



GREAT DENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Dear Parishioners

Summer made a brief appearance in early May but then disappeared. I sincerely hope that you are reading this basking in warm sunshine!

Annual Parish Meeting

This meeting was held on 13th May and eight parishioners braved a chilly evening to join us in Great Denham Primary School. I presented my Annual Report which provided an opportunity to look back on 2012 and should by now be available for all to see on our website www.greatdenham.bedsparishes.gov.uk Highlights were the Jubilee and Olympic events which were enjoyed by hundreds of you. Children's arts and crafts events were also held in the summer holidays and in November we sponsored the community fireworks event at The Bedford Golf Club. Less happily we are still awaiting the outcome of the planning application to build a five pitch Gypsy site on edge of the A428 and a proposal by the Wingfield Estate to include land in the Country Park as suitable to build houses on.

A lively session of public questions followed.

We also had on display the plans for the Community Hall and some photographs of the important archaeological finds which have been made in Great Denham during construction work. These included a number of ceremonial barrows, one of which held a burial containing an archer. The archer was buried with a wrist guard, flint arrowheads and a knife.

Parish Council AGM

This followed immediately after the Parish Meeting and I was elected as Chair for a further year, with Kevin Cawood being elected as Vice Chair. Many questions were raised from what can be done to discourage parking on pavements and irresponsible dog owners not using the dog bins provided to when Broadband will be improved – please direct your ire on this question to BT!

Some annual business was completed including approval of the annual accounts and the Annual Return for our external audit.

Other Parish Matters

The lights in the Park & Ride have been staying on well past their official turn off time of midnight. I hope that by now this issue has been resolved. I have also received complaints about anti-social behaviour. Bedford Borough Council will monitor this for the first three months following which we will lobby for further action to secure the site if necessary. If you witness any anti-social behaviour please call the **Borough's hotline on 01234 276037**.

The grass cutting season is once again upon us and despite having a new contractor the service provided by the Borough in the older part of the development has not improved (the new development is, of course, maintained by a separate company). Our handyman will help to keep the grass well tended and if you are aware of any areas you would like him to attend to let our Clerk know on gdclerk@hotmail.co.uk Planning consent has been granted for 99 houses on the land behind Great Portway (land parcel H11(i)) and work has already started. The builders, Bovis, have unfortunately put up directional signs pointing traffic to the new site along Great Portway! The Parish Council have made the Borough Planning Department aware of this and they will have them taken down. The Planning Department have assured us that no site traffic will be allowed to use Great Portway and that Woodville Drive

will remain closed by the fence which already exists which will eventually be replaced with a brick wall.

An outline planning application has also been submitted for the Community Hall and you can view the details by visiting the planning pages of the Borough's website at www.bedford.gov.uk and searching for application 13/00422/MAR. The Parish Council is generally supportive of the application but we are following up on a few issues, especially the availability of the upstairs area until it is put to use as a library.

Next meetings

The next Planning Meeting will take place on 3rd June whilst the next Parish Council meeting is on 1st July. All meetings take place in Great Denham Primary School at 7.30pm. Members of the public are warmly invited to attend and there are always 15 minutes for public questions.

Kind regards

Jim Weir – Chair Great Denham Parish Council