



# Great Denham News

Keeping you in the loop



## April 2016

### GATEWAY FEATURE

### IN THIS ISSUE

# Charity No 1166224

At long last after what seems to have been a lot of hard work by the trustees and parish council our new community hall has been granted charity status by the Charity Commission. The community hall being provided by DWH under an S106 agreement should be handed over by mid July 2016.

In fact the hall has taken its first booking for a 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration in September. There have been many enquiries from potential users of the hall wanting to run health and fitness events. Slimming and dancing classes, faith groups and mother and toddler groups are also showing a keen interest.

All residents are invited to a presentation evening on the **26<sup>th</sup> April 7:30pm at Great Denham Primary School**. You will be able to see the exciting features of this very special and much needed addition to the parish.



View of Main Hall

The build is going to plan and the floors are in for the upper hall, lobby and meeting room. Trustees are currently negotiating with kitchen companies, audio/visual contractors, access control and CCTV organisation's to make sure we have everything needed

So don't forget to make a note in your diary. And because we know some residents may be arriving straight from work we will have tea and coffee/soft drinks and biscuits available.

All the details of the hall will be shared and your ideas incorporated into how the hall will provide events wanted by you.



First Floor Lobby

### Community Hall

Charity Commission grants charity status for Great Denham Community Hall. Now registered as No 1166224.



### Fibre Broadband

The final piece of the jigsaw on fibre broadband?



### Great Denham Primary School – Academy?

Government DfE plan to see every school in Multi Academy Trust (MAT) by 2020!



### Summer Festival & Country Park

With the facilities in the Country Park and the completion of the community hall this year's event should be bigger and better



## Fibre Broadband

We have all seen the battle over the past 2 years to bring superfast fibre broadband to Great Denham!

The new development in Great Denham is now being served through cabinets 126,127 and 141. The latest house building by DWH has meant the ability to lay fibre trunking directly to each house. So any property built by DWH and Barratt's should have this in. It is sad to say that neither Bovis nor Linden Homes have followed this trend so the PC fears that more intervention is going to be needed as homes from these builders come on stream and the three cabinets already installed won't cope with the demand. The PC has alerted BT to this issue and we believe they are speaking to Linden Homes about them paying for an additional fibre cabinet.

Meanwhile the older parts of Great Denham are to be serviced by a new cabinet (145) which will be placed at the corner of Carnoustie Drive and Prestwick Road.



These workings which started on the 1st of April signify where the fibre cabinets will be placed – and no it wasn't an April Fool prank! The PC had confirmation on 30<sup>th</sup> March that the 6<sup>th</sup> April date for fitting the cabinet has not changed. They also said that everyone in the older parts of Great Denham would be able to connect to fibre broadband within three to four weeks of the cabinet being installed.

Just a reminder to everyone that when the fibre is installed and available to your home you will still need to contact your provider to ensure that they will work with fibre.

By the time this newsletter comes through your letterbox the cabinets should have



been installed

## Great Denham Primary School

The Department for Education has reiterated the Conservative Governments manifesto pledge to change all



schools to academies by 2020 – or as soon after as possible. What does this mean for our school in Great Denham?

The choices are;

- Do nothing and stay as a local authority school which means the school would have to join a multi academy trust (MAT) determined by the local education commissioner in due course.
- Elect to join an existing MAT of the schools choosing
- Join with other like-minded schools and create a new MAT.
  - **Next Steps**
- The Governors, Head and Staff are all looking very closely at the options the school will have.
- During this process the school will engage with parents and guardians and keep them updated on any proposed changes.

In the meantime our sister foundation school Biddenham is committed to working collaboratively with other schools, and their governing body decided that a local MAT can enhance that. This MAT would then come under an Umbrella organisation the RSA (Royal Society of Arts). "Working with an organisation like the RSA, with its long history in educational innovation and development seems a very good opportunity". This is something that Great Denham has considered and has decided not to join the local MAT in the first instance but have left that option open whilst they explore those listed above. What will our school look like in 25 years? Whatever decision is reached the GDPS enrolment in a MAT means a 25 year relationship that can't be broken! The decision has to be right for our children. If anyone has questions on the impact of acadatisation please forward to Clerk to Governors [sue.newman@greatdenhamprimary.beds.sch.uk](mailto:sue.newman@greatdenhamprimary.beds.sch.uk)



Time capsule burial.

## Summer Festival & Country Park Football in Great Denham

As the Country Park has now got some facilities available such as the play hub and the amphi theatre we will be looking at how we can incorporate these facilities in the festival. We will also have the community hall available so a whole host of different options are available. Last year's organisers are again volunteering to set this up and no



doubt they will be looking for volunteers to join them in due course.

If you want to get involved then please contact our Parish Clerk

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



The many and varied pieces of equipment are a great addition to facilities in Great Denham. We have all had instances in the past where we have criticised DWH but you have to say that this time they got it right. So thank you DWH for the fabulous play hub.

## Cricket in Great Denham

The Parish Council has been approached by two sporting groups to set up their facilities in Great Denham. The first was Bromham Cricket Club who is looking for a new home within the Country Park. They have a grant from the English & Welsh Cricket Board to help them set up some pitches and a small pavilion. These options were presented to a PC meeting and gained unanimous approval. The PC has written to the Parks Department at the Borough supporting the proposal – the team will be called Great Denham Cricket Club and will offer coaching sessions to the youth of Great Denham.

The second sporting group are brothers Andy and Karl Johnson who want to set up a Great Denham FC. Andy is the former England International and Crystal Palace player and both are Bedford boys. They are talking to the Borough about using the pitches in time for next season and Andy is holding talks with the FA about grass roots funding. They both confirmed that they are very keen and enthusiastic about junior and youth football. The intention is to coach and train junior teams with the majority of kids coming from Great Denham. Again the PC has written to the Borough supporting their proposal.

## Future Sporting Prospects in GD.

The prospects of cricket and football coming to Great Denham in a big way coupled with the community hall and the school Multi-Use games area, (MUGA) available to residents, (5-a-side, netball, basketball) we are set to see sport develop in Great Denham. When the building development in Great Denham is finished we should have a population of over 3,500.

Age groups are estimated to be

• 0-4	346
• 5-15	519
• 16-17	103
• 18-29	554
• 30-39	554
• 40-49	519
• 50-64	519
• 65-74	208
• 75-84	103
• 85+	35



With 2,076 residents under the age of 40 there should be plenty of opportunity to engage with sport. Both the sporting group's cricket and football are keen to set up training and coaching sessions.

We will post all contact details for these groups when they have been set up and keep you advised of the opportunities that they will be creating. Keep a watch out on the PC Twitter, Facebook and Website.

## CCTV & TRO-Greenkeepers

Installation of the Great Denham CCTV system has been delayed for a 10-12 week timescale for the manufacture of two new camera columns to match the existing street lamp post design. Installation is now likely to start in May.

Despite indications that the yellow lines and parking ban on Greenkeepers - from the bend just after the school to the end of the block work on the bend past Mercia Road – was supposed to be in by Easter the PC have been told the following; "The weather at this time of the year is not suitable for completing lining works as we cannot lay lining material on wet or cold roads. We are hoping to complete this work within the next four weeks".

## Western Bypass - 25<sup>th</sup> April

### Message from Bedford Mayor

The crucial final section of the Bedford Western Bypass will open on Monday April 25<sup>th</sup>, I am pleased to have announced. This road has been in local and national strategies for over half a century, so I'm delighted that we cleared the logjam and made it happen, both on time and within budget. Delivering this road was a priority of mine when I became mayor. That's why, when it became clear that usual processes were not going to get it built, I launched the successful strategy of pursuing Compulsory Purchase Order proceedings to break down the array of obstacles. We also won funding from external sources, minimising the impact of this £18.6 million scheme on local taxpayers.

### Bus Service in Great Denham

Members of the Parish Council are continuing to work with Bedford Borough Council (Transport Operations Group) to evaluate the proposals from a number of bus companies to provide an additional route from Great Denham through to the rail and bus stations (direct route via Bromham Road over and above the existing 8 service). The options for funding this new service are currently being explored. If funding is secured (through S106 monies etc.) the service could be in place by the end of May / beginning of June 2016.

## Newsletter:

*In order to avoid duplication of information to residents and to save on costs the parish council's newsletter will also incorporate the resident's association update.*

Contacts:

Parish Councillors: Responsibilities:

Andy Brown Planning / Infrastructure

- Neighbourhood Plan
- Building Development / Planning Applications
- Siting of Roads; footpaths; Cycle-ways CCTV (Installation / Maintenance)

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

Tony Harrison Safety & Wellbeing

- Street wardens / Parish (Special) Constables
- Crime Stats/Police Liaison/ Neighbourhood Watch/CCTV
- Street Lighting/Highways BBC
- Anti-Social Behaviour Reporting

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

Donna Parsons Pride in Great Denham – Residents Association

- Pathways (Weeding / Cleanliness)/Litter Picks
- Handyman/Landscaping/Horticulture
- Fencing/Tree Planting/Signage
- Dog Fouling/Fly Tipping
- Parking/Bins
- Links to Housing Associations

[donna.parsons.pc@gmail.com](mailto:donna.parsons.pc@gmail.com)

Martin Stuart Local Services

- Great Denham Community Hall
- Bus Service
- Country Park/Play Areas
- Retail Liaison (partnering for a cleaner GD)

[ms.consulting@btinternet.com](mailto:ms.consulting@btinternet.com)

Jim Weir (Chair) Communication -Residents/BBC/Developer/Services

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

- Newsletters/Social Media/Website
- BT Infrastructure Issues
- Structured approach to holding developer to account – on issues
- Press/Radio/Events/Community Development

Roz Buchanan Parish Clerk [gdclerk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gdclerk@hotmail.co.uk)

[www.greatdenham.bedsparishes.gov.uk](http://www.greatdenham.bedsparishes.gov.uk)

<https://twitter.com/GtDenhamPC>

<https://www.facebook.com/GreatDenhamParishCouncil>

Next PC Meeting: - - Annual Parish Meeting - Followed By Parish Council Meeting - Great Denham School May 9<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm



## Great Denham Residents' Association Update April 2016

### 1. Our vibrant District Centre

As residents know the first retail phase of our district centre is complete with Sainsbury's open 16 hours a day 7 days a week.

In addition, Barnardo's now has a branch manager who is keen to engage with the local community. To that end, we can inform you that Louise is planning to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Barnardo's with a Spring Fayre on Thursday 28 April, with activities to help fundraise on this day to involve the local children and a lot of fun.

If you'd like to get involved or have ideas for community activity on the day, please call in at the shop and speak to Louise.

Our local hairdresser / beautician, Saramanda1 has made a positive start and will be extending opening hours soon to accommodate demand. A sunbed room is also being installed and will be available for bookings shortly.

The last unit, Denhams Fish Bar opened on 26 March selling fish and chips, kebabs and will be selling pizza soon, so there is plenty to choose from, and is well worth a visit.

So phase 1 of the district centre is at last complete. We waited a long time to get some shops and now they are open we need to support them!

### Building work commences across Anglia Way

Westhall's approved application for the land across Anglia Way will provide 6 more units, not necessarily as direct retail, but for example to provide a local estate agent, and it is hoped these will be occupied towards the end of the year or early 2017. The building will include 6 residential flats above, which will be advertised later in the year. The scheme involves a private gated area behind the building.

If you are interested in taking one of the units please contact Stimpsons Eves on 01234 341311

### Kingswood Way – retail units

The Pharmacy building on Kingswood Way opened its doors on 15 September, and is open from 8:30am to 6:30pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 1pm on Saturday

Since many surgeries now operate EPS2 (electronic prescriptions) people can nominate The Village Pharmacy as their choice for dispensing of prescriptions. Patients can collect a form from the pharmacy to nominate it as their choice this can also be done on-line through the Village Medical Centre's "systmonline" patient record service.

There are three other trading units in the building and our pharmacy will soon be joined by a consulting vet who hope to be open and offering a service to our pets in May.

A dentist will be taking the third unit and hope to complete their fit out to enable opening in July.

The final unit is available and again, Stimpson Eves are the contact if you are interested.

Further information and confirmed dates will be circulated once known.

**If you run a local business and would like to promote your services to residents please let us know.**

### 2. Neighbourhood Watch

Following a period of dormancy, the Great Denham Neighbourhood Watch scheme has come to life again under our new Area Co-ordinator, Kim Hunt, and her rapidly expanding team of street co-ordinators, or street champions as we like to refer to them.

The role of street champion is not hugely time consuming, nor is it about being a one person police force, but more about being eyes and ears able to pass on advice and guidance and working closely with the local PCSO, mainly aimed at crime prevention, but also ASB incidents. If we create a network of champions, it will help us to live in a safer community, not that we suffer much crime, and potentially reduce our insurance costs.

If you'd like to be involved in this fantastic community team you can find out more about how to join and share information at the new Facebook site

<https://www.facebook.com/Great-Denham-Neighbourhood-Watch-1735473910072678/>

## **Pride in Great Denham**

While much responsibility for the state of our roads and pavements does fall at the door of the developers we as residents can make a massive difference to the feel of Great Denham by taking pride in our streets, so do please use the bins provided when walking around and if you see litter pick it.

If you own a dog, please pick up after your pet, and use the dog bins around the area. Dog fouling is unpleasant and persistent offenders can receive a fine.

A litter free development may be something of a dream but cleaner streets do make for happier residents so please do whatever you can to make Great Denham a place to be proud of!

## **Recycling**

David Wilson Homes (DWH) is going to provide a proper recycling facility, in the large car park. Details will follow once known. The bottle bank is now located in this car park.

## **3. Update on the Road network Road re surfacing**

DWH has moved forward on the plan for the adoption of Greenkeepers and Saxon Way. Work has at last commenced to top off the remaining road surfaces and repair the kerbs and it is hoped that this work will be complete by the end of May. On completion, DWH will enter into a 12 month plan with Bedford Borough Council before being able to formally pass the roads over to the Council.

## **Parking and Yellow lines**

Parking around the school, and the first section of Greenkeepers, remains crowded to say the least.

A traffic order to extend the yellow lines further along Greenkeepers was raised before Christmas and this is due for implementation around the time of going to press, so hopefully are now down.

On the other side of the school, there was some confusion over the proposal for a traffic order impacting on Muirfield that we understand some residents took to mean yellow lines would operate 24 hours a day. The intention was to provide parking restrictions for a few hours a day to prevent parents parking in residential roads to drop off their children at the school but, instead to use the public car park provided.

Clearly the safety of the children is paramount. Using the car park and walking along pavements to the road crossing

to the school entrance provides full protection, so please use this option if you can

The new Barratt's development opposite Sainsbury's, and the many additional houses still to be built will increase the pressure on local roads and make it even more important that we all use our allocated parking spaces if at all possible.

It's inevitable that there will be on-the-road parking, but this is one of the few issues we, as residents, can improve ourselves. Can we please ask everyone to park sensibly and considerately so that we avoid parked cars becoming an obstacle or hazard to other drivers/cyclists/pedestrians/residents?

## **4. Community Activities and Entertainment**

### **Golf Club**

The golf club is not just a place to play golf, hosting many different events that are open to all residents including comedy, jazz, quiz and restaurant nights as well as being our only local licensed facility. It is not a private club so please do pop in and support our local club whenever you can.

**Details of all golf club events can be obtained by calling 01234 320022**

### **Volunteer Clubs and Groups**

#### **Young Mums**

A group for new Mums meets regularly at the golf club. Details of timings can be obtained by contacting [gd.mums@gmail.com](mailto:gd.mums@gmail.com)

#### **Great Denham Runners**

meet on Sundays at 9am and Wednesdays at 7pm now the clocks have gone forward. Do join their Facebook group for more details at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/396251163867097/>

If you run a club or group and wish to promote this to seek new members please do get in touch.

And finally if you wish to join our Residents' Association e-mail distribution list, or provide your thoughts and

comments on any local issues, please get in touch by email to [greatdenhamresidents@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:greatdenhamresidents@hotmail.co.uk) or visit our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/Greatdenham.co.uk](http://www.facebook.com/Greatdenham.co.uk)



