



GREAT DENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Welcome to the first regular contribution from Great Denham Parish Council. For those of you who do not know, Great Denham PC was created in 2007 having previously been a part of Biddenham. There were originally 250 houses around the golf course and in the Great Portway area of the development, but we are a growing community which will eventually have over 1700 houses, a community centre, school, shop, library and pub. A Country Park will provide sports and leisure facilities.

We would like to clear up some confusion which appears to exist amongst Great Denham residents about the name of where you live. Much of this has been caused by the developers' decision to market the new housing as Biddenham Vale. We would stress that this is a name used for marketing purposes only – you live in Great Denham.

Many parishioners are wondering when the facilities mentioned above will be provided. This is driven by the number of houses occupied in the newest phase of development in Great Denham. So, for instance, work on the community hall should have started by the time 400 hundred houses are occupied and on the Country Park when 700 are occupied. At present about 250 new houses are occupied. The provision of the school is a little further advanced, with a temporary Governing Board established to take this project forward. It is hoped that planning permission will be submitted soon, with building work starting later this year.

Meanwhile, the PC continues to try and provide a focus and create a sense of community for all of us in Great Denham. Those of you with children may have noticed the new “kick about” area off Saxon Way. This has been provided as a temporary facility until the permanent youth facility is provided in the Country Park. The Parish Council, in partnership with the Cecil Higgins Art Gallery and Bedford Museum, hosted three arts and crafts workshops on the kick about area in July and August. All of the workshops were very well attended and greatly enjoyed, with new friendships being made by those who went. Pictures of the events are on our website and we hope to repeat the workshops next summer.

On October 15th there will be a bulb planting event run by Pride in Bedford and everyone is welcome to come along and help. On 26th November the second of our annual litter picks will take place. Both of these events will improve our environment and details will be posted on the website and on our notice boards (in Kingswood Way and Greenkeepers Road).

Our next Parish Council meeting will be on 14th November, and we look forward to welcoming you. There are fifteen minutes set aside at the start of every meeting for public questions

The Parish website is regularly updated and here you will find contact details for your Parish Councillors – all of whom live in Great Denham – together with news of what is going on in the Parish, dates of the PC meetings, the agendas and minutes. Please take time to visit us at www.greatdenham.bedsparishes.gov.uk

Kind regards
Jim Weir - Chairman