

Stansted network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

CONTINUING THE WORK OF SSE

The withdrawal of the second runway application in late May is a major achievement but does not represent the end of the campaign. There are a number of outstanding issues which need to be pursued.

- The National Policy Statement on Airports expected next year will set out the Government's long-term policy. SSE is lobbying MP's and urging other councils and interested parishes to do likewise to ensure a moratorium on any new runways at Stansted for a long period. NEVER AGAIN.
- Airport Regulation will be debated in the next session and will provide opportunities to press for fairer treatment for local communities in relation to issues of blight and compensation.
- Limiting the environmental impact of an airport which has permission to expand to 35 million passengers per annum will need vigilance including the forthcoming consultation on the next five year control period for night flights.

There is now a need to establish a successor organisation to SSE. Please let SSE know your views on the terms of reference, priorities and name of the new organisation.

BUY A 2011 COMMUNITY CALENDAR TO AID SSE

The new calendar, which features a different village for each month, has been on sale since September and costs £6 each. See where to buy them on www.stopstanstedexpansion.com

REPORT FROM PCSO STUART STRANGER

During June and July the main problem areas have been the Recreation Ground, the Crafton Green Car Park and Hermitage House. Patrols have been increased in these locations and discussions have taken place with the management of Hermitage House. Criminal damage to motor vehicles on Chapel Hill and Woodfields has caused concern and has resulted in more patrols and house to house enquiries.

On a brighter note the skatepark has been well used in this period without any problems as has the new play area at Walson Way (subsequently some damage has been reported and will be investigated).

Kelly and I continue to cycle around the village so do talk to us and continue to call on the mobile phone (07801 461666) if you have concerns. Also do not forget the beat surgery (for dates see village noticeboards).

GOODBYE TO THE WILLOW TREE

It is expected that the willow tree at the fountain junction will have been felled by the time that this copy of Link arrives through your door. Hopefully the work will not have been too disruptive. The next stage in 2011 will be to refurbish the area and then to consider replanting.

NEW HEALTH CENTRE - UPDATE

As we write this article, the PCT is in discussion with a developer regarding a central village site for the proposed new health centre. A spokesperson for the PCT told us

"The PCT Board will make a decision as to which site the new primary care centre will be located on at their September meeting and there will be no further consultation after this date.

"The public meeting which is being arranged for Monday 18 October at 7.00pm (venue still to be confirmed but it is likely to be the Mountfitchet Maths and Computing College) is intended to be an opportunity for the Trust to update the community on our intentions for the new primary care centre for Stansted and surrounding villages."

RAISING THE ALARM ON SECURITY COLD CALLERS

Essex County Council Trading Standards is urging residents to be wary if they are contacted by a security company called Crime Research UK.

Reports have been received that this company has been contacting residents and saying that

they are working with ECC on a 'crime awareness week'. ECC would like to make it clear that it is not working with Crime Research UK.

Residents who receive one of these calls are told they have been selected to receive a 'free' alarm system and are then urged to arrange a visit from a 'security expert' to discuss it further. Trading Standards is reminding residents to be vigilant of any cold callers, either over the telephone or at the doorstep.

If you are interested in having an alarm fitted at your home, you can find a Trading Standards' approved trader by using the Buy with Confidence scheme. You can obtain details via www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk or by calling Consumer Direct on 08454 040506. You can also reduce the number of unsolicited telephone calls you receive by registering for the Telephone Preference Service by calling 0845 0700707 or visiting www.tpsonline.org.uk.

LEVEL OF CRIME IN THE PARISH

With the help of the police, it is intended to publish a breakdown of crimes committed in the parish a year. It needs to be remembered that these statistics are based upon reported incidents. Too much should not be read into short-term movements particularly where the numbers are low.

The table below shows the half-yearly pattern of reported crimes committed since the beginning of 2008.

The following comments appear relevant:

Overall most categories have shown little change apart from violence where the number of incidents has increased. All incidents of violence are serious but most occur between people who know each other whether at home, in the pub or among the young. Attacks out of the blue either in the course of robbery or for any other reason remain very rare.

The trend in anti-social behaviour offences has been declining which may reflect the work of the PCSOs and the Youth Club.

DOG FOULING

Another reminder that dog owners should clear up after their animals. There are dog litter bins around the village so there is no excuse for the amount of dog mess left on footpaths and open spaces.

FOREST HALL PARK - BOUNDARIES

Residents of Foresthall Park should all, by now, have received a letter from Uttlesford District Council giving details of the parish boundary review. Currently, two-thirds of this development falls within Birchanger Parish, with the remainder in Stansted.

The views of the residents are being sought on the following options:

- leave things as they are now
- minor adjustment of boundary to reflect community identity
- major transfer of electors to either one parish or the other (so that the entire estate comes under one parish)
- merge or group parishes so they are both administered by the same parish council
- create new parish based on a new development area

The closing date for submissions is 30 September, and we would encourage all Foresthall Park residents to make their views known to Uttlesford District Council (as can any other parishioner).

FOOTPATH MAP

Readers may recall that we are working to put together a new village map which will detail all the footpaths and bridleways in Stansted.

	Jan-Jun 08	Jul-Dec 08	Jan-Jun 09	Jul-Dec 09	Jan-Jun 10
Actual bodily harm	13	8	6	12	8
Assault without injury	2	2	8	3	8
Burglary - dwelling	8	11	2	7	9
Burglary - other	7	8	11	6	4
Criminal damage - vehicles	16	12	19	17	19
Criminal damage - other	22	14	20	18	13
Drugs - possession	2	2	9	1	3
Theft of motor vehicle	1	4	8	2	0
Theft from motor vehicle	6	7	7	7	7

Whilst the layout of the document is almost ready for printing, we are obviously now aware that there is a parish boundary review being undertaken by Uttlesford District Council. As the map also shows the parish boundary, it would be foolish for us to print the map now, only for it to be out of date as soon as the review is complete. We shall therefore hold fire on this until we receive confirmation of the new boundary line.

BUDGET 2011/12

We have started the process of looking at our budget for 2011/12. Given the current financial climate, we are not looking for any new major projects, but if you should have any suggestions that you wish us to consider, now is the time to get in touch.

PLANNING

Along with some of our neighbouring Councils, we have recently considered applications from within the airport boundary, to allow non-airport related activity. In April we objected to an application on the Stansted 600 site at Taylor's End to allow use by non-airport related businesses. This was refused by Uttlesford. We are currently considering an application at Endeavour House to enable 1500 sqm of office space to be made available for non-airport use. Uttlesford District Council has a policy that land within the airport boundary must be utilised for airport-related activities and we hope they will be consistent in enforcing this.

NEWS FROM UTTLESFORD D.C.

Community Achievement Awards

Twenty awards were given at the recent Council's bi-annual Community Achievement awards evening. This was in celebration of those who had given something extra to their communities. Three Stansted residents received awards. For services to children and young people, Vaughan Atkinson (junior football) Roger Musgrove (Cubs) and for services to the local community Francine Cope (Helpline) The Chairman of the Council presented each of the recipients with a commemorative framed certificate. She stated that "All of these people have made a real difference in their communities and they should receive recognition for that." Sentiments with which I completely concur.

Civic Pride Initiative

The Council has launched a campaign to encourage residents to take pride in their local area and keep it clean and tidy. In Stansted the Parish Council employs a full time litter man who does a sterling job. His efforts are supplemented by the District Council. However, throughout the district there is an issue particularly of rubbish thrown from cars. This for example can be often seen in the approach roads to the village. A budget of a maximum of £15,000 was agreed at the last meeting of the Community and Housing Committee to pay for promotional materials and staffing.

It is recognised that most people in the district behave responsibly, but that our environment can be spoiled by a small minority. The Council therefore through this initiative wants to raise awareness of environmental crime, enforce the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act and tackle issues such as fly-tipping, fly-posting, graffiti and abandoned vehicles. In a recent survey Uttlesford only secured fifth place amongst Essex councils for the percentage of people who were satisfied or fairly satisfied with public land being kept clear of litter and refuse.

Key events that will feature in the campaign include:

- Poster competition for primary schools
- Media competition for secondary schools
- Publicity of successful fly tipping prosecutions and removal of abandoned vehicles
- Working with landowners to advise them of their responsibilities towards their land.

(Cllr Geoffrey Sell)

The Council has tentatively started to switch direction on planning the future of the district. It agreed on September 7th to conduct a review that may lead to an alternative strategy to the Elsenham new town idea that it chose just three years ago. This move is partly because a new town continues to be deeply unpopular and partly because of growing evidence that there are too many practical obstacles in the way of delivering it. There will also be a review of the number of homes that need to be delivered in response to new responsibilities that have been given to planning authorities like Uttlesford to work out their own housing needs independently from the regional targets that have now been scrapped. This does not mean that Uttlesford can do what it wants on a whim. Any revised housing figures would have to be based on hard evidence. As an East Herts District Councillor said in the press in August when

they launched their equivalent planning process, “whatever happens (to government policy), we still need new houses, jobs and services, and facilities”. The new government hasn’t evaporated the need for additional, new homes. It just means that there is greater local responsibility to get it sorted out properly.

Scrapping the Elsenham new town is likely to mean that Stansted will have to accommodate more growth in future. What I hope and expect will now happen is that there will be more local dialogue about the where future housing could go and what issues need to be addressed before any plans get approved. Several members are pressing for greater transparency and, I hope, better explanation about why we need to build more local homes and encourage more local jobs.

I have opened up discussions with County and District Councils about action to improve the street scene in the Station Road area. My concern was triggered by the mess that people have made of the Station Road pavement over the years by chucking down chewing gum. It’s early days, but there is a long list of repairs that are clearly needed.

The two Councils are also looking into options to make pedestrian access to and from Jordon Close much safer. At the moment people with children have to cross busy Church Road twice to get to the bus stop, children’s play area and, in future, the new primary school.

Cllr Alan Dean)

DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

6 October	Open Spaces
13 October	F & GP
20 October	Full Council

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