

News and updates from around our Parish...

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Stretton celebrates the Diamond Jubilee

The Parish Council (PC) marked the Queen's Diamond Jubilee with plans to plant 2 Oak trees in the village. Pewterspear Green Trust (PGT) kindly agreed to make a donation towards the cost of the trees which will be planted later in the year. One will be on Pewterspear land close to the A49 and the other in Lower Stretton's Summit Close. In addition the PC made £100 donations to two Stretton Jubilee events: St Matthew's Church Jubilee Garden Party and the Lower Stretton Jubilee Street Party. Both were super events and the only glitch was that they were both on Saturday 2nd June from 2pm due to a mix up in communications!

St Matthew's Church Jubilee Garden Party

From Vicar Elaine

It was a party fit for a queen! Despite the weather we managed to have a chocolate tombola, raffle, face painting, sports, hunt the lolly, cardboard castle, childrens' and adults' crafts and an opportunity to be Queen and Prince for the day through the clever efforts of those who painted an outline so that people could pop their head through for a photo. Also the refreshments were marvellous; thanks to the behind the scenes organisers and those who helped during the day. There were some generous donations which allowed this to go ahead at minimal expense and we want to thank you too. We were able to provide Jubilee New testaments to our school, staff, children's organisations and Pre School, with some left for people to take on making a donation.



Thanks to Stretton PC for helping us with the funding of the cardboard castle which the children had great fun with as they coloured it in and walked through its "rooms".

Lower Stretton Jubilee Street Party

From the Organising Team



After a rainy morning, the party kicked off in the Ring O' Bells Car Park at 2pm for approximately 70/80 residents with tea and cakes. We

ended up with an abundance, but this set everyone up for the afternoon's entertainment! We had a Jubilee Raffle (with prizes donated by residents and local businesses including the Hollies, Park Royal Spa, Stretton Fox, and proceeds going towards the Lifeboats charity and the next community event); a Jubilee Hat Competition; Table Olympics; Boules competition; Guess the Jubilee Teddy; Guess the



number of Sweets and Pin the Crown on the Queen. After the activities had finished and all the prizes were awarded, we gave all the children a Jubilee mug hand-painted with 'Lower Stretton 2012' to commemorate the event. Then the BBQ started at 4pm and lots of eating and drinking followed. We also arranged for a local ice cream van to drop by early evening - much to the childrens' (and adults'!) delight. Well done to the Organising Team for all their hard work and thanks to Warrington BC and Stretton PC for their kind donations and to the local community for their generosity. All round a fabulous free event driven by local people. We have had lots of great feedback and plan our next event in November 2012.

Twinkling Stretton update



We are pleased to report that the 2nd Christmas tree has now finally gone into the ground and appears to be doing well in its

location on PGT land near the bus stop on London Road. We would like to thank PGT for their generous donation towards the tree, also St. Matthew's Church for their donation and to everyone who joined in raising funds for the purchase and planting costs of the tree and lights. After months of agonising over the lighting, we resorted to solar lights (thinking green!). Unfortunately we had some problems with the lights and we must say a big thank you to Green who were employed to plant the tree for us but went above and beyond to get the lights sorted out in time for a Christmas switch on.

The tree was eventually lit on Saturday 3rd December 2011 by St. Matthew's Vicar Rev. Elaine. It was attended by Stretton PC, St Matthew's choir and members of the public and Rev. Elaine kindly provided mulled wine and mince pies in the Pavilion which was gladly received by all.

We now want this to become an annual event so please look at the notice boards and church notices for the date of the switch on this December as we would love to see more people join in this lovely celebration.

On Sunday 4th December the smaller tree located in Lower Stretton was switched on by one of the children

in the village and this was attended by residents of Lower Stretton. We have now erected a sign recognising the sponsorship of this tree - thank you to Neil Higgins for making this for us.



Meg Lane Nursery Complex, Antrobus

An application was made by Crosby's Nurseries to build a glasshouse plant nursery at Meg Lane in Antrobus on a site opposite the village pub, the Antrobus Arms. This was refused on the following 2 grounds:

- 1) The development 'would have a detrimental visual impact on the green belt and would detract from the character and appearance of the locality'.
- 2) It was 'considered that the movements of additional HGV's through Meg Lane/A559 junction, generated by the proposed development, could pose highway safety issues due to the constraints of the existing junction geometry'.

The Chair attended a general meeting prior to this decision in Antrobus village and Stretton PC objected to this application on the grounds of increased HGV traffic on the already dangerous A559 road.

Remembrance Sunday

Once again last year we purchased a poppy wreath from the Royal British Legion which the Chair placed on the memorial at



St. Matthew's churchyard before attending the service at the Cenotaph in Warrington town centre. Thanks to Julie Dove of the Royal British Legion for her assistance every year in supplying the poppy wreath. We have made this an annual cost against the precept. Unfortunately Warrington has again lost another young man in Afghanistan and Stretton Parish Council offers its sincere sympathy to the family and friends of the young soldier from Latchford.

Like to receive this newsletter online?
Just email the Clerk. 😊

Grit Bins

We now have grit bins around the village to help local residents deal with icy roads in the winter months. Bins are located at Summit Close, Common Lane, Stretton Road (outside the school), Bower Crescent and Fir Tree Close. The bins are dark green in colour to differentiate them from WBC bins and are full and unlocked during the winter months. They are for the use of anyone dealing with an icy parish road - all you have to do is provide your own bucket and shovel!

Pewterspear Green Trust Update

Taken from the Trustees Report for year end 31/12/11:

1. Maintenance of Parkland: Ongoing maintenance of the parkland areas has involved the clearance, cutting back and tidying up of hedges, trees and plants across the estate. This is to ensure that members of the public can fully enjoy the open spaces provided and that good relationships are maintained with our neighbours.
2. Sporting Facilities: The Trust continues to support Appleton Boys Football Club and Stretton Cricket Club through continued investment in facilities, including improvements to drainage systems to enable greater use of facilities during period of poor weather.
3. Community Activities: The Trust has engaged actively with the local community through the provision of the pavilion for local clubs and organisations and has supported local initiatives undertaken by Stretton PC both in the form of a financial contribution and through providing a place to plant a village Christmas Tree. For more information please contact the Company Secretary, John Perris on: john-perris@tiscali.co.uk or visit the PGT Website at: www.pewterspeargreentrust

Localism Act 2012



On 15th November 2011 the bill received Royal Assent and is now law. Together the measures in the Act mean:

New rights and powers for local communities

- The Act makes it easier for local people to take over the amenities they love & keep them part of local life
- ensures that local social enterprises, volunteers & community groups with a bright idea for improving local services get a chance to change how things are done
- enables local residents to call local authorities to account for the careful management of taxpayers' money

Reform to make the planning system clearer, more democratic and more effective

- The Act places significantly more influence in the hands of local people over issues that make a big difference to their lives
- provides appropriate support and recognition to communities who welcome new development
- reduces red tape, making it easier for authorities to get on with the job of working with local people to draw up a vision for their area's future
- reinforces the democratic nature of the planning system - passing power from bodies not directly answerable to the public to democratically accountable ministers.

Reform to ensure that decisions about housing are taken locally

- The Act enables local authorities to make their own decisions to adapt housing provision to local needs, and make the system fairer and more effective
- gives local authorities more control over funding of social housing, helping them to plan for the long term
- gives people who live in social housing new ways of holding their landlords to account, and make it easier for them to move

The Act also means **new freedoms and flexibilities for local government**, including

- giving local authorities everywhere the formal legal ability and greater confidence to get on with the job of responding to what local people want

Taken from 'A plain English guide to the Localism Act'.
www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/decentralisation/localismbill/

Update on Travelling Showpeople application on former Roots and Shoots site

As most residents of Stretton will know, the land just South of the M56 roundabout, formerly occupied by "Roots and Shoots Ltd" was acquired by Travelling Showpeople who applied for planning permission to use it for a number of "Chalets", caravans, and storage of equipment.

There was overwhelming opposition to this from residents, and the Parish Council sent in a formal letter of objection to the planning application. The application was discussed at the Borough Council's Development Control Committee on 26th of January. Speaking against the application were David Mowat, MP, Gary Borrows representing local residents and Jill Higgins for the PC. The meeting was attended by a great number of residents, and despite the Borough Council's Planning Department recommending the plans be approved, the Development Control Committee voted to refuse it. In late May, we received notification that an appeal against this refusal has been launched by the Travelling Showpeople, and will be heard by way of Public Inquiry. This means that the Borough Council now have to defend their decision. Full details of the Inquiry are not yet known, but needless to say the PC will be supporting in any way they can. Stretton Residents group are also galvanising themselves. Comments can be emailed to the Parish Council Clerk and also to Stretton Residents at Strettonresidents@mail.com.

Creamfields Festival August 2012

At the time of going to press we have the following information: The Creamfields campsite is opening on Friday from 12 noon onwards and closes on the Bank Holiday Monday at 12 noon. The music will be: Friday 6.00pm to 11.00pm, Saturday 12 noon to 4.30am, Sunday 12 noon to 11.00pm. Last year Creamfields caused concerns to local residents and businesses. There was an increase in noise, litter, mud on roads and inability to access the emergency helpline. Some areas were left without power which was assumed due to some problem with the site. Local pubs and shops were left empty due to people being deterred from entering the area and this resulted in the loss of thousands of pounds for businesses. We have collated information to be sent to relevant bodies. Would all residents and businesses please let the PC know of any problems during this festival time.



LOOK

of the Borough report

In Jan/Feb, Stretton was the last Parish in Warrington to have the services of a 'Look of the Borough' team from WBC. They dealt with issues put forward by residents & Parish Councillors: gully cleaning, hedge & tree trimming, verge & pavement clearing as well as signage cleaning & repair. A new seat was also installed in the bus shelter on London Road. The initiative started over 2 years ago to tackle issues that were not readily dealt with in maintenance activity. It is hoped that this initiative will be repeated in the future as the results have been very well received by everyone. Please still contact your Parish Councillors with any issues as we will continue to report them on your behalf.

♥ Love Where You Live ♥



I love where I live

The PC are pleased to announce that we will be working with WBC to reduce the level of anti-social behaviour and nuisance caused by fly-tipping, littering and dog fouling in the village. This initiative known as 'Love Where You Live' focuses upon both education and enforcement activities to encourage residents and visitors to be more considerate to other members of our community. This campaign uses modern and effective notices and signs to reinforce the message and these will be seen in the village later this year.

Further information on the campaign can be obtained from the Environmental Crime Team at WBC on 01925 443322 or by visiting the website www.lovehereyoulive.org/warrington.

Watch out, there are burglars about...

Whilst crime rates in our area are low, we need to be vigilant & any suspicious activities should immediately be reported to the Police. Installation of a CCTV system and safe for items of value are cost effective measures to protect property. Cheshire Police recommend:

Secure your home: If fitting new doors & windows, use British Standard BS7950 (windows) or PAS 24-1 (doors); Fit mortise locks (Kitemarked BS3621) to all front/back doors & locks to all easily accessible windows; Keep house & car keys safe & away from doors & windows; Fit a burglar alarm and check it works.

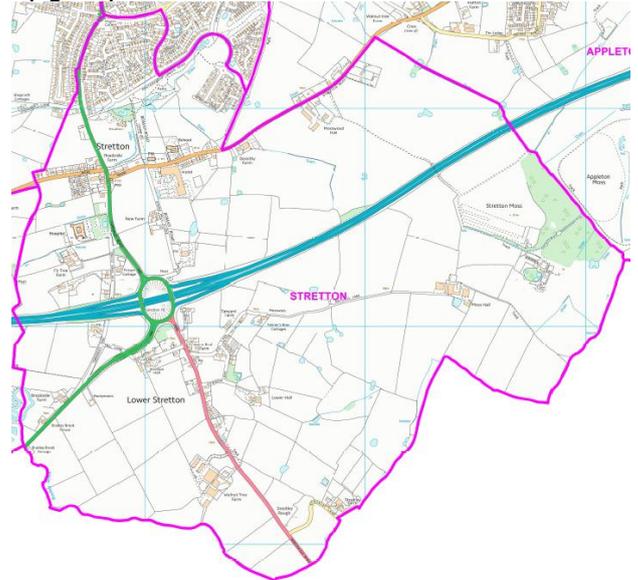
When you're away: Don't leave your curtains closed during the day; Use timer switches to turn on some lights when it's dark; Cancel milk/newspaper deliveries; Ask a neighbour/family member to look after your home. www.cheshire.police.uk/advice-information.aspx

Can you help with a Stretton Website?

We are interested in joining forces with local organisations and residents to create a Stretton village website. It will help us to keep in touch as a community and share information like news on village events, local history, and local notices. Are you interested in helping us? Have you got any web skills? Are you a budding village news hound? If so, please do get in touch with the PC Clerk and give us your details.

Stretton Parish boundary

We are such a spread out parish that sometimes people don't think they live within it. The map is a bit small, but it may give you a clue!



Welcome to our new Parish Councillors

We are pleased to announce 2 new parish councillors who fill our outstanding vacancies. Gail Slattery lives on the border of Stretton and Appleton and works in the village. She has previously been involved in the PC, fundraising for the Twinkling Stretton project. David Hutchinson lives in Appleton Thorn and he and his family have links to St Matthew's church and school. We would like to welcome them on board and look forward to working together for the benefit of the Parish.

Want to hear direct about news & events? Just email the Clerk. 😊

About the Parish Council

Stretton PC meets in St. Matthew's Church Hall on the 1st Monday of the month at 7.45pm. All meetings are open to the public and the latest agenda can be found on the PC noticeboards (outside Stretton Newsagents, the Ring O' Bells pub and on Pewterspear Green Road). If you have any problems that you would like us to help with or want to be involved, please come along or contact: **Clerk to Stretton PC, Mrs Linda Crewe, 20 Algernon Street, Stockton Heath, Warrington WA4 6EA. Tel: 450759**
Email: strettonparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk