

Newsletter

Chairman's Message

Firstly, my thanks go to my fellow parish councillors for re-electing me as Chairman to serve for another year. I thoroughly enjoy the role and am well-supported by my colleagues.

And now.....welcome to our Autumn newsletter. It has been six months since our last issue mainly because we had hoped to be able to report on both the Muller Homes Public Inquiry and the community hall. At the time of publication, we expect the Public Inquiry to be as late as December 2013 and we have set aside approximately £12,000 to fight the appeal, along with Cheshire East Council (CEC).

It has been a busy year! Operation of the community hall has presented us with challenges which we could not have envisaged when we agreed to sign a lease with CEC. The hall has been operational for almost twelve months and it has been an interesting "learning curve". We hope that once we have satisfactory management arrangements in place (yet to be decided), we can re-launch it as a community asset, available during weekdays, some evenings and weekends. We currently have five regular users: zumba, yoga, scouts, youth club, babies dancing and play. We have now agreed to renew the lease with CEC for a two-year period and hope that this will bring about some stability and encourage people to start making use of the hall.

We thought that we had a full complement of parish councillors, but, unfortunately, the newest Member who was co-opted in May this year, is re-locating to Surrey and has resigned his position. If you are interested in being co-opted, please contact the Clerk for more information. Candidates are invited to attend the meeting to be held on 7 November, as observers, and the Parish Council will make a decision at the meeting to be held on 5 December.

On to our Public Debate..... we have not held a Public Debate since September 2012.

We were awaiting the outcome of the Muller Homes' planning application before setting a date knowing that this would feature as an important topic. However, as this is now the subject of a Public Inquiry, we realised that we had no new information to impart to residents. The scheduled debate which was 19 September has, therefore, been postponed until later in the year or early next year. If you have any "hot topics" you would like debated, contact us.

Finally, a road safety matter: A young child was injured on the Cronkinson development a few months ago when she was hit by a car near Pear Tree Primary School. Fortunately, after a short stay in hospital she was released with few injuries. There is a tremendous amount of traffic coming and going at school opening and closing times and the problem always seems to be worse once the dark nights arrive. I would urge everyone to take extra care when driving, particularly on the estate itself.

Sandy Green - Freeman

Chairman

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Please note this newsletter is also on the Parish Council's website:
www.stapeleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

LOCAL BUSES - USE THEM OR LOSE THEM!

Do you use the local buses? Compared with some parts of the Nantwich area, Stapeley is quite well-served with the K39, 51 and 73 service all offering journeys into Nantwich Bus Station, where there are more connections. The K39 goes to Crewe, albeit via the scenic route!

All these services are subsidised by Cheshire East Council and, in these straitened times, are the subject of financial review. There is no immediate suggestion that the subsidy is about to be withdrawn, with a consequential loss of these services but it is inevitable that, should the "axe fall", it will remove the least-used services.

The more we make use of our buses when we can, the less likely it will be that they will be withdrawn - it really is a case of "bums on seats"! And don't imagine that because you have a concessionary pass and don't have to pay to ride, that it makes no difference whether you ride or not - it does! Each concessionary journey made results in a compensation payment to Cheshire East Council from central government which helps to fund the subsidy to keep the buses running.

So if you're popping into Nantwich, rather than take the car, hop on the bus.

Remember - when it comes to the bus - Use It or Lose It!

CHESHIRE EAST LOCAL PLAN

What is it?

It is the Plan which forms the basis of planning decisions in the Borough until 2030 and comprises the following three key documents:

- **The Core Strategy**
This identifies the overarching objectives for spatial planning in the borough. It will identify strategic sites and locations and provide a key diagram showing the position and locations.
- **The Site Allocations and Policies Document**
This allocates smaller sites for future development and provides detailed policies to be used when considering planning applications for new development
- **The Waste Development Plan**
Sets out policies for dealing with waste and identifies specific sites for waste management facilities.

Why do we need a new Plan?

Local government changes took place in 2009 when the former County Council and the three boroughs were abolished and the new Cheshire East Council was created. It is necessary for the Council to prepare its own Local Plan and consultation has been taking place on its various parts since 2009.

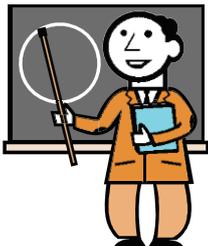
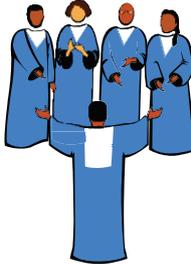
Until the new Plan is adopted, the previous plans of Crewe and Nantwich, Congleton, and Macclesfield have all been saved and will continue to be used.

Although it was expected that Cheshire East Council would adopt the Local Plan in October this has now been delayed.

Stapeley Community Hall, Pear Tree Field, Stapeley RE-LAUNCH

The Parish Council has agreed to run the community hall for a further two years. We want your help. The hall is available weekdays Monday to Friday and weekends. There are some regular users, ie Zumba, Yoga, Youth Club, Babies play and Scouts.

We are hoping that local organisations will wish to make use of the hall for, eg Bridge Club, University of the Third Age (or similar), camera club, local meeting groups, choirs and so on!! Perhaps you would like to arrange a "taster" session for your activities to gauge if there is any local interest? Get in touch and we will try to arrange it!

U3A	Camera Club	Meetings	Choirs	Card Clubs
				

The current programme of events is as follows and we are planning new regular use in 2014.

Monday	8.00 pm	Ladies Zumba	Karen Hodgson: Karen-dietfitpro@sky.com
Wednesday	7.00 pm	Ladies Zumba	Karen Hodgson (as above)
Wednesday	8.00 pm	Yoga	Clare Graham: clarabelle23@btinternet.com
Thursday	6.00 pm	Stapeley Scouts	peter.lonsdale@gmail.com
Friday	7.30 pm	Youth Club	Allen Gage: sic988@gmail.com
Saturday	9.00 am	Babies dancing and play	Sharon Burrows: sharon@hullabalookids.net
Sunday – twice a month from Jan 2014		Yoga	

Muller Homes Planning Appeal

As referred to in the Chairman's message, the Muller Homes' planning applications (12/3746N and 12/3747N) were considered by Cheshire East Council's Strategic Planning Board on 3 April at which time, one of our Members spoke against both applications on behalf of the Parish Council.

At an extra-ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held on 13 June, and attended by 20 members of the public, the Parish Council agreed to engage the services of Hindhaugh Associates Ltd. to fight Muller's appeal at Public Inquiry.

The Parish Council will be represented by a specialist solicitor. The total cost of the project is expected to be in the order of £12,000 but we are doing everything we can to try to keep well below this figure. We hope that residents will consider this to be a good use of public money.

The members of the public who attended the meeting were keen for the Parish Council to fight the appeal and indicated that if successful, it would be of great benefit to the parish.

Communication

The Parish Council is keen to consider new ways of communicating with residents and is currently considering the advantages and disadvantages of social media. We would like to know from you if you think that Facebook and Twitter would be a welcome addition as a means of communicating with residents.



We produced an Annual Report which was presented to the Annual Parish Meeting on 9 May 2013. Unfortunately, although this is an opportunity for residents to "have their say", there was only one member of the public in attendance. If you would like a copy of the report (hard copy), please contact the Clerk. It is also available electronically on the Parish Council's website.

SPEED WATCH - Update!

We did make a plea in the last newsletter for volunteers for the "speed gun" scheme which has fallen into disuse. This is operated by a resident on Broad Lane. If you are interested, please let us know and we will pass on your contact details.

We have two mobile vehicle-speed display units which are moved around the parish at frequent intervals. We did have some health and safety issues for the parish councillors who move this equipment but these have now been overcome and you will probably have noticed that the units are being moved more frequently, which is key to the effectiveness of the scheme.



These are your PARISH COUNCILLORS

e-mail style is - firstname.surname@stapeleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Sandy Gwinn-Freemantle	01270 619505
Raj Samra	e-mail only
Shaun Clough	01270 669987
Mike Docker	01270 619855
John Davenport	01270 618971
Peter Groves	07597 978 831
Jo Hillman	07766 652 011
Martin Malbon	07714 764 558
Keith Nord	01270 611204

These are your BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Peter Groves (see above)

e-mail: peter.groves@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Andrew Martin

07875 555 096

e-mail: andrew.martin@cheshireeast.gov.uk

New Parish Councillor needed

Our newest parish councillor who was co-opted onto the Parish Council in May this year is re-locating to Surrey and we now have a casual vacancy. If you are interested in being co-opted, please contact the Clerk. The matter is to be considered at the November meeting when any residents who have declared their candidature (by contacting the Clerk), can attend as observers. The Parish Council will make its decision at the December meeting.

Newsletter naming competition

We would like to re-name this newsletter and invite residents to suggest suitable titles. All will be considered by the Parish Council at the January 2014 meeting.

Please submit your entries to the Clerk (by e-mail) with your name and contact details, by no later than 20 December.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

7 November 2013 • Finance and Grants Committee (21 November 2013) • 5 December 2013

9 January 2014

6 February

6 March

3 April

8 May

Annual Meetings

Report from: PARISH PLAN IMPLEMENTATION GROUP

(the "Stapeley Parish Action Group" known as "SPAG")

The free Stapeley Playground activity day for all the children and teenagers of Stapeley which took place on Saturday 11 May was arranged by SPAG and funded by Community Spaces. This has been followed up by a very well-attended and popular Sports/Activity Day, also arranged by SPAG and funded by Community Spaces. This was held with the kind permission of the Head Teacher, Mary Hennessy-Jones, in the grounds of Pear Tree School on Saturday 14 October.

A DJ, and the good weather, generated a great atmosphere and attracted many families to the event. There were lots of activities: but the 2 huge zorbing balls and bungee trampolines were extremely popular and generated long queues. Other activities included a bouncy slide, face-painting, balloon modelling, coaster decorating and a large range of outdoor sports games. The school PTA provided the refreshments and SPAG was able to subsidise this with a modest financial contribution.

On other topics, SPAG has obtained detailed maps of all the trees subject to Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) in the parishes of Batherton and Stapeley. Most of these are on the site of the Old Stapeley Manor, now demolished, where building work is taking place. We are able to monitor trees with TPOs within the parishes and also liaise with the Cheshire East Council's Arboriculture Officers to recommend that TPOs should be placed on trees because of their value and perceived threat from future development.

We will carry out a tree survey in the parish and map trees by their maturity, landscape value and species. Should we identify any ancient, veteran or notable trees these will also be mapped on the Woodland Trust's Ancient Tree Hunt website.

We have surveyed the old farm orchard on the Cronkinson estate which contains apple, pear and damson trees and have collected apples for identification of the varieties.

If you are interested in helping with the tree survey or if you know of any trees which you think are important because of their age, size or particular landscape or habitat value, please contact Sue Sherwood on suevsherwood@btinternet.com.

We would also be pleased to hear from you if you have any suggestions for planting trees or hedgerow plants in an area that can be accessed by the community.

The Stapeley Litter Group (SLG) now has 19 members. In addition to the monthly "group picks", many members work on an individual basis. These efforts are making an overall improvement, but the car park of the Cronkinson shops is still a problem area. Please can we all play our part in making Stapeley a litter-free parish. Any person interested in volunteering please contact Noel Wagstaff on 01270 626435 or noelw@btinternet.com.

The next litter pick, which will last about 1 hour, will be on Saturday morning 2 November – meet at Stapeley Community Hall car park at 10 am. A notice will be placed on the Parish Council's notice-board outside the Co-Operative Store. I hope that if this newsletter is issued after 2 November, residents will have seen the notice.

SPAG consists entirely of volunteers and was formed to implement the Parish Plan. One of its major achievements is the building of the Stapeley play area. There is much more that could be done to enhance the Stapeley area but to do this SPAG urgently needs more members to join one of the working parties – transport, environment, public services and communications or to help establish a group to look at the possibility of forming a low-carbon community. If you can help us, please contact Bob Walker on bw.spag@btinternet.com.

Future SPAG meetings will be held at Brine Leas School on 4 November and 16 December 2013 and 27 January, 10 March, 28 April and 9 June 2014.

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS:

Buses and Bus Passes	0300 123 5020
Cheshire East Council website main switchboard	www.cheshireeast.gov.uk 0300 123 5500
Council Tax/Benefits	0300 123 5013
Electoral Registration	0300 123 5016
Environmental Health and Trading Standards	0300 123 5015
Fly-tipping Local number	0300 123 550 01270 537864
Planning (South)	0300 123 5014
Head of Development – Caroline Simpson	01270 686640
Planning Enforcement	0300 123 5014
Planning Applications	01270 685893
Pot-holes and other highway maintenance Mark Bone – Nantwich	07702 220 109
Waste and Recycling Local number	0300 123 5011 01278 537817

SCHOOLS

Pear Tree School	01270 685155
Stapeley Broad Lane School	01270 685020

COMMUNITY CAROLS

at the Community Hall, Pear Tree Field

Tuesday 10 December at 6.30 pm



There will be festive refreshments;
bring your singing voices!



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