

## **STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL NOTES (for August 2013)**

**Staplehurst Summer Play Scheme** – By the time you are reading this article, this summer's play scheme should be well under way. The scheme is being run by Play Place, with financial and administrative support from the Parish Council and Maidstone Borough Council, and is aimed at children aged 4-11. The scheme runs from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm on weekdays from Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> July to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August, following its initial open morning on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> July. The venue is the Kathie Lamb Brownie and Guide Centre at the Jubilee Field on Headcorn Road. Full details can be found on notices at village bus stops, on the noticeboard at the Parade and on the village website <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/playscheme.aspx>. For further information please call Toni Chincharo, Play Place Kent Manager, on 07966 966090.

**Bell Lane Toilets** – They are opened daily and cleaned from 7.30 a.m. and locked for the night at 7.30 p.m. The Council wishes to do all it can to keep vandalism repair costs to a minimum and would be grateful if residents could report any damage, misuse or potential vandalism problems. For non-urgent reports, please call during office hours or leave a message on 01580 891761. If an issue requires immediate attention outside office hours, please telephone 07539 692588.

**Council Surgeries at the Library** – If residents wish to raise local issues representatives of the Parish Council will be at the library on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2013 between 10:00 and 12.00 noon. The surgery by Borough Councillor Richard Lusty will also be on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August, between 10.00 am and 12.00 noon. All are welcome. The next Police session at the Library will be on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August between 10.00 am and 12.00 noon.

**Website** – As well as minutes and publicity material, reports submitted to the Parish Council are uploaded onto the website. Local businesses and village groups are welcome to manage their own website entries linked from the Trade Directory and Village Life pages of this website free of charge. Kindly contact the Parish Clerk for details. The Website Forum continues to be a useful source of local information and interesting comment.

**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 [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes\\_of\\_the\\_last\\_meetings.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx). A number of e-groups are available for anyone wishing to receive direct emails of useful information about local issues e.g., Weekly MBC Plans List, Parish Council Minutes & Agendas, Press Releases, etc. If residents have any queries regarding Parish Council or local authority issues, they are encouraged to contact the Parish Clerk for the facts.

**MBC Cleansing and Collection Services** – Call Maidstone Borough Contact Centre on 01622 602162 or go to [www.maidstone.gov.uk](http://www.maidstone.gov.uk) for information about

refuse services provided by Maidstone Borough Council. Use the phone number to report any undesirable activities such as fly-tipping, dumped cars, littering etc. and help to keep the environment clean and tidy. A "pull-out" (or rear of property) collection service is available to those who are unable to wheel or carry their refuse to the front boundary of their homes.

- **Changes to Rubbish & Recycling Collections** – Maidstone Borough Council is making changes to its collection of rubbish and recycling items, which will take effect on Monday 5th August. Residents will be able to put more items in their green recycling bins, such as glass bottles and jars, food and drink cartons and plastic trays and punnets. There will also be a new service to collect textiles and small electrical items. Some rubbish and recycling collection days will change. Information leaflets were due to be posted to residents in July. For further information visit the dedicated website at <http://www.recyclingtogether.co.uk/>.
- **Waste Freighter** – The next visit of the waste freighter to Staplehurst will be on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2013: 0745-0830 at Poyntell Pond, 0840-0925 at Church Green and 0935-1015 at Northdown. Check the website at <http://www.maidstone.gov.uk/residents/binsandrecycling/other-types-of-collections> for latest information. Please note that garden waste/vegetation is no longer accepted for disposal by the waste freighter.
- **Garden Waste** – From 28<sup>th</sup> June 2013 white garden sacks have no longer been collected by MBC, except for special cases. The sacks are now replaced by two sizes of wheelie bin (240L and 140L available for an annual hire charge of £30 and £27 respectively). Neighbours may wish to consider sharing a bin. Further information is available at <http://www.maidstone.gov.uk/residents/binsandrecycling/my-bins> or by telephoning 01622 602600. If your property is assessed as not having room for a bin you may be eligible to obtain white sacks on a subscription basis from MBC; telephone 01622 602600 for details.
- **Food waste** – Compostable bags for the kitchen caddies are available from the Henhurst Farm Shop, Pinnock Lane, TN12 0HD and Paxman Services (UK) Ltd at Unit 3 Larkstore Park, Lodge Road, TN12 0QY.
- **MBC Bulky Collection Service** – Phone MBC on 01622 602600 or go online to <http://www.maidstone.gov.uk/residents/binsandrecycling> to arrange a collection. Fees start at £23 for 1-6 items; full details are shown at <http://www.maidstone.gov.uk/residents/binsandrecycling/other-types-of-collections>. Householders may also use the KCC Householder Waste Tip at Tovil. Details are at [http://kent.gov.uk/environment\\_and\\_planning/recycling\\_and\\_rubbish/ways\\_to\\_recycle/waste\\_and\\_recycling\\_centres/maidstone\\_tovil.aspx](http://kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/recycling_and_rubbish/ways_to_recycle/waste_and_recycling_centres/maidstone_tovil.aspx).

**REPORT INCIDENTS TO THE POLICE WITH THE NATIONAL NUMBER 101** All non-emergency crime-incident reports should be telephoned to 101.

This non-emergency 24/7 national police telephone number will enable you access to the local policing team – wherever you happen to be in the UK. Use 101 to report any non-life threatening incident that you witness for automatic referral to the correct local policing team. Full details are available at <http://www.police.uk/101> If you prefer, calls to Crimestoppers will remain anonymous: 0800 555 111, but these may not be referred back directly to this parish or logged into the police systems. Life-threatening incidents, crimes in progress or serious injury road traffic accident that require urgent police attendance should be notified by dialling 999 in the usual way.

Community Warden Mira Martin: mob: 07811 271254 e-mail: [mira.martin@kent.gov.uk](mailto:mira.martin@kent.gov.uk) and PCSO Pete Gardner Tel: 101 email: [peter.gardner@kent.pnn.police.uk](mailto:peter.gardner@kent.pnn.police.uk) with Special Constable Ken Baker remain the local visible policing presence in our Parish, but have emergency back-up from the force as necessary.

**Hire of North & South Hall, Staplehurst Village Centre** - To enquire about the availability of either hall, please contact the Village Centre booking clerk on 07864 547453. The Parish Office does not deal with Village Centre bookings.

**Dog Mess & Disposal** – Red dog waste bins are provided by Maidstone Borough Council at strategic points around the parish. 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 or wish to report persistent incidents of mess, telephone MBC Environmental Services on 01622 602202 to give details, including information in confidence about perpetrators if known. Visits to problem areas can be timed to be most effective and a fine imposed when the offender is caught. To report a stray dog, telephone MBC's Dog Warden on 01622 602117.

**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. Telephone MBC Contact Centre on 01622 602162 to report most highway-related issues requiring attention. For all other Highways and Public Transport issues contact Kent Highways.

**Kent Highways** - Call 0300 333 5539 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 at <http://www.kent.gov.uk/KCC.KHSFaultsGIS.Web.Sites.Public/> . You do not need to contact the Parish Office to report such defects. Responsibility for motorways and trunk roads lies with the Highways Agency on 0300 123 5000 or e-mail [ha\\_info@highways.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ha_info@highways.gsi.gov.uk).

**Kent Public Rights of Way** – To report any issues with public rights of way call 0845 345 0210 (lines open 8am - 8pm Monday - Friday), email [westprow@kent.gov.uk](mailto:westprow@kent.gov.uk), visit the KCC website

[http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment\\_and\\_planning/countryside\\_access.aspx](http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access.aspx)  
or write to Public Rights of Way and Access Service, 8 Abbeywood Road, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4YT.

**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. These zones are clearly indicated by signs.

**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, telephone 101.

**Age UK Maidstone:** Maidstone Age UK provides information and advice to support older people, their relatives and carers. Visits can be arranged and telephone advice given – call Angela on 01622 753618. It also provides an advocacy service to become the voice of those unable to handle matters on their own – call Aileen on 01622 753618. There is a drop-in service on the first Tuesday of every month at the McCabe Centre from 10.00 am until 1.00 pm.

**Brighter Futures** – Voluntary Action Maidstone's Brighter Futures project is designed specifically for the over 65s and focuses on health and wellbeing. It organises activities such as exercise classes, day trips, shopping trips and a befriending service. To find out more about the project's activities in Staplehurst telephone Amanda Duddle on 01622 762403 or 07723 397214 or e-mail [amanda.duddle@vam-online.org.uk](mailto:amanda.duddle@vam-online.org.uk).

**Maidstone Borough Council Planning Services** – MBC offers a pre-application advice service for householders or anyone contemplating residential/commercial development. For further information visit <http://www.maidstone.gov.uk/residents/planning/planning/pre-application-advice>, e-mail [customerservices@maidstone.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@maidstone.gov.uk) or telephone 01622 602736.

**Future Library Services** – Kent County Council continues its consultation with residents across the county about the shape of future library services in Kent. It wants to work with local communities to find new and efficient ways to run local services. For further information about the Future Library Services initiative visit the KCC website [www.kent.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.kent.gov.uk/libraries). To have your say write to: The FLS Team, Kent Libraries, Registration and Archives, James

Whatman Way, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1LQ; telephone 01622 696504; or e-mail [fls@kent.gov.uk](mailto:fls@kent.gov.uk). Staplehurst Library is now operating revised opening hours on Tuesdays (closing at 6.00pm) and Saturdays (opening longer hours from 9.00am to 3.00 pm).

**Planning Committee and Full Council Meetings in South Hall, Staplehurst Village Centre from 7 p.m.**

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2013

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2013

Please note that the start time of Full Council Meetings is variable and depends on the length of the Planning Committee meeting agenda. Please check with the Parish Office prior to the meeting for an estimated start time; alternatively, consult the agendas displayed on the village centre noticeboard or the village website: <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/agendas.aspx>.

Mr M J Westwood, Parish Clerk

Parish Office, Village Centre, Staplehurst, TN12 0BJ

Telephone/Fax: (01580) 891761

Website: [www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk)

E-mail: [clerk@staplehurstvillage.org.uk](mailto:clerk@staplehurstvillage.org.uk)

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

Mondays to Fridays (except Thursdays by appointment).