

## STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL NOTES (for February 2005)

**Village Update** - Councillors have been working very hard on bringing the now quarterly Village Update to every household in the parish over the past year. It had been hoped to have this delivered by Royal Mail but there was no spare capacity within their system. The updates have, therefore, been delivered mainly by Parish Councillors and a small number of other volunteers. The next Update is due to be published very soon and again the delivery to over 2,000 homes falls on a few. Can you help to deliver some Village Updates to homes in your area? Please contact the Parish Clerk with offers of help now. Tel: 01580 891761.

**Staplehurst Village Centre** - The AGM will be on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February at 8pm in the South Hall, Village Centre. Most of the previous committee and trustees have already stood down and the Parish Council has been doing its best to keep things running in the interim. One or two residents have shown interest in helping to manage the Village Centre, following the recent Questionnaire/Survey but more support is needed. Please come along to the AGM to check out the progress and give support to ensure the Village Centre will continue to run economically and well in the future.

**Martyrs' Memorial Centenary** - April 2005 will be the centenary of this memorial. Plans for a clean and tidy up of its environs are being made in time for this special anniversary. Frittenden Parish Council has already agreed to donate up to £100 towards the costs of such refurbishment. It is likely that some form of public event will be arranged to mark the centenary. If anyone wants to assist with these works or help plan the centenary celebrations, please contact the Parish Clerk.

**Summer Playscheme** - Thank you to the three people who have offered to help at Playscheme, but more will be needed! Part-time training opportunities are available to gain qualifications or a First Aid Certificate, but time is getting short. Don't delay - we are yet another month closer to summer! Playscheme workers are paid a competitive hourly rate and will need to be CRB checked. Positive action is needed now to ensure Playscheme becomes a reality. Please contact the Parish Clerk asap for details or to register your interest.

**Traffic Calming** - Following the display in the Library, thank you for the feedback to the initial traffic calming ideas for Offens Drive, Bathurst Road, Thatcher Road, South Bank, Hanmer Way and Clapper Lane. Such feedback will assist the scheme to be refined and costed. Further public consultation is envisaged soon, but please contact the Parish Clerk if you have any views or require more detailed information at this stage.

**Staplehurst Skaters** - The skaters turned out in force at the Christmas event at the Village Centre organised by the Staplehurst Society and raised over £200 towards their project. Work is now being done on the grant application and hopefully the form will be submitted within a month. The site proposed is at Jubilee Playing Field although exact details are yet to be agreed with the Parish Council.

**Medical Centre** - It is hoped that more details of progress will be contained in the next Village Update, but (at the time of writing) the Parish Council understands that

legal issues between KCC and Private Finance Initiative were due to be finalised early in January followed by negotiations between the Primary Care Trust and Developer. Although nothing yet is occurring on the ground, the preparations appear to be progressing towards a tangible start date this year with completion early in 2006.

**South East Plan** - The South East England Regional Assembly (SEERA) is preparing the first South East Plan, which will guide development to 2026. Public consultation on the draft Plan by questionnaire is now taking place until 15<sup>th</sup> April. The South East Plan is the new way of planning for the future of this region and sets the framework within which councils prepare local plans. The South East Plan will set out how the growing demands for homes, jobs and transport should be met. It also focuses on water, energy, waste, education, health and climate change issues. It aims to improve our towns and cities and protect the countryside by improving essential services (roads, hospitals, schools and community facilities) as well as seeking to safeguard heritage, valued landscapes and natural environment. Now is the time to make your views known on SEERA's plans! More information is available on: [www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/southeastplan](http://www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/southeastplan) or telephone their 24-hour information line on: 01483 555 208.

**Doorstep Awareness - 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 Jones at Staplehurst Library. If you think a bogus caller has called at your door, report it 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 Jones, 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.

**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.

**Street light outages & Highway repairs** – Please report to Kent Highways any street lights that are not working or highway defects such as potholes, blocked gullies, missing street nameplates or road signs. You must give an accurate location of the defect or streetlamp column number. Details can be sent direct to Kent Highways via the internet by visiting: [www.kent.gov.uk/highways](http://www.kent.gov.uk/highways) and filling in a form online or through MBC online route [www.maidstone.gov.uk](http://www.maidstone.gov.uk) Alternatively RoadWatch cards

are available from the Library or Parish Office for freeposting or telephone (at a local call rate) the Highways Helpline on 0845 303 2500.

**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 £1.55 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 for collection on a regular basis. Please check with Maidstone Borough Council for collection dates in your road by telephoning: 01622 602162.

**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 29<sup>th</sup> January, 1300-1515 at Northdown junction with Marden Road, Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> February 1130-1230 at Church Green and Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March 0900-1000 at Poyntell Road by the 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, Parish Council Minutes & Agendas, Neighbourhood Watch Reports. If local residents have any queries regarding Parish Council or local authority issues, they are encouraged to write to or contact the Parish Council direct for the facts.

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

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

**Amenities Committee** - 8 p.m. on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2005

**Planning Committee** - 7 p.m. on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2005

**Full Council** - 8 p.m. Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2005

Mrs J S Bassett, Parish Clerk  
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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).