



**Staplehurst Parish Council**

**Annual Report 2014 - 2015**

## **Chairman's Annual Report 2014-2015**

I had the honour of becoming Chairman of Staplehurst Parish Council in September 2014. I followed on from Councillor John Perry, who was elected as a Borough Councillor in the May elections. He was soon made a Member of Cabinet at MBC, with responsibility for Community and Leisure Services. Luckily for us, he decided to stay on as a Parish Councillor and this has proved very helpful to the Parish Council for various reasons, of which more below. My personal thanks go to John for his long tenure as Chairman and for all of his help and advice.

For many years the Parish Council has had an informal policy of proactively investing in services for the Village. Although this has in the past required some increases in the precept (the money SPC is allowed to add to the Council tax to pay for its expenditure) I am pleased to say that this year's budget has seen no increase in the precept for the Parish.

Even so, Staplehurst's place in the list of the 41 parishes of Maidstone Borough is still about midway from top to bottom in size of precept. Yet what does this money buy our residents? We provide a number of services you may not have thought of. These include security cameras strategically placed at various points around the village, which have helped to keep the crime rate low.

The cameras can be moved from place to place as required. The police have made considerable use of them and have told the Council on several occasions that they have either deterred the commission of crimes or have helped in apprehending the culprits afterwards.

We have invested in street cleaning, over and above that provided by MBC. As a result we have a much cleaner environment than many other places, which is not to say that much more cannot be done. For example, we are still concerned with the Parade, which is privately owned and therefore difficult for the Council to influence. In addition to street sweeping, we have the annual Village Clean-Up, most recently on the 21st March. It was a huge success, producing over 80 bags of rubbish. Thanks to Councillors Buller and Burnham for organising and managing the affair. SPC manages the Bell Lane toilets which are in a better condition now than when the Council took over responsibility from MBC, which wished to close them to save money. The Parish Council also provides funds and premises for the

## Chairman's Annual Report 2014-2015

Youth Club so that some of our young people have something to do each week. Thanks to Councillors Butcher and Kelly for organising that.

A lesser known service provided by the Council is the annual Playscheme project at the Kathie Lamb Guide Centre on Jubilee Field. During August the Council subsidises places for children to help parents during the summer holidays. This takes money, but also a lot of organisation effort by Councillors Buller (again!), Burnham and Kemp.

The last service I would like to mention is the availability of the Jubilee Field itself. The Council subcontracts the running of the football fields to user groups, but ultimately the Council underwrites the running costs and is the legal owner of the field. I know that there are many who are pleased to use the facilities available there and that is what the Council is here to promote. There are a number of other services for which the Council is responsible, but I will not go into all of them here.

A new project for the Council is the Oliver Road Open Space. Developers are building an estate at the south of Oliver Road and as part of the package are in negotiations with the Council to give a parcel of wilderness land to the Council for the Parish. They have already put considerable resources into managing the plot and the Council looks forward to taking it over in good condition. It is very exciting to have a new parcel of open land and I look forward to villagers enjoying it for the foreseeable future.

Not all of the issues that happen in the Parish are in the hands of the Council and yet may be of great importance to those of us who live here. The main issue facing Staplehurst in the next 10 to 20 years is a large increase in housing due to Central Government policy and the interpretation of it by MBC. You will have heard through the Neighbourhood Plan events and otherwise of MBC's original plan to allow for the building of 905 new houses here.

On top of that their planning officers recently suggested adding another 220. This went to MBC's Planning and Scrutiny Committee and then to the Cabinet. Due in no small part to the efforts of Parish Councillors and others, and especially the tireless work of Councillor Perry, first the extra 220 were thrown out and then the earlier 905 was reduced to about 650

## Chairman's Annual Report 2014-2015

houses. Councillors sat through well over 30 hours of MBC meetings to put the Parish's points over.

No one is saying that Staplehurst must not grow, but planners must be sensible in their aims. In particular, the infrastructure problem of the piecemeal developments of the past has at last been recognised and MBC has agreed that the sewerage and clean water problems must be settled before future development occurs.

Our thanks go to many individuals for their work in the past year: to our MP, Helen Grant, especially her interest in the sewerage and bus problems; to our Borough Councillors, John Perry and Paulina Watson, for their able representation of Staplehurst. I must mention too, PCSO Pete Gardner and Community Warden Mira Martin for their work here. Thanks to all councillors, whether named or not, who have all contributed well above merely 'turning up' to council meetings. (Thanks to our Council audiences too; you keep us honest!)

Lastly thanks to Chairman John Kelly and the Rural Settlement Group for piloting the Neighbourhood Plan towards Regulation 16 for Borough-wide consultation before it goes to the inspector for a final sanity check and then a Parish referendum.

*Rory Silkin*

# Income & Expenditure Account

## For the year ended 31st March 2015

	2014/2015
<b>INCOME</b>	
Parish Precept	121,720.00
MBC Parish Services Grant	7,060.00
LCT Government Support Grant	6,846.00
Other Income <small>(MBC; Public Toilets Grant £2.5k, Bell Lane Car Park Lights £75, Playscheme £750, Staplehurst Society Planters £485.50, VC Bin donation £291.22, KCC Grants £2,127, Community Dev. Grant £700, Insurance claim £686, Other £313.15)</small>	7,927.87
Interest on investments	63.81
Christmas Lights Project donations	275.00
Village Centre Contingency	67.16
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<u>143,959.84</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
General Administration <small>(Staff, Parish Office, utilities, equipment, insurance, subscriptions, training, meeting &amp; travel expenses, publicity &amp; website costs.)</small>	61,954.17
Capital Projects / Spent from Winter Warmer reserve	715.80
Donations	1,690.00
Street lighting, furniture, repairs, planters & caretaker	5,496.46
Playscheme	2,494.48
Jubilee Sports Field & Skatepark Maintenance	3,224.50
Youth Club <small>(Maintenance of site, KCC Lease/Purchase &amp; Youth Leader)</small>	5,400.00
Surrenden Playing Field & Trees	9,741.21
Churchyard maintenance	8,143.37
Christmas Light Project	1,629.26
Rural Settlement Group - Neighbourhood Plan	12,439.86
Public Convenience maintenance & improvements	7,360.43
Street Sweeping Staplehurst	8,820.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<u>129,109.54</u>
Balance of Income/Expenditure	14,850.30
Balance brought forward from previous year	<u>106,776.28</u>
	<u>121,626.58</u>

*The above Income & Expenditure Account, the following Balance Sheet and Supporting Statement (at the time of printing) are subject to Council approval, 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 has been given for electors to inspect the accounts between 8th May 2015 and 5th June 2015, in accordance with the Audit Commission Act 1998 and the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011.*

# Balance Sheet

## as at 31st March 2015

### LONG TERM ASSETS

None (see supporting statement below) 0.00

### CURRENT ASSETS

VAT Recoverable	1,275.50	
Cash In Hand	120,351.08	
		121,626.58

### CURRENT LIABILITIES

Accruals	(0.00)	
Creditors	(0.00)	
		(0.00)
		121,626.58

### REPRESENTED BY:-

GENERAL FUND 35,000.00

#### Ongoing Project Budgets:

Allotment land purchase fund	10,000.00	
Surrenden Playing Field drainage	17,000.00	
Balance c/fwd for future budget	46,215.18	
		73,215.18

### RESERVES

Village Centre Contingency	12,227.20	
Kent Community Rural Alcohol Project	900.00	
Rural Warden Winter Project	284.20	
		13,411.40
		121,626.58

### 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 31.03.2015 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	9,000

### BUILDINGS

Jubilee Pavilion (insured replacement value)	597,376.09
Surrenden Pavilion (insured replacement value)	8,544.87
Bell Lane Toilets (leasehold insured replacement value)	81,592.83

### OTHER ASSETS

As listed on the Asset Register 31.03.2015 held at The Parish Office	187,452.00
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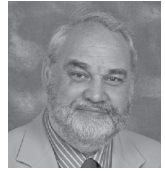
### LEASES - As at 31st March 2015 the following Leases were in operation:-

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

## **Rory Silkin – *Chairman***

I have chaired the Parish Council since September 2014. As such I have served on the Planning Committee and have represented Staplehurst's views at Borough Council meetings. I have served on the Finance and Strategy & Policy Groups and the Staplehurst Emergency Planning Team as Chairman. I represented the Council on the Maidstone area of KALC, the PPG and as Chairman of the Friends of the Health Centre.



## **John Perry – *Chairman until September 2014***

I was elected to MBC last May and shortly afterwards was appointed to the Cabinet with responsibility for Community and Leisure Services. In this role I have overseen the drafting of a new Parish Charter that sets out the framework for the working relationship between the parishes and MBC. I have also argued successfully for the reduction in housing numbers allocated to Staplehurst in MBC's draft Local Plan. I resigned as Chairman of Staplehurst Parish Council in order to avoid any possible conflicts of interest, but remain a member of the Finance Group.



## **Tom Burnham – *Vice Chairman***

I have continued to be particularly involved with the Publicity and Website Group and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and I also helped to organise the Village Clean-Up in March. As Cllr Butcher has been unable to attend many meetings during the year I have chaired most of the meetings of the Planning Committee. I am looking forward to improvements at Surrenden Field over the next year or so.



## **Paul Kelly – *Vice Chairman***

My time as a Pariah Councillor has spanned many years and I look forward to my 5th term in office. I sit on the majority of Sub Committees covering Finance, Planning, Strategy & Policy, Churchyard and Village Enhancement Group. I represent Staplehurst Parish Council at the Kent Association of Local Councils in Maidstone and also sit as a Trustee on the local Youth Club. As always, I continue to be dedicated to Staplehurst and its residents.



## **Paul Butcher – *Planning Committee Chairman***

Unfortunately, illness has limited my council work this year, but I have kept in constant touch with all that is happening and attend meetings when I am able. I am Chairman of the Planning Committee and my thanks go to Councillor Burnham for leading this in my absence. I am a member of the Finance, Village Centre, Churchyard and Police Liaison groups and Chairman of the Youth Club.



## Parish Councillors



### Margaret Ashby

Planning loomed large again this year and a lot of time was spent dealing with developments both large and small. I also attended an MBC meeting to discuss traveller sites; a continuing rural problem. As member of the planning committee I endeavour to visit all proposed applications. My other interest is the Publicity and Web committee. This year we have added a Facebook site so why not “friend” us next time you log on.

### Joan Buller

My main challenge has been helping develop our Neighbourhood Plan to achieve the best for our community. I continue to play a key role on the Planning Committee, edit the Updates and Annual Report and organise their distribution. With Councillor Burnham I organised the Annual Clean-Up. I am also active in the Speedwatch and Playscheme groups. I have now served 32 years on the council; Staplehurst is very special to me.



### Anne Gosling

My focus has been on two key areas: Staplehurst School and the Neighbourhood Plan. I take a keen interest in the School, attending various events and helping with the children's reading. I am proud of the children's academic and sports achievements and their participation in the life of the village outside school. I continued to support the development of the Neighbourhood Plan and look forward to its finalisation.

### Simon Green

Most of my time in my final year as a councillor has been spent on planning issues as there is such a lot of activity in the parish. This includes reviewing applications, large and small, and attending meetings with some developers. Work on our Neighbourhood Plan has been very demanding, but I think it will be an invaluable support to the parish over future years, despite many difficulties.



### Neal Kemp

2014 has been a busy year for the council, especially with the Neighbourhood Plan getting closer to fruition. I have an active interest in how this develops with concern as to it happening in a controlled, progressive manner that benefits the village. 2015-16 will be especially important for our future. I am an active member of the Planning committee, the R.S.G., the summer playscheme, and on matters relating to the Beult and any flooding issues.

# Parish Councillors

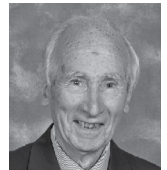


## Sam Lain-Rose

Due to taking up a new job within the village, I have not been able to attend some of Parish Council meetings. However, within the past year I have been part of the Village Centre committee, as well as being involved with the Youth Club. I have been an active member of the Finance and Strategy & Policy groups and am always passionate about improving our village amenities!

## Barrett Manning

I serve on the Local Transport Accessibility Forum with particular interest in improving the No.5 bus service. I continue to search for land to set up a community allotment. I represent the Council on the Carnival & Fete Committee and on the Knoxbridge Residents' group to reduce the traffic speed on the A229. I am a member of the Surrenden Playing Field Group, Staplehurst Library Users' Group and a volunteer on the Staplehurst Primary school garden club.



## John Reardon

I continue to work a 24/7 shift pattern which means I cannot attend all Monday night Parish Council meetings. However, I am still able to spend many more weekdays in the village. The last 12 months has been a busy time managing the Parish website and the new Parish Facebook page. Additionally I am part of a small group of councillors managing Surrenden Field. Plans are being drawn up to make some great improvements here.

## Adele Sharp

As a councillor I want to see Staplehurst flourish with proper amenities, without overdevelopment. It is important to ensure that our community's best interests are kept in mind when facing the future whether it be public toilets, education or housing plans. I am on the RSG, the Surrenden Field group and on the Village Centre Committee.



## Peter Spearink

I have maintained my 100% attendance record at Parish Council meetings. I have worked to improve the reliability of the No5 bus through the Local Transport Forum, especially the school buses. I have arranged several visits by the Mayor and members of MBC cabinet to local businesses. With another councillor I have also been working with the EA on potential flood defence work on the River Beult. I am on Facebook.



# Parish Clerk's Annual Report 2014-2015

"You're not at work now" ... it's been said to me a few times. Being Parish Clerk changes the way one looks at things when out and about: I see a street light on and it's barely mid-day – has it been reported to the county highways team? Did I notice such things quite so readily before I joined the Parish Office?

I often use the term 'spinning plates' to describe what the Parish Office does. Some plates are large, some are small and we try not to break too many of them. There is a regular cycle of fortnightly meetings to prepare for and to follow up, long running projects like the Staplehurst Neighbourhood Plan, continuing maintenance of Parish facilities and provision of Parish services, plus a range of different issues and questions to be handled. There is also the unexpected, such as being pictured with our Chairman in a Kent Messenger article about President Abraham Lincoln.

The draft Maidstone Borough Local Plan and Staplehurst Neighbourhood Plan featured prominently last year. As part of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group it was great to work closely with other members of the group (councillors and non-councillors) to develop ideas for the long-term future of Staplehurst. Developers were looking with great interest at Staplehurst, as evidenced by the number of submissions made in response to the borough council's call for sites. It became clear that infrastructure was critical when considering future development and I had interesting dealings with parties such as Kent Highways, Network Rail, Southern Water and South East Water. These organisations shared their knowledge and expertise, which in turn helped inform our views about key issues.

Comfortable shoes are essential for a Parish Clerk. I do escape from behind the office desk and you may have seen me in the village putting posters on noticeboards, walking over Surrenden Field to put hazard tape around a suspect tree or stepping out to Jubilee Field to check the skate park. The Parish Council is proud of its playing fields and invests not inconsiderable time and money in maintaining them. As I write these words our contractors are repairing and repainting the skate park ramps – many thanks to County Councillor Hotson for his financial support of this project.

The Parish Office is not only the Parish Clerk – Staplehurst is more than a one-man job! Our caretaker Les keeps an eye on our playing fields, checks equipment and clears up litter – too much of the latter, so please do what you can to help him and take your rubbish home! Sue looks after the parish finances, Deborah takes care of planning and they both keep me on the right track in everything else. I thank them for all their help this year.

As we approached the end of 2014-15 the Parish Office's thoughts turned to the May election and how we might encourage interest in serving on the Parish Council. There is no mystique to the role – common sense and a willingness to get involved go a long way. It occurred to us that time was perhaps one of the biggest challenges (keep spinning those plates!) and so it is perhaps appropriate that I close these comments with an acknowledgement to all those volunteers, councillors and non-councillors alike, who by giving their time made a difference to Staplehurst this year. Too many to mention by name, you know who you are and I thank you!

**Mick Westwood**  
*Parish Clerk*

# Parish Activities

## ***Planning Committee***

The Planning Committee met 24 times between 1st April 2014 and 31st March 2015. Its role is to advise MBC 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.

During the year the Committee considered 57 applications for full or outline planning permission (68 in 2013-14). It reconsidered 17 where additional or amended information had been submitted (11 in 2013-14). There were 4 applications related to tree work (6 in 2013-14), 6 for listed building or conservation area consent (4 in 2013-14), 5 applications for “certificates of lawful development” (5 in 2013-14), and 2 consultations over diverting public footpaths (none in 2013-14). There were no requests for “screening opinions” on whether large developments needed a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement (4 in 2013-14), but we noted 10 cases of “prior notification”. Most of these resulted from a change in the national planning rules in 2014, such that the conversion of redundant agricultural buildings for residential use does not need planning permission in many cases. The Parish Council is not formally consulted in these cases, but we do comment on some of them anyway.

The developments considered by the Committee included proposals for housing on the Homeleigh site in Station Road, further alterations to the photovoltaic generation array at Great Pagehurst Farm, proposed housing in George Street and an outline application for the Hen and Duckhurst Farm site in Marden Road.

## ***Staplehurst Neighbourhood Plan and the impact of the MBC Local Plan***

The Parish Council and Rural Settlement Group continued working on the development of the Neighbourhood Plan, assisted by Planning Consultants FERIA Urbanism, ably led by Richard Eastham.

Public consultation events were held in 2014. A six-week formal Regulation 14 consultation took place enabling everyone in the community to comment. Relevant feedback from the consultation and subsequent MBC feedback was taken into account for the Regulation 16 draft which is currently being finalised. This will go to a Borough-wide consultation in due course.

Copies of the current draft Neighbourhood Plan and relevant documentation can be seen on the FERIA Urbanism website at: [www.feria-urbanism.eu/staplehurst-downloads/4584816379](http://www.feria-urbanism.eu/staplehurst-downloads/4584816379)

The emerging draft of the Neighbourhood Plan will inform the Borough-wide Local Plan. However the early energy and timely progress in 2014 was somewhat thwarted by a further land call issued by MBC who struggled to achieve their ever changing housing targets. The situation was further exacerbated when land sites, rejected in the first land call, came back into play as well as brand

## Parish Activities

new sites that could have added 200 plus homes to the Staplehurst target. MBC eventually ruled out these additional sites (for the moment) and the current draft Local Plan indicates a total figure of 650 houses for Staplehurst at the two allocated sites - Hen and Duckhurst Farm (250) and Fishers Farm (400). These numbers, although reduced from the original MBC target, will impact on our Neighbourhood Plan.

It is very important that Staplehurst residents have a say in housing, community facilities, infrastructure requirements, transport, education and economy whilst identifying where future funding should be utilised. The Neighbourhood Plan is your plan, so do continue to have your say in the future of Staplehurst.

### ***Churchyard***

The Churchyard is a village facility run by a volunteer group from the Parish Church. The Parish Council provides financial backing for maintenance; in particular the husbandry of the trees and grassed areas. The Rector and the Council signed a new contract defining the various responsibilities this year.

### ***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 and undertakes other reviews to ensure best practice and careful control of public money. Regular reports are received from the Internal Auditor. A review of internal audit function and its effectiveness takes place annually. Over recent years we have undertaken a number of activities with the aim of improving services to our residents, but at the same time we have always been careful to ensure our finances remain sound. This prudent approach means there will be no increase in the precept for 2015/16. The Finance Group has no specific powers; it makes recommendations for the full Council to consider and to approve.

### ***Jubilee Field***

The Parish Council owns and maintains Jubilee Field. The Council is responsible for the annual repainting of the skate park, cutting back the hedges and when necessary the trees. There are football pitches, a modern sports pavilion and the Brownie & Guide Centre. Staplehurst Parish Council is represented on the Jubilee Field Management Group which manages these facilities. In recent years we have made a number of improvements including better lighting, upgrading the CCTV and improving the drainage; although the latter does need monitoring given the bad winters that we have experienced. The Parish Council recognises the importance of this facility for the enjoyment of the community as a whole.

## Parish Activities

### ***Oliver Road Open Space***

The developers of the estate to the south of Oliver Road, Taylor Wimpey, have agreed to give the Council a sizeable parcel of land to the west of the estate. This the Council can keep as amenity land for all of Staplehurst residents to enjoy in the future. They have prepared the site by clearing debris and removing dead trees etc. and laying out some paths. Arrangements are being finalised, but this should be in place this year. Rarely is space made available for village use so this gift is to be applauded. Many thanks go to Taylor Wimpey.

### ***Parish Services***

As a Parish Council we provide a number of local services. We have our own street sweeping service. The more regular cleaning, particularly in the autumn, has kept leaf blockage of drains and subsequent flooding to a minimum. We employ a village caretaker who regularly checks and litter picks all the play areas, Jubilee Field and public areas around the library. He also helps with vegetation control of the Council owned areas. The Annual Village Clean-Up is organised and run by council members. We own and maintain the notice boards at bus stops and the Parade and have been responsible for the bus shelters and their maintenance. We maintain and refill a number of salt bins. Last, but not least, the large planters have all been supplied by us. If you would like more information regarding any of these items see the “Parish Services” section on our website.

### ***Playscheme***

Play Place has again worked with the Parish Council to deliver our summer playscheme. We are very grateful to the Guides for the use of their excellent facilities at the Jubilee Field. The children enjoyed a wide range of activities including a “Play Day” trip to Addington Park. MBC gave us a small grant towards our scheme.

### ***Publicity and Website***

The Pub & Web group is charged with writing and producing three Village Updates and one Annual Report for the Parish. These publications are delivered to every household in the Parish, mostly by a small, determined group of volunteers. With more and more people embracing the internet there is an ever growing amount of hits on the Parish website which has to be updated and maintained. The introduction of the Parish Facebook page demands time and effort behind the scenes. We hope the information provided via these methods is of use and we aim to continue.

## Parish Activities

### ***Rural Settlement Group***

The Rural Settlement Group is a mixed bag of volunteers made up of residents and parish councillors. The RSG has played an integral part in the ongoing development of the Neighbourhood Plan and has closely monitored MBC's draft Local Plan with its ever-changing housing targets. For further details see: [www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/future\\_of\\_staplehurst.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/future_of_staplehurst.aspx)

### ***Speed Watch***

The Speed Watch team has continued to monitor the speed of traffic through our village, reminding drivers of the importance of keeping to the speed limit. Many new volunteers have been trained this year, including younger people, so this is a great encouragement to the team.

### ***Staplehurst Emergency Help Team***

The Emergency Help Team has had a good year. We have been called upon to investigate a couple of situations by Maidstone Emergency Services, which fortunately were not critical. We also held several meetings including a desk-top exercise to keep our skills up. Rory Silkin retired as Chairman at the AGM in March 2015. He is ably replaced by Andrew Watson, who also serves as an SEHT Flood Warden.

### ***Surrenden Field***

Surrenden Field continues to be a very popular amenity in the Parish. Tree maintenance is ongoing. We had to fell a dangerous oak tree on the north west corner, plus undertake hard pruning on other mature trees, after a survey highlighted a possible health issue. Drainage continues to be an issue. We have agreed some work, to be completed soon. A small group of councillors is actively discussing some options for the field. This could include a hard standing path and toddler friendly dog free area. Sadly dog mess is continuing to be a nuisance. Whilst we understand a large percentage of dog owners clean up, some do not. MBC is monitoring the area and fines can be issued.

### ***Transport Forum***

Following meetings with Helen Grant MP, Arriva have accepted that changes to improve safety and care of students are paramount. A dedicated bus now operates out of Cornwallis Academy. A fresh protocol will train drivers how to handle breakdown situations, along with the care and safety of students. Weaknesses still to be resolved include failures to keep to the timetable and not stopping for passengers at some stops.

### ***Youth Club***

The Parish Council continue to fund our Youth Leader, Mike King, for the Tuesday evening Youth Club. This is a valuable asset for our young people; we thank Mike and his team of volunteers for all their hard work.

## Parish Council Members & Contacts at 31st March 2015

This report covers the Parish Council year 2014-2015. Information about representatives serving at the time of this report's issue is available on the Parish Council website at [www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/parish\\_council.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/parish_council.aspx) or from the Parish Office.

Parish Council Chairman – **Rory Silkin**  
 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-Rose  
 Barrett Manning  
 John Perry  
 John Reardon  
 Adele Sharp  
 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 ..... 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 PAULINA WATSON ..... 01580 891986  
*Email: paulinawatson@maidstone.gov.uk*

Parish Office, Staplehurst Village Centre. High Street, Staplehurst TN12 0BJ  
[www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk](http://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](http://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](http://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 in  
the calendar on the village website at **[www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk)**.

Front cover photographs show Neighbourhood Plan in action  
Many thanks to Feria Urbanism

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