

STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL NOTES (for June 2008)

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 12 MAY 2008 – This meeting was attended by thirty local electors who received, amongst other papers, copies of the Parish Council Financial Statement and reports from local village groups (which will be uploaded onto the website shortly). In addition verbal reports of council activities during the past year were given by the Chairman of the Parish Council, Councillor Arger, County and Borough Councillor Hotson and Borough Councillor Lusty. Local residents were given the opportunity to ask questions throughout.

A verbal report of the activities undertaken by the KCC Detached Youth Outreach worker was given as well as the presentation of a prize to the winner of the YAP08 Poster Competition by Councillor Knowlden. A very interesting presentation (this time using computer projection and powerpoint) was given by Roy Laming who had been working with the Staplehurst Partnership Group. Some of the most interesting findings to date, arising from the Staplehurst Opinions Survey were shown with pie charts and bar graphs.

If you have not yet taken part in this survey please access www.staplehurst-partnership.com or visit Staplehurst Library to use the public computer there. Alternatively make an appointment at the Parish Office where assistance can be given to complete the questionnaire, which is only available online.

PLAYSCHEME 2008 – Full details will be published in July and pre-booking will be essential for the 60 places per weekday mornings 4th - 22nd August. If you wish to add your email address to the "Playscheme Info E-Group" just ask by email to; assistantclerk@staplehurstvillage.org.uk and details and booking information will be emailed to you as soon as this becomes available.

CHARLTON COMMUNITY FOOTBALL SCHEME – The three parishes of Marden, Headcorn and Staplehurst have each contributed towards a community football scheme to be run by Charlton Athletic Football Club during this year. Weekly sessions will be held in each of the three parishes on a rotating basis and are open to all young people; 10-14s 5.30- 6.15pm and over 14s at 6.15 pm until 7 pm. The scheme returns to Headcorn from 10th June until 8th July inclusive. Sessions will be held in Staplehurst from 15th July – 12th August. If you have any queries, telephone Alex Mckay – 07984 732506 or just turn up to any session.

JUBILEE SPORTS FIELD PROJECT – PROGRESS REPORT! Now that all the funding has been secured for the Football Changing Rooms project to progress (much thanks to the Football Foundation for agreeing to provide 74% of project costs) much "behind the scenes" work is being done. It is hoped that works will begin by late summer. However, additional work was created following the arson attack by a young person who was witnessed setting fire to one of the portacabin changing rooms on Sunday afternoon 11th May. The police are investigating and will hopefully take appropriate action to deal with

the culprit. The fire has also caused some damage and disruption to the Guide Centre as its power supply was burned and repair works will be needed.

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!

REPORTING ONLINE - The internet is a very useful tool to find out local information and also to feedback faults for repair. The Parish Council has had a website for many years as well as a Village Forum for anyone to contribute their views or find local information. On the Maidstone Borough Council Website, planning applications can be viewed online and any problems or defects in the parish can be reported at www.maidstone.gov.uk. Kent County Council website also encourages the reporting of highway items requiring attention or repair on www.kent.gov.uk/highways. You can even comment on services or answer surveys via these websites too.

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 Responsibility for the motorways and trunk roads are managed by the Highways Agency on 08457 504030.

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

Report it! PC Marc Pennicott with Community Warden, Chris Lomax and Special Constable Ken Baker have now been joined by PCSO Pete Gardner. These officers 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.

Unless reports of anti-social incidents with descriptions of the offenders are made, then the desecration of our public areas or property will continue with impunity. Report incident details on 01622 690055 and provide the PACT panel with the opportunity to think up ways of dealing with it! 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.

Dog Mess & disposal - Thankfully only a small minority allow their dogs to defecate in public areas without clearing up the mess. If you witness such anti-social behaviour, telephone 01622 602117 in confidence and give the Dog Wardens details of the perpetrators. Visits to problem areas can be timed to be most effective and fines imposed when the offenders are 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. **Scoopit Bags** - special red plastic bags are available free from the Parish Office or from the Town Hall in Maidstone. Please consider those who empty ordinary litter bins and remember that LITTER BINS ARE NOT FOR DOG WASTE!

Bogus Caller Initiative: Unless vigilant, elderly residents can easily become victims of doorstep traders. Bogus Caller Initiative information packs, with stickers to remind residents of good practice when dealing with doorstep callers, are available from the Parish Office or Rural Warden, Chris Lomax at Staplehurst Library. If you are unsure about anybody - don't let them in! If they are legitimate they will write you a letter or show you some identification to check out. If you think a bogus caller has called at your door, report such incidents to the police immediately on 01622 690055 and give a good description of the person and/or vehicle.

Handyvan & Homesafe Services: These services are financially supported by KCC and provide security services to households across the County. 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.

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 £1.95 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.digitalmaidstone.co.uk .

For residents who have a black box; newspapers will be collected fortnightly from the boundary of your home as advised by Maidstone Borough Council. Please check with MBC the collection dates for your road by telephoning: 01622 602162 or look on the MBC website.

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.

MBC Waste Freighter – This service for householder's non-recyclable waste will visit Staplehurst on **Sunday 25th May 1630 – 1715 at Church Green, Saturday 14th June 1230-1330 at Poyntell Pond and Saturday 28th June 1415-1515 at Northdown.**

Parish Information and E-groups – Copies of the Minutes of Parish Council Meetings are available at Full Council Meetings, at the Library and on 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, YAP08 Information, 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.

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

Planning Committee - 7 p.m. 2nd June 2008

Amenities Committee – 8 p.m. 2nd June 2008

Full Council Meeting - 8 p.m. Monday 16th June 2008

Finance Committee – 7 p.m. Monday 16th June 2008

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 and 13th June 2008).