

Village Update

SUMMER 2011

www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk

LOOK OUT FOR THE IMPROVED STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE - COMING SOON

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING May 11th 2011

The meeting began with a fascinating presentation by Lowland Search Dogs Kent www.lowlandsearchdogskent.co.uk. They provide a valuable resource to Search and Rescue operations, covering a large area of ground quickly and efficiently, with an excellent record of finding missing people. Councillor John Perry, the Chairman, gave a summary of the Parish Council's work over the past year. Reports were presented by Borough Councillor Richard Lusty and County & Borough Councillor Eric Hotson who is also Mayor of Maidstone Borough Council. Written reports from Village Organisations were available at the meeting and are now on the Staplehurst Parish Council website. Following questions and comments from parishioners, the evening ended with light refreshments and an opportunity to meet councillors.

EMERGENCY HELP TEAM

Delivered with the Spring Update was a letter outlining the aims of this new group, requesting your feedback and offers of help should a major emergency arise again in this parish. A handful of replies have been received from over 2,000 letters that were sent out and the group is appreciative of the support it has received so far. It is not too late to send in your offers of help and if you have already recycled the original letter and form, they are available to download from http://staplehurstvillage.org.uk/emergency_planning_tam.aspx SEHT looks forward to hearing from many

more residents who could help others in a crisis. Any details provided will be held secure and not used for any purpose other than contacting you in an emergency. In the meantime, SEHT members are undergoing

Rest Centre Training, drafting a Local Emergency Plan, gathering contact details and information which would be useful to the Emergency Services in case of fire, flood, power failure, extremes of weather, major accident or any other emergency situation. The next meeting of the SEHT will be on Thursday 16th June, 7.30 p.m. in the Youth Club. All welcome.



STAPLEHURST CARNIVAL & FETE

This successful annual event will be on Saturday 25th June 2011 at 1.00pm on Surrenden Field, Surrenden Road, Staplehurst. If you want to take a stall or have any queries, please contact Jenny Wilden on 01580 892764 or Elaine Downton on 01580 893586 and they will be happy to help you.

SUMMER PLAY SCHEME

Please see the leaflet enclosed with this Village Update for information, including how to book a place.

Staplehurst

Parish Council

STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCILLORS FROM 17 MAY 2011

Photographs by kind
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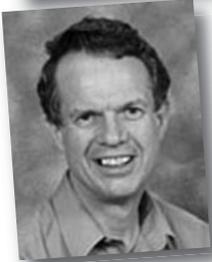
MARGARET ASHBY

We moved as a family to the village in 1994 and both my daughters attended Staplehurst Primary School. During that time I was an active member of the PTA. I also have served on the Churches Together in Staplehurst committee for 15 years. My primary purpose on the Parish Council is to listen to the concerns of residents and try to address them. I am looking forward to the challenges ahead.



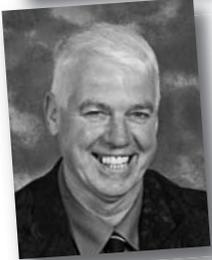
JOAN BULLER

As an experienced councillor of twenty eight years I am involved with many ongoing projects including editing and organising the distribution of the Village Update, Allotment, Rural Settlement (now working on the Parish Plan), Emergency Help groups and heading up Speed Watch. I am working with Age Concern on the new Staplehurst Community Hub, supporting our older residents. I am enjoying mentoring new councillors. I would like to make Staplehurst litter-free and promote our community as a good place to live and visit. I enjoy walking where I meet and listen to parishioners and being part of our friendly and caring community.



TOM BURNHAM

I have lived in Staplehurst since 2000 and have been a member of the Parish Council since 2007. Although Staplehurst is a large village, I have found it to be a friendly place with much community spirit, and I hope this will be maintained in future. I would not oppose a certain amount of sustainable development, but this needs to be accompanied by the necessary infrastructure and by opportunities for local employment and business. Staplehurst Parish Council could play an important role in ensuring that public services and facilities valued by residents are provided economically and without duplication.



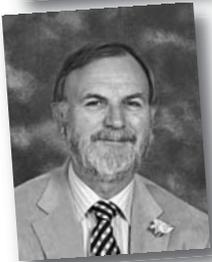
PAUL BUTCHER

I have worked and lived in the village for over 30 years. Being a Parish Councillor is always a busy role but I will continue to work hard to make a difference to our community. Working with local groups and with people sharing a similar outlook means much can be achieved. I am a member of many groups, trying to help them with lots of issues, especially raising funds. As a single parent, the Youth Club is particularly important to me and I hope we will be able to open it every week, including offering the Youth Centre for different groups to use.



JACK DAVIDSON

I am 22 and have lived in the village for 19 years. I am a Performing Arts and Dance Teacher teaching in the local area. I am Vice Chairman at Staplehurst Dramatic Society. I run and own Strictly Productions and the Weald Theatre Company. I have chosen to be on the Parish Council because I am passionate about the village and can give a younger person's perspective whilst being able to respect some of the village's traditional values. I am looking forward to working with my fellow Councillors over the next 4 years and hope we can do the best for Staplehurst.



SIMON GREEN

I have lived in Staplehurst for 28 years, having previously lived in Tovil and Sutton Valence. I've run a small paper mill and an environmental charity and I am now a consultant. I am a member of the Staplehurst Rural Settlement Group. I believe in taking a positive approach to planning so that the Council can influence development rather than having it imposed upon us. I think it is important to ensure it benefits both existing and future parishioners, while the amount of residential development should be carefully restricted and of high quality. My interests include natural and cultural conservation.



JOHN KELLY

I have lived in Staplehurst for 9.5 years. I aim to carry on working towards enhancing communication and facilitating 'localism' throughout the community. I am interested in and have a good understanding of planning matters, which assists in my co-ordination work on the Staplehurst Rural Settlement Group. Concentrating on the Local Development Framework, I seek to help create an effective Staplehurst Plan. I hope to continue working to assist the delivery of an improved Staplehurst Parish Council website, building on the previous work of others. Finding land suitable to bring allotments back to Staplehurst remains one of my goals.



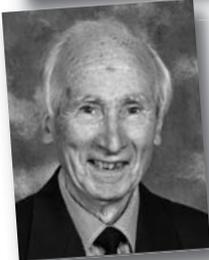
PAUL KELLY

This will be my fourth term as a Parish Councillor. I am also a member of the Staplehurst Rural Settlement Group, which considers development plans for Staplehurst. It's important this village has a say in its future and puts forward what improvements its residents want. I'd like to think there's nothing we can't do, given time and some creative forward thinking. A cleaner, more colourful village? More flower tubs in addition to the two at Bell Lane? Charging points at the station and the Parade for the new electric cars? An improved Village Centre? I look to the future with optimism.



SAM LAIN

I am 18 years of age, and have lived in the village since I was born. I am actively involved with many local groups, including Staplehurst Drama Society and Staplehurst Youth Club. In addition to this I am the owner and Managing Director of Kent's Talent. I work full-time at K College in Tonbridge within the Adult Learning Department. I am passionate about local facilities and the young people. I am very keen to work with and alongside my fellow councillors to ensure Staplehurst has great facilities and is a brilliant place to live for all.



BARRETT MANNING

I am a retired senior local government officer for the Corporation of London, with 49 years' service administering the Corporation's interests and estates in Northern Ireland. My wife and I have resided in Staplehurst since 1963. Our son and daughter attended the primary school. After retirement in 1994, I served 10 years as an adviser with the Maidstone Citizens Advice Bureau and a further 5 years as Chairman. I am an Independent Custody Visitor for the Kent Police Authority (15 years) and a Counsellor for the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association - Forces Help (SSAFA)(9years). My interests include grandchildren, gardening, golf, cricket and photography.



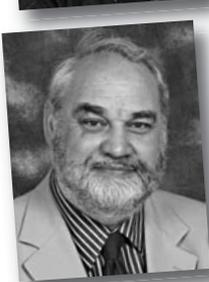
JOHN PERRY

My background is in economics and finance and I take a strong interest in the Parish Council's finances. Having worked in both the public and private sectors, I have extensive experience of working with government departments and have been the UK representative on various international committees. I was re-elected as Chairman this May and as such I am an ex-officio member of all the Parish Council's key committees and groups. We continue to work closely with our County and Borough Councillors, our Local Authorities and our local Police to ensure that policies and projects are in place to enhance our community.



JOHN REARDON

My professional experience is in IT and I am happy to continue to provide technical advice on IT issues to help with the smoother running of the Parish office. I hope to continue advising on the development of the SPC website and I look forward seeing the improvements which will soon be implemented on our website. The CCTV at Surrenden Field is important for security issues there; I will continue to monitor the equipment. I'm also keen to continue liaising with Kent Highways to report defects in local roads and pavements.



RORY SILKIN

I am a commercial solicitor living and working in Staplehurst, which I've been associated with since about 1960. My daughters went to Staplehurst school and then on to Angley. I chair the Council's Emergency Planning group, and I'm interested in our amenities generally; such as preserving Church Green for the village. Outside the Council, I'm a trustee of the Friends of the Health Centre, and independent examiner for the Friends of the Parish Church. When you see a big, bearded man being pulled along by a small terrier, that's me and Huxley.



STEVE SMITH

I have lived in Staplehurst for 3 years, moving here from Hawkhurst. I am a volunteer for the Wealden Disability Group and McCabe Lunch Group. I already help the Parish Council with the Staplehurst Emergency Help Team and also Staplehurst Community Hub, which is a joint project with Age Concern. I attend the Maidstone Older Persons Forum. My career has involved working with the elderly and I am looking forward to using these skills and expanding my interests to other areas. As I live on the outskirts of the village I hope to be a voice for the rural community.



PETER SPEARINK

I believe that a Parish Councillor should be considered as a job of work and taken seriously as such. During the last council I missed only two meetings, both through hospitalisation. I expect the same of my fellow councillors. I believe that we should seek town status in order to be taken more seriously by other bodies. I also believe that we should take a more active part in the borough as a whole and that we should join with other parishes to the south of the borough to form an effective cluster both for savings in scale and to have a more effective voice in matters affecting all parishes.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Parish Councils are elected for a four year period and Staplehurst's Council became due for re-election at the beginning of May this year. As there were 14 candidates for 15 seats on this Parish Council, an election was not necessary. One Councillor has been successfully co-opted. I am honoured to have been re-elected as Chairman and very much look forward to the year ahead. I would like to thank retiring Councillors, as well as those who have stood again, for their valuable contribution and to welcome our new Councillors. I believe our new Council is well placed to deal with the issues that are likely to come our way. The provision of allotments, security in the parish and preparing the parish development plan continue to be important. We will look at providing services where we consider this to

be the more cost-effective option. The Parish Council is currently trialling a new type of security camera which has been lent to us by Maidstone Borough Council as part of discussions concerning an alcohol control zone in the Parish. We have already had some significant success and we shall continue to monitor the results. We are successfully managing the Bell Lane public toilets and have commenced a street cleaning service. The Rural Settlement Group, made up of both Parish Councillors and Residents, continues its work and is preparing a Development Plan for the Parish as part of Maidstone Borough's Local Development Framework (LDF). The Parish Council is represented on key interest groups within the Borough. As always our ultimate aim is to provide services for the benefit of our Community.

John Perry

STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Planning Committee 7p.m. and Full Council 8p.m. (or earlier if Planning Agenda is short) on first and third Mondays monthly. Contact the Clerk for details. Please refer to www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/agendas.aspx

Local electors and the press have a right to listen to Parish Council Meetings, but not to take part. At the beginning and after the closure of the Parish Council Meeting, the Chairman will invite members of the public to speak for a maximum of 3 minutes each relating to issues on the Agenda or about issues of local concern. You are requested to state your name and address prior to speaking. The Parish Council as a planning consultee makes recommendations to Maidstone Borough Council, which makes the decision. All meetings are held in the South Hall, Village Centre.

STAPLEHURST COMMUNITY HUB

Age Concern and Staplehurst Parish Council have joined forces and STAPLEHURST COMMUNITY HUB has started. We are running a "tea and cakes" afternoon at the McCabe Day Centre every Monday between 2pm and 4pm. All residents over 50 are welcome. Transport can be arranged if necessary. Diane Buch has volunteered to lead with Sinead McQuillan of Age Concern; they will be available in the Library every Tuesday from 11am to 1pm to offer advice or support, or if you wish to become involved as a volunteer. We are hoping to offer extra support for individuals at home and be a link to all other organisations already working in our community.

Parish Council Information

COUNCILLORS

John Perry (Chairman)
Tom Burnham (Joint Vice Chairman)
Paul Kelly (Joint Vice Chairman)
Paul Butcher (Chairman of Planning)
Margaret Ashby
Joan Buller
Jack Davidson
Simon Green
John Kelly
Sam Lain
Barrett Manning
John Reardon
Rory Silkin
Steve Smith
Peter Spearink

CLERK

Mrs Sue Bassett

ASSISTANT to CLERK

Mrs Deborah Jenkins

Address:

The Parish Office,
Village Centre, High Street.
Staplehurst TN12 0BJ

Email: clerk@staplehurstvillage.org.uk

Tel: 01580 891761

Opening hours: 9am to 1pm Mondays to Fridays, except on Thursdays when it is by appointment.

COUNCIL AND POLICE SURGERIES AT THE LIBRARY

Borough Councillor Lusty holds a Council Surgery at the Library on the last Saturday of each month from 10am to 12pm.

Police Community Support Officer Pete Gardner will be attending Surgeries at Staplehurst library on

the following dates throughout the year. Any Police related issues or concerns can be discussed with him in confidence on these dates.

Saturday 25th June 2011
10am to 12 noon

Saturday 30th July 2011
10am to 12 noon

Saturday 3rd September 2011
12 noon to 13:00 hrs

Saturday 8th October 2011
12 noon to 13:00 hrs

Saturday 19th November 2011
12 noon to 13:00 hrs

You are welcome to talk through any local problems or ask questions about local issues with any or all of these Councillors and officers.

