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Issue 116, 16 August 2022

Please forward this email to anyone you feel may also like to receive these newsletters. Thank you. Submission date for articles for the next issue is 26 August

Grotto fire verdict – and our latest update of new planning applications.

Welcome to Genie's latest 'Village Matters' newsletter

In this issue: Power Station go-ahead; rail strike; Post Office News; Big Green Day; Electric blanket testing; Local EV investment; McColls news; Social media help urgently needed; Boat Club news; Goring track laying;

'Goring Power Station' can go ahead!

The building of the controversial

The appeal to overturn the decision made by SODC

to refuse the application of 5 November 2021 for the plant was approved on 11 August by Helen Davis (HM Planning Inspectorate), appointed by the Secretary of State.

The 'Transitional Hybrid Energy Project (THEP)' is to be built on land off Wallingford Road, adjacent to the Sewage Works and the Pick Your Own (PYO) field between Goring and South Stoke. The proposal is

month.

promoted as a temporary facility for 25 years and the applicant is Balance Power, based in St Helens, Lancashire. Full details of the original planning application on 3 December 2020 and the appeal decision (together with the conditions imposed), can be found by clicking this link: P20/S4706/FUL The 11-page 'Pre-Application guidance' given to the applicant by SODC's Planning & Development Officer on 19 October 2020 concluded: "In my opinion, the principle of development on this site would likely be acceptable...",

This subject was covered by Village Matters on several occasions due to the widespread interest in this development which attracted over 115 comments. These Genie stories can be can be seen by clicking the following links: <u>Issue 78 (16 January 2021)</u> and <u>Issue 98 (16 November 2021</u>).

Industrial action planned for Great INDUSTRIAL ACTION **Western Railway routes will severely** affect services on Thursday 18 and

Planned action by the RMT, Aslef and the TSSA unions will cause serious disruption on rail services on 18 and 20 August.



after these days will also be affected. Passengers are advised only to travel on these days if absolutely necessary and check this link:

A significantly reduced timetable will be in place on these strike days between 7.00am and 6.30pm and services

Bookings are now being taken for the

blankets, organised by Oxfordshire **County Council's Trading Standards**

annual safety check service for electric

South Oxfordshire - Tuesday 20 September at Didcot

Tuesday 4 October. If you have more than one blanket to

Perhaps Genie readers would like to know of the excellent Post Office facilities at the hardware shop in

second till.

Don't forget there is also a Post Office in Tesco Express in Cholsey. HOW SAFE IS YOUR

Team JOIN US and bring a friend It's on a 'first come, first served' basis so don't delay for free refreshments and information as there is only one day allocated for all residents of about keeping safe and well.

Fire Station.

MADE FOR RESIDENTS For those who are unable to travel, arrangements can be OF SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE made to collect electric blankets from residents' homes TUESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER using their free 'Collect and Return same day service' on



be tested, you need to make separate appointments for each one, but testing will take a few minutes each, so you won't be waiting for very long. The address of Didcot Fire Station is The Broadway, Didcot, OX11 8RX. Both options have to be booked in advance by calling OCC on 01865 895 999 and selecting option 3.

Rectory Garden in Goring (in St Thomas's Church if wet).

day that is being planned. Please put the date in your diary and consider being involved in the planning. The organisers are hoping you will have creative ideas and that something of your intentions and actions can be

September 7.45-9pm at the Vicarage, RG8 9DR. Look out for more exciting information about the 1 October event in the September GGN.

vicarofgsandss@yahoo.com or 01491 875651. He would love other individuals and groups to take part and help with plans. The next planning meeting is on Thursday 1

Ben says, 'You may have ideas or want to learn from others and it is hoped you will be interested in the event

incorporated into a day of encouragement.'

For details, please contact Ben Phillips -

a month or two before it opens. Nor is it clear whether the new leaseholder may want to consider introducing a new PO counter within the store.

Could you help Genie with our social media? If so, we would love to hear

posting the items we put in our newsletters into our Facebook and Twitter feeds to let more people hear

But as soon as there is any definite news, Genie will publish it in a future edition.





£150 for 4 Saturday morning sessions, so if you're interested in having a go, please see the website (link below) for more details. New members are always welcome, from complete novices to seasoned rowers who would like to be part of a very friendly recreational

club. https://goringgapbc.org.uk/

If you may be able to help, please contact us via news@genienews.org or call 07789 871620 for a chat. Thank you. **Goring Gap Boat Club News** The next Learn to Row course will be run in October,

of fun boats. Ending up in the water (either intentionally or otherwise) has been the perfect way to keep cool.

The picture shows members enjoying a weekend jaunt to Swanage where, thanks to Swanage Gig Rowing Club,

To be operational by 2024, BP say this will enhance the extensive R & D facilities at Castrol's global HQ near Pangbourne where over 400 people are employed in the development of fuels, lubricants and EV fluids. Louise Kingham, BP's UK head of country, said, "This additional investment will help accelerate the transition to EVs by



20mph speed limit is in force while the track is bedding in.

In Genie's report of the fire in March 2021 (click Village Matters, issue 82), we reported, 'Police officers told Genie they were treating the whole 8.5 acre estate as a crime scene, which is normal for an unexplained fire. We await the outcome of the official fire

'Deliberate'

investigation team's report.'

checking for possible flare-ups.

Genie can now report that the fire was started

Railway track renewal programme

through Goring continues during

A half mile section of track on the London-bound (relief up-line), from just south of Goring & Streatley station (adjacent to Holmlea Road) to north of the station (near Elmhurst Road - see map), is being

All the old concrete sleepers are being replaced with new ones with a 15-year life span. The first section, including through the station as pictured above, was completed over the weekend of 6/7 August. The second quarter mile

August and September

completely renewed this month

From Saturday 20 August to 26 September there will be follow-up works, mainly at weekends at night from 11.20pm Saturdays to 9.10am Mondays. Any enquires

The Grotto (aka ILAM) fire, Lower Basildon, on 6 March 2021. Fire Investigation Report Conclusion –

deliberately and a statement from the Fire Investigating Office (FIO) concluded "... with the evidence available, it was the considered opinion of the FIO that the fire was due to a deliberate act by persons unknown." The full



statement by the Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service (RBFRS) is HERE. The photo to the right shows the front of the building after the fire was put out with the fire officers still in attendance Our issue 82 (16 March 2021) report includes links to two previous Genie reports in issue 68 (2020) and issue 35 (2019) where we described developer's plans to convert

South Stoke PC

Berkshire Council) relating to properties in Goring, Streatley and South Stoke, and occasionally other applications that are locally relevant. They are listed by parish, in expiry date order, so the applications with the shortest periods in which to respond are at the top. Should you be interested in finding out more, or commenting on any of these applications, click on the Reference number link to the application. To make a comment to the planning department, follow the advice given on the application. New applications, if there are any, will be added to the lists in subsequent Alerts and existing ones will remain until the consultation period has expired.

22/01799/FULMAJ **Consultation Deadline:** 30 August 2022 SOUTH STOKE Land at Icknield Gas to Grid Anaerobic Digestion Plant Icknield Location: Road Ipsden OX10 6AS Construction of a green energy hub comprising a standalone solar

biodiversity enhancements.

Proposed garage conversion

P22/S2477/FUL

17 August 2022

P22/S2878/HH

2 September 2022

Berkshire RG8 9PT

This twice monthly 'Planning Alert' lists all the current planning applications submitted to SODC (South Oxfordshire District Council) and WBC (West

GORING Location: Proposal:

Proposal:

Location: Proposal:

Reference Number: **Consultation Deadline:**

Reference Number:

Consultation Deadline:

application

To visit SODC's planning website: http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/find-application

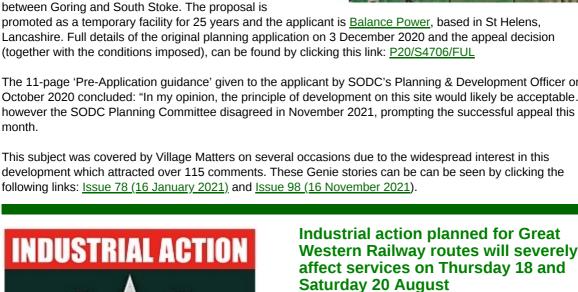
P22/S2711/HH 23 August 2022

Information on how to comment on a WBC application: https://info.westberks.gov.uk/representations NB: Genie News will endeavour to make these alerts as comprehensive and accurate as possible, but

Genie and its volunteers cannot accept any responsibility for any omissions, errors, incorrect links or

end of each month. It includes planning applications for Goring, Streatley and South Stoke which are open for comment at the date of publication. Unless stated otherwise, the items will refer to Goring-on-Thames, Streatley,

South Stoke and the surrounding villages. If you like it, please forward to your friends and encourage them to subscribe. Also, to ensure you



Wallingford Post Office is open again: 9am-5.30pm Monday to Friday, closed Saturday and Sunday.

Pangbourne. It involves a drive and parking difficulties but the staff are efficient and well trained. If there is a queue there is usually somebody available to open a

BOOK NOW FOR

APPOINTMENTS BEING

ELECTRIC BLANKET? FREE TESTING for all your blankets

new store is coming 'Coll's

As well as lots of rowing, members have been enjoying swimming, paddle boarding and going out in a selection

they experienced the joy of rowing Cornish pilot gigs.

Technology Centre, Whitchurch Hill

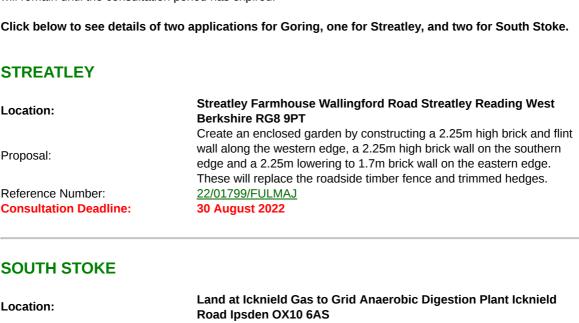
£50 million investment for the

BP has unveiled plans to invest up to £50 million in a new, state-of-the-art electric vehicle (EV) battery testing centre and analytical laboratory at the Technology Centre, BP's Castrol headquarters in Whitchurch Hill. developing solutions to help decarbonise the transport sector". (BP bought Burmah-Castrol in 2000 and aim to become a leading hub for fluid technologies and to create ultrafast chargers for electric vehicles.)

(20 chains in railway measurement) section from roughly underneath the railway bridge to adjacent to Heron Shaw, was replaced this last weekend of 13/14 August. For a week after each new section of track is laid, a

about this work, ring 03457 114141.





array together with grid connection infrastructure, underground cable route, site accesses, access gates, internal access tracks, security

measures, other ancillary infrastructure and landscaping and

6 Cross Keys Road South Stoke RG8 0JU

Beech Cottage 28 Gatehampton Rd RG8 0EP

Storage/potting shed; bike cover/shelter – no floor or sides.

Location: Proposal: Reference Number:

Consultation Deadline:

other issues associated with this information.

https://publicaccess.westberks.gov.uk/online-applications/search.do?action=simple&searchType=Application

Location: Proposal: Reference Number:

STREATLEY

76 Wallingford Road Goring RG8 0HN Demolition of existing garage and erection of detached dwelling with associated access, and new garage for the retained dwelling Reference Number: P22/S2705/O **Consultation Deadline:** 19 August 2022

Information on how to comment on a SODC application: http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/find-application/comment-planning-To visit WBC's planning website:

To comment on any of these stories please email contact@genienews.org To send in news items, use news@genienews.org Village Matters reports on topical events and items of interest to local residents. It is published at the middle and

consistently receive the e-mails it is suggested that you either 'whitelist' <u>subscribe@genienews</u> your contact list. More details on Genie newsletters here.

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