

THE STOCKBURY & SOUTH GREEN OBSERVER

'In the Garden of England'

M2 Junction 5 Improvements

The Chairman and Parish Councillors of Stockbury wish it to be made public knowledge to the residents of Stockbury Parish the contents of their letter to Highways England in response to their planned redevelopment of Junction 5, Stockbury Roundabout :

Comments on Highways England - M2 Junction 5 Improvements Scheme:

From the details included in the presentation document distributed on 11/09/17
at Stockbury Village Hall:

The Proposal 12A

1. Enlarged M2 Junction5/A249 Stockbury Roundabout to provide a new through route for A249 traffic {with traffic light controls}.
PC RESPONSE :
Traffic lights at M2 slip roads and A249 crossing roundabout will create queueing traffic congestion and block dedicated left turn lanes onto M2.
2. New dedicated left turn lanes for traffic travelling from A249 southbound to the M2 westbound and from the A249 northbound to the M2 eastbound.
PC RESPONSE :
As above comment plus the fact that drivers will not queue orderly in dedicated lane but will queue jump using the A249 through route and at last minute push into the dedicated lane thus obstruction the through traffic.
The dedicated left from A249 southbound to M2 westbound is three lanes from roundabout into one lane onto M2 creating a serious pinchpoint for traffic. This lane as it leaves the A249 is a very tight hairpin bend which loaded HGVs have to negotiate at low speeds [approx. 20mph] to avoid turning over. These slow moving HGVs will cause tailbacks of queueing traffic on the A249 and not improving the present situation only move the problem to the M2 joiner lane.
3. New single lane slip road from the M2 eastbound to the A249 northbound which would avoid the M2 junction 5/A249 Stockbury Roundabout altogether.
PC RESPONSE :
THIS IS THE ONLY POSITIVE PROPOSAL IN THE SCHEME.

Continued ...

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M2 Junction 5 Response Continued ...

4. The existing connection from the Maidstone Road to the A249 Stockbury Roundabout would be closed and Maidstone Road would be re-routed to link with Oad Street. The existing junction of Oad Street with the A249 would be closed. A new link road would be provided south of the existing Oad Street to connect directly with the A249 Stockbury Roundabout.

PC RESPONSE :

These proposals would encourage "rat running" through Chestnut Street and from the communities south of Sittingbourne through inappropriate rural lanes and villages with queueing traffic along the new link roads waiting to join the A249 Stockbury Roundabout without traffic lights. This will also be the bus route and excessive queues will disrupt the service time tables. The provision of these link roads and a bridge would incur excessive expenditure and will not resolve the current traffic problems only put more traffic into the roundabout.

5. The Honeycrook Hill junction with the A249 would be closed for safety reasons.

PC RESPONSE :

The closure of this access/egress route to/from Stockbury village will necessitate all traffic to/from the village using the Church Hill junction which has serious safety problems with traffic entering the A249 without a northbound acceleration lane and traffic from the A249 Stockbury Roundabout having to cross the northbound A249 where traffic is regularly travelling in excess of 70mph.

6. All traffic movements through the junction would be controlled by traffic lights, with the exception of the Oad Street arm, which would have "give way" markings at the roundabout entry.

PC RESPONSE :

With the current traffic movements creating excessive queues during the morning and afternoon/evening peak periods the proposals will not address these problems as excessive queues will still be generated by the traffic light sequencing and these queues will impede traffic joining the "new" dedicated left turns. The addition of more traffic lights than currently exist is expected to create more problems as when the existing traffic lights are turned off traffic moves more freely without excessive queues.

7. Our proposal includes some measures to improve facilities for people walking to the bus stops and public footpaths.

PC RESPONSE :

The proposed A249 northbound bus stop will be very near to the "new" dedicated left turn onto the M2 eastbound and will necessitate the bus crossing this 70 mph lane to continue to Sittingbourne via Oad Street. No provisions appear to have been included for pedestrians etc for crossing the A249 to access the bus stops.

The overall proposal will not resolve the current traffic and safety problems and will almost certainly create additional traffic and safety problems.

The alternative Option 10, that has been discounted, appears to be the only option that would successfully deal with the traffic and associated problems at the M2 Junction 5.

As far as Kent Highways are concerned it is considered that a 50 mph speed limit or lower will be appropriate along the A249 to improve safety and probably also improve traffic flow. This would require enforcement through the installation of average speed cameras along the length of the A249. New "lane" signage would also improve driver awareness of the lane segregations at the A249 Stockbury Roundabout.

It is Stockbury Parish Councils view that it would be better to leave the roundabout as it is than waste taxpayers money by following the changes as planned in option 12A.

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Cllr Patrik Garten

M2 Junction 5 Stockbury Roundabout Development

Patrik Says

Dear Residents

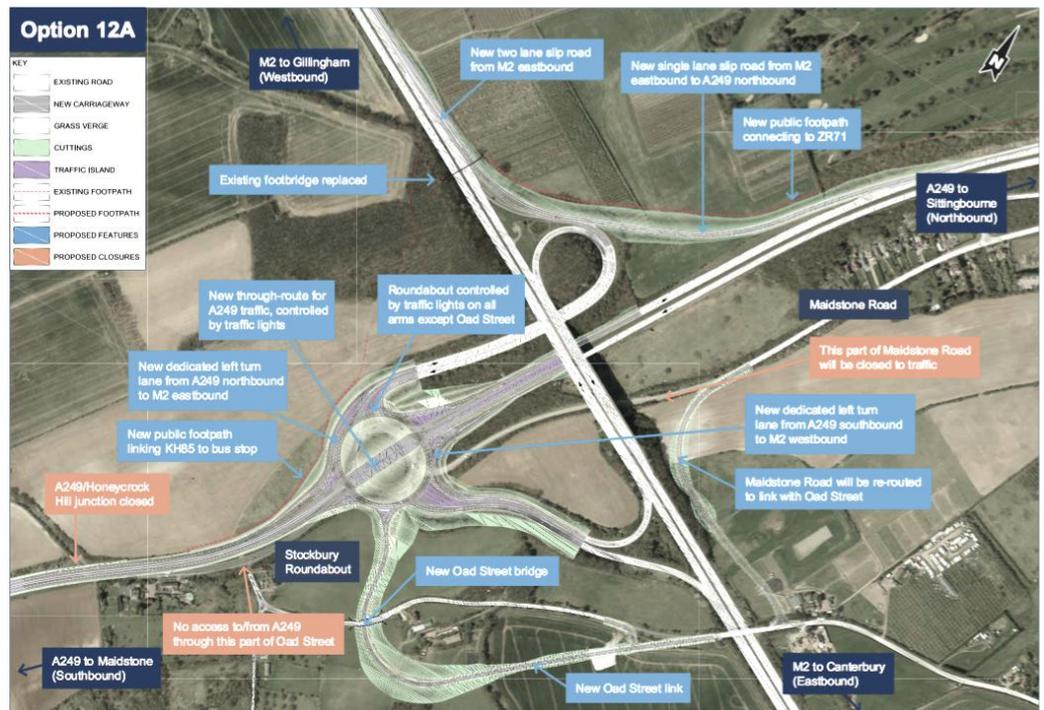
Time flies and you've probably already forgotten this year's elections, let alone the 2016 Maidstone Local Election. This was the election when the majority of the good people of the North Downs Ward – this includes Stockbury - elected me as their local councillor. Some of you may know me because you needed some assistance, most of you probably won't.

I try my hardest to stay in touch with the community, not the easiest task when representing the largest ward by area, so when the Editor suggested that I write something for The Observer, I was thrilled by the invitation and hopefully this may become a regular feature. *(Yes please Patrik - Ed)*

In my first contribution, I am afraid that I'll have the displeasure of drawing your attention to the "Junction 5 Improvements Scheme". Many of you attended the roadshow in Stockbury and I won't tell you any news. If you didn't attend the event, please go online to: <http://roads.highways.gov.uk/projects/m2-junction-5-improvements/>

You will see that the proposed Option 12A, as it is called, is a hare-brained betrayal of the taxpayer: Would you renovate an old house but not fit a roof nor windows? I guess not. Highways England tries just that with £108 million of your money.

The only viable solution would be the discounted Option 10 => price tag: £185 million. Staying with my house analogy: if you build it, build it new, fit a roof and windows. In conclusion: do it properly or don't do it at all.



As a local district councillor I'm only a small cog in the wheel but I will try my part to send Highways England back to their drawing board. Please support me and file your response by using the following link, **BEFORE 17 October, 2017**.

<https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/he/m2-junction-5-improvements/>

The Stockbury Parish Council have already formulated their response and I'm sure it will be discussed at their next meeting. I almost always attend the Parish Council meetings and would be very pleased to meet you there. – There are rumours that afterwards I can be found in our "new" Harrow Pub.

Patrik Garten
Maidstone Borough Councillor



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Stockbury Neighbourhood Watch

We are a Police registered Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. Neighbourhood Watch is a way for communities to help themselves stay safe. We are volunteers who work in partnership with the police to:

- Distribute safety advice
- Help make sure that elderly and vulnerable residents are not targets to criminals
- Gather information to help police tackle local problems
- Alert residents when there is a particular crime problem in the area

Our aim is to help people protect themselves and their properties and to reduce the anxieties of becoming a victim of crime.

Please be vigilant and report suspicious characters or incidents to the police and also to your co-ordinator (details below).

Co-ordinators will cascade any information from the police or neighbours to members.

CONTACT NUMBERS:

Emergency : 999
(crime in progress/life threatening)

Non-Emergency : 101

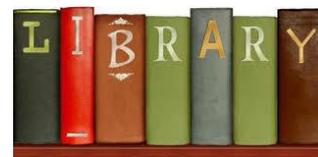
Rosemary (Ann) Ballard (*Co-ordinator*)
(01622) 736331

Alternatively you may e-mail the Co-ordinator at:

stockbury-neighbourhood@outlook.com

Any ideas and views would be greatly welcomed at the above mentioned e-mail address.

If you know of any other residents who would like to receive information from Stockbury Neighbourhood Watch, then please ask them to either contact the Co-ordinator on the above telephone number or e-mail their details to the above mentioned e-mail address.



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Stockbury Book Club

The Harrow – Update

The evening of the 30th August arrived and there was a great buzz of expectation around the village; just what would the 'new' Harrow be like on opening night?

Peering discreetly through the windows a few weeks earlier really didn't prepare us for the fabulous transformation that greeted us that evening. Gone was the dark, unwelcoming pub, and a wall or two, replaced by a light, bright and airy, welcoming hostelry, crammed so full with curious villagers, there was barely elbow room to spare!

The official opening was done by Jonathan Neame of Shepherd Neame who congratulated Chris Porter and the diligent volunteers who had created such an amazing transformation of The Harrow; and wished Sam and his team the best of luck. And not forgetting the 100+ investors too who had faith in the scheme from the start and didn't want to lose this valuable and much loved village asset.

Also in attendance that evening was Helen Whately, our wards Member of Parliament and Patrik Garten, our Maidstone Borough Councillor, along with so many villagers all raising a glass and wishing success to the new improved Harrow and its new tenant, Sam and his team.

We are a few weeks on from the opening now and the kitchen is up and running serving a full homemade lunch and dinner menu which looks fabulous and tastes just as good if the food critics of Stockbury are anything to go by! High Tea is also a winner, so go and try it for yourself, don't just take my word for it!

To book a table call 01795 843222

stockburypub@gmail.com

www.theharrowstockbury.co.uk

STOCKBURY COMMUNITY BUS

CALLING ALL PASSENGERS!

I know its early to be thinking about Christmas but if you would like to join us at The Barnyard in Upchurch on Wednesday December 13th for a Christmas lunch, please contact Fiona on 07551-454702 for details.

You **ONLY** have until 31/10 to book your seat!

The Mitford `Girls by Mary S. Lovell

This book was our summer read.

The book tells the true story of the 6 Mitford Girls during the 20th century, they had what some would describe as very eccentric lives.

The group found the book to be easy to pick up and enjoyable to read, with a good social history. It is amazing how different the six girls were. They all had a limited formal education but all appeared very intellectual.

The overall score was 7.4.

Our next 2 books are 'A Street Cat Called Bob' by James Bowen and 'Coming up Trumps' by Jean Trumington.

THANK YOU!

We owe Chris Porter and his merry band of hard working, non complaining volunteers a HUGE congratulatory hand on the completion of The Harrow, now owned by the community and transformed beyond recognition in under a year, which is no mean feat, by those I will not name but you know who you are.

We must also recognise the 100 plus investors who have helped make the vision happen.

Thank you all!

Now it is up to us all to enjoy all the hard work that has been done and is still yet to come by the newly appointed tenant, Sam and experience the 'new' Harrow in all its splendour.

We wish you all the luck in the world, Sam and with your excellent team in place and warm welcome, I'm sure it will again become the hub of the village and the place to meet old and new friends alike.

Ed



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Tuesday to Thursday 12.00 - 23.00pm
Friday & Saturday 12.00 - 12.00am
Sunday 11.30 - 21.00pm

OCTOBER DIARY

Sunday 1st closing - 3.30:- private function
Wednesday 4th - Quiz Night
Saturday 14th closed 3-8.30 private function
Saturday 21st - Live Music - Scene 6
Saturday 28th - Halloween
(Contact Wendy Gibson for details)

STOCKBURY COMMUNITY BUS

All 13 passengers safely on board and with the day's 'Designer Label' quiz sheet issued, we left the village about 0945 and headed for Hastings. We traveled down to Ashford via the M20 then along the A2070 and A259 across the marshes past Camber and through Rye arriving in Hastings just before 11:30.

Then it was each to his or her own to explore the Old Town's narrow streets, shops and fish and chip restaurants, one or two even ventured to the Sea Life Centre before taking a stroll along the Prom taking in the sea air and an ice cream.

The weather was much better than expected from the previous days and although windy, it was very bright with no rain to speak of spoiling our day.

We left for home about 3:45 pm and headed back on the more traditional A21, A229 route, through the villages into Maidstone and on to the village arriving a little after 5pm having had the cobwebs blown away by the blustery sea air and a good time had by all!

Our next trip is to the Canterbury Christmas Market, probably the end of November, early December



hope you can make it?

Kevin Masters

St Mary Magdalene Church Stockbury



The services in October are as follows:-

- 1 October – 6.0pm Sung Communion
 - 8 October – 6.0pm Evensong
 - 15 October - 6.0pm Sung Communion
 - 22 October - 6.0pm Evensong
 - 29 October - 10.45am
- Joint Benefice service at Iwade.

Anyone wishing to visit the church can obtain the key from the village shop.

The church will now be open every Saturday from 10am until 4pm and every Sunday from 10am to 6pm until the end of September. Please do take this opportunity to enjoy the peace and beauty of our lovely historic church.

Penny Stevens - PCC Secretary

Details of the range of services held within the benefice of the six parishes, to which Stockbury belongs, can be found on the parishes' website www.thesix.org.uk or contact the Rev'd Liz Cox

For baptisms, weddings or funerals please contact The Rev'd Liz Cox on 01795 844241

St Augustine's RC, Deanwood Drive Rainham

Mass Times
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Saturday 10.00 am and 6.00 pm
Sunday 9.30 am and 11.00 am

September Church Draw Winners

CONGRATULATIONS!

- 1st - Annabel White (£40)
- 2nd - Mike Wegg (£20)
- 3rd - Graham Seymour (£10)

October '17 Diary

All events at the Memorial Hall unless otherwise stated

Sun	1st	Caravan Cl Hall & Field	All Day
Mon	2nd		
Tues	3rd	Bowls	2.00 - 4.00pm
		NSYC	7.30 - 9.30pm
Wed	4th		
Thurs	5th	Gardeners	8.00 - 10.00pm
Fri	6th	Private Booking	11.00 - 5.00pm
		Dancing Club	8.00 - 10.30pm
Sat	7th		
Sun	8th	Dog Club - Field	10.00 - 11.00am
Mon	9th		
Tues	10th	Bowls	2.00 - 4.00pm
		Art Group	7.00 - 9.00pm
Wed	11th	Pilates	9.30 - 10.30am
Thurs	12th	Bowls	7.30 - 9.30pm
Fri	13th	Dancing Club	8.00 - 10.30pm
Sat	14th	Private Booking	3.00 - 11.00pm
Sun	15th	Dog Club - Field	10.00 - 11.00am
		Bowls	2.00 - 5.00pm
Mon	16th		
Tues	17th	Bowls	2.00 - 4.00pm
		NSYC	7.30 - 9.30pm
Wed	18th	Pilates	9.30 - 10.30am
		Craft & Chatter	2.00 - 4.00pm
		Parish Council	7.30 - 9.30pm
Thurs	19th	Bowls	7.30 - 9.30pm
Fri	20th	Dancing Club	8.00 - 10.30pm
Sat	21st		
Sun	22nd	Dog Club - Field	10.00 - 11.00am
Mon	23rd		
Tues	24th	Bowls	2.00 - 4.00pm
Wed	25th	Pilates	9.30 - 10.30am
Thurs	26th	Bowls	7.30 - 9.30pm
Fri	27th	Dancing Club	8.00 - 10.30pm
Sat	28th	Private Event	3.00 - 6.00pm
Sun	29th	Dog Club - Field	10.00 - 11.00am
Mon	30th		
Tues	31st	Bowls	2.00 - 4.00pm
		Art Group	7.00 - 9.00pm

Observer Deadline!

If you would like to advertise or have item included in next months Observer, we must receive it no later than

Friday 20th October, 2017

Please email your contributions to
stockburyobserver@gmail.com



Stockbury Gardeners

Please ignore anything that I said about the weather in the last months report, on writing this (15th September), it seems like we have missed out totally the September weather and leapfrogged straight into November.

For the fruit and vegetable growers I hope that you have had a bumper year, I suppose overall, we have had some things to moan about but although haphazard we have had a reasonable growing season, it just remains to gather in and preserve, freeze, or indeed eat our crops.

Now is the time to plant garlic and over wintering onions, if you have not done so.

It is also a good time to plant new shrubs, bare rooted trees and roses before the frosts arrive, I always think that its better than waiting until spring. Tips this month are:

- Dig over used ground and expose to the air and let nature break down heavy clay soil.
- Clear debris from around brassicas, put weeds and any pruning waste on to the compost heap.
- You can use brussels and parsnips once the frost has been on them.
- Put lime on as necessary.
- Prune currents, gooseberries and pears.
- Cut down asparagus and feed beds with manure.
- Sow lettuce seed in cold frames.
- Protect pots in the greenhouse and prepare the heaters for use, do not leave until the last minute.
- If you have been lucky and not been visited by blight on the tomatoes, gather them in and ripen on a windowsill indoors or make chutney.

Stockbury Gardeners will have the Autumn Show and AGM on the 5th October, so members note this please. Last month we were supposed to have had a talk from the "Peoples Gardener" Jim Buttress, however this was postponed due to an illness, he will re arrange later for us, so instead at very short notice our Chairman gave a presentation about wildlife in the garden.

We hope to discuss the seed supplier this year and distribute seed catalogues at the November meeting or before.

Members have been exhibiting with a lot of success at the National Vegetable Society Show, and the Kent Federation Show.

Our village pub has now opened, owned by the village, we should be so proud of it. Our thanks should go out to the people who put the effort into making it happen. I am sure that they would be embarrassed should I mention them by name, they know who they are and thanks from all of us.

A number of our Garden Society members worked hard in the garden as well, helping to make the whole project work and as a result the lawns, garden and hanging baskets look fantastic.

Finally, I have just started to read the book written by Tom Hart Dyke and Paul Winder, "The Cloud Garden" Tom and Paul were kidnapped at gun point in 2000, in central America and held captive by terrorists.

Upon his safe return to the UK, Tom set about building the "World Garden" and will be speaking about the garden, his work, and his exploits at our November meeting, in the village hall.

Chris Spree

Useful Contact Information

Cricket Club	Tom Bulbrook - th.bul2@yahoo.com	07780 440526
Church Matters St. Mary Magdalene	Revd Liz Cox - elizabeth.cox448@btinternet.com	01795 435184
Community Bus	Booking Line	07551 454702
Crimestoppers	(Confidential)	0800 55511
Dancing Club	Brian Crisp	01634 231886
Dog Club	Mick Bingham	01795 842480
Electricity Problems		0800 7838866
Environment Agency	Incident Hotline	0800 807060
Fly Tipping & Waste Collection	Including bulky items	01622 602162
Gardeners	stockburygardeners@live.com	
Golf Society	Jeff Hall	01795 843296
Hall Bookings	Sue Porter	01795 843715
Maidstone BC Councillor	Patrik Garten - patrikgarten@maidstone.gov.uk	01622 807907
MB Farms Stores & Post Office		01795 842401
Neighbourhood Watch	Ann Ballard	01622 736331
Not So Young Club	Rosemary Leonard	01634 232672
Parish Council	Sherrie Babington	01634 867173
Petanque Club	Tina Jacobs	07743 910185
Photographic Club	Tim Arnold - timarnold@btinternet.com	01795 843049
Police	Emergency Only Non-Emergency	999 101
Police Community Support Officers for Stockbury	Ryan Waring - 5872@kent.pnn.police.uk Dave Rowley - 59079@kent.pnn.police.uk	07969 584213 07772 226097
Public Footpaths & Bridleway	Reporting issues with. - westprow@kent.gov.uk	03000 417171
Roads, Potholes, etc	(manned 24hrs) - www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem	03000 418181
RSPCA		0300 1234999
Short Mat Bowls	Tony or Angela Russell	01795 842738
South East Water	Emergency Only Non-Emergency	0333 000 0365 0333 000 3330
The Harrow Pub	stockburypub@gmail.com	01795 843222
Stockbury Observer - Editor	stockburyobserver@gmail.com	
WI	Brenda Mace	01622 884746