Lucy and Leanne	The Development People
22	Charlotte's Webb	Lizzy	Nimble
23	That's not my tractor	Anne H	NRH Motors
24	Wind in the Willows	Janette	The Old Badger
25	Kipper's Birthday	Party Poppers	Party Poppers
26	Bear Hunt	Eastington Playgroup	Omega Selection Services
28	Charlie and the Chocolate factory	Marc F	MI Works South West Ltd
27	Watership Down	Rich L	Langley Construction
29	Room on the Broom	Sam J	Foxmoor Fire and Security
30	The Far away tree	Rachel W	J.Broomhall Ltd Butchers
31	Mr Tickle	Liz H	Sentio Healthcare Consulting
32	Humpty Dumpty	Katy S	Lyndon Harris, Plumbing

According to your feedback, the most loved eggs were - 1st: Harry potter, 2nd: The Gruffalo, 3rd: Mr Tickle, 4th: Room on the Broom and 5th: Guess how much I love you - But ECN just loved them all !



Groups

cubs

We are Severnside Cubs

based in Frampton on Severn,

Cubs are aged between 8–10½ years.

At Cubs we have a wide and varied programme, these are some of the things we have done so far this year.....

At the start of the year we went to visit Tesco's and completed farm to fork trail. We had a tour behind the scenes and learnt about the sugar content in some foods. All cubs had the opportunity to make their own muesli and fruit kebabs and lots of fun was had by all. We also came away with the all important Farm to Fork badge!!



We have had some fun evenings at the scout hut, looking at problem solving (how do you lift a cup using only a balloon if you can't touch the cup), building a tower from spaghetti and marshmallows strong enough to hold a tomato.

We also did some experiments, including milk swirls, 'lava' lamps, exploding bags and turning eggs 'rubbery'.

A particular favourite was making a simple electrical circuit – a lightbulb moment you might say!!!!



Our local tennis club in Frampton on Severn invited us to spend an evening experiencing tennis. Despite being very cold and raining we all had a great time.

Jointly with Severnside beavers we went to visit RAF Cosford Museum to complete Air Activities Badge - was a great coach trip and lots of fun.

Along with Beavers we had a great time sleeping over at Gobananas, exploring into the night when no one other than Cubs and Beavers in the building was great fun, before finding somewhere fun to sleep (like at the bottom of a slide) with friends for the night.

Nothing like waking up and having a big play area right there!!!
Great unforgettable memories.



We have a fun summer term ahead of us with activities including Fishing, a visit to Shipton Mill, Cycling and a 2 day summer camp!!!

Severnside Cubs have limited spaces available,
please email severnsidecubs@gmail.com for more information.

Churches

Services in the 'Cotswold Edge' Parishes – June 2017 –05/05/17

Sundays	4 th June Pentecost (p195)	11 th June Trinity Sunday (p198)	18 th June Trinity 1 Proper 6 (p213)	25 th June Trinity 2 Proper 7 (p239)
Service Readings	Acts 2:1-21 & John 20:19-23	Isaiah 40:12-17,27-31 or 2Corinthians 13:11-13 & Matthew 28:16-20	Exodus 19:2-8a or Romans 5:1-8 & Matthew 9:35-10:8	Jeremiah 20:7-13 or Romans 6:1b-11
Eastington	Sat 3 rd May 1.00pm Wedding 3.00pm Renewal of Vows Pat Freeth Sun 4 th 10.45am Holy Communion Angela Reeder	10.45am Holy Communion Katy Morgan	Mon 12 th Wedding Pat Freeth Sun 18 th 6pm Sung Evensong(Lay led)	10.45am Holy Communion Pat Freeth
Frocester	No Service	9.15am Morning Worship (Lay Led)	No Service	9.15am BCP Communion Pat Freeth
Haresfield	9.15am Morning Worship (Lay Led)	9.15am Holy Communion Katy Morgan	10.00am Benefice Service Lay Led Noel Baker	6pm Holy Communion Peter Newing
Moreton Valence	9am Holy Communion Michael Bennett	9am Morning Worship (Lay Led)	No Service	9am Morning Worship (Lay Led)
Standish	Fri 2 nd 10.00am BCP Communion Sun 4 th 11.00 Holy Communion Michael Bennett	Wed 7 th 11.00am <u>Communion at Moreton Hill</u> Fri 9 th 10.00am BCP Communion Sun 11 th 11.00am BCP Morning Prayer (Lay Led)	Fri 16 th 10.00am BCP Communion	Fri 23 rd 10.00am BCP Communion Sun 25 th 3.00pm BCP Evening Service (Lay Led)
Whitminster	No Service	11.00am Morning Worship (Lay Led)	No Service	11.00am Holy Communion Angela Reeder

The Cotswold Youth Singers

present their

SUMMER CONCERT



Fields of Gold

St Michael & All Angels Church,
Eastington

Friday 9th June 2017
at 7.30 pm

Tickets £5 (School students £2.50) from
choir members and on the door
Light refreshments available



Eastington Church's Summer BBQ and Splash Party

Saturday 1st July 2017 at The Nestings, Nupend

BBQ

4.30pm

BBQ
Refreshments
Swimming Pool
Open Garden



Admission £1 Adults 50p Children

Tickets available on the door and in advance
from Robin and Celia Harris (01453 823433)

All proceeds to Eastington Church Funds

Food available to buy



Churches

Eastington Methodist Church

If your life is easy and you are happy with everything – you may not want to come to this:



Starting on Tuesday 6th of June for seven weeks, we will be running a new weekly series called LIFE EXPLORED at Eastington Methodist Church.

It's an exposé of the little gods that promise us so much happiness, yet deliver so little. As it explores the Bible story (creation, fall, redemption, new creation), Life Explored shows how our deepest desires for happiness can only be satisfied in one person, Jesus Christ. The best gift God can give us is himself.

Starting at 7:30pm, each session features a combination of short films - shot around the world – and a chance to explore the issues raised.

If you are struggling to find the answer to the question: "What would bring you happiness?" why not risk coming along to see if this series can help you find the answer? Refreshments will be provided.

Messy Events 10 - 11:30am



Wednesday 31st May
Theme: I am the Good Shepherd

Family Craft Activities

Story/Video

COOKING

FREE
Suitable for all ages



Cakes Drinks

Saturday 22nd July
Theme: I am the True Vine

Youth Club The youth club operates on Friday evenings from 7:00 – 9:00pm and is open to young people between 11 and 18. Those still at primary school who are going up to secondary school this summer are welcome to join now. Subs are 75p and include a drink; there is also a tuck shop.

In addition to the weekly sessions, we organise various outings and ones coming up include:

- Youth Barn Event, Coln St Aldwyns 1:00 – 7:30pm with a picnic (provided) followed by an afternoon of fun on the farm including rodeo-bale racing and water games. There will be a BBQ at 5.30pm (£2 for burger or sausage and drink) followed by barn worship with Matt Gatt and his band. There will also be various speakers.
- Summer Days Out probably to Southerndown Beach and a Welsh Waterfall walk on dates to be set.
- "EWenique " District Youth Weekend based in Nailsea from Friday Oct13th to Sunday Oct 15th

Churches

Eastington Methodist Church



Café Church

Our Sunday morning services take place at 11:00am and usually last for just over an hour. They are followed by teas & coffee for those that want to stay and chat for a while.

The second Sunday of the month is a Café Church where tea, coffee and other drinks suitable for children are provided at the start in a much less formal setting with people seated around tables.

There is a craft activity and colouring for the children. This is followed by splendiferous cakes and another chance for drinks. The theme at the May Café Church was the ascension and the craft activity was colouring in a picture of Jesus and writing a message on the back. These were then tied to helium balloons and released (see picture). The June theme is Pentecost (the coming of the Holy Spirit) and then in July, we will be exploring the Good News.



Eastington Methodist Church Activities	
Baby & Toddlers Group	Mondays 10:00 – 11:30am
Prayer Meeting	Tuesdays 8:15 – 9:00am
Lunchtime Bible Study	Tuesdays 1:00 – 2:30pm
Evening House Group (at The Pike Lock House by the canal)	Tuesdays – 8pm other than the Life Explored evenings
Prayer Meeting	Fridays 8:30 – 9:00am
Youth Club (11-18) – year 6 pupils can join now	Fridays 7:00 – 9:00pm
Main Service (separate activities for children/young people available)	Sundays 11am (next Café Church is on June 11th)
<i>Unless stated otherwise, these are held at EMC which is opposite the butchers in Eastington.</i>	

Frampton on Severn Bowls Club



The season is well under way now. We have enjoyed a dry start to the season but we could do with the sun shining and raising the temperature just a bit.

All is going well on the playing front with Club friendlies, League games and County competitions etc.

Quite a few new members this year and a real mixture of young and old, inexperienced and experienced.

As mentioned in my previous articles, at Frampton we cater for all ages and all skill levels. We have two qualified coaches who can help the new bowlers. Plenty of

Friendly games against neighbouring Clubs as well as League games and Cup games. Nothing better (except playing that is) than sitting on the balcony of the Clubhouse watching a good game of competitive bowls on a summers evening with a cool drink.

Why not come up and have a go. Our Club coaches are more than happy to help you with a couple of sessions to see if you like the game before committing to applying for membership. We can supply you with a set of bowls and trainers are OK.

Please contact our Club Secretary Tom Griffiths on 01452 740013 and he will organise for somebody to meet you at the Green.

For more information please visit our website www.framptonbowls.co.uk

Community



Helping older people in Gloucestershire have a better quality of life Village and Community Agents work with the over 50s in Gloucestershire, providing easy access to a wide range of information that will enable them to make informed choices about their present and future needs.

Village Agent News

We know that Severn Trent Water supply water to our homes but I have recently learnt about how they help in other ways.

- There is **Watersure**. This is a national scheme to make sure low-income customers don't cut back on how much water they use because they are worried about how they will pay their bill. People are eligible if there are 3 or more children under 19 in the household or, if there is an individual in the household who has a medical condition that increases water usage AND the family is in receipt of means tested benefits (including pension credit).
- **Water Direct** is a government scheme aimed at assisting those who are unable to budget or are struggling to pay their bills, and therefore are getting into arrears. This relates to customers who already have arrears of £50.00 or more and who are in receipt of particular benefits. Deductions are taken at source and paid directly to STW.
- **Personalised Service**. The "priority service register" exists to ensure that, if there is a supply issue, they can identify and give extra support to those customers who need it. This includes people who have a medical condition, mobility needs, a visual impairment, a mental health condition or have a temporary need. Registered customers will receive priority notification of planned work, priority notification in case of any emergency and an alternative water supply where needed. Anyone who needs to register for the service can do so by phoning 0800 085 4986 or online at <http://priority.stwater.co.uk>
- There is a range of services that might make life a bit easier for some people, for example, alternative formats for bills etc. to help those with particular needs like colour blindness, dyslexia, braille and large print. Or contact can be arranged to be by BT-text, email or audio.
- **Password Protection**. This is my personal favourite in a society where we hear so often of bogus callers. A customer can set up a password. It works like this: if someone knocks on your door saying that they are from Severn Trent Water they will know your personal password. If he doesn't know it, then he is not from Severn Trent.
- **Water Efficiency Products**. These are some free water saving gadgets that you can send away for. I gave this a try and the items arrived very promptly. On offer are a range of items such as water saving crystals, shower timer and a shower save regulator.

To find out more about the above call freephone 0800 085 4986 or go to www.stwater.co.uk

Should anyone be with a different water company it would be worthwhile contacting them as they will probably offer similar services, or let me know and I will help with any query.

Penny French. Tel: 07776 245 726. Email: pennyf@villageagent.grcc.org.uk

FRAMPTON VILLAGE SOCIETY TALKS

A warm welcome is extended to everyone to come to our series of illustrated talks held in Frampton on Severn on Friday evenings starting at 7.30 in our Village Hall. The cost is £3.30/per person including refreshments. Contact Paul Bradly on 01452 742184 or at: paulbradly@hotmail.com for more information.

Next talk: **23rd June**: Strange Things do Happen – Susan Marshfield

And on **25th June don't miss Frampton Scarecrow Festival** (in conjunction with Hidden Gardens).

Groups



We are Severnside Beavers based in Frampton on Severn. Beavers are the youngest members of the Scout association and are aged 5½-8 years. Our motto is Fun and Friendship (and lots of badges!!!!).

At Severnside Beavers we are always trying new things and enjoy achieving badges. We have been busy recently working towards various badges including Global Issues, International, Animal Care, Air Activities and more.

We have completed activities such as making an endangered animal zoo where we found out about endangered animals and facts and made them into 'zoo' posters as part of the global issues badge. As another part of this badge we visited Waitrose in Stroud to learn about fairtrade products and food miles.



One of the favourite meetings recently has to be the experiment evening! The children made milk swirls, bouncing eggs, exploding volcanos and lava lamps and proved to be a lot of fun!!!

We have also been lucky enough to be joined by 2 volunteers from St Johns Ambulance who helped us achieve our emergency aid badge and taught us some basic invaluable first aid.

We like getting out and about and trying new things. In March we had a sleepover at Gobananas Soft Play, Beavers and Cubs loved being there overnight, lots of fun and playing and then finding a place on the soft play equipment to put their sleeping bag was a memory that won't be forgotten!!!

Last Term as part of our air activities badge we went on a visit to RAF Cosford Museum along with our cub pack. In total 36 beavers and cubs and lots of parents helpers travelled up on the coach for a fun packed day.



We have another fun packed term to look forward to with more badges and adventures. We are off to Three Counties Show and have Saturday Activity Day to look forward to all on top of our weekly Thursday meetings.

Severnside Beavers currently have a waiting list, email us at severnsidebeaverscouts@yahoo.co.uk to join our waiting list.

Community

Keep Eastington Rural – KER wins Planning Appeal

On 25th April, the Secretary of State, no less, dismissed the appeal for 36 houses and a so-called doctor's surgery. This is the third key appeal won by the parishioners of Eastington in the last 30 months, protecting our green fields from predatory developers.

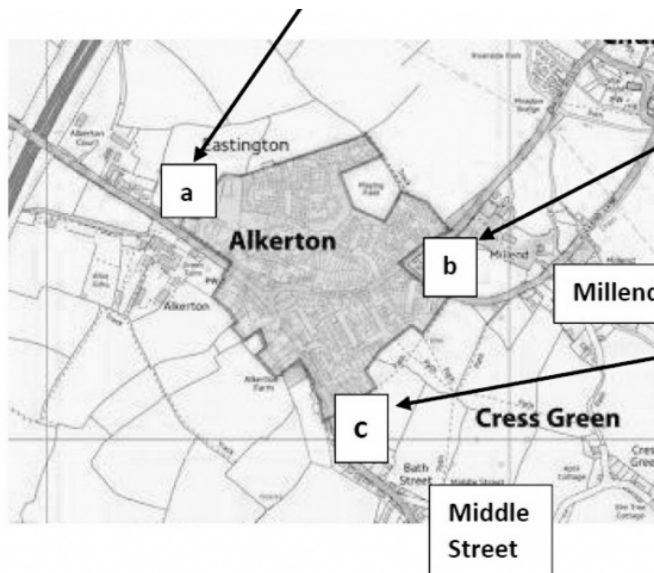
The Secretary of State said the proposal broke six of Stroud's Local Plan Policies and also Policy EP1 of Eastington's Neighbourhood Development Plan. The presence of the Grade II * listed Gazebo helped a lot as well as our strongly expressed wish to maintain green buffers between hamlets.

This is a complex set of refusal reasons which should stand the test of time.

What this means to the defence of Alkerton

The three appeal refusals, taken together, form a set of green barriers between Alkerton and the surrounding hamlets.

Site "a" below is the latest one, 36 houses plus the surgery



Site "b" was won in 2016, 4 large houses overlooking the Glebe Field. That was won on "intrusion into the countryside" from the Stroud Local Plan and "erosion of gaps between hamlets" from the Neighbourhood Plan.

Our first big win in 2015 was site "c", 30 houses proposed for Bath Road. This was dismissed on environmental grounds, including the erosion of gaps between settlements. That was before the Stroud Local Plan and our Neighbourhood Plan were finalised – a very bold decision by the Government Inspector at the time.

K.E.R. is not being complacent, of course, with Ecotricity spreading non-compliant ideas around the place. However it is worth taking a breath, thanking the dozens of people who wrote letters and attended the Appeal Hearings and reflecting on the combined significance of our achievements.

Tom Low, KER .

Local Talent

A couple of months ago we used local magazines such as this one to advertise for a new Receptionist/Admin Assistant to join the Severnside Osteopathic Practice here in Saul. Within days applications started to come in, and we have now recruited someone for the position. The calibre of the other applicants so impressed us however, that we asked the magazine to include this note to thank all of them once again for getting in touch – and to remind everyone else that there is a huge amount of talent right here on our doorstep!

Caroline Tosh

Community

Snakey Park update - 1 ; Skate Ramps

The last few months have been really exciting for us as we have been able to see lots of new developments!

The Biggest and most exciting development has of course been the installation of the skate ramps, at the time of writing the ramps themselves are complete but we still need to put in a rubbish bin and sign.



We are also going to have some top of the range CCTV covering the skate area as well as the park and car park, this will hopefully help us insure the area remains safe and pleasant for all users.

The grass seed around the ramps will take a little while to grow so please keep off the mud!

The grand opening will take place in July with skills day taking place ran by the brilliant people from Rush, so do come along with your wheels and test out the ramps!

Please try to remember that our ramps are harder than your head and head injuries can be life changing, so **wear a helmet**. Parents have a big role to play here, please don't let your kids leave the house without one.



Or...



Community

Snakey Park Update 2 ; The Playground

We are so happy to see the play ground being so well used and looked after.

Small things make a big difference to the feel of the play area, for example the users of the park are brilliant at keeping litter under control. We think this is firstly because people are good at remembering to put it in the bin, but secondly we also know what we have a band of brilliant visitors who happily pick up anything they happen to find. We know that when the area is clean people are less likely to drop litter so wanted to say a big thank you to all our unofficial helpers!

Developments continue this spring, most excitingly we have installed a substantial climbing frame which has proved popular with young and old alike.



The wooden design is non-linear and allows the user to make their own way around and across it, taking as little or as much risk as they feel comfortable with.

We have also installed some steps to make the slide easier to access and some matting by the side of the slide to help reduce bank erosion.

Increasingly the park is proving popular with picnickers so help make the park a little more pleasant in the heat we have installed a sail shade.



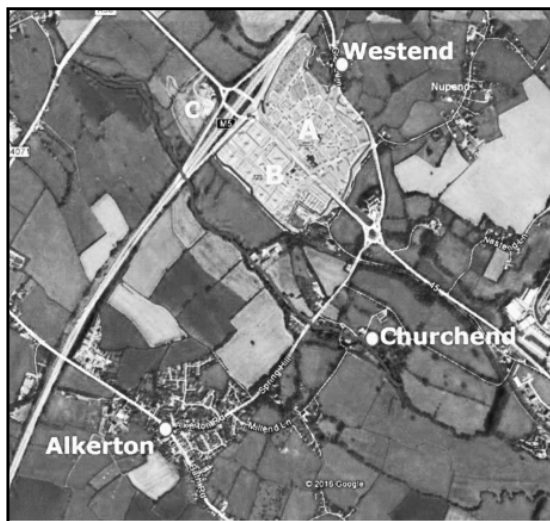
However we are not quite done yet! The baby swings should be in place in time for the second May bank holiday, with an innovatively designed round about appearing about 5 weeks later, hopefully in time for the summer holidays.

Snakey Park is ran by volunteers with the support of Eastington Parish Council. If the Easter holidays are anything to go by we are expecting this summer to be busy in the park and we never turn away the offer of help!

If you would like to be involved we are offering a training session on Wednesday 16th June at 6:30. - it shouldn't take more than an hour. Volunteers are needed to help with weekly inspections and bin emptying, you can commit as little or as much as you like, if you are interested in helping the project please get in touch with us at snakey.park@gmail.com or via our facebook page.

Community

The “Eco Park” Development Proposal: personal reflections of a resident on why we should object.

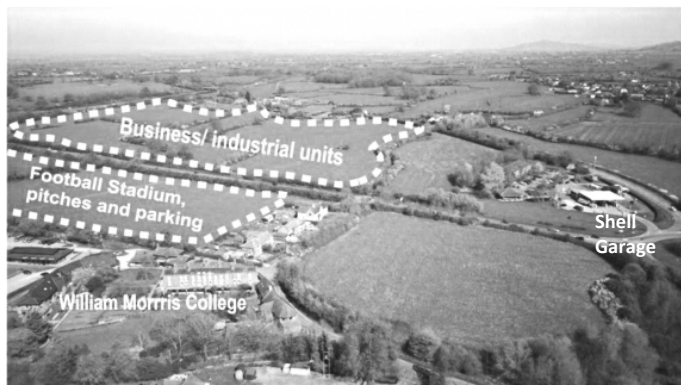


But in recent months my concern about this development has grown, spurred on by this photo which showed the fields that would be destroyed, and by a real concern for the health and well-being of the residents of William Morris College - which would be significantly adversely impacted as soon as building commenced and would never improve.

In January 2016 Ecotricity owner, Dale Vince, submitted an outline planning proposal for a major development within the parish of Eastington, along the A419.

The proposal is for a 5000 seater football stadium with associated pitches, buildings and car parks etc (B), and the ‘green technology hub’ that is the business/industrial estate shown at (A). The proposal also includes the small ‘nature reserve’ at (C).

When I first heard about this proposal I thought there wasn’t much that could be done about it and it was probably a done deal given the influential and wealthy local business man behind it.



The plans do look exciting on the surface, and I support anything which promotes the green and sustainable agenda. However there are many reasons, legal and ethical, why this proposal shouldn’t be agreed and that local opinion should be voiced.

The questions and thoughts which have spurred me on to become more active in challenging it is this:

- Having read the Local Plan and other documents there isn’t much evidence to suggest another new business park is needed. If this is built then other established business parks could lose business; areas earmarked across the whole of the district for development probably won’t progress (Cam, Sharpness etc). It might also suck life-blood from Stroud itself.
- If a new stadium is needed and if the sustainability agenda is to be maintained, wouldn’t it be more appropriate to develop on a brownfield site? This would be more in keeping with the ethos and vision Dale Vince has for Forest Green Rovers and for his business and would avoid ruining 100 acres of green fields forever.
- Has sufficient research into more appropriate sites been conducted? Are there sites more accessible by established public transport links? Closer to population centres and services?
- The plans at the moment look like “greenwash”. This is media spin pretending that they are environmentally friendly when fundamentally they aren’t.

Community

By objecting are we just being NIMBY (Not in my backyard) protesters ?

My view is that the parish took an environmental hit back in the 1970s when the M5 was built straight through our backyard. The community has had to fight further development because of this ever since.

The site is prominent from many public viewpoints; short and long range. The area is intrinsic to the Severn Vale and the Cotswold escarpment is very obvious on the skyline. The site is visible from outward views from the Cotswold escarpment, including Doverow Hill, Haresfield Beacon, Selsley Common, Coaley Peak and Cam Long Down and could be visible from the Forest of Dean AONB;

- therefore it is not only "our backyard" that will be effected.

Whatever the supposed benefits to Nailsworth and/or to Stroud District, there is absolutely no doubt whatsoever that the proposed development on this site would have a very dramatic effect on the nature of Eastington, and the lives of it's residents if allowed to proceed.

If we want to retain anything of the tranquil and rural character of our Parish we must ACT to let Stroud District know what is important to us. The Local Plan forced the WoS development on us as a strategic necessity, but the payoff was supposed to be protection for our countryside as a whole, as well as respect for the character of our individual and historic settlements.

This is happening on our watch, let's not let future generations down.

How can you play your part?

It is important for every single one of us who objects to formally voice that objection to the Planners - as 160 of us have already done. Absolutely everybody is entitled to comment and to offer good reasons why the application should be refused. 'Good' reasons include things like the increased traffic, noise, air pollution, loss of amenity and violating the Local Plan. See the KER website for some examples if you have not done this sort of thing before.

We can also try to stop Dale Vince's 'mind game' campaign where he keeps talking up the project as if it were a done deal. **It absolutely is not.** We must make this crystal clear in all our social media posts and always, always, always correct anyone who speaks of the proposed stadium or business park as though they were certainties!

So, please, if you want to protect our green fields, the nature of our village and our roads:-

- Lodge a planning objection, using the Stroud website. It is quick and easy.

Go to www.stroud.gov.uk/apps/planning and search for application **S.16/0043/OUT**.

- Or, if you prefer, write to The Planning Office, Ebley Mill, Stroud - quoting ref **S.16/0043/OUT** . Be clear that you are objecting not just commenting!
- Get active on social media (*add links to facebook, website, twitter*) - contest anything which suggests this is a done deal.
- Register a skill or time commitment to **"Keep Eastington Rural"** through the welcome page on the website: www.keepeastingtonrural.uk

Together we can

"Keep Eastington Rural"

Jo-anne Bradford

Councils

ALKERTON ROAD SPEED BUMPS

There has been a lot of discussion in recent weeks about the merit vs. noise nuisance of the speed bumps on Alkerton Road. The Parish Council has been dealing with Gloucestershire Highways looking at ways the speed bumps could be improved or removed and replaced with a different traffic calming scheme.

The speed bumps have now been re-instated with reduced dimensions. We received the following response from our Local Highways Manager which we'd like to share with you all so that everyone understands the situation :-

"The options we have considered include not replacing the cushions at all, replacing with a different type of traffic calming measures (not a physical/vertical traffic calming feature) and amend the design and/or dimensions of the cushions.

I will first outline the processes for the installation of the cushions in the first instance and then the issues and thinking behind our decision; this matter has been discussed with our Improvements team and my line manager so that we have a comprehensive and consistent message for the parish and residents.

- *The speed cushions were originally installed following the statutory process that includes public consultation with residents, the parish council and the emergency services. This consultation explicitly detailed the type of traffic calming, the fact that there would be a pair of speed cushions, the location of each pair of cushions and the dimensions of the cushions.*
- *Any variation in the design and arrangement of the traffic calming scheme that has been legally advertised would have to be very carefully considered. We do not appear to have a precedent in terms of the legal process for the removal of traffic calming, but any such a process would have to be thorough and comprehensive. It would involve officer time from GCC and Amey to carry out public consultation and design work for alternative measures, which would of course come at a cost of around £5k.*
- *GCC has to carefully consider the case for the removal of the cushions, at present the reasons for not reinstating them is due to the reported noise and vibration from vehicles passing the cushions. A local survey of frontages has shown support for their removal, but there are also local enquiries as to when the cushions are due to be reinstated as they want the measures reinstated as there is some support for them. Clearly the experience and the opinions of those people who front the road need to be considered, equally it needs to be understood that the wider public, that is anyone who uses the highway, have a stake in the traffic calming measures here.*
- *The cushions were installed in the first instance as a safety and traffic calming measure, data that has already been supplied to the parish council that shows that traffic speeds have decreased since installation and there have been no recorded injury accidents since. The set of cushions in question are the ones closest to the shops, pub and roundabout, the hub of the village, where there are a concentrated number of pedestrian movements, it has been mentioned that in safety terms these are probably the most important pair of cushions for Alkerton Road.*

Having considered the pros and cons of the cushions it remains that GCCs position is that the cushions should be reinstated. However we are prepared to reinstate them with reduced dimensions, so that they are slightly narrower and not as high. It is felt that no cushions or a radically different traffic calming feature would not be appropriate.

As the highway authority we have to seriously consider the safety of persons using the highway. As we have data that shows that a traffic calming scheme has been successful in reducing vehicle speeds and since its introduction there have been no recorded injury collisions, it would be remiss of us to pursue the lessening of that safety scheme. In the event that the speed cushions in question were removed and then an accident were to occur in proximity to that site, there would be serious questions asked about the Council and officers involved about that decision, especially in light of the data we have on speeds and accident.

I appreciate that some people will be disappointed with this decision, but I trust I have sufficiently outlined how this decision has been made."

The Parish Council understands that this response will be disappointing to some parishioners and we welcome thoughts and views at upcoming meetings.