

## **STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL NOTES (for December 2005)**

**Christmas Lights** - Hopefully by the time this is printed, a total of 20 Christmas motifs will be decorating Staplehurst High Street from Bell Lane to the Youth Club. Grants have this year been received from KCC and MBC towards this project and local businesses have contributed as well.

**Nicholson Walk** - Works to complete this project have been agreed with a new fence to border Surrenden Manor and treatment of the areas to the side of the tarmac pathway with topsoil to create a more rural feel to the walkway.

**Surrenden Playing Field** - Works to manage the hedges and trees in and around Surrenden Playing field will take place in two stages over this and the winter of 2006. A Landscape Management Plan was drawn up and approved by the Council and a copy is available for inspection at the Parish Office.

**Detached Rural Youth Project** - KCC Youth & Community is currently working on a project to provide a trained Detached Youth Worker to visit the parishes of Marden, Headcorn and Staplehurst on a regular basis to liaise with young people. It is hoped the Youth Worker will begin work soon next year and become an on-street focal point for young people to discuss issues that relate to them and receive information and guidance if needed.

**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. Responsibility for the motorways and trunk roads are managed by the Highways Agency on 08457 50 40 30.

**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

**Neighbourhood Policing Unit** - PC Marc Pennicott with Community Warden, Chris Lomax and Special Constable Ken Baker, are the local visible policing presence in our Parish, with emergency back up from the force as necessary. For non-urgent issues, contact the Parish Warden, Chris Lomax on 07811 271254 or PC Marc Pennicott on 07980 770575. The Neighbourhood Policing Unit is able to assist with basic quality of life issues and nuisance behaviour, however, all urgent calls for assistance should be directed to 999 with all incident reporting to 01622 690690

**Report it!** Unless reports of anti-social incidents with descriptions of the offenders are made, then the police might be forgiven for thinking that no problems occur here. Do not condone the behaviour of a small number of bullies who desecrate our public areas or property with impunity. Report it on 01622 690690! If a greater number of good parishioners made reports of any anti-social incidents they witness then such annoying incidents could be dealt with quickly and positively.

**Dog Mess** - 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.

**Dog Mess Disposal** - RED DOG WASTE BINS are for the disposal of dog waste only. Emptied by a specialist contractor with protective equipment for this messy job, please consider those who empty ordinary litter bins and remember that LITTER BINS ARE NOT FOR DOG WASTE! **Scoopit Bags** - special red plastic bags are available free from the Parish Office or from the Town Hall in Maidstone.

**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.

**Crime Awareness and Reporting:** Rural Warden, Chris Lomax, will be happy to discuss and advise on any community concerns that you have or speak to a group that you belong to. Telephone him on: 07811 271254. Telephone Kent Police on 01622 690055 for suspicious incidents and community issues requiring police attendance or 01622 690690 to report a crime that occurred more than 20 minutes previously. If you prefer, calls to Crimestoppers are free and anonymous: 0800 555 111. 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.

**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 £1.70 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). For residents who have been issued with coloured boxes, NEWSPAPERS in the BLACK BOX & GLASS in the YELLOW BOX is collected on a regular basis. Please check with Maidstone Borough Council for collection dates in your road by telephoning: 01622 602162 or website at: [www.maidstone.gov.uk](http://www.maidstone.gov.uk)

**Garden Waste** - When using the garden waste sacks, please do not put the following items in the sacks:- turf, soil, stones, animal waste or bedding, large branches, logs,

tree stumps or kitchen scraps. The bags should not be unreasonably heavy or overloaded as collection crews have to lift them to shoulder height for emptying.

**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. The next visits of the Waste Freighter will be on **Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 1130-1230 at Church Green**, then early next year, **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2006, 0900-1000 at Poyntell Pond**.

**Parish Information** – Copies of the Minutes of Parish Council Meetings are available at Full Council Meetings, at the Library and on the [staplehurstvillage.org.uk](http://staplehurstvillage.org.uk) Website. 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 and Parish Council Minutes & Agendas. 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 5<sup>th</sup> December 2005

**Amenities Committee** - 8 p.m. on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2005

**Planning Committee** - 7 p.m. on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2005

**Full Council Meeting** - 8 p.m. on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2005

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).