

STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL NOTES (for January 2010)

Happy New Year to all residents from Staplehurst Parish Council and staff.

MBC Waste Information and Collection Services – Call Maidstone Borough Contact Centre on 01622 602162 for information about services provided by Maidstone Borough Council. Alternatively much information is available on www.maidstone.gov.uk You can use the computer at Staplehurst Library if you do not have your own. Refuse collections during January will be slightly changed due to the effect of Bank Holidays over Christmas and the New Year. Full details are available on the Latest News Page of www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk or as follows:-

Normal Collection	Actual Collection
Friday, December 25	Tuesday, December 29
Monday, December 28	Wednesday, December 30
Tuesday, December 29	Thursday, December 31
Wednesday, December 30	Saturday, January 2
Thursday, December 31	Monday, January 4
Friday, January 1	Tuesday, January 5
Monday, January 4	Wednesday, January 6
Tuesday, January 5	Thursday, January 7
Wednesday, January 6	Friday, January 8
Thursday, January 7	Saturday, January 9
Friday, January 8	Monday, January 11
Monday, January 11	Tuesday, January 12
Tuesday, January 12	Wednesday, January 13
Wednesday, January 13	Thursday, January 14
Thursday, January 14	Friday, January 15
Friday, January 15	Saturday, January 16

The next visit of the **Waste Freighter** is due on Sunday 24th January; 1000-1100 at Poyntell Road Pond, 1115-1200 at Church Green and 1215-1315 at Northdown.

Don't bin it after Christmas - At Christmas people in the UK will generate an extra three million tonnes of rubbish and use 83 square km of wrapping paper - that's enough to cover almost 7,000 football pitches. Here are Maidstone Borough Council's tips to reduce, reuse and recycle your festive rubbish.

Wrapping paper and cardboard packaging can be recycled at cardboard recycling banks at 'bring' sites around the borough or in your green bin or black box. Larger boxes will be collected if presented alongside your recycling. Please do not put wrapping paper in the paper recycling banks.

Glass bottles and jars can be recycled at 'bring' sites around the borough. Mobile phones can be recycled at Oxfam shops.

Real Christmas trees can be recycled at the household waste recycling centre at Burial Ground Lane, Tovil, or you can put it out with your garden bin or green garden waste sacks.

Christmas cards can be recycled in Maidstone council cardboard banks, in your green bin or black box and at special Woodland Trust banks at TK Maxx, Tesco, WHSmith and Marks & Spencer stores until the end of January.

Garden waste - MBC Green Garden Sacks are available from Spuds 'n Buds, Henhurst Farm Shop or the Parish Office at £2.50 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).

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 (details of fees are shown on www.maidstone.gov.uk). Alternatively the Tovil tip and waste freighter are available for householder's use. Please report direct to Maidstone Borough Council 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. You can also 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.

Parish Information and E-groups – Copies of the Minutes of Parish Council Meetings are available at Full Council Meetings and on the Parish Council Website at 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, Infrastructure Group, 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.

REPORT IT! PC Marc Pennicott with Community Warden, Chris Lomax, PCSO Pete Gardner and Special Constable Ken Baker 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. 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.

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!

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 Warden details of the perpetrators. Visits to problem area can be timed to be most effective and fines imposed when the offender is 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. The red Scoopit Bags are no longer provided by Maidstone Borough Council but it is hoped that dog owners will continue to pick up their dog's mess and dispose of it properly. Many people use nappy sacks which can be purchased cheaply or recycle old supermarket carrier bags. If there is no red dog waste bin available within your walking route, kindly take your dog's waste home with you.

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. For all other Highways issues contact Kent Highways.

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 You do not need to contact the Parish Office to report such defects. Responsibility for the motorways and trunk roads are managed by the Highways Agency on 08457 504030.

Bogus Caller Advice: If any caller does not have an appointment, then ask them to wait while you check their identity. Do not be afraid to close the door and make them wait. Checking identity can sometimes be difficult and confusing to do. If so, ask them to come back at another time when you can have someone with you. If the caller is genuine they will understand and not mind returning. The local policing team in partnership with Trading Standards has introduced a **Cold Calling Control Zone** for Staplehurst. Information has been circulated and signs put up to educate residents and cold-callers about this initiative.

Neighbourhood Watch operates a scheme called Nominated Neighbour,

which asks the caller to go to a neighbour who will return with them, so you do not have to deal with this alone. If you wish to learn any more about this, contact the Neighbourhood Watch Office on 01622 604395. Never give any personal details to a stranger. Remember it is your home and you should not be afraid to ask them to leave. If you are at all concerned about a caller, call Mid Kent Police on 01622 690055.

KCC Handyvan Services: The fitting of various security devices for householders is available through KCC in partnership with Help the Aged and Age concern. Please telephone 0845 026 1055 or email handyvan@helptheaged.org.uk for details. Web www.helptheaged.org.uk

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

Planning Committee - 7 p.m. Monday 4th January 2010

Amenities Committee – 8 p.m. Monday 4th January 2010

Planning Committee – 7 p.m. Monday 18th January 2010

Full Council Meeting - 8 p.m. Monday 18th January 2010

Mrs J S Bassett, Parish Clerk

Parish Office, Village Centre, Staplehurst.

Telephone/Fax: (01580) 891761.

Website: www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk and

E-mail: staplehurst1@btconnect.com

The Parish Office is open to the public 0900-1300 hrs.

Mondays to Fridays (except Thursdays by appointment).