

Stretton on Dunsmore Parish Council,
3 Orchard Way,
Stretton on Dunsmore,
CV23 9HP
Email: strettonondunsmoreclerk@gmail.com

Monday 26th February 2024

The Private Secretary to His Majesty, The King,
Buckingham Palace,
London,
SW1A 1AA

Dear Sir,

On behalf of Stretton on Dunsmore Parish Council, I wish to inform you of a project that may be of interest to his Majesty. The Parish Council is repurposing a piece of scrubland, so it becomes a more useful and enjoyable amenity for the whole community.

Stretton-on-Dunsmore is an old Warwickshire village with a population of approximately 1300. The name of the village is believed to be Anglo-Saxon “straet tun on dun mor”, literally meaning “village on the road on the hill on the heath”. It has a beautiful historic centre, with a brook running directly through the middle. This the setting for the annual Christmas Fayre, Scouts’ Duck Race and Summer Fete.

The village has a long and proud history of marking significant royal events. The Lime tree that stands proud in the village centre was planted by villagers in 1887, to honour Queen Victoria’s Golden Jubilee. Stretton on Dunsmore also has a monument on the London Road which marks where King George V saluted troops from the 29th Division, billeted in the area before they embarked on active service in Gallipoli in the First World War. The local school children were in attendance to witness this epic moment.

A Coronation party in honour of His Majesty’s ascension to the throne was held last year. The village looked amazing lit up in red, white and blue lanterns and bunting (some of which was knitted by a local group). The community spirit was wonderful. The adults prepared and shared food in a street party style while the children decorated lucky horseshoes and paper crowns, then played in the brook (as children have done for decades!).

The Parish Council recognises the importance of these items and events to its parishioners. It is for this reason that a few years ago, it embarked on creating a new amenity for the people of Stretton to enjoy for years to come. It is repurposing a piece of scrubland adjacent to one of the playgrounds located on Plott Lane. It has taken advice from the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust in formulating its plans - in particular, how it should reduce overgrown vegetation to ensure minimal disruption to wildlife. It has been a slow process, but the site is beginning to take shape.

It is hoped that in the next twelve to eighteen months the site will have a full planting scheme in place, along with pathways, steps and benches. The Parish Council is optimistic that this will be a real asset to Stretton, a place to relax, appreciate the wildlife and take in the vista from the top of the mound.

In 2022, it was agreed to name the new amenity 'The Platinum Plott' to celebrate the late Queen Elizabeth II's 70th jubilee. A Linden tree, planted that year, sits on the highest point of the site and forms part of the Queen's Green Canopy. Last year, close by, the Parish Council planted an Empress tree dedicated to His Majesty, to celebrate his Coronation.

The Parish Councils hope this information is pleasing to His Majesty. The members of the Parish Council and its parishioners would be honoured if he would visit our picturesque village one day and walk round The Platinum Plott; somewhere the villagers will enjoy for generations to come. He could also visit our village church, All Saints, where Alice Wilshire, later aunt to the Queen Mother, married Parick Bowes-Lyon.

On behalf of the people of Stretton on Dunsmore, we wish His Majesty well as he undergoes his medical treatment and wish him a swift recovery.

We have the honour to be, Sir, His Majesty's humble and obedient servants.

On Behalf of Stretton on Dunsmore Parish Council,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "H Stewart". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'H' and a long, sweeping tail on the 't'.

Mrs Helen Stewart
Parish Clerk



A tribute to Queen Elizabeth II laid outside the Village Hall in September 2022.



The village centre lit up in red, white and blue on the evening of King Charles III's coronation in May 2023. (photo taken by Jeremy Cox)



The 'Gallipoli' Monument. Taken in 2021



The Lime Tree which was planted in 1887 for Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. Photo taken in 2021 (by Simon Betteridge)



The Platinum Plott in 2020 – unkempt scrubland which no one could use or walk through.



The Platinum Plott taken after some work in November 2022. (Photo taken by Chris Burton)



The basic overall plan for the site which will be wheelchair user accessible.