



GREAT DENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Biddenham Bulletin – February 2013

Happy New Year everyone I do hope it is a peaceful and fulfilling year for us all. The news from Great Denham is of a mixed bag at the moment with lots of positives but we also have a couple of major negative issues on the horizon.

The positives included the fact that we had working tree lights this year! We are now a community of 680 homes, and we have 205 children attending our new school. Ryan our newly appointed Handyman is working hard to keep the parish looking in good condition, and starting to leaflet those residents that are parking their vehicles on the pavement – if this is you please don't!

We have recently discovered that David Wilson Homes and Bidwells (agent for the land owner) are trying to get the Bedford Borough Allocations & Designations Plan changed to include a further 300 houses in the development. They want to reduce the size of the Country Park and push the sports pitches and facilities into the flood plain. 90 residents attended the Parish Council meeting on Monday 14th January and made it quite clear that this should not happen.

Bedford Borough is against this and has objected. Bidwells have presented their plan to the Government Inspector refuting the objections made by the Borough. The Parish Council have written to Alistair Burt, the Mayor and our local Borough Councillor voicing the concerns by residents and asked for their support.

We all agree the land is unsuitable and is not in line with the original Biddenham Loop plan so should be given short shrift.

Unfortunately we are so far into the process that we are not allowed to present our objections!

A number of people have expressed an interest in being co-opted to fill the vacancy on the Parish Council, and I hope that this process will be completed at our next meeting on 4th March.

Bad weather has now landed and I would ask all residents to look out for each other and especially the older members of our community who may have difficulty getting out in current conditions.

Not wishing to end on a negative! The Park & Ride facility is well underway and ahead of schedule.

We hope that parents dropping children at school will be able to use this facility from end of February – weather permitting!

Kind regards

Jim Weir

Chairman – Great Denham Parish Council