

STANFORD PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2015 ISSUE no 25

Since our last Newsletter in April we must report that Cllr Mrs Marian Bebbington, stepped down from the PC and Councillor Matthew Webb was elected as Chair in May. We are indebted to Marian for the professional way in which she conducted PC business during her time as Chair and wish her well for the future. The six months since April have been a busy period for the PC particularly in respect of developments in respect of Operation Stack.

Operation Stack

Operation Stack has been in force for 32 days in 2015 for various reasons including French industrial action, migrant issues at the Channel Tunnel and operational factors with the Tunnel.

The European Gateway Strategic Delivery Group, (EGSDG) has identified and agreed a package of on and off highway measures to minimise the impact of Op Stack which include short-term immediate actions and a preferred long-term solution to more effectively manage Op Stack.

In the short term the EGSDG has agreed with Government a revised Op Stack which will entail calling Stage 1 of Op Stack (M20 J8-9) for all traffic. When it becomes apparent that Stage 2 will be needed (M20 J9-11) Dover bound HGVs will be diverted to, and parked at, Manston Airport which can accommodate approximately 3,500 vehicles. The agreement between Government and Manston Airport owners is for 3 months, beyond which the use of this site for Op Stack will be reviewed. Channel tunnel traffic would be parked on the M20 between Junction 8 and 11 depending on the volume of the Stack. The advantage of this proposal is that the need to close the London bound M20 will be removed, meaning the worst impact on movement around Kent as experienced in recent instances of Op Stack should be avoided. The preferred long term solution was presented to the Government by Highways England and KCC on 21 August 2015 and comprised:

- ⊙ Strengthening the hard shoulder M20 J8-10 coast bound and amendments to central reserve J10-11a to improve resilience and flexibility;
- ⊙ Improvements to A20 in and around Dover to increase capacity and remove bottlenecks;
- ⊙ Increased use of traffic technology to improve communications and management of Op Stack;
- ⊙ Potential lorry park close to the M20 for approximately 4,000 HGVs;
- ⊙ Potential extension of STOP24 lorry park site capable of catering for up to 1,000 HGVs.

If delivered, these measures could cater for 5,500-6,500 HGVs. The preliminary cost for this package is £468m. The key issues in respect of implementation concern certainty of funding, who will deliver, and delivery timescales, which for some measures could be 2-3 years. KCC has provisionally secured £3 million Local Growth Funding, which subject to Local Enterprise Partnership agreement could be put towards an off-highway Op Stack lorry park.

Parish Maintenance



Since April the Environment Agency has completed a programme of work to clear obstructions from the East Stour, which should prevent flooding recurring. We are also happy to report that the Community Payback team returned in October and began by clearing the path up to the church and the verges in Churchfield. They will continue working to clear all the verges on Stone Street both in Stanford and Westenhanger. We are indebted to them for all their hard work.

War and Peace

The War and Peace show took place in July and judging by the small number of complaints received by the PC we believe that it passed with far fewer problems to residents than in previous

years. Following the end of the 2015 War and Peace Revival, Rex Cadman and the old War and Peace Revival team have handed over to John Allison, Annie Bertrand, Jamie Wells and their team. Next year's show will once again be at Folkestone Racecourse from 19 to 23 July 2016.

KCC Minerals and Waste Development plan (MWDP)

As previously reported, Shrine Farm was included in the KCC MWDP as a potential site for sand extraction, to which we are opposed. Since then the independent Government Inspector has visited the site and we understand from the local Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) unit that the Inspector was totally opposed to the site, to the extent that it is unlikely even to make the Site Allocation phase. However, the modified MWDP does not appear to include any modifications in respect of Shrine Farm or other potential sites. We believe this is because at this stage only the legal status of the plan is being reviewed and the suitability of individual sites will be examined at a later stage of consultation. We will keep you updated on developments.

Lorry Parks – various!

Recent months have seen considerable discussion and rumour with regard to the development of Lorry Parks in the vicinity of Jct 11 of the M20. This has been somewhat confused by the number of different developments being discussed. We hope the following summary will clarify the position as it currently stands:

Extension to Stop24 by the removal of the existing earth bund to increase capacity by around 60 lorry parking spaces. The PC objected to this planning application and supported local residents at SDC Planning and Development Committee meeting. Unfortunately this application was approved and will go ahead.

Construction of a 3,000 space Lorry Park on the triangle of land formed by Jct 11, Westenhanger Station and Newingreen (Holiday Extras). This is a proposal by KCC to help address Op Stack issues specifically. It is not intended to be a commercial venture. SDC remain opposed to this and would like to develop part of the triangle as a Technology

Park. At present there is no formal planning application for this development. Discussions appear to be ongoing at a political level.

Expansion of Stop24 to the West of Stone Street on the land running East to West between the M20 and the Railway. We understand that Henry Boot have conducted a feasibility study to see if this extension is possible (we have not seen any results). The proposal would expand Stop 24 by approx 1,100 parking spaces. This is a purely commercial venture and not a strategic response to the problems of Op Stack. A formal planning application has not yet been put forward.

The PC will continue to oppose the last two of these developments and object if and when a formal planning application is made.

Lympne Powerplant

As many of you are aware there is a planning proposal (Y15/0751/SH) to build a renewable energy power plant at the Enterprise Way business park in Lympne. The PC discussed this proposal in August and lodged an objection as follows:

1. We agree with the comments of the Kent Downs AONB unit in their letter of 25 August. Specifically we believe that the size and setting of this development would cause significant environmental harm to the landscape setting of the AONB.
2. The scale of the development is out of keeping with the site. Previous developments have been limited to a height of 14m whereas this application proposes a smoke stack 70m high and other buildings in excess of 14m.
3. The development is out of character with the landscape and neither conserves nor enhances this part of the setting of the AONB.
4. We believe the modelling for the increase in number of lorry movements to supply the power plant with fuel is flawed. There are a number of additional potential/ongoing developments in this area (Nickolls Quarry, SDC's proposal for a Technology Park at M20 Jct 11, expansion of Stop24) all of which have or will impact traffic movements between M20 Jct 11, the A20 Newingreen-Hythe junction,

Lympne and Sellindge. We do not believe that modelling performed by the Highways Agency takes into account the collective impact of these proposals, but that the modelling in each case is based on the impact of only that particular proposal. We seek assurances that traffic modelling takes account of all current and potential developments impacting the area surrounding a development site.

5. The proposal is contrary to paras 14, 109 and 115 of the NPPF, policy CSD4 of the Shepway Core Strategy and Links Park 2006 and the Kent Downs AONB management plan.

The PC is working with Lympne and other PCs to oppose this development. Details can be found on the SDC website, www.shepway.gov.uk/home

Parking on slip road, Stanford



Cllr Maddox is in discussion with the Highways Agency regarding the damage to the verges on the triangle of land at the entrance to Stanford and measures to repair and prevent it happening in future. This has been caused by lorries parking on the slip road leading to the B2068. The damage in the photograph above was caused in October by a foreign lorry and the haulier has been reported to the Highways Agency and Police. The PC has applied to SDC for funding to erect village gateways at the entrances to Stanford and Westenhanger to try and deter this activity and the resultant damage. Residents should be aware that the damage has not been caused by the developers building two new properties on the site of Bankside next door to the Drum Inn. However, the situation was discussed with the developer (JBC) and as a good will gesture to the community they have agreed to repair any

damage that exists prior to them finishing on site in Spring 2016.

Neighbourhood Watch

Ken Hull has been a familiar face around the village for many years in his capacity as a Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator (NWC). Unfortunately, following a fall at home, Ken has had to move to a residential home away from the village. While I'm glad to report that Ken is now doing well and has been seen availing himself of the Drum's hospitality we are without his services as a NWC. Anyone interested in replacing Ken as a NWC should contact the Parish Clerk at clerkstanfordpc@tiscali.co.uk

Summer Lunch

The village Summer Lunch took place in the grounds of the Drum Inn on 19th June and was a great success with 104 people attending and £1,354 raised towards the upkeep of the Church. The event is organised by the Church Council and they wish to thank all those who assisted with this year's lunch, particularly those who supplied and served food. Details of the 2016 summer Lunch will be published on the village notice boards in due course. Anyone wanting to volunteer to help with next year's event should contact Paul Smallwood on 01303 813198.

Stop Press

Following the recent resignation of Cllr Mrs Pam Robinson we have a vacancy. This has been formally advertised on the notice boards but with no response. If you are interested in applying, please get in touch with the Clerk, Mrs D Bultitude clerkstanfordpc@tiscali.co.uk for more information.

Dates of Meetings 2015

21st October

2nd 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 Matthew Webb, Chair