

DANBURY

Spring 2011

TIMES

Number 28

DANBURY PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2011

THE OLD SCHOOL HOUSE



Please see the
**Chairman's
Report**
on Page 3

All Danbury Residents are invited to attend the **Annual Parish Meeting**

On Monday 28th March at Danbury Sports & Social Centre

Tea, coffee and biscuits available
from 7.15pm.

Meeting commences at 8pm.

Introduction from the Chairman

Stuart Berlyn

Guest speakers:

Councillor Hume from Essex County Highways,
Chairman of Highways and Transportation Group

Stephen Holland Director of the Danbury Sports and Social Centre



Danbury Parish Council

Danbury Parish Councillors

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Member of
Environment

Parish Council Staff

Parish Clerk

Margaret Saunders



Assistant Clerk

Elisabeth Blyth



Assistant Clerk

Maria Dyer



Groundsman

Robin Dickens



Additional Members

John Alexander

Planning



Paul Walton, Danbury Society

Planning



John Bowen, Danbury Society

Environment



Publicity Group

Max Telling (Editor), Stuart Berlyn, Elisabeth Blyth, April Chapman, Harry Clacy, Arthur Pemberton, Margaret Saunders, David Whiteing, Mike Wood.

DATES OF MEETINGS 2011

APRIL

Wednesday 6 Environment
Monday 18 Planning

EASTER 22nd – 25th April

Wednesday 27 Resources
Friday 29 Bank Holiday

MAY

Monday 2 Bank Holiday
Thursday 5 Elections
Wednesday 11 Annual Parish
Council

Monday 16 Planning
Wednesday 18 Facilities
Wednesday 25 Resources
Monday 30 Bank Holiday

JUNE

Monday 6 Planning
Wednesday 8 Environment
Wednesday 15 Facilities

Wednesday 22 Parish Council (End
of Year Accounts)

Wednesday 22 Resources
Monday 27 Planning

JULY

Wednesday 13 Facilities
Tuesday 19 Resources
Monday 25 Planning
Wednesday 27 Parish Council

AUGUST

No meetings: Council in recess
Monday 29 Bank Holiday

SEPTEMBER

Monday 5 Planning
Wednesday 7 Environment
Wednesday 14 Facilities
Tuesday 20 Resources
Wednesday 28 Parish Council

For further dates see Website.



Chairman's Comments

Welcome to this the Spring edition of your 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 Chairmen in addition to an open invitation to attend the Annual Parish Meeting being held at the Sports & Social Centre.

Parish Council elections being held in May this year brings to an end the current Council. The newly elected Council will hold its first meeting in May.

'Purdah' rules and regulations which govern the publicity near election times, means this issue is earlier and shorter than normal.

During the latter part of last year we lost the services of John Langley who moved out of the village. We thank him for his valuable contribution and wish him and his family well in their new home.

I am aware that at the election there are likely to be further retirements and the Parish Council will give an appreciation in the next issue.

Parish Council Elections

If you are interested in standing for the parish elections, please contact the Clerk who will be able to give you more information and will also explain the commitment expected.

Annual Parish Meeting

The Parish Council positively welcomes you to the annual meeting where we try hard

to answer your questions and in particular to listen to what you are telling us about your Council and your village. PLEASE DO ATTEND AND PASS ON YOUR VIEWS.

Danbury Planning Framework

It is anticipated that Danbury Planning Framework will be adopted by the Borough Council in March, following which the document will become Supplementary Planning Guidance and can be used by residents and developers considering additions or alterations to properties.

Severe weather

December brought with it the most severe weather conditions that we have experienced for a long time. This did curtail our activities somewhat and produced a number of issues for Council to consider in the future.

Parish Office

For a long time now our current premises near to the Tennis Club have been unsuitable. They are too cramped to allow our staff to do their work properly and for the Council to sit and for members of the

public to attend meetings. They are also out of the way. The Council has long been looking for more appropriate facilities in a more accessible location, not least for those with mobility difficulties. We have also been careful to bear in mind the cost of new premises.

I am pleased to be able to report that Essex County Council has offered us part of the Old School House on a rented basis. They will refurbish the premises before we move in. The new premises meet all of our requirements and 'subject to contract' the Parish Office will re-locate during April 2011.

Special Thanks

As is usual and in particular at the end of this four year period of Council I wish to formally record my thanks to everyone who has contributed to village life and to the work of your Council.

In particular I wish to thank the staff, Margaret our Clerk, Liz & Maria our Assistant Clerks and to 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.

Many thanks to you all.

Stuart Berlyn

Chairman of the Parish Council

Paula Burns 4 Children Charity

We are delighted that from April 2011 we will have a newly refurbished centre in the heart of Danbury. The Children's Centre will be in the old School House next door to the library and we will be sharing the premises with Danbury Parish Council.

4Children is the national children's charity all about children and families. 4Children works with Government, local authorities, primary care trusts, children's service providers, and children and parents to ensure joined up support for all children and young people aged 0-19 in their local community".

"From children's centres to extended schools, childcare to play provision, parenting support to support for young people – 4Children is at the forefront of delivery and supporting innovative children's services, ensuring that all children and families get the support they need in their community".

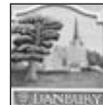
From their initial children's centre in Braintree 4Children now run 22 centres across Essex including The Sunflower and The Bumblebee Children's Centres in Chelmsford. The Bumblebee Children's Centre covers Chelmer Village, Beaulieu Park, Little Baddow, Danbury and Sandon. Since January 2010 we have been working out of an office base in Well Lane, Danbury providing activities across the reach area.

Sure Start Children's Centres were seen by the previous Government as a key vehicle for providing the services that families need. They saw Children's Centres as the first local port of call for all families with young children, providing advice and support on their child's health, development or care, or help with the challenges parents face every day in bringing up their children in the crucial early years

By working in partnership with Essex County Council and partner agencies such as local Health Visitors The Bumblebee Children's Centre will provide information, advice and support for families with young children, covering areas such as, sleeping, soothing, infant development, managing children's behaviour and safety in the home.

We are currently providing a range of activities for families such as baby massage, Music Days and Nappy Days out of Danbury Library and the Church of Our Saviour Chelmer Village but our new centre will give families of young children across the reach area an opportunity to access information, advice, support and activities in a relaxed and friendly environment.

We look forward to seeing you all in April. For more information contact Paula Burns, Centre Coordinator at paula.burns@4children.org.uk or Katie Willing at Katie.willing@4children.org.uk or give us a ring on 01245 224967



The Environment Committee Report

In a review of the last year of the Parish Council the records show that the Environment Committee has worked hard to maintain and improve the Village environment. We have kept a constant eye on the condition of the roads, helped by reports from parishioners who have complained about the potholes and other faults encountered around the village. We have alerted the Highway Authority to these problems in the expectation that something would be done to improve the situation. This has resulted, indirectly, in Main Road and Maldon Road being completely refurbished, as have Woodhill Road and Little Baddow Road. Since the refurbishment of the A414 we have continued to monitor the condition of all these roads. These roads are now in much better condition although potholes are beginning to reappear. We will continue to monitor the situation.

Two additional dog waste bins have been placed around the village so that dog walkers can put their dog waste into a convenient receptacle rather than leave it on the ground. To help you there are 'dog bags' available at the Parish Council and from the grounds man. This makes the Sports Field safer for our children to play on.

Perceived speeding problems have been addressed several times by asking the Police to carry out speed checks on our village roads. Overall, the Police say there is not a major problem and that nothing needs be done at this time. There is already a speed activated 30 MPH sign on Maldon Road as well as a speed monitoring camera.

The compilation of the Danbury Parish Footpaths map was well received. Footpaths are under continuous review by our

Footpaths Officer, who monitors their condition regularly. The material used for their repair came under discussion recently and it was decided to treat each surface according to its location. The preferred Essex County Council solution is recycled road planings, which are not suitable in all situations.

Volunteers from the Parish Council together with Parishioners and the BTCV (British Trust for Conservation Volunteers) cleared Eves Corner pond of a great deal of weed and other debris during February 2010 and again in October 2010. Runsell Green pond was also dealt with in a similar fashion. Both will continue to be maintained in an ongoing 3-year plan.

I would like to make a request that if your hedge overhangs pavements and footpaths, please keep it trimmed back. There have been a few reports from people (especially with young children or with pushchairs or wheelchairs) having to step into the road to avoid overgrown hedges.

The Parish Council continues to monitor the situation in relation to existing and potential quarries. Tyndales Farm, according to the most recent consultation by Essex County Council is not a preferred site.

The National Trust has now taken responsibility for the trees at Eves Corner under the new lease. The Parish Council is aware of the parking problem on Elm Green and is investigating how to resolve the problem.

I would like to thank you all for helping to keep our village attractive and safe for everyone.

Alan Keeler,

Chairman, Environment Committee.

The Facilities Committee Report

The ongoing issue of the resurfacing of the car parks within Dawson Memorial Field has taken a lot of time to ensure that this large project will give value for money and fulfil the many and varied requirements of the Council. The Parish Council has now agreed on a way forward and Civil Engineers have been appointed to oversee the work which we hope to complete by the summer. In the meantime the Groundsman regularly makes temporary repairs to the potholes in both car parks.

The annual tree survey has been carried out and various works identified for action.

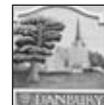
Pond clearance work has been carried out successfully at both Eves Corner and Runsell Green. A hibernaculum (habitat for newts etc) had been successfully constructed at Runsell Green and ditch works have also been completed.

To enable our Groundsman to deal with the grass on banks, a specialist mower has been purchased.

A professional building and electro-mechanical survey of the Sports and Social Centre has been undertaken and a substantial programme of work has been set in train for the next two to three years. There is also a two year programme to monitor and improve the bowling green. The replacement of fascia boards, soffits, guttering and downpipes for the Danbury Sports and Social Centre has now been authorised and a contractor has been appointed to carry out this work. Other numerous works on our buildings have been ongoing.

The hard work and dedication of our staff and committee members continues to ensure that we strive to give the best possible service to the community of Danbury.

*Harry Clacy, Chairman
Facilities Committee*



The Resources (Finance) Committee Report

As I write it is even earlier in the year than usual, and our current year does not end for more than another two months. The task of this column is to present our accounts up to 31st March 2010, history now, but apparently a legal necessity (pie chart below). From those accounts I can report that the only major purchase was a Specialist Mower costing £3,400.

You are always more interested in the future, what we will be asking you to pay next year. In the current economic climate councillors wished to make no increase, which we have achieved (this taking into account inflation could be considered a reduction). Our understanding is that Parish Councils have not been limited in the increases that they could make. You will realise that costs like electricity, fuel, stationery, repairs are still increasing, so we have to make the savings in our capital expenditure. Our Clerk has investigated other ways of purchasing of supplies with other parish councils. Fortunately the tractor repayments have now completed which gives us some flexibility. No new cost effective money can be allocated to the car park

fund, but we hope that this can be funded by a Public Works Board loan.

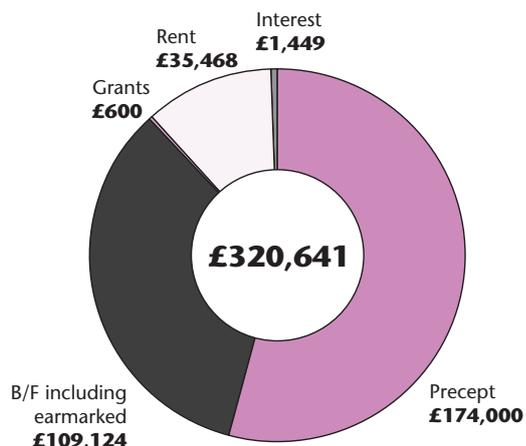
Unlike major councils such as Essex and Chelmsford, Danbury has no usable reserves. We are obliged to hold a minimum contingency reserve of £30,000 by our auditors, which can be used in an emergency, but has to be replaced in the following year. So our spending is limited to what can be raised through the precept, a spending increase in one place has to be matched by a saving elsewhere. Usually any under-spend in one year is used in the next, but last year it was put aside to assist in the moving of our Parish Office, and to boost the car park fund, which now stands at £77,000.

It is too early to know how other councils will organise their own funding. We gather that there ought to be no increases by Chelmsford Borough Council and Essex County Council, and we wait to see how other Parishes will react

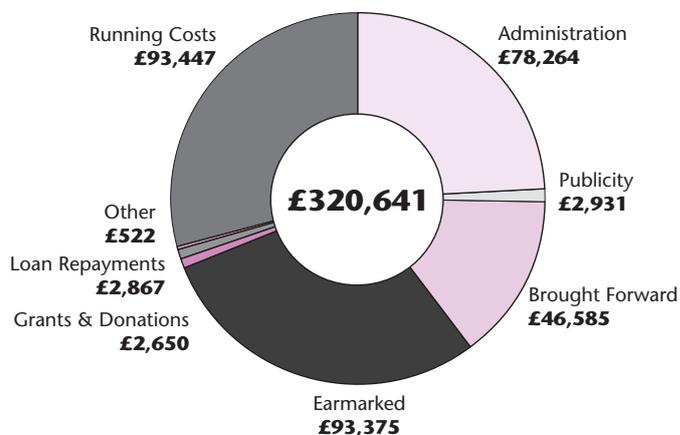
David Whiteing

Chairman of Resources Committee

Parish Council Income 2009-2010



Parish Council Expenses 2009-2010



The Planning Committee Report

The Planning Committee has eight members plus one additional member who sits in an advisory capacity. Our Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Parish Council are also ex-officio members. We have been pleased to welcome a new member Mr Paul Walton who has joined us representing the Danbury Society.

During the last year we have had an outline presentation by agents for Danbury Palace. A definitive planning application was received and considered by Danbury Parish Council Planning Committee on 31st January 2011. The application together with our comments and observations is to be considered by the Chelmsford Borough Council Planning who will make a decision in due course.

After due consideration plans for the Mission church building were accepted by Chelmsford Borough Council and demolition work

in preparation for a new more substantial building to be constructed, is now under way.

Despite objections by Danbury Parish Council, approval for the building of a five bedroom house on the land south of Shaftmoor was given by Chelmsford Borough Council on 22nd December 2010. The Parish Council did raise objections to this planning application but it has now been approved by Chelmsford Borough Council. A unilateral undertaking is required on the development. This means that the developer must contribute monies to the Borough Council for some local amenities and infrastructure. This covers local transport improvement, local open space, pre-school education, primary education, strategic infrastructure and strategic education.

(continued overleaf)



(continued from overleaf)

In the calendar year ending 31st December 2010 the Planning Committee met on 15 occasions and considered 98 applications commenting on 29 of these. 78 applications were approved by CBC, 13 refused and a further 7 were withdrawn.

Danbury Parish Council is a statutory consultee in the planning process but final decisions rests with Chelmsford Borough Council. The Borough Council hold planning seminars at the Council Offices to brief us on some of the changes in the planning regulations. There have been several articles in the press about possible forthcoming changes the government intends to make to streamline planning but formal proposals have yet to be received. Hence the existing regulations remain in place unless the Chelmsford Borough Council and Danbury Parish Council are instructed to change current practice.

There is nothing to report on the position with regard to a new Medical Centre at this time. The arrangements for the forthcoming Parish Council Elections will be outlined elsewhere in this issue.

The results of the Danbury Parish Plan Review by a team organised by Councillor Arthur Pemberton were set out at length in the centre pages of the last issue of the Danbury Times.

We are pleased to report that the revised Danbury Planning Framework which has been passing through consultation procedures is now at an advanced stage of readiness but must await approval by Chelmsford Borough Council which will not be available until after this current issue of the Danbury Times. It has entailed a considerable amount of work by our staff at the Parish Council and we have also been ably assisted by Chelmsford Borough Council who has played an important part in giving advice and assistance in the

preparation of the finalised document. We record our thanks to both.

Tree Wardens – hitherto we have had Pauline Bowen as the only tree warden for Danbury and we have been most grateful for her support over the past year. We are seeking others who are willing to act as Tree Warden on behalf of the Council. If anyone wishes to volunteer please get in touch with the Assistant Clerk Mrs Elisabeth Blyth on 01245-225111.

If you become aware of a planning application and you wish to comment you should write to the Planning Officer at Chelmsford Borough Council and supply a copy to Danbury Parish Council.

Max Telling, Chairman
Planning Committee

Heathcote School

Heathcote School at Eves Corner would like to thank the Parish Council, the Danbury community and the Friends of Heathcote School for their support over the last year. Under its new management the school is continuing to flourish and has now extended its provision to 2 year olds. Heathcote School is an integral part of the Danbury community, and having celebrated our 75th year last year we look forward to providing an outstanding education for generations to come.

For more information about our School or Nursery and availability of places, please call 01245 223131 or email: enquiries@heathcoteschool.co.uk.

Achievements of The Council over the last four years:

Work completed:

- New fencing Play area
- New gates Dawson Memorial Field
- New Seats
- New Bins
- Installation of cycle racks
- Parish Footpaths Map
- Repairs to definitive foot paths by Parish Paths Partnership
- Installation of Youth Shelter
- Installation of lighting pillar on Eves Corner for Christmas Lights
- Fencing on various locations on Dawson Memorial Field
- Phases I and II of Drainage and Car Park Project completed
- Installation of posts at Eves Corner to protect footpath
- Planting Bulbs
- Litter Picks – annually
- Repairs to Parish Council buildings
- Purchase of Tractor and Ride-On Mower
- Refurbishment of the electrical system at the Sports and Social Centre
- Rededication and refurbishment of the War Memorial
- Obtained grants to the value of £65,000 with £9350 promised for Phase III of the Drainage and Car Park Project.

- New Play equipment
- Held Extraordinary Parish Council Meetings for large planning applications for the village
- Lobbied regarding Planning Applications
- Lobbied for Reduction in Speed Limits
- Lobbied for resurfacing of roads and the refurbishment of Eves Corner

Awards received:

- Best Kept Village Competition Winner 2007 and 2008
- Best Kept Village Competition Runner Up 2009
- Essex Best Kept Village Competition Runner Up 2010
- Essex Playing Fields Best Kept Playing Field Competition Winner 2006, 2007 and 2008 Runner Up 2009 and 2010

Essex Association of Local Councils

- 3rd Place Website Competition 2009
- Website Highly commended 2010
- 1st Place Annual Report 2006
- Commended Annual Report 2007
- Commended Annual Report 2008
- Training Statement of Intent Competition 1st Place 2008

- Highly Commended Communications and Community Engagement 2008
- Reaccredited Quality Council December 2008 with higher Standard
- Power of Well Being Council 2009 - 2010
- Helped instigate and bring into being Chelmsford Parish and Town Councils Charter July 2010
- Action Plan for Village completed 2006 and revisited 2007
- Parish Plan Review complete Spring 2010
- Awaiting work to finalise the document to go to Chelmsford Borough Council on Danbury Planning Framework which will be taken into account by the Planning Inspectorate

Planned Items

- Proposed move to the Old School House Main Road Danbury in April, 2011
- Phase III of the Car Parks and Drainage Project

It would be impossible to list all the achievements of the Parish Council but this is a flavour of the projects covered.



Makeover to Danbury Sports & Social Centre



The Trustees have persuaded our gym partners to invest a substantial amount in the centre. This has transformed the look and feel of the building allowing us to compete with other local facilities. The work includes:

Fitness Suite

Complete refurbishment to include the provision of new flooring, new air conditioning units, improved ventilation, new LED lighting and redecoration throughout. In addition, the existing cardio-vascular equipment has been replaced with state of the art Technogym treadmills, X-trainers, vario-trainer, cardio-wave and bikes. A new Concept 2 rower, a single station covering a wide range of exercises, a Rotex arm machine and bar bell rack have also been installed.

Our New Gym

The pictures below show the new look!!

March Offer for Annual Membership

We are extending our offer of annual membership until the end of March. If you pay upfront for the year, you will receive two months free when compared to paying monthly. You can try out the upgraded facility until the end of March at NO COST. Just call into the centre to claim your free work-out or telephone 01245 224515 to book an appointment quoting 'Danbury Times Offer'

Reception

This area has been transformed by replacing the old dated ceiling with a new modern one with concealed lighting and LEDs. The floor now incorporates ceramic tiles which highlight the refurbished reception desk. New heating has also been

installed and the area completely redecorated.

Dawson Suite

We are proud of this new facility which now has a suspended wooden floor installed - what a difference from the old concrete floor. The defective heating has been replaced with thermostatically controlled off-peak heaters. Redecoration, new ceiling tiles, a new safety mirror and blinds make this a modern room for all activities.

Dawson Bar

Again, this area has been brought up to date with the installation of a wooden floor, a new ceiling, a new granite bar top, redecoration and new blinds. Come and see the changes over a coffee or drink at prices cheaper than you can imagine.

And Finally ...

The staircases have been recovered and new edges installed to the steps, old Fire Exit signs renewed with the modern type and automatic fire door closers fitted. This completes the comprehensive refurbishment programme.

Membership

Are you a member? If not why not?

We need your support, so pop in to see our wonderful facilities and the activities on offer - Annual membership is only £15 with reductions for students and senior citizens.

More information is available at 01245 224515 or www.danburysportscentre.co.uk.

Stephen Holland
Director





Dates for your Diary

St John Baptist Church

Summer Fayre
Saturday 25th June 2011

Refreshments Available

Annual Clean Up Day

On Saturday 18th June 2011
from 9am - 11.30am
at the Parish Office where equipment will
be available. Come along and "spring clean"
your village! If so, please contact.
Caroline Lambert. Tel: 224661

Local Elections Thursday 5th May, 2011

Are you concerned about the village you live in?

Do you want to make a difference?

Well you can. Become a Parish Councillor (15 are required for Danbury)

The Notice of Election will be published no later than Monday March 28, 2011.

Nomination papers must be received by noon on Tuesday April 5, 2011.

Only a short period to submit your nomination papers. Two electors must sign the nomination paper. These will be available from Chelmsford Borough Council Elections Office or from the Parish Council Office. The completed form has to be taken in person to the Elections Office at the Civic Centre, Chelmsford.

If you require further information please contact me.

Margaret Saunders, Parish Clerk

Danbury Players

A Musical

in June 2011

For more information please contact
the booking office on 07774 046925

Were You A

"Danbury Palace Baby"

Your chance to meet others
born there will be on
Saturday 4th June
at Danbury Church Meeting Room
Further details of this reunion from
Caroline Lambert - 224661

Danbury Society

Annual Art Exhibition

26th-28th August 2011

**Danbury & Little Baddow
Horticultural Society**

Spring / Summer Shows

9th April & 9th July 2011

Farleigh Hospice

Providing Hospice Care
in Mid-Essex

Plant Sale

Saturday 7th May 2011
Gardens Will Be Open
Sunday 12th June 2011

The Parish Office is usually open Monday to Friday from 9.15am to 1pm. It is situated between the bowling and tennis clubs. The ramp from Mayes Lane car park leads down to it.

Parish Office, Mayes Lane CM3 4NJ Tel: 225111 Fax 226798 E-mail: parish.council@danbury-essex.gov.uk.