

STANFORD PARISH COUNCIL
NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2013 ISSUE no 22

We send greetings to all residents of Stanford Parish with good wishes for a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Dates of meetings for 2014

Meetings start at 6.30 in the Function Room at The Drum. They are open to all residents who can raise matters of interest under 'Parish Questions' - an item on every agenda.

22 January	19 March
7 May - AGM	2 July
27 August	15 October
3 December	

The Village Meeting is not a council meeting but is an open meeting for all residents. It is on 21 May at 7pm.

The War Memorial

Some 40 people gathered at the War memorial in Stanford Churchyard on Sunday 10 November to hear the roll call of the fallen from this Parish and Postling and to observe the laying of wreaths on behalf of the church and the parish council. As usual they stood in wet grass.

The Parish Council is endeavouring to get the area around the memorial paved as part of the centenary commemoration. We applied for and were awarded £5000 from the SDC Community Chest. Work is delayed while we wait for permission to proceed from Canterbury Diocese.

We are also applying for funds from The War Memorials Trust to lay a path to the memorial.



For your diary

June 28 2014 Parish Lunch at The Drum

Parish Maintenance

We try to keep the village environment in the best possible condition and work well with Kent Highways and SDC. Recently we have pushed hard for improvements to road drainage in Westenhanger, where run-off from the Hillhurst Farm fields has caused mud, flooding and blocked drains. Work has been done and is ongoing. Elsewhere, potholes near The Drum and in Hayton Manor Road have been repaired.

Other work has been done by the Community Payback scheme. This includes clearing of footpaths, litter picking and shrub clearing. Community Payback uses people who have been convicted of minor offences to undertake work in communities as part of their sentence. Offenders are vetted for their suitability and they work in small teams under close supervision. We welcome their presence in our community and commend the way in which they work and the results they achieve.



This path is now clear of all weeds

Salt and sand for use on icy roads is available in both villages - in sacks by the bridge in Church Lane and in yellow bins on both sides of the railway bridge.

The Racecourse

After Arena Leisure closed the racecourse land to recreational users in November 2009, the Parish Council started the process of registration of the car park area as a village green in order to preserve the long tradition of free access. Many Westenhanger residents contributed to the related enquiries which were being managed David Plumstead who had experience in this field.

We had until late in 2011 to present our case to KCC, and it was complete in September of that year. Various subsequent enquiries were dealt with by the Parish Council. A panel was convened for 3 December in Lympne Village Hall and the official report was considered. It was established that our case was complete and convincing in every particular - except that to our surprise and for unexplained reasons Mr Plumstead had not delivered the papers until June 2012. Accordingly our bid failed and racecourse

management has already put up notices forbidding entry to their land.

We are very disappointed and will try to negotiate for some recreational use by residents.

The Village Hall

The committee meets regularly and is still trying to decide what to do. In its reports to the Parish Council it records its desire to demolish the existing structure and replace it with a temporary building which might be moved elsewhere if it gets a new site OR to build a new permanent hall. The present hall cannot be taken down until they have plans for its replacement. Clearly a massive sum of money must be raised but the committee hopes that the Association of Communities in Rural Kent will help them get grants.

In the meantime they plan a fund-raising quiz in February to raise money to pay for the insurance on the present, condemned hall.

Interested residents are referred to the Village Hall website: www.stanfordvillagehall.org.uk.

Car Parking in Westenhanger



This picture was taken before we got the double yellow lines installed. The only change is that now things are worse. The vehicles spread mud which masks the yellow lines and renders them invalid and the number of commuters avoiding parking charges by parking here has grown.

We have done everything we know to reduce the parking including a letter to the Police Commissioner.

Traffic Wardens have attended once recently and issued parking penalties. We will try to see that they return often and that word gets around.

Broadband

KCC recently released information on the Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) project.

At least 95% of all properties in Kent will have access to higher-speed fibre-based broadband infrastructure by the end of 2015

Every property in the project area will get a broadband service of at least 2Mbps

A minimum of 91% of premises will get superfast broadband of at least 24Mbps.

The phase maps and postcode checker can be found by following the link below (under the heading 'The roll out plan'):

http://www.kent.gov.uk/community_and_living/community_grants_and_funding/broadband.aspx

At a KCC meeting on 19 September, our County Councillor Susan Carey was told:

The Community Superfast Pilot schemes, including Lympne and Stanford, have been progressed by the Broadband Project Team in parallel with the Kent and Medway BDUK Project... the relevant approvals have now been obtained, work orders have been placed and construction will commence shortly. Officers from the Broadband Project Team will set up meetings in the pilot communities to engage with local people during the project roll-outs.

We will publish the date of the meeting when it is confirmed. Initial signs are that the service will start by March 2014, though the contractors, Call Flow Solutions, will tell us at the public meeting.

Precept

The precept is the money that is added to your council tax bill by SDC to pay for the work of the Parish Council. We have been able to reduce our needs by some £500 for 2014-15 so each household will pay a little less.

Lorry parking

Lorry parking on and near the Junction 11 roundabouts is in the Parish of Saltwood. Nevertheless, we pressed our County Councillor about it. Susan Carey says that KCC shares our concern but lacks the legal and financial resources to do anything permanent to stop it.

Website

Please keep in touch with us through our website which has all sorts of local information as well as all our minutes and other records:

www.stanfordpc.kentparishes.gov.uk

Ken Bultitude, Chair

Stanford North 30 years ago

