

# Village Update

WINTER 2006

## SKATEBOARD PARK OPENED

The park was officially opened on Monday 23 October by Councillors Eric Hotson (pictured below trying out the new park) and Richard Lusty who praised the enthusiasm and perseverance of the young people involved and also thanked Elaine Downton who, together with close friends, drove the project forward.

From small acorns, oak trees grow.. from a few children who probably had skate boards for a birthday or Christmas present and then wished for a skate board park, grew the possibility that it may become a reality.

The dozen or so boys and girls applied their enthusiasm and hard work to finding ways to raise money with the support and help of their parents. They began to hold boot fairs, go on sponsored walks and find numerous ways to raise money. Their parents wrote to many organisations, businesses and individuals trying to raise money for their children, as well as applying for grants from Local Government and any other source they could find.

Eventually, after over three years of hard work, their efforts paid off and in quite a rush, the money

materialised. The children had a lot of fun planning the first stage of their skate park with the company that was hired to build it. Plans were prepared and submitted to the Parish Council for approval.

With the support of the Parish Council planning approval was applied for and granted. It is

easy to see what an impact this venture has had on the children of the village. All ages, from 8 to 18 are walking around the village with Skate Boards or riding their BMX bikes to the sports field – what a joy to see them having so much fun and appreciating the fruits of their hard work.

Following more applications a further grant has been secured and the second phase is underway and should be completed in the New Year. This phase will include a path which will make access to the equipment easier and cleaner, and also some seating and litter bins – which I know the children are longing to use!!

What a success! Well done to everyone involved!

### CHAIRMAN'S VIEW

As we head into the last six months of the life of your present Parish Council I am anxious to give some clear information to anyone who might be thinking of seeking election in May 2007 to do so with the sure knowledge that they can give the time and commitment.

Being a Parish Councillor is not just about attending two meetings a month. There are many other meetings on a variety of issues. These meetings cover highways, education, community facilities, youth issues, sports, partnership working, liaison with other parishes, churchyard, planning, allotments, medical provision, elderly resources, police, transport, publicity, Christmas trees, environmental issues, traffic, infrastructure requirements and the local aerodrome. These are all issues on which councillors are expected to participate and feed back to the full council for consideration and this is why you will need to have an understanding family!

We will be delighted to see anyone interested in taking on the challenges at any of the Parish Council meetings the first and third Monday of the month.

*Margaret Arger.*



Picture courtesy of Frank Page

# Staplehurst

*Parish Council*



# The Future of Health Services in Staplehurst

West Kent Primary Care Trust (formerly Maidstone Weald Primary Care Trust) currently manages the two GP practices (Rose Cottage and Guelder Rose) in Staplehurst following the retirement of the single-handed local GPs.

The PCT has an ongoing duty to manage these practices and provide appropriate medical cover. This has been achieved by employing Dr Dunne, Dr Webb and Dr Williams along with the nursing and administrative staff from Rose Cottage Surgery, to manage the day-to-day care of the patients registered at both practices.

With the building of the new health centre in Staplehurst nearing completion, the PCT is keen to engage with local residents about the future of local health services in Staplehurst.

## **The management of future health services for Staplehurst and surrounding areas**

As an NHS organisation, the PCT has a responsibility to ensure it is using its resources effectively and the people of Staplehurst receive the very best health care. Earlier this year the PCT proposed to undertake a formal tendering process under Alternative Provider Medical Services, which provided scope for the PCT to enter into contracts with a wider range of providers.

Following meetings with representatives from the local parish councils, patient and public involvement forum, Local Medical Committee and listening to the comments made by local residents, the PCT has agreed to broaden the options for the future management of health services for the patients of Staplehurst. Those patients will continue to receive NHS health care.

## **Options available to potential bidders.**

There are now three options for consideration, which the PCT would like your views on:-

- 1 To provide health care under General Medical Services (GMS) which may include the existing GPs or new GPs either locally or from outside the area.

Issues for consideration - The contract would be let according to the terms laid down in the nationally negotiated GP Contract and could not be varied to meet local need. A time limited contract term could not be specified.

- 2 To provide health care under Personal Medical Services (PMS Contract).

Issues for consideration - This would mean that GPs, local or from elsewhere or the PCT itself could be awarded the contract. The terms and conditions are similar to the GMS Contract but there is more flexibility in delivering healthcare.

- 3 To provide health care under Alternative Provider Medical Services (APMS) contract.

Issues for consideration - The contract can be awarded to a range of alternative providers e.g.

commercial, not for profit organisations voluntary sector, NHS Trusts, other PCTs and GPs. The PCT can specify the terms and conditions to ensure it meets local needs and the contract term can be time limited.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### *What services will be provided for the patients of Rose Cottage Surgery?*

All practices are required to provide medical care for patients who are ill with conditions from which they can recover, for the duration of that illness; for terminally ill patients and ongoing support for patients with chronic diseases. There is no exception to this.

In addition there are a range of other services which practices can provide but are not obliged to. These can include contraceptive services, vaccinations and immunisations, maternity services etc. We will agree with the successful bidder the services they will provide and at a minimum will ensure they continue to provide those already available. We will let you know what will be provided by the practice and also who will provide them if the practice does not.

### *Will the local doctors at Rose Cottage be able to apply?*

Yes. The PCT is working closely with the GPs and staff and will provide support in preparing their bid.

### *How will the appointment be made?*

The PCT will place an advertisement in the national press. To seek expressions of interest in the future management of local health service to be provided at the new health centre. Applicants will be evaluated through a staged process:-

- a) A formal evaluation based on a written application and against pre-determined criteria
- b) Applicants will be asked to give a formal presentation about their plans to a wide group of stakeholders including staff and patients from the practice, who will make up the panel. This will enable a wider group of people to give their views around proposed services and plans. The Panel will then agree the successful applicant and the contract will be awarded.

### *What type of criteria will the PCT be looking at?*

All applicants will be asked to provide details of their plans around the following areas:

1. Services and clinics to be provided
2. Access arrangements e.g. opening hours, practice boundary
3. Patient consultation i.e. establishment of a patient group, and patient information
4. The staff who will be employed and plans around recruitment and retention of staff. This will include training and development opportunities

5. Proposals to develop the use of IT in the practice  
 These criteria will also form the basis for monitoring the performance of the successful applicant once the contract has been awarded

***When do you expect the contract to start?***

We expect to go out to advertisement in the Spring of 2007 and for the contract to be awarded by the Summer of 2007. Until that time the PCT working with the local GPs and staff will continue to be responsible for your care.

***Why can't the PCT handover the medical centre to the local GPs at Rose Cottage?***

The PCT is an NHS body and needs to account for the use of public monies it has been allocated to it. It is also required to follow the rules when arranging contracts, which is set out in the PCTs Standing Financial Instructions. Given the sums of money involved, the PCT is required to seek a competitive tendering process prior to the awarding of a contract.

**How to have your Say**

Complete the response form attached and return it to Carol Bowden, Primary Care Manager, West Kent PCT, Ditton Ward Preston Hall, Aylesford, Kent ME20 7NJ

Email your comments to  
**Carol.Bowden@maidstonewealdpct.nhs.uk**

Please remember to send in your comments by no later than 22 December 2006

**The Future of the Guelder Rose Medical Centre**

Following Dr Gildeh's retirement in July, the PCT took on the management of the practice and asked the

GPs at Rose Cottage Surgery to provide the day-to-day care of the patients on a temporary basis.

Once the new health centre opens in January 2007 the PCT plans to relocate patients currently registered at the Guelder Rose Medical Practice to the new health centre. The PCT has written to patients to inform them of its plans and the options available to them.

As this will not be a significant change to services for the patients at Guelder Rose Surgery and will provide better value for the long term care of the patients of Staplehurst, the PCT is not required to undertake a full consultation process. The PCT is, however, asking patients for their views.

**Update on the new Staplehurst Health Centre**

The new health centre is nearing completion and is due to be handed over to the PCT in December 2006. It is anticipated that the GPs, staff and patients of Rose Cottage Surgery and Guelder Rose Medical Practice will move into the new premises in January 2007. The PCT has invested in excess of £1m in the development of this new health facility for the people of Staplehurst and surrounding areas.

**Frequently Asked Questions**

***What plans are there for NHS Dental Services?***

Provision has been made for two Dental rooms in the centre which will be suitably equipped.

***When will NHS Dentists be working in the Medical Centre?***

The PCT plans to advertise for two NHS Dentists to work in the medical centre in December 2006.

**THE FUTURE OF HEALTH SERVICES IN STAPLEHURST**

***Let us know what you think***

Name (optional): .....

Contact Address (optional): .....

.....  
 .....

Please give your comments on the following question:

**Q1 *What is your preferred option for the future management of local medical services (Please list in order of preference: 1 – first choice to 3 – third choice)***

For local medical care to be provided under General Medical Services (GMS) which will include existing or new GPs either locally or from outside the area.

For local medical care to be provided under Personal Medical Services (PMS) which will include GPs, local or from elsewhere or the PCT itself to be awarded the contract.

For local medical care to be provided under Alternative Provider Medical Services (APMS) which will include a range of providers, commercial and not for profit organisations, voluntary organisations, NHS Trusts, PCTs, local GPs and GPs from elsewhere.

Please use this space for any other comments you would like to make on the future management of health services in Staplehurst:

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 .....

Please return this form to

The Future of Health Services in Staplehurst, Ditton Ward, West Kent PCT, Preston Hall, FREEPOST, SEA18214, ME20 7BR by 22 December 2006

# HIGHWAY MATTERS

Maintenance of most of the roads and pavements in Kent, apart from Motorways and a few trunk roads, are looked after by KCC Highway Services. From information supplied by the general public, councils and their own inspectors they decide which stretches of roads require repair. This can be by surface dressing, resurfacing or replacement.

## WHO CAN DIG UP THE ROAD?

Utility suppliers like gas, electricity and water companies plus private contractors with the permission of Highway Services. These contractors could be laying cables, connecting sewers, creating dropped kerbs or access ramps and they all must follow the many rules and regulations for working on the highway.

## TRAFFIC CALMING

Traffic Calming is generally used in residential areas. It is about reducing speed. Road humps in particular are not suitable for main roads, such as the A229.

Road humps are extremely successful at keeping speed down but can lead to problems with reduced parking areas, extra noise and more pollution (caused by cars speeding up and slowing down between humps).

## DROPPED KERBS

By law you are not allowed to drive across a pavement or verge unless a dropped kerb has been installed. To install a dropped kerb you need a space of 4.8 x 2.4 metres on your property to park and you need adequate visibility onto the highway. To install a dropped kerb in a pavement you will need a licence from the local authority and use an approved contractor.

## CYCLE ROUTES

Kent Highway Services are encouraging cycling and cycle routes which makes it all the more disappointing that the only cycle path in Staplehurst has never been adequately completed. The Staplehurst Society have suggested a network of cycle routes which have never been adopted.

## KENT CAR SHARE

The KCC are promoting their kentcarshare scheme with an internet journey matching facility to help finding commuters to share transportation. Having had pilot schemes in Barming and Bearsted it is now being rolled out county wide with over 1700 registered users. Details are available via [www.kent.gov.uk/carshare](http://www.kent.gov.uk/carshare).

Kent Highway Services can be contacted on 08458 247 800 or at [www.kent.gov.uk/highways](http://www.kent.gov.uk/highways).

## YOUTH CLUB 2007 – VISION OF THE FUTURE

2006 has been a difficult year for the Staplehurst Youth Club. The only good point was Staplehurst being lucky to get the KCC Youth Worker, Fiona Simpson, as she has been a breath of fresh air.

We have been working hard to get funding to give the young people of our village a youth club with improved facilities. So far, help has been received from Councillor Eric Hotson, leader of the Maidstone Borough Council and the Parish Council. We are actively looking for other sources of funding to help make a youth club that Staplehurst can be proud of.

We have managed to get funds to employ a new KCC youth leader who will take over day to day running of the club for 10 months with help from the Parish Council and Kent Community Foundation.

We would like to add a basketball court and lots of

new equipment to the club. This what the young people want, but will require much hard work to get outside funding to achieve these goals.

We are starting to train some of the young people to help run the club which will be such a positive move.

Finally, Staplehurst is a rural village with lots of bored young people. We need lots of you parents volunteering to give a small amount of your spare time to help these young people put their time to productive use. If you can help, contact Paul Butcher on 891761.

## STAPLEHURST VILLAGE CENTRE AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Trustees of the centre will be held on the 27th February 2007. It will be in the South Hall of the Village Centre at 8pm.

# Parish Council Information

The Parish Office is in the Village Centre. It is open on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9 to 11 am. The phone number is 01580 891761. The email address is: [staplehurst1@btconnect.com](mailto:staplehurst1@btconnect.com)

The Parish councillors are Margaret Arger (Chairman), Joan Buller, Paul Butcher, Barry Franks (Vice-Chairman), Wendy Green (Planning Committee Chair), Paul Kelly, Angela Knowlden, Trevor Martin (Amenities Committee

Chair), Roger Munn, John Reardon, Chris Rogers, Georgie Collins, John Stewart, John Swannick and Donald Wood.

Parish Council Surgeries are held at the Library on the last Saturday of each month, from 10am to 12pm. A Parish Councillor, Richard Lusty (our Borough Councillor), or Chris Lomax (Community Warden) and/or Marc Pennicott (our Community Police Officer) attend, and are willing to talk over any problems.