



GREAT DENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

There were a number of important issues to discuss when the Parish Council met on 5th September.

As Chairman of the Temporary Governing Board for the new school in Great Denham, I was delighted to be able to advise the Parish Council that a planning application has just been submitted and it is hoped that building work will start soon. As you may know a community hall is also to be built. The Parish Council has suggested that it would make sense to locate this next to the school rather than in the village centre, providing the opportunity to increase the facilities available by sharing the school site. A consultation to find out your views will shortly be taking place, so watch out for this coming through your door in the not too distant future.

The Parish Council also considered the implications of the Government's proposed changes to the planning system. The new National Planning Policy will reduce the planning guidance available from 1000 pages to less than 60. Whilst the Government says this, together with the Localism Bill, will put local people in control of what happens in their area, we believe it may give a green light to developers and less control to local people. We decided to respond to the Government's consultation document, objecting to the presumption of acceptance given to what is considered to be sustainable development. We are following this very closely and will keep you updated.

The success of the art and craft workshops was discussed as was the need for more facilities for both younger and older children. The Parish Council hopes to enhance the play facilities provided to date by the developers and to provide something for children of all age groups. If you have any suggestions, please let us know.

Until we have a community hall it is important to support events that bring everyone together, and for this reason we will once again be supporting the community fireworks event at The Bedford Golf Club. This was a huge success last year, with everyone enjoying the stalls and rides. The fireworks were, of course, spectacular.

A landmark feature carved with the name "Great Denham" is being considered for the landscaped roundabout. It is hoped that this will further enhance the identity of our new community.

With winter fast approaching, our thoughts turned to the icy conditions experienced on our roads last year. The residential roads in Great Denham are not gritted by the Borough Council, and we are looking into the purchase of some gritting bins to improve safety throughout the village.

The Parish Council will next meet on 14th November at 7.30pm in The Bedford Golf Club, Carnoustie Drive, Great Denham, MK40 4FF.

Dates for your diary:-

Sunday 25th September – Mayor Dave Hodgson will be holding a street surgery on the junction of Carnoustie Drive and St. Mellion Drive from 1.45pm to 2.30pm.

Sunday 9th October – there will be a collection of bulky waste from 8.30am to 10.30am. Please don't leave any rubbish if the collection vehicles are not there.

Saturday 15th October – Community bulb planting event.

Saturday November 26th – Community litter pick from 10am to 12 noon.

Full details of the above can be found on our notice boards in Kingswood Way and Greenkeepers Road, and also on our website www.greatdenham.bedsparishes.gov.uk

Kind regards

Jim Weir – Chairman Great Denham Parish Council