



## Great Denham Parish Council

Great Denham Parish Council was created in 2007 to serve the needs of the local community. The initial 249 houses will gradually be increased by another 1500 over the coming years. We aim to represent your views and concerns as the community grows. This council exists to ensure that as developments in Great Denham progress everybody in the community has the opportunity to keep themselves up to date with the latest news – have your say, sound off, give your views, express your concerns become interactive and have some impact! Members of the Parish Council want to change the way traditional councils work. We want to truly act for all the parishioners and give honest and best judgment by being informed and in touch with all views.

# Great Denham Newsletter

## October 2014

### Community Hall – What do we want and how do we run it?

### Plus - PCC Olly Martin to speak at this meeting.

### Have your say and air your views on 3<sup>rd</sup> November at Public/PC meeting.

Following on from all the proposed changes being sought by the developer David Wilson Homes, the following has now been agreed and passed by the local authorities planning committee;

1. The provision of a community hall with two floors,
2. a “meaningful” meeting place within the district center,
3. a reduction from 6 to 4 changing rooms in the sports pavilion,
4. maintenance costs reductions for the country park which will not affect the “residents service charge”.

Plans have already been submitted for the community hall and consultation taken place as long ago as 2012 and 2011 respectively. The one remaining issue is “who is going to operate the community hall”?

Neither the Borough nor DWH want the responsibility of running the community hall. In 2013 the parish council put together a business case for operating the community hall. This was based on a model widely used throughout parishes within England. This requires the setting up of a charity – with trustees drawn from the community – and a funding model based on (fit out and parachute payments) from DWH. The PC ran a 10 year funding model based on these payments.

In addition to the trustees local volunteers would make up the community hall association and would help to run the hall and everything that is organized there. They would try to identify the needs of our community and respond to those needs directly or in partnership with other organisations and agencies.

The aims should be to improve people’s quality of life by contributing to the social, physical, economic, educational and environmental wellbeing of the community.

They should include;

1. Providing the opportunity to be involved in a wide range of learning, social and physical activities
2. Promoting individual and community involvement and well being
3. Promoting social inclusion for people with difficulties which prevent them becoming involved
4. Providing opportunities for the community to meet and mix
5. Supporting the local management of services

In order for the community hall to move forward DWH have to propose an "entity" to operate the hall for 120 years. The PC believes that in order for the community hall to provide all of the above opportunities an outside commercial organisation would not be suitable.

Provided that the right funding formula can be agreed then it is the PC's recommendation that the community take responsibility for the operation and promotion of the hall. In a community with no facilities this could become a thriving community asset.

The detailed plans of the hall layout and the business plan will be presented and open for discussion on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November at a public and PC meeting. Please come and share your views. You can also see the plans on the PC website & twitter.



Community Hall

**If you're worried about crime in Great Denham join in the discussion with our Police & Crime Commissioner Ollly Martin at this meeting.**

## Next Meeting

### **Monday 3rd November 2014 Parish Council & Public Meeting**

19:30 – 21:00 Great Denham Primary School

### **Councillor Contacts**

Jim Weir 01234 270990

[jrweir@btinternet.com](mailto:jrweir@btinternet.com)

Kevin Cawood 01234 261029:

[kevin@battlereadygroup.com](mailto:kevin@battlereadygroup.com)

Tony Harrison 01234 212233:

[tony.harrison5@gmail.com](mailto:tony.harrison5@gmail.com)

Alan Davis 01234 215057:

[alaned163@gmail.com](mailto:alaned163@gmail.com)

Paul Stonebridge 07786 57648 9

[p\\_stonebridge@hotmail.com](mailto:p_stonebridge@hotmail.com)

Roz Buchanan (Parish Clerk)

[gdclerk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gdclerk@hotmail.co.uk)

Website: <http://www.greatdenham.bedsparishes.gov.uk/> Twitter: [https://twitter.com/GtDenhamPC/with\\_replies](https://twitter.com/GtDenhamPC/with_replies)