



GREAT DENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

The leaves are falling, the clocks have gone back and I have seen the first Christmas cards in the shops – time to put the sprouts on as Terry Wogan used to say!

Great Denham Primary School will be formally handed over from the developers on 5th November. At this point the cabins will be removed, creating more outside space and further easing the parking issues which have created some teething problems. There has also been a marked improvement in parents parking more considerately. Of course, things would have been better from the outset if the Borough had provided the parking facilities in the Park & Ride site when the school opened as promised. I have now been told that this will not be available until the Spring term and have sent a strongly worded response to the Borough stating that this is unacceptable and action needs to be taken to bring this forward. Meanwhile, we have a lovely new school at which the children are clearly enjoying themselves immensely and that they look forward to attending each day.

I am pleased to be able to confirm that the Parish Council has now appointed a handy man and he should have started working by the time this is published. He is a serving fireman and keen to keep Great Denham looking spick and span.

The Parish Council is frequently asked when superfast broadband will arrive in Great Denham. This is something we have been lobbying for with the Borough, the developers and suppliers for some considerable time. The problem seems to be our distance from the Bedford exchange to which we are connected. It is difficult to understand why the infrastructure was not provided from the outset. It is with some caution, therefore, that I can advise BT have recognised the issue and are working on providing us with superfast broadband as soon as possible. I hope to get a further update by the time this is published and any positive news will be posted on our website.

The bus gate debacle should by now be resolved. The rise and fall bollards which proved so ineffective and faulty are to be replaced with number recognition cameras. Penalty notices will warn of the fine should those who are unauthorised still consider using this route into Great Denham.

Once again the Parish Council is pleased to be sponsoring the community fireworks event held at The Bedford Golf Club. This year's event will be on Tuesday 6th November. There is no admission charge for the fireworks, but you will be able to buy food from a soup stall and barbeque and the bar will be open from 5.30pm to buy drinks. This is a wonderful opportunity to get the community together and the fireworks are always spectacular.

Due to a power failure on the roundabout last year, we were without our Christmas lights throughout virtually the whole of the festive season. Although we have no control over the electricity supply we hope that the new lights we have purchased for 2012 will make up for last year's black out. The new lights will be installed and switched on around 7th December and remain there until early in the New Year.

At our last meeting we were able to confirm our eligibility to use the General Power of Competence. As you may (or may not) know, the power of Parish Councils to act is limited by the powers conveyed upon them and we always need to be sure that we are acting within those powers. This new power gives us the freedom to do anything which an individual might reasonably do and is therefore much more flexible.

The Power has, in fact, already been of use as we also voted in favour of creating a Community Award which will go those who do something for the community without any gain for themselves. More of this in future.

Our new notice board has now been erected behind the bus stop in Greenkeepers Road (keep going past David Wilson Homes' site office and towards Queen's Park) so residents throughout the development can keep themselves informed. Of course, you can also look at our website www.greatdenham.bedsparishes.gov.uk and, if you are a parishioner, sign up to receive email updates.

The first meeting of the Residents Association will take place on 8th November and, although this is a totally independent body from the Parish Council, we believe it will be a good forum at which residents can discuss and resolve issues. We are, therefore, pleased to have provided £750 of initial funding to get things off the ground.

Kind regards
Jim Weir – Chairman Great Denham Parish Council