

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

**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). Headcorn kicked off on 26<sup>th</sup> February and will be running weekly throughout March at Headcorn Football Club in Grigg Lane for 10-14s 5.30- 6.15pm and Over 14s at 6.15 pm until 7 pm. On 1<sup>st</sup> April the sessions will take place in Staplehurst for five weeks at the primary school off Gybbon Rise at the same times. If you have any queries, telephone Alex Mckay – 07984 732506 or just turn up to any session.

**JUBILEE PLAYING FIELD PROJECT** – Footballers in partnership with the Parish Council are now keeping all fingers crossed for a favourable grant funding decision by the Football Foundation in April. The application form with supporting paperwork, planning applications and tender documentation has been prepared and submitted for the project to build a new football changing facility, upgraded car park and new drainage of the football pitches at Jubilee Playing Field. If the Football Foundation awards the grant that has been applied for, this project will be able to proceed without further delay.

**ANNUAL PARISH REPORTS** – Although the Annual Parish Meeting is not until 12<sup>th</sup> May, all village groups were written to in January with a request for a short summary of their activities over the past year. It is hoped to publish these reports at the Annual Parish Meeting and on the Parish Council website in due course. To date about 6 reports have been received from the 40+ groups that are active in this parish. The deadline for reports is mid April, but please don't forget about this request and act now. A short paragraph is all that is needed and will be of interest now and in the future as the reports will be archived with the Annual Parish Minutes. Email or post your report to the Parish Office; [staplehurst1@btconnect.com](mailto:staplehurst1@btconnect.com)

**VILLAGE CLEAN UP** – Please support the Staplehurst Society in its endeavours to clean up our parish between 22 & 30<sup>th</sup> March. If you wish to volunteer to litter pick an area of the parish, kindly contact the Parish Office with your contact details. This annual clean up hopes to cover all areas of the parish and is in addition to the work covered by the MBC operatives.

**MBC MECHANICAL & MANUAL SWEEP** – This six-weekly cycle of work by Maidstone Borough Council operatives will take place week commencing 10<sup>th</sup> March. Most roads in this parish should be cleaned by the roadsweeper (so it would be helpful if vehicles are parked off-road if at all possible) and footways hand litter picked during the week. If you consider your road has been omitted for any reason, kindly let the Parish Office have details.

**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 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 & Glass recycling** - MBC Green Garden Sacks are available from Spuds 'n Buds 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](http://www.digitalmaidstone.co.uk) .

For residents who have coloured boxes, NEWSPAPERS in the BLACK BOX & GLASS in the YELLOW BOX for collection 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.

**Bulky Collection Service and Waste Freighter** - 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.

Location of Freighters during March:

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March 1230-1330 at Poyntell Road by the pond.

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1415-1515 at Northdown near junction with Marden Road.

**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, 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. Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> March 2008

**Amenities Committee** – 8 p.m. Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2008

**Full Council Meeting** - 8 p.m. Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2008

**Finance Committee** – 7 p.m. Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March 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).