

# Village Update

SPRING 2019

[www.staplehurst-pc.uk](http://www.staplehurst-pc.uk)

## **STAY SAFE STAPLEHURST** **STAPLEHURST VILLAGE CENTRE** **23RD FEBRUARY 2019** **10:30 – 13:30**



**Kent** Fire &  
Rescue Service



**Kent**  
Police

Organised by Staplehurst Parish Council

**An interactive fun family event with a serious theme**

FIND OUT ABOUT HOW OUR EMERGENCY SERVICES AND  
LOCAL HELP GROUPS / ORGANISATIONS WORK TO

**HELP KEEP US SAFE IN STAPLEHURST**

FREE BICYCLE SECURITY MARKING by our local PCSO  
FIRE ENGINE (on call) - POLICE CELL VAN  
KENT POLICE RURAL TASK FORCE (on call)  
Wellbeing Health Bus (Marden)

Join the Neighbourhood Watch –  
Speedwatch camera group  
Free PAT Testing (small appliances) 10:30-12:00 - P.J. Riordan  
ADVICE from our local help groups and businesses and more.

Tea & Coffee (Womens Institute) – No Parking available at the Village Centre  
Contact Elaine Symes 07548 768277 [cllr.elainesymes@staplehurst-pc.uk](mailto:cllr.elainesymes@staplehurst-pc.uk)

# Staplehurst

*Parish Council*

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Parish Council's 21-year lease of Surrenden Field from Maidstone Borough Council expires at the end of March and we have been in lengthy negotiations (with the aid of Councillor Perry) about what will happen after that. At the time of writing we are reviewing a proposal for a 125-year lease at a peppercorn rent. We are also seeking to acquire a section of footpath KM312 (from the end of Bell Lane behind Bathurst Road) from the administrators of Carillion. Some work to improve drainage of this path was carried out by the Community Payback team last year. Following residents' concerns about speeding traffic, the Parish Council commissioned a professional survey of traffic on the A229. The data provides hard evidence which backs up the general impression that a small minority of drivers grossly exceed the speed limits. The traffic volumes measured will also give a baseline to assess the effects of housing development, not just in Staplehurst, but further south along the A229. Finally, we have received a number of complaints about the construction work in Marden Road. We have passed these on to the developer. Plus Maidstone Borough Council (who are primarily responsible for planning and environmental enforcement) also have the matter in hand. The Parish Council is now holding regular meetings with David Wilson Homes, both to pass on residents' concerns and also to understand their future plans for the site as a whole.

*Cllr Burnham (Chairman)*

## SUMMER PLAYScheme

The Parish Council has again agreed to subsidise the summer playscheme, working with Play Place. The Council has worked with this company for many years and we were particularly pleased with their Ofsted rating of 'Good' last year, which was richly deserved. The Council hopes to use the Primary School facilities again. The dates are yet to be confirmed, but we anticipate a similar provision to last year. Look out on the Council's website for confirmation in the near future.



## SPRING COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP 2019 – SATURDAY MARCH 23RD

Our Staplehurst Clean-Up this spring coincides with the Great British Spring Clean 2019. Please help to improve our local environment. Meet at the Youth Club (near the Village Centre) from 10 a.m. on Saturday 23 March. All the equipment

you need will be supplied (thanks to Maidstone Borough Council). Children are welcome to help, but all under-18s must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Refreshments will be provided after you've finished.



## PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES

The Staplehurst Parish Council component of your Council Tax will increase by 3% for the year 2019-2020, with the annual cost for a typical Band D property going up from £60.30 at present to £62.13 in the coming year. The budget for 2019-2020 forecasts a deficit of nearly £24,000 which will be funded from the Council's general and specific reserves. While these will still be at a safe level, and there is no point in collecting money from residents simply for it to sit in the Parish Council's bank account, this is clearly not something that can be repeated too often. Detailed accounts for the current year will go to every house in Staplehurst as part of the Parish Council's Annual Report in May.

# COULD YOU BE A PARISH COUNCILLOR?

The Parish Council's four-year term of office concludes this year. A new council will be elected on 2nd May 2019. If you are interested in Staplehurst and would like to put your skills and enthusiasm to good use, then please consider standing for election.

Any person eighteen years of age or older who is a local government elector, lives or works in the parish or lives within three miles of the parish boundary may stand for election to the new council. There are fifteen places on the council. If more than fifteen candidates stand, a contested election will be held. The election process is managed by Maidstone Borough Council. The election timetable states that it must publish a formal notice of election by 26th March. Candidates must deliver their nomination papers to MBC by 4.00pm on 3rd April.

There are many ways to find out more about what being a parish councillor involves: look for the posters displayed around the village and information leaflets which are available in the Parish Office, library and other selected outlets. Visit the Parish



“Your Parish Council Needs YOU!”

Council website [www.staplehurst-pc.uk](http://www.staplehurst-pc.uk). Best of all, talk to someone: speak to a councillor at the Parish Council surgery (10.00am on the last Saturday of the month in the library); visit the Parish Office (call in any morning Monday to Thursday or make an appointment for another time to suit you); or come to a Parish Council meeting (every third Monday in the Village Centre). We hope that many of you will be interested in joining the Parish Council to help make a difference to our community.

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The meeting will take place on Monday 25th March in the South Hall, Staplehurst Village Centre. The Parish Council hosts this public meeting to provide local electors with a forum for discussion of parish issues and to take reports from councillors and village groups. Please send written reports (500 words max.) and any issues for discussion to the Parish Office by 13th March. Reports will be included in meeting minutes for historical interest and published on the village website. Verbal reports and questions will be taken at the meeting if time permits.

## SPEED WATCH IN JANUARY

The National Police Chief Council Week of Speed Action was held and Staplehurst's hardy volunteers stood out in the cold on three days, recording the details of 80 speeding vehicles which were entered into the Police database. 5 vehicles were driven at 45mph or more in the High Street or Station Road.

All motorists were made aware that we care about road safety in our village. If you care too, come and join us. Details via Kent Police website - Community Speedwatch or chat to us at the Safety Exhibition in February.

## PLANNING UPDATE

### Essential roadworks

I am sure many of you will have encountered the challenge that it has become recently to get out of Staplehurst to get to, well anywhere, by road. This has been due to a number of reasons from potholes and gas leaks to work on housing developments. We can only hope that soon they will all be complete - until the next round starts!

Please note that there is a three-week closure of Marden Road from 4th February between Clapper Lane and Oliver Road due to the Barratt David Wilson Homes Development. More details can be found at [www.roadworks.org](http://www.roadworks.org)

### Marden Road Housing Development – Hen and Duckhurst Farm

The Parish Council has made clear to MBC its concerns about the works progressing on this site and conditions not being met. The developers have assured MBC and the Parish Council that they are doing their best to comply with their own conditions.

If you do have concerns please do contact David Wilson Homes on the following:

- e-mail: [bdwk-henandduckhurstfarm-roadworks@barratthomes.co.uk](mailto:bdwk-henandduckhurstfarm-roadworks@barratthomes.co.uk)
- Site Manager – Mitch Bibby: 07872 816667
- Contracts Manager – Marc Smith: 07827 873866

Following a discussion at a previous council meeting, road names for the new development were agreed to put forward to MBC. These names, once MBC agree, will be allocated across the new development.

### Iden Park Service Station

Our fuel garage has plans to improve their services by enlarging the services they can provide.

### Sainsburys

Our efforts to obtain an update from Sainsbury's have not provided any news.

## WIMPEY FIELD EVENT

**New Date for your diary - Thursday 30th May**  
Springtime BioBlitz at Half Term  
Bring your children. Discover Blossoms, Birds, Bugs and Beasties with our experts from Medway Valley Countryside Partnership.

## STAPLEHURST MERIT AWARD

We were very pleased to present the Staplehurst Merit Award (which is kindly sponsored by a local resident) to Tom Mackelden.

Following the untimely and very sad passing of his mother, Tom has devoted himself to fund-raising for cancer research charities, and has organised events too numerous to list here which have raised nearly £27,000.

He was also a member of the Staplehurst Monarchs Under-13 football team that became UK champions and passes on his skills by coaching and helping children in local football clubs.

## STAPLEHURST ACCESS & INCLUSION DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Do you use a mobility scooter, wheelchair, walking aid, or are you registered blind or partially sighted?

Do you use a baby carriage, stroller or other pedestrian infant transport?

Robin Kenworthy (Friends of Staplehurst Health Centre Trustee) and Susan Forward (Parish Councillor) are working to improve the quality of Staplehurst pavements.

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Local electors and the press have a right to listen to Parish Council meetings, but not to take part.

At the beginning and after the closure of the Parish Council meeting the Chairman will invite members of the public to speak for up to 3 minutes each relating to issues on the agenda or about issues of local concern.

All meetings are held in the South Hall, Village Centre. Dates and times of meetings are advertised on the Parish noticeboard and website.

Forthcoming Meetings:

7.00pm, Planning Committee and Full Council, unless otherwise stated

- 18th February
- 11th March
- 25th March (*Annual Parish Meeting 8pm*)
- 1st April
- 23rd April
- 13th May (*Annual Meeting of the Parish Council*)

There are many instances where footway profiles are in poor or potentially dangerous condition, or lacking dropped kerbs and tactile paving e.g. at road junctions.

A meeting with KCC highways is being arranged. They need to know where the difficulties are, for instance on a journey from TN12 xxx to the Parade or the School, in order to prioritise essential work. Please email Robin at [r.kenworthy@freeuk.com](mailto:r.kenworthy@freeuk.com) with the word "access" in the subject line with any information about locations of difficulties.

# Parish Council Information

### COUNCILLORS

Tom Burnham (Chairman)  
Margaret Ashby  
Joan Buller  
Susan Forward  
Paul Kelly  
Sam Lain-Rose  
Barrett Manning  
John Perry  
Hannah Pontet  
John Reardon  
Patrick Riordan (Vice-Chairman)  
Adele Sharp  
Rory Silkin  
Gillian Smith  
Elaine Symes

### CLERK

Mr Mick Westwood

### DEPUTY CLERK AND RESPONSIBLE FINANCE OFFICER

Mrs Deborah Jenkins

### PARISH SUPPORT OFFICER

Mrs Jean Terry

### Address:

The Parish Office,  
Village Centre,  
High Street.  
Staplehurst. TN12 0BJ

**Email:** [clerk@staplehurstvillage.org.uk](mailto:clerk@staplehurstvillage.org.uk)

**Tel:** 01580 891761

### Opening hours:

9am to 1pm Mondays to Thursdays,  
other times by appointment  
(closed Fridays).

### SURGERIES AT THE LIBRARY

- Borough Councillor Perry: last Saturday of each month from 10am until noon
- Parish Council: last Saturday of each month from 10am until noon
- PCSO Pete Gardner Saturdays from 10am until 11am, 9th Feb, 23rd March, 13th April & 25th May

You are welcome to talk through any local problems or ask questions about local issues