

Stansted network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

RESPONSE TO QUESTIONNAIRES

So far the number of questionnaires returned has been as follows:

Parish questionnaire	930+
Youth questionnaire	79
Business questionnaire	23

Although the closing date has officially past and analysis should be underway, late returns will still be welcome and will be included in the data considered in formulating the plan. **IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO CONTRIBUTE YOUR VIEWS.**

If you have any influence with young people, please encourage them to complete the youth questionnaire. The on-line version has now closed, but we have plenty of hard copies in the office and can e-mail it.

Once the analysis is completed, the initial conclusions will be summarised and published after which a first draft of the plan will be prepared.

STREET LIGHTING – NEW MAINTENANCE CONTRACTORS

The contractors, who for some time have undertaken the maintenance of the parish street lights have withdrawn from this business. As no proper notice of the timing of this change has been given, there has been a period in which lights needing attention have not been repaired.

A new contractor is in the process of being appointed. Hopefully a good service will follow.

Meanwhile, the Council apologises for any inconvenience which parishioners have experienced but please do continue to report any lighting problems on 813214 or email parishcouncil@stansted.net

BUS SHELTERS – STILL ON THE WAY

Although the three Bus Shelters were ordered at the end of April 2009 and we had hoped they would be in place at least by the end of the

summer, due to a statutory requirement to investigate the underground services BT, Water, Gas, etc at the sites of these shelters, there has been an unavoidable delay in their construction. We are following this matter with urgency.

BUS NO. 7 – TO BENTFIELD OR NOT?

A very well-attended meeting held at the Day Centre on 23rd July registered strong objections for the most part to the decision to omit the Bentfield loop from the revised number 7 route (7A will disappear). Representatives from Essex County Council and the bus operators explained the logic behind the change but promised, in the light of representations made at the meeting, to look again at the decision. Other issues were raised including the revised timetables for the 7 and 301 which mean two buses four minutes apart at Stansted and then virtually an hour's wait (decision unlikely to change) and the delay in obtaining new bus shelters (see above).

A copy of the new time-table is on Parish notice boards. See article elsewhere in this issue.

YOUR DOG, YOUR MESS

Regrettably, a number of people who walk their dogs on the Recreation Ground still fail to clear up any mess (no blame on the dogs) which accrues. Not only is this unpleasant for other users but may create health dangers for children. **Please think of others and pick it up.**

HEALTH CENTRE – GENTLE PROGRESS

In a response to a request for an update, the PCT sent an email on 21 July which gave the following information. Discussions on the detailed design of the facility planned for the site behind Chapel Hill and Silver Street are continuing with the local practice in St John's Road, the landowner and the planning authority. It is expected that this process may take another two months to complete at which point a planning application will be submitted. Assuming no undue problems during this process, action on site may occur in the early part of 2010. Essex

& Southend Link will be holding a meeting between 7-9pm on 8th September at MMCC. Michelle Bassett of the Primary Care Trust will give an update on the Health Centre. Meanwhile the Parish Council will seek to meet with the parties involved. There will, of course, be the usual opportunity to make comments once the planning application is out to consultation. Whilst it is intended to offer a wider range of medical services at the health centre, the only surgery on site will be that moving from St John's Road, ie this will not become a 'super surgery'. The Council will endeavour to ascertain and communicate further information as soon as possible.

MAKING THE WILLOW TREE AT THE FOUNTAIN SAFE

Having received advice from several sources, the Council has decided to remove a dangerous limb and undertake works on the crown. Action will be taken as soon as possible and may require the road to be closed for a short period. The tree will be assessed at regular intervals to review safety issues. The willow is coming towards the end of its life but, given its prominence and given the longer term possibility that changes may be made to the junction, the Council believes that it is worth the effort to preserve the tree always providing that safety for pedestrians and motorists can be maintained.

ANOTHER NEW POLICE INSPECTOR

The Council has been notified, that after only a short period in this division, Inspector Glen Pavelin is moving into a role at Chelmsford, a town which appears to devour our inspectors. His replacement is Inspector Mick Couldridge, who is, we understand, an experienced officer.

The Council is asking to have a meeting with Chief Inspector Wrigley and Inspector Couldridge to discuss policing in this parish.

NEWS FROM PCSO KELLY ROBERTS

For all members of the community to be extra vigilant around our churches.

Last week Broxted church was believed to have had its safe tampered with and the lock damaged by persons unknown. Nothing was taken at this time but churches like Broxted which are left open for the community to access 24hrs are unfortunately vulnerable. The concern is not the money value as very little is held but it is for the historic and irreplaceable documents and registers that are held in our church safes that

are the worry. We have in the past suffered with a spate of church burglaries, and is something we do not want happening again. So if you do see anything unusual or suspicious please let us know.

SPANGLES CHILDREN'S CENTRE – AN EXTENSION IN LOWER STREET

The success of Spangles has encouraged Essex County Council to propose an extension which will provide a much more suitable entrance, reception area and toilets as well as a new office. Not only will the pace and access be better, but the appearance of the building will be enhanced as the poor addition to the listed building is replaced.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH UPDATE

We have now got our NhW Co-ordinators in place and are working on your behalf in order to bring your more information on the running of the scheme and the possible purchasing of NhW notice boards. This will be discussed at our next meeting on 30th September at 7.30 pm in Stansted Free Church Lecture Hall. Please make the effort to attend.

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER CONTACT INFORMATION

Catherine Dean	813579
Gaye Ellington	813933
Jo Freeman	812524
Bridget Gott	814440
John Hudson	814489
Peter Jones	813252
Janice Loughlin	812346
Tudor Owen	812825
Ruth Rawlinson**	814222
Jonathan Rich	813112
John Salmon	814789
Dan Scott	815098
Geoffrey Sell *	815925
Bill Stiles	813172
Valerie Trundle	813433
* Chairman	** Vice Chairman

DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

- 2 September - Open Spaces
- 16 September – Full Council
- 23 September – Finance & General Purposes
- 30 September – Full Council

Members of the public are welcome to attend all Parish Council meetings, and may address the Council on any relevant issue at the start of Full

Council meetings. These comments are noted but no discussion is entered into. Meetings are held in Crafton Green House at 7.45pm unless otherwise stated on the agenda. Agendas are posted on the Parish Council's website www.stansted.net under Publications.

NEWS FROM UTTLESFORD D.C.

From Cllr Alan Dean

As I predicted last month, a report is now out (and can be found on Uttlesford's website at <http://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/main.cfm?Type=PLCSD&MenuId=583>) called the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment. Any comments on the draft report are invited by Sarah Nicholas at snicholas@uttlesford.gov.uk or by post to the council offices, London Road, Saffron Walden CB11 4ER by September 18, 2009.

The draft report shows some 17 sites around Stansted that have been put forward by owners for potential housing. Many other sites across Uttlesford district are included. They have all been assessed by a panel of 'experts' for their suitability. Some have been given the thumbs down and some the thumbs up. The panel was divided over one site just beyond St. Theresa's church. In my opinion the panel has done a reasonable job in the overall conclusions it has reached, though 'the devil will be in the detail'.

The report says that the total of homes that could be provided on suitable and available sites around the district exceeds the outstanding housing requirement without the need for a new town. The required homes total is significantly exceeded if sites for new settlements are accepted. If Uttlesford were to insist on sticking with a new town, the panel says that Great Chesterford has better access than Elsenham/Henham. In commenting on the A120 corridor around Takeley, the report says that no more road infrastructure would be required to accommodate around 1,000 additional homes there.

This debate has many more months to run. In September the council is intending to mount another consultation on where to put the outstanding balance of over 1,000 homes assuming that it sticks to its present policy of putting 3,000 at Elsenham in a new town. In the past month the government has decided not to push at present for the Elsenham eco-town but might resurrect the idea at a later stage.

In my opinion, it would be a waste of taxpayers' money for the council to proceed with a fresh consultation on how to distribute only something over a 1,000 homes on sites around Uttlesford's towns and villages when we now have a report that shows we don't need to start a new town to accommodate our legal housing commitment, regardless of whether Elsenham/Henham is the right place (and increasing evidence shows it isn't). I think the next consultation should take note of this report and carry out a district-wide consultation on the evidence that this report has shown; that concentrating most housing in one place isn't necessary and, in my opinion, not desirable.

From Cllr Geoffrey Sell

Difficult decisions ahead

When meetings resume in September we will be faced with some difficult decisions. Officers have advised us that we will have an effective budget shortfall of £1.387 million by 2013. In the interim we can use reserves to sustain service delivery. However, this is not tenable in the long term. Like many councils across the country in order to reduce costs and also to improve service delivery we are looking at partnership working with other councils. Although I am a little sceptical about financial projections, too often in the past they have proved inaccurate, I accept that local government is going through tough times which are not likely to get any easier. Whichever party forms the government after the next general election it is unlikely that local government will be looking at generous grant settlements. The majority of local government income comes not from council taxes but from central government grant. Any decisions on partnership working will have consequences for the staff we employ. It is perhaps not surprising that a survey conducted in late 2008 showed that staff morale was an issue. This can impact on the quality of services we deliver.

CONTACT US!

Clerk – Ruth Clifford
Admin Assistant – Anne Court
Phone/Fax: 01279 813214 – 10am – 1pm
E-mail: parishcouncil@stansted.net

OTHER CONTACTS

Uttlesford District Council Members
Alan Dean Tel: 01279 813579
Email: cldrdean@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
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Essex County Council Member

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

Member of Parliament

Email: haselhursta@parliament.uk

The Rt Hon Sir Alan Haselhurst MP
 House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
 Tel: 020 7219 5214
 Fax: 020 7219 5600

Police

PC Tom Bastendorff
 Stansted Police Station, Hargrave Close
 Tel: 812211
 Essex Police non-emergency number :
 0300 333 4444
 Mobile phone carried by PCSO 07801 461666

POTENTIAL SITES FOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Uttlesford District Council is analysing the possible sites throughout the district for housing development. The list for Stansted Mountfitchet is shown below – those marked * already have planning permission.

Location	No of Dwellings	Recommendation
Braefield Engineering, High Ln	14-23	Include
Land east of High Lane, north of Croft House	88-146	Exclude
Almont House, High Lane	7-18	Include*
Mont House, High Lane	16-23	Include*
Land at Water Lane	5-8	Include*
Elms Farm, Church Road – farm buildings	54-90	Include
Elms Farm, Church Road – agricultural land	196-326	Exclude
Land east of Pines Hill, s. of Stoney Common Rd	50-90	Include
Land to west of Stansted (behind Blythwood)	1035-1725	Exclude
10 Cambridge Road	9-15	Include
14-28 Cambridge Road	11-18	Include
Works at Bentfield Road	11-18	Include
Bentfield Bury Farm	169-281	Exclude
Land btn Pennington Ln and Cambridge Rd	338-563	Exclude
Land north of Catholic Church on High Lane	32-54	Include
Avenue House, Burton End	14-23	Exclude

If all of the proposed developments (excluding Forest Hall Park – see below) recommended for inclusion were, over several years, to receive planning approval then the number of dwellings to be built would fall into the range 209-357. Once Forest Hall Park is fully built the parish plus the part of Forest Hall Park falling into Birchanger Parish would contain about 2900 dwellings. Thus the high end of the possible proposals above would add 12% to the number.

As parishioners will know, Forest Hall Park, which is under construction, currently has approval for 620 houses whereas the strategic land review considers that a target of 1050 may be achievable. If this higher number was achieved and built then the increase in the number of dwellings on the same basis would be 27%.

The Parish Council has discussed this report and would make the following points:

- Green belt should in most circumstances not be breached which would lead to Pines Hill, land north of the Catholic Church and Elms Farm being excluded.
- Density levels are too high and if achieved would continue to change the character of this community. This is unacceptable.
- No more flats in the centre or ringing the edge of the parish.

More detailed comments will be drawn up by early September. If you have any views please contact the office on 813214 or write to Stansted Parish Council, 72 Chapel Hill, Stansted, CM24 8AQ or email: parishcouncil@stansted.net.

The closing date for representations is 18 September 2009.

*******LATE NEWS*******

NEW EMERGENCY TEXT SERVICE

For the deaf, hard of hearing and speech-impaired. Instead of ringing 999 in an emergency, you can text a message to 07624 800102 and receive similar priority service.