



Happy New Year

from your Parish Council

Welcome to the first residents' newsletter from your Parish Council. We hope you all had a great Christmas and we wish you all the Happiest New Year.

With so many important and challenging developments happening in Stilton, we thought now was an ideal time to launch a dedicated Parish Council newsletter to keep residents up to speed with what's going on. We aim to publish this newsletter approximately three times a year and distribute it to every house in Stilton. In addition to this newsletter, we have also just launched our new Parish Council website - see the article in this edition for further details.

Your Parish Council has evolved over the past year, with new faces bringing new ideas and energy to the Council. We have been delighted to welcome so many of you to our meetings in 2018 and look forward to your continuing support in 2019. The Parish Council meets on the second Tuesday of the month, and residents are welcome to come along and talk to us at any of these meetings. Details are published on our website and on the Parish noticeboards near the village pump and in the old cemetery.

Take care and we look forward to working together for the future of Stilton.

Council Tax

We have a responsibility to maintain village amenities such as the Pavilion, cemeteries, green spaces, bus shelters, etc. The funding for this comes from our part of the council tax. This year, the Parish Council have set their council tax precept rise at 5%, which equates to approximately 30p per household per month or £3.60 per year. This will allow local children's groups to continue to be supported with a 60% discount in hire fees for the Pavilion as well as maintaining grass cutting and grounds maintenance standards for the village. In addition, it is planned to reintroduce a small grant scheme to help community-based events to be established within the village.

Pavilion Rates

Stilton Pavilion continues to be a very well used amenity in the village, and is often praised by visitors. We do, however, have to ensure the facility covers its running costs, which at present it is not doing. Therefore, new fees and terms for hiring the Pavilion are effective from 1st January 2019. Concessionary rates are available for residents and registered Stilton Community groups, and existing users have a three month lead in period for the new fees. This decision has not been taken lightly, but is essential for the future of the facility. The Pavilion remains a great venue and offers excellent value for money. For more details, please see our new website:

www.stiltonparishcouncil.org



Our 1st Christmas Fair

A tremendous success!

The Christmas Fair held on the 1st December at the Pavilion was a fantastic success, not only for the £2,300 raised for the children's play area, but also for the community spirit it engendered. Over 500 people came through the doors and enjoyed the festive atmosphere in the Pavilion.

There were 40 stalls, almost all of them local crafts and art. We were amazed by the talent and range of crafts produced in and around our village.



We are deeply grateful to the large number of residents who volunteered to help with this event and

to those who generously donated prizes and refreshments. Thanks also to everyone who supported the Fair on the day.



We have received a great deal of positive feedback from stallholders and residents. We are also being asked when the next event will be! It has been suggested by a number of residents that we hold a table top sale in the Pavilion in the Spring. **Watch this space!!**

Looking for a venue?

- **Wedding**
- **Family Party**
- **Club Meeting**

Visit:

www.stiltonparishcouncil.org/stilton-pavilion

or call 07484 746894 for details

Stilton Pavilion is available to hire and is ideal for any event.

Discounted rates available to residents.





Stilton in 2019 and beyond...

Recent proposals for large-scale housing developments off North Street and High Street have made the Parish Council (and many residents) think about Stilton's future. We believe the Parish Council's view reflects a large majority of villagers in supporting the County's existing plans and strategies. Huntingdonshire's 2009 Core Strategy designated Stilton a "Small Settlement" and its new Local Plan to 2036 calls it a "Group Village"; these permit infilling and limited development up to 8 or 9 dwellings. Consistent with this, the County did not select Stilton for major housing development in its recent plans to meet housing targets.

The new Local Plan, though already approved by an Inspector, will not be fully adopted until next spring. So, at present, developers have an opportunity to influence or bypass the Plan by making large-scale proposals.

Many individuals have expressed their concerns about the North Street and High Street proposals to Huntingdonshire District Planning Office (see website <https://publicaccess.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/online-applications>). The Parish

Council has also expressed its opinion (see our web site www.stiltonparishcouncil.org for our formal submissions). There are very few in favour of the developments - a vast majority oppose, citing the limited shops and recreation facilities in the village, the problems we have with traffic and parking, the overcrowded school, etc. The new developments may cause increased pressures and may even set a precedent for more large-scale building in the coming years!

Your views on the future of Stilton are important. The Parish Council is considering putting together a Neighbourhood Plan for the village and your input will be vital. But this will take some time to complete. In the short term you may still make your views known on the current proposed developments (until the Committee meets in January). Let us know if you need contact details.

...Let's plan for the future of Stilton together.



Communications

Stilton Parish Council is Online!



Communications between the Parish Council and residents are something we are keen to improve upon. The Parish Council are a team of people who work unpaid to ensure the needs of

Stilton residents are met. To help us with this work, we would love to hear from any residents who have a question, suggestion, complaint, or any other input regarding the village.

We have now launched our own dedicated website, which will be an ongoing development project. If you haven't had a look yet, please do take a moment to have a nose:

www.stiltonparishcouncil.org

The site is designed to be a two-way communication tool, allowing the Parish Council to share information with residents and also being the first port of call for residents to make contact with the Council.

On the site you will find information including details on:

- Parish Council Meetings
- Planning responses
- Who your Councillors are
- How to contact us
- How to report a village issue
- What's on at the Pavilion



We're also embracing the digital age with Facebook and have launched two pages.

www.facebook.com/stiltonparishcouncil

www.facebook.com/stilton-pavilion

Have a look and tell us what you think!

You can also contact your Parish Council by telephone. Full details of all Parish Councillors are published in SCAN each month, or you can use the contact details below for general enquiries.

Parish Clerk	Mary Croll	01733 241042
Parish Council Chair	Olive Leonard	01733 243725
Pavilion Bookings	Mary Croll or Kate Waller	07484 746894