

The Hamlets' Voice

***Staploe, Duloe, Honeydon, Upper Staploe,
Bushmead and Begwary***

Issue 26 – February 2019



Staploe, Duloe, Honeydon & Begwary Village Curry Night



Saturday 2nd March 2019 at 18.30pm
Colmworth Village Hall

Menu

Onion Bhajis, Samosas
Chicken Korma & Lamb Bhuna
Rice & Naan
(Veggie option on request)

Bring your own drinks

Adults £15, Children 6-10 yrs £6
Children under 5 free

Please advise and pay by Friday 15th Feb 2019
To book, contact Jane Thomson 07889 305754 or
Ged Meola 07790 958357



In support of Duloe Village Hall

Road names - final consultation

Thank you to all those who took the time to contact the Parish Council with their views about the proposed road names in the parish.

In Honeydon, *Begwary Lane* and *Manor Farm Lane* received positive feedback and will be proposed by the Parish Council for adoption. A number of residents requested *Lower Honeydon Lane* rather than *Brook Lane* for the road between the bus shelter and Lower Honeydon Farm travelling out towards Two Brewers. We would therefore like to know whether you would prefer *Brook Lane* or *Lower Honeydon Lane*.

In Staploe and Duloe, some would like no name and others wanted a variety of names. We received a proposal from Nigel Cutts which we felt was worthy of further consultation. He suggested that we might consider commemorating those who were killed in action using our road names.

Horace Usher was born in Staploe and was killed in action on 21st December 1914 and is buried at Pont Du Hem Military Cemetery, La Gorge, France.



Horace Usher

An extract from *St. Neots and the Great War* by Kenneth Wood explains that:

“Four days before Christmas 1914 Private Horace Usher, with the 1st Battalion Northants Regiment, was killed close to La Bassée. Horace Usher, a regular soldier who had been born in Staploe and whose father lived in Bushmead, had been in the army for just over a year when he was killed. Initially this nineteen-year-old was reported as missing in action, but eleven months later that changed and his grieving father, Christopher, received confirmation that his eldest son had died on 21 December. Nine years later Horace Usher's identity tag, with a large jagged hole in it, was discovered by a French farmer, and when the Imperial War Graves started their work after the war, his body was amongst those that was identified and relocated to Pont du Hem Military Cemetery near La Bassée.”



Ralph Brewer (left) with his twin brother William.
Picture courtesy & Copyright
© Mr & Mrs P Presland 2002

One of the Brewer twin brothers - William Brewer, of Staploe - was killed in an accident on 22nd January 1941 while in active service.

Keith John Brewer, born in Duloe, was killed in action on 19th July 1944 on the outskirts of Caen, France.



Keith John Brewer
Picture courtesy & Copyright
© Mr & Mrs P Presland 2002

Private William Henry Ball of the London Regiment, who was a resident of Staploe, was also killed in action on May 3rd 1917.

These men are commemorated on the Eaton Socon War memorial.

In Nigel's words "What better way to name the two main roads through Staploe and Duloe than to pay our respects to the sacrifice they and their families have given."

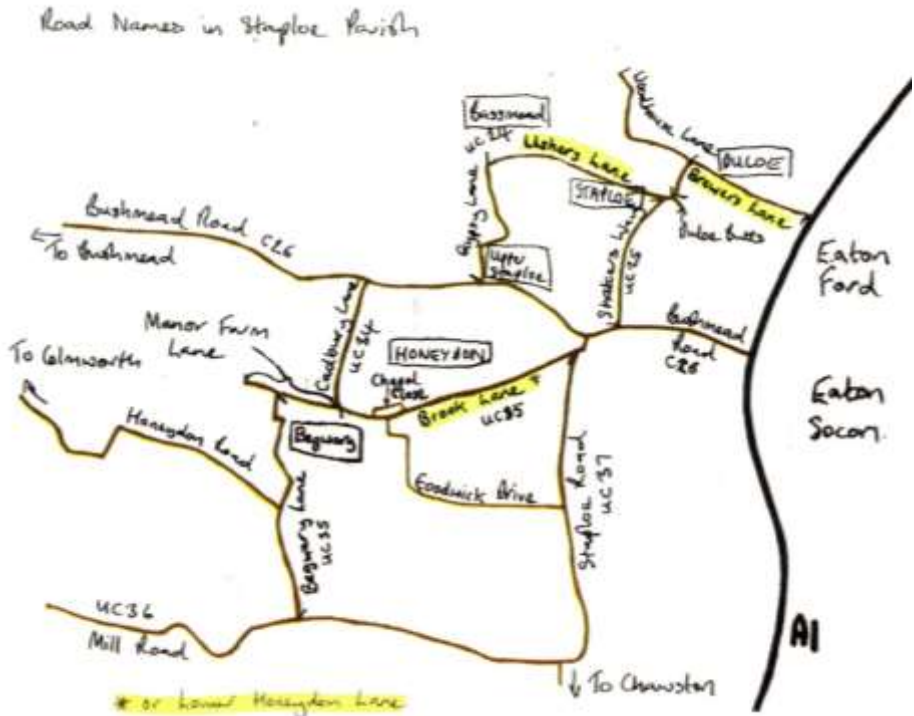
Opposite is a revised map of proposed road names. We are seeking consultation on those highlighted yellow and would like to know:

- Honeydon: whether you would prefer *Brook Road* or *Lower Honeydon Lane*
- Staploe: whether you would prefer no name or *Ushers Lane*
- Duloe: whether you would prefer no name or *Brewers Lane*

We are no longer looking for new name suggestions.

Please e-mail your preferences from the above suggestions to the Clerk at lcrawford@staploepc.org.uk or give your opinion via survey here: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/YGG8M78

The deadline is 29th February 2019.



(Information taken from www.roll-of-honour.com/Huntingdonshire/EatonSocon.html
Compiled and copyright © Martin Edwards 2000. Image of Horace Usher from "St Neots and the Great War" by Kenneth Wood. Published by The History Press 2011)

Broadband

The Parish Council wrote to our MP, Alistair Burt, about broadband in Honeydon and Upper Staploe in December. Sam Mackewn contacted Bedford Borough Council on Mr Burt's behalf; the Council's response was as follows:

"MK44 2LS, MK44 2NE & MK44 2LT / Honeydon

The survey was returned at the end of May and the technology to be deployed was changed from Fibre to the Cabinet (FTTC) to Fibre to the Premise (FTTP). However, there have been a number of operational issues that Openreach have, and are facing, with the deployment. This means that the completion of the work to supply superfast broadband to the area is now unlikely to be in quarter 3 (i.e. before the end of Dec 2018) as there is still a large amount of work which needs to be undertaken. In terms of dates, Openreach are confident that the works will be completed by 31 March 2019. We have apologised that this is later than planned but unfortunately, the nature of the project is that occasionally deployment takes longer than envisaged.

PE19 5JB, PE19 5JD, PE19 5JF / Upper Staploe

We are currently delivering our second programme for which modelling was delegated to Openreach to ensure maximum coverage with the funding available. Unfortunately, these postcodes are not in the plans for this project. On checking the initial plans for the third project (due to start middle of next year), it looks as though these premises will not be covered. However, we are still finalising the deployment details so things could change.

Whilst we appreciate the frustration, we are working as hard as possible to get to everyone. It must be clear that, prior to the start of Project 1, the major suppliers had completed all the works that they deemed to be commercially viable and therefore, without the subsequent government funding none of the additional works that have taken place as part of the council project would have happened. We are pleased that so far we have managed to get to 96.1% superfast coverage. It is unfortunate but not unexpected that there are gaps, and we still have a lot of work to do across the borough, but we have also managed to serve the majority of the area in question.

Whilst the Government is still finalising the details of future deployments and projects, we continue to monitor all funding opportunities and developments for the outstanding eligible premises. However, it likely that the fact remains that we will

continue to maximise coverage with the funding available, as this is the most robust approach.

In the meantime, there is still the opportunity for residents to take advantage of the Better Broadband scheme and review their eligibility of the Gigabit Voucher scheme.”

Sam urged all those affected to continue to write to the Mayor, and the Broadband team, to ensure their concerns have been registered. She is finalising a date for a broadband meeting, and as soon as this is fixed, she will let the Parish Council know.

If you would like to write to the Mayor, his contact details are: dave.hodgson@bedford.gov.uk or write to Dave Hodgson, Mayor of Bedford, Bedford Borough Council, Borough Hall, Cauldwell Street, Bedford MK42 9AP. Justine Ives is responsible for broadband and you can contact her at Justine.Ives@bedford.gov.uk or the same address at Borough Hall.

Street lights

The Parish Council have agreed to upgrade all 21 street lights in the parish using £4,500 we have been saving towards this purpose for the past 6 years plus £460 of the Community Infrastructure Levy that we received for the development at Topham End Farm (planning reference 17/02007/FUL) in Honeydon Road, Begwary. The lights will be upgraded to the Indo Air 1 LED lanterns with warm white light. They will be manufactured to dim to half brightness from midnight to 5.30am. The yellow sodium lights we have at the moment are inefficient and will become obsolete this year.

Village walking group

There is an informal village walk every Tuesday and Friday for 1-2 hours leaving from the post box in Staploe at 10.00am. Please feel free to bring your dog along if you wish. Dogs may need to be on a lead for some or all of the walk depending on the location. There is no need to book, participants can just turn up, suitably equipped for the weather and content to walk at their own risk. For further information please contact Caroline on 01480 476 180. This is not a Parish Council event. There may be occasions when no one is walking. There is a Whatsapp group for those who may wish to find out who is walking each week. To join please call Caroline.

Solar farm

Construction of the Solar Farm at Little Staughton Airfield and Top Farm, Little Staughton, is due to commence in February (early access track and substation works – subject to final planning condition sign off) with the full build on both Top Farm and the airfield starting by May at the latest. Both sites are close to the northern border of our parish and the Top Farm site will be on the boundary. An access road and the fibre cable route will come through our parish from Hail Weston. There is no new substation in Staploe (it's in Hail Weston parish). The access route from the A1 to the entrance to the airfield goes along Bushmead Road and the access route to the entrance to Top Farm (at Sharpe's Barn) goes along the B645.



The solar farm will cover an area of 143 hectares, (353 acres) and will provide enough clean energy to power up to 13,000 homes (approximately 60% of Huntingdon's housing stock).

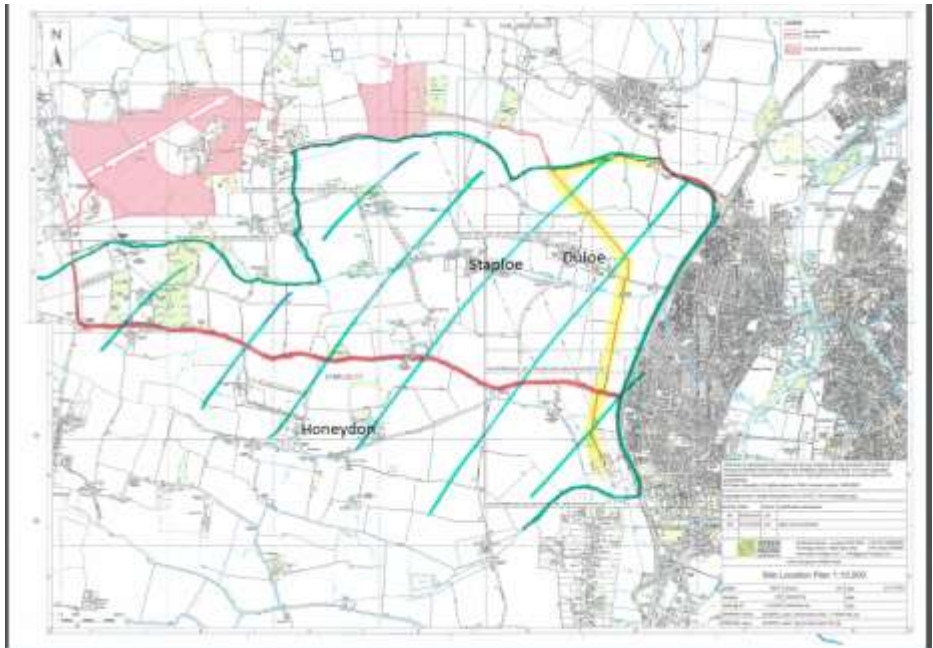
The original developers (Green Hedge Renewables) presented to the Parish Council in July 2015. They explained that there will be a five-month construction period during which contractors will operate from 8.30-6pm Monday to Friday and from 9am – 1pm on Saturdays. There will be a maximum of 8 heavy vehicles going to and from the site per day and no deliveries in rush hour.

The Parish Clerk checked this information with Intelligent Alternatives (the current developers). They explained that “The working hours and delivery numbers will vary somewhat, depending on the stage of the project, but they look generally accurate as an average.”

In addition, there will be lots of signs to prevent drivers getting lost. Deliveries will be from the A1 either along the Bushmead Road or along the B645 past Hail Weston. 95% of the site will remain as grass and they are working with the RSPB and the Avon Wildlife Trust to improve biodiversity.

The map below shows the access routes. The green shading is a rough indication of Staploe Parish, the access routes are in red, the solar panels shaded red, the fibre cable is a red line highlighted yellow, and the access track at Sharpe’s Barn just south of Hail Weston is in red / yellow along the north east boundary of the parish.

Intelligent Alternatives have offered the Parish Council £8,700 as a one-off donation to the parish.



Rights of way

The Government has allowed until 1st January 2026 for any 'Lost Ways', i.e. paths that have been used in the past but not captured on the Definitive Map of the Local Authority, to be identified. After this time, no old paths or tracks will be allowed to be added to the Definitive Map using historical evidence. This move should remove uncertainty for developers as to whether any developments could be disrupted by the identification of a historic path or track through the development which could then lead to the creation of a new public right of way.

You can find a briefing note generated by Bedford Borough Council which describes how 'Lost Ways' might be identified and what sort of information is required to enable the Borough Council to start the process of incorporating any Lost Ways into the Public Right of Way Network on the parish website:

www.staploeduloeconomydonparishcouncil.bedsparishes.gov.uk/footpaths

Whilst resources prevent Bedford Borough proactively looking for Lost Ways they will, if there is sufficient interest, hold a Workshop on how Parish Councils or individuals might gather sufficient information for the Borough Council to take identified paths through the legal process required for them to become Public Rights of Way.

Please can you advise the Parish Clerk, Lucy Crawford, if you would be interested in attending such a workshop. Tel. 01480 471526 Email: lcrawford@staploepc.org.uk

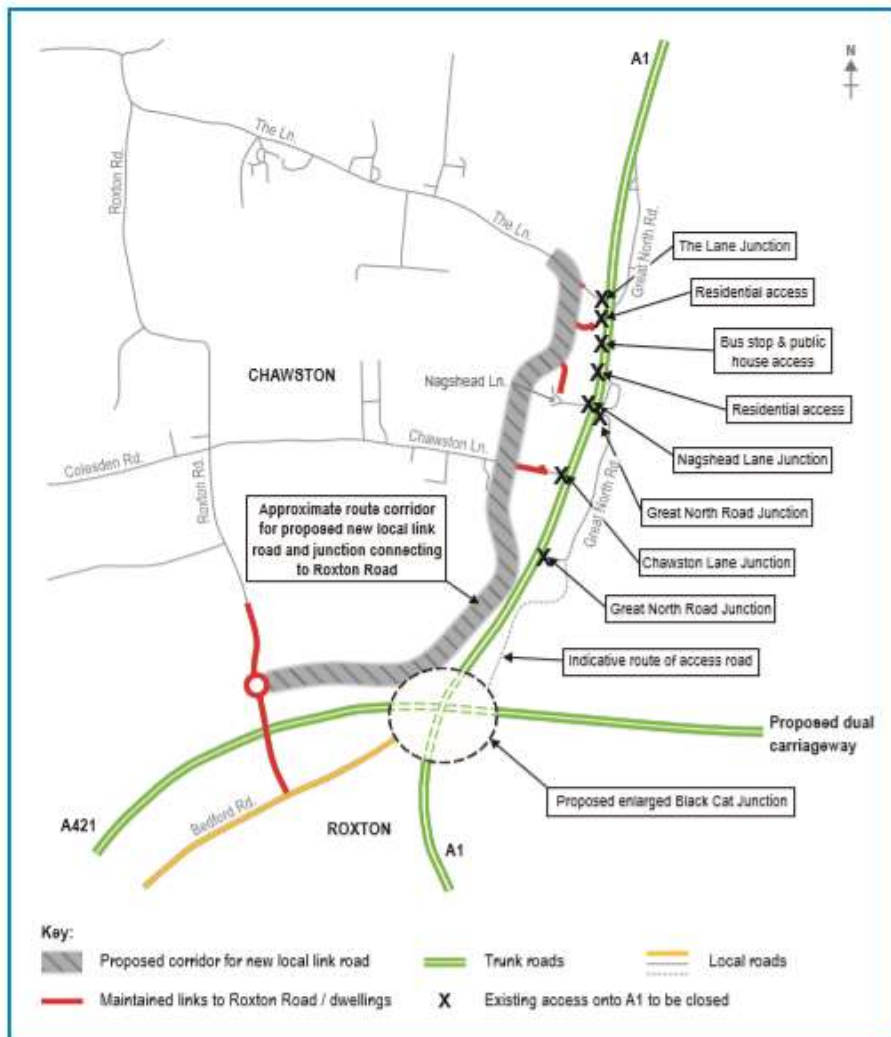
Closing access to the A1 in Wyboston

Highways England is currently developing proposals to improve the A428 from the Black Cat roundabout to Caxton Gibbet. The proposals will involve large-scale changes to the Black Cat roundabout which may in turn alter the route of access to some properties and roads in Wyboston. Highways England have been reviewing the current accesses onto the A1 northbound carriageway to the north of the Black Cat roundabout. Their investigations indicate that the current accesses to and from the A1 at Chawston Lane, Nagshead Lane and The Lane will need to be closed and an alternative link road provided.

Following their proposed improvements to the Black Cat Junction arrangement, traffic on this section of the A1 will become more continuous and free flowing, which will further reduce the available gaps for vehicles to safely exit onto the A1 carriageway from these lanes. In the interests of safety of the local residents and other road users, it is proposed to close the access to and from Chawston Lane, Nagshead Lane and The Lane, and to provide a new access to the A1 via a new local link road from The Lane to Roxton Road. The proposals do not affect the access to these lanes from the west.

Below is a map (from Bedford Borough Council) as displayed at a recent meeting for residents of Wyboston.

(Please note: there is no further news regarding the A1 at the time of writing.)



Note: Final route and links subject to agreement

Horse riders

Riders in the parish have been in contact with the Parish Council with some good advice for motorists when they see horses ridden on the road. The Parish Council have requested additional horse warning signs to be installed in each village.

The British Horse Society (BHS) provides information for both riders and motorists. See: www.bhs.org.uk/our-work/safety/free-leaflets (Image from leaflet, below, courtesy of BHS)



THINK! Have some horse sense on the road

Litter pick

Meeting at Duloe Village Hall (car park) on 10th March 2pm. Please do come and help clear our villages of litter. You will be given bags, gloves, a high vis top, a bag hoop and a litter picker. We start with a safety briefing at the hall car park and then volunteers can litter pick in an area of their choice. The Borough Council collect the bags of rubbish the following week.

Honeydon bus shelter

The Parish Council would like to thank Borough Cllr. T. Wootton for the generous donation of £800 from his Ward Fund towards re-roofing the bus shelter in Honeydon. The roof was made of asbestos and was leaking and cracked which has damaged the bench. We had received feedback that a number of people in Honeydon wanted to keep the shelter and that it was often used by cyclists. £200 has been allocated to the project from last year's Ward Fund purchase which was refunded. This was for heaters for the Village Hall which were not effective and were returned. Once the roof is repaired, we hope to be able to fix the bench inside.

East-west rail

A consultation has opened on East-West rail routes from Bedford to Cambridge. The proposed routes all go via Bedford but some not directly through the town centre. Some go south near Sandy and some further north near Tempsford / South of St. Neots and then via Cambourne. None of them go through our parish.

The challenges are to avoid impacting Wimpole Hall estate and the RSPB at Sandy, keep costs down and avoid duplication of public transport links (a train link from Cambourne might duplicate the plans to develop a metro from Cambourne to Cambridge). The deadline for comments is 11th March and you can find out more and comment here: <https://eastwestrail.co.uk/haveyoursay>.

If you would like a paper consultation form please contact the Clerk.

Village hall

The Village Hall was declared unsafe and closed in May 2018. This raised some issues regarding liability for the trustees of the hall charity (who were the Village Hall Committee). Therefore, it was decided that the Village Hall Committee members would be better acting as a Working Group of the Parish Council with the Parish Council acting as sole trustee of the hall charity until the hall is demolished. The hall conveyance and trust deed was amended to allow the Parish Council to act as sole trustee if the hall management committee are unable to appoint sufficient trustees.

Once the hall has been demolished, the Village Hall Working Group intend to re-establish the Village Hall Management Committee and resume their role as managing trustees and charity trustees.

Emilio Meola of Duloe is currently preparing plans for a new hall - which we will put out to consultation shortly - and the Parish Council are seeking quotes for demolition.

Keep in touch with Parish News

WEBSITE <https://www.staploeduloe-honeydonparishcouncil.bedsparishes.gov.uk>

EMAIL The Parish Council send out regular news updates by email. If you would like to receive these, please e-mail the Parish Clerk.

FACEBOOK Search Facebook for 'Staploe Parish Council'. There is also a community Facebook group where parishioners can post: www.facebook.com/groups/325908041268638/

Parish Clerk Lucy Crawford
33 Staploe, St Neots, PE19 5JA
Tel: 01480 471526
Email: lcrawford@staploepc.org.uk

THE OIL CLUB Group your oil order with others in the local area to save money www.oil-club.co.uk	THE WOODFIELD PHYSIOTHERAPY CENTRE 01234 378996 www.woodfieldphysio.co.uk	TREE SURGEON, DULOE Andrew Brightman 07970 546293
 WATERWAYS PET AND AQUATIC CENTRE www.waterways-direct.com Tropical and Coldwater Fish All the Equipment you need for your Pond Dog, Cat, Small Animal Food & Accessories Expert Advice From Specialist Staff With Goods At the Right Price MILTON ERNEST GARDEN CENTRE RADWELL ROAD, MILTON ERNEST BEDFORD MK44 1SH 01234 823567		
GARDENING SERVICES, STAPLOE Steve Smith 07908 857706	'JUST ASK' VILLAGE AGENTS SCHEME Teresa Moon 01234 771418	

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