

Stansted Network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

TRAFFIC AND PARKING – FINDING IMPROVEMENTS?

As part of the Neighbourhood Development Plan, work continues to find ways to increase pedestrian safety, to improve traffic flows and to add more parking spaces.

One initial word of caution. It is unlikely that much can be done to prevent traffic using the local roads although efforts are being made to enforce the weight restriction on Grove Hill.

We would welcome all views on the following issues:

- 1) Cambridge Road – reducing footpath width to improve traffic flows and helping to provide more parking spaces.
- 2) Cambridge Road/Chapel Hill junction – to consider introducing two small roundabouts to ease turning and crossing.
- 3) Chapel Hill – to consider eliminating on-street parking from Woodfield Terrace to the junction with Cambridge Road and to introduce priority signage on the stretch between St John's Road and the Millway entrance.
- 4) Lower Street – to consider reducing footpath width to improve traffic flow and to re-engineer the roundabout to prevent traffic acting in a dangerous manner.
- 5) Church Road – to seek ways to make traffic calming safer in order to reduce speeds.
- 6) High Lane – to assess the best way of introducing traffic calming given the likely increased traffic flows from the Walpole Farm development.
- 7) Increase car parking capacity by evaluating another deck over part of the Lower Street car park and, UDC agreeing finance, to acquire land behind Tesco Express for short-term parking.

Details of most of these proposals can be found on our Neighbourhood Development Plan website www.stanstedneighbourhoodplan.com.

Please email your opinions and ideas to parishcouncil@stansted.net or write to the Parish Council at Crafton Green. Response to this consultation will be important in determining what is included in the Plan and whether the Plan is approved. Thank you in advance for your help.

FLOOD MANAGEMENT

In December we had the double whammy of melting snow followed by rain which resulted in some flooding in the vicinity of the Cambridge Road and High Lane junction adjacent to the Bloor Homes development site. Understandably residents and businesses in Lower Street get very concerned about a potential repeat of the flooding experienced a couple of years ago. We have a small group of volunteer Flood Wardens who do sterling work in monitoring the water courses and keeping them free of debris that can block the flow of water and cause flooding. It would be great if a few more people who live in the Lower Street area could get involved and offer some support when there is a flood risk. Should you wish to volunteer as a Flood Warden, please contact the Council Offices.

FLY TIPPING

We get fairly regular reports of Fly Tipping which we forward to the District Council who have an in-house team, who go out and clear up what is often a very unpleasant mess. However nobody involved in dealing with the issue had ever experienced anything on the scale of what happened early in the morning of Tuesday 14 December in Pennington Lane (see below)



Contractors had to be employed to clear waste at a cost of £3,500. There is an ongoing investigation to try and identify the culprits. If they manage to track down the offenders, they can in theory be prosecuted and fined an unlimited amount or imprisoned for up to 5 years. We all very much hope they get what they deserve.

ALLOTMENTS

Both the Walpole Farm and Elms Farm developments will eventually have areas created for allotments, which will be handed over to the Parish Council to manage. We have no definite dates when these will become available, but we are hopeful Elms Farm will be ready by the end of this year. A number of people have already been in contact with us expressing a desire to take on an allotment and their names have been added to a waiting list. If you want to add your name to the waiting list please email parishcouncil@stansted.net or apply in writing to the Parish Council office.

LOST PROPERTY

You may recall the story about the search for a man who left his pay packet in a London pub before Christmas which ended happily after he came forward to claim the money. Thousands of people appealed on social media over the Christmas break to find Mariusz, a Polish construction worker, who left his £600 wages on the floor in the Alexandra pub in Wimbledon, South London, on 21 December. Mariusz claimed the money after he correctly described the envelope and named the amount of money inside. Pub management then double-checked his identity on CCTV.

The pub employee who found the pay packet was widely praised for his honesty and we are reasonably confident that any Stansted resident who found an item of value would want to reunite it with its rightful owner. In the "old days" you could just hand in anything you found to the local police station but with the closure of so many stations this probably isn't practicable. Occasionally people post lost property items on Stansted Matters but not everybody is social media savvy so what else can you do? Well, you could hand them into the Parish Council Office at Crafton Green. Our environmental rangers also occasionally find items such as keys, wallets and even passports which they bring into our office, and we use our best detective skills to try to identify and locate the rightful owner; but if we can't identify the owner, we will store the item and see if anyone claims it.

TOWN TWINNING

We are in regular contact with our twin town of Rungis and are exploring a range of joint activities. We would very much like to hear from families or individuals who would be interested in exchange visits involving hosting

French visitors and spending some time in the home of a French host. Please register your interest via email to parishcouncil@stansted.net or call into the Parish Council Office.

VILLAGE EVENTS AND VOLUNTEERS

We are very pleased to be able to report that a successful bid has been made to the National Lottery "Awards For All" fund. This means that we will be able to have the extra attractions that many of you enjoyed at last year's Windmill Bank Holiday Fete.

This is taken from the bid submission: " Through Parish consultation people are telling us that more and more they lead disjointed lifestyles. Many people have busy lives and do not have much time to engage with their neighbours and others in the village like they used to. Local people are saying they are finding that they have less and less time to come together and meet up in our community."

It would be great if we could have a few more community events throughout the year, but for this to happen we need to involve more people in the planning and delivery of the events. Part of our bid was based on the following:

"We have a small group of willing 'older' volunteers who have helped plan different community events over the years but they are not getting any younger (they have said themselves they need to 'hand the baton on'!) and we need to involve younger and new people to ensure community events like this will continue. We want to promote the idea of giving time voluntarily to support community activity in the village and offer people training and support to be able to do so. We have identified a Social Enterprise group who train people in community event planning, including: event management, planning, publicity and budgeting. This will take place from early 2018 and will continue up until the event in the summer."

It doesn't matter how long you have lived in the village, or how old you are, volunteering can be very rewarding and great fun. Including volunteering activities on your CV can be a real attraction to colleges, universities and potential employers. It's also good for "empty nesters" and retired people looking for something worthwhile and meaningful to do with their time. Please give it some serious thought and look out for details of training events which will be published soon.

YOUTH CLUB

Linda Barnes- Youth Club Leader writes:

The Autumn term was very busy with lots of new Yr 6 young people joining and our established members returning after the summer holidays. For those who are unaware where and when we operate, we are at the rear of the Children's Centre in Lower St and we are open on Tues, Wed and Thurs 6.30-8.30pm and Fri 7.00-9.00pm. The age for membership is school Yr 6 upwards. Our core membership age is 11-14 years, but we do accept older young people up to 16 years. The club is managed by qualified professional youth workers, youth advisors and local volunteers and supported by Stansted Parish and Uttlesford District Councils.

We offer a fun place to meet with their friends in a safe environment. The activities on offer are: football and basketball (both indoors and out), badminton, uni-hoc, dodgeball, volleyball, table football, table tennis, pool, arts and crafts, TV Room, computers and music. We also deliver projects around health and wellbeing, healthy eating, diversity and internet safety.

As well as the local council support (without which we could not offer this valuable service), we would also like to thank Stansted Fire Service for their generous contribution of £100 towards our karaoke machine which we hope to purchase in the New Year.

Our focus for the Autumn term was on staying safe during the dark winter evenings and hair and beauty.



We finished the Autumn term on 15th December with our Christmas Party and Presentation Evening which was attended by Cllr Sam Dunn.

NEWS FROM UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cllr Thom Goddard writes

A very happy new year to everyone reading this and I hope 2018 is a great year for you and our beautiful corner of Essex.

The Local Plan

There were just over 6,000 replies to Uttlesford District Council's public consultation on the Local Plan last year and Council officers made a raft of suggestions. The Council has commissioned a number of pieces of work that relate directly to comments from local people on water, highways, sport and heritage. Uttlesford District Council takes the views of residents very seriously. If you missed presenting your opinions in the public consultation you can always contact any of your District Councillors so your views are heard.

Uttlesford District Council has commissioned Garden City Developments Ltd. to carry out a thorough assessment of the delivery options for the new Garden Communities. The report is due this month and is part of the Council looking at every option to minimise disruption to local residents while conforming to UK Government's housing demands.

Castle Maltings Pharmacy

At the end of November over 50 members of the public and a number of District and Parish Councillors gathered to support the application for a pharmacy at Castle Maltings. At present only Boots at the top of Chapel Hill is able to dispense prescriptions in Stansted and Prof Ashok Soni is appealing to the NHS for a second pharmacy alongside the surgery in Castle Maltings. If you would like more information on this or offer support please contact Cllr Terry Farthing. [STOP PRESS - we have just heard that the appeal was rejected]. See page xxx for more information.

Lower Street Car Park

I am afraid to report there is no change surrounding the Lower Street car park. Your local Councillors continue to receive complaints and we are listening. Cllrs Alan Dean and Geoffrey Sell have been meeting with council officers and Cllr Howard Ryles, the cabinet member responsible for car parks, to press for an action plan leading to improvements.

Local Investment

We are coming to the end of the Council year and in May 2017 each of your District Councillors was given £3,000 for community initiatives AND was able to carry over half of their money from last year. This money must be spent before the end of April 2018. Please contact us with ideas for how we can help fund initiatives that will improve people's lives in our area before the money disappears.

DATES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

January

31 Full Council

February

21 Full Council

28 Open Spaces

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Early warning! Our annual meeting will be at the Free Church on Wednesday 21st March at 8.00pm. This is your chance to find out in more detail what The Parish Council have been doing over the last year and to stand up in the Open Forum to speak about the issues you are concerned about and to question your councillors.

We look forward to seeing the old faithfuls who turn up every year, but it would also be good to see some new faces; so if you have never been to any kind of Parish event please consider adding this to your list of new things to do in 2018.

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

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Daphne Wallace-Jarvis 812259
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As we go to press there is one vacancy on the Parish Council

UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Thom Goddard 01371 879122
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Geoffrey Sell 815925
cllrsell@uttlesford.gov.uk

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER

Ray Gooding 813103
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MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Kemi Badenoch MP contact details:

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Telephone 0207 219 1943 (House of Commons) or
01799 506349 (Constituency Office).

Email kemi.badenoch.mp@parliament.uk

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

**NOW BASED IN THE COUNCIL OFFICES
CRAFTON GREEN HOUSE, 72 CHAPEL HILL
STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET CM24 8AQ**

NEW OPENING HOURS

TUESDAY	9.00AM - 1.00PM
WEDNESDAY	2.00PM - 5.00PM
THURSDAY	2.00PM - 6.00PM
SATURDAY	9.30AM - 5.00PM

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