

Stansted network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

CABINET STRUCTURE IN OPERATION AT THE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Since May, Uttlesford District Council is governed in a different way. There is a small cabinet of five portfolio holders who are central to making and executing policy. However, key decisions still require the approval of the council.

The five portfolio holders are listed below together with their main responsibilities and contact details.

Name/email address	Portfolio Held
Howard Rolfe <i>cllrrolfe@uttlesford.gov.uk</i>	Community Partnerships & Engagement
Sue Barker <i>cllrbarker@uttlesford.gov.uk</i>	Environmental Services
Jackie Cheetham <i>cllrcheetham@uttlesford.gov.uk</i>	Deputy Leader of Council & Ch of Development Control
Julie Redfern <i>cllrredfern@uttlesford.gov.uk</i>	Housing
Liz Godwin <i>cllrgodwin@uttlesford.gov.uk</i>	Ch of Scrutiny
Robert Chambers <i>cllrchambers@uttlesford.gov.uk</i>	Finance & Administration

If you have issues or problems you should contact either your local district councillors (contact details on p.20) or the relevant portfolio holder or both.

PARISH COUNCIL SPENDING

Unfortunately this month, due to a lack of space, we are unable to tell you more about how the Council spends your money! An article about the Finance and General Purposes Committee will be published next month.

PLANS TO CREATE BETTER PLAY AREAS

As readers may be aware, the Council has plans to improve the play areas at Bentfield Green, Recreation Ground and Mountfitchet Green. Several schemes were drawn up and consultation carried out with the local schools. Those results were used to narrow down to a shortlist of three equipment providers. Who were invited to revise their layouts and quotations.

These have now been considered by the Open Spaces Committee and bids for grant funding are being prepared. The cost to refurbish each area will be high, and we can only proceed if third party funding is received, so fingers crossed!

SKATEPARK REPAIRED AND IMPROVED

We are pleased to report that the ramps at the skatepark have now been repaired and the facility is open again.

One of the ramps has also been adjusted, at the suggestion of the youngsters who use the park, to make it more "user friendly"!

LINDEN HOUSE - LICENSING DECISION & WELCOME

Following a Hearing at Uttlesford District Council at the end of June, Linden House was granted its licence for alcohol, music and dancing - subject to conditions. (These can be viewed on the UDC website under Licensing).

We welcome this new business to the village and wish Mr and Mrs Foster every success in their venture.

UNDERSTANDING HOW LICENSING WORKS

Uttlesford District Council is the Licensing Authority for this area. When an application is submitted for a new premises or a full variation, a notice giving details of the application applied for, which includes times and licensable activities, must be displayed in a prominent position at the premises. This notice must be displayed for a minimum of 28 days and must be reinforced by an advertisement in at least one local newspaper. The advertisement must be published within 10 working days of the licensing authority declaring the application to be valid.

The Parish Council is notified of the application but this is not required under the Licensing Act 2003. However, the licensing authority for Uttlesford have decided in their policy to notify town and parish councils as best practice. In addition, the policy also includes notifying businesses or residents whose premises are adjacent to the

premises in question or are directly opposite. Any person residing in the vicinity of the premises may make application to the licensing authority as an objection providing it is based on one of the four policy objectives:

- 1 Prevention of Crime and Disorder
- 2 Public Safety
- 3 Prevention of Public Nuisance
- 4 Protection of children from harm

REVIEWING AIRPORT POLICY

The Government is consulting again on aviation policy - "Sustainable Framework for UK Aviation". The details are available at www.dft.gov.uk and responses must be sent by 30 September to aviation.policyframework@dft.gsi.gov.uk. The Parish Council will be submitting comments, so if there are any points you would like us to consider, please contact the Clerk or Cllr Peter Jones by the beginning of September.

STANSTED IN BLOOM

On Saturday 2nd July, the Judges for this year's competition were out and about the village looking at the gardens that had been entered. The standard was high considering the dry spell that we have had recently and those who entered produced some beautiful displays and arrangements, making use of some very novel ideas.

First place went to Cyril Stoneham, second place to Jenny Wraith and third place to Mandy Telford. The remaining entries ranged from fourth to eighth with a tie for sixth place, only a few marks separating the last places.

On the Wednesday previous to the judging day, Mrs Joy Thomas and myself walked around the village and identified several other gardens that we considered to be worthy of recognition and therefore these gardens will be eligible for one of our new certificates that have been designed by pupils of the MMCC. The Prize Giving was held on 16 July in the Free Church Hall and a report will appear in the next edition of the Link magazine, including a list of all businesses who kindly donated the main prizes. The local schools have contributed their usual input into the competition, with St Mary's producing the colourful posters that advertised the event.

A big thank you to all the judges, some having travelled a distance to be with us.

Cllr Valerie Trundle 01279 813433.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH PUBLIC MEETING

We had a successful NhW meeting, held on 25th May, which was attended by 26 members of the public.

The Chairman's Report covered various aspects of NhW that have occurred during the few months since our last meeting in September 2010.

The success of our local group is mainly due to the hard work of our area coordinators and that of our many members who deliver the 'Observer' leaflet.

The minutes of the above meeting can be found on our NhW website - www.stanstednhw.org.uk or alternatively a hard copy can be supplied on request from myself.

After the meeting refreshments were provided and there was a time for people to meet together and discuss any issues.

Contact: Cllr Valerie Trundle 01279 813433.

NEWS FROM THE DISTRICT COUNCIL URGENT - ARTICLE 4 CONSULTATIONS

People in Stansted may currently be concerning themselves with the Local Development Framework (LDF) and other matters mentioned in our last column (and perhaps the possibility of a Neighbourhood Plan). This month, however, we would like to draw attention to the Article 4 Directions currently being proposed by Uttlesford.

Article 4 directions are issued by Councils where specific development control is needed and are commonly applied to conservation areas whose character is perceived to be threatened. Directions are applied over an area rather than individual properties and are registered as Local Land Charges - they remove permitted development rights, necessitating planning applications for anything which might ordinarily be allowed.

Uttlesford will shortly be consulting on the question of whether Article 4 directions should be made in three conservation areas in Stansted (Lower Street, Recreation Ground and Bentfield). For further information on this matter, see www.uttlesford.gov.uk or contact the Council direct on 01799 510510.

Cllrs John Salmon and Jonathan Rich

As I write in early July a new set of road layout plans has been submitted to Essex Highways by the prospective developer of a health centre/shopping complex at the former Hilton Cars in Lower Street. The first design was considered not to be safe or capable of handling the expected volumes of traffic. A planning application could be submitted to Uttlesford by the time Link is published, though I am always cautious about over-optimism.

During July it is likely that residents in the three conservation areas at Bentfield, around Woodfields and in Lower Street will receive council letters advising them of the intention to introduce so-called Article 4 Directions on their properties. These orders withdraw normal rights of permitted development that apply to most properties; i.e. works for which planning permission is not required. This means that planning permission will have to be sought to alter walls and railing, replace doors and windows and change other features that would detract from their appearance within the conservation area. These orders would have been issued four years ago but for staff shortages. I am trying to amend the rules so that garden fences and solar panels are excluded from these orders. Residents will be able to raise their own concerns with UDC. One consolation for home owners is that planning applications in these circumstances are free of charge.

At June's south area forum we heard from the district council about Neighbourhood Plans. Uttlesford is trying to encourage Stansted to produce one of these bottom-up plans, which form part of proposed 'localism' planning by the coalition government. The catch seems to be that Neighbourhood Plans are only supposed to be worth doing – they cost £20-50,000 – in areas expecting major growth (housing, etc) BEYOND what is already planned. With upwards of 700 new homes – a 30% increase – already planned and being built at Foresthall Park, I am advising my fellow district and parish councillors and others to tread with caution along this path. Readers can keep abreast of this issue on my blog (see below).

Cllr Alan Dean
Web-blog: <http://alandean.mycouncillor.org.uk/>

NEWS FROM ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

One of the areas for which Essex County Council is responsible is a subject that is little talked about and gets little publicity yet it is an area for which Essex has been well regarded for some time. The subject is Youth Offending.

The recent discussion that came from Ken Clark's comments around the length of custodial sentences is very relevant in this matter and whatever the readers view on the efficacy of prison as a deterrent, as a punishment, or simply as a means of keeping criminals off the street it is evident that when it comes to young people we need to think rather differently. We all know that the problem with sending a young person to a Young Offenders Institute or Prison can easily mean that their association with other criminals will hone their attitudes and set them on a life of crime to the detriment of everyone.

With that in mind it is important that we employ, to use the jargon, early intervention, since it is often evident from the fact that young people come from a problem family, that peer group pressure is having an adverse effect on them, that they are not attending school and that they are starting to get into trouble. Action at that stage can often mean that we break the pattern of offending long before it becomes too serious and hopefully we can ensure that those people live happy productive lives.

The trouble with all this early intervention is that it costs money and it is important that the money is spent in the right places. Custodial sentences for young people are extremely expensive and they certainly mean, not only that we as a society have failed, but that the resources are taken from the process of prevention.

One of the initiatives that ECC has been progressing is YOUTH BUILD and we have two centres, one in Clacton, where young offenders are given training in building skills to enable them to start careers. However, whilst these are not unintelligent young people they often suffer from a very low educational age and this is almost always the result of poor attendance throughout their school life.

It is obviously better to spend the money on getting them to school rather than locking them up.

NEWS FROM ESSEX POLICE

Thieves have made off with several thousand pounds-worth of tools and equipment from shed burglaries across the Uttlesford district, and local Crime Reduction Advisor, Peter Caulfield, warns that these offences could continue for the foreseeable future. "In the past," he said, "shed break-ins have usually been confined to Autumn and Spring, but now all the signs point to them continuing through the year, and as usual, they generally happen overnight." Mr Caulfield said that

thieves usually target insecure or poorly maintained sheds, but in some of the recent offences, the sheds had reasonable security in place, which suggests that the thieves were unusually determined.

Here are his "Top-Ten Tips" for keeping your property in your possession, not the burglar's:

- * Site your shed as close to the house as possible.
- * To prevent snooping, white-out the windows or fit net curtains
- * If you have opening windows in your shed, then screw them shut.
- * Fit a "close-shackled" padlock and a heavy-duty hasp and staple. Do not use screws, but ensure that they are bolted in place. If you have a substantial door, then fit a 5-lever mortise lock certified to BS3621.
- * Drill out the hinge screws so that they cannot be easily removed.
- * If the door is suitable, fit hinge-bolts. they are inexpensive and easy to fit.
- * Secure tools, mowers, cycles etc with a steel security cable.
- * Visibly mark all removable items with your house number or name, and postcode.
- * Fit a shed alarm. These cost from £6.00 to around £25 and can provide great peace of mind.
- * Do not think that it can't happen to you - it can happen to anyone.

Please can we remind residents to lock their cars and to keep any valuables in the car out of sight. Over the last couple of weeks we have suffered a number of thefts from insecure vehicles. Thieves are taking advantage of these easy targets and stealing items such as, Sat Navs, any other electrical items and money.

DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

There are no scheduled meetings during August. The first meeting in September will be Open Spaces on 7 September.

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
<i>iris.evans9@googlemail.com</i>	
Jo Freeman	812524
<i>j.freeman195@yahoo.com</i>	
Bridget Gott	814440
John Hudson	814489
<i>john@hudson8889.fsnet.co.uk</i>	
Peter Jones	813252
<i>peter@lowerstreet.com</i>	
Janice Loughlin	812346
<i>cllr_loughlin@uttlesford.gov.uk</i>	
Tudor Owen	812825
<i>tudor@tudorowen.com</i>	
Ruth Rawlinson	814222
<i>ruthrawlinson@tiscali.co.uk</i>	
Jonathan Rich	813112
<i>joerichlaw@aol.com</i>	
John Salmon	814789
<i>cllrsalmon@uttlesford.gov.uk</i>	
Geoffrey Sell - Chairman	815925
<i>sellgeoffrey@yahoo.co.uk</i>	
Bill Stiles	813172
<i>candbstiles@tiscali.co.uk</i>	
Valerie Trundle	813433
<i>prtvrt@btinternet.com</i>	

OTHER CONTACTS

Uttlesford District Council Members

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

Essex County Council Member

<i>Ray Gooding</i>	Tel: 01279 813103
Email: <i>cllr.ray.gooding@essexcc.gov.uk</i>	

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

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

*** Please note that there is a new national non-emergency number for the police - 101- Essex is one of the first forces in the country to introduce this.**