

# Stansted network

## NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

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### FORESTHALL PARK TO BECOME PART OF STANSTED PARISH

The Electoral Arrangements Working Group of Uttlesford District Council has recommended that the part of the new estate currently within Birchanger parish will be moved into this parish. With this decision now known the Parish Council will discuss with the District Council and the developers the terms on which various responsibilities such as gardening and grasscutting will be assumed. The maintenance of play areas is likely to be the first responsibility assumed.

We welcome all our new parishioners and hope that the Council can meet your needs in building our community together.

### PARISH PLAN - SUBMITTED TO UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

At last the text of the Parish Plan has been sent to Uttlesford District Council where it is hoped that the Development Control Committee will approve the draft. Provided this occurs then the Parish Plan will be printed and distributed to every household and business.

Under the policy of the current government this plan should carry some weight when planning and other policy issues are under discussion. If the action points in the plan, which number around 150, are to be implemented then the Parish Council and parishioners will have to undertake much work and considerable lobbying as well as persuading outside agencies to give us money!

It is intended to review the plan every year and to report hopefully on achievements.

### CRIME IN THE VILLAGE

The new government website should show a breakdown of crime by area each month so, if you want to access this site, then go onto [www](http://www)

The Parish Council will publish these numbers on a regular basis along with some comment to put flesh on the bare figures.

The breakdown of the crime statistics for December is shown below:

### STATISTICS FOR DECEMBER 2010

Burglary	5
Anti Social Behaviour	5
Robbery	1
Vehicle Crime	1
Violent Crime	3
Other Crime	5

Violence on the streets of Stansted Mountfitchet remains rare and the three recorded incidents were all domestic, serious of course for those involved. Burglaries from dwellings currently pose the biggest problem. After five crimes in December the number rose to eight in January with four (actual & attempted) on one day but, so far in February, the number has shown a fall. It would appear those committing the crimes are professional and come from out of the area. Items stolen are small and easy to carry/sell - laptops and jewellery as well as cash. Burglaries are referred to CID often after a preliminary report by a local officer. Anti-social offences have been low during this period. Out of the four recorded three have been sorted. Whilst many of these incidents are minor, they remain an irritant while, if an individual or family is targeted, this can be more serious so all occurrences should be reported.

Neighbourhood Watch has become much stronger in the parish over the past couple of years but further support would reinforce this trend so, if you like further information, please contact Cllr Valerie Trundle on 01279 813433 or Diane Roberts on 01279 813089. Next meeting is Wednesday 25 May 2011 in Stansted Free Church Lecture Hall at 7.30 pm - see article next month.

Vigilance remains crucial especially as most of the burglaries have occurred in the daytime. If you see anything which rouses your concern or know of any incident, please call the police either on 999 if time is critical or on 0300 333 4444.

### ELMS FARM - LOOKING TO DEVELOP

We hope that many of you will have taken the opportunity to view the Gemmill Family's exhibition

at the Day Centre. Their quest is to gauge public opinion for possible redevelopment of part of the farm site. No formal planning application has been submitted.

If you were unable to attend, but wish to view the proposals and/or submit your comments, please follow the link on our website [www.stansted.net](http://www.stansted.net).

### **HEALTH CENTRE UPDATE - MOVING, IF SLOWLY, WE THINK!**

At a recent meeting attended by Cllr Geoffrey Sell (Chairman of the Parish Council) and District Cllr Alan Dean, the developers (Pelham Structures) and an officer from Uttlesford District Council, it was confirmed that a planning application should be submitted shortly. Whilst final terms have not yet been agreed between Pelham Structures and the PCT, this appears to be moving closer to completion.

Further discussions have taken place with Essex County Highways and it is now proposed to place rumble strips on Chapel Hill and Church Road as traffic calming measures.

We will bring further news as and when it is available.

### **PARISH NOW OWNS THE DAY CENTRE**

Uttlesford District Council (UDC) has decided that Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council (SMPC) owns the Day Centre (previously it was thought that SMPC owned the land and UDC the building).

It is expected that the services provided by the Day Centre will continue as before but discussions will need to take place with UDC over funding and with the Day Centre committee to ensure smooth running.

Whilst the assets of the parish have increased, there will be some increase in the costs of ownership. Some provision for this has been made in the budget for 2011/12.

### **RECREATION GROUND CLEARANCE**

For far too long it has been the Council's desire to tidy up the bottom end of the Recreation Ground, under the trees where brambles have flourished and weeds encroached! In early March, we were delighted to welcome a team from Community Payback (formerly Community Service Workers).

Under the keen eye of their supervisor, five young men from the Harlow area came with hand tools

and cleared a large amount of unwanted growth. We have established a good link now with the area office and hope to be able to use their services elsewhere in the village.

### **VILLAGE CLEAN UP - THANK YOU FOR A GOOD JOB**

On Saturday and Sunday, the 5th & 6th March, about 35 volunteers cleared many bags of litter from around the village - Church Road, Lime Kiln Lane, Pennington Lane, skatepark, Recreation Ground, Foresthall Park. We were delighted that so many of the youngsters from the Youth Centre came along and helped to boost their "community" hours for their Duke of Edinburgh Award.



Thank you to all who gave their time - the village looks better, although sadly by Monday morning there was evidence of fresh litter on Pennington Lane. If you see fly-tipping on any of our streets, please make a note of the car registration number, if applicable, and let us know. A local person was recently fined by Uttlesford District Council for dumping waste after their personal details were found in one of the rubbish bags.

### **CAN YOU HELP?**

Much could be done to improve the appearance and life of the parish. In current economic conditions the Parish Council is reluctant to increase council tax by a substantial amount even if the sum of money involved is not great. So do you have a few hours to spare and, if so, would you be prepared to help to make this a more pleasant place to live and work?

A list of areas in which help is needed will be included next month.

### **CENSUS DAY 2011**

Through the national media, you are no doubt aware that Census Day is looming - 27 March 2011. By the time you read this article, you

should have received the paperwork through your door.

One form should be completed per household, and this can be done on-line or on paper - we are advised that on-line is faster!

For a period of four weeks, commencing 6 April, collectors will be door-knocking at properties for which a form has not been returned. These collectors will have identity cards and an identifiable collection bag

## **STANSTED IN BLOOM**

Once again several of our village businesses have agreed to provide a prize each towards our competition 2011. We are always grateful for the interest and support that they give.

This year the competition will be judged on Saturday, 2 July and will take place between 2-5pm. In the next edition of the Link, you will find an entry form which will give further details where you can enter your own garden or that of a friend (with their permission of course!).

We are dividing the village into eight sections, including Foresthall Park and there will be one winner from each of the eight sections. In addition, there will also be a prize for the overall best garden.

Contacts: Cllr Valerie Trundle - 01279 813433  
Cllr Iris Evans - 01279 815848  
Mrs Joy Thomas - 01279 813871

## **GOOD NEWS FOR STANSTED LIBRARY**

The opening hours for the library will remain unchanged:

Tuesday 9-1, Wednesday 2-5, Thursday 2-6, Saturday 9.30-5

Our "Daddy Cool" sessions have now been running since January – every Saturday at 11 am. Stories, Songs and Rhymes – come along and join in the fun. Dads, Mums, Grandparents and carers all welcome.

There is a Beat Surgery in the library once a month from 2pm-4pm. The PCSO is able to help and advise on any issues or concerns you may have:

24th March, 21st April, 19th May, 16th June

## **NEWS FROM UTTLESFORD D.C.**

The District has frozen its council tax for the coming year, like councils nationwide, after receiving a

subsidy from the government. It will also, after April, receive a New Homes Bonus, a coalition initiative to help fund growing communities, based on the number of new homes that are built.

Discussions are continuing about support for elderly persons' day centres around the district, including Stansted's. A study last year showed that a district co-ordinator is needed to modernize their operations and reverse declining community use. Funding arrangements will be considered at a District Council meeting in mid March.

The District Council and residents are being consulted by the County Council over the relocation of St. Mary's School onto a site between Hampton Road and Reeve Road on the Foresthall Park estate in September 2012. Councillors have raised concerns about pedestrian access and parking congestion. Informal proposals have also been floated to improve safety on Church Road such as widening the footpath on the west side and a new pedestrian crossing by Maitland Road.

The recently introduced 300 bus service which runs from Saffron Walden Tesco to Bishop's Stortford Tesco will cease on April 25th. This infrequent service was poorly used, even though it has been the only service which connected Cambridge Road and Chapel Hill with Walson Way and Foresthall Park.

**(Cllr John Hudson)**

## **NEWS FROM YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

A year ago lots of concerns were being raised about the future of Rainbow Nursery after the planned relocation of St Mary's School to Forest Hall were announced so when the suggestion that the pre school could move to the Peter Kirk Centre was raised it appeared that the problem had been solved. But then disaster struck when the Coalition Government withdrew capital funding for new early years settings and Essex had a number of schemes that were unable to continue because there was no money!

However, recognising that pre-school and early years settings play such an important part in children's development Essex County Council stepped in and funded 20 schemes across the county to a total value of £12 million. Rainbow Nursery was one of these schemes and I am pleased to say that as I write the finishing touches are being put to the interior of the super new facility at the Peter Kirk Centre and works should be completed by the end of March.

There has however been one item that delayed the works when a redundant gas main was found to cross the play area but as soon as that has been removed the Nursery will be ready for occupation so I would urge everyone to support the staff and children in their move into their new home.

At this time of year people always become concerned that their Council Tax Bill is about to fall through the door and this year the media have made much of Councils that have introduced swinging cuts to front line services. Essex is very much the exception to all this because despite the 0% increase in the amount that will be charged the alterations to services have been minimal.

To give you some figures, Essex have been one of the few councils that recognised the need to make savings in the way that they operate and over the last three years ECC has saved £284million in administration and “back office” costs and this year given the reduction in grant from central government, we are saving a further £ 83 million. This has enabled us to ensure that all of the fixed Libraries across the County are remaining open, 86 SureStart Children’s Centres are being maintained and most other services are unaltered. In fact, the cuts to front line services within Essex amount only to £14 million and when set against a budget of £2.1 Billion that is fairly minimal.

The media relish in bad news so it’s no wonder they have left us alone!

**(Cty Cllr Ray Gooding)**

**DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS**

6 April	Full Council
13 April	Open Spaces
20 April	Full Council
27 April	Finance

**CONTACT DETAILS**

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**PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS**

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**Member of Parliament**

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