



Great Denham



October 2019

Heading into Autumn – lots going on

We hope everyone has had a good year so far.

The Parish Council has been working hard on behalf of residents to put community events on and help to ensure we continue to have a wonderful place to live.

To keep up to date with everything that is going on in Great Denham, check out our website and Facebook page (details below) or come along to one of our meetings. The Parish Council meets on the first Monday of each month at Great Denham Community Hall. Meetings start at 7.30pm and there are always 15 minutes at the beginning of each meeting for public questions.

Great Denham Pavilion – latest



The building was finally transferred from the developers to the Borough Council in early summer. So, it's now a local authority-owned facility!

The tender for the Café at the Pavilion – **Archers Rest** – took place in July; there was quite a lot of interest, and a number of people viewed the building before the tender closed. Following a shortlist and presentation the tender has been awarded; details of the successful applicants will be published as soon as all the paperwork is complete, so watch this

space. The Parish Council are looking forward to working with the new proprietors to provide events and activities for the community.

It's great to see people using the MUGA – the enclosed multi-use games area – over the summer. Keep it going – but please remember to take any litter away with you; a bin has been provided in the Car Park, so please use it and keep the facility clean and tidy for everyone to use.

The Not So Good News!

Unfortunately, before anyone could move in to use the Pavilion (including the Council's own ground staff) the building was damaged by a major water leak. Repairs are underway (the developer is responsible for getting these done) but might take a while due to the extent of the damage. Very frustrating for everyone!

In the meantime, the Borough Council has provided temporary toilets and changing facilities for the football teams using the pitches, as the new football season gets underway. For any teams wanting to use the pitches, please book via the Borough Council:

<https://www.playfinder.com/local/bedford> (select football and Great Denham to see what's available)

Open Space Management charge

The Parish Council continues to keep this item on its agenda, given the number of residents who now pay for maintenance of a number of areas of green space, and the upkeep and maintenance of a number of the play areas, including the large Play Hub and Silver Play Park.

For more info visit us via:

To recap: David Wilson Homes transferred the land and charging structure for these amenity spaces to Bedford Borough Council as part of a legal transfer in November 2016. The management charge has been set at the sum of £120 each year, and this is collected by the Borough, either as a single payment or via a direct debit arrangement. The charge is included in the sale contract for each house, and residents should have been advised of this by their solicitor at time of purchase.

We met again with the Council in July to get an update on the finances and operational management of the service provided. Whilst there are still a small number of residents who had not paid, most have paid the charge.

Grounds maintenance news!

- We have a new litter picker in following the retirement of the previous gentleman – he can often be seen now around Great Denham, and we are certainly seeing the difference in our quarterly Community Litter Picks.
- Play Parks – the locations of all parks covered in the charge have been confirmed by the Council: more details can be found on our website - www.greatdenham.bedsparishes.gov.uk. The Borough Council confirmed that whilst they only spend what is needed to carry out play park inspections (required through Health and Safety legislation) they need to ensure sufficient budget is available each year should any repairs/replacement kit be required, particularly in response to vandalism (graffiti and damage).

We have asked for the maps and service schedules to be available via the Borough's website so that they can be seen and available to all:

<https://bit.ly/2LUJO26>

We will continue to hold regular meetings with the Borough Council regarding this charge, and work to ensure that the quality of service we receive remains high.

It is also something that our new Borough Councillor Jim Weir will continue to look into on our behalf.



Who pays for the Country Park?

There still seems to be some continued confusion over how these facilities are paid for – this was brought into focus again following the recent travellers' invasion.

All the information about the Country Park, the S106 agreement and the Open Space Management charge paid by some residents is available on the parish council's website: www.greatdenham.bedsparishes.gov.uk, but just to clarify:

Maintenance of the Country Park is covered by Council Tax paid by all residents via their normal Council Tax bill, and is managed by Bedford Borough Council.

It is not part of the area covered by the separate £120 Open Space Management charge which is billed separately by the Borough Council, and covers other areas in Great Denham. You can find maps of the areas covered by the £120 Open Space Management charge via the website link above (then select "Information for Residents" from the menu).

Events In the Country Park

With the successful completion of the transfer of the Country Park and Pavilion from the developers to the Borough Council, this summer we have seen 2 funfair events take place on an area of the Country Park behind the football pitches.

Both the Thurstons and the Gumbles wristband event were well attended, and a lot of Great Denham families have said how much they enjoyed having the opportunity of this entertainment virtually on their doorstep. We will feedback any concerns raised by residents direct with the council to ensure successful future events.

Quarterly Meetings with David Wilson Homes – report from our July meeting

We met the developers again in July, and received an update on most of the remaining areas of the development:

- H9(iii) flats (the build behind Sainsbury's) are progressing, the first 2 properties should be completed in September. Most of the road (Danegeld Avenue) will be opened in line with completions (anticipated end October), and some resurfacing work has been done.
- The land between Phases 1 and 2 (planning application I7/02720/MAF) will continue to be a "no through route" until construction is completed.

For more info visit us via:

- The Sales office will be moving to the flats on H9(iii) and the showhomes on Queen Eleanor Drive, will return to private dwellings. These had previously been purchased and are currently being leased to DWH.
- Adoptions: Greenkeepers Road is currently on 12-month maintenance pre-adoption plan, Anglia Water have now signed off the sewers, we are waiting for a further update from the Borough. A map showing each phase, who the developer is and when it is likely to be adopted is now available on the Parish Council website: <https://bit.ly/31IpoJc>
- We asked for action to be taken on weed control and also for the road signs that have never been installed to be sorted out on Anglia Way/King Alfred Way. This is being chased.
- There is still no update available on the future plans for the Pedestrian/Cycle bridge. It was noted that the planning application for this had been withdrawn by DWH. This is included in S106 agreement and the Parish Council will continue to monitor.

Our next meeting will take place in November.

Mobile Library in Great Denham

The mobile library visits Great Denham on alternate Saturdays, stopping at the lay-by 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.

Get ready for Spring! Bulb Planting – volunteers wanted

In November 2018, we also had our first bulb planting. Many residents joined us in planting nearly 2000 daffodil bulbs by the park and ride on Kingswood Way. When Spring arrived this year, it was lovely to see the flowers appearing, a testament to all of the hard work that had taken place.

So, this year we're getting a bit more adventurous – we've got a few daffodils left from last year still to plant, and have at least 500 tulip bulbs that were donated by the Borough Council from this year's Embankment displays to plant.



Saturday 2nd November 12.30 - 2.30pm

We will be planting on King Alfred Way (by the end of Queen Eleanor Drive)

Sunday 24th November 10am - 12pm

We will be planting on Kingswood Way by the park and ride.

Streetlight replacement

It was first raised on social media that the Borough Council were planning on replacing the current Victorian-style streetlights. They wish to upgrade them to LED and will have the ability to monitor them remotely, as part of their energy efficiency strategy.

Although not in every part of Great Denham, the heritage style streetlights are one of the features of the development, and the plan to replace them an understandable concern. The Parish Council and the Borough Councillor, Jim Weir, have both been trying to establish the facts behind this. This is what we are able to say at the moment:

- The Borough Council have confirmed that they intend to replace any non-LED lights for LED versions including remote monitoring.
- The columns will not be replaced, only the lamp head.
- Any replacement work will be done once each area has been adopted. So the first phase would be the Greenkeepers Road area, with the final phase still likely to be some years away.
- They will be asking the Parish Council to fund any upgrade to retain the existing heritage-style lamp heads. A rough estimate provided suggests this could be over £100,000 – not something the Parish Council has funds for.

What is clear is that there are still a number of things that need to be established – the locations and number of

For more info visit us via:

streetlights involved, due diligence on proposed costs and where funding might come from. Jim is on the case and will keep the Parish Council updated, so that we can keep residents informed.

Keep Great Denham clean and tidy – join in



with a Litter Pick!

Each quarter, we hold a community litter pick. These have been a great opportunity for the community to come together, with the aim to make Great Denham much cleaner. With adults and children both attending, we spread out across Great Denham to cover as much ground as possible. The hard work is rewarded with a nice brew and biscuit at the end, along with a chat.

As soon as the Pavilion is open, we will be organising a litter pick from there and focus on the Country Park. But in the meantime, we will continue to meet outside the Community Hall and head off in several directions.

Keep an eye on noticeboards and local shops for our posters, and posts on social media for future events.

Tackling Crime together

Despite recent events, Great Denham in the norm thankfully affords very little in the way of crime. The most common issues are those of environmental crime (i.e. littering and damage to the country park), bike thefts and anti-social behaviour. From time to time we are also unlucky to be the target for vehicle crime.

At a recent Parish Council meeting, we had guest speakers DI Glendenning and Inspector Masters who were on hand to explain how the improvements in reporting crimes and the ability to share information via social media is leading to a perception of increased crime rates.

They made it clear that recent violent crime was targeted and residents should feel safe. The Parish Council are also working with Bedford Borough Council to expand our CCTV coverage to include reported anti social behaviour areas such as the new Pavilion, large play park and MUGA.

Nuisance parking is still a hot topic and we are in constant communication with highways and the open spaces team to ensure restrictions are upheld. For example in spite of the Pavilion car park being open, and available to visitors of the recent fun fair events, we still saw a large number of vehicles parking along King Alfred Way (next to the football pitches), causing a nuisance to drivers trying to enter and exit Great Denham. If you were one of those drivers who parked on King Alfred Way then please, if we get another event, use the Pavilion car park – or better still, walk if you are a Great Denham resident. We have requested that for future events relevant signage is placed to direct visitors to the correct areas.

We have also been very unfortunate to have had 2 invasions into the Country Park over the summer.

On each occasion the Parish Council, working with the Borough Council and various agencies, were able to take prompt action to get the unwanted guests moved on – all within 24 hours. The speed of response from the Borough was fantastic – a huge thanks to all involved.

Following the first invasion earlier in the summer, the Parish Council asked the Borough to install some deterrent measures, particularly to prevent access over the football pitches and via the access road on the roundabout. Bollards were installed along the length of the football pitch onto King Alfred Way and concrete blocks have been placed on the access road. Rising bollards have also been installed onto the pathways leading to the far football pitches. It was hoped that these measures will help prevent further invasions.



For more info visit us via:

Website: www.greatdenham.bedsparishes.gov.uk

Facebook Page: Great Denham Parish Council

Twitter: @GtDenhamPC

This is still a work in progress and further improvements are being made. Extra bollards will be installed along the park and replacing the inadequate rising bollards installed on the paths is a priority.

As residents ourselves, we take crime prevention extremely seriously and treat it as a priority, if you have any concerns please do get in touch. If you are unlucky to be a victim of crime, then please report it. All crimes in progress must be reported to 999 and please report anything else to either 101 or online at bedfordshire.police.uk/report (very quick and easy to do). The more we report the more it helps to get the local team in the right place at the right time.

Get involved in Streetwatch in Great Denham



Great Denham Streetwatch group is the first such group in Bedford Borough. A number of local residents that patrol the village in order to report issues to the police and council as required. All members are insured and trained by Bedfordshire police.

If you'd like to help, feel free to contact the local co-ordinator, Chris Staite via email on chris@gd.streetwatch.org.uk. It is now possible to go out on a patrol as an observer to see what it's all about.

Please also ensure that you have signed up to Neighbourhood Watch www.ourwatch.org.uk/join to get all the latest news from BedsAlert which includes details from the Police and Fire service.

Great Denham Community Fireworks

It's been 3 years since we last had a firework display in Great Denham, but the Parish Council and Bedford Golf Club have been working together to bring this popular

event back for the Great Denham community. It will take place on **Sunday 3rd November 2019**.

The event will begin at **5pm**, with the **firework display planned to start at 6pm** (no later than 6.30pm and subject to weather conditions). The event is scheduled to **finish at 7pm**.

In order to manage parking and traffic, Carnoustie Drive will be closed to all non-residents from 4.30pm and marshals will be directing vehicles to the Park and Ride (Kingswood Way). PLEASE NOTE: if you intend to drive to the event you will need to park at the Park and Ride and then walk to the Golf Club. This is being done to avoid the congestion and inconsiderate parking experienced in previous years and also to make it safer for pedestrians.

There is no charge for the event, it is being funded by the Parish Council and supported by the Bedford Golf Club. However, we are asking for donations to the Friends of Great Denham Primary School, who will be there with their collection buckets. So please do give generously in support of your community.



For more info visit us via:

Creating a Community Garden for Great Denham

We've been making plans to convert the old Village Green (just in front of the Park and Ride) into a Community Garden for all to enjoy.

The first step will be to put down a pathway connecting the Park and Ride to the Pedestrian crossing – we are hoping to have this done by the end of the year.

We will also be arranging for some spring flowers to be planted this autumn.

If you'd like to get involved, please contact the Clerk on gdclerk@hotmail.co.uk. We will be looking for Volunteers for our "tidy-up" days:

Sunday 17th November 2019 at 10am

Sunday 8th December 2019 at 10am

Come along and join in!

Sculpture

At the centre of the space will be a 2m diameter circle display space. The Parish Council would like to have a sculpture or art installation to reflect the spirit of community in the village. Such an installation will need to be:

- Graffiti-resistant
- Easy to maintain
- Incorporate anti-vandal measures where possible
- Fixed to the ground (i.e. not easy to topple over or steal)

Proposals, designs and cost estimates for this installation are invited from artists/sculptors (preferably local). Please submit them in the first instance to gdclerk@hotmail.co.uk no later than 31st October 2019 – we will be happy to answer any queries you may have before the deadline.

Parish Council grants to support local groups and activities

The Parish Council has a grants policy, and each year allocates money in its budget to support community events and groups that work for the benefit of Great Denham residents. So far this year we have made contributions to:

- The Summer Festival – providing the inflatable activities

- Tea and Talk – funding 50% of their room hire costs for the Thursday meet-ups (with the Hall kindly funding the rest)

If you would like to learn more about our policy and make an application, please visit our website for more information (details below).

Come and chat with the Parish Council

On Wednesday 27th November, the Parish Council will be holding a drop-in at the Community Hall between 7 and 9pm. Please come along to speak with some of the Councillors about any ideas or concerns relating to Great Denham.

Remaining Councillor vacancies

We still have 2 positions to fill by co-option. If you are interested in working as part of the team supporting Great Denham residents, then please get in touch with our Clerk, Anna O'Meara. She will be happy to answer any questions you may have. Anna can be contacted on gdclerk@hotmail.co.uk.

Annual Audit 2018/19 is completed

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 by the external auditor in August and is available on the Parish Council website.

Like Running? Want some company?

Great Denham Runners meet several days per week. Please see their Facebook page.

For more info visit us via:

Community Events at Great Denham Community Hall

The Summer Festival was a great success and it was lovely to see so many residents taking advantage of the sunshine to wander round the games, eat ice cream and generally chill! But the team at the Hall are never still and have been busy organising the Halloween events and this year's Winter Wonderland.

Spooktacular Halloween entertainment

- **Creepy Crafts – Tuesday 22nd October**
- **Monster Mash Children's Disco – Friday 25th October**
- **Freaky Film – Friday 1st November**

For the grown-ups

- **Comedy Night at the Hall – 30th November**

Regular Events each month

- **First Friday of each month – Children's Cinema 3pm**
- **First Friday of each month – Quiz night 8pm**

Email bookings@greatdenhamcommunityhall.co.uk for details or visit their Facebook page.

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

Need somewhere for a family event or party?

Residents of Great Denham get discounted rates for parties and weddings. There are rooms to suit all sizes.

For more details on hire rates visit the Great Denham Community Hall Facebook page or email bookings@greatdenhamcommunityhall.co.uk.

Becoming a Trustee of the Community Hall

The Charity that manages the Community Hall is always looking for people keen to be part of the Management Committee as a Trustee. If you are interested, please contact the Clerk via email (gdclerk@hotmail.co.uk) and she will arrange for one of the Committee to contact you for a chat.



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/council-and-democracy/website-information/Pay-Report-Request/>

David Wilson Homes:

customer-service-southmidlands@dwh.co.uk

Barratt Homes:

northampton@newhomecare.co.uk

Bovis Homes:

customer-care.northernhomecounties@bovishomes.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).

For more info visit us via:

Great Denham Parish Council - Who's Who**Donna Parsons (Chair)**donnaparsons.pc@gmail.com**Steve Gallagher (Vice Chair) - Environment**steviegallagher@gmail.com

- Open Space Management
- CCTV

Louise Evans - Local Servicesloue@sky.com

- Council services
- Bus Services
- NHS Liaison/Medical Centre

Michael Cuthbertson - Planning and Developmentmichael@mcuth.co.uk

- Planning applications and planning liaison
- Developer liaison

Chris Slinn - Traffic and Parkingchris.slinn@gmail.com

- Highways liaison
- Traffic and parking

Chris Staite - Safety and Securitychris@gd.streetwatch.org.uk

- Street watch
- Crime stats/Police Liaison/Neighbourhood Watch

Jo Ruskin - Community Events and Engagementjoanneruskin@hotmail.co.uk**A note from our new Borough Councillor Jim Weir**

Councillor for Kempston Rural, covering the parishes of Great Denham, Stagsden, Turvey and Kempston Rural

It's been a busy 4 months since the local council and Mayoral elections where I was elected to represent you all. What I said I would do if elected was to look again at the:

"Open Space Management Charge" - I will continue to pursue and the March agenda for the Environment Overview & Scrunity Committee has this as an item to discuss.

I said I would look to support young people in the parish by helping to set up youth activities. I'm pleased to say that along with the Chair of the Parish Council we met with a youth worker representing Aldwyck Housing with a view to getting something in place. Whilst details are still to be discussed and evaluated by the PC and the Trustees of the Community Hall, we hope to have some good news later in the year.

I said I would look at safety in terms of school crossings and traffic issues around GD. I have met with highways personnel and am looking at some strategic 20 mph zones in the parish – specifically around the district centre.

I have visited Care Homes and food banks over the past couple of months and must commend the Borough on the work that Adult Services are doing in the community. I have re-joined the governing body at Great Denham Primary School as the Local Authority Governor and will continue to push for the right support from our local authority education team. I also continue as a trustee and treasurer of Great Denham Community Hall.

I also said I would hold surgeries at regular intervals so that any issues you have or need to raise you can sit down with me and discuss. The first of these will be on 26th October 11:00-13:00 at Great Denham Community Hall.

my contact details jim.weir@bedford.gov.uk

mobile 07528803981

For more info visit us via: