



DANBURY BOWLING CLUB

In 1932 Danbury Bowling Club started as a small 3 rink club opposite the Cricketers Inn and it had no Clubhouse. Today, it is located at Dawsons Field, Eves Corner with 6 excellent bowling rinks and has a modern Clubhouse Facility. It is a well respected club which offers opportunities to bowl at all levels. It has both men and lady members who enjoy club and inter-club games which enables them to both compete and socialise. Social events are organised throughout the playing season and a Tour is organised about every 2 years.



OPEN DAYS

Saturday 17th May 2.00pm – 5.00pm
Sunday 18th May 10.00am – 1.00pm
Phone: 01245 223611

DANBURY SPORTS AND SOCIAL CENTRE

APRIL Sat 5th
 Farmers' Market/Indoor Tabletop Sale/
 Parish Council Surgery 9am-1pm

Sat 12th
 Ballroom/Latin Social Evening with Jeff
 Short and his music

MAY Sat 3rd
 Farmers' Market/Indoor Tabletop Sale/
 Parish Council Surgery 9am-1pm

Sat 10th
 Barn Dance

JUNE Sat 2nd
 Farmers' Market/Indoor Tabletop Sale/
 Parish Council Surgery 9am-1pm

Fri 6th
 Buddy Holly Night

Sat 14th
 Ballroom/Latin Social Evening

Sun 29th
 Afternoon Tea Dance

JULY Sat 5th
 Farmers' Market/Indoor Tabletop Sale/
 Parish Council Surgery 9am-1pm

Sat 12th
 Ballroom/Latin Social Evening

For more details T: 01245 224515
www.info@danburysportscentre.co.uk

DANBURY

SPRING 2014

TIMES

No. 36



ANNUAL REPORT

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING



**All Danbury Residents
 are invited to attend on Monday 7th April at the Danbury
 Sports and Social Centre**

Tea, coffee, soft drinks and biscuits will be available from 7.15pm, and there is a bar on the floor above. The meeting will begin at 8pm.

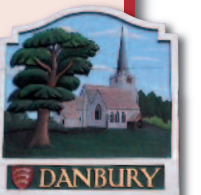
There will be a short talk by Dr. Williams, Chairman of the Patient Involvement Group, about its work.

The Sound Collective Chorus will perform 3 songs.



Presentations will be made to some of the village litter and delivery volunteers. There will be a resume of the year by the Chairman of the Parish Council and then the Annual Finance Report.

After each speaker there will be an opportunity for questions from the floor, and the Chairmen of all 4 committees will also be available to take questions.



DANBURY CRICKET CLUB

We have been playing cricket at Eves Corner for over 100 years, and we are looking for new players of all abilities and ages to boost the club's talent resources!! Our youngest starts at age 13, while our oldest, well, some say they have been playing at Eves Corner for over 100 years too!!

We have enjoyed quite a bit of success recently, achieving 3 promotions in 5 years. We compete in the middle division (7), of the T. Rippon Mid Essex Cricket League on Saturday afternoons from 1pm, arrange friendly games pre-season and on Sundays when we have enough players, and run regular practice sessions throughout the summer. **If you are interested in playing cricket with us**, please contact Lee Collins on 07596 866 646 or Simon Moore on 07941 771 860 or simoore100@gmail.com. We are also running Winter Nets on Thursday nights at Ingatestone School, from 7.30pm, for those who can't wait until the summer.

**DANBURY CRICKET
 2014 HOME FIXTURES**

F	26th April	Chignal
1	3rd May	Marconi
4	24th May	Rettendon 2nds
6	7th June	Roxwell Blues
8	21st June	Boreham 1sts
11	12th July	Navestock & Ardleigh Green 1sts
12	19th July	Great Wakering 1sts
14	2nd August	South Weald 2nds
16	16th August	Woodham Mortimer 2nds
18	30th August	Bentley 3rds

COUNCILLORS

Stuart Berlyn
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Chairman of Parish Council
Ex-Officio member of all committees

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Ex-Officio member of all committees

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Chairman of Planning, Member of Facilities

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Member of Environment and Planning

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS

John Alexander



Planning

Paul Walton
Danbury Society



Planning

PARISH COUNCIL STAFF

Margaret Saunders



Parish Clerk

Maria Dyer



Assistant Clerk

Hannah Mayes



Assistant Clerk

Robin Dickens



Groundsman

NORMAL PARISH OFFICE OPENING TIMES

Monday to Friday 9.15 am to 1 pm.
The Old School House, Main Road,
Danbury, Essex CM3 4NQ
Tel: 01245 225111 Fax: 01245 226798
E-mail: parish.council@danbury-essex.gov.uk
Website: www.danbury-essex.gov.uk

FACEBOOK

The Parish Council is now on Facebook. Like our page to receive up to date information



VOLUNTEER TO BE A COUNCILLOR

All our meetings are open to the public, and include 15 minutes question time.

Come along and see how we work.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

Welcome to the spring edition of Danbury Times, which is also the Parish Council's Annual Report. I have deliberately kept my comments brief as elsewhere in this issue you will find reports from all committee chairmen, in addition to an open invitation to attend the Annual Parish Meeting at the Sports and Social Centre.

Annual Parish Meeting

The Parish Council positively welcomes you to the annual meeting where we try hard to respond to your questions and in particular hear what it is you are telling us about your council and your village. We are trying a different format this year so do please attend and pass on your views.

Councillor Changes

John Scott has decided to leave the council due to work and other voluntary pressures. I thank him for his valued contribution to council and the village.

Councillor Vacancies

During the last year a number of councillors have resigned for various reasons and despite welcoming two new members we are, at the time of writing, still four short. I like to think that this is because the majority of you are satisfied with how we are performing; unfortunately it does add extra pressure to those of us who remain. Therefore any residents interested in volunteering their services as councillors should contact our clerk for information. From April we are bringing forward the start time of all meetings to 7.30 for a six month trial which I hope may also help.

Medical Centre

At the time of writing this report, work on the above has not begun. The time limit for Ashley House (the developer) to

appeal against the refusal of planning permission for their large scale multi-phase application has expired. I, with most of the village, wait with interest for news.

Christmas Tree

Each year the council staff have great difficulty sourcing and erecting the tree on Eves Corner; each year the costs also increase.

We have decided to explore with the National Trust the purchase and planting of a suitable mature tree which can become a permanent fixture, only needing the expertise of an electrician etc. to dress it at Christmas time – watch this space.

Volunteers

Each year many residents contribute to village life in various ways and I wish to take this opportunity to say 'Thank you Very Much' – your contributions ensure that Danbury remains a viable, lively community in which to live.

Special Thanks

In particular I wish to thank the staff, Margaret our Clerk, Hannah & Maria our Assistant Clerks and Robin our Groundsman, for all their hard work, dedication and loyalty. Without them we would not have been able to achieve all that we have.

Thanks also go to my elected colleagues, for their hard work, patience and dedication to the village and all who live in it.

STUART BERLYN CHAIRMAN

PARISH COUNCIL/SCHOOLS LIAISON

We continue to liaise with the 3 village primary schools, talking to year 6 pupils and School Councils about our work. The meetings also include role play exercises on realistic Council projects including budget management. Part of their Citizenship learning is to foster in our young people an awareness of being part of a wider community and the role of local democracy in managing village assets to the best advantage for all. Given the enthusiasm and interest from the pupils during the role plays and question time perhaps we may even be talking to some Parish Councillors of the future. Thanks go to all the teachers for facilitating the sessions and perhaps most of all to the year 6 pupils for their very active participation.

MINERALS AND WASTE PLANNING

Essex County Council has a new website: www.essex.gov.uk/viewplanning with details of current minerals, waste and County Council planning applications, allowing users to make comments on applications, follow progress from submission to decision and even check details of appeals.

For more information about the website please contact the Minerals and Waste Planning team on **01245 435555** or email mineralsandwastem@essex.gov.uk.

FACILITIES

The Committee administers a large slice of the annual budget in order to maintain the many amenities that Danbury has to offer.

The Danbury Sports and Social Centre (DSSC)

This building is a wonderful asset for Danbury, right in the middle of the village, but it is a considerable responsibility for the council to monitor its condition, undertake repairs and work in collaboration with the Danbury Community Association (DCA) to upgrade facilities. This year, storage radiators in the Dawson Suite were replaced with hot water radiators served by a gas boiler, so the temperature is much more controllable. It is a pleasant room with an outdoor patio area, available to hire for regular or one-off events with lovely views across Essex. Emergency lighting has been upgraded.

A big change to the look of the building was the installation of solar panels to the roof of the south side. This idea was put forward by the DCA and approved by the Parish Council, and will reduce the running costs of the building considerably.



Minor repairs and extra markings have been undertaken in both car parks to make the areas safer.

Green Spaces

Dawson Field, an 11.5 acre area which surrounds the DSSC, is managed by Robin, our grounds man. It has been a frustrating winter because of the rain and subsequent muddy conditions, and difficult to keep the area looking pristine. Football games have been few and far between; however regular visitors continue to enjoy the well maintained open space. Trees in our areas are monitored by an annual survey together with our 2 Tree Wardens, and remedial work is undertaken as necessary. Other open spaces such as Elm Green are looked after by Robin.

Sports Clubs

The cricket wicket is in fine condition after much renovation work last year and the club is hoping for new players to enjoy the benefits.

The Bowling Club has had replacement fencing, and paid for new shutters to be installed.

We are lucky to have a thriving Tennis Club in Danbury which continues to expand its facilities.

The Old Pavilion

This wooden building at the entrance of the top car park, has had the doors moved to the side for safer and easier pedestrian and wheelchair access. There have been a few repairs inside and it is a very pleasant space for hire. The demolition of the public toilets has allowed the area to be grassed and a new path has been laid to avoid walking in the car park. This area now looks very pleasant.



Children's Play Area

More upgrading to the Children's Playground has been approved for play equipment for all ages. Annual safety checks and regular visual checks are carried out and defects remedied immediately.

The Ponds

The ponds at Eves Corner and Runsell Green are maintained with help from The Conservation Volunteers and parishioners, to provide an enjoyable public amenity and an attractive habitat for wildlife.

Road Salt Scheme

Grateful thanks to our volunteers who have joined in the scheme again this year to keep key points in Danbury freely moving. Last winter, several people contacted the Parish Office to express their thanks. This is what makes Danbury a great place to live.

Thanks

As Chairman of Facilities, I am aware of how fortunate we are to be stewards of so many amenities on our doorstep. Margaret, Maria and Hannah in the Parish Office and Robin spend many hours undertaking duties on behalf of the people of Danbury to look after the things we value in our village. Our grateful thanks.

CHRIS JACOBS CHAIRMAN

ENVIRONMENT

The Committee met 6 times last year and dealt with issues such as hedges, streetlights, footpaths, pavements and potholes. Most of these had to be passed to Essex County Council (ECC) or its Local Highways Panel. They have dealt with some, such as surfacing the bus stop on Bicknacre Road, and the flooding and pavement problems on Mayes Lane; others are on-going investigations such as the feasibility study on a pavement between Woodhill Road and Mayes Lane. We wait for news about other reported problems. A new rural footpath from St. Clere's Way past the allotments to Footpath 16 has been adopted by ECC who will now consider surface improvements.

The Parish Office staff maintain regular contact with ECC Highways. Residents are encouraged to keep the office informed of severe highway problems. Council is in process of putting together a further response to Maldon District Council's Draft Development Plan, following additional information coming to light. If the plan is approved, there will be significant increased traffic through Danbury,

Committee members take part in discussions with the Parish Transport Group about buses, the Royal Oak Liaison Group about quarries, the state of the road and the entrance area, and Danbury Park Forum dealing with developments and future plans within the country park.

The Big Garden Festival took place at Danbury Outdoors in August 2013, despite strenuous objections from residents and the Parish Council. After the request in Danbury Times for

any further comments, several were received at the Parish Office, (the vast majority complaints about the noise), and were sent on to Chelmsford City Council in February with a submission for a licence review. The organisers surrendered the licence on 13th March, which means that their planned repeat festival will not take place this year, and any further plan would have to start a licence application from scratch.

The London Southend Airport (LSA) airspace consultation ended in December 2013. LSA has since made clearer that safety considerations are at the heart of their request to the Civil Aviation Authority to reinstate a controlled airspace round LSA, because of the resumption and already permitted increase of scheduled flights. Any aircraft within this area must be in contact with air traffic control, preferably by radio. No proposals are in place to enable aircraft to fly any lower than at present. The holding area will be offshore as much as possible to avoid disturbance to local communities.

Wind damage to trees is being dealt with by pruning if possible rather than by felling. The fallen tree at the top of Copt Hill has been replaced. Litter Pick Day has been discontinued since volunteers prefer to care for their areas throughout the year in their own time, with equipment borrowed from the Parish Office.

Thank you to all volunteers who help in so many ways to maintain and improve our Danbury environment.

APRIL CHAPMAN CHAIRMAN

PLAY IN THE PARK ON DAWSON MEMORIAL FIELD WEDNESDAY 9TH APRIL 2014 10 AM TO 12 NOON.



Activities will be available for children aged 6 to 11 supervised by Chelmsford City Council Play Workers - sports, arts, crafts, games, and free-play.

Children under 6 can join in the free play, and staff from The Bumblebee Children's Centre will also be on hand with suitable activities and equipment, but all children under 6 **must** be supervised by their parents or carers.

PLANNING

An Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting was held at Danbury Mission on 14th May 2013 to discuss the multi-phased Medical Centre Planning application, which was subsequently refused. An application for a stand-alone medical centre was eventually granted by Chelmsford City Council.

In September 2013 an application was received for a Solar Farm at Jackletts Farm. This was refused by Chelmsford City Council but is now under appeal by the applicants. An application to modify the plans for the Danbury Palace was forwarded to Chelmsford City Council on 18th October 2013. An application to build a two bedroomed house on a parcel of land adjacent to the Water Tower was refused by Chelmsford City Council; this has gone to appeal.

With regard to the Maldon District Council Draft Development Plan, Danbury Parish Council sent these comments: "The additional development will impact on Danbury by increasing the amount of traffic on the A414. Infrastructure needs to be put in place to accommodate this

and route traffic away from the village. The A414 is overloaded with traffic and an increase in usage would be detrimental to the village."

Councillors attended the Chelmsford City Council Planning Forum on 20th November 2013. A brief overview was given by Chelmsford City Council Planning staff members. Several changes will be implemented over the next few months, including those concerning the Community Infrastructure Levy.

Mr Derek Stebbing of Chelmsford City Council's Directorate of Sustainable Communities attended the planning meeting on 24th February 2014 to explain some of the consequences.

In the calendar year ending 31st December 2013 the Planning Committee met 14 times and considered 71 applications, commenting on 34 of these: 5 were refused and 2 were withdrawn; the remainder were approved by Chelmsford City Council.

MAX TELLING CHAIRMAN

CLERK'S CORNER

Grants and Donations

- £200 from the Danbury Society for the Christmas tree
- £2020 Donation for Works to the bowling green from the Bowling Club
- £350.00 Donation towards the installation of a Memorial Bench
- £1000 from the Communities Initiative Fund for the Play Area
- £500.00 Donation from the Cricket Club
- £1265 from Section 106 agreements

Awards

- Essex Playing Field Certificate of Merit (Gold Award) for Dawson Memorial Field
- Essex Playing Fields Certificate of Merit (Gold Award) for Children's Play Area
- Essex Playing Fields Certificate of Merit (Gold Award) Best Kept Football Pitch for Pitches 1, 2, and 3

- Essex Association of Local Councils – Localism in Action Award – Highly Commended for leaflet regarding Danbury Medical Centre application

Events

Carols round the Christmas Tree: this event had to take place in the Old Pavilion due to the inclement weather. More than 70 people sang carols and took part in a Christmas Evening.

Summary of Year

Installation of central heating in Dawson Suite at the Danbury Sports and Social Centre (DSSC)

Completion of emergency lighting through the DSSC

Councillors visited the village primary schools, and the schools visited the Old School House taking part in a mock Council meeting, choosing projects to be completed.

Changing the door and making a new access path to the Old Pavilion.

Renewing the lease for the Bowling Club for further 5 years and renewing the maintenance agreement for the green after a quotation process.

CLERK'S CORNER CONTINUED

Residents taking part in the Winter Salt Scheme

Essex County Council has created a new right of way from St Clere's Way to Footpath 16.

Installation of Christmas tree

Planned Items

Complete refurbishment of the Play Area April 2014

Quotations for the repair of the steps, checking of paving and refurbishment of path to rear of DSSC

Postcard production

Installation of a permanent Christmas tree at Eves Corner

MARGARET SAUNDERS PARISH CLERK

RESOURCES (FINANCE)

A summary of the Parish Council's income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2013 is shown in the attached pie charts. On the income side of the chart the main items are the precept and the rental income which are both in line with previous years. Other income included a donation of £2,020 from the Bowling Club towards repair work on the bowling green, £1,000 from the Communities Initiative Fund towards the play area refurbishment and £500 from the Danbury Cricket Club towards the cost of relaying the cricket square. There was also £1,265 of section 106 receipts. Overall the level of grants and section 106 monies were significantly lower than the previous year.

There was no single major item of expenditure during 2012-13. The more significant items included £4,040 for the repair work on the bowling green and £2,400 for work to relay the cricket square. Equipment purchases included a replacement ride-on tractor mower, a new trailer and a long handled hedge trimmer for a total cost of £4,850. In the Danbury Sports and

Social Centre there was expenditure on the refurbishment of the showers, the relocation of the fire escape stairway at the rear of the building and ongoing improvements to the electrical systems. Outside the building some £3,448 was spent on new lighting bollards along the footpath to the main road.

The precept for 2013-14 was set at £186,450 and I am pleased to report that the Parish Council has agreed to hold the precept at this level for 2014-15. However the financial impact of the Local Council Tax Support scheme introduced in the current financial year will increase in the next. The level of grant receivable from Chelmsford City Council will be reduced whilst the council tax base has been reassessed downwards; the combined effect is to produce a 2.2% increase (£1.70 per annum) in the parish council portion of the Band D property charge, although the Parish Council does not receive this.

BRIAN KENNEWELL CHAIRMAN

