

Stansted Network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

TWINNING WITH RUNGIS - UPDATE

We are in the process of establishing our Twinning Association to work with a similar group in Rungis, comprising representatives of the Parish Council, local schools and Business Forum.

Towards the end of November our Chairman, Maureen Caton, had a starring role in a "Welcome" video which was shown to a public meeting for the parishioners of Rungis. The Twinning Association will now work on drawing up an official Twinning Charter for each community to sign in 2018.

VILLAGE STREET LIGHTING

Many residents may not be aware that the Parish Council owns around 70% of the street lights in the village, which is an unusual situation compared with other communities. Some of you may have your street lights turned off around midnight and these are owned by Essex County Council, whose policy is in marked contrast to our policy which is to keep lights on all night. For some of you keeping the lights on all night is a nuisance, especially if your street lights are the upright, round design which offers a 360-degree spread at first floor window level. This design is mainly concentrated in the Hargrave estate, so we are conducting an experiment along Croasdaile Road, where we have changed to LED light fittings. At first the contrast of light to dark patches was unsettling, so we are extending the height of the columns by 1 metre to minimise the extent of shadow between the lights. There is one light out at the moment, due to circumstances beyond our control, which we are trying to resolve with UK Power Networks. Your feedback on the results would be greatly appreciated.

Other lighting news: following the installation of antique style lanterns around the Recreation Ground, we are extending them around the Windmill, which is to have its own floodlighting converted to LED. Unfortunately, owing to budgetary constraints, wholesale conversion to LED across the village will be impossible. However, apart from the obvious cost savings, there is the added advantage in the reduction of light pollution and offering a better night environment for wildlife.

With regard to the LED street lights along Cambridge Road, we have approached Essex County Council and suggested that they are far too bright and asked for them to be dimmed. So far they have failed to respond to our request.

The Parish Council would like to thank Mr and Mrs Harris for their kind cooperation in providing lighting to the pathway connecting Gilbey Crescent and Croasdaile Road.

VILLAGE FIREWORK DISPLAY

The change of venue for this year's Fireworks event caused a few logistical challenges, but thankfully, after a rather dismal day of weather, we had a reasonable evening and a good sized crowd enjoyed a spectacular firework display organised by James Deeks and his



crew. A big thank you to the Scouts for organising the BBQ and to Richard and Luke Thomas for setting up the PA system and organising the music. The photographs are courtesy of Luke.



HANGING BASKETS AND FLOWER BEDS

The Open Spaces Committee have recently undertaken a review of our floral displays with our new gardening contractor. Feedback from residents on this year's displays have generally been very positive so our plans for 2018 don't involve any significant changes.

Our contractor has been asked to produce a plan for winter planting and also to explore ways of getting more Autumn colour in The Memorial Gardens so they look at their best for the WWI centenary events in 2018.

It was agreed that the red geraniums in the hanging baskets had worked reasonably well, but it would be nice to have more colour in them next year.

If you have any views on floral displays please contact the Parish Council office using the contact details on page 24.

PLAY AREA SURVEY RESULTS

Forty residents completed our play area survey, of whom 65% were in favour of the idea of the Parish Council providing a basketball ring with practice area and outdoor table tennis table at the Bentfield Play Area and on The Rec. A small number of residents living adjacent to The Rec raised objections to the proposal. There were no objections to the Bentfield Play Area proposal.

At the Open Spaces committee meeting on 18 October it was agreed to seek funding for a basketball ring and practice area at the Bentfield Play Area. If we are successful in our funding bids we will go ahead with the proposal and after assessing this, reconsider the possibility of installing something similar at other sites in the village.

NEWS FROM THE DISTRICT

Cllr Geoffrey Sell writes

District Council Report

Bloor Homes

After over 20 years as a councillor I thought very little would surprise me. However, their decision to build a sales office in High Lane without planning permission was one. Uttlesford planners often come in for intemperate and unjustified criticism. As my colleague Cllr Alan Dean said, what district council officers did was to "adopt an excellent and appropriate fresh and innovative approach in dealing with the blot on the High Lane landscape. By deciding the "blot" amounted to an advertisement, immediate action could be taken by UDC. Unauthorised adverts have to be taken down immediately."

The Council's Development Manager acknowledged the importance of the "clear unified approach by residents." When councillors and residents work together a lot can be achieved. My thanks go to all those who signed the petition and helped take on one of the largest housebuilders in the country. Special thanks should go to Caroline Bedford who played a large part in ensuring a successful outcome (for full details see page 11).

A Thin Blue Line

The Leader of the Council and myself recently welcomed the High Sheriff of Essex to Uttlesford. A presentation was given by the police. The good news is that we are the safest district in Essex with 39 crimes per 1000 population. Less good news was that reports of crime had increased from 2546 in 2016 to 3347 in 2017, whilst violence against the person (which includes domestic violence) also showed an increase from 660 in 2016 to 854 in 2017. Essex Police have been historically under-funded. What concerned me was that the establishment of police officers in the Braintree and Uttlesford division was a third less than it should be. The Essex Police and Crime Commissioner has been on the national media putting the case for increased funding. Let us hope that the Government listens.

A Chairman's Life

I am enjoying my year as Chairman of Uttlesford District Council. Apart from chairing full council meetings it involves representing the council in civic engage-



ment across Essex. The picture above was taken at the Support4Sight exhibition on Saturday 7 October at the Saffron Walden Town Bowls Club.

One of the challenges is explaining to people where Uttlesford is. I have been conscious of the huge development pressures facing Essex. All local councils are grappling with their local plans and inevitably taking tough decisions over where to site the additional hous-

ing required. Uttlesford has decided, in my view correctly, to create new garden communities. It is proposing them in Uttlesford North (Great Chesterford), Easton Park (near Dunmow) and west of Braintree (Stebbing) With so much development there will be significant pressures on our infrastructure i.e. roads, hospitals etc. It is crucial that communities are not built without the requisite infrastructure to accompany them.

Being Chairman gives me the opportunity to raise the profile of Stansted. I am pleased that the civic carol service, in association with Stansted Parish Council, will be held in St John's Church on Tuesday 5 December at 7 pm. Forest Hall School year seven pupils will be taking part in the service. There will be a retiring collection in aid of my chosen charities: Essex Wildlife Trust and Support4Sight. All are welcome.

TRANSPORT REPORT

In May of this year Valerie Trundle and Joy Thomas received letters requesting information concerning any damaged bus shelters that we might have in Stansted. They duly replied stating our concerns regarding several shelters. There has been a considerable delay in processing the responses, for which we have received apologies, but as there is only one workman who deals with infrastructure, including bus shelters, in the whole of Essex, our needs will have to wait!

BUS ROUTE 7/7a

We have received many complaints regarding the running of the "Trusty Buses", owned by Galleon Transport. These complaints vary from the general state of the bus, its lateness, to the way in which the bus is driven. Ray Franklin, who is the transport representative for Elsenham, has been very helpful in contacting Galleon Transport, stating the concerns of passengers using these "new" buses. Galleon has replied that they have taken over the route at very short notice, when Acme, the previous provider, decided that, due to lack of funds needed to keep the 7/7a bus up and running, they could no longer sustain the route.

Some of the problems that have been reported concerning the Trusty buses, are due to "unavoidable" circumstances, such as, having to wait at the Elsenham level crossing for a long time. This tends to result in lateness. Due to being late the driver then tries to make up his time by driving somewhat faster than he should. Of course this is not good and the drivers have been advised not to take this action. Also, some of the Trusty buses are very long and not really suitable for our narrow roads, which makes manoeuvring the bus rather difficult at times. The fact that the area that the 7/7a covers has been dogged with road closures and diversions has given rise to other problems as well.

In conclusion, we have at least got a provider who is willing to try and keep the 7/7a bus route going, despite problems, and if we complain too much, we might be in danger of losing the route altogether.

ESSEX POLICE ADVICE

During the winter months, burglary increases by 12.8%. Most burglars are opportunists and will look for ways to enter your home where they find an insecure point. These are just a few actions you can take to make your home more secure.

- Close and lock all windows and doors every time you leave your house or go to bed
- Make sure your door is locked properly i.e. lift the handle, turn the key and then remove the key
- Do not leave your keys by the front door or in view of windows but ensure they are easy to access should you need to get out in an emergency
- If you have a burglar alarm, use it at all times, even when you're just popping out, or zone off areas before going to bed
- Secure your boundaries and ensure access to your garden is not easily obtained
- Secure your sheds and garages as they contain valuable items and tools that can be used to break into your home
- Leave lights on or on timers to give the impression your house is occupied
- Don't leave valuable items on display
- Mark your property and register your items free on www.immobilise.com
- Do not 'check in' on social media, as this identifies your house is empty.

Every Christmas we hear a horror story of a house being broken into and presents being stolen from underneath the tree. Please don't let your guard slip over the Christmas period and make sure you do all the basics to keep your home secure.

DATES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

December

- | | |
|----|-----------------------------|
| 6 | Finance and General Purpose |
| 13 | Full Council |

January

- | | |
|----|--------------|
| 10 | Full Council |
| 17 | Open Spaces |
| 31 | Full Council |

CONTACT DETAILS

Clerk - Ruth Clifford.
Assistant to the Parish Clerk-Trevor Lloyd
Administration Assistant-Emma Philbrick
Email: parishcouncil@stansted.net
Phone/fax: 01279 813214 10.00 am - 1.00 pm
www.stansted.net

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Maureen Caton (Chairman)	813914 m.caton@hotmail.co.uk
Catherine Dean	813579 catherinemarydean@btinternet.com
Samantha Dunn	810859 cllrsamanthadunn@stansted.net
John Hudson	814489 johnedhudson@gmail.com
Matthew Jessup	816591 matthew@in2it.biz
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Jo Kavanagh	815157 jo.kavanagh.248@gmail.com
John O'Brien	816772 johnedobrien@gmail.com
Rachel Rands	817413 rachelrands@btinternet.com
Frances Richards (Vice Chairman)	812748 frannie.richards@gmail.com
John Salmon	814789 dandjsalmon@gmail.com
Geoffrey Sell	815925 sellgeoffrey@yahoo.co.uk
Valerie Trundle	813433 Prtvrt@btinternet.com
Daphne Wallace-Jarvis	812259 dwjwj.444@gmail.com

As we go to press there is one vacancy on the Parish Council

UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBERS

Alan Dean	813579 cllrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk
Terry Farthing	661555 cllrfarthing@uttlesford.gov.uk
Thom Goddard	01371 879122 cllrgoddard@uttlesford.gov.uk
Geoffrey Sell	815925 cllrsell@uttlesford.gov.uk

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER

Ray Gooding	813103 cllr.ray.gooding@essex.gov.uk
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MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Kemi Badenoch MP House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA. Telephone 0207 219 1943 (House of Commons) or 01799 506349 (Constituency Office)
Email: kemi.badenoch.mp@parliament.uk

MP Surgery

Friday 8th December 3 - 6 pm Parish Council Offices.
For an appointment please email your name and address to: kemi.badenoch.mp@parliament.uk. Alternatively phone the Old Armoury on 01799 506349.

POLICE

Non-emergency 101
James.graham@essex.pnn.police.uk

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

www.stanstednhw.org.uk

PARISH PUBLIC TRANSPORT REPRESENTATIVES

Valerie Trundle - 813433 Joy Thomas - 813871

STANSTED LIBRARY

The Library has moved temporarily into the ground floor of Crafton Green House (the building where the Parish Council Office is on the first floor), and has reverted to normal opening hours:

Tuesday 9.00 am - 1.00 pm

Wednesday 2.00 pm - 5.00 pm

Thursday 2.00 pm - 6.00 pm

Saturday 9.30 am - 5.00 pm

For more information tel 03330 132636

Email: ruth.stickley@essex.gov.uk

