

Stansted network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

NOT TOO LATE TO RETURN YOUR PARISH PLAN QUESTIONNAIRE

Although the return date of 20 July will have passed, the Council is still keen to receive as many replies as possible. So if you have forgotten or put it in your 'to do later' file, please dig it out, complete as much as you wish and post it back (or deliver it in person) within the next few days.

Your knowledge, your views and your ideas are important in helping to develop and sustain a thriving community here. The information you provide will help in determining priorities and will provide ammunition with which to argue our case for resources with other authorities and agencies. If you did not receive a questionnaire or would like additional copies, please telephone 813214 or email parishcouncil@stansted.net.

We are particularly keen for our local youngsters (11-18 year-olds) to give us their views. They should have been told about the Youth Questionnaire through their schools, but it is available on-line at www.surveymk.com/stanstedyouthsurvey2009. Please encourage them to spend about ten minutes filling it in – they are our future and their opinions are important.

PLEASE RETURN YOUR QUESTIONNAIRES NOW

We would like to express our thanks to the Youth Centre, who stuffed a very large number of envelopes, and to the Scouts who helped to deliver the questionnaires. In addition, some parishioners volunteered to help with delivery and this was very much appreciated – you know who you are!

ACTION ON THE WILLOW TREE AT THE FOUNTAIN

The Parish Council has been advised by a professional tree surgeon that the willow tree at the fountain is in need of action sooner rather than later. At the least one of the limbs needs to

be removed and this will require a road closure whilst the work is undertaken.

It has also been made clear to us that the tree is nearing the end of its life. Before taking any decision it is intended to obtain further advice from the specialists at Essex County Council. In addition County Highways is being pressed to indicate whether there are any plans which may have an impact on this junction and thus on the fountain.

As information is received you will be kept informed but first and foremost safety for pedestrians and drivers will determine any decisions.

DESIGNING A NEW PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

Under the chairmanship of Cllr Tudor Owen, a small working group has been set up to consider what needs to be covered on the Parish Council website. John Papazoglou, Head of IT at the Mountfitchet Mathematics & Computing College, is helping to build the website and the Council is very appreciative of the time being given.

If you have ideas on what should be included on the website or what you would like to see, please email Tudor on tudor@tudorowen.com.

NEWS FROM THE YOUTH CENTRE

The 6-week school holidays are nearly here and the good news is that thanks to Stansted Parish Council supporting us with part funding we are going to be able to offer youth provision during the summer break!

We are taking 20 12-14 year olds on an activity holiday to South Wales for a week and the older members are participating in the first leg of an exchange project to Belfast, Northern Ireland for another week with the Belfast young people returning to Stansted in April 2010. The youth centre will then be open as usual for the remaining 3 weeks, starting from Wednesday 19th August.

The Duke of Edinburgh project which operates on a Tuesday evening from 6-8pm at the centre is developing well in partnership with the Mountfitchet Maths and Computing College. Membership now stands at 35 and expedition training is due to begin in September after the summer break. We are concentrating on the Bronze Award at present and wish to encourage any young person aged 14+ that is interested to get in touch with either myself, Linda Barnes on 07920466923 or Matt Papa the DofE leader on 07920286294. Financial help is available to assist any young person who wishes to participate in the DofE scheme.

The "Garden Project" is again blooming nicely with the young people purchasing more plants for their garden with money that they have raised. Over the winter they worked on producing 2 beautiful pieces of mosaic art work which will be put into the garden to add even more colour. A new BarBQ is about to be purchased so the young people can make the most of the summer weather and enjoy the outdoors and some healthy food!

Linda Barnes – Youth Worker/Manager
Stansted and Dunmow Youth Centres
07/07/09

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH UPDATE

Neighbourhood Watch in Stansted is continuing to grow and we now have 90 co-ordinators who will eventually be able to keep information flowing around the village, keeping us alert to any problems in Stansted and the surrounding area.

Within this larger group of co-ordinators we are forming a smaller steering group consisting of one main person who will receive and then feed information to 6/7 other co-ordinators, who will in turn contact the people within their group. In this way we hope to keep every one informed of any problems.

We are also looking into the possibility of obtaining notice boards specifically for Neighbourhood Watch, where we can place any relevant information and in so doing reach more residents, not only those on email.

All of this work is very new and we know it will take time to come to fruition, but if you want to help and know more about Neighbourhood Watch, come to our next meeting which will be held on Wednesday 30th September 2009 at 7.30 pm in Stansted Free Church Lecture Hall which is located behind Stansted Free Church.

Limited parking is available at the rear of the Church.

Our two meetings following September 30th 2009 will be Wednesday 27th January, 2010 and Wednesday 26th May 2010.

Please put these dates in your diary.

Contact numbers: Cllr. Valerie Trundle (01279) 813433 and Diane Roberts (01279) 813089

CHANGING THE MIX OF PROPERTIES AT FOREST HALL PARK

We are pleased to see that development of the Foresthall Park site continues and there are now over 120 houses and flats occupied.

Croudace, the developers of the western end of the site, have been to talk to Stansted and Birchanger Parish Councils about altering the size of the houses they wish to build in their third phase. The basic layout of their site will remain unchanged in terms of open space and roads, but they would like to replace some of the four and five bed roomed houses with two and threes. They believe this is the type of property most in demand – and selling!

The overall result would be an increase of around 80-85 homes, of which 40% would be affordable housing. This Council raised concerns about increased number of vehicles, pressure on school places etc, but it must be remembered that the whole site can, under Government density rules, accommodate over 700 homes – currently planning has been granted for 600. Croudace intend to submit a full application to Uttlesford District Council in the Autumn.

WAITING RESTRICTIONS

We are currently awaiting details of a trial scheme for Lower Street/Grove Hill from County Highways. In the meantime, the working group has asked for two additional restrictions in the village. Firstly in Spencer Close on the left-hand side as you enter, we have requested an extension of the double yellow lines as refuse vehicles do encounter difficulties from parked cars. Secondly at Bentfield Causeway – on the right-hand side as you turn the corner from Bentfield Road, near the letter box – extension of the double yellow lines up to, but not including, the driveway to house number 2. Cars parking at that point cause a danger to those coming around the corner as the traffic coming down the Causeway has to pass on the wrong side of the road.

GARDENING AROUND THE VILLAGE

We have been very pleased with the Summer planting of the flower beds, troughs and tubs and hope you have all noticed the marigold “Stansted” at the Fountain!

Despite the mini heatwave, we have had to turn our thoughts to the winter planting. There is little that gives a good strong colour, but we have decided on F1 pansies in the tubs – yellow with a black eye. For the flower beds, a cordyline in the centre, with red heathers and underplanted with yellow violas. The troughs will have similar with trailing ivy and cineraria.

We are also looking at the possibility of changing the hanging baskets next year and three of us have been given different baskets to trial this year.

PCSO UPDATE

You are probably all aware by now that the Parish Council part-funds the cost of employing one of the Community Support Officers – Stuart Stranger. The report below will give you an idea of how Stuart spent his time over the course of a month:

- Attended a wide range of incidents ranging from nuisance vehicles at the Mountfitchet Green and concern for welfare to anti-social behaviour incidents at the Recreation Ground.
- Hi-visibility patrols, both on foot and cycle (Stuart’s preferred means of transport!) to engage with the local community.
- Calls on local residents and businesses who have reported incidents in the past to check that all is now well.
- Speed checks in the local area – 60 since the start of the year.
- Beat surgeries at the Police Station on some Saturdays.
- Regular visits to the skatepark
- Removal of alcohol from youths on the Recreation Ground.

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER CONTACT INFORMATION

| | |
|----------------|--------|
| Catherine Dean | 813579 |
| Gaye Ellington | 813933 |
| Jo Freeman | 812524 |
| Bridget Gott | 814440 |

| | |
|------------------|--------|
| John Hudson | 814489 |
| Peter Jones | 813252 |
| Janice Loughlin | 812346 |
| Tudor Owen | 812825 |
| Ruth Rawlinson** | 814222 |
| Jonathan Rich | 813112 |
| John Salmon | 814789 |
| Dan Scott | 815098 |
| Geoffrey Sell * | 815925 |
| Bill Stiles | 813172 |
| Valerie Trundle | 813433 |
| * Chairman | |
| ** Vice Chairman | |

DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

August - No Meetings

Members of the public are welcome to attend all Parish Council meetings, and may address the Council on any relevant issue at the start of Full Council meetings. These comments are noted but no discussion is entered into. Meetings are held in Crafton Green House at 7.45pm unless otherwise stated on the agenda. Agendas are posted on the Parish Council’s website www.stansted.net under Publications.

NEWS FROM UTTLESFORD D.C.

From Cllr Alan Dean

By the time this Link drops through letter boxes reports should have been published about suitable locations for future housing in the district. They are expected to show that there are sufficient development sites on offer in larger towns and villages adequately to accommodate planned housing growth to at least 2021 without the need to start a new town at Elsenham or anywhere else. Even if Uttlesford Council wanted to continue to promote a new town, it is likely that studies will show that Elsenham is not the best available location. Once this information is made public there will be a further round of public consultation.

A footpath was opened up to Church Road from Foresthall Park as promised by the developer. However, it comes straight out onto the road at a point where there is no pavement or dropped kerb. I have asked for this issue and plans for a new bridleway that would run along pavements in the Walson Way residential area to be reviewed as they don’t seem satisfactory.

The multi-use games area on the green at Mountfitchet Estate is now in use and will have

been formally opened in the middle of July. It looks a very good and valuable facility for the young people of Stansted. Stansted Youth 2000 worked with parish, district and county councils to get the court built. £1,000 was raised at the Kings Arms pub, making it a real community facility.

Plans on how to deal with traffic congestion at the Grove Hill traffic lights were due from the county council in July so I hope to be able to write more about that bottleneck in the next Link.

Tel: 01279 813579/ 07710 105824
Email: cllrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk

From Cllr Geoffrey Sell

Long Term Empty Homes

There are a small number of 'problematic' long-term empty residential properties around the District. In some cases they have been empty for many years and are a blight on surrounding properties. I have been particularly concerned about this issue because I have one such property in my ward. Over several years repeated approaches by the Council to the owners of these properties to bring them back into use have been made. They have been unsuccessful.

Clearly the voluntary approach was not working, so I was pleased with the decision of the Community and Housing Committee to seek Empty Dwelling Management Orders. The powers given by these orders, would allow the Council if successfully approved by the Residential Property Tribunal to take over the management of the property for a period of up to 7 years and rent the property to a family on the housing waiting list and recover our cost from the rental income. A proposal will be made to the next meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee to set up a pump priming capital fund of £50,000 to enable the renovation of long-term empty dwellings following the service of Empty Dwelling Management Orders. Arguably this will not be enough but at least it is a start. The fact that the Council is applying for possession of these orders may make the owners of these long term empty properties take action and end the blight they cause upon their neighbours.

Uttlesford Health Profile 2009

Councillors were recently sent the health profile of the district. This is produced annually by the Association of Public Health Observatories and

funded by the Department of Health. These are some of their findings.

- The health of people in Uttlesford is generally better than the England average. For example, hospital stays for alcohol related harm and drug mis-use are all better than the national average.
- Road injuries and deaths are worse than the England average.
- Over the past ten years rates of deaths from all causes, early deaths from cancer and early deaths from heart disease and stroke have improved for men and women, and are significantly better than the England average.
- Children in Uttlesford are more active at school than the England average, and 1 in 15 children Reception is obese. Low teenage pregnancy and high GCSE achievement are also better than the England average.

Generally good news, our new Health Centre when it comes, we hope in the not too distant future, will make a significant contribution to raising health standards. In recognition of the importance of the health service the Council is exploring along with Epping Forest and Harlow Councils the possibility of setting up a joint West Essex Primary Trust scrutiny committee

CONTACT US!

Clerk – Ruth Clifford
Admin Assistant – Anne Court
Phone/Fax: 01279 813214 – 10am – 1pm
E-mail: parishcouncil@stansted.net

OTHER CONTACTS

Uttlesford District Council Members

Alan Dean Tel: 01279 813579
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Essex County Council Member

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Member of Parliament

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