



Great Denham News

Keeping you in the loop



November 2017

GATEWAY FEATURE



Get Your Skates on at Great Denham Winter Wonderland! – Saturday 9th December

Come along to the Community Hall on Saturday 9th December for a celebration of all that is Christmas

- ✱ Brass Band and Carols
- ✱ Christmas Tree
- ✱ Father Christmas Grotto
- ✱ Ice skating on indoor ice rink
- ✱ Craft Stalls
- ✱ Refreshments (mulled wine and mince pies anyone??)
- ✱ Raffle and decorations

Festivities will start at 2pm with craft stalls and an ice rink, so all you budding Torvill and Deans can show off your moves.

Santa will be in his grotto from around 4.30pm and we'll be finishing off with carols around the tree from about 6.30pm, helped along by Bedford Town Brass Band.

This is a great community event for Great Denham Residents – please come and support it. To get a family skate for just £5 take the **enclosed voucher** along to the Community Hall to make your booking – booking office opening times are on the voucher.

See you all there!

Seeking Raffle/Tombola Prizes

If anyone has anything that they can contribute to the raffle/tombola please email

bookings@greatdenhamcommunityhall.co.uk

**** MAKE SURE YOU TAKE YOUR VOUCHER WITH YOU TO BOOK YOUR SKATING SESSION ****

Organised by Great Denham Community Hall and Friends of Great Denham Primary School. Thanks to our Ward Councillor Mark Smith for the grant from the Ward Fund.



Pavilion – ground is finally broken on the build of the new Pavilion in the Country Park



Good news from the Country Park is that DWH have now broken ground on the sports pavilion parking and hard court pitches. The pavilion will consist of changing rooms, café Ranger office and Ranger accommodation. The original plan was for Spring this year then that changed to Spring next year but in reality it will probably be early summer 2018?

There has already been healthy interest from a number of sports groups, including football and cricket.

On a related note, the eagle eyed among you will have noticed that the football pitches are starting to be marked up. We've been told by the developers that there is a little more work to be done on the surface but they should be ready for use next year.



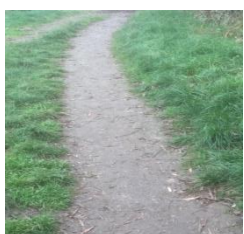
Repairs made to Footbridge across Back Channels

Whilst the new "back channel" bridge is a welcome replacement by the landowner for the old dilapidated one it's such a pity that the footpaths leading to it have been left as quagmires! Come the heavy rains and winter they will still be almost impassable. The Parish Council has asked the footpaths agency to address the issue.



Sorry if you have mobility issues or are taking cycles of pushchairs across as the open wooden steps are still the only access onto the bridge so if you want access to Kempston you will have to drive.

A new pedestrian and cycle bridge is to be constructed over the river at the Greenkeepers end of the Park. The Parish Council has again suggested that some of the £440,000 to be spent on this project would be better used to refurbish the Kempston Mill Bridge, the footpaths leading from Great Denham and better footpaths to and from the "back channel" bridge. *"And some fell on stoney ground"*



What's On at Great Denham Community Hall

Lots going on at the Community Hall – groups and activities for all ages. For all the details please visit the noticeboard area of the Parish Council website:

www.greatdenham.bedsparishes.gov.uk

New job opportunities at Great Denham Community Hall

If you would like to support your community, meet some fantastic people and be part of a dynamic new team working at the Hall, then these new roles may interest you:

- Community Development and Engagement Officer (15 hours per week, maternity cover)
- Caretaker/Handyman (6-10 hours per week)
- Hall Supervisor (Casual)
- Assistant Hall Supervisor (Casual)

For more information visit the Parish Council website or Community Hall. FaceBook page

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

Applications close on 20th November, interviews will be held 27th November.

Hello and Goodbye!

Hello to all new residents of Great Denham, we're pleased you've joined our community.

Great Denham Parish Council aims to publish this Newsletter 2 or 3 times each year, but you can always find the minutes of the Parish Council meetings on our website www.greatdenham.bedsparishes.gov.uk

We have to say **Goodbye** and **Thank You** to 3 people who have worked extremely hard in service of Great Denham Residents.

Councillor Tony Harrison – one of the original members of the Parish Council since 2007, Tony resigned from the Council in August this year. We are in the process of filling this vacancy.

Roz Buchanan – Roz was the first clerk of the Parish, and has worked and supported us since 2007. She retired at the end of June this year for a very well-deserved rest. Our new clerk is Anna O'Meara, email remains the same: gdclerk@hotmail.co.uk

John Hipkiss – John has been our Handyman and Groundsman since 2013. He has worked tirelessly to manage litter, general upkeep and maintenance, and ensure Great Denham is kept tidy. John starts his world travel plans soon. Now that the Borough Council has taken over the green space maintenance, we will not be replacing this post.

Parking and Road Safety in Great Denham

The recent installation of double yellow lines around the District Retail Centre and along Saxon have started to make a real difference. It is a shame that it took an accident to get things moving between the Borough Council and the developers DWH, a big thank you to them both for their swift response in the space of 48 hours, following the Parish Council's actions to broker the necessary agreements to make it happen.

But sadly bad parking around Great Denham doesn't seem to stop; it's not made any easier whilst most of the roads in Great Denham remain un-adopted by the Borough Council, but the Parish Council continues to push for increased enforcement and greater interest from the Borough Council in helping to make this a safer place to live. Current discussions are around:

- No verge or pavement parking to be introduced throughout Great Denham – cars blocking pavements seem to happen on a very regular basis, making it difficult for pedestrians and reducing visibility for drivers, especially on corners.
- 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!
- More double yellow lines where they are genuinely needed.

Getting the attention of the Borough Council to these issues requires constant effort – come and talk to us if you think you can help: one resident has recently raised an e-petition and hopes to go before the Council in December/early January to get this heard, this is great stuff, but we can do much more if we all join forces (or the Council will use the principles of “divide and conquer” to delay action!!

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

Contacts:

Parish Councillors: Responsibilities:

Steve Gallagher Planning / Infrastructure

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

steveiegallagher@gmail.com

Vacancy Safety & Wellbeing

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

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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

donnaparsons.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

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

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

www.greatdenham.bedsparishes.gov.uk

<https://twitter.com/GtDenhamPC>

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

Next Parish Council Meeting: Great Denham Community Hall – Monday 4th December 2017 at 7.30pm Look forward to seeing you there!



Bedford & District Neighbourhood Watch Great Denham

Supported By
Bedfordshire Police, Fire & Rescue Service, Anti-Social
Behaviour Team & Alcohol Services
Developing Safer Local Communities

An active Neighbourhood Watch area is a safer area to live

Our aims:

1. To develop safer local communities and improve quality of life.
2. To involve the local community in the prevention and reduction of crime.
3. To raise community confidence by reducing the fear of crime.
4. Neighbourhood Watch helps to reduce the opportunities for crimes to occur

NHW means being aware of what is going on in the local area, taking simple crime reduction precautions to prevent and reduce crime, plus being alert to anything suspicious in an area and reporting it to 101. This includes anti social / unacceptable behaviour, or suspicious activity or when a crime is taking place. *If you would like to become a member of your local Neighbourhood Watch, you can do this on our website at bedfordnhw.ourwatch.org.uk*

You can also elect to receive 'Alert' messages via email or phone, which advise members of current issues and provide up to date information and advice from the Police, Fire and Rescue Service and other partner agencies in Bedfordshire.

We are also looking for residents to become NHW Street Coordinators; A Street Coordinator's responsibility is to look after scheme members in their road / street and have a more proactive role. If you are interested in being more involved in where you live, or would simply like some help or advice, please contact your local NHW team:

Facebook – Great Denham Neighbourhood Watch

Email – greatdenhamnhw@gmail.com

Sign up now - It's FREE!

See It, Report It.

Here are the ways you can report things and help to get them fixed

Anti-social behavior

If you see or experience any anti-social behavior then report it to Bedford Borough Council's ASB team.

Go to www.Bedford.gov.uk, on the left is a 'Report It' button and second on the list is Anti Social Behaviour.

Fly tipping

Bedford Borough Council will attempt to identify the owner and ask them to remove the items.

Please report it using: environmentservices@bedford.gov.uk

If the tipping has been done on an unadopted road, and they can't identify who has done it, then we will need to ask DWH to remove the stuff.

Problems with Street Lights

You can report this directly to the Borough using highwayshelpdesk@bedford.gov.uk

If the lights are on unadopted roads then this will need to be reported to the developer. Please email the Clerk on gdclerk@hotmail.co.uk with the details (location).

Need the Police?

Most stuff should be reported using 101, unless it is an emergency when you should not hesitate to use 999.

Construction Traffic/Contractor Behaviour

We speak to the developers frequently about this. Any instances please take the details of the lorry etc and report to the Clerk on gdclerk@hotmail.co.uk

Cars Blocking Pavements

Ring 101 when the car is there and the Police will get someone out if available

Great Denham Parish Council – the coming year

Plans for next year include:

- Improving CCTV capture and extending coverage to the PlayHub, Pavilion area and the newer parts of Great Denham.
- Improving information for residents by investing in more noticeboards around the Parish, especially in the newer parts of Great Denham.

Once again, as in previous years, we are looking to continue to reduce the amount of precept paid by each household. Budgets for 2018/19 are finalised and agreed at January 2018 Parish Council meeting

