

Staplehurst Parish Council

PARISH COUNCILLOR PADDY RIORDAN

TRANSCRIPT OF CHAIRMAN'S VIDEO REPORT

Hello everyone and welcome to our latest Parish Council Chairman's video report. Just to update you on our last parish council meeting on the 2nd of September; we had a particularly busy planning meeting so the full council meeting was relatively short; however, a couple of items agreed on were that we get involved in a Kent Police Citizens Academy which is a range of meetings for the community and Parish Council to engage with and support the police. We will update you as the matter progresses. We are also responding to meetings involving Citizens Advice and also the Kent Rail Summit.

Our next planning and full council meetings are this coming Monday 23rd of September and one item on the agenda is a proposal to form a green Staplehurst group which will be a group to support all matters involving the environment, climate energy, biodiversity, recycling and generally improving the whole village for a cleaner and greener community.

We were advised by the PCSO that unfortunately there were six reported crimes, two of which involve criminal damage, three for burglary and the theft of a digger from a field. As always please be vigilant and report any issues to the police.

The Maidstone Borough Council local plan review is only available for responses for the next two weeks, so please try and put your comments forward as this is a very important matter, particularly in relation to housing developments and infrastructure in and around our village. I will post the link separately on our Facebook page after this video report.

Residents will probably have noticed a higher level of parking enforcement around the village. This is being carried out by Maidstone Borough Council in conjunction with our local PCSO. Everyone is obviously trying to encourage safer parking around Staplehurst.

Just a reminder to come along to our Parish surgery which is on the last Saturday of every month at the library between 10AM and 12 Noon where you can raise any local concerns. Also, Maidstone Borough Council community protection team attend the library where you can raise any concerns in relation to antisocial behaviour etc. Their next visit will be on the 1st of October between 10.30 and 11.30 at the library.

We would like to offer our sincere thanks to everyone who assisted with the Parade clean-up and the many local businesses who supported us. There will be some more work carried out this weekend at the parade involving the Community Payback team to spread the bark and weed suppression. Residents may have noticed that there is a higher level of bin collection at the Parade carried out by the landlords which we greatly appreciate.

The flower planters around the village have been painted by the Community Payback team, who have also done a lot of work at the Jubilee Field. Forthcoming projects will be cleaning paths and alleyways, tidying up the Bell Lane car park and lots of other jobs they kindly carry out for us.

Two Parish Council forthcoming events are our village clean-up which we carry out twice a year; the next clean-up is on the 5th of October starting at 10 am at the youth club, where residents will be provided with litter pickers to assist us tidying up the village. This is generally a very well supported event and it would be lovely to see lots of people turn out to assist us.

On October 26 at the Village Centre the Parish Council will be celebrating its 125th anniversary year where lots of community groups will be attending, so please come along and see what we've been doing for the last 125 years.

Thanks for your support as always, see you soon.