

Stansted network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

REPAINTING THE LIGHTING COLUMNS

After a good few years of service, the columns in Lower Street, Station Road and Chapel Hill are looking the worse for wear. Hopefully during May the columns should be repainted which will improve the street scene.

FURTHER IMPROVING THE STREET SCENE

There is so much clutter along our streets that it is time to conduct a review. This has been done and a number of surplus posts and signage boards identified which all require attention. Where appropriate, Essex Highways have been notified. Hopefully there will be a response and action sooner or later!

In addition, community work by young offenders under supervision will be undertaking work to clean up areas in and around the village. If all of this work is completed, the appearance of the village should be much improved.

LOOKING FOR WAYS TO ENHANCE STREET LIGHTING

Following advice from Essex County Council, the Parish Council is looking to set up a trial with white lighting. If it delivers as described then there will be several benefits - more light exposure on the road and footpath, less light pollution and greater economy in energy usage. On the other hand there will be capital costs to convert the existing mishmash of lights. If the decision was taken to proceed, which is unlikely to be for a few months, then a rolling programme will be devised to phase the changeover. The Council recognises the importance which parishioners attach to having effective street lighting and hopefully a major improvement programme can begin within the next year. If there are specific locations where new lights would be beneficial please contact the Clerk or any Councillor.

PLEASE BE PATIENT IF SOME GRASS IS UNCUT

For any parishioner who missed the piece in the May Link, patience is requested where areas of grass are uncut if there are the remains of

daffodils. Advice received from professional gardeners is to leave the daffodils uncut until mid-June to reduce risks of growing blind next year. The major areas where this applies are Silver Street, Cambridge Road beyond Croasdaile Road, High Lane and Bentfield Upper Green. Unfortunately this means some untidy grass for a few weeks - apologies.

WOULD YOU LIKE AN ALLOTMENT?

Currently there are only 34 allotments in the parish at Rainsford Road/Pennington Lane, but 15 people are on a waiting list. The recent questionnaire suggested that more people would like to rent an allotment. In order to gauge the level of demand please contact the Parish Council by phone - 813214, email - parishcouncil@stansted.net or in person at Crafton Green. It would also be helpful if you would indicate what you would consider paying as an annual rent. Once this information is available, the Council will contact local landowners to try to find suitable land of adequate size.

DO WE NEED A NEW HALL?

Views as expressed in the recent questionnaire were mixed. As the Parish Council considers the future of Crafton Green in the context of the need for the Council offices to move once the Clinic is relocated, one of the possibilities would be to redevelop a substantial part or all of the site.

One of the ideas which has been proposed is to build a hall which would have the flexibility to meet many different demands. But this begs the question as to what activities would a new (and expensive) hall aim to accommodate. If you believe that existing facilities are inadequate, please let the Council know as precisely as possible what opportunities a new hall would make possible and whether you know people prepared to organise these activities.

At the same time, the Council will be discussing the futures of the Library and the Day Centre in order to ensure that the needs of a growing parish are met. Crafton Green is the only site in the ownership of the Parish Council and it is thus critical that the big decisions are right. However,

any major scheme will only be possible if external funding is forthcoming but such funding will be much easier to obtain if there is a well researched community project which will be of benefit to many.

STANSTED YOUTH CENTRE

The Centre is in good shape. The numbers are good and the young people are excited at the projects that they have got planned for this year.

Recently six girls took part in a 6-week Emotional Wellbeing Course. They enjoyed drama, dance, art and discussion - all based around different feelings and how we cope with them. For their participation they will receive an Essex Youth Certificate.

Our members have begun work on the Mosaic and Mural project that is going to brighten up the outside of the Centre and our storage unit. These murals will depict well know landmarks around Stansted and from Northern Ireland following a visit last year. The mosaics will be of the young people themselves and the hobbies and activities they enjoy taking part in, like BMXing and fishing. The young people are also learning about Gaudi and his famous mosaics and how mosaics first started with the Romans. It is then hoped, if funding can be sourced, to take some of them to Barcelona in June to see Gaudi's work for themselves.



With spring here the garden project will again be bursting into activity with the initial clearing and cleaning and then planting and caring. Plans for the garden this year is construction of a giant chess board made with paving slabs for outdoor chess games and a barbeque area. Our garden crew led by Tom Williams have been eager to get started and the fact that the trees surrounding the garden have been drastically cut back during the

winter means less leaves to clear prior to planting and more light for the plants to enjoy.

Spring also sees our Belfast friends first visit to Stansted. (see photo). Thirty young people from 2 youth centres are coming to spend a week with us to see how our youth centres operate and what life is like in Essex. The youngsters come from the two areas of Belfast that have seen lots of sectarian unrest and are part of the reconciliation process so we hope to make their stay with us as enjoyable as possible.

If anyone would like more details about the Youth Centre, please contact Linda Barnes on 07920 466 923.

NEWS FROM UTTLESFORD D.C.

The proposed relocation of an enlarged St Mary's Primary School to Foresthall Park raises the existing question of the unsafe state of Water Lane for pedestrians as this will be an important walking route for parents and children. The County Council has not yet decided what it will do about Water Lane.

The District Council is pushing the developers at Foresthall Park to open the children's play area near Walson Way.

A controversial planning application at the airport was discussed at the start of May and refused. BAA built some commercial premises in 2007 but cannot find any tenants for them because of the downturn in the economy that has hit the aviation business. Uttlesford's policy restricts businesses located at the airport to those that are connected with the operation of the airport. Businesses that have no relevance to the airport are prohibited. Council officers recommended that a concession should be given to help BAA and its subsidiary business's finances by letting in non-airport tenants. There were numerous objections to this concession, not least that it would be unfair to companies with commercial premises outside the airport who also can't let their premises but didn't expect competition from BAA when they built theirs. I spoke in support of the objectors and the committee refused the application unanimously. **(Cllr Alan Dean)**

St Mary's Primary School

The future of the school and its site in St John's Road is of great interest to me. I spent some of my formative years as a pupil of the school and have happy memories of it. I have also a child

who is currently in year 6 at St. Mary's who will be leaving this year.

Clearly the initial consultation by Essex County Council was flawed. Officers were unprepared for many of the questions asked of them. Subsequently, the portfolio holder Cllr Stephen Castle has met parent, governors and representatives from the Parish Council.

If the school does move to Forest Hall Park I should like to see a blue print for the site. First and foremost the playing field should be preserved as an open space. Clearly the existing school buildings would become redundant. If there is development it should be sympathetic to the existing street scene. What use the site is going to be put to will be a decision for Essex County Council. A planning application would however have to be submitted to the District Council for their approval or otherwise. The site is an important one at the centre of the village, and I feel strongly that there should be some community gain.

Climate Change

At our last council meeting councillors approved a Natural Resources Management Strategy. This is our strategy for addressing the causes and effects of climate change, conserving valuable resources such as energy and water, and dealing with related issues such as fuel poverty.

The main objective of this strategy is to reduce the greenhouse gas emission from council operations and from the district as a whole, and to make preparations for predicted climate change impacts. The principal target is a 25% reduction in the greenhouse emissions under the Council's direct control by 2011/12 compared to 2006/07.

Climate change for this region means hotter, drier summers with more chance of heat-waves and drought, and wetter, milder winters with more chance of storms and flooding. Overall annual rainfall will fall.

Uttlesford falls within the Three Valley's Water area of supply. Interestingly, water use in this supply area is the highest in the country at 161 litres per person per day in 2008-09, compared to the national average of 145 litres per person per day.

The Council has had some environmental successes principally with the new recycling system. In the summer of 2006 the Council introduced a new 'three-bin' scheme allowing residents to recy-

cle kitchen waste. This was followed by an expansion of the range of recyclables that the Council could take. The new system, along with the efforts of residents has proven itself. In 2005-06 before the system was implemented we recycled 26% of our domestic waste. By 2008-09 this had improved to 53.7%, the 10th best recycling rate in the country and 20,371 fewer tonnes of domestic waste was sent to landfill.

If you would like to know more about the Councils strategy on climate change further information is available on our website www.uttlesford.gov.uk/climate+change. Alternatively if you wish information to be sent to you please telephone the Council on 01799 510 511. **(Cllr Geoffrey Sell)**

PEDESTRIAN ROUTE TO AND FROM A NEW ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

The proposed relocation of an enlarged St Mary's Primary School to Foresthall Park raises the need for a safe walking route from the school to the centre of the village for parents and children. Once the Black Bridge has been crossed, the route will proceed over the brook and along the footpath up Millfields and thence to Woodfields or the Recreation Ground.

The County Council recognises the need to improve the bridge over the brook and this footpath. At present the County Council will not take responsibility for the state of Water Lane as it has no highway rights. Discussions will be ongoing.

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

The following were elected to serve for the ensuing year:

Chairman of the Council	Geoffrey Sell
V/Chairman of the Council	Ruth Rawlinson
Chairman of Finance & General Purposes Committee	Peter Jones
Chairman of Open Spaces Committee	Jo Freeman

WAR MEMORIAL

Following advice received from the War Memorials Trust, we have revised the specification of works to improve the War Memorial. We have just received the new quotes and intend that the work will be undertaken during the warmer weather. The memorial will be cleaned and the damaged areas repaired. A few

of the letters will be re-cut, the chains re-painted, one kerbstone renewed and another realigned. Hopefully, an inscription will be cut into the first riser on the southern elevation reading "We Will Remember Them".

CALL FOR PICTURES

Stop Stansted Expansion is keen to hear from people locally with any good quality photos of houses, landscapes and landmarks across Herts & Essex, South Suffolk & South Cambridgeshire for its next Community Calendar and Christmas card.

Landscape format is preferred and high resolution is essential. Photos must be your own work and you must still own the copyright. Groups of pictures from the same village or town are especially welcome.

If you think you can help, please email digital pictures to: info@stopstanstedexpansion.com with a short caption to describe the location and any relevant information and remember to include your contact details. If sending prints (not negatives) from film, or for any further information, please contact Peter Riding at SSE, PO Box 311, Takeley, Bishop's Stortford, CM22 6PY and include your contact details so we can return them later.

REPORTING NOISY AIRCRAFT & AVIATION FUEL SMELLS

While many are aware of the system for reporting noisy aircraft using the Stop Stansted Expansion website, still more have been unaware that its also possible to report strong smells of aviation fuel which occasionally drift across the community

The increasing frequency of reports about these odours means the campaign is keen to gather as much information as possible about who is affected and when so that appropriate action can be taken.

As with aircraft noise, to log your concerns about fuel smells use the online form at www.stopstanstedexpansion.com (see link to 'complain about noise/fuel smells') which ensures that SSE receives a copy of your report to BAA and enables the campaign's technical advisers to make its own enquiries too.

DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

2 & 16 June Full Council
23 June Open Spaces

CONTACT DETAILS

Clerk - *Ruth Clifford*
Admin Assistant - *Anne Court*
Email: parishcouncil@stansted.net
Phone/fax: 01279 813214 10am - 1pm
www.stansted.net

Uttlesford District Council Members

Alan Dean Tel: 01279 813579
Email: cllrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk
John Hudson Tel: 01279 814489
Email: cllrhudson@uttlesford.gov.uk
John Salmon Tel: 01279 814789
Email: cllrsalmon@uttlesford.gov.uk
Geoffrey Sell Tel: 01279 815925
Email: cllrsell@uttlesford.gov.uk

Essex County Council Member

Ray Gooding Tel: 01279 813103
Email: cllr.ray.gooding@essexcc.gov.uk

Member of Parliament

The Rt Hon Sir Alan Haselhurst MP
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
Tel: 0207 219 5214/Fax: 0207 219 5600
Email: haselhursta@parliament.uk

Police

PC Tom Bastendorff Tel: 01279 812211
Non-emergency number 0300 333 4444
PCSO's (Stuart/Kelly) Tel: 07801 461 666

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Catherine Dean 813579
Iris Evans 815848
Jo Freeman 812524
Bridget Gott 814440
John Hudson 814489
Peter Jones 813252
Janice Loughlin 812346
Tudor Owen 812825
Ruth Rawlinson - *V/Chairman* 814222
Jonathan Rich 813112
John Salmon 814789
Dan Scott 815098
Geoffrey Sell - *Chairman* 815925
Bill Stiles 813172
Valerie Trundle 813433