

meet the budget. As always there are swings and roundabouts with benefits accruing from lower business rates, no playscheme and higher cemetery income being offset by adverse movements in lighting maintenance costs, lower interest receipts and a contribution to the Youth Centre to enable opening in the summer.

2010/11 – Initial projections point to an 8% increase in expenditure with the main elements contributing to this rise being the contribution towards the resurfacing of unadopted roads, higher lighting maintenance charges and a full year cost of 50% of the PCSO's salary. Fortunately the yield from council tax should increase given the greater number of houses. It is hoped, therefore, to restrict the rise in council tax to about 3-4%.

2011/12 – During this year, assuming the new health centre has been completed, it is probable that the Parish Council offices may move to the ground floor of Crafton Green. Even if nothing else changed, costs would increase as the rent from the clinic will cease while the upper floor, even if a tenant is sought and found, will not produce an equivalent figure. In addition the full cost of the building would fall on the budget. Altogether, the additional cost will fall into the £20 - £25,000 range.

As Foresthall Park is built, the size of the parish will increase and costs will rise in terms of maintaining verges, play areas and litter collection while income from council tax is likely to grow at a slower rate.

Such a step change is likely to mean higher council tax for the parish, but the Council will seek to limit this impact whilst sustaining and improving services at what remains a relatively low cost. However, nothing has been decided but decisions will need to be taken in 2010 if the move of the health centre is confirmed.

HOUSING LAND AVAILABILITY – COMMENTS ON STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

The Council has made the following representations to Uttlesford District Council over the list of possible development sites in the parish. The main conclusions may be summarised as follows:

- A number of brownfield sites in the centre of the village (Braefield Engineering, 10 Cambridge Road, 14-28 Cambridge Road and works at Bentfield Road) would be

suitable for housing development, providing they are not needed for business use.

- Building on green belt land is unacceptable in most instances but consideration could be given to Elms Farm and land south of Stoney Common Road. However, apart from traffic issues the Council is insistent that the view across Stansted Park from the west side of the village, particularly from Chapel Hill, must be protected.
- Development on the triangle north of the Catholic Church on High Lane was opposed given its prominent position at the entrance to the village and because any building would detract from long views across the countryside.
- The density of development on any site should be determined by the context and respect the rural situation of Stansted. This should apply to any further development at Foresthall Park and construction of more flats should be opposed.
- Development of five low rise houses on the St Mary's School in St John's Road site may be acceptable provided the open space is safeguarded while the Three Colts, an empty pub, may offer scope for a modest scheme.

These are preliminary views and may be changed in light of the responses to the Parish Plan questionnaire.

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

11 November	Full Council
18 November	Open Spaces (Budget)

NEWS FROM UTTLESFORD D.C.

From Cllr Alan Dean

The bus shelters around Stansted were installed in early October after a further month's delay, but in time for the autumn and winter wind and rain. The revised bus service to Stortford is far from ideal, with the two services 7 and 301 timed to trail each other within a few minutes in each direction. In fact I was on a 301 that was competing for space with a number 7 at the Silver Street lay-by. The poor timing has been pointed out to the county council, but no solution is on offer.

However, from November 15th the Arriva 510 service between the airport and Harlow centre will be diverted via Forest Hall Road. This bus will use Walson Way when it opens early next year. The 510 service will provide a direct service every 20 minutes for much of the day to the airport, Bishop's Stortford and Harlow. It runs all day and also throughout the night every hour so will be a big boost for local bus travel even though it only touches the edge of Stansted. There is even an hourly service of Sundays, which will give Stansted its first Sunday bus service for many years.

Other good news on Foresthall Park: the footpath to Stoney Common is now open; the footpath which provides a temporary link into Church Road has been improved; architects have been appointed to design the new primary school and finally the children's play area in Walson Way will open at the time the road opens, but not before for safety reasons whilst some nearby homes are still being built.

I am part of a team within the local strategic partnership called Uttlesford Futures which has commissioned a survey of over 300 local businesses to get their views of what it's like to do business in Uttlesford. We are still analysing the results, but two caught my attention. Four out of five businesses have five or fewer employees and one in eight of these businesses are thinking of leaving the district in the next three years because either they can't expand locally or they find premises too expensive in Uttlesford. This suggests that a fresh approach is needed to planning in Uttlesford if the local economy is to climb out of the recession in the best possible shape. I have for some time felt that the planning system in Uttlesford is good at stopping what it doesn't like but bad at promoting the area to encourage enterprise.

District Councillors are carrying out a review of day centres. People who run and use Stansted's

day centre will be invited to contribute. As with most council services, the use of day centres has been changing over the years so the time seems right to have a fresh look at making best use of these community facilities.

From Cllr Geoffrey Sell Council Finances

For the financial year 2008/09 there was an under-spend of about £1.1 million. This is considerably in excess of what was predicted at the beginning of the year. Although budgeting is not an exact science the variances have been substantial. Most of the under-spend has been allocated to the Landsbanki Bank reserve. Uttlesford had £2.2 million invested in this failed Icelandic bank. Latest indications from CIPFA the local government accounting association is that councils are likely to receive back 83% of their investment. It is not clear yet whether councils will be treated as a preferential creditor.

Whilst the substantial under-spend for the last year helps financial stability there is a need to improve the effectiveness of services such as Planning and Enforcement.

Further news on the finance front was the result of the Use of Resources Inspection for 2008/09 by the Audit Commission. Use of resources is an assessment of how well organisations are managing and using their resources to deliver value for money and better and sustainable outcomes for local people. Grading is from Level 1 being the lowest to Level 4 being the highest. The Council scored a Level 2 overall which is an improvement over the last two years when Uttlesford scored a Level 1 in the inspection. It also illustrates that we have still some work to do to achieve the higher grades but at least we are moving in the right direction.

Impact of recession upon the Housing Department

The number of people seeking housing advice has continued to rise substantially. Whilst in the first four months of this financial year compared to the same period in 2008/09 the numbers of new applicants registering onto the housing register has risen from 148 to 198, a 25% increase. This has created extra work processing and assessing the applications

District Council Housing Strategy

This is a long but interesting document which members of the Community & Housing

Committee considered at their last meeting.
Some extracts from this document:

'There is a growing affordability problem in the District. ... There is simply not enough affordable housing to meet the need of the District's residents.'

'The East of England Plan –Regional Housing provision 2001-2021, sets out a minimum dwelling provision for Uttlesford of 8,000 new homes. The Regional Plan identifies at April 2008 that a minimum of 5,428 dwellings are still to be built.'

NEWS FROM ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL From Cty. Cllr Ray Gooding



Ray Gooding Welcomes the first 120 Essex County Council Apprentices

We read a great deal in the media about unemployment amongst young people and in these difficult times many companies are unwilling or unable to invest in training for young people. Similarly, there is a general lack of skilled and qualified people in the workforce and when the economy picks up again we will need a workforce that is capable of fulfilling the requirements of employers.

This is particularly true of the Engineering and Manufacturing sectors of our economy so, to make sure that employers in Essex are equipped for the future and young people in the County are properly skilled to meet these requirements, Essex County Council have started their own Apprentice Training Scheme.

In September the first 120 young people from across the County came to County Hall to welcome the start of their training as Engineering Apprentices. The innovative scheme which is being pioneered by the County Council means that young people who reach a basic entry level will be employed by ECC for a year during which time they will attend colleges in either Harlow, Basildon or Colchester to gain some basic skills and technical training and they will spend about a third of the time with a number of companies so that they get a taste of what the workplace is

really like. They will stand a good chance of getting a job and continuing their training with those companies and at the end of the year. What's more they get paid as well!
The intention is that this scheme will be extended to engage 1000 young people over the next three years and will be broadened to provide skilled people to other sections of the economy. Indeed, ECC is currently investigating schemes for high level engineering skills within the County and has just started a scheme in association with Chelsea Football Club which is aimed at Looked After Children where twelve young people have begun a 15 Month Apprenticeship to equip them to become sports trainers.

If you would like any further information about these schemes or if you have a company that could become involved with this training process, please let me know.

CONTACT US!

Clerk – *Ruth Clifford*
Admin Assistant – *Anne Court*
Email: parishcouncil @stansted.net
Phone/fax 01279 813214 - 10am – 1pm

OTHER CONTACTS

Uttlesford District Council Members

Alan Dean Tel: 01279 813579
Email: cllrdean@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
Email: cllrsell@uttlesford.gov.uk

Essex County Council Member

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

Member of Parliament

The Rt Hon Sir Alan Haselhurst MP
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
Tel: 020 7219 5214/Fax: 020 7219 5600
Email: haselhursta@parliament.uk

Police

PC Tom Bastendorff, Tel: 01279 812211
Non-emergency number 0300 333 4444
PCSO's (Stuart/Kelly) 07801 461 66