

Keeping You in the Loop

July/Aug 2023



Contents include
updates on:

New Council

New Clerk

Great Denham
Neighbourhood Plan

Borough Councillor
Report

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events

Great Denham Parish Council News



Credit: Stuart Runham Photography

Local council elections – new Council, new Ward

The Local Council elections on May 4th included not just the new Great Denham Ward, but also the Parish Council. 6 people stood for the Parish Council and were elected uncontested, with 3 seats unfilled. Sadly, Sue Cornish and Donna Parsons have now stepped down, but Joanna Szaub-Newton was co-opted to the Council at its annual meeting in May. Donna was previously Chair of the Council and worked closely with our Clerk during many of the recent emergencies in the village; her tenure will be hard to follow. We'd also like to thank those councillors who stood down at the May election: Lou Evans, Vince Arthur, Chris Slinn and Eric Lomax.

Councillor vacancies

So, we still have 4 councillor positions to fill – whether you're new(ish) to Great Denham or have lived here for a while, but want to work to keep Great Denham as a great place to live, then please come and join the Council. Co-option isn't a painful experience (trust me!) – come along to a monthly meeting, chat to the Councillors and let us know you're interested – we'll take it from there!

Great Denham Needs YOU

We are looking for three new Parish Councillors
- could you fit the bill?



LOCAL ISSUES NEED LOCAL PEOPLE TO SPEAK UP FOR THEM

YOU could help keep Great Denham a vibrant, good place to live by becoming a Parish Councillor.

YOU could be in at the 'grass roots' level of Local Government and be involved in making things happen or getting things sorted!

YOU could get local views about local issues brought to the attention of the powers that be.

You only need to be able to give up one evening a month to attend Parish Council meetings, helping out with projects where you are able, and in return you will receive the satisfaction of knowing that you are helping your local community.

Candidates must be at least 18 years of age and a British subject or a citizen of the Commonwealth or European Union and must satisfy at least one of the following:

- be a local government elector for the parish of Great Denham
- have, during the whole of the previous 12 months, occupied land or other property in the community, either as owner or tenant
- have, during the whole of the previous 12 months, had your principal or only place of work in the community
- have resided in the community during the whole of the previous 12 months

The Parish Council normally meets on the first Monday of the month at 7.30pm (except August).

Any person interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, should contact – the Clerk, Anna O'Meara, by email clerk@greatdenhamparishcouncil.gov.uk for more information



CONTACT THE COUNCIL

Parish Councillors

Chris Staite (Chair)

Helen Allen

Ryan Craze

Jim Weir (also Ward Councillor)

Joanna Szaub-Newton

Clerk: Anna O'Meara/Robbin Brough

Council Meetings

Are held on 1st Monday of the month at 7.30pm at the Community Hall.

Council meetings are open to the public and there are always 15 minutes for questions at the start of each meeting.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING – Monday 4th September 2023 at 7.30pm

Parish Council projects for this year

In our last newsletter we gave you an update on the 2023-24 budget and plans: as promised the precept level was reduced by 11.24% in response to the cost of living challenges faced by everyone and Council funds already held; this has been the second year of a reducing precept (18.61% reduction in 2022-23).

Projects for this year

The list of projects was reviewed at the June meeting, and the Council agreed to focus on the following for this year:

- A further pedestrian crossing on Greenkeepers Road
- Upgrading the paths in the Country Park - in partnership with the Borough Council
- A statue (or similar) to mark Great Denham's history
- 2 additional benches in the Country Park
- An entrance feature on King Alfred Way approach
- Further parking/traffic measures to improve road safety in Great Denham
- Upgrade/replacement of CCTV cameras where required.

Funding for these has been identified from Community Infrastructure Levy funds or from earmarked reserves.

Community Ownership Fund – offers communities the chance to buy unused buildings for community use. The Council is investigating whether this may be useful to include in its planning for the future. More info can be found in the minutes of the June PC meeting.

All minutes and financial reports for the Parish Council can be found on its website should you require more information.

www.greatdenhamparishcouncil.gov.uk

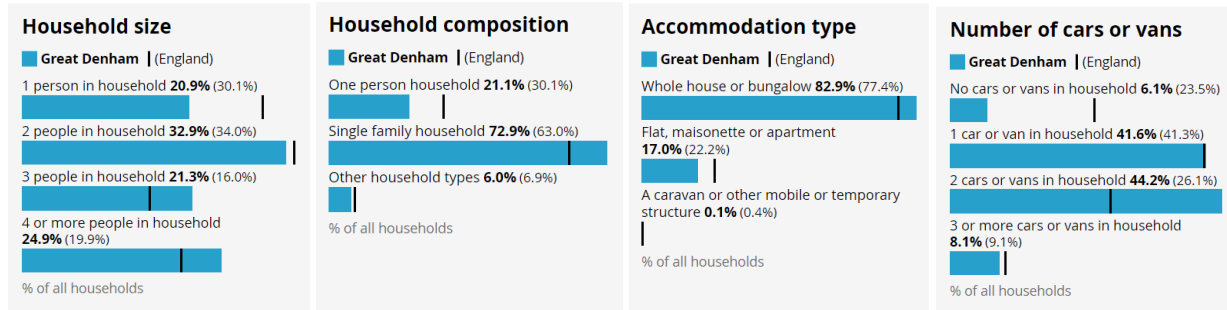
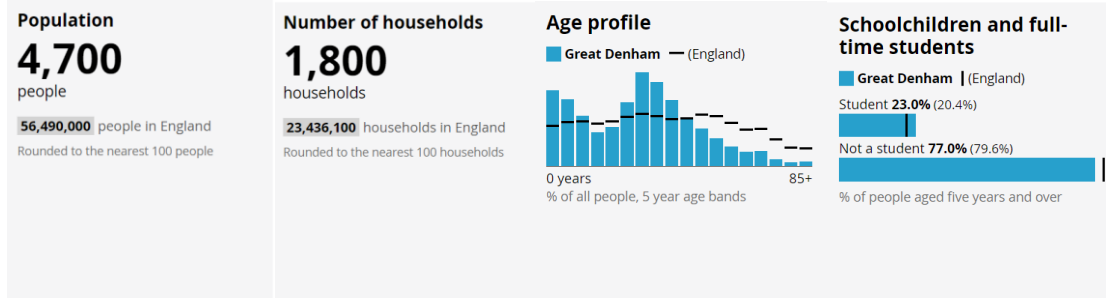
Great Denham Primary School

The Governing Board has a vacancy for a Partnership Governor from beginning of September. Unfortunately, Partnership Governors cannot be parents of children at the school, but if anyone who is not a parent is interested in joining the governing body and is able to make a contribution to the development of the school, please do get in touch with the Clerk to Governors:

anna.omeara@gdps.uk

How well do you know Great Denham?

2021 Census has a snapshot of our community (NOTE: due to the methods used to collate this data, and the timing of the census, the numbers may differ from those used in other sources). More recent data is available in the Localinsights report (see Jim's bit for the link to the report, page 11).



What's been happening in Great Denham?

A quick round up of some of stuff since our last newsletter.

Parking Restrictions at the Village Medical Centre



Everyone will be aware if the new parking restrictions

implemented by the owner of the Village Medical Centre car park.

It is a great shame that the owner has felt it necessary to do this – made worse by the lack of real communication and warning about the changes so many residents have already received parking fines.

Both the Parish Council, together with Ward Councillor Jim Weir, have tried to influence the car park owner, Countrywide Parking who manage the scheme, and the owners of the Pharmacy (Meiklejohn) to find a more acceptable compromise and solution to this, but sadly with no success.

The letter sent by the Parish Council, and the response received from Countrywide Parking are

available to read on our website:

www.greatdenhamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Jim Weir is working with Highways to amend the road markings on Kingswood Way so that up to 4 vehicles will be able to park outside the Pharmacy building in a marked area.

For all users of the Village Medical Centre and Pharmacy:

- If you have a doctors appointment at the surgery then please make sure you register your vehicle on arrival to avoid a fine.
- If you are visiting the Pharmacy only, then DO NOT park in the Medical Centre car park – please use the Pharmacy spaces outside Medivet (8 spaces) or on-street parking on Kingswood Way where permitted.
- If you can, then please consider parking in the Park and Ride or Retail centre car parks – both are only a short walk to the Pharmacy.

New Pedestrian Crossing on Anglia Way

After months of waiting and chasing, the new pedestrian crossing on Anglia Way is now in place, including the white zig zags on the crossing approach.



Sadly, we are still seeing parking on the zig zag lines outside Daily Needs shop.

All drivers should be aware that parking on these white zig zag lines is a parking offence and will incur 3 penalty points on your license. The Council is actively investigating installation of ANPR whereby automatic fines will be

issued to those parking on the zig zag lines; additionally, the Police have been asked to take action on anyone breaking the law and that the future plans to stop this illegal parking are followed up by Officers.

We have also asked the Borough Council's parking enforcement team to get out to Great Denham more frequently and take action. Anyone can report incidents to the team when they see them - if an enforcement officer is nearby, they will attend to issue Fixed Penalty notices.

To report poor parking to the Borough Council please contact:

Control Desk 01234 718359

Enforcement Text 07553895403

It is a short walk away - please park in the car park provided!

New Post Box on Great Portway



The postbox on Kingswood Way was lost during one of the Covid lockdowns, and it's taken a while to get it replaced. The good news is that we now have a new postbox at the top of Great Portway – handy for

residents in that part of Great Denham but also close enough to the Retail Centre for people to use. Don't forget, Royal Mail also offers direct collection of letters from your door at no additional charge if you order postage online

Sadly there is still no update on the Post Office in Great Denham – having checked with the Account Manager we believe the application is still to be submitted by the operators of Daily Needs. A Post

Office in Great Denham was highly valued by residents so we hope this can be resolved soon.

Great Denham Youth Club



The Youth club has continued to meet every Thursday at the Community Hall, and it's great to see so many people participating in this.

Change of times – in response to the needs of those children who are on school buses from Sharnbrook etc, the club times have been shifted to 5.30pm to 7.30pm. We hope this means more people can come along and enjoy the activities.

The Youth Club is provided as a joint initiative by the Parish Council and Community Hall Charity who are funding the club.

Tackling parking problems

Parking issues in Great Denham remain constant and ongoing, but there have been some improvements in the last few months.

- Double yellow lines have now been installed on Great Portway, where inconsiderate parking was blocking resident access to their properties and reducing visibility for cars entering and exiting Great Portway and the junction with Saxon Way.
- And new road markings have been painted by Highways to more clearly mark out the junction for drivers approaching from Kingswood Way and those turning right from Great Portway.

Double yellow lines will be installed on the King Alfred Way entrance – the Traffic Regulation Order will be issued by Highways – in the hope that this tackles the parking congestion for football matches

and events, and to encourage drivers to use the Pavilion car parks – both overflow areas are now open. Pavilion Parking signage has also been requested from Highways.

Mercia Road Planning application and additional school land



In our last newsletter we outlined the details of the Parish Council objections to this application. On 29th February

Councillor Lou Evans and the Clerk attended the Planning Committee meeting to speak to our objections in person – especially the known impact that the parking courts would have on adjacent streets, crime and security; we asked that parking layouts should be redesigned before the application was approved. Unfortunately, the Borough has approved the application for 95 houses with no reference to these requests.

There is no indication as yet on when work will start on the site – a number of planning conditions were set, including provision of a plan for access for construction traffic – but residents should be prepared for the significant disruption that building will bring to the centre of Great Denham.

Additional School Land

A bargaining chip for the developer was the need to provide additional land for the school at the top of Mercia Road. The move from three-tier to a two-tier education system in Bedford meant that the proposed Middle School on the Mercia Road site was no longer required; the Borough had the opportunity to request additional land for the school to reflect the increased demands placed on it

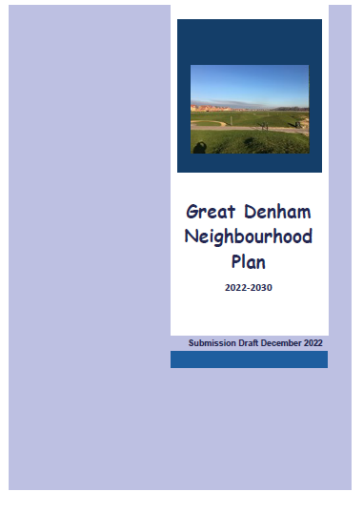
as a Nursery to Year 6 provider, but failed to do so (whilst still building additional classrooms for expansion and reducing the existing land!).

The decision to approve the application for 95 houses includes the school land by reducing the amount of social housing to accommodate the developer's commercial demands.

The Parish Council understands that a S106 agreement is now being drawn up by the Borough Council with the developer so that the school land can be transferred – no timing as yet.

The need for the additional land at the school is not disputed, but the failure of the Borough to manage this should be noted.

Great Denham Neighbourhood Plan – referendum in August



Great Denham's Neighbourhood Plan will be going to referendum on Thursday 3rd August. A Neighbourhood Plan is an additional layer of planning policies, designed by the local community, and,

once adopted, used by Bedford Borough when determining all planning applications for the area. The local Great Denham Policies have been included in full below.

All residents will receive a polling card for the referendum; the polling station is Great Denham

Community Hall. Postal votes will also be available for those who may be away.

We would encourage all residents to cast their vote on 3rd August. The referendum will be decided by a simple majority of voters answering the question:

“Do you want Bedford Borough Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Great Denham to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?”

All work on the plan has been funded through grants from Locality (not the Precept).

Neighbourhood Plan Policies

The Policies have been reviewed by the Independent Examiner to confirm that they are provide appropriate planning direction and therefore can be used to determine future planning applications.

Policy D1: The Design of New Development

Proposals for good quality new development (including new buildings and extensions to existing buildings) will be supported, where they are in accordance with the guidelines and design principles set out in the Great Denham Design Code.

All new development within the existing built up area must:

- a. Relate to the existing development pattern in terms of enclosure and definition of streets/spaces,
- b. Be of an appropriate scale and density in relation to its setting,
- c. Use materials appropriate to the development's context,
- d. Integrate car parking within landscaping so that it does not dominate the street,
- e. Be well integrated with the community and facilities by reinforcing pedestrian connections and taking opportunities to provide new ones.
- f. Be of a design with a locally inspired or distinctive character,
- g. Provide a variety of house types to create interest in the streetscape,
- h. Ensure parking is designed to avoid a car-dominant streetscape whilst avoiding the use of communal parking courts,
- i. Where relevant, result in a safe environment with appropriate levels of lighting and natural surveillance

Policy D2: Maintaining separation

The undeveloped gap between Great Denham and Biddenham as shown by arrows on the Policies Map will be maintained. New development which would functionally, visually or fundamentally merge the two settlements should be refused.

Any development proposals will be required to ensure that the biodiversity, recreation, and landscape values of the gap are preserved and enhanced.

Policy D3: Archaeology

Applications for any new development with the potential to impact archaeological remains must be accompanied by a professional assessment setting out an understanding of:

- the significance and current state of preservation of archaeological material which may be affected by the proposal,
- the potential impacts of the scheme upon that significance, and
- the requirements to conserve or further investigate and provide public interpretation of heritage assets of archaeological interest proportionate to their identified significance.

Where archaeology of demonstrably equivalent national importance to Scheduled Monuments is found, the development should be designed to ensure this, as far as possible, is preserved in situ. Any harm to the significance of the heritage asset should be justified by demonstrable public benefits.

Policy D4: Provision of sustainable buildings

The design, construction and standard of any new building should meet a high level of sustainable design to be measured against the most up to date standards and technology. The design should be optimised for energy efficiency, targeting zero operational carbon emissions. This includes:

- Siting and orientation to optimise passive solar gain;
- The use of high quality, thermally efficient building materials,
- Installation of energy efficiency measures such as loft and wall insulation and triple glazing.
- Where appropriate, new development should incorporate on-site energy generation from renewable sources such as energy generating solar panels.

The retrofit of existing buildings is encouraged to reduce energy demand and to generate renewable energy where appropriate, providing it safeguards historic characteristics.

Alterations to existing buildings must be designed with energy reduction in mind and comply with sustainable design and construction standards.

All new development will, where appropriate, be expected to minimise the use of water, provide water storage. Hard surfaces such as driveways and car parks should use permeable paving.

Policy D5: New Housing

All new housing development will provide affordable housing and a mix and tenure of dwellings as set out in the Local Plan. Any future parish specific Housing Needs Survey will be taken into account in the determination of housing mix.

New development should embrace the principles of Building for a Healthy Life including ensuring that new homes are suitable for all stages of life.

Policy F1: Community facilities

The following community facilities will be retained and planning applications which result in either the loss of or significant harm to, will be resisted

- a. The Community Hall
- b. The Village Medical Centre
- c. The Pavilion and Cafe
- d. Great Denham Primary School
- e. The Play parks (Great and Little Porway, Play Hub (Country Park), Silver play area (N end of Country Park), Terrington Place, and smaller parks at West Hill Close, Ryder Close, top of Greenkeepers Road (Busgate)

If it can be clearly demonstrated that the continued use of each of the facilities a to c above is no longer viable, and evidence that the property has been actively marketed, commensurate with its use at an open market value for a period of at least 12 months, other uses may be supported.

The provision of new community, health, sports, leisure and education facilities will be encouraged. New facilities will be provided where the scale of development proposed would require additional facilities/services and should be located within the Parish to reduce journeys by car and avoid increasing pressure on the capacity of existing facilities outside the Parish.

Proposals to improve the viability of a community facility by way of the extension or partial replacement or redevelopment of buildings, structures and land, will be supported, provided the design of the scheme respects the village character in general, and the resulting increase in use is appropriate in design terms and will not have negative impact on the amenities of adjoining residential properties.

Policy F2: Supporting Local Businesses

Within the shopping area of the village centre (as defined on the Policies Map), the loss of Class E premises will not be accepted, unless it can be demonstrated that reasonable efforts have been made to secure their continued use for these purposes. If it can be clearly demonstrated that the continued use is no longer viable and there is evidence that the property has been actively marketed, commensurate with

its use at an open market value for a period of at least 12 months, other uses may be supported.

Proposals for the development of new small businesses and for the expansion or diversification of existing businesses will be encouraged, providing that:

- it can be demonstrated that there will be no adverse impact from increased traffic, lighting, noise or other emissions or activities arising from the proposed development;
- it would have an acceptable impact on the character and scale of the village,

Applications for minor extensions or part change of use of dwellings to enable flexible or home working may be supported, subject to there being appropriate parking and that the residential amenity (noise, disturbance, overlooking etc) of neighbouring properties is maintained.

Policy G1: Open space provision as part of new development

Open space must be provided within new development to accord with the standards set by Bedford Borough and the following criteria should be met:

- Contributions/improvements to open space should be targeted towards those set out in the Great Denham Green Infrastructure Plan where appropriate;
- Green corridors linking the new development and the existing open spaces, and/or reinforcing existing green corridors will be required;
- Developments should incorporate appropriate native tree and shrub planting;
- Suitable arrangements must be incorporated for the costs of future maintenance of these spaces.

Policy G2: Local Green Spaces

The following areas shown on the Policies Map are designated as Local Green Spaces:

- Village Green
- Anglia Way Meeting Place

The areas listed above are protected from new development unless very special circumstances can be demonstrated.

Policy G3: Great Denham Country Park

All development proposals which could affect the function and appearance of Great Denham Country Park will be required to ensure that the biodiversity, recreational, flood alleviation and landscape values of the Park are preserved and enhanced.

Policy G4: Nature Conservation

New development will be required to protect and enhance existing natural features of sites and provide at least 10% net gain in biodiversity.

Where relevant, new development will be required to protect and enhance existing natural features of sites such as trees, hedgerows, ditches and ponds.

Provision of appropriate species-related measures will be required, including, for example, swift bricks, bat and owl boxes and the incorporation of native species into landscaping schemes.

Any new development using SuDS must ensure that the design of the system supports green infrastructure planning and the preservation and promotion of biodiverse habitats.

Policy G5: Provision for pedestrians and cyclists

The rights of way network will be retained and new links both within the village, to neighbouring settlements and to the wider countryside will be encouraged.

New development should include measures that that keep traffic speeds low and improve the provision of pavements and access and safety for pedestrians and cyclists. Proposals for new safe cycleways and footpaths will be encouraged, to promote healthy living and reduce environmental impact.

Policy T1: Traffic impact and sustainable travel

All new development must encourage sustainable methods of travel by

- providing footpath and cycle links that are integrated with the existing networks
- encourage travel to local facilities by walking and cycling and
- where appropriate, provide infrastructure and encouragement for public transport

Proposed developments that would generate a significant amount of car movement or would potentially affect a known traffic hazard should be accompanied by infrastructure to maintain highway safety, reduce traffic speeds and avoid vehicular/pedestrian conflict.

Where appropriate, it may be necessary to provide off site measures to reduce the traffic impact of the scheme.

Policy T2: Car Parking

Proposals for new housing and commercial developments will provide parking to meet Bedford Borough Council's parking standards. All new parking will be designed appropriately for the use, in accordance with the Great Denham Design Codes, avoiding the use of parking courts for dwellings.

Electric charging points for cars should be incorporated in new housing development for each house and in any new public parking.

New development should not result in the loss of publicly accessible off-street car parking. Developments which propose to remove off-road parking spaces will only be supported where alternative provision is made which increases or maintains the number of parking spaces available on or within the immediate vicinity of the site.

Proposals to provide additional off-road car parking spaces, to alleviate parking congestion will be encouraged.

Design of on-street parking provision must ensure that clear visibility will be achieved for drivers and pedestrians, to reduce risk and danger to both

Changes to Number 8 bus service

Route 8 & new 8X

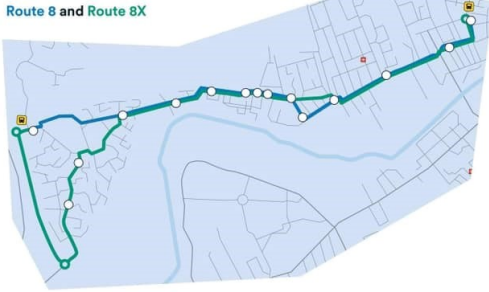
We will be making some amendments to this service and will be introducing a new direct 8X service.

Route 8 will now serve additional stops in Great Denham on King Alfred Way and Saxon Way.

The 8X route, offers a direct morning service via Ford End Road leaving Great Denham at 8:22am.

The services offer a combined 30 minute frequency between 7:52 and 8:52 Monday - Friday to benefit commuters using the service and 50 minute frequency off-peak. For full timetable and departure information, please check the timetable.

Route 8 and Route 8X



The changed route has been in operation since 4 June. It is very welcome, particularly since the removal of the number 24 bus; now residents at the King Alfred Way/Anglia Way end of Great Denham have access to public transport.

Tackling Estate Management Companies



these companies, and the developer David Wilson

Jim Weir, our Ward Councillor, continues to raise the problem of poor service and overcharging by Service Management Companies. He has met with a number of

Homes, to challenge them to make changes which should benefit residents, including:

- Merging the multiple individual schemes to reduce the management overheads and admin charges that are currently raised by every scheme.
- Using the large reserved funds that have been accumulated to reduce resident bills and charges
- Improving the scheme of service and adjusting costs to a reasonable level

As a result of Jim's efforts Richard Fuller MP is now onboard, prompting both Parliamentary Questions and an undertaking by government to consider legislation giving greater rights to homeowners and tenants in respect of these charges.

Be Reassured

in the home with a Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Service

Home Fire Safety Visit

Are you or is someone you care about...
Over 65? Or...living with **dementia**, have a **disability**, have **adult social care needs**, **smoke** or have a **substance or alcohol dependency** and/or live in a **cluttered environment**.

We will:
assess your home for safety e.g., your gas & electrical appliances, access in/out of your home, smoke alarms
advise on safety issues e.g., cooking, smoking and falls
could install free smoke alarms or impaired hearing alarms if required
can help you plan escape routes in case of fire or smoke
can signpost or refer to other support if needed

Book a free Home Fire Safety Visit today!
 visit bedsfire.gov.uk/home-fire-safety-visit, or email homefiresafetyvisit@bedsfire.gov.uk, or call 0800 043 5042.

Bedfordshire
 Fire & Rescue Service

Developers and Adoptions

With so much of Great Denham still not adopted by the Borough Council, we continue to encourage residents to report all issues directly to the developer responsible for their part of Great Denham:

- Streetlights not working
- Getting the roads resurfaced
- Getting the weeds and overgrowth sorted

A map of Great Denham, showing who is responsible for which area and their contact details can be found on the Parish Council website:

<https://greatdenhamparishcouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Great-Denham-PC-Masterplan.pdf>

Which leads us neatly onto the subject of

Road Adoptions

The delay in getting roads adopted has been real frustration for residents and Parish Council alike – at last, after so many years, we are beginning to see some movement:

- Greenkeepers Road from the Busgate down to Saxon Way junction is now adopted!
- Saxon Way down to number 13 is now adopted.
- The remaining section of Greenkeepers Road – we’re waiting to have adoption of this section confirmed.
- Wayland Road – Barratts have started pre-adoption works on this road.
- Lagan Homes have submitted a request for Downham Close.
- Saunton Close is now adopted
- Chislehurst Place, Bede Walk, Terrington Place, Ellesmere Gardens, Winchell Mews are in the 12 month provisional adoption stage.

We would encourage all residents to continue to put pressure on developers to get their road adopted – remember it is the developer that requests adoption, not the Borough Council

For a map of the Great Denham development, and who does what, visit the Parish Council website:

www.greatdenhamparishcouncil.gov.uk/the-parish/

How to report stuff that needs fixing

Knowing who to report stuff to – the Council or Developer – is not always easy. Here are some of the contact numbers and emails you should use:

Bedford Borough Council (on-line forms):
<https://www.bedford.gov.uk/save-time-do-it-online>

David Wilson Homes:
postcompletionengs@dwh.co.uk

Barratt Homes:
northampton@newhomecare.co.uk

Bovis Homes:
cs.northernhomecounties@vistry.co.uk

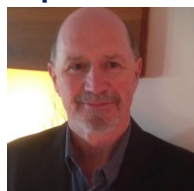
Lagan Homes:
Customer.care@Laganhomes.com

Linden Homes
cs.eastmidlands@vistry.co.uk

Police

Crimes in progress should be reported to 999. Anything else - please report to either 101 or online at bedfordshire.police.uk/report (very quick and easy to do).

Update from Our Ward Councillor Jim Weir



*Jim Weir – Great Denham Ward Councillor
Deputy Mayor and Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Environment. Contact: 07528803981
jim.weir@bedford.gov.uk*

Hello to all **5,061** residents of Great Denham.

It's quite staggering that there are now this many people living in Great Denham. We have seen our parish grow exponentially over the past decade and we have a wonderfully mixed and diverse population. If you have not already seen the data from "Localinsight" the link is included. It isn't surprising that on nearly every measure Great Denham outperforms the rest of England and by some margin.

[LocalInsight-Great-Denham-Ward-ca732169723_5bdab2ea71c57237d8105aad7fc66be8-20230518102625097.doc \(live.com\)](#)

When you look at the population growth it is no surprise that GD is now a Borough Ward in its own right. I am proud and delighted to be representing the Ward and for the support shown in the May elections. I campaigned along with our new Mayor Tom Wootton on the scandalous "Estate Management" system, its extortionate charges and poor service. I have lodged official complaints with Barrett Developments plc (for FirstPort and RMG) and with the Vistry Group (for Alexandra Faulkner Partnership). I'm pleased to say that both Barrett's and Vistry have appointed Directors to work with me as we investigate the many issues raised by residents. Tom has also asked planning to look at excluding the parking Courtyard system during their design guide approach. Unfortunately, although I voted against the recent application for the 95 houses in Mercia Way we will eventually have new residents joining our community being dragged into the same trap. I am also pleased to say that more MPs are joining our constituency MP Richard Fuller in campaigning against this system.

I also campaigned for the removal of the "Open Space Management" charge as the third tax on all new homes in GD. I have laid out the case to Officers in the Borough and proposed that the charge should remain this year – the budget we inherited was already set and included a £2.3m overspend from 2022/23 – then this reduces to £60 charge in 24/25 and in 25/26 is removed altogether. Due to the monies involved I fully expect that this will have to go to the full council - it will be interesting to see what the Cllrs from other parties think of this!

Nobody was more surprised than me when our new Mayor asked me to be his deputy and handed me the Environment Highways & Transport portfolio. It's been a hectic few weeks and a learning curve, but I know my primary purpose is to represent Great Denham. From September I will be holding monthly surgeries for any residents to come and share any concerns or issues I can help with. Dates will be published shortly.

I hope residents can enjoy a peaceful summer with their children soon to enter the school holiday period. Stay safe and my contact information should any help or support be needed is, 07528803981

jim.weir@bedford.gov.uk

Jim

Great Denham Community Hall - Community Hall Events



By the time this newsletter reaches you the Summer Sizzler will already have taken place – we hope that everyone enjoyed themselves.

A big thank you to all the staff and Trustees of the Hall for putting this event on for

residents, and for all the other fabulous events that take place each year.

Sadly this is likely to be the last event where we can use the Kickabout space (see Mercia road planning

Events diary



application page 5). The approved plans do include a (very!) small green space opposite the Hall but it won't be the same 😞

Trustees and Volunteers

The Community Hall is run by a Charity, and is always interested to hear from anyone who would like to become a Trustee, responsible for the overall management of the facility, or a Volunteer, helping out at the various events that take place during the year. If you are interested please get in touch:

gdchclerk@outlook.com



So long, farewell....and welcome

After 6 years as Clerk, Anna O'Meara will be stepping down at the end of July. A Lynch pin of the Parish Council, Anna has ensured the Council works effectively within its powers, including when we could only work remotely during Covid. Many residents will have dealt with Anna since 2017 and she has gone beyond her job description on behalf of the community, whether streetlights, travellers, or developer issues.

After a short handover, Robbin Brough is our new Clerk from July; Robbin is an experienced clerk (Shortstown and Wixams Parish Councils), in particular supporting new developments. The email remains the same:

clerk@greatdenhamparishcouncil.gov.uk