



GREAT DENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

It is mid February as I write and the snow is gone and the sun is shining. Let's hope this is still the case when you receive your Biddenham Bulletin. Whatever the weather, there is a lot going on in Great Denham.

The Parish Council has provided a new "gateway" feature on the Great Denham roundabout. I think it looks fantastic and creates a most attractive welcome to our community. Other such features will eventually be located at the various road entrances into Great Denham.

Construction of the new Great Denham Primary School and Family Learning Centre is underway. A website is now available at which you can keep up with progress, apply for a place for your child and much else. Please go to www.greatdenhamprimary.org.uk

In February I mentioned that the Parish Council hoped to facilitate a community event to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. An ad hoc group, the "Great Denham Jubilee Committee", has been set up and an initial meeting taken place to get the ball rolling. We have decided to hold an event with a very traditional feel. There will be a picnic (bring your own food) followed by traditional fun and games. The Committee welcomes any help you may feel you can give and if you would like to be involved please contact our Parish Clerk, Roz Buchanan. Roz can be contacted at gdclerk@hotmail.co.uk The Committee will meet again at 7pm on 21st March in The Bedford Golf Club and you are very welcome to join us.

As I have previously explained, the provision of facilities in Great Denham is driven by the number of houses occupied in the new development. We are approaching 400 occupations which means that the site of the village centre will soon be laid out. At a recent meeting with the Mayor and David Wilson Homes the possibility of siting the Community Hall next to the school was discussed. This would enable the school and hall to share some facilities and reduce the running costs of the hall. There may be some legal difficulties which prevent this, but I will keep you informed.

I met with the Mayor and David Wilson Homes earlier in the year and we discussed the proliferation of developer's signs. Following an inspection the Borough's enforcement team have concluded they do not cause any obstructions. However, if you become aware of any problems, please let me know (jrweir@btinternet.com).

David Wilson Homes also agreed to look into improving the problems created by litter on the site.

We also discussed the possibility of linking the bus service to the train station. Although it was not clear whether the service would be sufficiently economic, I will be contacting Stagecoach to see if any progress can be made.

The Parish Council has received a number of complaints about the increasing difficulty for drivers due to the number of cars parked along Greenkeepers Road. This also makes it particularly problematic for the bus and could be quite hazardous in icy conditions. I would

like to request that everyone will make use of their allocated parking spaces and be considerate about parking along what is an increasingly busy road.

On the subject of ice, the Parish Council has requested a number of gritting bins throughout Great Denham, and these may be in place by the time you read this. Unfortunately they are a bit late for the snow we had in February, but the winter is not over yet!

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on March 12th and I will keep you informed of our discussions.

Kind regards

Jim Weir - Chairman Great Denham Parish Council