



## GREAT DENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Dear All

The year has gone very quickly and by the time you read this the Christmas lights will be back on the Great Denham roundabout tree and we will all be arranging our seasons visiting and celebration plans.

Much has happened in the Parish since I last wrote. We now have 600 new houses occupied and an estimated community of 1,665. In order to try to ascertain the needs of the parish as we grow we have undertaken some analysis. The analysis is based on the projected number of new homes to be built of 1500. This would give the parish 1750 homes when completed. The parish profile currently and projected is;

Current			Projected	
Age	Number	%	Number	%
0-4	166	10	346	10
5-15	250	15	519	15
16-17	15	3	103	3
18-29	266	16	554	16
30-39	266	16	554	16
40-49	250	15	519	15
50-64	250	15	519	15
65-74	100	6	208	6
75-84	50	3	103	3
85+	17	1	35	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,665</b>		<b>3,460</b>	

This gives us all plenty to think about regarding what facilities we need to have in place to serve the needs of the community. The Parish Council are currently working on a sports & play exercise to try to ensure that the sports facilities provided in the country park will be fully utilised. We would love to be able to set up football, rugby and cricket coaching in the first instance. We are about to commence discussions with a number of sporting bodies and the Borough recreation team.

In September 2012 the new school Great Denham Primary & Family Learning Centre opened their doors for the first phase. In November the final phase of building was completed and – thankfully – builders left the site. The school operates a “creative curriculum” with a new central topic each term. This has really engaged the children and parents are delighted with progress. On 17-18 October the school was inspected by Ofsted. The parish will be delighted to know that Great Denham School was rated as a “good school with outstanding features”. Some comments from the inspectors;

- Pupils having joined from many different schools, achieve well at Great Denham because teaching is consistently good.
- Members of the senior leadership team came together before the school opened and have set out a very clear vision based on helping each and every pupil to achieve their very best. They have established a set of values that the school community wholeheartedly supports and this shapes the direction of the school.
- Pupils are polite and well mannered. They say that bullying is not an issue – “we don’t do that here”. They know about different types of bullying, such as name-calling and cyber bullying, and how to combat them. Discrimination of any kind is not tolerated.

To view the Ofsted report in full please go to; [www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports)

A big thank you to all the staff at the school and we all wish you continued success.

Latest news on the shop in Great Denham is that the developer DWH is waiting for some amendments to the “master plan” for the district centre then we should see rapid progress?

The lack of superfast Broadband continues to be a problem, but I hope to meet with BT in November to progress this matter.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2014. Meanwhile, please keep up to date by visiting our website [www.greatdenham.bedsparishes.gov.uk](http://www.greatdenham.bedsparishes.gov.uk)

Peace, happiness and health for the coming Christmas celebration and all good wishes for a happy New Year.

Kind regards

Jim Weir – Chair Great Denham Parish Council