

STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL NOTES (for August 2009)

Jubilee Sports Changing Facility – At long last and after many highs and lows throughout the past year, the building was finally handed over by the contractors to the Football Clubs mid July. There remain a few outside works to complete (landscaping and car park finishes) but the building itself is now available for use by the football clubs and visiting teams. Friendly matches begin on 1st August.

Parade Parking – Much rumour has abounded this past month about whether or not one can park at the parade for an hour and go shopping elsewhere. Whilst the landlords consider their “hospitality is abused” if people do so and would prefer you to support their tenant’s businesses, they would not expect vehicles parked at the front of the parade to be clamped unless they stayed longer than 1 hour, regardless where you shop/conduct your business. If such did occur, please give the facts to the Parish Office. The Parish Council continues to research the issues and press the Landlords for greater clarity. Overnight parking (6 p.m. – 9 a.m.) is not subject to restriction and the signs were amended. Sundays should also be free of restrictions but the signs need to be amended. It is possible that these parking restrictions could precede a planning application to build more shops and maisonettes on the planters area which may include the felling of all trees at the front roadside of the Parade area. Residents are advised to keep a check on new Planning Applications registered with MBC. Details will be posted on the Parish Council website Forum & meeting Agendas so that any planning responses can be submitted to MBC within the deadlines.

Playscheme – By the time you read this, Playscheme will be under way during the first three weeks of August. The sixty places on many days are already booked but some places on the day may become available. Check with the Playscheme leader after the pre-booked children have registered.

Parish Information and E-groups – Copies of the Minutes of Parish Council Meetings are available at Full Council Meetings and on the Parish Council Website at www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk . The Clerk maintains a number of e-groups for those who wish to register their internet address to receive useful information about local issues e.g., Weekly MBC Plans List, Parish Council Minutes & Agendas, Press Releases, Playscheme Information, etc. If local residents have any queries regarding Parish Council or local authority issues, they are encouraged to write to or contact the Parish Clerk for the facts.

REPORT IT! PC Marc Pennicott with Community Warden, Chris Lomax, PCSO Pete Gardner and Special Constable Ken Baker are the local visible policing presence in our Parish, but have emergency back up from the force as necessary. If you witness anti-social behaviour contact the Parish Warden, Chris Lomax on 07811 271254, PCSO Pete Gardner on 07772 226134 or PC Marc Pennicott on 07980 770575. However, these are not 24/7 contact numbers so do leave a message and they will get back to you when next on

duty. All urgent calls for assistance should be directed to 999 with crime-incident reporting to Maidstone Police Station on 01622 690055. If you prefer, calls to Crimestoppers are free and anonymous: 0800 555 111 but these may not be referred back directly to this parish. Life-threatening incidents, crimes in progress or serious injury Road Traffic Accident requiring urgent police attendance should be notified by dialling 999 in the usual way.

Hire of North & South Hall, Staplehurst Village Centre - To enquire about the availability of either hall, please contact the booking clerk on 01580 893280. The Parish Office does not deal with Village Centre bookings, although we do get many enquiries!

MBC Waste Freighter – The schedule of visits by the Waste Freighter to collect non-recyclable waste is available from www.maidstone.gov.uk Kindly check MBC website at Staplehurst Library if you do not have your own computer access. It is unlikely there will be any waste freighter collections in Staplehurst during August.

Rubbish Dumping Tip-Off Line - 01622 602162 - Use this number to report any undesirable activities such as fly-tipping, dumped cars, littering etc. and help to keep this borough and parish as clean and tidy as possible. The same number can also be used to request a "pull-out" (or rear of property) collection service for those who are unable to wheel or carry their refuse to the front boundary of their homes. Further information is available from MBC website www.maidstone.gov.uk .

Garden waste & Newspaper recycling - MBC Green Garden Sacks are available from Spuds 'n Buds, Henhurst Farm Shop or the Parish Office at £2.50 per roll of 5. Garden waste will only be collected if in the MBC printed green sacks and left beside your wheeled bin (or put in a blue-lidded wheelie bin hired from MBC specifically for garden waste). Further information on garden waste disposal and recycling is available on www.maidstone.gov.uk .

MBC Bulky Collection Service - Residents with large items of household waste to dispose of, should telephone the MBC Cleansing Hotline 01622 602162 to arrange a collection. A small charge is now made for this service. Alternatively the Tovil tip and waste freighter are available for householder's use. Please note that due to new legislation TVs and monitors will now be collected separately from any other items of waste. You will be required to provide your name and address at disposal.

Dog Mess & disposal – Thankfully only a small minority allow their dogs to defecate in public areas without clearing up the mess. However, there has been a continuing problem in the High Street where the mess has not been picked up at all. If you witness such anti-social behaviour, telephone 01622 602117 in confidence and give the Dog Warden details of the perpetrators. Visits to problem area can be timed to be most effective and fines imposed when the offender is caught.

RED DOG WASTE BINS are for the disposal of dog waste only and emptied by a specialist contractor with protective equipment for this messy job. The red Scoopit Bags are no longer provided by Maidstone Borough Council but it is hoped that dog owners will continue to pick up their dog's mess and dispose of it properly. Many people use nappy sacks which can be purchased cheaply or recycle old supermarket carrier bags. If there is no red dog waste bin available within your walking route, kindly take your dog's waste home with you.

Maidstone Borough Highway-related services - MBC remains responsible for some highway services such as Street sweeping, street nameplates, street naming and numbering, park and ride facilities, concessionary fares and public transport matters. MBC Contact Centre to report most issues requiring attention is 01622 602162. For all other Highways issues contact Kent Highways.

Kent Highways - Call 08458 247 800 any time 24 hours a day 7 days a week to report any local highways issues, such as defects to the roads, footways, signs, drainage and street furniture, etc. You can also report defects online too at www.kent.gov.uk/highways You do not need to contact the Parish Office to report such defects. Responsibility for the motorways and trunk roads are managed by the Highways Agency on 08457 504030.

Bogus Caller Advice: If any caller does not have an appointment, then ask them to wait while you check their identity. Do not be afraid to close the door and make them wait. Checking identity can sometimes be difficult and confusing to do. If so, ask them to come back at another time when you can have someone with you. If the caller is genuine they will understand and not mind returning.

Neighbourhood Watch operates a scheme called Nominated Neighbour, which asks the caller to go to a neighbour who will return with them, so you do not have to deal with this alone. If you wish to learn any more about this, contact the Neighbourhood Watch Office on 01622 604395. Never give any personal details to a stranger. Remember it is your home and you should not be afraid to ask them to leave. If you are at all concerned about a caller, call Mid Kent Police on 01622 690055.

Handyvan & Homesafe Services: These services are financially supported by KCC and provide security services to households across Kent. Services are generally provided free of charge, although in some cases a small charge will be made. The Handyvan Service is delivered in partnership with Help the Aged and is primarily aimed at the over 60's, on low incomes and where no charges are made for labour or materials. The Homesafe service offer free security fitting for victims of burglary or household crime. The range of products include: Security Locks; Carbon Monoxide Detectors and Smoke Alarms. To arrange an appointment with our local fitter or for more information, please

telephone 01255 473999 or email handvan@hta.org.uk. Web
www.helptheaged.org.uk.

Parish Council Meetings held in South Hall at Staplehurst Village Centre:-

Planning Committee - 7 p.m. Monday 3rd August 2009

Amenities Committee – 8 p.m. Monday 3rd August 2009

Planning Committee – 7 p.m. Monday 17th August 2009

Full Council Meeting - 8 p.m. Monday 17th August 2009

Mrs J S Bassett, Parish Clerk
Parish Office, Village Centre, Staplehurst.
Telephone/Fax: (01580) 891761.
Website: www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk and
E-mail: staplehurst1@btconnect.com
The Parish Office is open to the public 9-11 a.m.
Mondays to Fridays (except Thursdays).