

## **STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL NOTES (for May 2008)**

### **STOP PRESS NOTICE!!**

**JUBILEE SPORTS CHANGING ROOM PROJECT IS GOING AHEAD!** The Football Foundation has granted £390,000 towards the £530,000 scheme to provide first class football changing room facilities at Jubilee Playing field. Partnership working amongst all Staplehurst and Monarchs Football Clubs with the Parish Council has resulted in a successful bid to get this long overdue project off the ground. The remaining £140,000 has been agreed from a variety of sources so the project is ready to roll. More details soon.

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 12 MAY 2008** – 8 p.m. in the South Hall, Staplehurst Village Centre – all electors or those working in this parish are welcome to attend. Whilst the Parish Council hosts the Annual Parish Meeting it is not a Parish Council Meeting and local electors will be entitled to speak. Reports from County, Borough and Parish Councillors as well as from Village Groups will be presented at the meeting. An update will be given of the work achieved by the Staplehurst Action Plan group following the recent online survey that is being carried out. An opportunity to ask questions about parish issues will be given to any local elector. Refreshments will be served at the close of the meeting.

**YOUTH ACTIVITIES PROJECT 2008 – YAP08** The first event under this Parish Council project had to be cancelled due to lack of support. The second event, where the Youth Club was opened for five afternoons during week commencing 7<sup>th</sup> April proved very successful. Feedback from the young people has given the Youth Activities Project group many ideas to work with. More YAP08 projects are being planned – watch this space – or the parish Council website YAP08 pages.

**PLAYSCHEME 2008** – A new staff team has now been selected and we are glad to be welcoming back experienced staff members; Jensie Shepherd as Playscheme Manager with Deputy Amy Scammell. Four other staff members are re-joining the team along with some fresh faces who are all well trained and experienced in looking after young children. Playscheme will be open Monday-Fridays 9.30-12.30 from 4<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> August inclusive. Assistant Clerk Maria Norris has been working hard to ensure that interesting and fun activities will be available for 4-11 year olds to enjoy. Full details will be published in July and pre-booking will be essential for the 60 places per day. If you wish to add your email address to the "Playscheme Info E-Group" just ask by email to; [assistantclerk@staplehurstvillage.org.uk](mailto:assistantclerk@staplehurstvillage.org.uk) and details and booking information will be emailed to you as soon as this becomes available.

**PARISH CARETAKER VACANCY** – After twelve years loyal service to this parish, Charlie Samuell has now retired as Parish Caretaker. His work has been acknowledged by the Parish Council with the presentation of a framed drawing of Staplehurst. At the time of writing, interviews for his replacement are taking place and details will be advised in due course.

**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 between the ages of 10 – 19 years (split into two age groups). The scheme at Headcorn kicked off in February then switched to Staplehurst Primary School during April. From 6<sup>th</sup> May sessions will continue at Marden Playing Field off the High Street. Access is via footpath opposite the Vestry Hall (parking is available in the library car park). Other accesses by foot are via Napoleon Drive and Chantry Road. Young people 10-14s at 5.30- 6.15pm and over 14s at 6.15 pm until 7 pm. If you have any queries, telephone Alex Mckay – 07984 732506 or just turn up to any session.

**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](http://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](http://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](http://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.

**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](http://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 £2.25 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](http://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 **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April 0900-1000 at Poyntell Road Pond, Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May 1400-1500 at Northdown and Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May 1630 – 1715 at Church Green.**

**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](http://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. TUESDAY 6<sup>th</sup> May 2008

**Amenities Committee** – 8 p.m. TUESDAY 6<sup>th</sup> May 2008

**Full Council Meeting** - 8 p.m. Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2008

**Finance Committee** – 7 p.m. Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2008

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** – 8 p.m. Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2008

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