



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 PC Newsletter

May 2015

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Broadband:

In order to get some clarity into where and when the fibre broadband programme would be delivered the PC invited BT, DWH and our Borough Councillor Mark Smith to meet. The purpose was to find out what issues had delayed the 15th March date and when we could expect to see the infrastructure completed! The day before the meeting BT pulled out stating “another meeting” they had to go to. The remaining invitees met anyway to discuss next steps. From those discussions DWH were to escalate to more senior management in BT. Mark Smith was to enlist our MP Alistair Burt and Phil Simpkins the Borough’s CEO for their support in contacting BT. The PC has since had communication with BT who now state the following;

Latest update from BT – *“Openreach is actively working on completing the physical work including standing, powering, lighting of Cabs 126, 127 and 141 as well as the complex Network rearrangement of ccts from pcp 126 and pcp 127 into new PCP 141 to ensure a more even spread around the development and to shorten the line distances between the premises and the designated cabinets to maximise the fibre broadband speed*

It is expected that this physical and network rearrangement work will be completed by end of June 2014 or Early July 2015 (depending on the network migration which must be undertaken before cabs 126 and 127 can go live)

The time line of work is scheduled as follows

PCP 127 Fibre Cabinet stood and powered by 12th June 2015 – expected stood w/c 6th June 2015

PCP 126 Fibre Cabinet stood W/C 6th June 2015 – Request for power work in with UKPN – This is 120 metres of civils / power to be done once cab stood

PCP 141 Copper Cabinet awaiting confirmation of Standup – notice with Bedford council expected early June 2015

PCP 141 Fibre Cabinet (stood and Power by 16th June 2015)

Once the PCP 141 copper cabinet is in place we can then move the premises at Bus lane end of Greenkeepers who are currently on PCP 126 or 127 onto the New PCP 141

This will then start to provide a much more even spread of cabinets and shorten the copper line distance which will the increase the speed for fibre broadband (assuming a fibre broadband service is purchased from a service providers offering fibre broadband (Fibre broadband is an opt in service – i.e. has be to purchase / ordered from a service provider”).

Sainsburys Update

The PC met with architects and builders appointed by Sainsbury/DWH on 13th May. The full scale operation is to begin on 18th May and according to the builder should be handed over for Sainsburys to fit out in October 2015. Haven't yet found out how long the store will take to fit-out but looks like a range late November - mid December.

Community Hall:



DWH have received two more tenders on which they have now entered negotiation. The plans for the hall and the funding arrangements – which form part of the PC's business plan for the hall

have now been published on the PC website www.greatdenham.bedsparishes.gov.uk . A number of residents have indicated their desire to become involved as Trustees. If anyone else has an interest in becoming a Trustee please contact Jim Weir jrweir@btinternet.com

Latest update from DWH – “DWH will hopefully have identified a preferred contractor by the end of May. I suggest we (DWH / Great Denham Parish Council) now look to progress due diligence and the legal Transfer of the land to GDPC. Happy to arrange a meeting date to agree how we progress from here – perhaps, once the contractor has been confirmed”.

Dog Fouling

Still a major issue – please dog owners clean up after your dogs, there are plenty of dog bins! Can you really afford £1,000 fine when you get caught?

CCTV

Everything is now in place for the CCTV camera project to go ahead. The monies from DWH have been paid to the Borough and consultation with residents close to the cameras has taken place. We have had some very positive comments regarding CCTV cameras in the parish. The final permission we are waiting for is Highways Dept. at the Borough regarding where we will be positioning the camera masts. Once this is received we will get the cameras installed.



Bob the Baboon says 'Stick the kettle on Pet'



From our Community Ministers

Up in the North East David and I were Community Ministers based in a coffee shop. During that time we learnt to value many things – and not only the provision of good coffee and cake, but also the provision of community space.

Over the first three years in trading customers asked for - and got – a weekly Knit & Natter group; 2 monthly book groups; a monthly 'Chill-Out Zone' (including board games); a monthly discussion group, and a monthly walking group. These things were important in bringing the community together, which in turn had a positive effect on the general health of that community. (One local doctor was always unofficially recommending our activities.)

You may already know about the Community Hall planned for Great Denham, but you may not know that there is a group of caring individuals, representing a variety of public services, departments and charities, who are interested in addressing the health needs of our community.

As our small part in all of this, and in the current absence of a community hall, David and I (and Bob!) will be opening up our home for 'Community Coffee @ 39*' for the next three months (at least!), 1 – 3 pm on the following Tuesdays:

9th, 16th & 23rd June
7th, 14th & 28th July
4th, 11th, 18th & 25th August.

Why not come along and meet others from your community, share your ideas, your aspirations, tell us what you would like, or just have coffee and cake? Plus, if you can't make these days/times, let us know when you **can** make it. This is your community and your opportunity for community space. Help us to help you shape it.

*Venue: 39 *Broad Mead Avenue*

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

Bus Gate

In addition to the 189 penalty notices given out during the camera trial there have been 400 tickets issued in March & April with 112 in the first 2 weeks of May. The bollards have been down since end of December last year. Many offenders are now covering their number plates before driving through. There are also many repeat offenders who will be racking up hundreds of pounds in fines. The Borough will pursue payment of these to the point of court and bailiffs.

The latest update is that the repair company inspected the damaged bollards last Friday (15th May) and repairs will soon be underway. The intention of the Borough – when the bus-gate is adopted – is to lower the bollards to avoid maintenance costs and just rely on the camera. This would be ok in a less dense housing area but with so many offenders and inconsistent working of the number plate recognition camera the PC will lobby that the bollards are kept raised at all times.

Tree Planting Kingswood Way



It doesn't look like this yet but the trees planted by the PC recently are *Carpinus Fastigiata* (Hornbeams). The plan is that in about 4/5 years they will look like this picture? We are waiting to see how much of the commuted sum is left once the community hall and the costs of broadband are completed. We would like to plant more trees to supplement

those that DWH have planted throughout the new development areas.

Water Meadows Great Denham Country Park

If you haven't yet paid a visit to the water meadows it's well worth a visit. This was originally just overgrown flood plain but imaginative and thoughtful landscaping has made for a very peaceful and appealing location. Lots of swans and other water bird types to see and the PC have even put in a couple of benches so you can take the weight off and admire the view. We will soon be constructing a map showing footpaths and points in and around the country park for walking and visiting.



PARISH COUNCIL & BOROUGH ELECTIONS 2015

In the latest elections held on 7th May 5 residents of Great Denham put their names forward to sit on the parish council. Four of the existing councilors Jim Weir, Kevin Cawood, Tony Harrison and Paul Stonebridge all stood again with a new candidate Shah Shanoor Miah. As there are 5 seats and only 5 candidates no election took place for the parish council and the 5 candidates are now appointed as the parish councilors for Great Denham. Mark Smith the sitting Conservative Borough Councillor was re-elected for the ward of Kempston Rural (of which Great Denham is a part).

Great Denham Community Action Group

Some 18 months ago the start of this group was discussed by members of staff at the school. Through its role in educating and caring for children the school has gained a useful insight into the issues that face families and other members of a community. A key member of the staff wanted to do something positive to try and provide a mechanism to identify and support families in difficulty with a number of issues. Whether this was health, isolation, violence and other abuse or just providing the opportunity to look into the community for support during difficult times. We have printed the notes from the last meeting of this group and our thanks go to Rachel Chiou of the Bedford Clinical Commissioning Group for her support and leadership for the community, and for getting others involved.

Currently the group is made up of a number of professionals and a staff member at the school. What we are trying to do is reach out to the community and ask if there are residents willing to join this group so that we can turn the planning aspects of this group into an "action" group. If you would like to become involved in helping and supporting others in the community please contact Jim Weir on jrweir@btinternet.com

Summer Festival 2015

A tradition has started each year of having a summer festival round about August time. The PC kicked the first one off and for the past 2/3 years the organizing committee has come from within the community. We also thought that this year – as we have always ended up with bad weather – that we would provide some bigger marquees so that all stalls and activities can be under cover (what's the betting that it will be the best day of the year!). A little bird has told us that a member of the community has already started the process so if there are any volunteers/performers/stall holders who want to get involved please contact the Parish Clerk Roz Buchanan on gdclerk@hotmail.co.uk

Next Meetings

Monday 1st June 2015 Parish Planning Meeting. Monday 6th July Parish Council Meeting both at 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