



STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN 2025 - 2028

WORKING TOGETHER FOR STAPLEHURST

Staplehurst Parish Council has been supporting the residents of Staplehurst since Civic Administrative Parish Councils were first established in 1894 and as such it is a statutory body performing its role as the local tier in our nation's democratic process. Its current activities and plans are highlighted below. However, there are two overriding matters that must be considered before these activities and plans can be addressed.

First, The Government has announced that it plans to reorganise the provision of Local Government in England with the stated aim of devolving decision making. This will involve establishing a Mayor for Kent with strategic responsibilities and the establishment of Unitary Authorities in place of the current two tier system of Borough / Districts and County Council. Parish Councils will remain and there will be an opportunity to establish Town Councils. The future size of these councils will need to be addressed and more importantly what statutory powers they will have.

Second, Staplehurst Parish Council is in the process of revising its current Neighbourhood Plan. This Plan is a part of Maidstone Borough Council's Local Development Plan. It sets out the Parish Council's objectives; it has statutory powers and plays a key role in planning decisions.

In summary the future role of Parish Councils and the establishment of a Revised Neighbourhood Plan are prime considerations in our Strategic Planning process.

The key objectives and actions are:

Communications and economy - will focus on:		Group responsible
1	Actively promote the work of the council	Comms
2	Improve the Village Update / Annual Report	Comms
3	Improve council website	Comms
4	Improve social media presence	Comms
5	Actively signpost residents to online reporting for services we do not deliver	Comms
6	Support partner to support local facilities such as the medical centre, Library, Bell Lane and the Parade	SCEnic
Environment – will focus on:		Group responsible
1	Support the work of the Greener Working Group	SCEnic
2	Manage the allotments	SCEnic
3	Periodically review the provision and condition of the bus shelters	SCEnic
4	Work with partners to develop electric vehicle charging points in the village	SCEnic
5	Encourage environmental initiatives on new housing	Planning
6	Planning Committee consider planning matters in Staplehurst	Planning
7	Support the work of the Road Safety Group and CCTV	RSG
Local community infrastructure – will focus on:		Group responsible
1	Maintain and enhance the Jubilee Field: 3G Multi-Sports pitch, grass pitch, Pavilion and Skatepark	JFWG
2	Maintain and enhance the Surrenden Field: maintain the play equipment and outdoor gym and enhance the pavilion	SCEnic
3	Maintain and enhance the Youth Club	SCEnic

4	Support the Neighbourhood Plan and policies regarding housing developments	NDP Review
5	Lobby Network Rail and South Eastern Trains to use housing developer contributions to improve Staplehurst Railway station	EFSG
6	Support the Staplehurst Community Centre CIO to improve the Community Centre	EFSG
Community - will focus on:		Group responsible
1	Support voluntary groups to achieve their social activity and contribution to the community – Scouts, Guides, Men’s Shed, Staplehurst Society, Neighbourhood Watch and other voluntary groups	EFSG
2	Encourage grant applications and donations	EFSG
3	Support community events such as : Summer Fete, Playscheme, Remembrance Sunday, Christmas and Merit Awards	SCEnic
4	Maintain effective liaison between the Parish Council, neighbouring Parish Councils, Maidstone Borough Council, Kent County Council and Kent Police	EFSG
5	Work with KCC Highways to develop improvements to Cranbrook Road infrastructure	EFSG + RSG
Administration – will focus on:		Group responsible
1	Sound policies, financial management and reporting	EFSG
2	Positively engage with the Kent Unitary Authority process	EFSG
3	Review, monitor and report Strategic Action Plan every six months	EFSG

This Strategic Action Plan supersedes any former action plan and was adopted by Staplehurst Parish Council on ...**11th May 2026**..... **Minute ...2473/11.5**.....