



Stratton Parish News



Published by, Stratton St Margaret Parish Council

Seasons Greetings to the Parish Of Stratton St Margaret

Welcome To Stratton Parish News

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council is very proud to welcome you to the first edition of its new newsletter.

The newsletter will be delivered to households in Stratton and is intended to keep local residents informed of the work the Parish Council is carrying out in the community, highlighting local issues and promoting some of the many events taking place locally.

It will also provide an opportunity for Council to ask you for your opinions about future proposals as well as existing service delivery.

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council has 23 Councillors representing four wards; St Philips, St Margaret, Coleview and Coleview and Nythe. There are currently two vacancies on the Parish Council.

The Council has a turnover of approximately £1.4 million per annum and that money is used to provide a range of services including the Stratton Community Leisure Centre, the Meadowcroft Community Centre, 12 open spaces which include play areas in 8 locations, Council Offices at the



Playing in the snow at Meadowcroft park

Community Centre and a Grounds Team who carry out maintenance work on Parish owned and leased land. If you would like to know more about the Council log on to www.strattonstmargaret.gov.uk

The Parish Council is keen to receive your feedback on the newsletter so if you do have any comment or would like an article or information included about your club, organisation or society please get in touch.

Councillor vacancies

We have two Parish Council vacancies available, if you feel you would be interested in being a Councillor please contact the council offices, Tel 01973 823761



Parish Council Chairman: Peter Owen
"Seasons Greetings to the whole parish and welcome to our newsletter"

Parish Plan

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council has agreed to begin the development of a Parish Plan for the community of Stratton St Margaret.

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council has agreed to begin the development of a Parish Plan for its community.

A Parish Plan is a statement of how the community sees itself developing over the next five to ten years and it must be credible in terms of evidence and on the level, length and breadth of consultation undertaken.

The Plan is intended to be as comprehensive as possible and will focus on social, environmental and economic issues with an action plan at the end to help address and improve the issues raised.

It is really important that the Parish Plan:

- Reflects the views of all sections of the community
- Identifies which features and local characteristics people value

- Identifies local problems and opportunities
- Sets out how local residents would like the community to develop in the future
- Develops a plan of action to achieve the community's vision

The Parish Council intends the Parish Plan to inform and focus its annual budget, funding allocations, project development and its aims and objectives as well as provide evidence to attract Section 106 monies from both existing and future building developments to improve and enhance the facilities and infrastructure within Stratton St Margaret.

A Steering Group was set up at the first Parish Plan meeting held on 4th November 2008. Details of how the Plan

will be set out are still being developed but it is possible that Stratton St Margaret will be split into its four Parish Wards, St Philips, St Margaret, Coleview and Lower Coleview and Nythe to help identify local needs, address local concerns and develop local action plans.

If you would like to be involved in the development of the Parish Plan for Stratton St Margaret either by sitting on the Steering Group or by feeding into the process on areas of interest please get in touch.

There is a short questionnaire asking for initial thoughts. It would be greatly appreciated if you could return this at your convenience to either the Council Offices or the Leisure Centre.

Parish Plan Questionnaire

1. List 3 things you really like about living in Stratton St Margaret.

3. What do you think are the 3 major issues facing the community today?

2. List 3 things you dislike about living in Stratton St Margaret.

Finally, would you like to be involved or do you know someone who would like to be involved in the development of the Parish Plan? If so could you please provide contact details below:

Please return this form to: Council Offices, Addison Crescent, SSM, Swindon SN2 7JX

Play Area Strategy

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council is very proud of its play areas and open spaces.

It takes very seriously its responsibility for providing good quality, modern, well maintained play equipment and open spaces. It has an annual investment and upgrade programme to ensure standards are maintained. The grounds staff are particularly committed to their task of ensuring that areas are clean, tidy, well presented and regularly maintained.

The amenity areas help promote healthy lifestyles and provide important facilities for all sections of the community. They help build a sense of community and provide a space for escape, relaxation, exercise and recreation.

However, open spaces can also be the target of anti-social behaviour and vandalism. Although this type of behaviour can never be eradicated research has shown that a combination of good design, management and maintenance transforms unattractive areas into popular community spaces.

In order to not only maintain its current level of provision but significantly improve upon it, the Parish



Council has agreed to invest in the development of a Play and Open Spaces Area Master Planning exercise.

The idea is to carry out an assessment of the twelve open spaces it is responsible for, identify the current provision and develop a range of enhancements to upgrade those areas.

Council is keen to reflect the heritage of the community such as the railways. There are opportunities to do this through play equipment, street furniture, the types of materials used and public art.

Major focus will be given to providing new innovative and exciting play equipment. There are many new innovations being developed within the industry including the use of recycled materials and electronic games as well as equipment for the entire population including outdoor gym equipment.

Once the initial proposals have been developed a public consultation exercise will be undertaken. This may well run in parallel with the Parish Plan consultation and there will be an opportunity for you as local residents to have your say. It is important to emphasise that the Council will listen to the suggestions from the local community and endeavour to incorporate them into future designs.

So watch this space for future developments!



Headlands School Site and Merton Fields

Initial proposals are in for the former Headlands School site are in including the development of 200 new houses the creation of a junior football pitch and other play provisions

As many of you know Swindon Academy will be moving to its new site in Pinehurst towards the end of 2009. The £35 million development is well under way and will incorporate primary and secondary school streams enabling children to stay at one school throughout their school life.

The move will result in the former Headlands School site becoming vacant and available for redevelopment. The site is owned by the local Education Authority, Swindon Borough Council, and initial proposals have been drawn up by Turley Associates.

The initial proposals indicate a development of approximately 200 houses to be constructed mainly on the old school playing fields with the retention of the dance studio for community use and the creation of a junior football pitch and other play area provisions.

As the plan for the school site proposes building on green open space which currently provides playing pitches, there is a need to provide alternative pitches for public use. In order to overcome this issue it has been proposed to provide two junior and two five-a-side football pitches with changing facilities at Merton Fields, an area of land formerly leased by Stratton St Margaret Parish Council. That lease came to an end on 11th November 2008 and the Borough Council did not wish to extend the agreement.

A public meeting was held on 17th November 2008 at the Upper Stratton Baptist Church where over 175 residents attended to discuss the matter. Unfortunately, although three Swindon Borough Council Officers arrived to

attend the meeting they were unable to take part as they had not realised it was a public meeting and had not obtained permission from the relevant Cabinet Member to address the public.

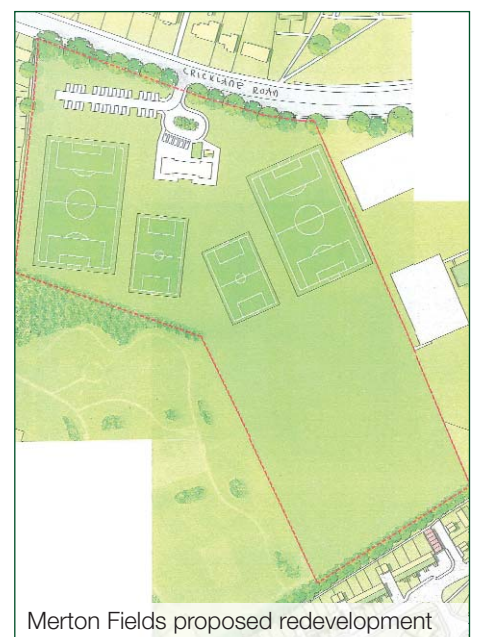
It is understood that further proposals are being developed by Swindon Borough Council and details of these will be made available in the New Year. Stratton St Margaret Parish Council intends to hold another public meeting when the new proposals are available so that the matter can be fully discussed locally and relevant comments submitted.

The Parish Council has raised a number of objections to the proposals for both sites. The objections regarding the Merton Fields proposals include:

- Stratton St Margaret Parish Council was the tenant of the land but was not consulted prior to publication of the proposals
- *PPG17 states that local authorities should avoid any erosion of recreational function and maintain or enhance the character of open spaces
- *PPG17 further states that local authorities should consider the impact of any development on biodiversity and nature conservation – the Parish Council has encouraged the use of part of Merton Fields as a wild flower sanctuary.
- *PPG17 clearly states that local authorities should undertake robust assessments of the existing and future needs of their communities for open space, sports and recreational facilities – the proposal contradicts this aim.
- The proposal will result in the loss of a net loss of green space and playing pitches which are in short supply in the area and goes against the aims and

objectives of PPG17

- Merton Fields is now prone to flooding following the high volume of development in the surrounding area and the lack of capacity of the existing drainage system – a full review of drainage and sewerage should be undertaken before any development.
- There is concern at the siting of the proposed access for the new changing facility - creating an additional access along an already busy road with a bus lane will create an unacceptable traffic hazard – a Traffic Management Study should be carried out on the effect of the traffic movements on the Cricklade Road.
- The construction of a changing facility on an important open green space when there is the option of constructing the facility on the already developed area of St Lukes School is unacceptable and will result in the loss of important amenity space.





Plans for the redevelopment

The Parish Council objections regarding the Former Headlands School site include:

- The proposal will result in the loss of an important open green space and playing pitches which are in short supply in the area and goes against the aims and objectives of PPG17
- The proposal could result in the site being over-developed. Further details on housing type and density should be made available before any outline approvals are given
- The current green open space is allocated for development whilst the area currently housing the school buildings is to be demolished and a junior football pitch created. Why not reverse the areas and retain the existing green areas and develop the school building site.
- The proposal would result in the loss of six tennis courts which have been recently constructed and could be utilised for the public.

- The site lends itself to becoming a leisure complex site with a range of facilities for use including football, tennis, hockey, rugby and other outdoor sports and community use.
- Council is concerned that no needs-assessment has been undertaken for the provision of a community centre on the site. There are a range of good quality facilities in the area such as Meadowcroft Community centre and the Stratton Community Leisure Centre and further evidence and information is requested regarding the need, ownership and the management of the proposed community centre.
- There are serious concerns regarding the proposed accesses and their suitability as they appear to be creating traffic hazards – the development will create significant additional traffic movements and the current highway is inadequate.
- There are serious drainage issues on this site with residents suffering flooding

and it is strongly recommended that a full review of the drainage and sewerage infrastructure is undertaken before any level of development that may be detrimental is embarked upon.

- No details regarding the proposed housing has been made available - details on type of housing, the intensity of the development, the style and design of housing, the general mix and the percentage of affordable housing is requested as well as the siting of houses on the site.

If you would like to be kept up to date with latest developments either forward your email address to Stratton St Margaret Parish Council or log on to the website. Council will endeavour to update residents as and when it is provided with new information.

* PPG refers to "planning policy guidance" from central government

Your Community Leisure Centre

Stratton St Margaret is extremely fortunate to have its own leisure centre at Grange Drive.

Stratton Community Leisure Centre is in the heart of the Parish offering a much needed leisure and sports facility.

Main facilities include :

- Four Court Sports Hall
- Function Suite
- 28 Station Fully Equipped Air Conditioned Gymnasium with CV, Resistance Equipment and Free Weights
- 2 x Squash Courts

Our Mission Statement

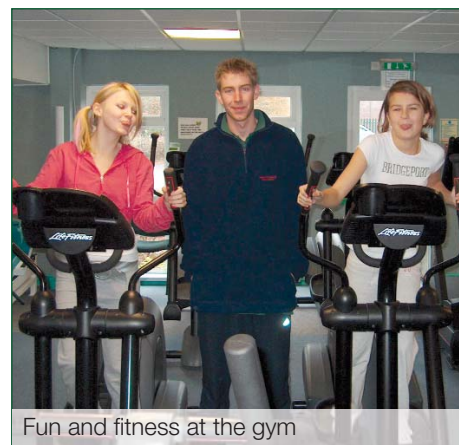
“To provide quality leisure, recreational and sporting facilities for people within the community”

We Aim To

1. Strive for a customer friendly environment that delivers high quality facilities by responding to the needs and demands of customers in terms of facility provision, service, customer care and activities.
2. Enhance our reputation as quality employers by continually providing: equality, training, good working conditions and good employer/employee relations.
3. Maintain our position as a leading leisure provider within the Parish of Stratton St Margaret.

4. React and respond as quickly as possible to the need for change within the leisure environment.

5. Develop an accountable service that provides best value for money in contributing to local issues.



Fun and fitness at the gym

What If...?

You could have any improvement you could wish for at Stratton Community Leisure Centre!

What would you choose?

- A Swimming Pool?
- A larger Gym and Fitness Studio?
- More events such as tribute evenings?
- A Sauna Room?
- An All Weather Football or Hockey Pitch?
- A café?
- A simulator?
- A laserquest?
- A Larger, Healthier Menu?
- A Family Room by the Bar?
- Cheap Beer?

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council is considering a number of improvement projects at Stratton Community Leisure Centre but it needs your input to help identify and develop those projects. Please complete the form and send it back to:

**Mr Bob Blake, Clerk to the Council,
Council Offices, Addison Crescent,
Upper Stratton, Swindon SN2 7JX**

<p>1. How often do you use the Leisure Centre?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div>	<p>5. What do you like least about the Leisure Centre?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 80px; width: 100%;"></div>
<p>2. What facilities/activities do you use or attend?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 60px; width: 100%;"></div>	<p>6. What improvements/changes would you make to the Leisure centre?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 80px; width: 100%;"></div>
<p>3. How do you rate the quality of the Leisure Centre and its activities? (Please circle)</p> <p>Excellent very good good average poor very poor</p>	<p>7. Any other comments/suggestions</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 80px; width: 100%;"></div>
<p>4. What do you like most about the Leisure Centre?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div>	

Stratton Health and Fitness Studio

Health and Wellbeing focus

Stratton Health and Fitness Studio

The Community Leisure Centre provides a fully equipped 28 station air conditioned gymnasium, incorporating cardio vascular, resistance and free weights.

Two fully qualified fitness instructors are on hand to provide a one-to-one health assessment, induction and programme.

Steps to Health is a partnership between Local Councils and the NHS. We are the leading provider of this service in Swindon. It promotes better health through physical activity. If your GP believes physical activity will help with any medical condition you may have, he/she may refer you to the 12 week Steps to Health Scheme

A creche facility is available 9.30am-11.30am Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday

Gym Prices

Gold Pass -12 months subscription

£250.00 (Direct Debit available)

Allows unlimited use of gym at anytime and access to aerobics sessions

Gold Pass – 6 months subscription

£145.00

Silver Pass – 12 months subscription

£190.00 (Direct debit available)

Silver Pass – 6 months subscription

£115.00

Pay As You Go

If you would like to use our gym facilities on a "pay as you go" basis this option is available once a full induction has been carried out.

Christmas Special

Take out our THREE MONTH GOLD pass during December and get full usage of our gymnasium including full health and fitness induction, free aerobic session and a "Gym Pack" which includes a sports bottle, small hand towel and gym bag.

This package normally costs £72. Take

up the offer before the 31st December and you will get all this for a price of £50.00

What a great way to get into shape, revitalise your body or why not offer this as a Xmas gift to your loved ones

January - March 2009

Any new member wishing to take out a twelve months Gold or Silver Gym Pass during January to March 2009 will gain:

- 14 months for the price of 12
 - Free health check • Free assessments
- For just 58p per day you have unlimited access to the gym and aerobics classes PLUS a free gym bag, sports bottle and towel

Aerobics Sessions

Fully qualified fitness instructors offer a variety of aerobics classes to suit everyone

Teen Gym

Teen Gym is run in our fully equipped air conditioned gymnasium for boys and girls aged between 11-15 years Wednesday from 6-7pm

Saturdays two sessions : 9.30am to 10.30am AND 10.30am to 11.30am

A great way to keep active, try new equipment and meet friends and have fun in a controlled and safe environment

Membership Benefits

Join the Centre as a member and benefit from a range of activities that you can book over the telephone five days in

advance, cheaper attendance at classes, tribute and dance nights and free access to our Grange Bar which offers excellent prices on beverages and social events.

Adult Resident (annual) £8.80

Senior Resident (annual) £2.80

Junior Resident (annual) £4.45

Grange Bar and Function Facilities

The centre also provides a licensed bar facility called the "GRANGE BAR". The bar welcomes members of the centre and their guests. The bar creates catering during set times Monday to Saturday offering a variety of meals ranging from snacks to main meals.

A pool table, darts board, gaming machines and a plasma TV showing major sporting events and popular music.

Function Room Hire

The Stratton Suite and Main Hall are available for hire for private functions. Full details are available on our website or contact our reception for more details.

Mother And Toddler Session

A Mother and Toddler session is available at Meadowcroft Community Rooms, Addison Crescent on at Thursday morning from 9.30am to 11am.

If you wish to know more please contact Debbie Lawrence on 01793 823761 or email; debbie.lawrence@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk

Win! 1 years Free GOLD PASS to our Fitness Suite with associated aerobics classes with our free prize draw

Simply enter your details below and return this form to the address at the bottom to have a chance of being 1 of 5 lucky winners

Name:.....Tel:

Address:

.....

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Return To: Council Offices, Addison Crescent, Upper Stratton, Swindon SN2 7JX

Whats On



At Stratton Community Leisure Centre we cater for the active sporting types alongside the shakers and movers amongst you with regular dance/tribute nights.

Mainstreamers Dance Band

Dance through the decades 60s to 90's

Doors open at 7pm

approx start of 8.15pm

Licensed bar and snack bar available

Saturday 20th December 2008

SPECIAL END OF SEASON DANCE PRICE

£5.00 members £7.00 non members

Mercury Tribute Band

Queen classics to get the mercury rising

Doors open at 7pm

approx start of 8.15pm

Licensed bar and snack bar available

Saturday 24th January 2009

£8.00 members £10.00 non members

Jubilee Valentines Dance

Special Valentines night with music and romance from across the ages

Doors open at 7pm

with an approx start of 8.15pm

Licensed bar and snack bar available

Saturday 14th February 2009

£8.00 members £10.00 non members

Complete Madness Tribute Band

Coming March 2009

Contact information

Parish Councillors Ward Key: **C** Coleview, **SM** Stratton St Margaret, **SP** St Philips, **LCN** Lower Coleview & Nythe

SM - Mrs B Archer

15 Bourton Avenue, Stratton St Margaret,
SWINDON, SN3 4LY
822263

SP - Mr M R Cook

26 St Philips Road, Upper Stratton,
SWINDON, SN2 7QH
825535

SM - Mrs C A Day

125 Grange Drive, Stratton St Margaret,
SWINDON, SN3 4JY
823943

SM - Mrs C Ennis

Seagulls, 6 Crispin Cl, Stratone Village,
SWINDON, SN3 4XH
Contact via office

LCN - Mr P J B Eyre

40 Trajan Road, Stratton St Margaret,
SWINDON, SN3 4BS
Contact via office

SP - Mrs E A Foley

7 Dockle Way, Upper Stratton,
SWINDON, SN2 7LQ
822110

SP - Mr J Foley

7 Dockle Way, Upper Stratton,
SWINDON, SN2 7LQ
822110

LCN - Mr D K Holmes

89 Wheeler Avenue, Upper Stratton,
SWINDON, SN2 7HL
520017

SP - Mr G Lawson

24 Bradley Road, Upper Stratton,
SWINDON, SN2 7QB
704063

SP - Mrs A L Murphy

2 Orchard Close, Upper Stratton,
SWINDON, SN2 7QR
337144

SP - Mr P Owen BEM

192 Meadowcroft, Upper Stratton,
SWINDON, SN2 7LH
822164

SP - Mrs T Page

13 Haig Close, Upper Stratton,
SWINDON, SN2 7QN
825481

C - Mr D R Roberts

27 Sand Hill, Shrivensham,
Nr SWINDON, SN6 8BQ
782144

SM - Mrs P M Roberts

27 Sand Hill, Shrivensham,
Nr SWINDON, SN6 8BQ
782144

SM - Mr R A Smith

39 Watermead, Stratton St Margaret,
SWINDON, SN3 4WE
831190

LCN - Mrs P Spry

1 Mayfield Close, Nythe,
SWINDON, SN3 3NH
485528

SM - Mr M Spry

1 Mayfield Close, Nythe,
SWINDON, SN3 3NH
485528

SP - Mr P A Steele

25 Okus Grove, Upper Stratton,
SWINDON, SN2 7QA
723744

C - Mrs R Tran

44 Burden Close, Stratton St Margaret,
SWINDON, SN3 4HE
826283

LCN - Mr J Tray

3 Cairndow Way, Stratton St Margaret,
SWINDON
07813170202

SM - Mr R J M Wirdnam

10 Whilestone Way, Stratton St Margaret,
SWINDON, SN3 4HS
828242

Clerk of The Council

Mr R J Blake, Council Offices, Addison
Crescent, Upper Stratton
SWINDON, Wiltshire,
SN2 7JX
clerk@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk

Local Member of Parliament

Michael Wills, MP - 01793 481016

Stratton Community Leisure Centre

Grange Drive, Stratton St Margaret, Swindon,
Wiltshire SN3 4JY
Tel : 01793 825525 Fax : 01793 832201
E: leisureinfo@strattonstmargaret.gov.uk

Swindon Borough Council Ward Members

Philip Sharp, 825099 St Philips Ward
David Sammels, 337477 St Philips Ward

Paul Findlow, 07828151590 St Philips Ward

Russell Holland, 07999566623 St Margaret Ward

Mark Edwards 709834 St Margaret Ward

Ray Fisher 07791500164 St Margaret Ward

Glen Smith 725649 Coleview & Nythe

Dale Heenan 705244 Coleview & Nythe

Phil Young 729732 Coleview & Nythe

Sinead Darker 337591 St Philips