

Village Update

AUTUMN 2020

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MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL – CALL FOR SITES

In February this year, the Parish Council gave a detailed presentation to residents about the Call for Sites. There were 31 sites offered for development in Staplehurst.

Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) published its original findings some weeks ago, designating the sites as:

GREEN – site has met certain criteria and so is under further consideration; or
RED – not being considered at this time.

For detailed comments on each site please go to the Staplehurst Parish Council website under **Local Plan Review**. Scroll down for **Staplehurst Green Sites** pdf; or you can scan this QR Code:



GREEN

037 056 060 064 **066** **114** 134 137
186 197 198 215 222 229 244 307

RED

007 027 034 076 119 132 154
184 190 209 212 214 226 228 318

A map of the sites can be found overleaf

MBC posted more information in advance of its Strategic Planning & Infrastructure Committee Meeting on November 9th. (This article is written ahead of the meeting.)

MBC has now chosen two '**preferred sites**' in Staplehurst which are at **Lodge Road** (site 066) – 78 units and Home Farm, **Pile Lane** (site 114) – 49 units. These are in addition to sites that MBC already had in its Local Plan, most of which are under construction.

The information suggests that the capacity of the crossroads is to be improved and a Regulation 18b **public consultation is planned for 1-22 December 2020**. However, the published evaluation of sites may change if new information emerges.

What you need to do:

Please still **gather your evidence**, (events with dates, environmental, photographs, data) and **reasons why** the green sites should be **ruled out** in case any are included at a later date. For sites 066 and 114, we recommend that you send your comments to:

**Strategic Planning, Local Plan Review,
Maidstone Borough Council,**

Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, ME15 6JQ
or email LDF@maidstone.gov.uk

and copy to the Parish Office planning@staplehurst-pc.uk.
Include MP Helen Grant helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk

Do not delay! Without your evidence the village will stand no chance in fighting future developments and risk losing the countryside we all know and love – for ever!

Staplehurst

Parish Council

CALL FOR SITES MAP



OUR NEW COUNCILLOR

Bradley Gartan is our new Parish Councillor, replacing Councillor Mick Chapman who was unable to continue his work for the community due to increased work and family commitments. We thank him for his work in Staplehurst.



Councillor Gartan joined us on the 28th of September, however he had already taken part in numerous initiatives, being the most relevant to date the clearing of the Parade and the setup and maintenance of the planters. Since then, he has taken part in several meetings and contributed to the improvement and renovation of the air raid shelter, as well.

Councillor Gartan works in the housing sector and comes from a construction background. At present, he is currently running a large development in London. He moved to Staplehurst from London in April 2016, with his wife and two dogs.

He had been helping the neighbourhood community and nearby nature reserve where he was living in London, especially arranging events and helping with adhoc duties. This helped him to make his mind up about becoming a councillor here in Staplehurst. Councillor Gartan is very passionate about the village that we live in, and the community has certainly gained a very proactive councillor.

OUR STREET NAMES

We are continuing with the series of articles informing where the street names come from in the village. On this occasion we will be dedicating the article to the Redrow Estate:

Brisley Close: Private Lewis Alfred Brisley 23rd (Tyneside Scottish) Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers. Formerly 17776 Royal Field Artillery. Died 29th April 1917. Age 26.

George Smith Close: Private 255405 George Thomas Smith. Labour corps. Formerly 45827. Queens Royal West Kent Regiment. Died 8th November 1918.

Wickings Close: Sergeant 242650 William M. G. Wickings. 10 or 11th Battalion, Highland Light Infantry. Formerly 1015

West Kent Yeomanry. Died 22nd March 1916.

Great Threads, Little Threads and Rags Field: Fishers Farm was, in medieval times a clothiers and these field names taken from the tithe map were clearly relating to this time in its history.

Sergison Crescent is named for Edward 'Ted' Sergison (05/06/1947 – 13/07/2014) who was one of the most highly respected members of our community. Much loved by all who knew him. He was our village historian on all things pertaining to the two world wars and how they impacted on Staplehurst. All three of the memorials in the parish are his work.



Edward Sergison presents a memento to the Doutrepoint family in 2007

CORRECTION

In our previous article about street names the information about Tyler Road that we provided should have read Railway Tavern not The South Eastern. Here is detailed information by their granddaughter, Nicola Stonebridge, to whom we apologise and thank:

Bunty & Les Tyler moved from East Sheen in December 1961, with their youngest daughter Sue. Les was a plumber for Lyons and Bunty worked in a drapers'. Both had worked in pubs and Courage Brewery took them on to run The Railway Tavern. Back then, there was no heating and no indoor toilets! In 1964, they completely renovated the pub adding an extension to the main (saloon) bar, an off licence and the public bar.

THE COMMUNITY PAYBACK TEAM



Community Payback is a requirement of a Community Order Imposed by the Court whereby offenders (service users) “pay back” the community for their crimes.

Across the UK millions of “unpaid” work hours are carried out by service users (“SUs”) to the benefit of their local communities. In doing so, they are making communities safer and promoting public confidence in Community Payback (“CP”). Ideally the work undertaken needs to be demanding and visible to members of the public, who are then encouraged to recommend projects. Crucially, this involves setting boundaries about behaviour and ensuring SUs know exactly what is expected of them.

In Staplehurst the work undertaken by Community Payback is often highly visible, involving working in and around the Parade for example, and SUs come into contact with many local residents, young and old. It stands to reason they have to be on their best behaviour. The team is managed superbly in Staplehurst by Hazel McKenna, always leading by example and with an excellent way with the Sus.

For the residents of Staplehurst, who pay a precept in addition to their Council Tax, this service provides an essential backup to the Parish Council who, with limited financial resources, would be hard pressed to keep such a green and rural area as well kept as they do. It also enables them to carry out work, like the planters at the Parade, that might not have been possible without their help.

There are rehabilitative benefits of community payback. SUs get an opportunity to gain new skills, including social skills, gained whilst being part of a group, meeting new people and feeling part of a community.

In Hazel’s own words: “I often say to those who finish their hours, who might say they haven’t learnt any new skills, to think about whether they have become more tolerant, more empathetic for example, and it is surprising how many of them agree.”

Staplehurst is without doubt a successful project which

goes beyond the basic statutory requirements. It is certainly remarkable how much, with the right group, it is possible to achieve in one day. The support of the local Parish Councillors is key. The SUs get to meet them, and get to know them during their time on UPW. They are treated with respect and provided with lunch (one of very few projects that does that) and that makes them far more willing to carry out work assigned to them. Even clearing out muddy, waterlogged ditches in the rain! When local Councillors muck in too it serves to further encourage SUs.

The use of social media ensures that, even if local residents don’t get to see

first-hand exactly what work has been undertaken, they can see the before and after photographs online. Their appreciation on the Staplehurst Helping Page gives the SUs a great boost and it makes them proud. They are



carrying out work as a punishment. Of course, they would rather be somewhere else, but by working hard and taking a pride in what they do makes it so much more rewarding.

Equally it is open to any members of the Facebook group to make a negative comment and this is why the use of clear boundaries is so important, particularly with such transparency. There have been occasions when a SU has been considered unsuitable to work in Staplehurst!

All in all the Community Payback Team in Staplehurst is one of our many success stories. A very important one!

GREENER STAPLEHURST GROUP



Our newest planters at the Parade

Autumn is very much upon us, bringing colder days, dark skies and rain, but the work of the Greener Staplehurst Group continues unabated. By the time that you read this, five shrubs providing year-round interest, will have been planted alongside the southern wooden planters at The Parade. Additionally, the two new oak planters in the northern bed will have been planted with spring flowering bulbs. Something to look forward to through a no doubt miserable winter.

Several new beds have also been dug alongside of the air aid shelters at the village centre and planted by the children of the Under five playgroup.

The GSG is constantly on the lookout within the village for other areas that would lend themselves to being planted as

wildflower areas or as cultivated beds to enhance and further brighten village life.

Work continues at the Wimpey Fields Nature Reserve: extensive strimming and the removal of oak saplings in some areas, with the aim of opening up the tree canopy, to encourage a more diverse range of plants and wildlife.

At all times we are reliant on the generosity of villagers and local companies to support our work and we appeal to the people of Staplehurst for any spare bulbs, plants and seeds that they might have. We work on a very tight budget and all such donations are gratefully received and put to good use!

Also please look out for 9 new small planters being built during lockdown.

Parish Council Information

COUNCILLORS

Paddy Riordan (Chairman)
Colin Bowden
Joan Buller
José Castro
Susan Forward
Bradley Gartan
David George
Sam Lain-Rose
Helen Miller
Simon McNeill
John Perry (Vice-Chairman)
Zara Rawlinson
Adele Sharp
Peter Spearink
Natasha Thomas

CLERK

Alison Smith

DEPUTY CLERK AND FINANCE OFFICER

Mrs Deborah Jenkins

PARISH SUPPORT OFFICER

Mrs Jean Terry

CARETAKER

Mr Paul Nyahwa

Address:

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

Web: www.staplehurst-pc.uk

Email: clerk@staplehurst-pc.uk

Tel: 01580 891761

At the moment the office is still closed. Members of the public are encouraged to phone or email if they want to contact us at the present time. This will be reviewed regularly.

SURGERIES AT THE LIBRARY

are subject to status of COVID-19 restrictions at present.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

At 7.00pm every third Monday, at the time of printing are held online via Zoom. Planning Committee meets the following day, Tuesday at 7.00pm. Next meetings: 30th November, 14th December, 11th January.



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