

Stansted network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

CONGRATULATIONS TO DISTRICT COUNCILLORS ON WINNING FOUR YEARS HARD LABOUR

Following the elections on 5 May for Uttlesford District Council, the following candidates were elected:

Stansted South - Alan Dean & Iris Evans
Stansted North & Ugley - Joe Rich & John Salmon

Congratulations are in order along with the hope that their efforts will show benefits for all our parishioners and for the District.

JUST BRIEFLY FROM GEOFFREY SELL

I should like to say thank you for giving me the opportunity of representing Stansted on the District Council for the last 13 years. I greatly enjoyed the experience but also welcome the opportunity now of recharging my batteries

CHANGE FOLLOWING THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

On 11 May the annual elections of the Parish Council were held and the following were elected for what will be the final year of this Council.

Chairman	Geoffrey Sell
Vice Chairman	Catherine Dean
Chair - Open Spaces	Jo Freeman
Chair - Finance &	
General Purposes	Peter Jones

Do not hesitate to contact these or any other members of the Council. For contact details see page 20.

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS - MAY 2012

Looking ahead probably to 3 May 2012, there will be elections for the Parish Council based on the new boundary which incorporates the whole of Foresthall Park. There will be nine councillors elected in Stansted South, one more than now and six councillors in Stansted North, one less in number.
If you may be interested in standing for the Parish Council and want to know more, please talk to any

councillor, the Clerk (Ruth Clifford) or come and listen at some of the meetings.

AN ENJOYABLE PARISH RECEPTION

The annual Parish Reception was held at the Day Centre and was attended by about 80 parishioners and other guests. This is an occasion to thank so many people who contribute their time and talents to enrich the life of this community.

As is now customary, guests were welcomed to the Reception by a Guard of Honour from the



ATC.

We were delighted once again that the WI ladies were willing to undertake the catering and they laid on a delicious finger buffet - many thanks to you all.

RECYCLING - NEWSPAPERS/MAGAZINES

Please be aware that following arson attacks on the newspaper recycling container in the Lower Street car park, this has now been removed and WILL NOT be replaced.

Uttlesford District Council has asked that everyone uses their green-lidded wheelie bin, or newspaper box if you are unable to have a wheelie bin. If you have more dry recycling than will fit into the bin, than papers and magazines etc may be left next to the bin in carrier bags and they will be collected.

Please DO NOT leave any newspapers or magazines down at the Lower Street car park - these only blow around and cause much more mess to be picked up.

PATIENCE REQUESTED ON GRASS CUTTING

Where daffodils have been planted the advice given is not to cut the grass until 6-8 weeks after flowering, otherwise we risk the daffodils not blooming next year. So please be patient if the grass looks untidy - it has not been forgotten and next year another great display of daffodils will again herald the spring.

BENTFIELD POND - LOOKING EVEN BETTER

Following recent work much of the growth has been cut back and cleared which has greatly improved the appearance of the pond. The warm weather has brought out many new shoots, but by the time you read this, hopefully those will also have been cut back. A low-growing limb is due to be removed from one tree, but when the contractor arrived in April, he noticed that a bird was nesting there. This will hopefully be removed next time.

Maintenance work will be undertaken approximately every three months to sustain this improved appearance.

ANOTHER TRIAL WITH NEW WHITE LIGHTS

The trial of white lights in Sunnyside was regarded as successful. Before considering whether to extend this type of lighting throughout the village in a phased programme, it is proposed to undertake another trial in another part of the village, so keep your eyes peeled.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW FLORIST

We are very lucky with the quality of the retailers in the village and the service which they give so we are pleased to welcome Emily - Flowers. Good luck to them and all traders in these difficult times.

A USEFUL UPDATE ON STANSTED AIRPORT

The Managing Director of Stansted Airport - Nick Barton - attended a recent meeting of the Parish Council and, by common consent, made a good impression in terms of a willingness to be open and to build a relationship with this and other local communities following the tensions of recent years over the proposal to construct a second runway. Some of the points covered included:

- The airport will be sold and the second runway is off the agenda possibly for many years.
- Passenger numbers have fallen from 23.9m to 18m so there is substantial scope to grow before reaching the 35m approved in the recent planning consent.
- BAA owns about 300 houses and most of these will be sold off over time but every effort will be made not to saturate the property market.
- The new generation of larger airplanes is noisier than the Ryanair/Easy Jet fleets but quieter than the equivalent planes which they replace.
- The major challenge is the efficient handling of the influx of visitors for the Olympics in 2012. Stansted will be the major hub.
- Stansted Airport has no responsibility for the railway (it does not even own the station) or for the timetables but BAA contributed money to lengthen the platforms.
- Passengers arriving by public transport account for about 47% of the total, the highest percentage for any airport.
- The airport employs 11,300 which represents about about 10% of the employment in Uttlesford District. BAA employs 1,300 within this number.
- Little action likely on airspace planning for some period ahead and as a result there should be little variation in flight paths.

It is now likely that regular contact will be maintained so, if you have any issues or questions relating to Stansted Airport, please inform the Parish office (813214 or email parishcouncil@stansted.net)

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED ON FORMER SWORDER'S SITE ON CAMBRIDGE ROAD

Bellway Homes are intending to submit a planning application for fourteen houses and retaining a retail unit with offices above. The houses will be a mix of three, four and five bedrooms with reasonable gardens.

The Parish Council has emphasised the need for a footpath from Cambridge Road (by Tesco) to the Crafton Green Car Park and remains hopeful that this will be agreed.

There is a consultation programme planned which includes one-to-one meetings with adjacent resi-

dents and businesses followed by a wider consultation including an exhibition in the Day Centre.

The timing of this exhibition will be widely advertised.

HOW DOES THE PARISH COUNCIL SPEND YOUR MONEY?

Over the next few months the major areas of spending will be discussed so that parishioners can see where money is being spent and the expected changes in the budget for 2011/12.

This month spending by the Open Spaces committee, which is responsible for the appearance of the village and its recreational facilities, will be considered.

The main areas of spending are shown below:

	2010/11 (£,000)	2011/12 Budget (£,000)
Keep Stansted Tidy Gardening/Hanging Baskets	30.9	33.7
Gardening one-off Projects	12.0	15.0
Grasscutting/Hedges	-	2.0
Cemetery/Churchyard	9.0	9.2
“ Memorial testing	0.2	1.3
Play equip maintenance	-	1.0
Looking after the Environment	4.3	2.9
Other expenditure/	2.7	2.3
Income ()	0.4	(0.3)
	<u>59.5</u>	<u>67.1</u>

The following comments should put some flesh, and hopefully understanding, on these bare figures.

- **Keep Stansted Tidy** - the salaries for Gerard Frogley (litter collection) and Steve Sutton (maintains and repairs most of the assets) make up almost the whole figure. Through their efforts the village is generally kept in a good state. The increase in costs in 2011/12 represents provision for holiday cover for Gerard and full years cover for maintaining play equipment.
- **Gardening costs** include the cost of plants, the weeding and care of beds and shrubberies, the provision of hanging baskets plus the necessary regular watering. The decision has been taken to purchase more and better quality plants. Parishioners are appreciative of good displays and

the improvement to date has been welcomed but only achieved at a cost.

- **Grasscutting and maintenance of hedges** contributes to keeping the village attractive and tidy. Costs depend upon the number of cuts which in turn depends upon weather conditions.
- **Play equipment maintenance** is essential to ensure the safety of our young people and to comply with legal and insurance requirements. The play areas and the skatepark are inspected and repaired as needed. A stock of specialist material for the skatepark was purchased at a good price in 2010/11.
- **The cemetery** is a parish responsibility while the costs of cutting the **churchyard** are borne as to 60% by the Parish Council. The churchyard is a difficult area to maintain and thus is expensive. The number of burials and thus the level of burial fees is difficult to predict. The Council is cautious in its forward projections. For 2011/12 fees are assumed to be £1,000 lower.
- **The testing of memorials** is a legal requirement which needs to be undertaken every five years. This regular test takes place this year.
- **Looking after the environment** covers care of trees and the pond at Bentfield.
- **There are a number of one-off gardening projects** which it is budgeted to undertake this year. These include 35 new hanging baskets more suited to our needs, additional planting of shrubs and trees in the Memorial Gardens and the planting of lavateras on the corner of Crafton Green.

Next month other areas of expenditure and income will be analysed and at the end of the process, the issues going forward will be highlighted.

DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

June	1	Full Council
June	8	free
June	15	Full Council
June	22	Open Spaces
June	29	free

CONTACT DETAILS

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

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

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OTHER CONTACTS

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Member of Parliament

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Police

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

STANSTED YOUTH CENTRE

**SPRING/SUMMER PROGRAMME FOR SCHOOL YEAR 8+
(unless otherwise stated)**

**TUES – DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD- OPEN CENTRE GROUP
6.30-8.30PM (AGE 14+)**

WED – BELFAST EXCHANGE PROJECT & STREET DANCE 7-9.30PM

**THURS – MAKATON SIGN LANGUAGE & HEALTH & FITNESS PROJECT -
7-9.30PM**

FRI – MEDIA MADNESS (SEE SEPARATE PROGRAMME)7.30-10PM

**ALL SESSIONS ARE FULLY SUPERVISED BY QUALIFIED AND CRB
CHECKED YOUTH WORKERS
FOR MORE INFO CONTACT: LINDA BARNES ON
01371 873156 OR 07920466923**