

A photograph of a garden bed filled with yellow and white daffodils. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with some showing double petals. The garden bed is bordered by dark wooden planks. In the background, a building with green-tinted windows is visible. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

Staplehurst Parish Council ANNUAL REPORT 2019 - 2020

Chairman's Annual Report 2019-2020

Hello, everyone, and welcome to our Parish Council's annual report.

I have been privileged to be the Chairman of our Parish Council for nearly a year now. Whilst it can be a challenging job, it is a very uplifting experience when we manage to make even small improvements to our village. Prior to and after last year's Parish Council elections and my election as Chairman, I set myself a few goals that I wished to achieve. Some were likely to be more difficult than others.

One of the challenges was to unite our Councillors, new and existing, to achieve a working group of people with similar goals and aspirations, willing to work together to achieve the very best for Staplehurst. I am pleased to say that I think we have largely completed this task.

I felt, in these modern times, that it was important for our Parish Council to engage in better ways with residents, to make the communication better and more easily accessible. I think this has also been achieved, but shall endeavour to make further improvements wherever possible.

The general look of the village, particularly the Parade, at this time last year was a worry and frustration to many residents. Many Councillors and volunteers from the community rallied round and what has been achieved is nothing short of spectacular! Further improvements are still in the pipeline: plans for additional planters on the northern side of the Parade are already being actioned; aspirations to paint the library building and continued planting of flowers and a small, wildflower area adjacent to the library are all being worked on.

Securing the proposed supermarket at Station Road/Station Approach was a big target. Residents will be aware of the positive communication we have had from Sainsbury's and although, at the time of writing, the project isn't moving as quickly as we had hoped, everyone is still confident that the supermarket will be up and running in the relatively near future.

The general look of the village has always been a concern and, by engaging with the Community Payback team, many improvements have been made at the Parade, Bell Lane, High Street, Jubilee Field, Lodge Road and Chestnut Avenue, amongst other areas.

I'm pleased to report on these positive results from what might be called, an election 'manifesto'.

I hope that we can continue to achieve more and more visible improvements for the community; however, I am sure residents will be aware of how much work goes on behind the scenes in the day-to-day running of our Parish Council. We are in a transition period, when a new parish clerk will take over from our existing clerk who has been the mainstay of the Parish Council for over eight years. His will indeed be big boots to fill, but we are delighted to welcome our new clerk who, with the support of our wonderful existing parish office team and Councillors, will hit the ground running in her new position.



Chairman's Annual Report 2019-2020

I am committed, at this time of financial worries to many people, that the Parish Council should manage its budget openly and correctly, safeguarding the council and the overall community. This will be under close scrutiny in the forthcoming year.

We are looking forward to a busy year, certainly in relation to the Local Plan review. The Parish Council will always put the best interests of the residents of Staplehurst first and foremost in all our decisions and in our engagement with Maidstone Borough Council. We are very lucky here in Staplehurst to have a County Councillor and two Borough Councillors who work tirelessly, efficiently and closely with our Parish Councillors. I admire their work and contribution to the community immensely and their support certainly makes my job easier.

I'm pleased to say that our Parish Councillors have been a pleasure to work with this year. New, bright ideas and initiatives are always welcome and, hopefully, I shall continue to encourage everyone to achieve as much as possible to improve our village. The individual councillor biographies will give you a good view of the work each Councillor has been carrying out; however, I would like to pinpoint some particular work that I feel needs recognition. Cllr Joan Buller, our shining light amongst Councillors, continues to work on countless projects, planning decisions and groups; her work (with her husband) on the presentation for the public meeting about the Local Plan Review's Call for Sites was nothing short of amazing. Cllr Sue Forward also works on many groups; her assistance and expertise on the recruitment of our new Clerk has made a difficult job much easier.

Cllr Peter Spearink loves the practical jobs; his hard work with the Community Payback team, including his own physical work building planters, has helped improve the whole visual experience in our village. Cllr Colin Bowden has added a new strength on the Planning Committee to assist Chairman Adele Sharp. Last but not least, Cllr Jose Castro has got involved in many things; however, his work on the Emergency Help Team during the current Coronavirus crisis has been inspirational.

I would like to offer thanks to members of all the community groups, particularly the Staplehurst Neighbourhood Plan Review Group and the coordination team of the Staplehurst Emergency Help Team. Both groups have been particularly busy, as you can imagine!

At the time of writing, we are in the midst of the national Coronavirus crisis and I hope and pray that all members of our community and around the world come through it happy and healthy.

I would like to thank all our Councillors, all members of community groups and, most of all, our residents of Staplehurst for your help and support throughout the year.

Finally, a big thanks to our wonderful office staff, particularly our outgoing Parish Clerk Mick Westwood and we wish him the very best on his forthcoming retirement.

Very best wishes
Paddy

Income & Expenditure Account

For the year ended 31st March 2020

INCOME

Parish Precept	150,650.00
MBC Parish Services Grant	11,352.00
Other Income <i>(Car park electricity, Jubilee Field keys & rent, Buss Murton refund)</i>	669.00
KCC Grants <i>(Chapel Lane street lights)</i>	2,000.00
MBC Grants <i>(Jubilee Field & Greener Staplehurst)</i>	4,000.00
Other Grants & Donations <i>(The Parade & Jubilee Field)</i>	2,900.00
SPC Bank Interest	841.38
Third Party Funds – Warden Memory Cafe	520.00
TOTAL INCOME	<u>172,932.38</u>

EXPENDITURE

General Administration <i>(Parish Office staff, utilities, equipment, insurance, subscriptions, training, meetings & travel, publicity & website, Village Updates, stationery, postage, council tax, rent, hall hire)</i>	111,918.11
Donations	1,700.00
Street Lighting, furniture, repairs, planters & caretaker	11,462.65
Playscheme	1,614.60
Jubilee Sports Field & Skatepark Maintenance	10,182.32
Youth Club <i>(Site maintenance, KCC Lease/Purchase & Youth Worker)</i>	6,394.25
Surrenden Playing Field Maintenance and CCTV	3,986.95
Churchyard Maintenance	6,215.50
Christmas Lights	1,870.00
Professional Consultant Fees	1,370.00
Public Convenience maintenance	8,292.92
Projects – VE Day	568.45
Wimpey Field <i>(Mowing, Strimming, Bio-blitz events, water repair)</i>	1,730.23
Local Government Pension Scheme	6,900.00
Staplehurst Emergency Help Team	103.17
Third Party Reserve Fund – Winter Warmer	73.83
Third Party Reserve Fund – Memory Café	120.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>174,502.98</u>

Balance of Income over Expenditure	-1,570.60
Balance brought forward from previous year	<u>110,089.61</u>
	<u>108,519.01</u>

The above Income & Expenditure Account and the Balance Sheet with Supporting Statement are (at the time of printing) subject to Council approval, internal and external audit. Iden Business Services undertake the Internal Control of Staplehurst Parish Council accounts and the Annual Audit Return is made to Littlejohn LLP, Chartered Accountants. In accordance with the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and the Accounts and Audit (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020, the dates set for the period of exercise of public rights commence on Monday 6th July 2020 and end on Friday 14th August 2020.

Balance Sheet

as at 31st March 2020

LONG TERM ASSETS

None (see supporting statement below) 0.00

CURRENT ASSETS

VAT Recoverable	2,254.00	
Cash in hand	110,900.98	
		113,154.98

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Accruals	(0.00)	
Creditors (unpresented cheques)	(4,635.97)	
		(4,635.97)
		108,519.01

REPRESENTED BY:-

GENERAL FUND		45,475.58
--------------	--	-----------

Ongoing Project Budgets:

Allotment land purchase fund	10,000.00	
Fund for Outside Works	10,000.00	
Surrenden Playing Field Project	16,500.00	
Wimpey Field	10,052.67	
The Parade Project	59.52	
Chapel Lane	2,500.00	
Jubilee Field Drainage Project	1,500.00	
Jubilee Field	1,000.00	
Greener Staplehurst Project	2,000.00	
Balance c/fwd for future budget	7,764.80	
		61,376.99

RESERVES (held on behalf of others)

Rural Warden Alcohol Project	900.00	
Rural Warden Memory Café	400.00	
Rural Warden Youth Club Project	366.44	
		1,666.44
		108,519.01

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 31.03.2020 the following assets were held:

COMMUNITY ASSETS

Jubilee Field (Freehold)	0.00
Land between west side of High Street & Chestnut Avenue (Freehold)	0.00
Land north east of Bell Lane (Freehold)	0.00
Land south side of Marden Road, opposite North Down (Freehold)	1.00
Wimpey Field (Freehold)	0.00
Footpath KM312 rear of Bathurst Road (Freehold)	0.00
Lease/purchase of Youth Club land from KCC	12,000.00

BUILDINGS (insured replacement values)

Sectional Building (Surrenden Pavilion)	9,806.89
Jubilee Pavilion	685,603.90
Public Convenience - Bell Lane	93,643.46

OTHER ASSETS (insured replacement value)

As listed on the Asset Register 31.03.2020 held at the Parish Office	326,436.35
--	------------

LEASES - As at 31st March 2020 the following Leases were in operation:-

Lessor	Purpose	Rent	Expiry
Maidstone Borough Council	Bell Lane Toilets	Peppercorn	2028
Maidstone Borough Council	Surrenden Playing Field	Peppercorn	2144
Kent County Council	Youth Club Land Lease & Purchase	850.00	2050
Staplehurst Parish Council	Jubilee Field Management	5.00	2035
Trustees of Jubilee Field	Lease of land for Guide Centre	5.00	2088

Parish Councillors



Cllr. Paddy Riordan – *Chairman*

I have been a Councillor on Staplehurst Parish Council from 21st March 2016 (excluding a short break in March & April 2019) until today. I was elected back on to the Parish Council in the elections in May 2019.

I moved to Staplehurst from Sutton with my parents in May of 1967. I am married to Mandy and we have four daughters, three of whom live locally and my eldest daughter lives in Surbiton. I am also a proud grandfather to five grandchildren and, at time of writing, we also have another one on the way!

As Chairman of the Parish Council, I have the privilege of being an “ex officio” member of all Council Groups. I am Chairman of the Employment Group, Finance & Strategy Group and Communications Group, and I am an active member of the Planning Committee. I am also a member of the Neighbourhood Plan Review Group, Community Enhancement Group and Greener Staplehurst Group, as well as community organisations: the Village Centre Trust, Village Golf Club, Staplehurst Emergency Help Team, Staplehurst Family Fireworks Group and I am Chairman and Designated Premises Supervisor of the Jubilee Field Management Committee.

I am pleased to have been involved in various projects throughout the last twelve months, including improvements at the Parade, better communications, Jubilee Field improvements, assisting with coordinating the Community Payback team at projects around the village, tree planting for the Greener Staplehurst Group, parking issues around the village and liaising with Sainsbury's in relation to the forthcoming supermarket.

Chairing the Employment Group has been very busy in relation to acquiring the services of a new Clerk to take over the role when our current Clerk leaves us after over eight years in the position to enjoy a well-earned rest. The Finance & Strategy Group has also had to manage the challenges of creating a workable budget for the forthcoming financial year. The Planning Committee is always interesting and, with the Neighbourhood Plan Review Group, managing the forthcoming Local Plan review has created a lot of issues that need to be addressed. The Communications Group has continued to provide information to residents, whilst adding the Chairman's Video Report and other initiatives to provide another channel to reach residents. The rebirth of the Emergency Help Team, which has been a wonderful initiative of many volunteers over many years, has been a very positive item at this time of national crisis. I am pleased to have been able to acquire funding for the Village Golf Club & Jubilee Field.

My thoughts for the forthcoming years are much of the same. I wish to rally Councillors to use their ideas and initiatives to improve our village in many different ways, I look forward to improving sports facilities at the Jubilee Field, the main goal being to achieve an all-weather sports surface. Planning improvements are always a goal, including roads and parking. The general look of our village is always something I wish to improve on, e.g. further improvements at the Parade and other areas, attempting to brighten up the community with flowers, plants and trees. Community events bring a feel-good factor to the village and working with volunteers gives everyone an opportunity to join in. I would also like to acquire volunteers to help with village community groups, many of whom struggle to achieve their goals due to limited support. The Village Centre, Jubilee Field Management Committee, Fireworks Group, Friends of the Health Centre & Village Golf Club are all groups that would benefit from more support. Here's to another busy year!

Cllr. Colin Bowden

I was elected as a Parish Councillor in May 2019. I was born and raised in London but have lived in Kent for most of my life and have been a resident of Staplehurst for over 20 years. I am married to Janet and have two dogs, Kordia and Fiorella. I have numerous interests including gardening and bellringing which is on hold at present due to the Coronavirus.

I am an active member of the Planning Committee and have represented the Parish Council on planning issues at MBC and at Planning Inspector meetings. I have also attended Kent Association of Local Councils' Dynamic Councillor training as well as MBC planning training sessions.

I am a member of the Community Enhancement Group, the Finance and Strategy Group, the Neighbourhood Plan Review Group and the Road Safety Task and Finish Group. I also attend the Staplehurst Emergency Help Team meetings and the Council's surgery for residents at the Library.

The Parish Council has made significant improvements to the Parade over the last year with the clearing of the two weed-beds and transforming them with individual timber planters and wood chip for easy maintenance.

One of most important issues affecting Staplehurst is the MBC Call for Sites, which will have a significant impact on all residents if not properly addressed.

The 125 Year of Parish Councils event which was celebrated last year was a reminder of what we are; I do hope that Staplehurst Parish Council will continue to thrive and represent all of our residents over the years to come.



Parish Councillors



Cllr. Joan Buller

I was elected on to the Parish Council in May 1983 and I have lived in Staplehurst for 42 years. I am married to Malcolm and I have two sons, Andrew and David.

I am a member of the Planning Committee, Employment, Finance & Strategy, Road Safety, Community Enhancement and Neighbourhood Plan Review Groups as well as the Speed Watch team.

During the last year I have organised two Village Clean-Ups as well as my regular litter-picking. I was responsible for the distribution of the Updates, Annual Report and Carnival programmes. I oversaw the annual Playscheme. I wrote the Parish Response to the MBC Call for Sites with the help of Councillor Thomas. I then led the presentation at the Call for Sites public meeting. I have attended numerous MBC Planning Committee Meetings and appeals.

With my husband's and staff help, I organised the '125 Years' exhibition to celebrate this Parish Council's anniversary.

In the coming year I will be part of the team reviewing the Staplehurst Neighbourhood Plan to strengthen existing policies and add new ones. I will also be supporting parishioners in all planning matters. I will carry on my campaign against litter! I will continue to offer support and advice to Councillors and staff, particularly to our newly appointed Clerk.

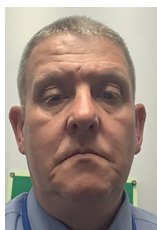
Cllr. Jose Castro



I became a Parish Councillor by co-option in November 2019. I was born and raised in Spain but have been living in Staplehurst since 2015. I live with my partner Paula and her two daughters, but my two boys join us as often as they can. I always try to involve all my family in all our initiatives as I firmly believe in a strong community. I work in London where I commute regularly.

I am an active member of the Communications Group and the Greener Staplehurst Group and I have often been liaising with the Community Payback team, although where I have managed to put all my weight in is coordinating all the volunteers for the Staplehurst Emergency Help Team during the Covid-19 crisis, making sure our vulnerable, self-isolating or shielding residents had all their needs covered. I have also been heavily involved in improving the conditions at the Parade with the new planters and in the clearing and planting in the garden area.

Among my projects for the future are the creation of a Staplehurst Culture Group where we can gather and coordinate all the multiple cultural initiatives that take part in our village, as well as proposing new ideas to improve our cultural life. But this is one of many, as you always find new inspiration as you embark yourself in new projects.



Cllr. Mick Chapman

I have lived in Staplehurst since 1968. I am married to my wife Julia and we have worked for the police for the past thirty-plus years. I was elected to the Council in May 2019 and I am proud to be a councillor representing the people of Staplehurst.

Having been elected, I found there was a great deal to learn in a short period of time. I have been lucky to watch and learn from some very experienced councillors and the Chairman.

I currently work full time so have not been quite as active as I would like to be. Over the last year I have been involved with Full Council meetings, Planning Committee and the Community Enhancement Group. I have contributed towards the revamp of the shopping parade, Village

Clean-Up, the fireworks display and Bio Blitz.

I have also been involved in the village fete, the Council's surgery in the library and, more recently, the Emergency Help Team. The Emergency Help Team is a truly impressive service which has been developed by and for the community of Staplehurst.

There is no doubt that the next twelve months will be a challenge for us all. There will be many uncertainties and changes to our lives. I wish the people of Staplehurst to know that I will be there to help them wherever I can along with my colleagues.

I think that the Covid19 pandemic has given birth to a new community spirit within our village and I will do all that I can to promote and develop this further.

Parish Councillors



Cllr. Sue Forward

I was elected as a Parish Councillor in May 2018. Born, bred and firmly rooted in the claggy clay of the Weald of Kent. A resident of Staplehurst Parish for nine years and a Parish Councillor for two years.

Mother of two sons and Granny to three teenagers. Both sons educated at Angley School and Mascalls 6th Form. My hobbies and interests include reading, walking, live music, gardening and all things environmental.

I still have a heck of a lot to learn but begin to feel I can have an impact and contribute positively to the Parish Council and our community. I am now a member of our Finance and Strategy Group, our Employment Group and Planning Committee. I am also an active member of the Neighbourhood Plan Review Group, Road Safety Group and Staplehurst Speed Watch.

Many of you will know that this past year has been, personally, very challenging for me, so I have not been as active as I had hoped. However, I have played a full part in practical community matters, including helping to clear weeds, plant bulbs, decorate Christmas trees and regular tidy-ups down the Wimpey Field Nature Reserve. I have also worked again with Medway Valley Countryside Partnership to provide two very successful Bio Blitz events for children of the parish.

In addition, I have been able to take the lead in the recruitment process of our new Parish Clerk. I have also played an active part in finance scrutiny and budget setting. I look forward to the next challenging Parish Council year.

Cllr. David George

I was elected as a Parish Councillor in August 2019. I was born in Orpington, Kent and moved to Staplehurst 42 years ago. I am married with two children, both of whom were educated at Angley School, where my wife taught mathematics, before entering university. I have five grandchildren.

I worked as a design engineer most of my life on major air-conditioning projects before becoming the Segl Group's publicity manager. Later I attended Hadlow College before starting my own garden design and construction business. My hobbies include painting, gardening, middle-distance running and playing the guitar.

As a new 'boy' at the age of 76 I am on a tight learning curve, attending numerous lectures to enable me to develop as a Councillor. I am Chairman of the Greener Staplehurst Group whose aim is to increase the village's biodiversity by any means available including tree and wildflower planting and the management of green spaces including the Wimpey Nature Reserve.

I am a member of the Communications Group, the VE75 committee and will be responsible for the biannual village litter-pick under the watchful gaze of Councillor Buller.



Cllr. Sam Lain-Rose

I have been a Councillor for nine years and remain the youngest member of the Council. Unfortunately, due to work commitments, I have not been able to devote to Council business the same time and energy that I had previously. However, I remain passionate and determined to support Staplehurst and attend meetings of the Council wherever I can. I also would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the entire Council office team for their hard work and support; particularly, the Parish Clerk – Mick Westwood who is due to retire in the coming months. Mick has worked tirelessly, always going above and beyond the call of duty and has been supportive of every Councillor that we have seen. He is an amazing asset to the Council and this village.

Parish Councillors



Cllr. Helen Miller

I was elected onto the Parish Council in May 2019, and having been born in the village, I felt it was the right time to take a proactive part in the direction that the village is taking. I live with my husband Adrian and our two children who, although both in their twenties, still like living at home. I work as an Estates Administrator at a local private hospital, where I have been employed for a little over 33 years and I am still enjoying it.

During my time on the council, I have joined some of the various groups which include the Employment Group, Community Enhancement Group, Patient Participation Group and I am Secretary of the Jubilee Field Management Committee. All these groups, including the other groups that councillors have joined, are worthwhile, proactive, informative groups who are there to enhance the structure of the village.

This village has always been home to me and I, like many other villagers, want to see it progress into a village we can all be proud of.

Cllr. John Perry – Vice Chairman

I moved to Staplehurst in October 2006 and was elected to Staplehurst Parish Council in May 2007. I am married with three sons. I have advised various governments on funding and financial issues and have represented the UK Government on UN and European Panels and Committees. I was Chairman of the Parish Council from 2011 until I was elected to the Borough Council in 2014. I am currently Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council. I am also a very active Member of Maidstone Borough Council where, as well as carrying out my prime purpose of representing the interests of Staplehurst's residents, I lead the Opposition and sit on the Planning Committee.



Council Group Memberships: as Vice-Chairman, I am an ex-officio member of all groups. I take a particular interest in finance and the Council's internal controls and regularly meet with the Internal Auditor. I am an active member of the Finance and Strategy Group and the Employment Group.

I have always been a strong supporter of the Neighbourhood Plan and have campaigned against excessive housing development in the Parish and I shall continue to do so. I am a member of the Neighbourhood Plan Review Group.

Projects completed over the past year: Staplehurst Parish Council has finally signed a 125-year lease with Maidstone Borough Council for the use of Surrenden Field. This has been a long and sometimes hard negotiation, but we now have long-term security for the village in respect of this important asset.

Initiatives for the future: Maidstone Borough Council has to review its Local Plan every five years. It is currently in the process of reviewing its "call for sites" which is a complex and sensitive process. I have campaigned for this to be expedited as quickly as possible and I have already raised concerns at the lack of key infrastructure such as road links and drainage. I shall continue to campaign to support the interests of our community.



Cllr. Zara Rawlinson

I was elected a member of the Parish Council in May 2019. I moved to Staplehurst in 2013. I previously lived in South-East London and, as much as I will always love London, we wanted to give our children a better quality of life and, so far, this has been successful and we adore village life.

I am married to Sam who is a self-employed builder and we are parents to three children – Callum 15, Charlie 14 and Bella 11. We also have 3 dogs who are a huge part of our family.

I am a member of the Community Enhancement Group and Communications Group and have recently joined the youth club group. I have contributed to the Village Update and presentations for events carried out in the village. I have enjoyed having a voice in the village and regularly

attend meetings to discuss aspects of village life.

I am a member of the Citizen's Academy which is run through Kent Police and have enjoyed taking part in learning and feeding back to how the Police can work with the village to ensure the safety and wellbeing of its residents.

I am hoping to work more with the youths in the village to give them a voice and help them collaborate in our plans for the village future. I am also looking to bring the work that I do within mental health and anti-racism, through Panda Anti-Racism Team, into my time on the parish council to help support wellbeing and promote diversity throughout the community in which we live.

Parish Councillors

Cllr. Adele Sharp

I am a 'Staplehurst'ite born and bred and, whilst I have managed to get around the world a bit, I always return to here. As a secondary teacher and councillor, I am kept pretty busy, but still make time for family, gardening and other hobbies.

Having been a councillor since 2011, I do my best to represent the opinions and concerns of all of us in Staplehurst. As chair of the planning committee, I have been able to work with other councillors to get the balance right in supporting private individual applications and local business applications, whilst ensuring conditions are adhered to, and trying to prevent unauthorised and unwelcome developments.

I also attend working groups such as the Neighbourhood Plan Review Group, Community Enhancement Group, Road Safety Group and Greener Staplehurst Group.

My faith in Staplehurst as a lovely community which works together continues to grow as I see what our community has already achieved. I will continue to do my best to help achieve even more.



Cllr. Peter Spearink

I have been a Staplehurst Parish Councillor since May 2007 (excluding a short break in 2018-19). I have lived in Staplehurst for 37 years with my wife, we have two children and two grandchildren. I have been involved in many projects in the last twelve months, including cleaning up the Parade and making wooden planters, along with refurbishing the benches and adding plaques with thought-provoking messages. I also work closely with the Community Payback Team, ensuring their time in Staplehurst is well spent.

I am a member of the Communications and Churchyard groups along with the group planning the VE75 celebrations, which sadly had to be scaled down due to COVID19. Hopefully when things return to some sort of normality, I will continue to be involved with improving the village and making Staplehurst a nicer place to live.

Cllr. Natasha Thomas

My family moved to Staplehurst in the Autumn of 2018, having lived in London for six years. Having grown up in South Africa myself, the need for open space and a close community runs at my core and that is what we wanted for our family.

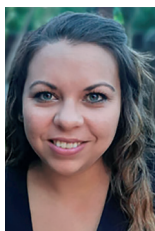
I am married to Sam with whom I have three girls, with Maddie and Penny aged 3 and Delilah 6 months old. We also have two Lab cross Retriever dogs, Honey and Porter, and 10 hens from a battery farm.

I am a member of the Planning Committee, Greener Staplehurst Group and Neighbourhood Watch. Establishing the Greener Staplehurst Group has been the greatest accomplishment, as this was a key ambition when I decided to run for the Parish Council. We have started some key projects. I have taken the reins on grant applications as well as on planning a few smaller projects which will now be paused until we are able to deliver them; they include the planting of wildflower seeds which we obtained through a growing scheme and, of course, spending the grants we have successfully obtained. We have accomplished a fair bit as a group, building out our ambitions, reaching out to key support groups and Maidstone Borough Council to ensure we are linked into their ambitions and projects so that we can leverage any knowledge and financial support possible while ensuring we move our village to a greener, more beautiful place for all.

As many of our plans have been paused, I am really looking forward to delivering against our ambitions and aims and get out in the community to start turning some of our green verges and, even more, the duller brown ones into a beautiful haven for the bees, butterflies and the villagers too. We will also continue the good work of previous councillors with the Bio Blitz, Village Clean-Up and improving the look and feel of the village where we can. The next key initiative will be engaging our community businesses to understand their position on the green agenda and how we can support each other as a community to improve how we interact with our environment, from packaging to offsetting any unavoidable impacts. This will take longer to deliver but will be really impactful.



Parish Councillors



Cllr. Caz Walsh

I have been a Staplehurst Parish Councillor since May 2019. I am a member of the Employment and Communications Groups. I am Staplehurst born and bred and I have two children aged seven and nine, who definitely keep me on my toes! I am proud to be a member of the Parish Council of such a wonderful village. Being on the Parish Council stall at last year's fete was my first public outing as a Councillor. It was a terrific event where we made a conscious effort to up our social media presence. Councillor Rawlinson and I worked on the electronic presentation for the 125 Years anniversary event which again was a great day. I have played an active part in supporting the Community Payback team and really enjoyed helping with the fantastic work they

complete.

Post year-end note: I am very sad to be leaving the Council as I embark on a family move to West Yorkshire. Staplehurst will always be my home and I will certainly be checking in on all the Council progress when I come back for visits.

The views expressed are those of individual councillors.

During 2019-20, the Parish Council accepted the resignations of Elaine Symes and Karen Langmaid. After the year-end Cllr. Walsh also resigned. The Parish Council thanks all of them for their contributions to the Council and wishes them well for the future.

The following list shows the percentage of council meetings (Full Council and, where applicable, Planning Committee) attended by each councillor between May 2019 and the end of March 2020. They are listed for information only. Parish councillors could miss meetings for a number of very good reasons: they balance the duties of a parish councillor with the demands of their personal and professional lives; on occasions, a missed meeting occurs when the councillor is on parish or borough council business elsewhere. The end of the period was affected by the emergence of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Cllr. Bowden – 95%; Cllr. Buller – 95%; Cllr. Castro – 100%; Cllr. Chapman – 91%; Cllr. Forward – 81%; Cllr. George – 80%; Cllr. Lain-Rose – 67%; Cllr. Langmaid – 82%; Cllr. Miller – 80%; Cllr. Perry – 87%; Cllr. Rawlinson – 80%; Cllr. Riordan – 100%; Cllr. Sharp – 100%; Cllr. Spearink – 100%; Cllr. Thomas – 62%; Cllr. Walsh – 73%.

125 Years of Parish Council Chairmen

Following the anniversary celebration last year, we thought it would be appropriate to look back to salute those who have served as Parish Council Chairmen over the past 125 years.

Years	Chairman	Years	Chairman
1894 - 1913 (19 years)	William Hoare	1986 - 1992 (6 years)	Albert Seth
1913 - 1919 (6 years)	John Harris	1992 - 1997 (5 years)	John Cramp
1919 - 1922 (3 years)	James Scott	1997 - 1998 (1 year)	Caroline Highwood
1922 - 1929 (7 years)	William Jull	1998 - 2003 (5 years)	Robin Oakley
1929 - 1931 (2 years)	F. Unicom Brooks	2003 - 2011 (8 years)	Margaret Arger
1931 - 1937 (6 years)	John Kenward	2011 - 2014 (3 years)	John Perry
1937 - 1966 (29 years)	Harry Cornforth	2014 - 2017 (3 years)	Rory Silkin
1966 - 1970 (4 years)	William Tipples	2017 - 2019 (2 years)	Tom Burnham
1970 - 1979 (9 years)	Joan Slade	2019 -	Paddy Riordan
1979 - 1986 (7 years)	Dr. Richard Skinner		

Parish Clerk's Report 2019-2020

Looking back on the year to March 2020, it's hard to look beyond the final month and the horrible shadow cast by the Coronavirus pandemic under which we are living as I write these notes. However, try I must, so please bear with me as I press 'rewind'.

In May 2019, Staplehurst had its first contested Parish Council election since 2003; eighteen candidates stood for fifteen places. Election administration is undertaken by the borough council, but the event still generated plenty of work for the Parish Office team, e.g. preparing and sharing information about being a parish councillor and about the election process to help those who were thinking about standing. Once the election was over, the Office supported the new Council by providing guidance on the Council's business, policies and procedures as well as formal training opportunities.

We introduced new e-mail addresses for the office staff and for every parish councillor, giving councillors an easy way to keep their parish council correspondence clearly separate from their personal messages. This step was taken by many parish councils following the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) in 2018.

The Parish Office was again heavily involved in the organisation of regular events such as the village clean-ups, Bio-Blitz, Play Scheme and Remembrance Day parade. Sadly, we had to cancel our March 2020 clean-up due to the Coronavirus pandemic. We also enjoyed working on the exhibition that marked the 125th anniversary of Staplehurst Parish Council and the 'standing room only' public meeting about the Local Plan Review's Call for Sites. Of course, all these events also benefited from the contribution of our parish councillors and volunteers who worked so hard on them.

In 2019, we completed the legal formalities for the transfer to the Parish Council of part of footpath KM312 (between Bell Lane and Butcher Close) and for a new 125-year lease for Surrenden Playing Field. At the time of writing, we are endeavouring to finalise a legal agreement to secure the transfer to the Parish Council of the decommissioned telephone kiosk at Church Green. This will enable the kiosk to be put to community use.

The first few months of 2020 were marked initially by floods that affected homes and roads around the parish. As if that wasn't enough, the Coronavirus pandemic arrived and has changed the lives of us all in a way no-one could have imagined. The local response was and continues to be terrific. The Parish Office team was proud to support volunteers in setting up the emergency help team - evidence, if it were needed, of Staplehurst's tremendous community spirit. As I write, the Parish Office team is having to work from home but it is busier than ever. Lockdown means we need to be resourceful to keep the Parish Council's business ticking over, dealing with the usual planning consultations, managing the website and producing year-end financial statements, while responding to the demands of the unprecedented situation and of emergency legislation, for example by setting up and running 'virtual' council meetings.

I've omitted more than I've written about the work of the Parish Office – space is limited. What I cannot omit is a big 'thank you' to the current team of Deborah, Jean, Paul and Les (plus past colleagues Sue and Chris) for all their hard work on behalf of the Parish Council and for being great colleagues. I also thank the parish councillors for their support and for their selfless commitment to the community. After eight years, this is my final report as Parish Clerk. I know that when I step down, in my successor Nicola and in the Parish Office team, Staplehurst Parish Council's future will be in good hands. Stay safe, be kind.

Mick Westwood, Parish Clerk

Parish Activities

Planning Committee

As I am writing this, most of us are confined to our homes during this surreal time of isolation due to the Covid19 virus. You will be pleased to know that, even under the unusual times we are living in, the Planning Committee decided it was not a time to stop reviewing, commenting and making recommendations to MBC about planning applications.

Planning applications in and around Staplehurst remain an important part of the Parish Council's work for residents. With the office team and councillors checking paperwork, reviewing residents' comments, delivering notices to neighbours and even visiting the sites, it takes up quite a bit of time in order to be able competently to consider and make recommendations to MBC. Normally, the Planning Committee meets before each Full Council meeting to consider planning applications affecting Staplehurst and to make recommendations to MBC; residents are encouraged to come and listen and have the opportunity to speak for three minutes before councillors consider applications. We make sure we give good reasons for our recommendations for or against as, although MBC is obliged to consult the Parish Council about most types of planning applications, MBC makes the final decision.

Thanks to the technology we have continued, via Zoom, to have public meetings to discuss the various planning applications to ensure the best interests of Staplehurst's residents are addressed. We continue to keep an eye on the larger developments on Marden Road and Headcorn Road, trying to ensure best practice for drainage, parking spaces and the general presentation of the sites.

After a long-anticipated wait, it seems that Sainsbury's will be making a move to develop the old DK Holdings site near the station. By the time you are reading this report, there will have been an updated planning application covering minor amendments to the plans.

It is useful to note the reasons MBC give for refusing applications, which are educational for future reference. Finally, I encourage residents to use MBC's planning website to make their feelings known about planning applications as it helps MBC get a good feel for the strength of feeling about an application, for or against. Parish councillors often go to MBC planning meetings with a prepared speech as we only have three minutes to speak before we are cut off; you can watch a live or recorded webcast of the MBC planning committee and see your Parish Council representative speaking on your behalf!

I will also take this opportunity to thank the Planning Committee members for their diligence and careful consideration of all planning matters. It's a pleasure to work with them all.

Cllr. Adele Sharp

Communications Group

The Communications Group has had a busy year. The general idea was to try to make the most of all forms of communications to engage with residents in the most positive ways possible.

The Chairman's video report has been implemented, which has proved to be a popular means of communicating. Social media have been used more extensively and it is felt that Facebook is a particularly useful means of communication. The Parish Council website is very well coordinated by the office staff. The Group is working on a logo and we hope to implement this for use on Parish Council literature and signage in the near future.

Discussions to use further social media sites such as Instagram and Twitter have taken place and we hope that these will also be implemented in the near future. It is felt that younger members of the community may enjoy engaging with the PC using these sites. It is no coincidence that some of the younger Councillors will be overseeing this item! More traditional forms of communication with the public, such as the Village Update, continue to

Parish Activities

be used, where new ideas and articles are encouraged.

We have also encouraged the use of all forms of communication to attempt to include parishioners who may have impaired sight or hearing. The Parish Office staff are again assisting with this very important item.

The public meeting in relation to the Local Plan revision was a combined effort, with an excellent presentation from Cllr Buller. This was very well attended by members of the community and was considered to be a very successful communication project.

Some of the goals for the forthcoming year are to encourage members of the community to attend Council meetings in more numbers and to ensure more information is provided to encourage residents to report issues to the relevant authorities wherever possible.

Cllr. Paddy Riordan

Community Enhancement Group

Doesn't our Parade area look better! Thank you to everyone for your efforts - and now we have blue lights for our NHS as well. Continue to keep an eye on that area, the planters around the village and down by Market Street – they are next. The Greener Staplehurst Group is doing its part to improve areas around the village too, so keep an eye out for all their hard work.

We are in the process of taking over the telephone kiosk near Church Green from BT, following decommissioning of the phone itself. We now need to find a worthwhile use for it: book exchange, plant drop, art display, guide to interesting places in the village . . . I am sure you have some ideas!

The CEG has a number of administrative jobs, including recommendations about hedge-cutting in a number of places such as Surrenden Field and Chestnut Avenue. Following agreement of a 125-year lease on Surrenden Field, we aim to make some enhancements there too, making it a site for children, fetes and dog walkers. Thank you to all the dogs that have trained their owners well in scooping the pooping!

The Bell Lane toilets remain a facility to be proud of, remaining open when many other councils are closing them. It is a cost but one that we feel is necessary for those who live in the village and those that are providing a service to us, especially for bus drivers and all those making deliveries at this moment in time!

And Chapel Lane, after deep discussions about the merits of various versions of lamps, should be getting some improved lighting to illuminate people's way home.

Cllr. Adele Sharp

Churchyard

The Parish Council funds the maintenance of the churchyard, including grass cutting, tree work and hedges. Otherwise, the churchyard would risk being closed to new burials and losing its traditional atmosphere. The work programme and budget are discussed with representatives of the Parochial Church Council and work has been carried out by contractors, volunteers from All Saints Church and Community Payback teams.

Cllr. John Perry

Employment Group

This year the Employment Group has worked on all matters relating to our staff. The staff are very well thought of and their work is greatly appreciated, so we wish to make sure their employment experience with the Parish Council is a pleasant one and leads to efficient running of the council on behalf of the community.

We have been heavily engaged in acquiring the services of a new member of staff to replace our existing Parish Clerk who is retiring after his long and highly successful

Parish Activities

involvement in the position. This has meant working on wage structures, employment contracts, job adverts, interviews and important decisions!

I feel the team has worked very efficiently to achieve our goals.

Cllr. Paddy Riordan

Finance and Strategy Group

The Group has no specific powers but makes recommendations to Full Council. Apart from its work on reviewing the Council's strategy it makes specific recommendations in respect of the Council's finances. These include expenditure proposals and preparation of the budget and proposed precept for approval by the Council. It reviews annually the Asset Register, Risk Assessment and Financial Regulations and undertakes reviews to establish best practice and careful control of what is public money. Regular reports are received from the Internal Auditor who is an important part of the internal control of the Parish Council's activities. A review of the internal control function and its effectiveness takes place annually, which is reported back to the Council. Over the past year we have undertaken a number of activities with the aim of improving services to our residents, but at the same time we are always careful to ensure our finances remain sound.

Parish Office

Greener Staplehurst Group

The Greener Staplehurst Group, comprising interested residents and parish councillors, was formed in Autumn of 2019 with the aim of increasing the biodiversity of the parish by means of planting flowers, wild and cultivated, shrubs and trees to encourage a diverse range of wildlife. To this end we are pleased to report that we have recently received a grant of £2,000 from Go Green, Go Wild!

There are now four large and two smaller wooden planters in the shopping centre, with more planned, where we will continue to display flowers on a seasonal basis. Additionally, we are in the process of preparing a number of beds and other sites locally with the intention of growing cultivated perennials or wildflowers from seed bulbs or as plug plants.



The Parade, before...



...and after.

We are speaking with KCC (highways) and MBC as we are seeking to plant native trees at suitable sites around the village. We have also requested that grass cutting trials are set up in various places to ascertain the best procedure for encouraging wild flower growth in verges and larger grassed areas.

The Wimpey Field Nature Reserve, an area widely appreciated by the general community, is now part of our remit; with the help and continuing support of the Friends of this area, we intend to continue their good work. A pond has recently been dug and we are looking forward to seeing what additions to the wildlife this will produce in future years.

Parish Activities

We will, of course, continue to involve local children through wildlife education, both within schools and in the field, by means of the well-attended wildlife Bio Blitz and other such outdoor educational and fun activities. Residents and businesses too will be made more aware of the part that they can play and will be actively encouraged to join us in making Staplehurst a lovely place in which to live and work.

Cllr. David George

Jubilee Field

It has been a busy and trying year for the Jubilee Field Management Committee.

We have made many improvements in relation to the visual aspect, including regularly tidying up the car park and other areas by engaging the Community Payback team to assist. New bulbs, plants and trees have been planted in various areas with the assistance of the Greener Staplehurst Group.

Large improvements to the main pitch have been carried out, including new dugouts, a covered stand, pitch-surround barriers and fencing to provide a closed area for high standard football matches to be played at the facility. Various improvements have also been provided to the pavilion, including additional medical facilities.

Floodlighting and a seated stand are planned to be added during the summer break.

On a negative side, the long spells of wet weather have meant that many matches have had to be called off, putting pressure particularly on the junior Monarchs club.

Some drainage work has been carried out by clearing the ditches adjacent to the Jubilee Field, which will help channel the flow of water away from the pitches. Additional ground drainage is being actioned at the present time and will take place during the pre-season break, in order to make significant drainage improvements for the forthcoming season.

The longstanding goals are to acquire an all-weather sports pitch at the Jubilee Field, which will help ensure matches are not postponed due to poor weather, add training facilities and also provide additional sporting facilities for various other sports and games for the whole community.

Unfortunately, loss of revenue due to matches being postponed and the current Coronavirus crisis has put the finances of the Jubilee Field Management Committee under pressure and we are at present engaging with higher authorities to see what assistance may be available.

Cllr. Paddy Riordan

Parish Services

The Parish Council has provided services to complement those provided by the borough and county councils. These include the public conveniences at Bell Lane; bus shelters, salt bins and street lights; maintenance of the Surrenden and Jubilee Fields and their facilities. The council also employs a village caretaker. The Council has continued to work closely with Community Payback and local businesses and volunteers whose efforts have contributed immensely to improvements around the village, e.g. at the Parade, along footpaths and at the Jubilee Field. The Council also engages its friends at Growing Concern to service the village's planters.

Parish Office

Playscheme

Play Place again worked with the Parish Council to deliver the three-week summer play scheme. We offered all-day sessions in the second and third weeks, which were well supported. The children experienced a wide range of activities in a safe and friendly environment and especially enjoyed taking part in the Bio Blitz event at the Wimpey Field.

Parish Activities

At the end of the three weeks, a party day was held with a magician who entertained the children, which was very well received; parents participated with party food. We are very grateful to Staplehurst School for the use of its excellent facilities.

Parish Office

Road Safety Group and Speed Watch

The Road Safety Group has made significant progress by engaging with an officer from Kent Highways on several occasions. Within their schedule of works is the improvement to the threshold from 40mph to 30mph on Church Hill, which will further warn motorists that they are entering the built-up area. We also have lobbied for improvements to the roundabout in Marden Road and, with Headcorn PC, for traffic control lights on the Hawkenbury River Bridge. The 20mph zone that we consulted on is still awaiting progress, but has not been forgotten. We also met with Mr Balfour-Lynn from Hush Heath Winery and had a very positive discussion about traffic on rural lanes. These and other issues are part of the parish 'Highways Improvement Plan'. Safety issues continue to play a major role in the consideration of planning applications, both individually and cumulatively, such as in the MBC 'Call for Sites' consultations. We encourage parishioners to keep us informed of every incident or accident that they have knowledge of within our parish, as this helps enormously by providing more informative data.

Our Speed Watch volunteers also help by spending time at the roadside reminding motorists of the speed limits. More volunteers would help further reduce speeding in Staplehurst.

Malcolm Buller, Road Safety Group Chairman & Speed Watch Team Leader

Staplehurst Emergency Help Team (SEHT)

Staplehurst's Emergency Help Team (SEHT) was set up in the wake of 'The Post Office Fire' (2010) by a group of residents who had helped the firemen and those who had been forced out of their houses at the time, backed by the Parish Council. We are a group of volunteers who would set up and run a shelter, should residents be forced to leave their homes unexpectedly – because of a serious gas leak, or a prolonged power failure, for example.

For obvious reasons, SEHT is not set up to provide an A&E type service; but, in the last winter, we were called out on two occasions. During the torrential rains just before Christmas, SEHT volunteers managed the distribution of sandbags needed to protect homes in several areas (the Lindridge stretch along the Marden Road, George Street and in Fishers Road) from local flooding. On the Saturday night of Storm Ciara (10th Feb), we were alerted to an electricity failure which had persisted for several hours in an area known to accommodate a number of 'frail' residents. Volunteers knocked on doors in the area affected, to check that all was well.

Since the start of the Coronavirus outbreak, SEHT volunteers have been central to the Parish Council's initiative to support residents, particularly those with mobility problems, who need help during this crisis. SEHT risk-assesses volunteers' activities to comply with requirements of the Parish Council's insurance policy. While SEHT training exercises have been suspended for the duration, if anyone is interested in helping our community if-and-when the need arises, we can be contacted through the Parish Office. All are welcome.

Andrew Watson, Chairman, Staplehurst Emergency Help Team

Staplehurst Neighbourhood Plan Review Group

The Staplehurst Neighbourhood Plan Review Group's membership includes both local residents and parish councillors. It meets with continued commitment on a monthly basis, highlighting the importance of all planning applications being judged within the context of the

Parish Activities

Neighbourhood Plan and how this relates to the current MBC Local Plan.

The group feels very strongly the Neighbourhood Plan has played an important role in planning applications but needs to be updated. Amendments are being made but any major changes may result in a further referendum. Following the public meeting organised by Staplehurst Parish Council in February 2020, infrastructure and environmental issues affecting Staplehurst were stressed as important when any further development within the recent call for sites by MBC were being considered. However, any review cannot be taken in isolation and the effect on our environment of developments in our neighbouring parishes, both within our own borough and beyond, also needs to be considered.

The Neighbourhood Plan is a living document for the future.

Margaret Arger, Chairman, Staplehurst Neighbourhood Plan Review Group

Staplehurst Youth Club

Another year has passed and still many of our 'older' members have continued to return to the club following the short summer break. Although the numbers are slightly down on last year, we still have around 30 members on the register. I feel this is still a good reflection on the need to continue to provide a space for these young people to use.

During the summer we started to refurbish both the ladies' and gents' toilet facilities. We now have new countertop sink units, built specially for us, with new sinks & taps. Tiling and painting are planned next! We had the fortunate opportunity to be awarded a grant from the Community Events Group, which was spent immediately on the pool table. Refurbished with new edge cushions and a stunning new blue baize cloth table cover, it looks fantastic and I understand the Men's Shed undertook the maiden game! A donation from the proceeds of the Staplehurst Calendar (by Ken Collins) was gratefully received, but we have yet to decide on what equipment/activity this will be used for. The club, like many groups and organisations, came to an abrupt halt at the end of March. We are working on the best way to reopen, given the current circumstances, for our young members to return. We again thank Staplehurst Parish Council for their continuing support of this facility.

Paul Kelly, Chairman, Staplehurst Youth Group

125th Anniversary Exhibition

Staplehurst was one of the very first Parish Councils to exist in England. The Local Government Act came into force in December 1894 and Staplehurst called a Parish Meeting on 4th December. 34 residents were nominated for the nine positions as the first Parish Councillors.

To mark the occasion a small group invited all village organisations to join together to form an exhibition in the old Board School where Parish Councillors have met for all of these years. 32 groups rose to the challenge and on a Saturday in October, filled the building with displays of their history and present-day activities.

The centrepiece of the exhibition was the Parish Council stall on which were proudly displayed the four earliest Minute Books on loan from the Kent County Archives Centre in Maidstone. Our Maidstone Mayor and member of Parliament were numbered amongst the hundreds of visitors who were invited to make comments.

"Thank you. I found the display so interesting. My family has lived in Staplehurst for 40 years and the amount of building does upset us. We worry about Staplehurst losing its identity as a village. This type of information linking us with the past is necessary and life-enriching for us. We are also passionate about history – local and otherwise."

Thank you to everyone who joined to mark this remarkable achievement.

Cllr. Joan Buller

Parish Councillors & Local Contacts at 31st March 2020

Parish Council Chairman – Paddy Riordan

Colin Bowden	Helen Miller
Joan Buller	John Perry (Vice-Chairman)
José Castro	Zara Rawlinson
Mick Chapman	Adele Sharp
Sue Forward	Peter Spearink
David George	Natasha Thomas
Sam Lain-Rose	Catherine Walsh (since resigned)

More information about Parish Councillors is available on the Parish Council's website at www.staplehurst-pc.uk/community/staplehurst-parish-council-13607/parish-councillors/

Parish Clerk MICK WESTWOOD* 01580 891761
Email: clerk@staplehurst-pc.uk

Deputy Clerk and Finance Officer DEBORAH JENKINS 01580 891761
Email: deputyclerk@staplehurst-pc.uk

Parish Support Officer JEAN TERRY 01580 891761
Email: admin@staplehurst-pc.uk

Parish Caretaker PAUL NYAHWA (contact via Parish Office) 01580 891761

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

KCC Community Warden MIRA MARTIN 07969 584179
E-mail: mira.martin@kent.gov.uk

Member of Parliament HELEN GRANT 0207 219 7107
Email: helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk

Kent County Councillor ERIC HOTSON 01580 892312
Email: eric.hotson@kent.gov.uk

Maidstone Borough Councillor JOHN PERRY 07770 734741
Email: johnperry@maidstone.gov.uk

Maidstone Borough Councillor LOUISE BRICE 07817 362860
Email: lousebrice@maidstone.gov.uk

Parish Office, Staplehurst Village Centre. High Street, Staplehurst TN12 0BJ
www.staplehurst-pc.uk | www.facebook.com/StaplehurstPC/

* From 01/06/20: NICOLA IDESON

Staplehurst Parish Office is open to the public 0900-1300
Monday to Thursday. Closed Fridays.

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.staplehurst-pc.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 and Borough Councillors hold Saturday morning surgeries at
Staplehurst Library for local residents to discuss issues. Full details of dates
and times appear on the village website at **www.staplehurst-pc.uk**

Photographs of The Parade (front cover and page 15)
Many thanks to Maggie Martin & Paddy Riordan

Published by: Staplehurst Parish Council
Editor: Parish Clerk Mick Westwood

Printed by Paxman Printing Service
Email: info@paxmanprinting.co.uk Website: www.paxmanprinting.co.uk

Typeset by Origination-Studio
Email: create@origination.studio Website: www.origination.studio