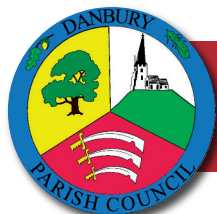


# DANBURY

SPRING 2018

TIMES

No. 48



## ANNUAL REPORT



### ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

#### ALL DANBURY RESIDENTS

are invited to attend on Monday 23rd April in the Sports Hall at the Danbury Sports and Social Centre at 8pm.

Tea, coffee, soft drinks and biscuits will be available from 7pm and there is a bar on the floor above.

There will be stalls set up by various village organisations and clubs including one by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

A resume of the year by the Chairman of Parish Council and the Annual Financial Report will be available.

There will be a talk by David Piper of The National Trust about the Eves Corner pond and recent clearances at Lingwood and Backwarden.

This will be followed by an up-date on the Neighbourhood Plan's current status and impending actions by the Chairman of the Steering Group, Sue Dobson.

There will be an opportunity after each of these last 3 items for questions from the floor.

### DANBURY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – OUR PARISH, OUR FUTURE

#### Our Exhibition

A big thank you to everyone who visited our exhibition on 16th and 17th March. Over 360 residents attended the two days despite the inclement weather on Saturday. We received very useful and helpful feedback on the draft Visions & Objectives.

Growth in Danbury – Residents were able to see the sites that have been put forward to build 100 new homes allocated in the emerging Chelmsford Local Plan. A map was displayed with an explanation of the process to select the sites and assign houses to each site. This created a lot of interest and members of the Steering Group were busy explaining the procedure

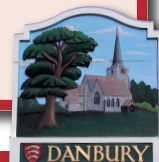
and answering questions. You can read the Exhibition text at [www.danburyneighbourhoodplan.com](http://www.danburyneighbourhoodplan.com).

#### Questionnaire

We are preparing another Questionnaire which will be issued early May. This will ask you to state your preferences on future housing in the Village, which include the location, design, size, type and density of housing. This feedback is essential - without it we cannot complete the Plan.

The Inspector at the last appeal stated that the location of new dwellings would be a matter for the local community to decide via a Neighbourhood Plan.

**What better incentive for people to stay involved in the Neighbourhood Plan?**



# DANBURY PARISH COUNCIL

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Member of  
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Planning

## ADDITIONAL MEMBERS

**John Alexander**

Planning

**Roger Cole-Jones**

Danbury Society



Planning

## PARISH COUNCIL STAFF

**Margaret Saunders**

Parish Clerk

**Maria Dyer**

Assistant Clerk

**Hannah Mayes**

Assistant Clerk

**Robin Dickens**

Groundsman

**Lesley Mitchelmore**

Neighbourhood  
Plan Co-ordinator

## 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](mailto:parish.council@danbury-essex.gov.uk)

Website: [www.danbury-essex.gov.uk](http://www.danbury-essex.gov.uk)

Like us on Facebook 

## CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2017/2018

Welcome to your Parish Council's annual report for the last year. It has been a really busy year for members and in particular for our staff.

I am largely dedicating this report to the people who have so fantastically responded to the Planning matters that have been of great concern to us all.

First of all, thanks go to all the residents who have so far attended all the planning enquiries held at the City Council. We counted in excess of 50 on the first day of the Gladman appeal; what a fantastic turnout to show the inspector the great feelings in our village. Residents also attended most days and members of Parish Council and staff were there every day as well as at the Inspector's official site visits.

As I write this, three appeals have been refused; further details are elsewhere in this newsletter. There may well be more to follow as speculative developers try to beat the system.

Parish Council have been working extremely hard behind the scenes to ensure your voices are heard. As statutory consultees and a local authority it is essential we follow the planning rules when responding to both the planning authority (Chelmsford City Council) and to the Planning Inspector. Our comments have to be approved by Parish Council and a procedure is in place to ratify short notice changes. On each occasion we submitted our views and a statement was read at the appeal hearing by Dan Carling, Vice Chairman of the Planning Committee, who was ably supported at the office by our Assistant Clerk (Planning and Environment) Hannah Mayes.



Regrettably Hannah is leaving us at the end of April to work full time for her husband's business – thanks Hannah – after six years of professionalism, laughter, and support to Margaret and the rest of the staff - we will miss you. As well as her work with Planning and Environment Hannah has been the innovator with Facebook and she up-dates the website, co-ordinating the Council's communications with the village through various publications.

While the Council has to follow the rules, others are able to make statements that we cannot. Great thanks must also go to H.O.D. and its inimitable chairman Mark Scofield for their extremely valuable contributions. We knew that Inspectors were listening far more than in the past to the voices of the communities, and this was no more apparent than when the 'Gladman' appeal Inspector invited Mark on behalf of H.O.D. and The Danbury Society to make a statement, answer questions from the appellant, ask questions of the appellant, answer questions from herself and to attend the site visit to answer questions although he was not allowed to speak otherwise.

Mark is also a member of the **Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group** which has continued with its work, largely behind the scenes, looking at a number of items to be resolved. The group is led by Sue Dobson and coordinated by Lesley Mitchelmore and my thanks go also to them and every member of the group. There is an article on the front page by the group Chairman and she will be explaining the next plans at the Annual Parish Meeting on April 23rd. There is a tremendous amount still to be done and clearly with all the planning applications/appeals going on the plan will be even more important to the village - to be able to manage future development where the **community** wish to see it rather than have wholesale speculative development where the developer can make most money and then leave.

Lastly I would like to thank all members of staff who have worked tirelessly this year to keep the parish running.

**Stuart Berlyn**  
Chairman

## ENVIRONMENT REPORT

The committee met 6 times over the year April 1st 2017 to March 31st 2018.

### Highways

There is now a Give Way sign at the dangerous Western exit from the library car park onto the small approach road; thanks to the CEO of Chelmsford Star Co-op.

St. John's School is taking up a version of 3PR – a scheme to alleviate parking problems at taking and pick-up times, and which involves pupils.

Verge parking at Eves Corner is worrying; it involves crossing double yellow lines which is the same as actually parking on double yellows so could entail fines.

No speed reduction could be achieved along Woodhill Road at present but signage is being improved.

Several councillors have been to Highways briefings and understand the system and its constraints better though these are frustrating.

### Local Highways Panels

A one way system feasibility study for The Heights has now been completed and options commented on by this committee. We await a decision.

The new footway linking Woodhill Road with Mayes Lane should be finalised in this financial year for implementation in 2019-20.

### Bus Transportation

The 31A is to be retained with an extra morning run. There are new active signs at Mayes Lane/Eves Corner bus stops. The Flyer has been taken over by Chelmsford Community Transport. It continues its previous service to Danbury but is used to/within Chelmsford also. The company is looking for more volunteer drivers and wider use by small clubs and groups who wish to hire it for trips/visits. Details at [www.chelmsfordct.org](http://www.chelmsfordct.org).

### Footpaths

Officers continue to monitor paths, reporting damage and necessary work such as fallen finger posts and signs.

The National Trust have approved a new permissive path linking Fitzwalter Lane with Woodhill Road coming out almost opposite the Woods car park, so that visitors to the Country Park do not have to walk along the busy road.

Dispensers with the popular and up-dated Footpaths map are at main points throughout the village.

Cyclists and possibly segway users have damaged Footpath 17 and the permissive path across by the beacon to the Sports Centre car park. Cycling on Footpaths is trespass as well as dangerous; cyclists could easily knock pedestrians over since many enjoy travelling at speed, bending their heads down over the handlebars and not looking ahead.

The National Trust is trying to avoid the approved mountain bike area on Danbury Common spreading. They are putting up more signs to warn walkers as well as the bikers.

I would like to thank all the volunteer litter pickers who cover various parts of the village as much as they can. Unfortunately the litter problem is increasing. We all need to be vigilant, picking up any litter we can and reporting anyone we see littering. One very unpleasant development is the deliberate breaking of glass bottles in the children's playpark area. Take care especially at weekends when the groundsman cannot do his daily check. We do need more volunteers; equipment is available from the Parish Office.

### Living Landscapes

Some hedge planting has been agreed by Essex Wildlife Trust and landowners, e.g. on a farm on the Western edge of Danbury. Planting of wild flowers is being investigated in Griffin Meadow.

Generally since Parish Council does not have the authority to complete works, a lot of the committee's activities involves checking on and reporting complaints to the appropriate organisations, e.g. keeping hedges cut back alongside narrow footways – an on-going issue for householders.

**April Chapman,**  
**Chairman of Environment**



## FACILITIES

Regular meetings are held liaising between this committee and site users e.g. the Tennis Club.

### DAWSON MEMORIAL FIELD

The success of the hard work that goes into the upkeep of the playing fields was again recognised by the Essex Playing Fields Association with the playing fields in general achieving a Gold award and four individual Gold awards awarded to the cricket pitch, the children's playground, and football pitches 3 and 4. In addition, pitches 1 and 2 were both awarded Silver awards.

The monitoring of the movement of the bank and surrounding area which has caused the path leading to the Bowling and Tennis Clubs to be closed for safety reasons, has continued throughout the year with a final report received in February 2018. Further meetings are planned to decide on the way forward.

The Play in the Park scheme took place in August, including an inflatable assault course at one of the two sessions. Despite slightly poor weather there were 46 children at the first day and with sunny weather, 89 on the second. Comments were positive so it was well worth the fee Parish Council paid. In 2018 there will again be two sessions, but with the inflatable assault course at both and as requested by residents these will be on Thursdays so as not to conflict with the regular Wednesday holiday activity at Danbury Park.

Unfortunately both height barriers at the entrances to the Mayes Lane and the Sports Centre car parks were hit by high vehicles and damaged on a number of occasions. Not all perpetrators confessed so Parish Council had to claim on its insurance, affecting our no claims bonus.

Although more bins have been installed, litter (including broken glass bottles) is still a problem, particularly in the Children's Play Area. As a result, frequent inspections and clearances have to be undertaken by our Groundsman.

### DANBURY SPORTS AND SOCIAL CENTRE (DCA)

The old cupola on the apex of the sports hall roof was leaking at its base and was removed. The roof was renovated and a

new cupola (complete with seagull rest) was installed. Whilst the scaffolding was in place, the opportunity was taken to deal with other outstanding roof repairs. Several of the external doors at the Sports Centre have been renovated. The Sports and Social Centre has taken over the bookings for the Old Pavilion and the bookings have been increasing.

### LEGIONELLA

The Parish takes its responsibilities for Legionella prevention very seriously. The extensive measures to comply with our statutory requirements for the properties we own continued throughout the year.

### PONDS

Both the ponds at Eves Corner and Runsell Green have had major weed clearance and other works undertaken by National Trust Volunteers and The Conservation Volunteers - the Ducks and Moorhens seem to approve as they remain in residence!!

### TREES

The annual health and safety inspection of trees on Parish Council land was carried out in January this year. Works will be undertaken as required.

### NOTICEBOARDS

A new noticeboard was installed in the Mayes Lane car park.

### THE WINTER SALT BAG SCHEME

The scheme was continued this year. The salt is ordered in July and only one delivery can be made so care must be taken in use.

### DOG BINS

Work to install new bins is being done after complaints that bags were being thrown into hedges and put into waste bins; these new ones are planned for the Twitty Fee end of Hopping Jacks Lane and for West Belvedere. Costs have to be met now by Parish Council: £270 to buy and install, £100 each per year to empty.

**John Steele,**  
**Chairman of Facilities**

## THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE (2017)

The Planning Committee has a total of nine members plus two additional members who represent outside bodies. Our Chairman and Vice Chairman are ex-officio members. Residents can view the agenda and minutes of meetings plus up-to-date information on the Parish Council website and details of the applications and outcomes on [www.chelmsford.gov.uk/planning](http://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/planning).

Planning has again been a major issue within the village with several large applications being submitted to Chelmsford City Council for sites in the village. The Committee would like to thank all those residents who commented, and attended appeals for putting forward their views on planning applications in the village.

There were three major planning appeals in the village during 2017/18 which have now been dismissed. Parish Councillors attended each day and made a statement at each appeal to put forward the objections raised by residents and Parish Council.

The three appeals that have been dismissed are:

- a 72 bed care home on land adjacent to the Medical Centre (16/01770/FUL)
- Old Chase Farm, Hyde Lane for 59 dwellings and a shop (16/00129/OUT)
- Building up to 140 houses at Runsell Green (16/01810/OUT).

A further application (17/01902/OUT) for the Runsell Green site was also made in 2017 for up to 90 dwellings which has been refused by Chelmsford City Council.

In March 2017, an outline planning application for up to 100 houses on land South of Maldon Road and East of Hyde Lane (17/00089/OUT) was submitted and subsequently refused by Chelmsford City Council in July.

Representatives attended a Planning Committee in July to talk about a potential site at Hammonds Farm for 3000 properties. This site has not been brought forward by the City Council in their New Local Plan.

Danbury has been allocated 100 houses to be developed during the 2021-2036 life of the plan. The sites for these 100 houses will be allocated by the Danbury Neighbourhood Plan with input from local residents. The Steering Group's Visions and Objectives plus a map of potential sites were displayed at an exhibition in the Old Pavilion in March, and are on the Neighbourhood Plan Facebook at [www.danburyneighbourhoodplan.com](http://www.danburyneighbourhoodplan.com). They will also be on view at the Annual Parish Meeting on April 23rd. Mrs. Sue Dobson as Chairman of the group has written about the current status of the Plan on the front page and will speak at the Annual Parish Meeting.

The Pedestrian Crossing was finally installed outside the Medical Centre in October after having been delayed several times during 2017.

The Planning Committee met on 13 occasions to consider 94 planning applications, making many comments including objections to 13 applications of which Chelmsford Planning refused 11; the remainder of the applications were either approved by CCC or withdrawn by the applicant.

The Committee also looked at 49 applications which related to trees in the Conservation Area and Tree Protection Orders in the village. Many thanks to our three Tree Wardens for all their time spent reviewing and commenting on these applications during the year.

**Max Telling,**  
Chairman Planning Committee

## RESOURCES REPORT

The charts below provide a summary of the audited accounts for the financial year ending 31st March 2017. The Parish Council reported total income of £234,976, lower than in previous years due to a reduction in the levels of grants received. Section 106 monies totalled £6,509, supplemented by a discretionary grant of £5,122 as part of the Local Council Tax Support scheme – the final payment to be made under this arrangement. The precept for 2016-2017 was £184,613, a small increase on the previous year. Rental income from Council-owned facilities was £36,637, broadly aligned with historic volumes.

Total expenses for 2016-2017 were £223,420. In terms of major expenditure, significant investments in infrastructure projects totalling £18,918 were made by the Parish Council. This included specialist draining of the local playing fields to enhance ongoing sporting activities within the community, and drainage works relating to Council-owned car-parking premises. The Neighbourhood Plan was also initiated during this period and funding was made available for the employment of a fixed-term Neighbourhood Plan Co-ordinator.

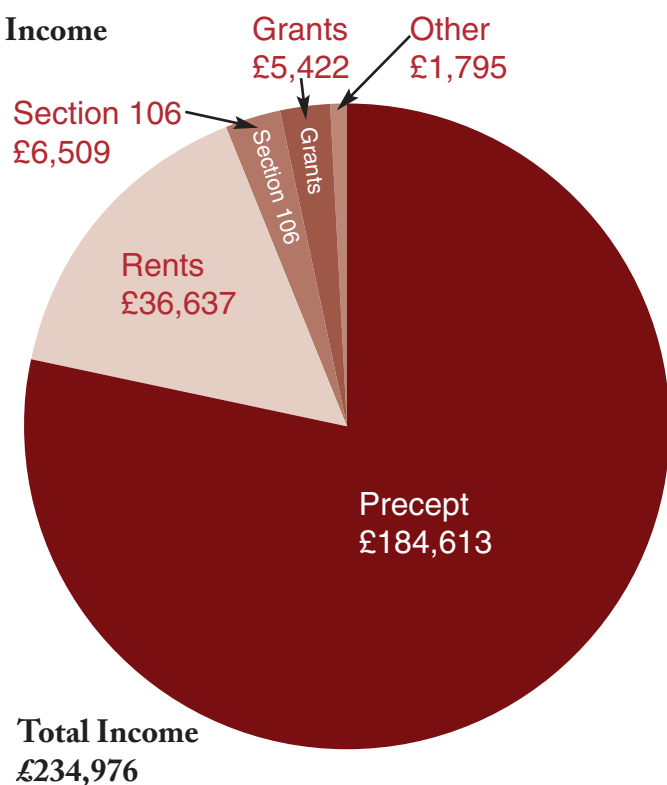
Accounts for 2017-2018 will be signed off by the external auditor in September this year. Of note during this period, essential maintenance work has been carried out on the Sports & Social Centre roof costing £10,000.

Looking ahead, valuable investment will continue to be made in strategic projects including the Neighbourhood Plan. The bank and footpath leading to the Tennis and Bowls Clubs unfortunately continues to show signs of subsidence. The Parish Council has commissioned a geological survey with results received early in 2018, and some provision has been made for remedial works when these are decided.

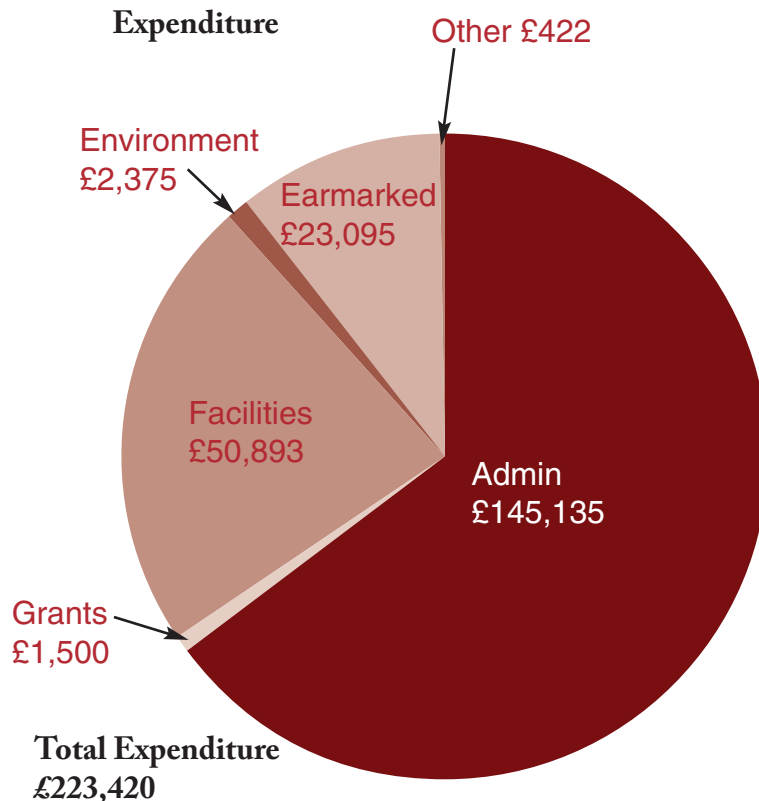
The overall financial climate remains challenging, with the general reduction in central government funding coinciding with the need to fund a number of significant local projects. It has therefore been necessary to request a small increase in the precept to £205,252 for 2018-2019. For Danbury residents, this equates to an extra £2.87 per year/24p per month on a Band D property.

### Paul Sutton, Chairman of Resources

#### Income



#### Expenditure





## DATES OF MEETINGS

### APRIL 2018

Mon	9th	<i>Planning</i>
Mon	23rd	<i>Annual Parish Meeting</i>
Wed	25th	<i>Resources</i>

### MAY 2018

Wed	2nd	<i>Annual Parish Council</i>
Mon	14th	<i>Planning</i>
Wed	16th	<i>Facilities</i>
Mon	21st	<i>Environment</i>
Wed	30th	<i>Resources</i>

### JUNE 2018

Mon	4th	<i>Accounts, then Planning</i>
Wed	27th	<i>Resources</i>

### JULY 2018

Mon	2nd	<i>Planning</i>
Wed	11th	<i>Facilities</i>
Wed	18th	<i>Resources</i>
Wed	23rd	<i>Environment</i>
Wed	25th	<i>Parish Council</i>
Mon	30th	<i>Planning</i>

## CLERK'S REPORT

Jesters became the new partner with Parish Council in the Old Schoolhouse. They are running a before and after school care service, a nursery and there will be a holiday programme.

- Chelmsford Museum in Oaklands Park has offered a display case from February 2019 for about 10 objects which represent key aspects of Danbury. These were being collected by Cllr. Mrs. Chapman and the display case is now built. Additionally Parish Council intends to hold much fuller displays of historical objects, documents and photographs from Danbury over 2 consecutive weekends in late September in the Old Pavilion. This will be open to visitors and if you have any objects or photographs you feel would be of interest and could loan, or if you wish to help prepare or help run the events, please contact either the Parish Office or Cllr. Mrs. Chapman directly.

- Registration with the Land Registry has taken place of the piece of land outside the Old Pavilion which holds the flowerbed. Parish Council's allotments have been registered with a possessory title.

- The lease on Eves Corner has been renewed for 5 years with The National Trust – the grass cutting and the pond remaining the responsibility of the Parish

Council while the trees are the responsibility of The National Trust.

- Parish Councillors formed a working party to install heras fencing to protect Elm Green where the War Memorial is situated during the evening of the fireworks. This year with the farmer permitting parking on his field the influx of visitors were managed much better.
- New Neighbour packs continue to be distributed and are really well received by new residents. If you are aware of people moving in near you please let the Parish Office know.
- Councillors visited St. John's School in the Spring term with a power point presentation about the work and responsibilities of Parish Council. Return visits by pupils involved them working on local issues including the Neighbourhood Plan. Similar visits are planned for Danbury Park School during the Summer term.
- Parish Council appreciated Danbury Society's donations of £200 towards the Christmas tree and £200 towards the reprinting of the Footpath map.

**Margaret Saunders**  
Parish Clerk

## APOLOGIES

The top two photographs on the cover of the Winter 2017 edition of Danbury Times were printed the wrong way round! They came from slides and these are the correct versions:

**April**  
**Chapman,**  
**Editor**



## INCIDENTS

The new crossing by the Medical Centre is being monitored over 12 months for safety issues. Please report any incidents and also any at the traffic lights at Eves Corner to the Parish Office or directly to Essex Highways on 03330 139938 or [www.essex.gov.uk](http://www.essex.gov.uk). Photographs help.

