

Staplehurst Parish Council

PARISH COUNCILLOR PADDY RIORDAN

TRANSCRIPT OF CHAIRMAN'S VIDEO REPORT

Hi Everyone welcome to our Parish Council Chairman's video report.

I'd just like to start by reminding everybody we have got a community clean-up day at the Parade this Saturday 31st starting at 8am. We will be there all day, everyone is welcome to bring along garden trowels, spades, gloves, paint brushes, brooms and any other tools that they may think might be helpful.

The Parish Council will be providing a limited number of hi viz vests if you have one please bring your own, disposable gloves, bin bags and litter pickers.

Councillors and some very kind volunteers have assisted already at the Parade in relation to dismantling the benches, sanding, staining and repairing the woodwork.

As this means a lot to everyone in Staplehurst, we hope for a good turnout of volunteers and we will try to make the whole area look much better.

The last Parish Council meeting was on the 5th of August. Since that time, I'm pleased to say that by communicating with various people we have managed to avoid the by-election for the vacant Parish Council seat. This has been filled by a new Councillor who I think will be a fabulous addition to the team. I would also like to mention that another individual, who was thinking of standing for the vacant seat, stood down because they did not want the Council to incur these very heavy election costs; however, they are going to be involved with one of our subgroups which will benefit the council immensely.

There was a lot of information from the Neighbourhood Plan Review Group who are a very busy team who are constantly looking to improve the whole village and ensure that we have input and some control into what happens here.

I'm pleased to say that we have the Community Payback team working for us in various areas. They've been particularly busy at the Jubilee Field which has been overseen by various Councillors and they have been booked to assist with the Parade clean-up this coming Saturday.

It was discussed that we should be involved in a 20-mph limit pilot study particularly around the area of the primary school which is being dealt with by our road safety group. Also, we are investigating further parking restrictions in the area of the school.

The Summer Play scheme at the primary school has once again been a big success. This facility is supported by the Parish Council and we are very keen that it continues in the future.

Other issues that residents might not be aware of that your Parish Councillors are involved in are things such as dealing with the outcome of break-ins and burglaries, which we have unfortunately been subjected to, repairs to plumbing systems at our facilities, damage to bushes and fencing and many such issues which are very time-consuming but the work involved is sometimes overlooked.

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Various Sub-Group meetings are constant, to try to deal with projects and issues in our village.

The Parish office has again been very busy attending to many residents' issues, particularly in relation to planning and some of the problems we are experiencing with the ongoing construction works.

Residents may be aware that we will be having a regular attendance of the Community Protection Team. Please go and meet them to discuss any concerns. They will be at The Library between 10.30 & 11am on alternate Tuesdays. The next visit is on 3rd September.

I would like to just give a mention to our two Maidstone Borough Councillors who we work closely with. We often request their help, assistance and information from issues at Borough level and it's really impressive how efficient they both are; their help is really greatly appreciated!

The next Planning and Full Council Meetings are on Monday 2nd September. Everyone is very welcome to come along.

I will leave you with that for now. I really hope to see as many volunteers as possible to make a big difference on Saturday.

Take care and see you soon.