



## Great Denham Parish Council

# Great Denham PC Newsletter

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.

## March 2015

This edition includes – Updates on Broadband, Community Hall, CCTV, Sainsbury's, Bus gate.



### Broadband:

You may recall from past meetings and information posted to PC website and twitter that the plan for superfast BB for the new development was to be delivered for 15<sup>th</sup> March 2015! It appears that BT is having problems with "wayleave" (right of way/access) with Lagans for the new additional cabinet in Greenkeepers Road. There is going to be a delay but we won't know how long until Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March. Please watch out for Twitter & website updates

With regard to the older parts of Great Denham there are some issues – which we are not accepting – which would mean delivery of superfast BB only by April 2016. In the draft contract and email received by the PC from BT they talk about having to renew a lot of the copper infrastructure so hence the extended time frame. The PC is talking to the Borough to see if any pressure can be brought to bring these times back to the 9 months originally quoted! We have in any case signed the contract and paid 50% of the money to get the whole process going. Watch the website and twitter for updates.

## Community Hall:



The developer DWH went out to tender in November 2014 with a closing date of end of January. Of the two companies that responded neither has submitted an acceptable plan/costing. DWH now say they will have to tender again. The PC is now concerned that dates will again slip after waiting such a long time to get delivery of the community hall. The PC is writing to Borough planning officers to ask them to push the developer to keep to their original plan of delivery in the autumn. The PC also met with Linda Stevens from Bedford Borough who is responsible for community facilities across Bedford Borough. She stated that the PC's business plan and funding model to operate the community hall was very acceptable and would be recommending acceptance by planners. She will confirm this in writing within the next 7 days.

What this means is the community hall becomes a community asset and the parish will be responsible for its operation and funding. ***(Just received confirmation that the Borough Planners have accepted the parish councils plan)*** We will now contact DWH formally and agree the funding arrangements in writing. Once this is done we will issue a specification for Trustees and hope to encourage community residents to become Trustees within a structure of a "Charitable Incorporated Organisation".

## Sainsbury's Update

Building is scheduled to commence in April 2015. Plans have been passed and it is hoped that "fit out" of the store will see the doors open to the public in late November or early December? We also believe that from October Sainsbury's will be recruiting 25 full and part time staff. A free ATM outside the store will also mean no car journeys needed to Budgen's ATM! We have also had discussions with DWH about supporting a bus route that takes in the district center. This will enable shoppers from the furthest parts of GD within the new development to have easy access to the store.

## Dog Fouling

There is a growing incidence of dog owners who seem quite happy to let their dogs foul all over Great Denham. A Borough Environment Officer visited early in March and said that he was shocked by the amount of dog fouling – and how close to dog bins it was. He is going to set up visit both early and late to see if he can catch the offending owners. Signs will be displayed in more prominent positions over the next few weeks. He also asked that we ensure that every dog owner walking their dogs in Great Denham is alerted to the fact and will be liable to be fined up to £1,000 if they don't clean up after their dogs! ***Come on dog owners, there are plenty of bins around Great Denham play your part in keeping it clean.***

## CCTV



As discussed at the past couple of meetings the PC and RA have proposed the fitment of CCTV cameras to be placed throughout the community. Following discussions with the relevant bodies, developers and Highways division of the Borough Council, we have their agreement to proceed. Members of the Parish Council are visiting homes near to where the cameras will be positioned in order to see if there are any issues or concerns that residents may have. If anyone wishes to see the camera locations the CCTV positioning map is on the website. <http://www.greatdenham.bedsparishes.gov.uk> and will be posted on the noticeboards. Every

precaution is being taken to ensure residents privacy, and the siting of cameras has been carefully considered with this in mind. We hope to see the cameras installed and working within the next 3 months.

## Introducing our Community Ministers



We are David and Suzette Maguire, Community Ministers for Great Denham and West Kempston, and we arrived in Great Denham at the end of January. You may have seen us around already. Although we are working alongside All Saints Church, Kempston, and St. James', Biddenham, our remit is not to be IN Church but to help to build community in the new housing developments, in whatever way is helpful, and to embody God's love in valuing people and building-up genuine relationships. You may see or meet us at the next Parish council meeting. We were previously living in North Tyneside so, in short, what we are mostly doing at the moment is

'exploring', getting to know the local area and finding ways to meet our new community. If you want to let us know about something, just want to chat, or think we could be helpful somewhere as an extra pair (or pairs!) of hands, do let us know. We look forward to meeting you! 😊😊

Find us on Facebook: *Community Ministers at Great Denham*.

## Bus Gate

As many residents will be aware the bus gate bollards have been down since the beginning of the year. This has meant that 21 fixed penalty notices in January were issued and 20 in February. Local residents living close to the bus gate have stated that there are many more offenders illegally using the bus gate than the 41 fixed penalties given out in January & February. The PC took this up with the Borough and questioned whether the camera was working properly? Following a visit by engineers the camera was found to be out of alignment and not working correctly. The camera is now fully functioning so motorists you have been warned! If you use the bus gate when the bollards are not working **you will receive a fixed penalty notice!** We have also chased DWH to ensure repairs are made as a priority given that they have been out of action for more than 2 months.

## Next Phase of House Building

The development of Greenkeepers is nearly complete. The finalisation of the Lagan build on the corner of Greenkeepers and Saxon Way seems to have stalled and thus is delaying the reinstatement of the green on that corner. It goes to show once more how very uncaring particular developers are about the quality of life for the community when their project is nearly complete!

We now have "Great Denham Park" underway with DWH building 116 homes at the far end of the site near the GD/Kempston bridge crossing. Barrett's are about to start a batch of 56 homes behind Toybox nursery and Bovis are starting on their last phase of the 103 homes on Anglia Way and Broad Mead Avenue. Linden Homes have taken a parcel which means C. 116 houses which will be sited below the current Bovis site on Anglia Way.



DWH sales office on Greenkeepers is closed and will not be used further. Great Denham Primary School has been gifted the "Potton Timber Homes" construction and has since the school was built had a location prepared within the school campus. The difficulty the school now faces is with regard to the cost of dismantling and re-erecting the building with the school. We are still trying to get estimates for the move but they are looking quite expensive. So on the grounds of – nothing ventured nothing gained – are there any Great Denham residents who are builders, tillers, bricklayers, joiners plasterers etc. who might want to join in on a community project? If there are please contact Jim Weir direct on either 07528803981 or [jrweir@btinternet.com](mailto:jrweir@btinternet.com)



On the subject of community projects this is the happy – if a bit cold – volunteers who joined in the Great Denham litter pick a couple of weeks ago. Our thanks to them for the 12 bags of rubbish and recycling they collected.

Watch out for calls for more volunteers for litter picks later in the year.

## **PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2015**

The parish council election will take place at the same time as the general, borough council and mayoral elections on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2015.

To stand for election you will need to download a nomination form. Go to [www.bedford.co.uk](http://www.bedford.co.uk) and from the main menu select “council and democracy” then “elections” and follow the links to download a form. Detailed guidance notes are on the Electoral Commission website. Go to <http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk> and follow the links to Parish and Community Elections in England and Wales. You can also follow the links on our website. All nomination forms must be returned to Borough Hall by 4pm on 9<sup>th</sup> April.

Great Denham has five parish councillors and if more than five nominations are submitted an election will take place. If five or less nominations are submitted an election will not be required and all those nominated will be deemed to be elected.

Parish councillors are all volunteers and receive no payment. The reward is in making a positive contribution to, and helping to shape, the future of your community. Great Denham parish council encourages anyone interested to stand for election. If you would like any further information on becoming a parish councillor please contact our clerk at [gdclerk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gdclerk@hotmail.co.uk) or the chairman at [jrweir@btinternet.com](mailto:jrweir@btinternet.com)

## **Finally**

Can I “a-  
a bell ringer  
years but  
exercise  
in the first instance.



peel” to the community for anyone who might be interested in learning to become at our Parish Church of St James? The tradition has been going on for hundreds of years but we need new ringers coming through if this is not to die out. It’s fun and good exercise and won’t take up too much of your free time. If interested please contact Jim Weir in the first instance. [jrweir@btinternet.com](mailto:jrweir@btinternet.com)

## **Next Meeting**

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2015 Parish Council Meeting** 19:30 – 21:00 Great Denham Primary School

### **Councillor Contacts**

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Please contact us on any of the above and visit the sites below for more info and regular updates.

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