

STANFORD PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2016 ISSUE no 26

Since our last Newsletter in October 2015 we the composition of the Parish Council has changed slightly, but with the addition of Cllrs Geoff Colledge and David Keating we once again have a full compliment. This is good news considering impact of the Lorry Park proposal on the Councils time and resources. I would like to thank all of the Councillors personally for the work they have done during this last year to ensure we have stayed on top of things during our fight against the Lorry Park. I would like to extend that thanks to residents who as members of SOS Kent have provided an invaluable contribution to the cause. Special thanks go to Debbie Burton, Sharon Hayles, Graham Horner and Jeff Alchin for their efforts.

Operation Stack



Given its effect on all our lives over the last 12 months it is probably inevitable that I should start this Newsletter with an update on the Lorry Park. As I write a Judicial Review (JR) has been launched against the Lorry Park by the owners of Westenhanger Castle, G Forge. The Parish Council is listed as an interested party in that JR. Highways England will cease further work on the site until this is resolved. The Parish Council has opted to be an interested party based on advice from our legal team that it will mitigate costs, while retaining the potential to launch our own JR at a later date if necessary. Consequently we are still fund raising to pay for the legal fight.

The grounds for the JR are as follows:

1. The project should have been classified as EIA development. This places a duty on the Secretary of State to consider the environmental effects before making his decision. HE has failed to undertake a full and proper assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of the Project, which would normally take the form of an EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment Report). Instead HE has produced an Environmental Impact Analysis, which is incomplete, has errors and is non-statutory. Also HE has not finalised the Project and, therefore, a decision to proceed would be premature as the environmental effects cannot be quantified.

If the JR succeeded in having the project classified as EIA development HE would have to complete a full EIA and correct all the errors in their current documents.

2. The project should be classed as an alteration / improvement to an existing special highway, which makes it a nationally significant infrastructure, subject to a Development Consent Order (DCO) with attendant red tape. If the project is deemed to be subject to a DCO by a JR then it would be likely to impose a minimum of 12 months of delay on the project.

While these challenges do not provide a “silver bullet” to stop the lorry park, if successful they may achieve a delay of up to 2 years (including the JR process). In that time the political / economic landscape may change and support / funding for the lorry park disappear particularly if we see limited use of Operation Stack.

To pursue a JR the Parish Council need to raise in the region of **£35,000**, made up of:

£5,000 – Cost of preparing and submitting a JR
£20,000 – Court process etc. if JR granted
£10,000 - Potential costs to HE if we lost our JR

To date we have raised approximately £15,000.

To contribute to the Parish Council's bid for a JR you can make payments direct to our bank a/c:

Nat West Bank
Sort Code: 52-41-42
A/C No: 59193794

Or cheque, payable to, "Stanford Parish Council"
Mrs Dorothy Bultitude (Clerk)
Tudor Cottage
Stanford North
Kent TN25 6DH

Donations can be anonymous or named. Please use the ref "Lorry Park JR". Any funds remaining at the end of our campaign will be returned pro rata to donors who state this at the time of donation otherwise they will be used for the good of the Parish. A breakdown of donations received and their use will be included in the Parish Accounts.

Also the SOS Kent fund raising team led, with great energy, by Sharon Hayles has a series of events organised to raise funds and awareness for our campaign:

12 Nov 2016, 7.30pm. X Voice Factor, karaoke night with a twist plus raffles, The Drum Inn.

30 Nov 2016 - 100 Club starts at the Drum Inn, buy a number between 1-100 for £2 and be in for a chance to win £100. Draw at lunchtime on New Year's Eve.

5 Feb 2017, 7.30pm. Darling Buds of May Barn Dance, Westenhanger Castle. Family fun with auction, raffles and children's scarecrow competition.

Date TBC – Bake Off competition at the Lympe Craft Fair.

Parish Maintenance



We are very pleased to report that the Community Payback team has continued to look after our paths and verges during the year, making a great contribution to the look of our community. We are indebted to them for all their hard work. I would also like to thank our team of resident Wombles, led by Debbie Burton, who have done so much to remove much of the unsightly rubbish left along the B2068 adjacent to the village and the slip road at the entrance to Stanford North.

War and Peace

The War & Peace show took place in July under new management. While there were some complaints they were down on previous years and I would like to thank Cllr Colledge for his liaison work with the organisers, which helped minimise impact to residents. Next year's show will once again be at Folkestone Racecourse from 25 to 29 July 2017.

Village Gates



Earlier this year the PC successfully applied to SDC for funds to erect village gateways at the entrances to Stanford and Westenhanger. These gates have now been erected and have helped to enhance our village setting. In recent weeks Cllr Maddox has kindly upgraded the gateways with raised flower beds. We hope to have these planted soon, thanks in part to a kind donation from Mick and Susie at the Drum.

Neighbourhood Watch

Ken Hull was a familiar face around the village for many years in his capacity as a Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator (NWC). Unfortunately, Ken has now moved away from the village and so we are without a NWC. Anyone interested in the role of NWC should contact the Parish Clerk at clerkstanfordpc@tiscali.co.uk

Dates of Meetings 2016-17

The dates of future Parish Council meetings are:

7th December

18th January

15th March

17th May

5th July

30th August

18th October

6th December

All meetings are at 6.30 pm at The Drum Inn

Parish Council website

Please keep in touch with us through our website where you will find all sorts of local information as well as all our Council Minutes and other records. www.stanfordpc.kentparishes.gov.uk

Cllr Mr Matthew Webb, Chair