

STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL

VILLAGE UPDATE

Editorial Code and Policy

1. The Village Update is produced on behalf of Staplehurst Parish Council at the Council's expense.
2. It is published 4 times a year as Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter editions.
3. It is publicly available, free of charge.
4. It is delivered to all households in the Parish, either by hand or by post, and to the Staplehurst Library, the Staplehurst Health Centre and shops and offices and most local businesses and organisations.
5. Further copies can be had at no charge from the Parish Office, subject to availability.
6. It is also available in a printable electronic version on the Parish Council's website.
7. The Village Update is primarily to provide information about the Parish Council's activities on behalf of Staplehurst residents.
8. It is not a vehicle for criticism, complaints or general news about Staplehurst.
9. Subject to space being available, articles or photographs about other parish activities or the parish itself may, however, be included.
10. Content regarding the Parish Council's activities is anonymous except for the Parish Council Chairman's newsletter.
11. Any views regarding Parish Council matters reflect those of the full council unless otherwise made clear.
12. Where an individual contributes an article on their own, or a Staplehurst organisation's behalf, any views expressed will represent those of the individual or organisation and will not necessarily be those of the Parish Council.
13. The Chairman and Clerk will review the final copy before printing and publication.
14. The Chairman will have the final decision on copy.
15. The Editors take responsibility for contents; any complaints should be made to them through the Parish Office.
16. The current Editors at August 2009 are Cllr Joan Buller and Cllr Jenny Fairfax.
17. As well as by resignation, an Editor can be replaced following a majority vote at Full Council.
18. No one is given right to copy approval but if requested the Editors will give writers an opportunity to read edited material before publication.
19. The Editors are aware that their own activities and interests could be seen to have a bearing on, or come into conflict with, the content. They will endeavour to ensure fair allocation of space.
20. Race, religion or ethnic background will not be reported unless pertinent to the story.
21. In keeping with the Human Rights Act and the Press Complaints Commission Code, the Editors respect privacy. They will take care about reporting and identifying details which may enable others to intrude on the privacy or safety of people who appear in the Update.

22. Any significant inaccuracy or misleading statement once recognised will be corrected in the next issue and where appropriate an apology will be published.
23. Commercial products will not be endorsed.