

Welcome to Genie's latest 'Village Matters' newsletter

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 March 2026

In this issue: News from Goring High Street and changed postal van times; 200 year old oak to be felled; Local Government consultation expiry; 'A greener way to go' meeting – and our latest update of current planning applications.

News from Goring High Street and Jack's

The opening times for the Mobile Post Office outside Jack's are changing with effect from Tuesday 17 March to:

- Tuesdays: 13.30-16.00
- Thursdays: 08.00-11.30

Click [HERE](#) for larger version of poster



The post box by Goring Arcade is currently blocked off but will soon be back in use, offering more services. Please see the article in the next Goring Gap News, due out on 21/22 March, for more information. Nearby post boxes are in Croft Road and at the station.

The cash point outside Davis Tate currently has no cash. It is hoped it will soon be refilled and the service will return to normal.

Two businesses at 3 the High Street – Hended Financial Partners and Cranberry Blue – have moved out of Goring and are now operating from East Hended.

200 year-old oak tree in Stratley to be felled

This magnificent oak, which will be well known by everyone who has parked in the Swan Hotel's rear car park and is a major feature of the landscape there, has sadly been certified as unsafe and needs to be felled due to the potential risk to the public.

The tree has been regularly assessed for years by independent arboricultural consultants as part of the hotel's ongoing tree management programme. However, their most recent structural assessment confirms that the tree is in significant decline, with extensive internal decay and a high risk of both stem and branch failure.

The Swan's management stresses this decision has not been taken lightly and they have explored all possible alternatives and have delayed this action for as long as expert guidance allowed. The point has now been reached where removal is the only responsible course of action.



To honour the legacy of this landmark tree there will be new planting on this small, but important green site with landscaping designed to support the long term biodiversity of the grounds. Sections of the oak will be retained on site as oak deadwood is a particularly valuable habitat for beetles and other species, allowing the tree to continue to contribute to the local ecosystem well after it has been removed.

Consultation Expiry

The consultation on the proposed changes to a unitary local government for Oxfordshire expires at midnight on 26 March 2026



Briefly: the three proposals in this consultation were made by the following councils on 28 November 2025:

- Oxfordshire County Council proposed 1 unitary council.
- Cherwell District Council, South Oxfordshire District Council, Vale of White Horse District Council, West Oxfordshire District Council proposed 2 unitary councils.
- Oxford City Council proposed 3 unitary councils.

Full details including a link to an online survey can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-reorganisation-in-oxfordshire/proposals-for-local-government-reorganisation-in-oxfordshire>

A Greener Way to Go

Join us on 25 March at 7.30pm in the Bellème Room, Goring



We want to transform how we move by:

Fixing our Paths: Campaigning for safer, accessible routes that work for everyone.

Promoting Local Routes: Encourage cycling and walking for a range of everyday activities, such as shopping, commuting, leisure and fitness.

Building Confidence: Offering "Bikeability" sessions for nervous adults and "Couch to 50k" programs to boost your fitness.

Sharing Skills: Hosting hands-on bike workshops so you can fix a flat or adjust your brakes like a pro.

Get Involved in building a happier, healthier and greener community. Whether you're a carer, a parent with a buggy, a keen cyclist or someone who just wants quieter streets, please join us for a public meeting to find out how.

A Greener Way to Go: Join Us on March 25th

What if popping to the shops or school was safer, smoother, and easier? A group of neighbours is coming together to make Goring and Stratley more accessible for everyone, whether you're on two wheels, four wheels or two feet.

We want to transform how we move by:

- **Fixing our Paths:** Campaigning for safer, accessible routes that work for everyone—from mobility scooters and buggies to daily commuters.
- **Promoting Local Routes:** Encourage cycling and walking for a range of everyday activities, such as shopping, commuting, leisure and fitness.
- **Building Confidence:** Offering "Bikeability" sessions for nervous adults and "Couch to 50k" programs to boost your fitness.
- **Sharing Skills:** Hosting hands-on workshops so you can fix a flat or adjust your brakes like a pro.

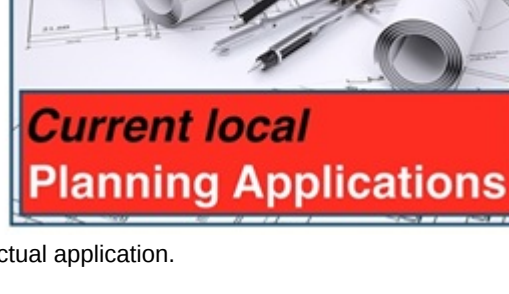
Get Involved in building a happier, healthier and greener community. Whether you're a carer, a parent with a buggy, a keen cyclist or someone who just wants quieter streets, please join us for a public meeting to find out how.

Wednesday, 25 March at 7:30 pm
Bellème Room, Goring Village Hall

[goringstratleysustainabilitygroup](mailto:contact@gssg.org.uk)
For more information, email contact@gssg.org.uk

Check here on all local planning applications, current and past

This regular twice-monthly 'Planning Alert' service lists all the current planning applications submitted to South Oxfordshire District Council and West Berkshire Council relating to Goring, Stratley and South Stoke.



They are listed in consultation period expiry date order, so the applications with the shortest periods for your comments are at the top. Each has a link to the actual application.

To make a comment to the relevant Planning Department, follow the advice given on the application. New applications will be added to the lists in subsequent newsletters and existing ones will remain until the consultation period has expired.

To check all current APPLICATIONS for Goring, Stratley & South Stoke, [SEE BELOW](#)

To check on all DECISIONS of previous SODC applications, [CLICK HERE](#)

To check on all DECISIONS of previous WBC applications, [CLICK HERE](#)

STREATLEY

Location: Cleeve Court Cottage Stratley Reading RG8 9PR
Proposal: Non-Material Amendment to planning permission 21/02291/HOUSE: Two storey side extension. Amendment: Construction of gable end to North Elevation rather than approved hip end.

Reference Number: [26/00200/NONMAT](#)
Consultation Deadline: **Determination deadline: 30 March 2026**

Location: Lardon Lodge Wallingford Road Stratley Reading RG8 9JX
Proposal: Single storey rear and front extension, single storey rear covered bq area and store.

Reference Number: [26/00538/HOUSE](#)
Consultation Deadline: **2 April 2026**

Location: Townsend Farm Wallingford Road Stratley Reading RG8 9JX
Proposal: T1, T2 and T3 - Yew, Cyprus and Scotts Pine: on boundary of Townsend Farm over hanging 3 flats back gardens. Reduce back to fence line overhanging branches. Secondary and tertiary branches only.

Reference Number: [26/00502/TPC](#)
Consultation Deadline: **Determination deadline: 14 April 2026**

Location: The Playgroup Stratley Church Of England School The Coombe Stratley Reading RG8 9QL
Proposal: T1 - Yew tree: nearest the Preschool canopy. The crown does overhang the existing canopy and green area of the Preschool, a light (50-75cm) crown lift of the lower branches immediately overhanging would be acceptable. This could be supplemented by a low tip reduction (1-1.5m) of the same branches, at the same time. As recommended by: Jon Thomas TechArborA, Senior Tree Officer

Reference Number: [26/00506/TPW](#)
Consultation Deadline: **Determination deadline: 28 April 2026**

SOUTH STOKE

Location: Kays Barn Fullbrook House The Street South Stoke RG8 0JS
Proposal: Discharge of condition(s) 3 (Photographic External Material Schedule) and 9 (Biodiversity Enhancements) on planning application P25/S1238/HH. (Demolition of existing annexe (Kays Barn) and part of existing outbuilding. Erection of replacing two-storey outbuilding with single storey front extension to provide annexe accommodation and ancillary accommodation, and two detached sheds.).

Reference Number: [P26/S0483/DIS](#)
Consultation Deadline: **Target decision date: 14 April 2026**

Location: Middle Barn Littlestone Manor Farm Little Stoke OX10 6AZ
Proposal: Discharge of conditions 3 (surface water) & 4 (foul water) of planning permission P23/S3822/FUL. Replacement of existing grain storage building to provide accommodation for artists and creatives visiting Littlestone Manor farm. Provision of bin and bike storage, amenity space, parking & landscaping.

Reference Number: [P26/S0581/DIS](#)
Consultation Deadline: **Target decision date: 21 April 2026**

GORING

Location: 36 Lockstile Way Goring RG8 0AL
Proposal: Conversion of roof space; raising roof pitch, front roof window & rear dormers; front extensions and alterations

Reference Number: [P26/S0494/HH](#)
Consultation Deadline: **20 March 2026**

Location: 18 Whitehills Green Goring RG8 0EB
Proposal: Single storey rear extension; partial conversion of garage, replacement of garage doors; fenestration changes.

Reference Number: [P26/S0428/HH](#)
Consultation Deadline: **20 March 2026**

Location: Ferry House Ferry Lane Goring RG8 9DX
Proposal: New free standing gazebo to replace existing glass pavilion structure

Reference Number: [P26/S0433/HH](#)
Consultation Deadline: **25 March 2026**

Location: Friars Ford Manor Road Goring RG8 9EL
Proposal: Change of use of existing outbuilding to visitor accommodation.

Reference Number: [P26/S0549/FUL](#)
Consultation Deadline: **End of consultation 30 March 2026**

Location: Cedar Wood House Elvendon Road RG8 0LP
Proposal: Discharge of Conditions 4 (Lighting), 6 (Landscaping) & 7 (Glazing) on P23/S4299/FUL - replacement dwelling (as amended to remove proposed access and garage/carport). Not subject to public consultation.

Reference Number: [P26/S0399/DIS](#)
Consultation Deadline: **Target decision date 7 April 2026**

Location: Broughton Fairfield Road Goring RG8 0EX
Proposal: 10 x 4 metre outdoor ground level swimming pool with associated 6.5 x 3.5m pool house. Certificate of Level Development.

Reference Number: [P26/S0475/LDP](#)
Consultation Deadline: **Target decision date 21 April 2026**

To visit SODC's planning website: <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/planning-and-development/comment-on-planning-applications/find-and-comment-on-a-planning-application/>

Information on how to comment on a SODC application: <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/planning-and-development/comment-on-planning-applications/how-to-comment-on-a-planning-application-effectively/>

To visit WBC's planning website: <https://www.westberks.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control>

Information on how to find and comment on a WBC application: <https://www.westberks.gov.uk/article/40109/Find-and-comment-on-a-planning-application>

NB: Genie News will endeavour to make these alerts as comprehensive and accurate as possible, but Genie and its volunteers cannot accept responsibility for any omissions, errors, incorrect links or other issues associated with this information.

Local Parish Councils

Click on the link below for your parish council's website for up-to-date details of planning and other meetings, agendas, minutes and further useful general information.

[Goring-on-Thames PC](#)

[Stratley PC](#)

[South Stoke PC](#)



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

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More details on Genie newsletters [here](#).

