



Great Denham News

Keeping you in the loop



May / June 2018

Welcome to our first Newsletter for 2018/19

A very warm welcome to all new residents of Great Denham – it's great to have you as part of our community.

Since our last Newsletter (November 2017) more houses have been completed, people have moved in, and we've increased the print run to ensure every household is included. New street names are springing up, and our delivery volunteers are getting those steps in on their fitness apps to pop this newsletter through your door!

Mayor to attend June Parish Council Meeting

The Parish Council has been raising concerns on behalf of those residents who pay £120 charge to Bedford Borough Council for the **Open Space Management**, in terms of the perceived unfairness of the charge and the transparency from the Borough on how and where monies are being spent. Updates have been posted on the Parish Council website (www.greatdenham.bedsparishes.gov.uk), and all documents can be found there, including the most recent Discussion Document and the Borough Council response. **Both the Mayor Dave Hodgson and the Chief Executive of the Borough Council will be attending the next Parish Council meeting** to address any resident concerns re the charge, and you are encouraged to attend to hear what they have to say. **Meeting will start at 7.30pm on Monday 4th June 2018.**

Help shape future plans

The Chairman's report to the Annual Parish meeting (see page 6) outlined some of the things the Council has done over the last 12 months. But in a growing community there are always new concerns and things which continue to need attention.

Get involved in shaping a Parish Plan for Great Denham for the next 12 months and beyond.

Over the summer we will be collecting views to shape a Parish Plan – this will help inform decision making, and also budget preparation. As we move forward having a clear plan of parish priorities will also help us seek funding or grants from other organisations, so that future projects are not just dependent on the Council Tax that we all pay as residents.

We will be setting up a working group for this – if you'd like to be part of that please email the Clerk at gdclerk@hotmail.co.uk. The working group will meet sometime over the summer, and we hope to involve as many residents as possible through surveys, focus groups and open events.

Want to get involved? Got a question or concern?
Contact the Clerk via email on gdclerk@hotmail.co.uk

Or come along to a Parish Council Meeting on 1st
Monday of each month at the Community Hall, 7.30pm
(note: there is no meeting in August)

Pavilion – build is progressing well – looking forward to launch

After a few changed dates, the last we heard the Pavilion would be ready in Summer 2018 – it looks like this may actually happen!! The roof is on, the parking area is in the process of being sorted, and we've all got our fingers crossed that we may very soon have our own Pavilion.



As we reported before, there has been healthy interest from a number of sports groups, including football and cricket.

And we were given the opportunity to suggest names for both the Pavilion and the Café – thanks to those residents who took the time to respond, all suggestions have been passed onto the Borough, we wait with baited breath to see what the final choice will be!

Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for more info on opening plans. Any clubs interested in using the Pavilion or pitches, please get in touch as the Borough Council are currently registering all interest. There's a form to complete which you can get from the Clerk on gdclerk@hotmail.co.uk.

Parking and Road Safety in Great Denham - UPDATE

Road Markings on Junctions

The consultation on the proposal to introduce double yellow lines on junctions around Great Denham closed on 27th April with 9 responses received from residents. A number of people also asked for more yellow lines, particularly opposite the junctions of the roads coming off Greenkeepers Road. As we've been advised by Bedford Borough Council Highway Operations that it won't be

possible to amend the current proposals, these requests will be considered for a future scheme.

The Parish Council, at its meeting on 14th May 2018, resolved to move ahead with the road markings as proposed. We await a schedule of work from the Borough and will publish the timings on our website once known.

No Pavement/Verge Parking

Bedford Borough Council has a borough-wide mandate in place to implement no Pavement/Verge Parking enforcement if required. Phase 1 of a scheme for Great Denham will be implemented shortly, and further phases throughout the remaining areas of Great Denham will be planned into future budgets.

Parking in the Retail Centre (Sainsburys)

The Parish Council has been working with the Land Owner and Sainsburys to improve the road markings for parking in the local centre. As a result of pressure, the markings were all repainted in April, including much clearer marking of the NO PARKING area (Loading Bay) and a crossing for pedestrians. Unfortunately, in spite of these, there continue to be reports of residents parking across the loading bay, and even across the pedestrian crossing! CCTV is monitoring the Local Centre, and any footage of incidents reported will be passed to the Police to follow up.

What else can be done?

A few suggestions to tackle resident concerns include:

- Better speed controls through Great Denham
- Using CPZ (Controlled Parking Zones) where they are needed – some Muirfield residents continue to be inconvenienced by inconsiderate parents dropping off or picking up at the school, and parking around the Toybox Nursery/Community Hall can be a nightmare!

Please let the Parish Council know of any other concerns – we will continue to push the Borough Council to pay attention to these. In the meantime, we can all help:

- If you have a parking space – use it
- Park considerately – no pavements, no grass verges, no corners, not across junctions
- Control your speed around Great Denham
- Use the Park and Ride for the School

Thank You

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

June 4th (Mayor and CEO of Borough Council as guests),
July 2nd, September 3rd

GDPR – new Data protection rules

You've probably already been receiving emails from companies and charities asking you to confirm that you want to stay in touch with them. New regulations came into force from 25th May 2018 which govern the way companies obtain, store and process your personal data, e.g. name, phone number, email address. In future your consent to the use of your personal data must be positively given and cannot be assumed.

These laws also apply to all Parish Councils. Great Denham Parish Council has been revising its policies for email, social media and information management. The updated policies are available to read on our website.

If you've been on our mailing list we have written to you to ask that you clearly consent to receive the information we send you, for example, agendas and minutes of Parish Council meetings, information in the public interest etc. So take a look in your inbox and let us know that you want to stay in touch.

If you're not on our email list, it's easy to register your interest – just email the Clerk at gdclerk@hotmail.co.uk. She'll reply with a short form for you to complete, then we're ready to go!

Great Denham supports Great British Spring Clean Weekend – and keeps on going!



Initially planned for Sunday 4th March, but postponed when the unexpected snow that weekend covered most things in a blanket of white, on Sunday 25th March a group of fantastic volunteers finally stepped out for the Great Denham Litter Pick. Meeting up at the Community Hall for a short briefing at 10am, the intrepid 28 of assorted adults, children and a dog set off around Great Denham to pick up some of the rubbish and litter on pavements, verges and open spaces. With such a great turn-out we were able to cover most areas in Great Denham, and a whopping 25 bags of rubbish were collected, as well as a few things just too big to move that were reported to the developers for action.

A big thank you to our volunteers – and a great photo in front of some of the posters created by our very talented

children at Great Denham Primary School, who joined in the fun by drawing posters of their "Litter Superheroes".

There will be more litter picks – get the dates in your diaries now:

**(2018) 24th June, 9th September, 2nd December,
(2019) 3rd March**



Some of our brilliant volunteers at the Litter Pick in March – spot some of those "Litter Superheroes" posters in the background

Mobile Library in Great Denham

The mobile library visits Great Denham on alternate Saturdays, stopping at the layby by the Community Centre between 2.20pm and 2.40pm.

For further information contact Kempston Library on 01234 276453 or visit www.bedford.gov.uk/libraries

Everyone welcome – to join the Mobile Library all you need bring some identification with your address on it.

Great Denham Parish Council – from May 2019

Ever thought about becoming a Parish Councillor?

Next year the Council will increase from 5 to 9 Councillors and we're looking for people keen to get involved. For more info contact our Clerk (gdclerk@hotmail.co.uk) or Chairman (jrweir@btinternet.com)

Parish Councillors and their areas of responsibility

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

jrweir@btinternet.com

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

Martin Stuart - Local Services -
ms.consulting@btinternet.com

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

Steve Gallagher - Planning / Infrastructure -
steviegallagher@gmail.com

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

Parbinder Kaur - Safety & Wellbeing -
parbinderkaur.gdpc@gmail.com

- Street wardens / Parish (Special) Constables
- Crime Stats/Police Liaison/ Neighbourhood Watch
- Street Lighting
- Anti-Social Behaviour Reporting (other)
- NHS Liaison/Medical Centre

Donna Parsons - Pride in Great Denham -
donnaparsons.pc@gmail.com

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

Anna O'Meara Parish Clerk gdclerk@hotmail.co.uk

www.greatdenham.bedsparishes.gov.uk

<https://twitter.com/GtDenhamPC>

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

Annual Audit 2017/18

All Parish Councils with income over £25,000 are required to complete an Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) and submit it for audit in line with the provisions of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 and the National Audit Office' Code of Audit Practice.

Our auditor for this year is Mazars LLP, Aykley Heads, Durham DH1 5TS.

The AGAR for Great Denham Parish Council was signed at the May meeting and the period for the exercise of public rights to inspect the accounts will run for 30 working days, **commencing Monday 4th June 2018 and ending Friday 13th July 2018**. Details of the period for the exercise of public rights will be published on Parish Council noticeboards and the Parish Council website on Friday 1st June 2018.

Great Denham Bus Services

A number of residents depend on getting to the railway station by bus in order to get to work, so it was great to be able to report that, after the disappointing response from Stagecoach regarding the number 11 bus service, the efforts of the Parish Council, Bedford Borough Council and Grant Palmer has resulted in a new service at peak times connecting Great Denham and the railway station.

So at a time when many villages in Bedford have seen their bus services reduce, Great Denham continues to benefit from buses to the Town Centre, Kempston and Bedford Hospital and peak services to the railway station.

Service Number	Direction	Mon-Sat	Sun/Bank Hols
		Timings shown are mins past hour	
8	To Bedford	24 and 54	47
	To Gt Denham	05 and 35	25
24	To Bedford	08 mins	No Service
	To Gt Denham	45 mins	
Peak Service only connecting Great Denham with Bedford Railway Station – Times shown are Mondays to Fridays only			
11	To Rail Stn	6.13, 6.52, 7.22	No Service
	From Rail Stn	18.12, 18.43, 19.15	

Number 8 bus times from Kingswood Way/Bedford Bus Stn, Number 11 peak service from Kingswood Way/Bedford Rail Stn, Number 24 times from Kingswood Way/Bedford Bus Stn

Community Events at Great Denham Community Hall

After a wonderful Winter Wonderland event and an 'eggs'ceptional Easter Egg Hunt, the Events team at the Community Hall have been putting together a plan of events and activities for the people of Great Denham. Email bookings@greatdenhamcommunityhall.co.uk for details or visit their Facebook page.



Prizewinning cakes and Star Baker Aprons from Great Denham Bake Off in April

Dates for the diary (Saturdays unless otherwise stated)

- June 16th – Great Denham Summer Festival
- September 22nd – Casino Night
- October 4th – Full of Life – activities and event for older people
- October 26th (Friday) – Halloween Children's Disco
- December 8th – Great Denham Winter Wonderland

Plus there are lots of classes and activities taking place at the Hall throughout the week – details on the Hall website www.greatdenhamcommunityhall.co.uk.

Need somewhere for a family event or party? Residents of Great Denham get discounted rates for parties and weddings. Rooms to suit all sizes. For more details on hire rates visit the Great Denham Community Hall Facebook page/email bookings@greatdenhamcommunityhall.co.uk

COMMUNITY CHOIR SEEKS CHOIRMASTER FOR FULFILLING RELATIONSHIP

Want to help build a Community Choir for Great Denham? Able to offer your skills and experience – a budding Gareth Malone - or someone who enjoys music and can help turn a bunch of enthusiastic singers into a Choir? Then we want to hear from you!

Interested? Email gdclerk@hotmail.co.uk – let's get this party started!

Great Denham Community Hall's Summer Festival

SATURDAY 16TH JUNE
2PM TO 6PM

Come along and enjoy this free fun day out for all the family!

There will be stalls, music, entertainment, food, petting farm, bouncy castles and lots, lots, more

For further information or to book a stall, please email bookings@greatdenhamcommunityhall.co.uk

Other Events for your Diary

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY WALK FOR HONOUR

Walk in Honour of someone who has served or is serving in the Armed Forces

Bedford Priory Country Park

SUNDAY 12TH AUGUST 2018

Register online at bedpoppywalkforhonour.co.uk or upon arrival on the day

2KM Walk
Wheelchair and pushchair friendly

10KM Walk
For those that really want to stretch their legs

REGISTRATION
Adult (12+) - £8
Child - £5
Family - £20
(2x Adult + 2x Child OR 1x Adult + 3x Child)
free tshirt and medal for every registered walker

As well as the walk there will be live music and activities with refreshments available at Cloverdale Retreat - the Parks Cafe. A wonderful day out for the whole family to enjoy while raising funds to help wounded, injured and sick members of our Armed Forces and their families

Registration – 11:00
Act of Remembrance – 11:30
Walk Starts 12:00
Ends 16:00

Bedford priory Country Park, Barkers Ln, Bedford, MK41 9SH UK
Registered Charity No:219279

Thank you

CHAIRMANS REPORT 2017-18

At the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 14th May 2018, the Chairman gave his report on the activities of the Council for the last 12 months.

Good evening everyone.

Let me just say a bit about the PC and its make up;

Ros has left and Anna has joined us as our Clerk. Our handyman John has left and we will not be replacing but applying more pressure to the Borough to better maintain the area. Tony Harrison has moved away and we have gained a new councillor in Parbinder. A governance review was undertaken last year and part of that review was to recommend an increase in parish councillors to 9 from 2019 elections. Good management practice was demonstrated with a good external audit with no qualifying comments.

Over the last 12 months then.

Road safety is something that causes concern - speeding and dangerous and inconsiderate parking is the main culprit so the PC has taken note of residents' concerns and is introducing yellow lines at junctions and no verge/ pavement parking. The Borough will issue fixed penalty fines for those ignoring the new traffic order. Additionally:

- The retail parking area has been fitted with speed ramps and a pedestrian crossing has been marked out across the parking area.
- Double yellow lines have been implemented on Saxon Way/corner Anglia Way.
- Road markings on the roundabout on Kingswood Way have been painted.

Management of Open Spaces - The Council has continued to represent residents' concerns with regard to the poorly constructed method set up by the Developer and Bedford Borough Council to fund open space management for some areas of the Great Denham. We have met the Mayor and CEO on several occasions and continue to push for greater transparency with regard to spend and fairness of the charge.

Community activities have received a much needed focus and support with the introduction of the new community hall. The Winter Wonderland in December, the Easter challenge and GD Bake-off have all been successful and extremely well supported. Watch out for more events over the summer and autumn.

There are also 47 classes run at the hall every week in addition to weddings, business use, children's parties and many other events.

I'm also happy to report that the charity the PC set up to operate the hall have had a very successful first full financial year by providing a surplus to plough back into staging the

events mentioned for the benefit of parish residents. The PC wants to acknowledge and give our thanks for the great work and support that the Trustees are providing for the community.

Other activities

- The litter pick was attended by 28 volunteers on 25th March and 25 bags of rubbish were collected. We joined with the school to run a Litter Superheroes Poster Competition, linked to the litter pick, and received over 150 entries. 22 prizes of book tokens were awarded at the school assembly.
- The Parish Council has made grants to Autism Bedfordshire and the Winter Wonderland Event, for the benefit of residents.
- Bus service #11 – new service put in place following Stagecoach decision to withdraw the service.
- CCTV – action taken to improve service levels regarding outage reporting
- Medical centre – PC has supported the running of patient focus groups to gain views and help the Clinical Commissioning Group inform future plans.
- Provided a challenge where necessary to a number of planning requests due to inadequate parking provision; as a result the planned build behind the Retail Centre (Sainsburys) was required to replan and increase parking provision before permission was given.

Priorities over the coming months

- Increase in notice boards and development of a digital communication system that doesn't fall foul of the GDPR
- Extended CCTV coverage to include the new areas of development.
- The implementation of the new parking enforcement.
- To ensure that our own already registered football/ rugby/cricket clubs get a fair allocation of sports pitches within the new country park/Pavilion.
- Continue to pursue improvements to facilities within GD and day to day reporting of faults and developer responsibilities.
- Support residents with issues from management companies and help in getting Resident Directors appointed.
- Start of a process of collecting views from residents on areas of importance so that we can plan budgets and activities for 2019/20.
- To continue to reduce the parish precept year on year

Thank You

Jim Weir

Chairman, Great Denham Parish Council