

STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL NOTES (for June 2011)

New Parish Council for 2011-2015 – At the first meeting of the new Council on 16th May, it is hoped that the vacant seat will be filled by co-option. Full details of the new Council will be printed in the Summer issue of the Village Update, which should have been delivered by the time you are reading this. Alternatively you can see your new Parish Councillors on the Parish Council Website at http://staplehurstvillage.org.uk/parish_council.aspx

Carnival & Fete – Parish Councillors will be represented on 25th June, so do come and make yourselves known to them. The new Staplehurst Cleaner will be on view. Representatives of Staplehurst Emergency Help Team will be on hand to sign up anyone who would like to assist in a local emergency.

Removal of Dog Waste Bins – As of 20th June, Maidstone Borough Council will be removing all bins for the disposal of dog waste. It is understood that the waste can now be put in litter bins instead.

Playscheme – The usual three weeks of summer fun for 5-11 year olds at the beginning of August 1st -19th is being planned. Visit the Parish Council stall at the Carnival for details or see the flyer delivered with the Village Update.

Duckhurst Farm East Kent School boys Scramble Club Meeting – Sundays 12th June, 3rd July, 7th August and 4th September 2011. There will be people on site on the Saturday preparing the track, but no bikes on that day. Some people do arrive on the Saturday afternoon for the racing on the Sunday but there are no bikes involved. On the Sunday, practice starts at 10am and runs through into racing. The organisers try to ensure that no bikes are started prior to 10am. and aim to be finished racing by 5.30/6pm at the very latest. They then then clear up the litter and ensure the site is safe for horses prior to leaving the site completely on the Sunday evening.

Summer Village Update – Distribution is planned for week ending 3rd June. It is intended that every household in the Parish should receive a Village Update. Those living in outlying areas without a pavement will receive theirs by post or email. The Council is grateful to local residents who help to keep costs down by volunteering to deliver the Village Updates by hand on foot. If anyone would like to help with deliveries, please contact the Parish Clerk. Digital copies of all Village Updates are available at http://staplehurstvillage.org.uk/village_update.aspx

Annual Report 2010-2011 – The Annual Report of the past year of the previous Parish Council ending on 31st March 2011 will be distributed this month with the Summer issue of the Village Update. A digital copy of this and previous year's reports are available at http://staplehurstvillage.org.uk/annual_report.aspx

Bell Lane Toilets – They are being cleaned and opened daily from 7 a.m. until early evening, then locked at night. Staplehurst Parish Council wishes to do all

it can to keep vandalism repair costs to a minimum and would appreciate it if all 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.

Website – The Parish Council website continues to improve with additional pages of information. The Reports submitted to the Parish Council are now uploaded onto the website together with the Minutes. Local businesses and village groups are also 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 . 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 local 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 for information about refuse services provided by Maidstone Borough Council. Alternatively much information is available on www.maidstone.gov.uk Use this number also 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 also available to those who are unable to wheel or carry their refuse to the front boundary of their homes.

- **Waste Freighter** – The next visit of the waste freighter to Staplehurst has not yet been advised. Please check for the new details at http://www.maidstone.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/recycling_rubbish_and_waste/saturday_freighter_service_-_d.aspx Please note that garden waste/vegetation is no longer accepted for disposal by the Waste Freighter.
- **Garden waste** – The new compostable WHITE MBC Garden Sacks are available from Henhurst Farm Shop, Pinnock Lane, TN12 0HD, Paxman Services (UK) Ltd at Unit 3 Larkstore Park, Lodge Road, TN12 0QY or the Parish Office at £3.25 per roll of 5. If you use more than 10 rolls of garden sacks per year and you have room for an additional bin, it may be more cost-effective to hire a bin from MBC. Leave the white sacks beside your household waste bin on your collection day (or put vegetation in a blue-lidded wheelie bin hired from MBC specifically for garden waste).

- **Food waste** – Compostable bags for the kitchen caddies are now 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 602162 to arrange a collection. Details of fees are shown on http://www.maidstone.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/recycling_rubbish_and_waste/household_waste_-_special_col.aspx Alternatively the KCC Householder Waste Tip at Tovil is available for householders to use free of charge. Full details at http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/recycling_and_rubbish/ways_to_recycle/waste_and_recycling_centres/maidstone_tovil.aspx

REPORT IT! PC Marc Pennicott on 07980 770575 with Community Warden, Chris Lomax on 07811 271254, PCSO Pete Gardner on 07772 226134 and Special Constable Ken Baker are the local visible policing presence in our Parish, but have emergency back up from the force as necessary. Telephone any of these officers if you witness anti-social behaviour that is not life-threatening. These are not 24/7 contact numbers so do leave a message and they will get back to you when next on duty. All crime-incident reports should be given to Maidstone Police Station on 01622 690690. 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 07864 547453. The Parish Office does not deal with Village Centre bookings, although we do get many enquiries!

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 <http://www.kent.gov.uk/KHSFaults/> 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 690690.

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. Website: www.helptheaged.org.uk

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

Planning Committee - 7 p.m. Monday 6th June 2011

Full Council Meeting – 8 p.m. Monday 6th June 2011

Planning Committee – 7 p.m. Monday 20th June 2011

Full Council Meeting – 8 p.m. Monday 20th June 2011

Please note that the start time of Full Council Meetings could be earlier, if the Planning Committee meeting Agenda is short. Please check with the Parish Office prior to the meeting you wish to attend.

Mrs J S Bassett, Parish Clerk
Parish Office, Village Centre, Staplehurst, TN12 0BJ
Telephone/Fax: (01580) 891761
Website: www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk
E-mail: clerk@staplehurstvillage.org.uk
The Parish Office is open to the public 0900-1300 hrs.
Mondays to Fridays (except Thursdays by appointment).