

STAMBOURNE NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2026



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No: 294

STAMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

STAMBOURNE BONFIRE NIGHT

Saturday 7th November 2026
Bonfire lit at 6.30pm

Adults: £7; Children: £3; Under 5's: FREE
Barbeque and refreshments

Parking

CASH ONLY

The latest meeting of the Parish Council took place on Thursday 24 September 2026 at 7.30pm in the village hall. All members were present and we were pleased to be joined by Richard van Dulken, the District Councillor. Nathan Robins was present in his role as Parish Councillor and Essex County Councillor.

Report of District Councillor

Points noted:-

- Local Plan – Noted as approved by BDC going forward. Information on the Local Plan can be found here - www.baintree.gov.uk/localplanreq19
- Robin Hood Solar Farm – A meeting of the Community Liaison Group took place on 30 September 2026 at Stambourne Village Hall.
- Wethersfield Airbase – Currently holding 710 people. There was no timeline regarding the increase of numbers to 1245.
- Waste and recycling – A review would be taking place following the introduction of the new service. However, it is unlikely that the frequency of collections would change and more information is awaited.
- Highways – It was noted that roads in the parish and local area had very few potholes.
- Grants – The Councillors' Community Grant was available to community groups details available from your District Councillor cllr.rvandulken@braintree.gov.uk

Report of County Councillor

Points noted were:-

- **Highways –**
 - Essex County Council declared a pothole emergency as historically repairs were taking 9-12 months. In July results were 60% and in August 30% higher this year than 2025 and there were 998 pothole reports since May in Braintree District - the second highest number per district in Essex. ECC were now aiming to complete pothole repairs within 90 days.
 - Between April and August there were 74,000 drainage issues dealt with which was a 20% increase on the previous year. The county has only 4 jetting units across Essex.
 - Local Highways Panel – This has been reviewed and the decision was made to cease funding in 2027.
 - Overgrown hedges – 729 enforcement letters had been issued across the District. Overgrown hedges can be reported using the ECC online reporting tool at www.essex.gov.uk. Below is the ECC guidance for overgrown vegetation.

Overgrown vegetation

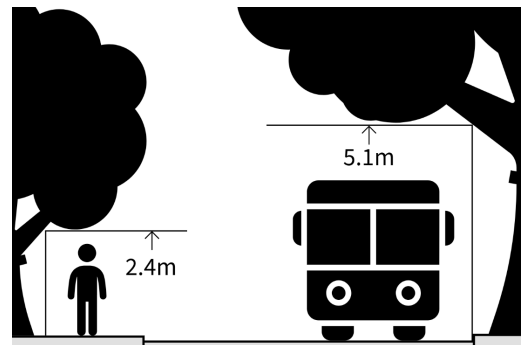
Along with our grass verge cutting and weed spraying residents can do their bit to help by looking after the area outside your home or property and encourage your neighbours and community to do the same.

Vegetation on (or from) private land

We (ECC) don't look after trees, hedges and shrubs on private land, including land that is next to roads and pavements. Most trees and hedges by roads are on land owned by private landowners, district councils, city council, parish councils, housing associations and homeowners. It is the landowner's responsibility to look after these areas. They have a duty of care to take reasonable steps to prevent or reduce as far as possible, the risk of injury or damage that could be caused to anyone else - [Highways Act 1980](#).

Examples are:

- overgrown vegetation reducing the available pavement width for pedestrians - vegetation should be kept back to the property boundary.
- overhanging vegetation reducing the height for pedestrians or cyclists on the pavement or cycleway - low hanging vegetation should be cut back so there is a clearance of 2.4m (8ft) over a pavement or cycleway.
- overhanging vegetation that reduces the height or clearance of the road for tall vehicles such as double deck school buses - low hanging vegetation should be cut back so there is a clearance of 5.1m (16ft 9in) over a road.
- overhanging vegetation reducing the width or blocking the view of the road - vegetation should be kept back to the property boundary.
- a damaged or diseased tree that is in danger of falling onto the road or pavement - these should be treated or removed, where possible.
- overgrown vegetation obscuring road signs or streetlights - vegetation should be cut back for visibility.



- **Local Government Re-organisation –** It was noted that this proposal had now been dropped and District Council elections would take place in 2027.
- **Fostering –** ECC has begun a campaign to increase the number of foster families from 500 to 750.
- **Operation Vanguard –** the provision of private security teams in Chelmsford, Colchester and Braintree had started as a 3-month trial.

Pavilion

There has been a good number of bookings throughout the summer for birthday parties, family get-togethers and charity fundraisers. The pavilion is available for bookings through autumn and will be closed for winter after bonfire night. If you would like to book the pavilion, please contact me - details below.

Playingfield

Thank you to the volunteers who helped remove the ash from the bonfire site recently. It has been agreed to purchase a new piece of play equipment for the playing field paid for by the bonfire fund.

Robin Hood Solar Farm Proposal

The Parish Council are closely monitoring this proposal, and representatives will be attending a Community Liaison Group meeting being hosted by Qualitas.

Finance

The accounts for the year 2025-26 have been confirmed by the external auditor and details will be available on the website.

The next meeting will be held at the village hall on Thursday 19 November 2026 at 7.30pm.

Full minutes and agendas are available on the village website at www.stambourne.com

Debbie Hilliard, Parish Clerk

Email: clerk@stambournepc.org.uk

Tel: 01440 785629

ST. PETER & ST. THOMAS PARISH CHURCH

HELP IS NEEDED FOR CAROL SERVICE!!

If anyone can offer help with reading, decorating the Church, to make or buy mince pies/sausage rolls etc and help with serving refreshments on the day and tidying up after the service it will be much appreciated!!

PLEASE contact me ASAP. Thank you.



SERVICES FOR THE NEXT THREE MONTHS:

Date	Time	Service	
18 October	9:30 am	Holy Communion	Rev. Tia Stickland
1 November	9:30 am	Morning Prayer	Rev. Tia Stickland
8 November	TBC (maybe 3:00 pm)	REMEMBERANCE SUNDAY	
15 November	9:30 am	Holy Communion	Rev. Tia Stickland
29 November	11:00 am	Benefice Service at Toppesfield	Rev. Tia Stickland
6 December	No Service at Stambourne		
13 December	3:00 pm	CAROL SERVICE	Rev. Tia Stickland
20 December	9:30 am	Holy Communion	Rev. Tia Stickland

Val Kerrison, Churchwarden

Tel: 01440 785752 or 07879816362

Email: valeriekerrison@oulook.com

STAMBOURNE CHAPEL

SERVICES AT STAMBOURNE CHAPEL:

Date	Time	Service	
1 November	10:45 am		Jill and Bob Holmes
22 November	10:45 am		Chris Stirling
6 December	10:45 am	Christmas Celebration	Jill and Bob Holmes

OCTOBER HALF-TERM FUN AT YOUR LIBRARY:



Looking for ways to keep the children entertained this October half term?

Check out your local Essex library for a fantastic programme of family-friendly activities. From spooky crafts and creative workshops to storytelling sessions and exciting events, there's something for children of all ages to enjoy. Spaces may be limited for some activities, so check what's on and book your place today!

Link: <https://library-events.essex.gov.uk>

VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE - NEWS and UPDATES

Stambourne Village Hall HALLOWEEN QUIZ night Saturday 31st October 7pm. £12.50 per head this includes a 2 course meal of jacket potato with a choice of 3 toppings plus a choice of two desserts. Please bring your own drinks. Please buy your tickets in advance by phoning Cath on 01440785678 or Wendy on 01450788702 or 07810136200 or just come along on the night.

There will be the grand draw. We will be selling Grand Draw tickets door to door very soon.



*The **CHRISTMAS TREE** lighting will now be on Saturday **5th December** between 5:30 and 7:30 pm with mulled wine, sausage rolls and mince pies, also music and a tombola. A great chance to meet up for a chat with friends and neighbours.*

*Rosie is retiring from her position as village hall bookings secretary. A big **THANK YOU** to Rosie for all her hard work over many years. We have a new bookings secretary, Theresa, so any future enquiries or bookings please phone Theresa on 07899365387 or email theresa24966@outlook.com. Welcome and thank you.*

*The **BREAST CANCER** awareness afternoon tea at the pavilion raised £600!! A cheque has been sent to them, we're just awaiting our certificate. So **THANK YOU** to everyone who supported the event.*

***BINGO** is still a success every Monday afternoon at 3pm please do pop along.*

***YOGA** is back on Tuesdays from 5.30pm until 6.30pm all abilities very welcome.*



Contributions for the next newsletter (to cover events in the second half of December, January and February) to Karen Crago, preferably by email to kcrago@btinternet.com or WhatsApp by Friday 27 November, please.