



GREAT DENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

The year is drawing to a close and much has happened in Great Denham. We have seen the new school open, a lot of new houses built, a nursery under construction and now the infrastructure for the District Centre has been started.

The Parish Council held its last meeting of 2012 on 12th November. The meeting was well attended by members of the public which was most gratifying. A number of questions were asked including a request for an update on the shop, community hall, country park and pub. This is the subject most frequently raised by those attending our meetings. I can advise that the community hall should be available by Spring 2014 whilst the site for the shop will be available in 2013. Before you get too excited, I should advise that just because the site is available doesn't mean there will be a shop! The developers are only obliged to provide the site, but they must then find a retailer willing to develop it. I understand there has been some interest, but from whom and whether they will go ahead I do not know. The same applies to the pub. Plans have been submitted for the sports pitches which will go in the country park and are available on the Borough's website.

Another resident asked what will happen to the old lower school site (where the temporary kickabout area is) now that we have a primary school. It is most likely that this will be used for housing. The Parish Council have tried to persuade the land owners to provide some further community facilities on this land, but this suggestion was rejected by them.

You may have noticed that we have now employed a handyman. Ryan is already making a difference clearing weeds on the landscaped roundabout, mowing the grass and cutting back overgrown areas. If there is an area which you think needs attention please contact our clerk (gdclerk@hotmail.co.uk) and if it is in our power to tidy it up we will do so.

Work has started on the Park & Ride and, subject to the weather, work should take around 12 weeks. Parents dropping children off at the primary school will be asked to use this facility to ensure there are no parking problems outside the school. In addition the Borough is proposing to introduce a Controlled Parking Zone in the area surrounding the school. The Parish Council has written to request this be limited to busy periods so as not to impact on parking by residents. Full details of the Controlled Parking Zone can be found on our website and if you wish to object you must do so by 3rd December.

Following the resignation of Natalie Wilson from the Parish Council, we are seeking to co-opt a new member. This is a great opportunity to get involved in and make a contribution to your local community. You will get the chance to listen to and represent the views of local residents, get involved in planning issues and help to shape the future of our parish and its environs. I have found it a most rewarding experience. If you would like to be considered for co-option please contact either myself or our clerk for further information.

In 2012 we will be changing the venue for our meetings to Great Denham Primary School. The first meeting of 2013 will take place in the school on 14th January. For very nearly four years meetings have been held in The Bedford Golf Club, which has provided us with great facilities. On behalf of the Parish Council I would like to thank The Bedford for being so accommodating.

It only remains for me to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful New Year.

Kind regards
Jim Weir – Chairman Great Denham Parish Council
www.greatdenham.bedsparishes.gov.uk