



GREAT DENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Happy Spring everyone – well I think Spring is just about showing its head? News from the Parish revolves around further implementation of the Biddenham Loop design plan which was passed over 15 years ago.

Part of the delivery was for a Lower & Middle School, a 350 car Park & Ride site and a District Centre with shops, a community hall and library.

With regard to schools, the lower & middle school options have been dropped in favour of a primary school which is in a foundation trust with Biddenham School. This means that we now have a school system that allows children to go from pre-school to age 19 with the same foundation schools working together for greater educational benefit of our children.

The Park & Ride has been delivered, but only half the size of that originally planned. We also recognise that this will mean any parent travelling by car to Great Denham Primary School will be able to park in this facility and keep the streets around the school clear. To that effect a new traffic order is in force around the school and its approaches from 08:00 to 18:00 Monday – Friday. There are some issues which the PC is happy to take up on behalf of residents; this involves mostly lighting issues and potential anti-social behaviour.

Plans have now been put forward for the new community hall, and all being well we should see this in Spring 2014. This will be a two storey building with the top eventually housing a public library.

What format this proposed library will take is still to be decided. We will be consulting parishioners in the coming months on what we want from a community hall and how will we manage and run this facility.

With regard to shops – the residents of Great Denham have been waiting for 15 years now and newcomers have been told by developers that shops are imminent! We now have over 500 new homes to add to the existing 249, which statistic suggests that we have over 1,800 people living in Great Denham. The infrastructure around the new centre is being put in place but as a community we are extremely disappointed that the developer seems to be dragging their feet regarding the vital facility of a shop to service the local need.

We are pleased to welcome Rebecca (Becci) Williams as our newly co-opted Parish Councillor who joined us last month. Becci lives in the new part of the Parish and will be responsible for developing better communications, newsletters and social media content. We are just in the process of delivering our first multilingual communication to residents regarding a few issues which I am sure we all want to see addressed.

Despite the installation of 5 dog bins around the Parish irresponsible owners are still not clearing up after their dogs. We are to erect more signs and we encourage all residents to report anyone allowing this to continue. Bedford Borough has now increased fines to £1,000 per occasion! **To all dog owners please act responsibly when out with your dog.**

Kind regards

Jim Weir – Chairman Great Denham Parish Council

