



## GREAT DENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Happy New Year and welcome to my first column of 2012.

Firstly, may I say how disappointing it was that the Christmas tree lights remained unlit for most of the festive season. This was due to a power supply problem affecting the roundabout and Kingswood Way which, despite many telephone calls from both myself and the Clerk, was not resolved until 5<sup>th</sup> January. We tried to make the best of it by leaving the lights on for a few extra days and hope this problem won't be repeated next year.

The Parish Council met on 9<sup>th</sup> January and was pleased to welcome nine parishioners to the meeting and there was a lively public questions session before the meeting began.

Amongst the items discussed were the Budget for the year ahead, and it is pleasing to report that the Parish Council has been able to reduce the annual amount paid to it through the Council Tax by £20 per household.

Work on the new school and family learning centre has at last started with the site being marked out and I will keep you up to date with its progress. An open morning for prospective parents was very well attended and provided an opportunity to meet the new head teacher Denise Burgess. A website will be set up soon to provide further information and I will let you know the web address as soon as it is available.

By the time this article goes to press I hope that the landscaped Great Denham roundabout will be completed with the addition of a gateway feature containing the village name. This will help to increase a sense of identity and pride in our community. We have also had some daffodil bulbs planted along Kingswood Way and hope to gradually extend the areas planted to cover all parts of Great Denham. We are also working on plans to plant some extra trees.

In the December /January Bulletin I reported on the petition from some Kempston residents to change the boundary between Kempston and Great Denham. This has been considered by the Borough's Full Council and referred to the General Purposes Committee who will now consult the Parish Councils affected. Again I will keep you informed via this column and our website [www.greatdenham.bedsparishes.co.uk](http://www.greatdenham.bedsparishes.co.uk)

I will be meeting with the Mayor and the developers, David Wilson Homes, to discuss various issues of relevance to Great Denham and will report back to you with any progress made. Amongst the topics for discussion will be the site of the community hall, the increasing proliferation of developers signs, the possibility of resurfacing the older part of the bypass and I will be asking if there are any plans to link the bus service to the train station.

No doubt you will all be aware that this is the Queen's Jubilee year. Obviously it will be nice to have an extra day off on 5<sup>th</sup> June, but the Parish Council thought that celebrating this event might provide the opportunity to bring the community together and help everyone to get to know each other a little better. I hope to set up a working party to come up with some ideas and get the ball rolling. Perhaps something as simple as a community picnic? If you would like to help, please contact me on [jrweir@btinternet.com](mailto:jrweir@btinternet.com)

The next Parish Council Meeting will be on 12<sup>th</sup> March and we warmly invite you to attend. All meetings are held at 7.30pm in The Bedford Golf Club, Carnoustie Drive.

Kind regards Jim Weir

Chairman, Great Denham Parish Council