

News & Views

Inc. Stanford Rivers Parish Council News Letter

July/Aug 2024

Issue No. 119

Toot Hill Show Saturday 3rd August

This Saturday sees the 71st Toot Hill Show take place, with show time being **12pm to 5pm**. Admission is Adults £4, Children £3. The Horticulture Marquee is at the very heart of the Toot Hill Show, with an array of vegetables, floral displays, cakes and crafts, there is something for everyone. It provides a perfect opportunity for everyone to get involved and take part in this very traditional country show. There are money prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd and over 25 different cups, bowls and trophies to be won in what is always a friendly competitive atmosphere. For full details visit the website - www.toothillshow.co.uk - It's such a great day out, with so much to do including.....

Every year the Toot Hill Show welcomes **classic, American and interesting sports cars**. It is free to enter the show ground for all classic and sports cars, their driver and passengers. There is no need to book but an indication of interest would be appreciated. Come as a club or individually. Towards the end of the show there is a parade in the Main Ring of the winning cars picked by the judge.



Novelty Dog show - Categories are:

1. Loveliest lady
2. Fabulous fella
3. Cutest puppy (6-12 months)
4. Waggiest tail
5. Best rescue
6. Child handler (accompanied by an adult)
7. Dog the judge would like to take home
8. Veteran (11 upwards)
9. Best trick

Entry fee £2 per category or 3 categories for £5



Adrian Smith, 5th in the World's Strongest Man and three times winner of UK's Strongest Man Competition, presents a show geared for family fun with visual humour and audience participation. Tearing up Argos books, bending six inch nails in his teeth, walking on a bed of broken glass, holding a chair with a seated lady on it in his teeth. These along with more serious feats of strength.

The Dog and Sheep Show. The team last year did a sterling job putting on the show in the most awful weather. Hopefully this year the sun will shine down on us and you can all enjoy this brilliant team in action.

The Sutherland Pipes and Drums, formed in 1965, is the culmination of a group of like minded individuals that wanted to promote the sound of the highland pipes and drums in the south eastern counties of England. The Band's uniform is based on traditional Highland military number one dress to promote the traditions and music of the Highland military. We represent a fusion of ancient and modern. Our music ranging from the foot tapping 'come-al-yeas' of the Ceilidh to the poignant laments.



Toot Hill Village Green – Dangerous Object

On 4th April this year, the Parish Grounds Maintenance Contractor was cutting Toot Hill Village Green, when he unfortunately ran over a piece of wood into which nails had been placed. This caused over £250 of damage to his grass cutting equipment, which the Parish Council had to pay for. It is believed this item had been placed there deliberately in an attempt to cause damage and 'teach a lesson' to any joy riders that may decide they want to use the village green to drive over. We understand the frustration that these joy riders cause, however the Parish Council was extremely concerned and disappointed to see that somebody had taken such action. Whilst indeed the placing of such an implement on the green may have caused damage to vehicles driving recklessly over it, it could also have seriously hurt and injured a child, a dog, or simply anybody walking across on the green. On this occasion, the outcome was one of inconvenience to our grounds maintenance contractor, and a cost to the Council (indirectly to our residents), but it could have been much worse resulting in seriously injury. We have reported this incident to the Police. The Parish Council is currently looking at ways we can enhance security on the green without prohibiting access to the green for our residents or changing the nature of the green itself. In the meantime, we ask residents to refrain from taking such action, and be patient whilst we look at available options.



Toot Hill Village Green – Heritage Finger Post

Earlier in the year, and thanks to Cllr Anthony Purkiss (Theydon Bois Parish Council) and Epping Forest District Council's Highway Rangers, some much needed maintenance of our heritage finger post on Toot Hill Green took place. The 'fingers' had to be sent off for renovation, but we hope you agree it looks great, providing not only clear direction to road users, but historic pride and sense of place for our community. There is certainly one local resident who was extremely pleased with the results, given he was the individual to last paint it back in 2014, who took the time to contact the Parish Council asking thanks were passed on to the Rangers for the exceptional attention to detail that was undertaken as part of the renovation project. Great job!



D-Day 80th Anniversary Commemoration

6th June 2024 marked the 80th anniversary of D-Day, and to recognise this occasion Stanford Rivers Parish Council joined communities across the country by lighting the Beacon on Toot Hill Village Green promptly at 9.15pm. We were delighted that so many of you took the time to join us in marking this important historical event. In commemorating the 80th anniversary of D-Day, we pay homage to the resilience and fortitude of the British veterans who played a crucial role in this pivotal moment of the Second World War. The invasion claimed the lives of thousands of allied soldiers. These brave men—many just teenagers—left their families and their futures behind to liberate Western Europe from the grip of the Nazis. We must remember the sacrifices they made.



Solar Farm, Berwick Lane

Many of you would have recently received through your door a leaflet providing details about the amended proposals for a Solar Farm in Berwick Lane, Stanford Rivers. This idea was first mooted early 2023, with a public consultation being held by the site promoter in May 2023. The latest leaflet states that having listened to feedback from local residents during the public consultation process, the site promoters have improved the proposal for Nickerlands Solar Farm by reducing the overall size and amending the design. There has been some confusion locally regarding what these changes are, and so we broadly summarise them below.

Previous Proposal



Updated Proposal



There is a reduced site area, with the south-eastern corner (near Berwick Lane) pulled back from the bordering local properties by around 200m. The overall site has been reduced by approximately 19.5 acres, with the site construction access moved away from Berwick Lane into Tawney Lane. There are enhanced improvements to biodiversity with new tree and hedgerow planting. The Parish Council was pleased to see that changes had been made to move the proposed development away from these properties, however has contacted the site promoters to suggest a further reduction in the proposed development site as well as moving the construction compound westward away from the properties. We await further information on these proposals, however the new Labour Government has pledged to work with the private sector to triple solar power by 2030, aiming for 50 gigawatts of solar generation capacity by that date. For more information about the proposals, visit <https://www.nickerlandssolarfarm.com/>.

First Aid Training – Are You Interested?

The Parish Council is considering running a First Aid and Defibrillator Use training session for local residents. This would be free of charge and provide you with a basic understanding of first aid, along with training on how to use a defibrillator. The Parish currently has two defibrillators for community use, and each one can be used without any training, however having basic medical knowledge within our communities can only help.

The course is expected to be around 3-4 hours long, and would be held locally at the Toot Hill Village Hall. If you are a resident of either Toot Hill or Stanford Rivers, and feel that this is something you would be interested in doing, please contact the Parish Clerk at stanforddriverspc@gmail.com. A decision as to whether or not to run the course will be made later this year, and anybody who has expressed an interest will be contacted directly. I would add bookings would be on a first come first served basis.



Stanford Rivers Neighbourhood Watch

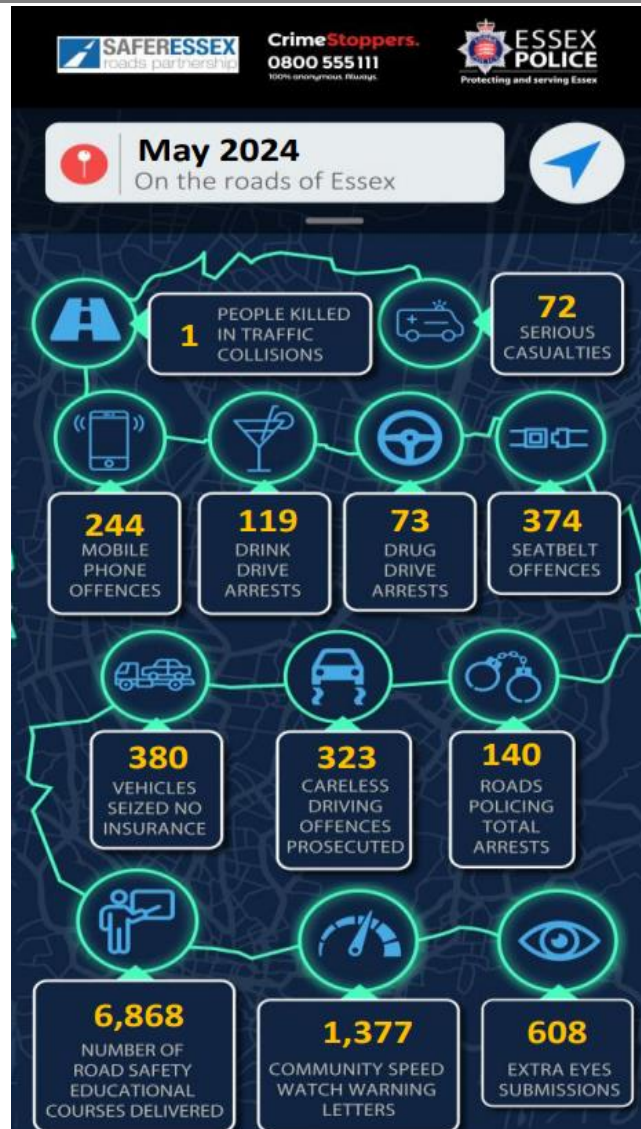


We have thankfully experienced a very quiet period in terms of crime in our parish, although there seem to be regular reports of issues in our neighbouring parishes. This was until earlier in July when there were two recorded incidents in our area, the theft of a silver Toyota Hilux in Toot Hill and the theft of tools, welding equipment and a vehicle from a business in London Road, Stanford Rivers. It is a well known fact that thieves have a tendency to revisit the area for a second attempt, so please remain vigilant. Although as a general rule we live in a safe, rural setting, we can never afford to let our guard down, and if each of us keep our eyes open for any suspicious behaviour, collectively we can help protect the area in which we live.

Your main NHW coordinator is John Adams:
srpcnw@gmail.com - Tel 01277 362194

PFCC Crime Plan Survey

Over the summer, the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) for Essex, Roger Hirst, is seeking public feedback about his Police and Crime Plan for 2024 to 2028. He is running partner workshops, public engagements, group activities and a public survey to gather thoughts about whether the priorities are right, if there is something that has been missed and what should be included. This valuable feedback helps the priorities develop. You can view the developing versions of the priorities and take part in the survey by going to www.Essex.pfcc.police.uk and searching for 'Crime Plan'.



Crane in Stanford Rivers

Many of our residents have contacted us this year to express their concern regarding the crane that appeared over the skyline of Stanford Rivers. Located within the ground of a local business, the crane had become a prominent feature in a rural setting, which many residents were unhappy with. A planning application for the crane was submitted to the District Council earlier this year, with a decision made in June by the Local Planning Authority refusing permission for the crane. The refusal report states that the crane by reason of its excessive height and bulk results in a visually obtrusive and incongruous form of development harmful to the character and appearance of the street scene, the wider locality and wider setting of the non-designated heritage asset (Former Ongar Union Workhouse). In addition, the crane was recorded as constituting inappropriate development which is, by definition, harmful to the Green Belt, and that the development would also cause additional harm to the openness of the Green Belt and for purposes of including land within it with no very special circumstances being demonstrated to clearly outweigh the identified harms. So why is the crane still there? The planning system allows for a period of appeal, however we understand that EFDC has submitted a formal enforcement notice to the applicant requiring them to remove the crane.



Toot Hill Village Hall – Solar Panels

We are excited to announce that the Parish Council has successfully received £20,000 grant funding via the National Lottery Community Fund towards the installation of solar panels onto the roof of the Toot Hill Village Hall. Our village hall is a well used community facility, and the installation of solar panels will not only help provide cleaner, sustainable energy for the hall, but will help to keep the hall hire rates low, which will benefit everybody in the community. This funding will be added to the £15,000 grant funding received via the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, and the £15,000 held in earmarked reserves for the project (which will also include the removal of the asbestos roof and replacement with something more modern). Epping Forest District Council declared a climate emergency in September 2019 and made a commitment to do everything within its power to become a carbon neutral District by 2030. As a rural parish, and a small parish council, we have limited options to make our own impact on reducing our carbon footprint, but this will go some way to ensuring we make our own mark on this target.



Toot Hill Village Hall – What's It Used For?



The Toot Hill Village Hall is host to a number of regular groups including the Essex Silk Painters, the Ongar Wildlife Society, High Country Ladies Group, High Country Ladies Group, and the History Group. In addition there is also a fantastic Pilates group held on Friday mornings 9.30am to 10.30pm, as well as the renowned Folk Club sessions, the next event being Friday 20th September. If you would like further information on any of these clubs, please contact the Parish Clerk on 077 377 36365, or email stanforddriverspc@gmail.com



The Hall is available to hire for parties, events and occasions, with use of the fully equipped kitchen and ample car park space. The hall also has WiFi for use by hall users.

To hire the Toot Hill Village Hall, call 077 37736365, or email stanforddriverspc@gmail.com. Hire rates are as follows:

		Parishioner	Non Parishioner
Mon-Fri	8am – 6pm	£12/hr	£13/Hr
Mon-Fri	6pm to 12am	£13/hr	£14/Hr
Sat- Sun	8am to 6pm	£14/Hr	£15/Hr
Sat-Sun	6pm to 12am	£16/Hr	£16/Hr

News and Views (the Stanford Rivers Community newsletter) accepts no responsibility for claims of contributors / advertisers or the quality of the services they provide. If you would like to advertise in this newsletter, or you have a suggested article or matter of local interest, please contact the Parish Council on stanforddriverspc@gmail.com or 01277 362169

Parish Council News

As usual your Parish Councillors continue to work behind the scenes by representing you and the local community on matters of interest.

Parish Councillors

After our recent Parish Council Elections, Councillors elected were Cllr John Glover (Chairman), Cllr Robert Jackson (Vice Chairman), Cllr John Adams, Cllr Ted Saridja, Cllr Matt Tallon and Cllr Basil Hollington. Visit www.stanforddrivers-pc.gov.uk for contact details.

District Councillors

Following changes to how wards are represented in the Epping Forest District, our Parish moved into the Passingford with Theydon Bois ward, and we now have three District Council representatives - Cllr Clive Amos, Cllr Tippy Cornish, Cllr Sue Jones. Visit www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk for contact details.

Village Sign, Stanford Rivers

Cllr John Adams has been working hard to find ways to slow the traffic down going through Stanford Rivers along the A113. This isn't limited to actions around traffic signs or speeding, but thinking about ways to make the area have more of a village feel, thereby acting as a subconscious visual cue to drivers that they need to slow down. One of the suggestions currently being considered is a new Village Sign which was discussed at length at our last meeting. We were extremely grateful for the input from our previous Clerk, Mrs Kay Hayden, who provided information about the meaning and history of the current village sign which was erected to mark the Millenium on the site of the Stanford Rivers united Reformed Church, built in 1820 and destroyed by fire in 1927. I would advise that we absolutely do not intend on replacing this very important sign which represents a part of the Parish's history, but are looking if there are ways we can 'add' to the area to create a sense of place. Some of the other suggestions include flower planting and the regular maintenance of the verges.

Changes to Planning

Epping Forest District Council is currently in the process



of making changes to how planning applications are considered. This is following the District Council coming a whisker away from 'being designated' and losing some of their decision-making powers for planning, which would result in applicants for larger developments being able to apply directly to the Secretary of State for permission, completely bypassing the District. We are currently unsure what these changes will mean in reality, however what we do know is the proposals are likely to mean that the Parish Council and local residents will need to be 'smarter' if they wish to object to a planning application, ensuring there are clear valid planning matters listed as reasons to object.

Meeting Dates

- Thursday 12th Sep 5.30pm Toot Hill Village Hall
- Thursday 14th Nov 5.30pm Toot Hill Village Hall

Meetings are open to the public and press, and we would love for you to join us.

Need to contact us?

Email stanforddriverspc@gmail.com

Call 077 377 36365

Visit our Website www.stanforddrivers-pc.gov.uk



Give Your Feedback On Ride-London

Ride London want to receive feedback from residents, businesses and organisations about the Ride London-Essex event held in May to help them make improvements to future years events. The survey takes approximately five minutes to complete. Information gathered from the survey will be used to develop the event for the 2025 edition which will take place on 25 May. As we all know, Essex County Council committed to 5 years of hosting this event, and we have two years

to go. Essex is a big area, and whilst the majority of our residents enjoy the festivities on the day and will support and encourage the riders, perhaps it's time for another part of Essex to host the event. To complete the survey, visit:

<https://forms.monday.com/forms/e8cb558a2f9b637928c687be42d8a930?r=use1>

Music in 2 Days: Wonka

£54



- 6-13 years
- Monday 19 August
Tuesday 20 August
- 10am – 3.30pm
- North Weald Village Hall,
Hig Road, North Weald
CM16 6BU
- 01992 564226

Fabulous performers required to show off your singing, dancing and acting skills in a mini version of Wonka, the musical. Working with our professional choreographer, you'll recreate scenes and musical numbers to musical theatre tracks from the hit film; then show them to your family and friends in a performance at the end of day two.

Summer Play in the Park

FREE

Play in the Park is an inclusive session and all about playing games and having fun outdoors. No need to book, just drop in at any time. The Play in the Park team will bring a range of sports equipment and arts & crafts resources for children and their parents/carers to enjoy together*. The team will be there to help organise activities and games. *Children must be accompanied by an adult. <https://eppingforestdc.bookinglive.com/>



Thursday 1 August

10:00 – 12:00 Stonards Hill Recreation Ground

Friday 2 August

10:00 – 12:00 Willingale Cricket Club

13:30 – 15:30 The Sports Field, Houchin Drive, Fyfield

Monday 5 August

10:00 – 12:00 Memorial Playing Field, School Green Ln, North Weald

Tuesday 6 August

13:30 – 15:30 Love Lane Playing Fields, Love Lane, Chipping Ongar

Tuesday 13 August

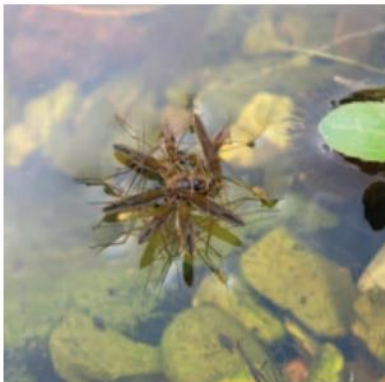
13:30 – 15:30 Shelley Park, St Peters Avenue, Ongar

Tuesday 20 August

13:30 – 15:30 Love Lane Playing Fields, Love Lane, Chipping Ongar

Pond Dipping at Roding Valley Meadows

£2.50



- 5 years and over *
- Monday 12 August
- 10am – 11.30am
- Meet at the car park:
Grange Farm Centre,
High Rd, Chigwell IG7 6DP
- [eppingforestdc.
bookinglive.com](http://eppingforestdc.bookinglive.com)

We will be using nets to catch pond animals, so we can observe and identify them, before releasing them back to the pond.






* All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. The event may be cancelled if the weather is forecast to be particularly bad. We will let you know in advance if this is going to be the case.

Activities Over The Summer **FOR THE ADULTS**

Let's Get Together

FREE



-  Adults 18+
-  Every Tuesday
-  2.30pm – 4.30pm
-  The Epping Community Hub, Civic Offices, 323 High Street, Epping CM16 4BZ
-  01992 564226

These free weekly sessions are run by Epping Forest District Council's Community, Development and Wellbeing team and are open to the whole community. Come along and get to know others in your local area. Learn a new skill, play a few games or just relax and enjoy a cup of tea and a chat.
NO NEED TO BOOK – JUST TURN UP

Social. Active. Strong.

FREE (referral programme)



-  Adults 50+
(but open to adults who require the service or have been referred)
-  Weekly programme
-  Various venues
-  01992 564226
Lucinda Harvey
Falls Prevention Officer
sasreferrals@eppingforestdc.gov.uk



A free 12 week programme of activity to help you build strength, improve mobility and balance to help sustain your day-to-day activity levels. Located at various venues in and around Epping, Ongar, Waltham Abbey, Loughton, Buckhurst Hill and Chigwell.

You are guaranteed low impact, fun exercise to help you achieve a more active, social and independent life. Available to adults living or registered to a GP practice in the Epping Forest district. Please register your interest and an instructor will contact you to explain more about the service, available classes and to complete a health questionnaire.

Walking Football

FREE



-  Adults 45+
-  Every Tuesday
-  11.30am – 12.30pm
-  Townmead Football Pitches, Waltham Abbey EN9 1JH
-  cw@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

A slow paced version of the beautiful game. Walking Football is aimed at getting players back into the sport.