

Stansted network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

LOOKING AT PARISH SPENDING - LIGHTING

Lighting our streets is regarded by most parishioners as an important priority for the Council. Spending on lighting is shown below and commentary follows:

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
	£	£	£
Energy costs	7,420	8,123	8,500
Maintenance of Lights	3,670	4,087	4,000
Total	11,090	12,210	12,500
Clean & change Electrical/Structural Testing	3,790	-	-
Total	14,880	12,210	16,300
New Lighting	1,000		1,000
Total	15,880	12,210	17,300

Energy costs reflect electricity tariffs. Unless the parish reduces the number of lights or the number of hours in lighting, there is little means of reducing spend. The tariff rate paid is considered to be good.

Maintenance of lights is undertaken by an independent contractor (Cartledge) who also undertakes this function for Essex County Council. The County Council and the Parish Council pay similar tariffs. It should be noted that finding efficient contractors is difficult.

Clean and Change is carried out every three years. Cleaning improves the level of lighting while the change of bulbs reduces outages and thus maintenance costs.

Electrical and Structural Testing is commissioned every six years and is a legal and insurance requirement to ensure the lighting columns are safe.

Looking ahead there are a number of issues relating to lighting which parishioners and the Parish Council will need to consider.

- **Ownership of lighting in the parish** - currently Essex County Council own about 20% of the lights. Another approach to transfer these lights (excluding the B1383) to the parish is being considered.

- **Improving the quality of the street lighting** - the existing portfolio of lights is a mishmash put together over many decades. Modern lighting would be more effective, economic and friendly to the environment. Consideration is being given to identifying the most appropriate lighting and then costing a phased programme.
- **Lighting at night** - discussions will be pursued again to determine a common policy acceptable to most of our parishioners.

It is recognised that lighting is an important element in reducing crime and the perception of being at risk. There will be a continuing need to seek ways to improve lighting standards.

LOOKING AT PARISH SPENDING - WINDMILL

The Parish Council is a trustee together with Molly Clark. The trustees are responsible for looking after the fabric of the Windmill.

In terms of funding tribute must be given to the Millers (if you would like to join or give a donation, please contact Derek Honour on 647213) who undertake many jobs and raise money to maintain the Mill. The Parish Council puts a sum of money each year towards these costs but, if necessary, the Council would need to make good any shortfall for necessary maintenance. Major projects require external finance and as such depend upon succeeding in funding applications.

Spending and income in recent years are shown below together with the budget for 2011/12. Expenditure on the recent major project is not included in these figures.

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
	£	£	(Budget)
Expenditure - Regular	800	500	2,000
small projects	-	1,106	6,120
Total	800	1,606	8,120
Income - fundraising by Millers/ donations - small projects	5,000	-	-
Total	5,000	1,106	6,120

The funding of regular expenditure is usually met by the Millers and covers minor works in and around the Mill.

- The small one-off projects include preservation of the wall paintings on the ground floor and additional shutters for the sails. Last year, new chairs and publicity banners were purchased. The Millers have volunteered to fund these helped by donations. To speed up the process, however, the Parish Council provided the finance up-front and has been paid back following the Millers fund raising.
- The Parish Council will set aside £2,000 each year to build up a fund to meet the costs of future repairs and decoration.

Looking ahead the costs of maintaining the Mill are set to increase. In recent years the trustees have employed a specialist architect to keep an eye on the Mill and report on repairs which should be undertaken. Following the recent project, which has increased the moving parts of the Mill, the Millers believe that it is essential that checks are undertaken three or four times a year by Millwrights on this work. The annual structural inspection should continue. Costings are currently being sought.

The recent major project has enabled the cap to rotate and the sails to turn in the wind, as well as refurbishing all of the brickwork, windows, sails etc etc. The cost of the project was substantial and only achievable as a result of grants and donations.

	£
Cost of Project	200,510
Funded by	
Donations - English Heritage	112,000
Essex Heritage	4,000
Viridor	6,500
Millers/parishioners	<u>55,000</u>
 Total	 <u>177,500</u>
 Surplus/Deficit*	 23,010

*Funded from the council tax raised by the Parish Council.

The Parish Council has clarified recently its policy towards the Mill. The responsibility of the Council is to maintain the fabric of the building so as to conserve this ancient monument. Any proposed projects would need to secure external funding. However, even if such funding was available, the Parish Council would need to consider whether additional on-going revenue costs would be acceptable.

The Parish Council and a large proportion of our parishioners would like to reiterate our thanks to the Millers who give so much time and raise significant resources which continue to sustain the Mill.

DO YOU WANT TO LOOK AFTER THE STATION?

Newport Business Association has reached agreement with National Express to restore the appearance of Newport station which for many years has been sadly neglected. Funding to replace windows, obtain equipment such as diggers and the provision of a new noticeboard have been provided without charge by businesses in the area. Labour has come from two sources - a group of local volunteers including schools and a community work team from Community Payback (formerly the Probation Service). The objectives have been laid out and the steps needed to achieve the objectives have been specified. The Parish Council, although supportive, is not involved. This is a community initiative.

Are there any volunteers in this village who would like to undertake a similar programme at Stansted Station? If so, please contact the Clerk who will provide the necessary contacts in terms of the train operating company, the organisers in Newport and Community Payback.

The station is an entrance into our community and a better appearance will reflect well on the village as well as making commuting or visiting a more pleasant experience.

Although the work required at Stansted is likely to be considerably less than at Newport, the business plan for the labour may be viewed on our parish website www.stansted.net and follow the links.

AN IMPROVED RAIL SERVICE IS EXPECTED FROM DECEMBER

Unusually the revisions to the timetable to take effect in December 2011 appear to benefit those using this station. For this, considerable thanks are due to Sarah Davies who for years has, with persistence, lobbied and negotiated with the train operating companies. Although an uphill struggle, beneficial changes have been achieved over the years with the December changes showing a bigger gain. Given the number of parishioners who use the trains, improved timetables can be of significant benefit in their daily lives. The main changes proposed in the December timetable in-

clude an additional train per hour to Liverpool Street from 10.52-14.52, semi-fast trains to Liverpool Street at 16.24-19.24 and more trains to the airport.

For more detailed information go to the parish website and follow the link.

CHANGES AT UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Following the recent elections, the four members serving our parish will serve on the following committees:

Alan Dean - Performance and Audit
Iris Evans - Scrutiny and Constitution Working Group
Joe Rich - Scrutiny and Constitution Working Group
John Salmon - Development Control, Licensing and Chairman of the South Forum.

FORESTHALL PARK

By the time you receive this magazine, residents at Foresthall Park will have received letters regarding the establishment of a Residents' Association or similar body. The Parish Council has already met with some representatives to discuss practical issues such as dog and litter bins, noticeboards etc. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact the authors of the letter.

NEWS FROM UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

I am resuming my monthly column following the election break. Welcome to Iris Evans and Joe Rich, who have joined John Salmon and me on the Stansted team at Uttlesford. My thanks to John Hudson, who stood down from the Stansted South seat after four years. My special thanks to Geoffrey Sell, who, after 13 years representing Stansted North, did not win back his seat. I shall miss Geoffrey in his district role but am pleased that he remains in local politics and community action as chairman of the parish council.

We are in a new world at Uttlesford; one of cabinet government, in which most decisions are now in the hands of about five councillors. It is hoped that Uttlesford will avoid with its cabinet arrangements the sort of controversies that have beset other local authorities.

So, there are four years ahead to deliver on the many issues in Stansted that have arisen in recent months. Top of my list are the footpath, pavement and road safety issues in Cambridge Road, Church Road and Silver Street that are

all well known. I am all too well aware how long it takes to get action out of Essex Highways and how good ideas seem to get forgotten. It will be essential for district, county and parish councillors to work effectively together to ensure that delivery wins over debate. Fortunately, money exists for many of these improvements and Stansted needs to lay claim to a sizeable chunk of this year's £700,000 New Homes Bonus which Uttlesford now holds in its bank account.

District Cllr Alan Dean

There are many issues which are going to confront us all in the District in the next four years. The Local Development Framework (LDF) is certainly one of them. This is a suite of documents which, when finalised, will together guide almost all development within the district. Before this, there are sure to be some more applications for large high-density residential developments, which we all oppose.

Nick Barton, the new Managing Director of Stansted, came to see the Parish Council for a meeting just before the election and explained that he wanted to rebuild links between the business he runs and the local community. He should be in no doubt that we all want Stansted to succeed as a quality business. It is the single biggest employer and contributor to business taxes in our area.

Many businesses depend directly or indirectly upon the airport's success. We are seeing planning applications for facilities to handle very large aircraft – such as the A380 – being made. Stansted is one of the few airports that can handle these noisy aircraft. If they are going to land here in large numbers, we need to be sure that they do so at the right times and in such a way that their nuisance and planning blight is minimised.

Next year will see the Olympics in 2012. Events – such as the Mountain Biking – are taking place in the county. Parish Council elections will also take place in 2012 – delayed because of parish boundary changes between Birchanger and Stansted. We hope that we speak for everyone on the Parish Council when we say that we all want good people to get, and remain, involved – whatever their political persuasion.

If you are interested in standing – no matter what your political allegiance – then please contact us, or the Parish Council offices, for details on how to get involved. One of the hallmarks of a "Quality Parish Council" is contested elections. It is essential that Stansted retains this coveted status. If you care about the area, then please get involved. There is always more work to be done by the Parish Council, and individual Councillors!

District Cllrs Joe Rich and John Salmon

NEWS FROM ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

I have written about this subject before but I hope that readers will excuse me if I bang on about the same thing because we need your help.

Essex County Council has just celebrated the end of FOSTER CARE FORTNIGHT where we have held a number of events across the county introducing families to what it means to foster children who are in need of support, love and a stable environment. The result of the events was that Essex signed up 13 families who are keen to undertake what can be a demanding but potentially extremely rewarding task.

The trouble is that we still don't have enough people and given that Essex has nearly 1600 children and young people who are "Looked After" we have a constant need for families who are prepared to assist by providing a home for these young people when their need is greatest.

In conjunction with all this Essex County Council has now produced a Foster Care Charter that outlines the support and commitment we will give to Foster Carers.

I repeat we need your help so, to find out more about fostering a child call 0800 801 530 or visit www.essex.gov.uk/fostering

County Cllr Ray Gooding

DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

July	6	Full Council
July	13	free
July	20	F&GP
July	27	Full Council

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

Catherine Dean - V/Chairman	813579
catherinemarydean@btinternet.com	
Iris Evans	815848
iris.evans9@googlemail.com	
Jo Freeman	812524
j.freeman195@yahoo.com	
Bridget Gott	814440

John Hudson	814489
john@hudson8889.fsnet.co.uk	
Peter Jones	813252
peter@lowerstreet.com	
Janice Loughlin	812346
cllrloughlin@uttlesford.gov.uk	
Tudor Owen	812825
tudor@tudorowen.com	
Ruth Rawlinson	814222
ruthrawlinson@tiscali.co.uk	
Jonathan Rich	813112
joerichlaw@aol.com	
John Salmon	814789
cllrsalmon@uttlesford.gov.uk	
Geoffrey Sell - Chairman	815925
sellgeoffrey@yahoo.co.uk	
Bill Stiles	813172
candbstiles@tiscali.co.uk	
Valerie Trundle	813433
prtvt@btinternet.com	

OTHER CONTACTS

Uttlesford District Council Members

Alan Dean	Tel: 01279 813579
Email: cldrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk	
Iris Evans	Tel: 01279 815848
Email: iris.evans9@googlemail.com	
Joe Rich	Tel: 01279 813112
Email: cllrrich@uttlesford.gov.uk	
John Salmon	Tel: 01279 814789
Email: cllrsalmon@uttlesford.gov.uk	

Essex County Council Member

Ray Gooding	Tel: 01279 813103
Email: cldr.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: alan.haselhurst.mp@parliament.uk

Police

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