



Staplehurst Parish Council

Annual Report 2012 - 2013

Chairman's Annual Report 2012-2013

Once again this has been an eventful year. We have managed to install the third security camera at Jubilee Field as well as improving the security lighting. Jubilee Field is owned by the Parish Council and contains a number of valuable assets including the sports pavilion and the skate park. It is also home to the Guides and we consider that this new installation should provide additional security; the two cameras already installed in the village have already proved their worth.

We have continued to fund our own street cleaning service to ensure that the streets in our village are cleaned to the highest standard. Therefore with this in mind we remain extremely concerned at the state of the Parade. Unfortunately due to the fact that it is privately owned it remains out of our direct control. However, despite its ownership it does represent a public space and we are working closely with Maidstone Borough Council to try to ensure that proper standards are maintained.

On a more positive note many residents will have noticed that we have expanded the number of planters. These were initially installed in Bell Lane and proved to have been such a success that we decided to add additional ones at certain key points in the village; we believe these help to enhance the overall appearance of Staplehurst. We have now been offered at no cost a strip of land by the side of the Marden Road where we hope to establish wild flowers. We continue successfully to manage the Bell Lane toilets and we fund a youth worker for the village's youth club; this has proved to have been very beneficial. Remaining for the moment with youth matters the UpRockin event at the skate park was a great success and it is our intention to hold a similar event this year.

Two main issues have occupied our minds during 2012/13. Firstly we had two applications to develop a supermarket near the Station. The Parish Council has considered both applications very carefully and has organised a number of public meetings. Residents will probably be aware that we have recommended approval of one application and refusal of the other. The Council remains especially concerned at possible development north of the railway line; these concerns are set out in the Parish Council's detailed response to MBC. We note that one of the applications has now been approved by MBC whilst the other is waiting to be reconsidered.

The second issue concerns the Concurrent Functions Grant and the proposal by MBC to replace it by a Parish Services Scheme. Negotiations have been going on for over two years. The vast majority of the parishes have opposed this change and believe the change is completely unnecessary as well as being extremely unfair.

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Negotiations have been carried out by a review team set up by the Maidstone Area of the Kent Association of Local Councils and Staplehurst has played a major role, including the presentation of the petition carried out by the parishes in support of the Concurrent Functions Grant. As a result of the petition we managed to get MBC's Cabinet to reconsider the matter, but sadly they refused to change their position, although we did win some concessions, including a delay in the introduction of the new scheme and the recognition that parishes spend considerable sums on street lighting.

We are now reviewing the position and given the nature of these special expenses and the services they represent the parishes will need to consider the next steps to be taken. In the meantime, the parishes have little option but to accept the offers made by MBC which for Staplehurst means a 66% reduction in the grant received for the financial year 2013/14.

The Parish Council has funded restoration work on the Village War Memorial which resides in All Saints Church. This included correcting some errors and omissions on the First World War Memorial and adding the name of Sergeant Reginald Fitzgerald to the Second World War Memorial. Sergeant Fitzgerald went missing in action in 1944 and although he was based at Slaney Farm his name had been left off the War Memorial and until now has never been acknowledged each Remembrance Day.

A Service of Remembrance was held on the 23rd of March at All Saints Church and I should like to thank all those who contributed to making this such a special event for the Fitzgerald family and for Staplehurst. My particular thanks go Rector Silke Tetzlaff for her support, Ted Sergison for his historical research, Lt. Col. Vic Holdaway for his organising abilities on the day, the Kings Head for their hospitality and Councillor Peter Spearink for all the hard work he put in and his sheer determination to ensure the success of this event.

Under the localism agenda parishes have the opportunity to establish Neighbourhood Plans. These plans should have significant force since they will be supported by local referenda. Staplehurst Parish Council has signalled its intention to produce a Neighbourhood Plan and has taken the first steps towards achieving this goal. It is recognised that any plan will need to respect MBC's overall development plan, but in our view having our own plan will enable us to take a proactive rather than a reactive approach to future development in our community. Nevertheless it is our aim to work closely with MBC. The work is being overseen by a Rural Settlement Group set up by the Parish Council and comprises both parish councillors and residents.

Our stated aim has been to be a proactive council and as can be seen from the

Chairman's Annual Report 2012-2013

above this continues to be the case. However, the sensitivity surrounding both the loss of the concurrent functions grant and the supermarket planning applications has inevitably created tensions between us and MBC. It remains our aim to work closely with MBC and with both our Borough Councillors to ensure the best outcomes for Staplehurst and I should like to thank both Councillor Hotson and Councillor Lusty for the help they have given to the Council and to the community as a whole.

Our thanks also go to our MP Helen Grant for her support and the fact that she has always found time in a busy schedule to listen to our concerns. We also much appreciate the work of PCSO Pete Gardner and Community Warden Mira Martin; their presence and contributions are much appreciated and are essential to the wellbeing of our village.

I should like to thank all Council Members for their support and their contributions to the Parish. My particular thanks go to Vice-Chairmen Councillor Tom Burnham and Councillor Paul Kelly and Chairman of the Planning Committee Councillor Paul Butcher whose advice and support are invaluable. I should also like to take this opportunity to welcome Neal Kemp to the Council who has taken the place of John Kelly; I am pleased to say that John continues as Chairman of our Rural Settlement Group.

Finally, I should like to emphasise the key role that the Parish Office plays in supporting our community; this is becoming increasingly important with the advent of localism and the Parish Council has a strong supporting team. I should like to welcome our new Parish Clerk, Mick Westwood, who has taken over from Sue Bassett.

Mick was already familiar with many of the issues affecting our community and he has very quickly settled into the role. I am also pleased that Sue has taken over the important role of Responsible Finance Officer so the experience she has gained over many years has not been lost.

Our thanks also go to Deborah Jenkins our Assistant to the Clerk who plays a major role in respect of planning issues and our Caretaker Les Reeve. Deborah is also Clerk to Frittenden Parish Council and her experience is extremely useful.

Parish Councils are the first rung on the democratic ladder. However, the Council can only reflect the views of its residents if they are freely given, for example by letter, telephone, personal contact, email or attending Council meetings. Our quarterly Village Update remains an important channel for communication and our thanks go to all those who are involved in producing and distributing it; but, we still need to hear from you.

John Perry

Income & Expenditure Account

For the year ended 31st March 2013

2012/2013

INCOME

Parish Precept	96,100.00
MBC Concurrent Functions Grant	21,320.00
Other Project Grants <i>(MBC Public Toilets & KCC towards CCTV Camera)</i>	5,196.00
Donations to Uprockin <i>(KCC, HTS, MBC, Monk Lakes)</i>	1,400.00
Sales MBC Garden sacks	90.50
Interest on investments	52.43
Christmas Lights Project donations	195.00
Village Centre Contingency	184.10

TOTAL INCOME

124,538.03

EXPENDITURE

General Administration <i>(Staff, Parish Office utilities, equipment, insurance, subscriptions, training, meeting & travel expenses, publicity & website costs.)</i>	59,816.40
Capital Projects <i>(Polecat CCTV Camera & pole)</i>	9,831.63
Donations	1,364.00
Street lighting, furniture, repairs, planters & salting	7,980.71
Caretaker wages, equipment & maintenance	1,971.41
Playscheme <i>(net of MBC grant £831.16)</i>	859.75
Jubilee Sports Field & Skatepark Maintenance	2,760.20
Youth Club <i>(Maintenance of site, KCC Lease/Purchase & Youth Leader)</i>	5,925.00
Surrenden Playing Field & Trees	2,046.96
Churchyard maintenance	6,462.03
Christmas Light Project	2,378.83
Staplehurst Partnership/Rural Settlement Group	401.00
Public Convenience maintenance & improvements	9,644.14
Street Sweeping Staplehurst	8,820.00
Skater's Festival	2,387.33

TOTAL EXPENDITURE

122,649.39

Balance of Income/Expenditure	1,888.64
Balance brought forward from previous year	99,662.41
	<u>101,551.05</u>

The above Income & Expenditure Account, the following Balance Sheet and Supporting Statement (at the time of printing) are subject to internal and external audit. Staplehurst Parish Council accounts are audited quarterly by Iden Business Services and the Annual Audit Return is made to Littlejohn LLP, Chartered Accountants. The requisite Public Notice is given for electors to inspect the accounts on or after 10th June 2013 in accordance with the Audit Commission Act 1998 and the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011.

Balance Sheet

as at 31st March 2013

LONG TERM ASSETS

None (see supporting statement below) 0.00

CURRENT ASSETS

VAT Recoverable	1,763.91	
Cash In Hand	104,870.63	
		106,634.54

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Accruals	(1,781.98)	
Creditors	(3,301.51)	
		(5,083.49)
		101,551.05

REPRESENTED BY:-

GENERAL FUND 27,281.94

Ongoing Project Budgets:

Allotment land purchase fund	10,000.00	
Surrenden Playing Field pathway	17,000.00	
Youth Project	4,000.00	
Staplehurst Rural Settlement	15,124.00	
MBC grant for Uprockin 2013	1,000.00	
Balance of underspends c/fwd	9,156.14	
		56,280.14

RESERVES

Village Centre Contingency	16,988.97	
Rural Warden Winter Fund	1,000.00	
		17,988.97
		101,551.05

Supporting Statement to the accounts

LONG TERM ASSETS

Assets have been treated as an expense item at the time of purchase for accounting purposes.
As at 31.03.2013 the following assets were held:-

COMMUNITY ASSETS

Jubilee Field	Nil
Land north east of Bell Lane, Staplehurst	Nil
Lease purchase of Youth Club land from KCC	7,800

BUILDINGS

Jubilee Pavilion (insured replacement value)	563,084.26
Surrenden Pavilion (insured replacement value)	8,054.36
Bell Lane Toilets (leasehold insured replacement value)	76,909.07

OTHER ASSETS

As listed on the Asset Register 31.03.2013 held at The Parish Office	185,136.00
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LEASES - As at 31st March 2013 the following Leases were in operation:-

Lessor	Purpose	Rent	Expiry
Maidstone Borough Council	Bell Lane Toilets	Peppercorn	2015
Maidstone Borough Council	Surrenden Playing Field	65.00	2019
Kent County Council	Youth Club Land Lease & Purchase	850.00	2050
Staplehurst Parish Council	Jubilee Field Management	5.00	2034
Staplehurst Parish Council	Lease of land for Guide Centre	5.00	2088

Parish Councillors

John Perry – Chairman

I was appointed Chairman in May 2010. I am an ex officio member of all the Committees and Groups. I am particularly active on the Planning Committee and the Finance, Policy, Alcohol Control Zone and Rural Settlement Groups. I also represent Staplehurst Parish Council at the Maidstone Area of the Kent Association of Local Councils and I am a member of their Review Team. I am also closely involved with a number of other Parish facilities and activities and represent the Parish Council as a Trustee of the Jubilee Field Management Committee.



Tom Burnham – Vice Chairman

Major development projects have continued to concern the village and I have attended a number of meetings about these. I was pleased to help organise our 2013 volunteer Clean-Up. I represent the Parish Council at various rail users' forums and coordinated a joint submission by Staplehurst, Headcorn and Pluckley Parish Councils to the Department for Transport over the Kent rail franchise renewal – although the renewal has now been delayed by four years. I have also been involved with production of the Update and website developments.

Paul Kelly – Vice Chairman

I am in my fourth term of office and as a Vice Chairman I am fully involved in most of the groups of the council. I am particularly interested in our planning work and enhancing all of our village facilities. Working locally means that I am in touch with Staplehurst businesses and I am available to attend meetings during the day as well as in the evenings. I chair the Village Centre Committee.



Paul Butcher – Planning Committee Chairman

Looking back over the year we have had major planning applications for two supermarkets and a housing estate for the south of Oliver Road. To get the very best for our village I attend meetings with MBC officers and represent the parish views at the MBC Planning Committee at the Town Hall. With regular government changes we live in demanding times! We try to ensure funding from developments improves our local facilities. We welcome the public to our meetings.

Margaret Ashby

Little did I think when I wrote for last year's report that the supermarket saga would still be unresolved. That and a number of proposed housing developments have made the planning committee a very stimulating place. Despite the delays to Maidstone's Core Strategy we are continuing work on the Neighbourhood Plan. Gremlins caused some problems with the website this year, but we hope these are now behind us and are continuing to add more items of interest to the site.



Parish Councillors

Joan Buller

During my 30th year I have continued to be very active in Planning including our emerging Neighbourhood Plan which is vital to achieve the best for the future of Staplehurst. I am editor of the quarterly Update and Annual Report and I help organise their distribution. I detest litter so I help run our Community Clean-Up. I am Speed Watch Coordinator taking an active role at the roadside. I particularly enjoy being out and about, listening and talking to residents.



Anne Gosling

I have enjoyed my first full year as a Parish Councillor. I helped collect signatures for our petition regarding money allocated to the Parishes. People were surprised how much the Parish is responsible for – a good example of localism working. Helping those harassed by inconsiderate parking – a real problem in Staplehurst – is also important to me. I fear it will get worse with the planned new building. I am proud of the hard work put into restoring our war memorial and adding the missing names.

Simon Green

I am a member of the Planning Committee, Policy and Finance Groups and I am particularly interested in planning issues. Staplehurst is a thriving village, but with limited infrastructure and we need to address this without accepting excessive development. I am Business Manager of a small national charity and previously ran a small local business and an environmental charity in Kent. I try to apply those skills in helping the Parish Council support and lead the local community.



Neal Kemp

I have been on the council for some six months, having been co-opted in October last year. I have had an enlightening time so far, watching and learning from others, both on the council and from the community about the problems of the village and the challenges that face us in the very near future. I look forward to taking a far more active part in this next year using the experience I brought with me onto the council.

Sam Lain

I was born in the village and am actively involved with many local groups including Staplehurst Drama Society. I am the owner and Chief Executive Officer of Lain and Rose Community Interest Company. I work full-time at K College working across the five sites as Enterprise Co-ordinator. I have enjoyed working with my fellow councillors on various projects including the Jubilee Celebrations. I have spent much of this last year understanding my role as a Parish Councillor and learning the ropes.



Parish Councillors

Barrett Manning

I have been an active member of the Council's Allotment Group striving to find suitable land within the village for a community allotment. Since moving from Bell Lane to make way for the Golding Homes development, the Group have drawn a blank. Hopefully the current negotiations will prove successful. In addition I represented the Council on the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Committee, the Transport Group and the Headcorn Aerodrome Committee. I helped residents of Butcher Close to resolve the problem with stray dogs.



John Reardon

Over the last year I have continued to chair the Publicity & Website group which is proving to be a busy task. Working every other Monday does mean I miss a fair share of Parish Council meetings, but I am always in contact and shift work allows me to spend hours during the week to deal with issues that arise. I am still working with councillors on other issues such as the day to day management of Surrenden Field.

Adele Sharp

It has been a busy year for planning in Staplehurst and getting the balance right for our rural community. Having lived in Staplehurst all my life I am keen to see the best aspects of the village improve even further. I am a local teacher currently at High Weald Academy and so the future of my students and the local area is important to me. I look forward with interest to the coming year and the probable challenges ahead.



Rory Silkin

I work on the Strategy and Policy group and represent Council on the Patient's Participation Group at the Health Centre. I have been watching the Health Centre tendering for the Council. I am associated with KALC and I chair the Staplehurst Emergency Help Team. We arranged our own emergency practice scenario this year. I have also spoken about emergency planning to other groups.

Peter Spearink

I am proud to have been involved with the War Memorial renovations and the Service for Sgt Fitzgerald. I am a member of the Staplehurst Emergency Help Team. I have attended and reported on conferences and meetings on behalf of the Parish. I continue to represent SPC at the Local Transport Forum working for better bus services in rural areas. I represent SPC in contacts with Kent Fire and Rescue Service. I am Chairman of Maidstone Borough Older Persons' Forum.



Parish Clerk's Annual Report 2012-2013

"Come on in, the water's lovely!" I first dipped my toe in Parish Council waters in April last year, set to take over from my most experienced and knowledgeable predecessor Sue as Parish Clerk. What a busy year it has been! What may appear serene on top conceals a furious amount of paddling below.

Even to a Staplehurst resident of some years, these twelve months have been an eye-opening experience. I have been struck by the wide range of activities of the Parish Council and by the hard work and dedication of the Councillors themselves who, remember, are all volunteers bringing their individual knowledge and skill sets to the meeting table for the benefit of Staplehurst.

The Parish Council's year has, however, not just been a series of Council meetings. There has been much going on elsewhere: for example maintaining the website, organising events, introducing new improvements, working with local groups, dealing with borough and county councils and generally doing the best possible job for the village.

There have been some high-profile issues for the Council. It has pushed hard for a resolution to the two applications to build a large supermarket in the village. The Chairman was in the vanguard of the parishes' forces that engaged with the Borough Council about its new Parish Services Scheme, so significant in the funding of Parish activities in the coming year. The Rural Settlement Group took forward a successful public consultation on the designation of the whole parish as the area for a Neighbourhood Plan.

In the light of the housing targets for the borough it has been no surprise that developers have been showing interest in Staplehurst. The Parish Council has hosted pre-application public meetings where developers have presented to residents and benefited from their often forthright views!

New improvements have kept on coming: redecoration of Bell Lane toilets; a new CCTV camera and lighting at Jubilee Field; a better bus shelter to replace the Station Road one that lost an argument with a lorry; new planters on the A229 and Marden Road (at first an acquired taste for some, but now established and blooming); and three more salt bins - who expected to be using them in March?

The Parish Council has funded expenditure that hopefully makes Staplehurst a better place to live, such as additional street sweeping and regular maintenance of Bell Lane toilets; a village caretaker, Les, who regularly picks up litter and does maintenance work at the Surrenden and Jubilee Fields; and festive lights at Christmas along the High Street and Station Road.

A review of the last year would be incomplete without mention of the effort and dedication of the volunteers who have organised some very special events. Last summer (what summer?) the Queen's Diamond Jubilee weekend defied the worst of the British weather to be an enormous success; UpRockin 2012 attracted visitors from near and far; and the Play Scheme was another big hit with the young ones. The Parish Council was honoured to play a role in updating the village war memorial and in the Sgt Fitzgerald memorial service at All Saints Church in March. That same month an army in high-visibility yellow scoured the streets for litter in the Annual Village Clean-Up.

Before closing, an apology and a thank you: an apology to anyone I have not mentioned – please do not be offended, but the editor has limited my word count – and a thank you to councillors and my colleagues Sue, Deborah and Les for helping the new kid on the Parish Office block in his first year.

Parish Activities

Planning Committee

The Planning Committee met 24 times between 1st April 2012 and 31 March 2013. Its role is to advise Maidstone Borough Council on all applications for planning permission in Staplehurst in the light of local factors. To this end members study the plans and documents submitted by the applicant and usually make a site visit. We deliver letters to neighbouring properties to inform them of planning applications and there is an opportunity for residents to address the Committee before and after the meeting. When the application is considered by the Borough Planning Committee a representative of the Parish Council often attends to emphasise the points made in our written recommendation.

During the year the Committee considered 62 applications for full or outline planning permission and reconsidered 10 where additional or amended information had been submitted. There were 12 applications related to tree work, two for listed building or conservation area consent, 8 applications for “certificates of lawful development”, one advertising consultation and two consultations over developments outside Maidstone Borough, but close to the boundary of Staplehurst. A new development was four requests for “screening opinions” on whether large developments needed a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement. The Committee was involved with MBC over enforcement action in several cases where development had been carried out without planning permission or where there had been a breach of the conditions of planning consent.

Alcohol Control Zone Group

This group was set up to review the consumption of alcohol in public places in the Parish particularly by under-age drinkers and associated anti-social behaviour. This has led to the introduction of state of the art security cameras at the Parade, Market Street and Jubilee Field. The cameras were chosen after taking advice from MBC and the Police. We continue to work closely with these bodies and to date these cameras have proved to have been extremely effective. The police do regular alcohol checks and our caretaker reports on any public areas where empties are found. There is a regular police surgery held at the library if residents have any concerns they wish to raise.

Allotments

The Parish Council continue to pursue every avenue to find land suitable for public allotments in the Parish. It is hoped that current discussions with a local landowner will prove successful. Public Allotments were originally located on what is now the station car park and later in Bell Lane before Golding Homes acquired the land in 2008.

Parish Activities

Finance Group

This group makes recommendations to full Council on expenditure and prepares the annual budget and precept requirement. Annually it reviews the Asset Register, Risk Assessment and Financial Regulations together with other reviews to ensure best practice and careful control of public money. Regular reports are received from the Internal Auditor as part of the internal control process. A review of the internal audit function and its effectiveness takes place annually. Given that the funds received from MBC have reduced by over 66% and since the overall grant represented over 20% of our precept income, we have had little option but to propose an increase in the precept for 2013/14. Nevertheless we have managed to make cost savings and the eventual increase represents approximately 9 pence a week for a Band D property.

Jubilee Sports Field

This is owned by the Parish Council. It has a number of football pitches, a skate park, a modern sports pavilion and the Girl Guide centre. The Jubilee Field Management Group manages these facilities; Staplehurst Parish Council is represented on this Group. In the last few years we have installed new drainage facilities and have recently installed a state of the art security camera plus improvements to the lighting and signage. We recognise the importance of this facility for the enjoyment of the community as a whole.

Playscheme

PlayPlace have worked with the Parish Council for another year to provide our summer playscheme at the primary school. MBC also provided a grant to help with the costs. Gail and her team provided the children with a happy, safe and stimulating environment and councillors visited to see this for themselves.

Policy Group

This was established to review current Council policies, practices and procedures and where appropriate instigate new ones. During this year it plans to review the Council's Standing Orders. The Group makes recommendations to the full Council for consideration and approval.

Publicity and Website

The Parish Council website continues to grow, but the site suffered a major technical problem over the winter months. Our hosts Zulogic have worked tirelessly to resolve the issues and we are now seeing an improved stable platform to work on. Where does the site go from here? We are looking at Facebook and Twitter, but a decision may come later in the year. The group have worked hard to produce our Village Update four times a year, delivered to every house in the Parish. Again that is an on-going task that relies on a number of volunteers who hand-deliver these Updates where it is possible to do so.

Parish Activities

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

Despite the atrocious weather conditions that prevailed throughout the four day celebrations, the British stiff upper lip shone through to make the occasion a memorable one. A tree was planted by the Horticultural Society and primary school children in the school grounds whilst a vintage bus tour of hidden gems around the village proved a huge success. The highlight of the celebrations was the tribute bands playing in the rain on the last evening, ending with fireworks to round off Staplehurst's contribution to the nation's tribute.

Rural Settlement Group

The Rural Settlement Group is a mixed bag of volunteers, both residents and parish councillors who meet once a month. The RSG continues to support the Parish Council by conducting the initial development work for the Neighbourhood Plan. The RSG facilitated the process of designating the whole parish area whilst monitoring changes to MBC's Local Plan which now proposes a new housing figure of some 14,800 across the borough in the plan period 2011-2031. The RSG also played a significant role in advising the Parish Council with regard to local supermarket(s) development. For more details see 'Future of Staplehurst' at: http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/future_of_staplehurst.aspx

Speed Watch

Volunteers have continued to monitor traffic speeds in Staplehurst. Motorists exceeding the limits have their details recorded and added to the County database with letters being issued by the police. Last year eleven volunteers logged 119 speeding vehicles, one at 51mph. To join our team please contact the Parish Clerk.

Staplehurst Emergency Help Team

This year the SEHT volunteers continued to hone their skills by taking part in an emergency exercise at the station. We planned and carried it out very successfully without any external help. The fully operational team is part of the Kent and Maidstone area emergency teams, for both MBC and KCC. We have also had some official training kindly provided by KCC Emergency Planning and Resilience Group. You are welcome to come and help – we are always looking for volunteers.

Parish Activities

Surrenden Field

This provides a well-used green space in the middle of housing and offers an enclosed play area for children under 12, a meeting point for young people and an open space for informal games. It is also used for events such as some of our Diamond Jubilee celebrations. Repairs to the safety surfacing in the children's play area are due to be carried out once the weather improves. We have recently had a new survey made to help decide the best way to improve the poor drainage at the south end and provide an all-weather footpath linking Nicholson Walk to Surrenden Road and Bower Walk.

Transport Forum

Last year saw continued success for the group as Arriva announced that the Sunday route between Maidstone and Hawkhurst would be in place until at least April 2014. We now have Frittenden, Cranbrook, Hawkhurst, Sandhurst and Bodiam Councils represented; Arriva has been joined by Stagecoach and Nuventure as commercial members. We have recently been consulted by Sainsbury's as to the route of their proposed free bus service.

Village Enhancement Group

Another bus shelter, by the Station newsagents, has had sides fitted. The Bell Lane toilets have been painted and windows replaced; they are a facility to be proud of. Three more salt bins have been installed this year and all of our bins have been very necessary. The council hope to continue to expand our provision. Our six planters have been managed by "Growing Concern"; a very worthwhile local employer.

Our caretaker works very hard doing minor repairs and keeping areas litter-free. The Mini-Scarab sweeper has made a big difference in keeping our roads and bus shelters clear of leaves and litter. The Community Clean-Up was another success with over 50 bags of rubbish removed from our streets and nearly every estate road was cleared. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped us on the day and to the few who decided to carry on!

Youth Club

The council have continued to fund our Youth Leader, Mike King, who is continuing his excellent work at the Youth Club.

Parish Council Members & Contacts at 31st March 2013

Parish Council Chairman – **John Perry**
 Parish Council Vice Chairman – **Tom Burnham**
 Parish Council Vice Chairman – **Paul Kelly**

Margaret Ashby
 Joan Buller
 Paul Butcher
 Anne Gosling
 Simon Green
 Neal Kemp

Sam Lain
 Barrett Manning
 John Reardon
 Adele Sharp
 Rory Silkin
 Peter Spearink

Parish Clerk MICK WESTWOOD 01580 891761
 Parish Clerk mobile for council emergency contact 07539 692588
Email: clerk@staplehurstvillage.org.uk

Responsible Finance Officer SUE BASSETT 01580 891761
Email: rfo@staplehurstvillage.org.uk

Assistant to Parish Clerk DEBORAH JENKINS 01580 891761
Email: assistantclerk@staplehurstvillage.org.uk

Police Community Support Officer PETE GARDNER 101
Email: peter.gardner@kent.pnn.police.uk

KCC Community Warden MIRA MARTIN 07811 271254
E-mail: mira.martin@kent.gov.uk

Member of Parliament HELEN GRANT 01622 769898
Email: helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk

Kent County Councillor and
 Maidstone Borough Councillor ERIC HOTSON 01580 892312
Email: erichotson@maidstone.gov.uk

Maidstone Borough Councillor RICHARD LUSTY 01580 766689
Email: richardlusty@maidstone.gov.uk

Parish Office, Staplehurst Village Centre
 High Street, Staplehurst TN12 0BJ
www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk

Staplehurst Parish Office is open to the public 0900-1300
Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays and on Thursdays by appointment

Staplehurst Parish Council, Parish Office
Staplehurst Village Centre
High Street, Staplehurst
TONBRIDGE, Kent TN12 0BJ

Parish Council papers may be viewed in the Parish Office on request;
most are also now available on-line at **www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk**.

Planning application papers may be viewed at the Parish Office on request or
on the Maidstone Borough Council website at **www.maidstone.gov.uk**.

Parish Councillors hold a surgery at the Library, normally on the second Saturday of
the month, for local residents to come and discuss parish issues. Borough Councillor
Lusty holds a surgery in the Library on the last Saturday of each month. Full details
appear in the calendar on the village website at **www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk**.

Front cover photograph - 'Uprockin 2012'
Many thanks to Stephen Downton

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