

# Stansted network

## NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

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### REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

As this photograph by Ray Woodcock shows, there was a good turnout once again for our parade and service.



Our thanks go to all the organisations and individuals involved who gave up their time to remember and honour all those who have paid the ultimate price on our behalf.

Our thanks must also go to one of our parishioners who, after last year's Service, suggested that it would be good to see the younger generation involved a bit more.

We were delighted therefore to have pupils from St Mary's primary school reading the names of the fallen. We hope that the children did feel more involved, and look forward to including our other schools also next year.

### BONFIRE NIGHT

What a great time was had by all who attended the bonfire and firework display at Elms Farm on 7 November. We believe that this event is excellent value for money and provides a safe environment to enjoy the spectacle!

We are indebted once again to a group of volunteers who give up a considerable amount of their time for your benefit. Everyone involved spends a long time in advance preparing for the event – making sure that equipment is working and gets to the site on time. Food has to be ordered and prepared and the bonfire built.

Those responsible for the fireworks attend training courses in advance, take delivery of the fireworks on the morning, and remain on-site until the event is over. The bonfire has to be monitored until late into the evening. As is so often the case, we are indebted to Denise, and her staff, at Elms Farm, the Scouts, ATC, MMCC Badminton Club and a gang of local individuals for the success of this event – our

grateful thanks to you all. [Note – if there is anyone else who would like to be involved with the organisation of this event, please contact the Clerk.]

### LIGHTING THE SKATEPARK

Two grants each of £5,000 have been received from Viridor and the Essex County Council Youth Capital Funds. Although another £3,000 would have been helpful, we have decided to go ahead and give the contractor the go-ahead to install the lights this winter. Our thanks go to Viridor and Essex County Council for their generous financial support.

### WHISTLE-BLOWING, ANTI-FRAUD AND CORRUPTION

Apart from publicly listing any interests or assets which may provide a conflict and declaring at every meeting any interest, however remote, which may be relevant to any issue being discussed, the Council now has to have in place two additional policies.

- A whistle-blowing policy which covers the responsibilities of staff on discovery of fraud, misconduct or wrongful doing by others!
- An Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy which requires a culture of honesty, openness and fairness and requires elected members and employees at all levels to conduct themselves in accordance with the principles contained in The Relevant Authorities (General Principles) Order 2001!!!

The Parish has one main administrator, The Clerk, and fifteen members unpaid (with virtually no expenses - £586.00 in 2008/09). The Council is having to cope with increasing overkill of bureaucratic paperwork. In complying with these measures, and many others, you pay – either in the council tax or in the diversion of time from actions to improve life in this parish.

### SOUTH UTTLESFORD COMMUNITY FORUM

Come along to the Multi-agency Forum

on Tuesday 12 January 2010 in the Main Hall of Mountfitchet Mathematics and Computing College, Stansted Mountfitchet - 7.30 pm

Representatives from:

Essex Police  
Essex Highway's Department  
NHS West Essex  
Uttlesford District Council

will be available on the evening.

This is your opportunity to hear about, and discuss, issues in your area with Uttlesford District Council Councillors and Officers, Essex Police, Essex County Council's Highways Department and NHS West Essex

Doors open at 7.15pm - meeting starts at 7.30pm

#### PUBLIC WELCOME

For further information contact Sue Hayden, Community Development Officer - 01799 510563

#### STRATEGIC HOUSING LAND AVAILABILITY ASSESSMENT

In last month's Link, the article relating to the above report stated that Elms Farm had been included as a possible site for housing. May we state that this related solely to the existing farm site, not to any other land at Stansted Park, and would only receive support from this Parish Council if the view from Chapel Hill, across the parkland, remained intact.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

A meeting was held recently with officers from Uttlesford DC to discuss litter, leaf sweeping etc. We were informed that consideration might be given to the removal of the Civic Amenity wood and metal skips from Lower Street as they are little used. Watch next month for further details and the opportunity to give your opinion.

Recently, parishioners have raised concerns about wheelie bins being left on the pavements and in the road on collection days as this can be a hazard. Please leave your bins out for collection, as near to your front boundary as possible, but giving consideration to pedestrians and not causing an obstruction. Thank you.

Green waste – for those of you who purchase bags from the Council in order that your green waste will be collected alongside your brown bin each week, good news. Uttlesford has changed to much thicker brown paper bags. These bags can now withstand thorns and branches without being torn to shreds, and are fully biodegradable. Cost currently remains at £1.20 per bag, or 60p per bag for Senior Citizens.

Leaves – the worst of the autumn fall is probably over now, but at our meeting, we sought clarification on whose responsibility it is to clear leaves from the pavements and twitches in the village. UDC confirmed that it is their job to do this. The mechanical sweepers do come to the village each week and alternate, so one half of the village is done one week, and the other half the next week. Not every road is swept, but when there are a lot of leaves in one area, we should notify UDC and they will endeavour to sweep as soon as possible. It is hoped that in the future, a more frequent service will be offered on residential streets.

Following the editorial in last month's edition, a plea on behalf of Gerard, our litter collector. The litter bins that are around the village are for general litter, ie sweet papers, cans, crisp packets etc (and they are well used). They are NOT for household rubbish, or animal mess, particularly cat litter. We are encountering this problem in two particular bins on a regular basis. Not only does it leave little space in the bin for other rubbish, but it is extremely heavy for Gerard to cart away. Uttlesford's officer assure us that it is fine to double-wrap animal waste and place it in the black wheelie bin. Thank you for your co-operation.

Thank you to Mr Harrison for his comments in appreciation of the hard work that has gone into making and improving the floral and general appearance of our village this year. We are always looking to improve areas, both in and out of the conservation area.

It must be pointed out however, the noted hard work and dedication of Gerard our litter collector. He does clean Church Road once per week up to the M11 bridge and also takes groups of pupils from MMCC out along this road litter picking.

Referring to hanging baskets, we would be happy to consider new additions but this is subject to tight budget constraints -as detailed in last month's Link. It is unlikely that planters or benches could be safely placed along church Road due to the width of the pavement and not the willingness of the Council.

Finally, Burton End is not ignored by the Council and we have worked closely with representatives of the area in the fight against Airport expansion and the proposals for the new Junction 8b on the M11.

#### DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

9 December	Full Council
6 January 2010	F&GP followed by Special F/C precept & plans
20 January	Open Spaces
27 January	Full Council

#### NEWS FROM UTTLESFORD D.C.

From Cllr Alan Dean

Long-awaited technical reports which came out in November confirmed that a new town at Elsenham would be badly located. Roads in and out of Elsenham are described as poor and unacceptable. The route through Stansted Mountfitchet is described as narrow and already congested. Of all the locations that have been put forward by landowners for a new settlement, Great Chesterford has been given the most favourable score in the transport assessment. The report does say there is one solution to a new town at Elsenham; link it to a new road network needed for a second runway at the airport!

It now remains to be seen whether a majority of Uttlesford councillors take note of this technical advice and revise UDC's preferred future housing option to either a

concentrated new settlement at say Great Chesterford, or switch to a dispersal strategy across the district's towns and villages. I very much doubt there will be an about turn to supporting a second airport runway to rescue the council's new town preference, though surprises are not unknown at Uttlesford.

An extraordinary environment committee meeting to consider these reports was scheduled for November 24th. It is bound to have attracted a large public attendance.

I have written to the Essex Chief Constable in support of the Royal National Institute for the Blind over parking on pavements. The RNIB is concerned that people with limited sight are being put at risk by vehicles that are parked on pavements and grass verges, where pedestrians should have freedom to walk safely. I sent the chief constable photographs that I took of cars and vans parked inconsiderately in the Mountfitchet estate area, though this is a public nuisance that affects many parts of Stansted.

[NOTE – the Parish Council has written a similar letter asking for the PCSO's to be given powers to take action against offenders.]

From Cllr Geoffrey Sell

#### Housing Pressures

The biggest challenge facing the Council is to deal with the housing target that has been set for the District by the Regional Spatial Strategy. The target is to allocate 3,979 dwellings by 2026 through the Local Development Framework. This is in addition to the 2,572 completed since 2001, the 3,302 currently allocated and the 297 predicted on smaller sites. This is a total of 10,150 dwellings. This significant housing growth is a real concern as it threatens to alter the character of the District. Uttlesford has always ranked high in its quality of life. This however acts as a pull factor as other people from areas such as London, Harlow and Bishop's Stortford wish to benefit from living in a predominantly rural district. These pressures are allied with a shortfall in affordable housing. The District does need more housing but whether at the level proposed by the Government is debatable. The Council does not have the power to alter the housing targets. Its job is to decide where the additional housing should be located.

Currently the Council's preferred Option 4 (which I have always consistently opposed) is a new settlement of 3,000 dwellings at Elsenham with the remaining 1,000 dwellings distributed around the existing urban areas. Officer's recommendation is that 750 of the 1,000 dwellings should be located at Great Dunmow. One hundred and sixty dwellings would be dispersed through the key villages - Great Chesterford, Newport, Stansted, Takeley and Thaxted, (average 30 dwellings per settlement). Ninety dwellings would be dispersed through other villages. Stansted/Birchanger has played its part in meeting the additional housing needs. The Rochford Nurseries development has a commitment to 479 dwellings. Of these, approximately 151 have been built and are occupied.

Other potential locations for a new settlement are currently being proposed by developers at Boxted Wood (Stebbing), Chelmer Mead (between Great Dunmow and Little Dunmow), Easton Park (South-West of Great & Little Easton) and Great Chesterford.

These proposals will be debated at the extraordinary Environment Committee Meeting referred to by Cllr Alan Dean. If there are no changes at this meeting, Option 4 will go out to consultation again in Spring 2010. Findings from this consultation will be debated at Full Council in the Autumn of 2010, before a further final consultation leading to a definitive recommendation to Government some time after the next District Council elections in May 2011.

#### Council Budget 2010/11

At the last Finance Committee meeting the Administration announced it was working towards a 3.9% increase in council tax for the next financial year. Although this is a reduction from the current year I would like to go further and see an increase reflecting the rate of inflation. Together with colleagues I will be putting forward an alternative budget.

#### NEWS FROM ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

From Cty. Cllr Ray Gooding

#### Telecare Home Safety Service

This service provides 24-hour protection from fire, flood, bogus callers and gas leaks through a range of non-intrusive telecare sensors which, when activated, link to a 24-hour monitoring centre where trained advisors can take appropriate action to get the help required.

A free 12-month trial is available to all residents over the age of 85, but note that this offer ends on 31 March 2010. A free 12-week trial is available to residents below this age.

For further details please write to Essex County Council (Telecare) Freepost CL3636, County Hall, Chelmsford CM1 1XZ or go on-line at [www.essex.gov.uk/telecare](http://www.essex.gov.uk/telecare).

**RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE**  
Sat 9th Jan 9.30 am - 3.30 pm  
Lower Street Car Park  
Wood and metal skips also available on that day, but not green waste

**PARISH COUNCIL  
CHRISTMAS CLOSING**  
Please note that the Council  
Offices will be closed from  
Monday 21st December  
reopening on  
Monday 4th January