

# ***Stanwick Parish Plan***

*Situated in the County of Northamptonshire*



***2013-2018***

# Acknowledgements

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Les Marchant - Community representative

Jenny Hodgson - Clerk to Stanwick Parish Council

Nick Peck - Community representative

Rod Dutton - Community representative

Amanda Michel - Chairman Stanwick Parish Council

Graham Kitchener - Community representative

Dave Munday - Vice Chairman Stanwick Parish Council

Aubrey Brocklebank - Community representative

All photographs kindly supplied by Dave Munday Photography

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# Stanwick Parish Plan - An Outline

Change is inevitable. The way in which change can be managed may be influenced by a number of factors. Change is not always welcome or necessary; therefore it is up to groups of individuals to express their concerns in order to try to bear some influence for the benefit of the majority.

Under measures proposed in the Localism Bill, Government wants communities to come together to give voice to local residents so that their concerns and issues are raised and recognised. These are best presented in a Community or Parish Plan and where appropriate, might result in the production of a Neighbourhood Plan which, if it meets certain criteria, will set the context for development in the area.

A Neighbourhood Plan is about shaping the details of where future developments might take place. If Local Government allocated housing in a certain area for example, there exists the opportunity to make known concerns and issues, within pre-determined areas.

Communities need to consider equally what they DON'T want as well as what they DO want.

Late in 2011, the need to consider the development of a Neighbourhood Plan came about and members of the public were invited to come together to discuss the best way forward. This was to be considered under guidelines of "Action for Communities in Rural England" (ACRE).

In the February of 2012, the group agreed that the need for a Neighbourhood Plan would have to start with the need to gauge the latest thoughts of Stanwick Parish in its entirety before such a Plan could be considered. This follows best practice principles that in first considering a Parish or Community Plan that incorporates all the issues for our residents, a decision can be made as to whether a Neighbourhood Plan is required.

This can be a little confusing in that the different types of plan are discussed, but Neighbourhood Plans are only required where there are planning type issues that require resolution (such as where new housing development might best be placed).

It was at this stage that it was agreed that the Parish Plan of 2007 was in need of an update. It was further agreed that a questionnaire should be produced and sent out to all households in the Parish in order to gather more current information so as to be able to produce the new 2012 Parish Plan.

A Parish Plan should try to identify and define the initial requirements for the whole Parish and not just the village.

A further Steering Group meeting was arranged during February to agree a timetable for the production of "The Plan". Among items discussed were, which voluntary organisations should be approached; if businesses should also be contacted.

Provisional draft questionnaires were prepared by the group to include most of the topics contained in the 2007 Parish Plan survey. For ease of processing the results in a cost efficient and timely manner, the structure of the questionnaire was designed to be a “Tick Box” type. A further section supporting the questionnaire was to be included in the distribution to allow any other relevant comments to be made on any section not necessarily covered in the questionnaire.

The draft questionnaire was on display in the village hall between 17<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> April to enable residents to offer comments and suggestions on the content and format before the final version was produced. During this Consultation period, members of the steering group were available to answer questions raised.

In May 2012 the finished questionnaire was distributed to all households in the Parish and the completed questionnaires were either collected by volunteers or deposited at the village hall.

During June 2012 the data from the questionnaires was fed into a computer to enable the information to be analysed. This document has been compiled from the data collected from the questionnaires together with the comments made during the Open Day.

A total of 790 questionnaires were distributed with a return of 460, representing a return rate of 57%.

Lucy Foster and Shaun Sannerude of East Northamptonshire Council visited various village groups in order to encourage people to complete the questionnaire and to fill in a “Have Your Say” card. Between them they visited:

|                    |                    |                     |
|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Handbell ringers   | Stanwick Club      | U3A Bridge          |
| Youth Zumba        | Zumba              | Playgroup           |
| Yoga               | Bowls Club         | Active Kidz         |
| Youth table tennis | Adult table tennis | Chatterbox 50+ Club |
| School Assembly    | Youth dance        |                     |

On September 19<sup>th</sup> 2012 the results of the questionnaire were presented in the Village Hall and further feedback gathered. It also gave the opportunity to reassure everyone that **all** results and comments had been noted.

The results from the community consultation indicate that the issues raised by residents do not require a Neighbourhood Plan to be pursued as these issues, whilst important do not technically require planning solutions. Therefore, this Parish or Community Plan will be adopted by the Parish Council having been shared with partner agencies where specific issues indicate they are best placed to support resolution, and the Action Plan will be monitored by the Parish Council over the next five years.

# An Introduction to Stanwick

The Parish of Stanwick is on the eastern boundary of Northamptonshire and covers an area of 1390 hectares. The village overlooks the Nene Valley. It is 19 miles from the county town of Northampton and is in close proximity to other towns including Kettering (13 miles), Wellingborough (10 miles) with Rushden, Higham Ferrers, Irthlingborough and Raunds, all of which are within a 5 mile radius.



*View of High Street*

Stanwick has always been a popular place to live. There is evidence of Roman and Saxon occupation. Today Stanwick is the largest village in the East Northamptonshire District. There has been a lot of new housing and in-migration since the early 1990s causing a 32% increase in the population between the 1991 and 2001 censuses. Unfortunately the infrastructure has not been developed to keep pace with the increases in population and housing.

The 2011 Census provides the most up to date demographic information. It states that the population in 2011 was 2183 with 17.5% being over 65 years of age and 5.6% being below 5 years old. Of the remaining residents, 65.6% were between 15 and 64 years of age.

The Parish is severed by the A45 trunk road. The A45 provides access to the A14 (7 miles away) and the A6, as well as being a direct route in to Northampton. However the trunk road has rendered the recreational facility of Stanwick Lakes precarious to access for non-motorised visitors.

There is a limited range of local services including the village hall, a post office/general store, a butchers, a hairdresser, the Duke of Wellington Public House, Stanwick Club, a Chinese takeaway, The Courtyard Hotel (that offers entertainment) and a Café/restaurant.



*Annual summer church fete*

There is a playgroup and a children's nursery. The primary school takes children up to the age of 11. Secondary education is not available within the village therefore requiring pupils to travel to nearby Manor School in Raunds or The Ferrers in Higham Ferrers for example. Some pupils travel further to Kettering or Bedford for secondary education. Residents have to travel to Raunds, Higham Ferrers or further afield for medical and dental needs.

St Laurence Church, c. 1225, is the oldest surviving building in the village and dominates the central area.

Recreation and amenity space is lacking for a village of this size. The recreation ground is 4.16 acres and includes a small children's play area and is home to Stanwick Bowls Club. Stanwick Rovers Football Club has a changing room on site and use the pitch regularly through the winter. The village hall (opened in 2011) provides reasonable amounts of indoor recreational space and facilities and is frequently booked.

In 2009 the Parish Council purchased a 10 acre site adjacent to Raunds Road, now known as "Parish Fields", upon which a six acre pocket park is being created by a volunteer group and it is planned that two acres of allotments will be made available. A further section is being developed as a "Wild Flower Meadow"

'Stanwick Lakes' is a wildlife and recreational facility that has been developed on a closed quarry site. It officially opened in January 2006. The Lakes are an amazing site which attracts visitors from all over the area and are a valuable asset to the village. It is managed by Rockingham Forest Trust.



*Royal Wedding Street Party*

# A Brief History of Stanwick

*This information has been kindly provided by Mrs J Cutmore*

**Redlands Farm Villa Site** - excavated by the Oxford Archaeological Unit in 1990. Evidence was found of prehistoric occupation, beginning in the Bronze Age (2100 BC - 750 BC) and developing throughout the Iron Age (751 BC – AD 42). During the Roman Britain period (2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> century), a simple 2-roomed building was constructed, originally as a watermill. This became the core of a winged corridor villa, with a hypocaust and mosaic pavements.

**Roman Villa Site** - excavated by English Heritage between 1985 and 1991. During the Late Bronze Age (c 1000 BC) until the Late Iron Age (c AD 42) long fences were built to separate large fields, and the site was then occupied by Belgic tribesmen, with evidence of circular wattle and daub huts, and small oval defended enclosures. During the Roman Britain period (2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> century) the earlier houses were demolished and new huts built into 6 enclosures separated by track ways. A row of 3 stone houses were then built, and a building flanked by turret-like rooms was erected. There were many other changes on the site before the Roman Villa was furnished with 3 mosaic pavements circa 350 AD.

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|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>10<sup>th</sup> C</b> | Village name recorded as Stan Wigga.  |
| <b>1086</b>              | Domesday book: Referred to as Stanwige & Stanewica, part of Peterborough Abbey estate.  |
| <b>c. 1225</b>           | St. Laurence Church is built.   |
| <b>1280</b>              | Stanwick has a 2 field system, 'The field towards Raunds', and 'The Other field'.   |
| <b>1656</b>              | The Upper Field is enclosed to form Stanwick Pastures. The remaining land is divided into 3 parts: 'Field next to Raunds', 'Field next to Chelveston' and 'Field next to Higham'. |
| <b>1714</b>              | Stanwick House is rebuilt and the solar and chapel built in 1222 were demolished.   |
| <b>1717</b>              | Stanwick Rectory is built on the site of an older Rectory.  |
| <b>1745</b>              | 200 men march from Stanwick to fight against Bonnie Prince Charlie. More of them die of smallpox than are killed in the fighting at Carlisle.                                     |
| <b>1801</b>              | Population: 332   |
| <b>1834</b>              | 3 Commissioners and 2 Surveyors are appointed to oversee the Enclosure of land in Stanwick.   |

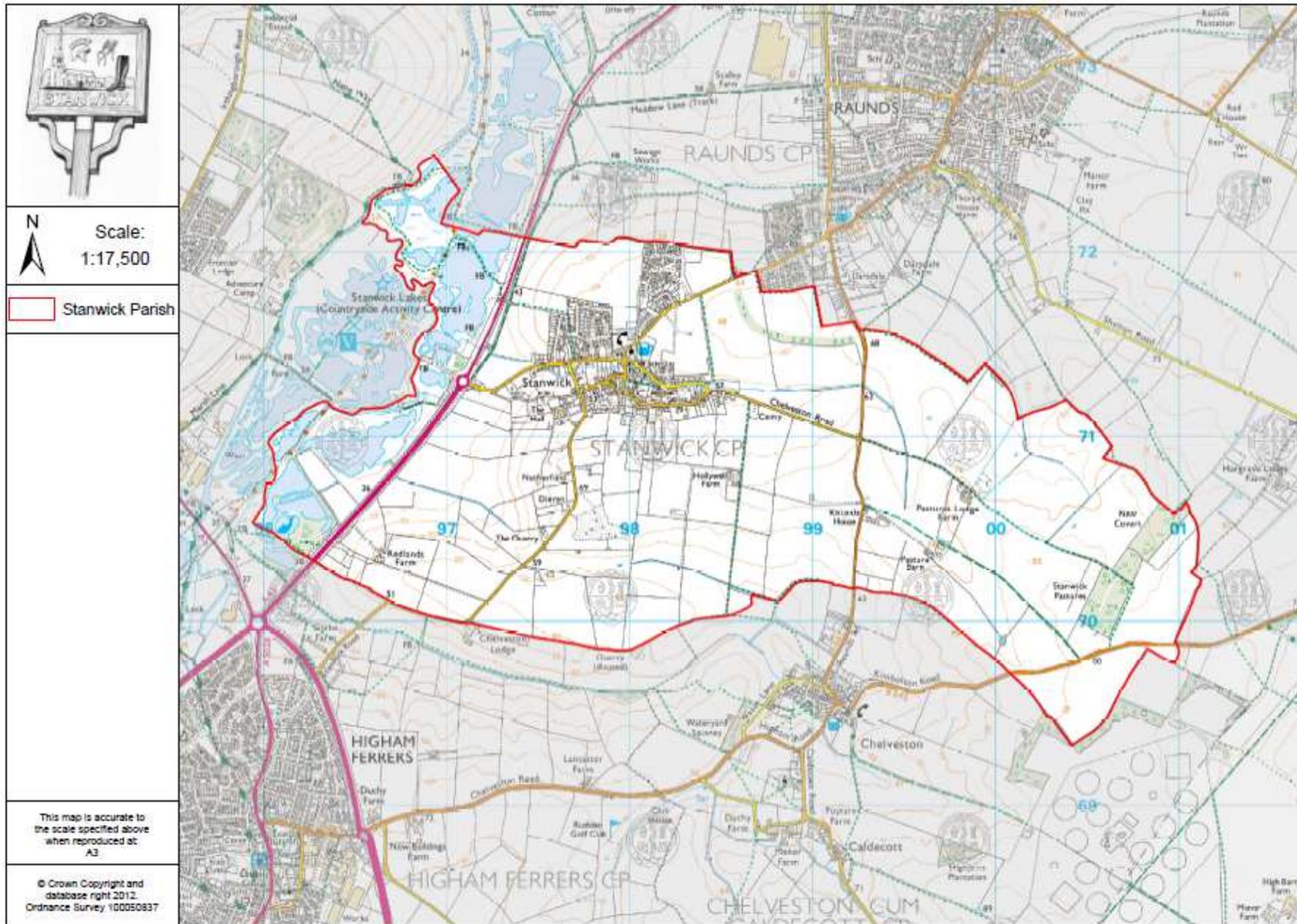
- 1838** The Enclosure of Stanwick's land is completed.
- 1839-41** The first National School is built in Stanwick.
- 1840** Stanwick Baptist Church is formed.
- 1851** Population: 609
- 1874-75** The National School is closed for extension and repairs, and a School Board is formed.
- 1876** Alterations are made to the school to accommodate 138 pupils.
- 1890** The first shoe factory is built in Stanwick by Cave of Rushden.
- 1894** Thrapston Rural District Council is formed, which includes the Parish of Stanwick.
- 1895** The Wesleyan Methodist Chapel is built in West Street.
- 1899** The Infants school (current school) is built; Stanwick Working Men's Club is formed.
- 1901** Population: 901
- 1906** Church Rooms built by Stanwick men on land in Spencer Parade belonging to the Church.
- 1920s** The War Memorial is erected; Electricity comes to Stanwick.
- 1923** Stanwick Bowls Club is formed.
- 1931** The Infants school is remodelled. The Upper School (Old School) is closed.
- 1935** Thrapston RDC is abolished and Stanwick becomes a ward of Raunds UDC.
- 1939** The Old School is reopened to accommodate 87 evacuees and 4 teachers.
- 1953** The Church Rooms and the land on which it stands is sold to the British Legion.
- 1960s** Stanwick House is demolished following a fire.
- 1961** Population: 1036

- 1967** Land is purchased by Raunds UDC for a Recreation Ground off Aris Lane.
- 1968** Stanwick Pre-school Playgroup is formed.
- 1970s** The shoe factory in Villa Lane and Spencer Parade closes.
- 1971** Population: 1284
- 1980** A School Crossing Patrol is introduced for Spencer Parade; Public Exhibition at Raunds by the County Surveyor, showing 4 alternative routes for the Stanwick Bypass.
- 1981** Population: 1343
- 1985** English Heritage begins major archaeological excavations at the Roman Villa site.
- 1987** Stanwick Bypass is opened. Overall cost is £3,200,000.
- 1990** Excavation of Redlands Farm Villa by the Oxford Archaeological Unit.
- 1991** Population: 1481; Roman Villa excavations by English Heritage ends.
- 1995** A Petition for Stanwick to have its own Parish Council is submitted to the East Northamptonshire Council.
- 1997** Stanwick Handbell Ringers is formed; Hilltop Stores closes after 50 years of trading.
- 1998** Stanwick Millennium Group is formed to raise money to erect a village sign to commemorate the forthcoming Millennium.
- 1999** The Royal British Legion Hall in Spencer Parade is put up for sale.
- 2000** Elections take place for the first Parish Council for Stanwick; Millennium Sign is unveiled and a time capsule buried.
- 2001** Population: 1924
- 2002** The first Stanwick 10Km Road Race and 2Km Fun Run take place.
- 2004** Quarrying ends at Stanwick Meadows.
- 2005** The Parish Plan Steering Group is formed.
- 2006** Estimated Population: 1950; On the completion of Stage I, Stanwick Lakes officially opens to the public.

- 2007** 2007 Stanwick Parish Plan is published
- 2009** Purchase of land by the Parish Council for allotments, pocket park and a playing field area.
- 2011** The new Stanwick Village Hall is opened. The building works were primarily funded by the Big Lottery Fund.
- 2012** Estimated population 2200; the Parish Plan is reviewed and refreshed; the Old School Rooms, now in private ownership, opens as the Post Office, shop and Bistro.



*View of High Street from Raunds Road*



*The Parish of Stanwick*



*The main residential area of Stanwick*

# Questionnaire Results

All of the responses from the questionnaires have been collated and the information gathered has been presented in graph format in this section.

Questions 14 and 15 also have maps to illustrate the results.

Some graphs are followed by a 'Public Comment' heading. These remarks were made at the Open Event on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2012, when the graphs and questionnaire data was first made public.

Appendix 3 provides a transcribed list of the extra statements residents wrote on to the questionnaires and could not be directly included within the graph results. These comments together with those made at the Open Event and those on the have Your Say Cards have been taken into consideration when the Objectives and the Action Plan were prepared.



*Easter Monday – Stanwick Race Day*