

Crowmarsh News

Issue 455

August 2016

The *Crowmarsh News* is a self-funded publication, and we regret that we are unable to accept unpaid advertising, even from local businesses and societies.

We welcome material for inclusion but do not necessarily endorse the views of contributors. We reserve the right to refuse material or to shorten contributions as may be appropriate. Editorial decisions are final.

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For a single sheet loose insert in the *Crowmarsh News* (size up to A4), our current rate is £25.00 for a single month. Advertisers must supply their own inserts (740 copies, please).

Cheques should be made payable to Crowmarsh News Association.

The Crowmarsh News Team

The *Crowmarsh News* is run by the Crowmarsh News Association, a group of local volunteers.

Editorial and Layout: James and Toni Taylor

Editorial support: John Griffin

What's On listings: Julian Park

Advertising: Pat Shields

Distribution: Frank Sadler and Team

Next month's issue

All new advertisements and all copy for the September issue of *Crowmarsh News* must reach us before our 20th August deadline.

For all items of news, articles or correspondence, please e-mail

crowmarsh.editor@gmail.com

or deliver to the Editor at 57 The Street.

For all advertising, please contact

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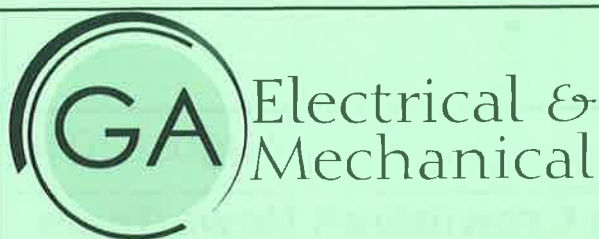


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South Oxfordshire Local Plan – consultation continues until 19th August

SODC is preparing a revised Local Plan to 2032 and there has been a public exhibition in Crowmarsh Gifford on Friday 15th July. The “preferred options” are on the council’s web-site at www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/local-plan-2032.

Give your views on the location, amount and type of future housing and other development in Crowmarsh and across the district. Thanks to the 40 or so residents who dropped in on 15th July. The message from SODC officers was to consider doing a neighbourhood plan, so the parish council would like to hear if you are interested in getting involved (see *right*).

Celebrate HM The Queen's 90th Birthday!

Celebrate the Queen’s 90th birthday on 14th August in the Castle Gardens.

The event will feature live music and entertainment, games and craft activities for children, story-telling, food stalls and much more.

Wallingford Tennis Club – taster sessions

Wallingford's tennis club (Portcullis, based at the Wallingford Sports Park) is offering free taster sessions for adults over the summer.

Guests can attend up to three club sessions free of charge before needing to join. Club sessions are 7-9pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays and 10-12 noon on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Simply turn up and play.

Details of membership and coaching for adults and juniors can be found at www.portcullistennis.net or by emailing nicola@implementor.biz.

Useful telephone numbers

Crime Stoppers 0800 555 111
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Neighbourhood planning – how can it help Crowmarsh?

SODC strongly supports neighbourhood planning to help local people to shape the way their communities grow and develop.

A neighbourhood development plan is written by local people, 'made' or adopted by the district council, and becomes part of the development plan that helps to decide planning applications. It takes national planning policy and guidance into account and is 'in general conformity' with the district's planning policy. It is not able to say no to any development, but can make sure local views are taken into account in what type of housing is built and where, as well as facilities and infrastructure.

Wallingford, Benson, Cholsey and other parishes are embarking on neighbourhood plans. If anyone is interested in finding out more, please look at the SODC website www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/neighbourhood-plans or contact the parish council chairman.

Referendum statistics for South Oxfordshire

Residents' votes:

Turnout:	80.0%
Remain:	46,245
Leave:	37,865
Spoiled:	57

Last month's Crowmarsh News

There was a hiccup in the printing of the July issue of *Crowmarsh News*. Page 10 wasn't what we intended, but was a repeat of the June issue's page 10.

Not a single reader contacted the editors to find out what had happened, although some Crowmarsh residents received a print-out of the correct page and others may well have seen the correct page posted on the notice board at the end of Thames Mead.

We're sorry for the inconvenience.

Past Times

from David Beasley

Sheep Stealing in Mongewell

The night of the 8th January 1854 was very cold and because of this Mr Giles Painter, of Mongewell, moved his flock of 92 Down sheep into his fold at Mongewell for the night.

At some time during the night, John and Mary Ann Townsend, with William George (who lodged with the Townsends), stole an ewe teg from the fold. (An ewe teg is an ewe in its second year of life.) They slaughtered and skinned the ewe in Mr Greenwood's field nearby, then carried the carcass to their home near Ewelme, arriving at about 2am. There the carcass was cut up.

Everything would have been well for our three sheep stealers, but for William George's feeling of guilt. This apparently became so strong that when he applied for relief from Mr William Franklin, the overseer of Ewelme, on the 16th January, he confessed to the sheep stealing and named the Townsends as his accomplices. He made the same statement to the police. PC Lock searched the Townsends' house and found a bowl of melted mutton fat and two sheep leg bones.

The case was heard on the 9th March 1854 at Caversham. John Townsend pleaded guilty and offered no defence. William George and Mary Ann Townsend pleaded not guilty.

Mr Painter gave evidence that he had penned 92 sheep in his fold in Mongewell. The following morning he found one Down ewe was missing. Acting on information received later in the morning he went to Mr Greenwood's field, which was only 30 yards from his fold and found the skin of a sheep under an oak tree.

This was the only evidence presented and the Judge in his summing up said there was no evidence against Mary Ann Townsend, other than George's statement, which was not sufficient, and the Judge duly acquitted her and found George guilty of being an accessory after the fact. Both John Townsend and William George were sentenced later. Townsend received three years with hard labour and George one year.



Wallingford Gardening Club Visit

Wallingford Gardening Club's series of summer garden visits continues with a visit to The Grange, Chalgrove.

This is a 10-acre plot with an evolving garden including herbaceous borders and a prairie with many grasses. There is a lake and also a brook running through the garden, which has a wildflower meadow.

Our host, Vicky Farren will give us a guided tour.

Cost will be £6 which will include tea and cake.

This visit will be held at The Grange, Berrick Road, Chalgrove OX44 7RQ at 6.30pm on Thursday 11th August.

Visitors will be very welcome.

Isabelle Darby (836867)

Wallingford and District Stroke Club

Wallingford and District Stroke Club meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at Crowmarsh Village Hall for activities and companionship, tea and cake. In the summer months we arrange outings, both locally and further afield, using the Wallingford Coach with its accessible platform.

We'd love to welcome more members (fees are very reasonable at £2 per month). If you, or someone you know, would like to join us – or just give us a try – please contact Norman Goodall on 01235 834503 or Nigel Hessey on 01491 651114 and we'll be pleased to talk to you.

Please note that Jenny Tatman has now stepped down as Secretary of the Club and that the contact details are as shown above.

Crowmarsh Gifford School

What a year we have had! We cannot believe how quickly it has gone and we are already looking forward to September. As always the children and the staff have been amazing - they are what make this school such a dynamic place to be.

Oliver and James, in Year 5, wrote the following about our school:

"At Crowmarsh School this year we have all been purple learners and challenged ourselves to the limits. Truth, Integrity, Faith, Service, Responsibility and Excellence are our school values and are followed as much as possible to make the school a nice place to be.

"From a pupil's point of view it would seem that manners and being polite are really pushed in this school. All of this includes things like table manners, holding the door open for teachers and saying good morning to people that you meet when you come in to school.

"The teachers are always trying to make things more fun or interesting whether they are making break times more fun and enjoyable or making lessons more interesting and exciting."

We hope that your families have a wonderful and restful summer break and we look forward to welcoming you to Crowmarsh Gifford Church of England Primary School in September.

Kindest Regards,

Mrs Barton, Headteacher



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Celebrating Agatha Christie Weekend in Wallingford and Cholsey

Friday 9th to Sunday 11th September

This year's Agatha Christie Weekend is looking to be bigger and better than ever before! The weekend is a joint initiative by Wallingford Museum and Cholsey 1000 Plus.

Main events summary:

'An Afternoon with Agatha Christie's Grandson': Mathew Prichard in conversation with Judy Dewey. 3.30-5pm on Saturday 10th at Wallingford Corn Exchange, £10.

'Who Killed the Vicar?' - an interactive murder mystery play by Chris Martin, performed by the Cholsey Dramatic Society. Friday 9th at 7.30pm at Wallingford Corn Exchange, £10. Saturday 10th at 7.30pm at the Cholsey Great Hall, £10.

Two different Agatha Christie Exhibitions (with new material) on Saturday and Sunday: at both Cholsey Old School, Church Road, 11am to 4pm, and at Wallingford Museum, 10.30am to 5pm. Entrance to each £2.50 (if not on Guided Walk).

Agatha Christie Trail Guided Walks: from Wallingford Museum to Cholsey at 10am on Saturday and Sunday, including return by Heritage Bus on Saturday or Heritage Train on Sunday. £10 ticket also includes both exhibitions. (Sandwich lunch available in Cholsey).

Cream Teas at Cholsey Pavilion: Sunday 2pm to 4.30pm at Cholsey Pavilion, courtesy of Cholsey WI. Miss Marple and Hercule Poirot may drop in!

St Mary's Church, Cholsey: the 10th Century Church and churchyard, resting place of Agatha Christie, will be open over the weekend.

Red Routemaster Heritage Bus Rides: the bus will be travelling to and from Cholsey and Wallingford throughout Saturday. £3.50 adults, each way (if not on Guided Walk).

Heritage Train Rides: trains will be running to and from Cholsey and Wallingford throughout Sunday. £3.50 adults, each way (if not on Guided Walk).

Children's Mystery Story-writing Competition: children from Wallingford and Cholsey have been invited to send in a 500 word mystery story as part of the celebrations. Prizes will be awarded by Mathew Prichard at the Saturday afternoon talk.

As the Weekend is all organised by volunteers, we would very much welcome any help. It should be fun and Judy Dewey looks forward to hearing from you! (Tel: 651127.)

Please come and join us for a fabulous weekend of celebrations for the life and works of our internationally acclaimed local author!

Further details, and how to book, can be viewed at www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk

Wallingford Walks in August and September

You can now join a Guided Historic Town Walk on any Saturday morning until the end of September, starting from beneath the Town Hall at 11am. Walks last 1 - 2 hours and cost £5 per head, money which will be donated to support Wallingford Museum.

These are general walks covering the rich history of our town, but also touching on the links with Agatha Christie and *Midsomer Murders*. They will appeal to residents and visitors alike.

There's no need to book, just turn up at the Town Hall at 11am on any Saturday until the end of September. (Please note; there will be a walk on Sunday 4th September instead of Saturday 3rd, due to BunkFest).

Philip Burton (tel: 836200)

Short Mat Bowls

takes place at the Pavilion on Tuesdays at 7pm and on Thursdays at 2pm. For more information, please call 837518.



William the Conqueror Day

On Saturday 20th August, 11am to 4pm, there will be another lively family day at Wallingford Museum with themed activities and entertainment for our own 'William the Conqueror' event.

There will be a Norman knight there all day, showing weapons and armour and talking about the things he displays and letting people try holding the items.

For children there will be a competition for the best dressed Saxon Warrior or Lady, Norman Knight or Lady (you can choose which side you wish to be!).

Have a go at drawing and cutting out figures for our own version of the Bayeux Tapestry which depicts the events leading up to the Norman Conquest of England, culminating in the Battle of Hastings.

There are two new special exhibitions at the Museum this year. One is "1066: William Comes to Wallingford" describing how William the Conqueror came to Wallingford after the Battle of Hastings to cross the River Thames with his army! But why did he choose Wallingford? The other is "300 Years of Cartoons!" a spectacular private collection, featuring about a hundred cartoons of all kinds.

Of course, our ever popular archaeology sand-pits and 'smelly/feely' drawers will be in the museum as usual, to enable children to sample the fun of discovering things from the past!

As this is a very special year in commemorating Wallingford's historic role, entrance to the Museum will be FREE to adults as well as children, for this day only. However, donations are never refused!

For full details, see website www.wallingford-museum.org.uk



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Email: teamvicar@wallingfordcofe.org.uk
Churchwardens:

Margaret Foster, tel: 836076
Eva Thompson, tel: 201675

Services for August

Sunday 7th	Trinity 11	11am	Parish Communion
Sunday 14th	Trinity 12	11am	All Age Worship
Sunday 21st	Trinity 13	11am	Parish Communion
Sunday 28th	Trinity 14	9.30am	Team Communion (at St Agatha's, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell)
		3pm	Christening Service

My experience of previous communities is that August can be a bit of a slow month... it is assumed that families jet off to find some sun and all regular activities and groups are put on hold.

That can make it quite a lonely time for those who can't get away for whatever reason, and this year Brexit and the resulting weak pound will mean that more will be "holidaying at home" than usual. So, it is good that some activities continue throughout August and I'm pleased to say that our church services will carry on largely as usual – you will, of course, be most welcome to join us!

This brings me onto my longer term hope of "staying open". The church building has been locked since it suffered some petty vandalism, but I hope that this could change, so that we could re-open it as a community resource every day.

It certainly offers a cool space as an oasis when the temperature is soaring outside, but more importantly, it is a spiritual oasis which refreshes the soul – we are reminded that Jesus stood up in the temple in Jerusalem and proclaimed: "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink" (John 7:37).

One of the questions that children ask me these days is "Do you own the church?" The answer is, "No, it belongs to you as much as me!" It is Crowmarsh Gifford's Parish Church.

Villagers have prayed in St Mary Magdalene's Church for at least the last 800 years. My role is the same as the earliest recorded vicar called Hugh who was appointed in 1212, to enable and encourage people in faith and to worship God in this place. Therefore, I am happy to open up on request, but...

... it would be much better if we could have a rota of a dozen or more volunteers, not necessarily church members, who would be prepared to watch over the church for an hour or two on a weekend afternoon, with a "Church Open" sign outside the gate.

A number of visitors during summer holiday weekends would provide a strong reason to update the church's facilities with a toilet and a proper area for refreshments. Who knows, we may even be able to encourage Pokemon-Go players to look beyond the PokeStop at the LychGate War Memorial...

Rev Kevin Beer

Sue Ryder – Sale Dates

The dates for the next Sales of Donated Goods are Saturdays 6th and 27th August. The sales will run from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Saleable donated goods are welcomed on week days between 9am and 4.30pm, but we are unable to accept goods on Sale Day or the day before. The Sue Ryder Nettlebed Hospice is at Henley on Thames, RG9 5DF. Please call 01491 641384 ext 246.

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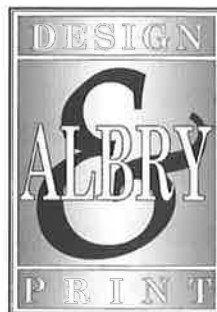
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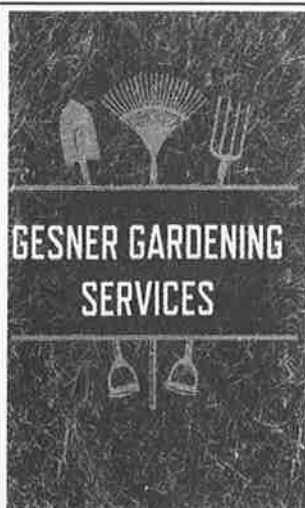
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Crowmarsh Parish Council News

Chairman: John Griffin, 29 Thames Mead, Crowmarsh Gifford, tel. 838523,
email: johngriffin@phonecoop.coop
Parish Clerk: Sue Rance, 2 Home Farm, Crowmarsh Gifford
Website: <http://www.crowmarshgifford.org.uk/index.php>

Notes of the Parish Council Meeting held at North Stoke Village Hall on Thursday 7th July 2016

Present: Councillors John Griffin (Chair), Nigel Hannigan, Andrew Hermsen, Andrew Johnson, Francesca Jones, David Mannering, Stephen Sherbourne, Stuart Soames and Fleur Stevenson; Sue Rance (Clerk) and Mel Malcolm (Finance Officer); County Councillor Mark Gray.

Apologies were received from Councillor Ann Sharp.

Matters from previous meeting

The parish noticeboards are in a poor state and consideration will be given to repairing or replacing them. Quad bikes had damaged a stretch of the Ridgeway in the parish.

Contractors Scofell have now started grass cutting, but the contract will be reviewed at the end of the summer to ensure that grass cutting will get off to a prompt start next year. Cllr Sharp has contacted Scofell about problems with the grass cutting contract to negotiate additional cuts in some areas where it was particularly poor.

Cllr Gray will investigate the reason for the continuing delay in opening the road leading to the riverside park, which has been built but not yet adopted.

Cllr Gray has spoken to Mark Francis of OCC Highways to discuss highway safety improvements at the former Springs Hotel if the redevelopment goes ahead. A site meeting with Cllr Soames suggested that a chicane at the entrance to North Stoke would not be practical, as there is no street lighting in this wooded area.

Speed bumps are a possibility or the speed limit could be reinforced with white gates or 30mph roundels in the road.

Finance

Cllr Johnson reported that councillors had rated traffic issues as the highest priority of the strategic priorities for capital expenditure, followed by improvements at the recreation ground. Cllr Stevenson will post the list of identified projects on the website as a guide to possible spending priorities. Costings will be added in due course.

A schedule of payments made in June was approved, including £816 for tree work at the Recreation Ground and £272 for geraniums planted at the Queen's Head roundabout.

A new pair of defibrillator pads will be purchased at a cost of £74.95 plus VAT.

A grant of £100 was agreed to Home-Start, which supports families in South Oxfordshire and is based in Didcot.

County Councillor's report

County Councillor Gray reported that services for elderly people are now being consolidated under one roof and this is working well. Cllr Gray and Cllr Griffin had attended the recent unitary authority meeting. Feedback and a copy of the presentation had been issued. The aim of a unitary authority would be to save money and to be more democratic. Any proposal would have to be approved by central government.

Planning

SODC decision:

P15/S3387/FUL: Demolition of existing buildings and creation of a new headquarters for CABI, erection of 91 dwelling houses, comprising open market and affordable housing, provision of open space, landscaping and parking and other associated works. The residential part is made in full while the CABI headquarters part is in outline with all matters reserved for future consideration, except

access. CAB International, Nosworthy Way,
Mongewell OX10 8DE.
PERMISSION REFUSED.

Parish Council responses to SODC:

P16/S1250/HH (Householder) and
P16/S1251/LB (Listed Building) Extension and
refurbishment of stable block, amended to
increase the height of the extension by
200mm. Chaise House, 67 The Street,
Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8EF.
NO STRONG VIEWS.

Consultation on South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2032

SODC will be holding a "Drop-in" Public Event
at Crowmarsh Village Hall on Friday, 15th July
between 3 – 7 pm on their Preferred Options
Document with SODC staff on hand to answer
the public's questions.

Environment and Recreation Ground

The Recreation Ground Management
Committee had met and the minutes were
circulated. The following points were noted:

- There are still some problems with
grass cutting and Chris Strange is researching
the possibility of purchasing a mower for the
cricket outfield.
- The hard court area is underused and it
was agreed to advertise the facility at a cost of
£30 per annum or £4 per hour. There is now a
keypad on the gate (the code is changed
regularly). Cllr Soames had researched online
booking systems but these are very
expensive, so telephone booking will continue.
- It is hoped to install basketball practice
facilities at the recreation ground. Three
quotes have now been received: the preferred
option is for a 7 x 7m court at a cost of £6000
plus VAT. This will be brought to the Parish
Council for approval in due course.
- Consideration will be given to improving
the children's play area, which is about 25
years old. It was noted that the wood chips
needed replacement or topping up frequently
and a rubber surface might be more effective.
- Drainage improvements have been
carried out at the nature area and will be
monitored when there is heavy or prolonged
rain.

- Playing Fields in Perpetuity: a letter has
been received about a scheme to dedicate
playing fields in memory of the dead of World
War I a hundred years ago, requiring that the
land will be kept for recreational purposes. The
Clerk will research this further.

- A complaint has been received from a
resident of Jethro Tull Gardens about the large
ash tree on the open space there, but this had
been professionally pruned recently and,
following an inspection by councillors, it was
felt that no further action was needed.

- Cllr Sherbourne was thanked for
planting and maintaining the geraniums in the
flower tubs at the Queen's Head roundabout.

Traffic and Transport

Cllr Jones reported that the new bus timetable
starts this month. After 20th July the County
Council subsidies will stop. There are changes
to some Thames Travel buses and the 125
service to Watlington has been discontinued.
The commercial services to Reading and
Oxford are unaffected and some services will
actually improve in frequency.

The 139 bus from Wallingford to Henley will be
re-routed via Crowmarsh Gifford again. The
136 bus will serve both Wallingford to Cholsey
and Wallingford to Benson. Timetables and
fares might change. Look out for new
timetables and notices at bus stops and on
Thames Travel's website.

As reported, the 134 GoRide bus service
through Crowmarsh Gifford and North Stoke
will operate without subsidy from 21st July with
a reduced timetable and higher fares (see last
month's *Crowmarsh News*). Cllr Soames had
reported that the revised timings for the North
Stoke bus did not fit the school timetable and it
has been agreed that, from September, the
first bus will run earlier and the last bus later,
in order to drop off and pick up from
Wallingford School.

Cllr Sherbourne reported that Peter Brett
Associates had been commissioned to carry
out a survey and initial design for the proposed
crossing of the A4074 Portway. This will be
done in the next few weeks.

Crowmarsh School has bid successfully for
funding for a school crossing patrol through

the Churchill Insurance Lollipoppers campaign. The county council has expressed concern about the safety of a patrol officer operating at Portway (which supports the case for a crossing there!). The Clerk will keep Cllr Gray informed of progress.

Correspondence

- Thames Valley Police Neighbourhood Update.
- Notice of consultation on the South Oxfordshire Local Plan to be held at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall on Friday 15th July, 3–7pm. Consultation is open on the SODC website until 19th August.

- Letter from a local resident congratulating the Parish Council on the work carried out by Cllr Sherbourne in planting and maintaining the flower tubs at the end of Benson Lane.

Next meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 11th August at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm.

There are two vacancies on the Parish Council. Anyone interested should talk to the chairman, the parish clerk or any councillor. It would be particularly useful to have another member from North Stoke or Mongewell.

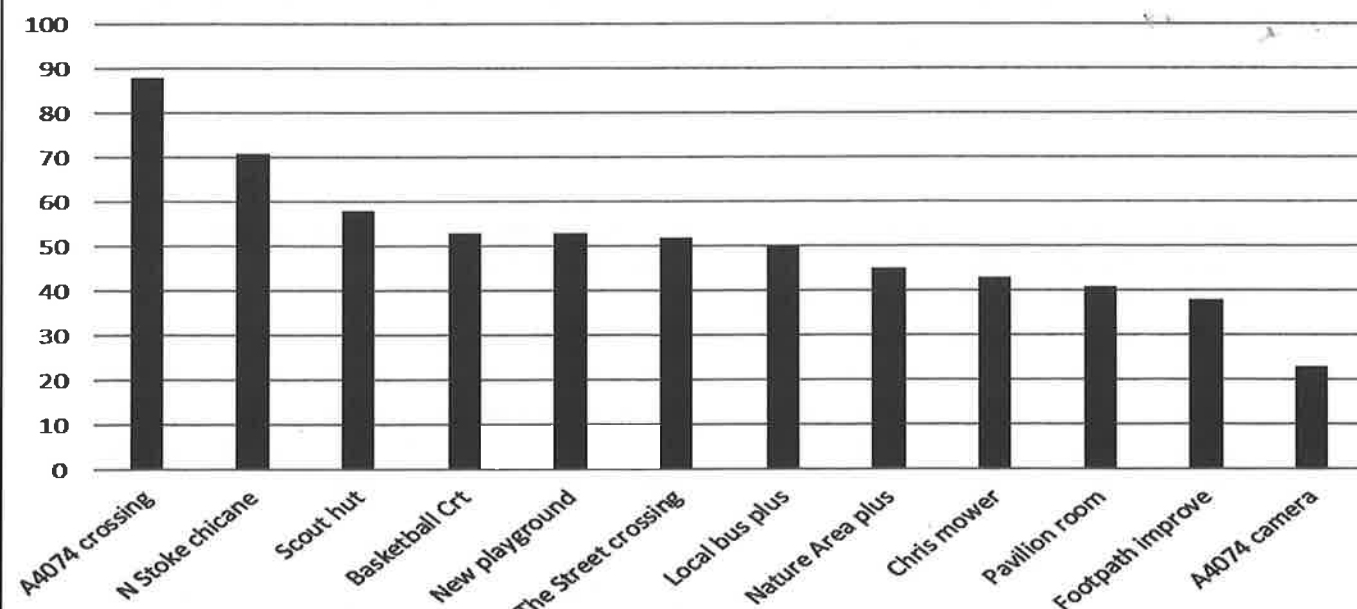
The Strategic priorities of Crowmarsh Parish Councillors in 2016

Parish Councillors drew up a list of capital expenditure items which the Council may decide to fund. These were then ranked in order of priority by each Councillor in June 2016 and the results were compiled and presented as shown in the accompanying tables.

The Parish Council would like to know what residents' priorities would be – are there others we have not considered? Please send responses to the parish clerk, Sue Rance, at 2 Home Farm or email susanrance@btinternet.com.

ITEM	SCORE
A4074 PEDESTRIAN CROSSING	88
NORTH STOKE B4009 CHICANE	71
SCOUT HUT	58
BASKETBALL COURT	53
CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND RENEWAL	53
THE STREET PEDESTRIAN CROSSING	52
LOCAL BUS SUPPORT OR MINIBUS	50
NATURE AREA IMPROVEMENTS	45
LAWN MOWER FOR THE REC	43
PAVILION ROOM CONVERSION	41
FOOTPATH IMPROVEMENTS	38
A4074 SPEED CAMERA	23

Crowmarsh councillors funding priorities 2016



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Registered Osteomyologist

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WHAT'S ON – AUGUST 2016

Regular events and meetings

1st & 3rd Mon	19.00	Knitting Circle	Queen's Head, Crowmarsh
Every Tuesday	19.00-21.30	Short Mat Bowls	Crowmarsh Pavilion
2nd & 4th Weds	Evenings	Crowmarsh Ladies	Telephone 201756
Every Thursday	14.00-16.30	Short Mat Bowls	Crowmarsh Pavilion
Every Thursday	19.45-22.00	Wallingford Photographic Club	Crowmarsh Pavilion
Every Friday	08.30-11.15	Wallingford Country Market	Regal Centre
Every Saturday	10.00-12.00	WAGS Store open	Centre 70
Most Saturdays	10.00-13.00	Local Producers' Market	Regal Centre

This month

Wednesday 3rd	14.00	U3A: 30th Anniversary Celebration	Crowmarsh Village Hall
Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th	All day	Teddy Bears' weekend	Cholsey and Wallingford Railway
Saturday 6th	10.30	Sue Ryder Sale	Nettlebed
Sunday 7th	13.30	CTC 21 mile road ride	Meet at Wallingford Market Place
Thursday 11th	19.30	Crowmarsh Parish Council Meeting	Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall
Sunday 14th	13.00-17.00	Celebration of Queen's 90th Birthday	Castle Gardens, Wallingford
Saturday 20th	11.00-16.00	Family day at the museum	Wallingford Museum
Saturday 20th	20.00	Music at St Peter's: The Jorgensen Piano Trio	St Peter's Church
Sunday 21st	13.30	CTC 30-mile road ride	Meet at Wallingford Market Place
Saturday 27th	10.30	Sue Ryder Sale	Nettlebed
Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th	All day	Diesel Specials weekend	Cholsey and Wallingford Railway

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