

Stansted network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

REMEMBER, REMEMBER
6TH NOVEMBER
BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS
ELMS FARM, CHURCH ROAD
(entry via Archway Cottage)

GATES OPEN 6.30PM
BONFIRE LIT AT 7.00PM
FIREWORK DISPLAY 7.30PM

FAMILY TICKET £10
(two adults, two children)
ADDITIONAL TICKETS -
ADULTS - £4.00
CHILDREN - £2.00

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

Please remember this field is home to many horses. If you do bring sparklers with you, take the sticks home or dispose of them in the bins on the site. Our thanks to the Gemmill Family for allowing us the use of the site once again.

REMEMBERING THE FALLEN

On Sunday 14 November representatives of our many village organisations will gather together to remember those who have given their lives on behalf of our community and nation.

The annual parade will leave from Crafton Green at around 10.40am, and proceed to the War Memorial for the traditional wreath-laying ceremony. A service will follow immediately afterwards in St John's Church.

WAR MEMORIAL - TAKING CARE OF OUR MEMORIES

If you attend the service on Remembrance Sunday, we hope you will notice improvements to the War Memorial. It has recently been cleaned and, as we go to print, repairs to the crazy paving and Portland stone are due, as is the re-painting of the chains. A new kerbstone will also be in place,

together with a new inscription in the riser of the front step - "We Will Remember Them".

RESIDENTS' PARKING SCHEME - LOWER STREET AND GROVE HILL

After numerous discussions over a period of years, a set of proposals has been approved by Essex County Council and Uttlesford District Council (responsible for enforcement). A meeting was held with the residents of Lower Street (from the junction with Grove Hill along to the Youth Centre) and Grove Hill to receive comments and answer queries on 19 October. The scheme is designed to move airport and commuter parking off these streets, thus enabling local residents and those wishing to use local shops and services to park. The main elements of the scheme are as follows:

1. The scheme allows permit holders to park within the designated areas (Lower Street and Grove Hill and a small section of High Lane) at any time. Non permit holders may park for one hour, with no return within three hours. After 9pm on Saturdays up until 8am on Mondays anybody can park within the areas.

2. The regulations state that the scheme must be open to all residents in Grove Hill (up as far as house number 29) and in Lower Street (east side from number 37 along to 61, number 63, west side from number 42 along to number 56, and all properties from the Dog and Duck to the Youth Centre). One property at The Mews, which has no designated off-street parking, will also be eligible.

3. Uttlesford District Council advises that every resident is entitled to apply for a permit. If you have one off-street parking place, you may only apply for one permit. If you have no off-street parking, you can apply for a first and second permit. However, space will be limited and we aim to give priority for one permit to those who have no off-street parking.

4. Charges are to be confirmed but are unlikely to exceed £70 per annum. If space permits, Visitor Permits may be purchased and will cost in the region of £2.50 for ten one-hour slots and £7.50 for 10 four-hour slots.

5. The scheme will be permanent but a review will be undertaken by Essex County Council and Uttlesford District Council, in conjunction with the Parish Council, after it has been running for one year.

6. The scheme requires the support of the majority of residents in order to proceed.

If there is support for the scheme then the relevant Orders will be published and, if the scheme goes ahead, then the Parish Council will wish to see the impact of the proposals before considering any other possible schemes.

PARKING ISSUES IN THE VILLAGE

The Parish Council is aware of parking problems in the village as well as issues of enforcement. With the number of cars increasing, inadequate off-street parking in many residential areas, the desire of drivers to park as near to their destination as possible (legally or otherwise) and the unwillingness of some to pay for parking, there is no solution which will please everyone.

Currently the Parish Council is working with the police (responsible for obstruction) and Uttlesford District Council (responsible for enforcing restrictions) to produce guidelines on parking, especially on pavements, and to give fair warning where action is likely to be taken.

In addition it would be desirable to have a footpath from Cambridge Road to the Crafton Green car park. However, this is dependent upon being able to acquire land. Tesco has been asked if it would undertake this scheme as it would be advantageous for their customers. The possible removal of the double yellow lines outside the proposed Tesco Express is being raised with Essex County Council.

PRODUCING BETTER PLAY AREAS

Over a period of time Councillors Jo Freeman and Tudor Owen have been looking at ways to improve the equipment and layout in the play areas situated on the Recreation Ground, Bentfield Green and Mountfitchet Green. Out of this research, fifteen proposals have been prepared and the pupils at our three schools are being asked for their preferences as to which scheme and their favourite pieces of equipment. Once consultations are complete then final schemes will be drawn up and costed.

The funding of any scheme will require finance to be obtained from one or more external agencies. Whether in these straitened times the cash is available will have to be seen.

TALK TO YOUR LOCAL POLICE

Regular beat surgeries are held in the library at Crafton Green and are advertised on the noticeboards. The next scheduled surgery is on 27 October, so if you wish to raise issues please come along. Should you have more immediate needs, please call on the Neighbourhood Policing Team mobile phone (07801 461 666) Of course, if you see Stuart, Kelly or Tom around the village - with the first two possibly on bikes - do have a chat if you feel the need.

GRIT BINS - DO YOU WANT TO ORDER?

Far be it for us to be depressing, but winter is not far away. If snow and ice feature then the issue of road and footpath safety will be an important issue. Hopefully the main roads and footpaths in key central areas will be gritted by Essex County Highways, while Uttlesford District Council will be responsible for the two car parks and, along with the Parish Council, the approaches to the Day Centre, Clinic and Parish Council office. Hopefully there will be filled grit bins in the car parks at the top and bottom of Chapel Hill. However, if any group of residents wishes to purchase a grit bin for their road, then contact the Parish Council Office on 813214 or parishcouncil@stansted.net. The estimated cost is £300 but it will be kept filled free of charge by Essex County Council.

NEWS FROM UTTLESFORD D.C.

Stansted Police Station

Our police station is being recommended for closure by the Chairman of Essex Police Authority Cllr Robert Chambers. The Authority is anticipating significant cuts in funding following the Governments Comprehensive Spending Review later this month. Stansted has one dedicated police constable and two police community support officers operating out of the station. One of the latter is part funded by the Parish Council. Further policing support is provided by officers based at Great Dunmow Police Station.

Across Uttlesford for the current financial year residents contributed £4.349 million to Essex Police Authority. At Band D the precept to the authority amounts to £132.12. Over 40% of properties in the district are rated above Band D.

Our station unlike Saffron Walden and the new station at Great Dunmow is not open full time. In fact it is very part time, twice a week on Wednesdays from 14.00-20.00 and on Saturdays from 13.00-18.00.

Older residents like myself will remember a time when Stansted with a much smaller population was much better served in terms of policing. I accept that all parts of the public sector have to take their share of the cuts. However, the cuts should be equitable. Stansted should not be significantly worse off than other larger communities in the district.

Cllr Chambers is quoted as saying "We could look into involving police at the airport and using the station there instead." I have met and talked to Cllr Chambers on two occasions recently and have made it clear that this would be unacceptable. Not only would we be losing our police station but our officers would be based several miles away. This would result in less effective policing for the village. No final decision has yet been made by the Police Authority over the future of our police station. However, I have informed Cllr Chambers that the Parish Council would do all it could to find accommodation if needed for the police in the centre of Stansted.

Tesco Express, Cambridge Road

It may be helpful to readers to clarify a few matters. Because this was an existing retail site, formerly B & R Carpets, no planning permission was required from the District Council. There was no change of use i.e. from residential to retail. In 2008 planning permission was granted for changes to the shop front and Advertisement Consent was granted for signs.

Some residents are concerned about the parking implications for Cambridge Road and adjoining roads such as Clarence Road once the store opens in November. Together with Cllr Alan Dean we have met on site the Council's team leader for parking enforcement and have made him aware of our concerns. As Parish Council Chairman I am seeking to obtain a meeting with Tesco. It is important to try to get the co-operation of Tesco to persuade their shoppers to use the Crafton Green car park. The car park is owned by the Parish Council and operated by the District Council.

Council votes in favour of moving towards a Cabinet system of government

Most councils operate a cabinet system of government. This is where there is a Leader of the Council and a Cabinet composed of up to nine councillors. Each Cabinet member has a designated portfolio. Uttlesford has been one of the authorities to continue with policy making committees each headed by a Chairman. At a recent meeting, councillors voted largely on party lines to approve in principle a move towards an Executive.Cabinet form of governance. I spoke against and argued that further work needed to be done because we had insufficient information as to the costs involved. I am also concerned that a move towards Cabinet government will create two classes of councillors back bench and front bench. This may well make it more difficult for ward councillors outside the cabinet to be effective representatives.

(Cllr Geoffrey Sell)

There is some encouraging news for the users of Water Lane. This important pedestrian route in the middle of Stansted has been deteriorating for many years. Now, with the prospect of a primary school and health centre to the south, the county council has agreed to try to adopt it and to improve the surface. There are still some legal hurdles to be overcome.

People have continued to complain about the dilapidated state of Mont House in High Lane. The council is involved in pursuing some of the detailed aspects, such as whether there should be a vehicular access onto High Lane, but the main cause of delay seems to be a private matter between two separate owners of the site.

Meanwhile, it has come to light that 62 homes in Stansted are unoccupied, of which 28 have been empty for over 6 months. Apart from Takeley, where BAA-owned properties are a continuing problem, Stansted has the highest proportion of unoccupied homes in Uttlesford. The council has a scheme backed by funds to encourage owners to have them lived in. One home on Silver Street has been taken over by the council for three years and is now tenanted. The rent repays the cost of bringing the properties up to scratch. Compulsory purchase and sale by the council is another way to help with the housing crisis.

The coalition government's idea of a Big Society has been exercising the minds of councillors. We have a good example in Stansted the Big Society in the day centre. The building is owned by the council. It is run by volunteers for the benefit of the whole community. That sort of partnership between government and local people may become more familiar in future. Of course, there are Big Issues as

well. Volunteers need the continuing support of central or local government. There is also concern that fewer people seem willing or able to get actively involved in there local community. (Cllr Alan Dean)

DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

10 November Full Council
 17 November Open Spaces

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IN PICTURES-

ARTWORK AT THE SKATEPARK - MEMBERS OF STANSTED YOUTH CENTRE.

