



DATES OF MEETINGS

2013

March		
Wed 20th	8pm	Resources
Wed 27th	7.45pm	Parish Council
April		
Mon 15th	8pm	Planning
Mon 22nd		Annual Parish Meeting
Wed 24th	8pm	Resources
May		
Wed 8th	7.45pm	Parish Council
Mon 13th	8pm	Planning
Wed 15th	8pm	Facilities
Wed 22nd	8pm	Environment
Wed 29th	8pm	Resources
June		
Mon 3rd	8pm	Planning
Wed 19th	7.30pm	Accounts
	8pm	Resources
Mon 24th	8pm	Planning
July		
Wed 3rd	8pm	Environment
Wed 17th	8pm	Facilities
Wed 24th	8pm	Resources
Mon 29th	8pm	Planning
Wed 31st	7.45pm	Parish Council

DANBURY CRICKET

Your Village Needs You - New Cricketers Wanted. We have been playing cricket at Eves Corner for over 100 years, and are looking for new players to boost the club's talent resources! We would welcome players of all ability, and all ages. Our youngest is 13, while our oldest, well, some say they have been playing for over 100 years too! We have enjoyed quite a bit of success in recent seasons, achieving 3 promotions in 4 years. We now compete in Division 6 of the T.Rippon Mid Essex Cricket League on Saturdays from 1pm, and arrange friendly games pre-season and on Sundays when we have enough players.

As well as winning games, we are trying to develop our younger section. We are a family-oriented club and we always look after our younger players in games; we run regular practice sessions throughout the summer. We are also running Winter Nets on Monday nights at Ingatestone School, from 7.30pm, for those who can't wait until 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

ASH DIE BACK



Most people are aware of a disease (Chalara) damaging our native ash tree. Now Spring is here things to look for include wilted leaves (into summer too), little creamy mushrooms on leaf litter round the base of ash trees and dieback in the tops of trees. The little cup like mushroom, which also grows on the leaf stalk, then puffs out spores (usually during the summer months at dusk), and those along with spores from the original Chalara, start the process again.

In winter it is harder to spot, but infected trees do show symptoms: black leaf stalks may still be present after leaf fall, diamond shaped lesions where stems meet branches, and young stems (usually olive green) turn purplish brown.

But the disease does not always kill; some trees have been shown to survive the attack. There is much advice and many views on dealing with the problem and other useful information found at the websites below, or alternatively you can contact your local Tree Officer on 01245 606606.

Forestry Commission website forestry.gov.uk or AshTag.org website which has an update on all sited trees and an app for anyone into technology.



UPDATE ON ADVERTISEMENT SIGNS AT EVES CORNER

A meeting was held with Essex County Highways, Chelmsford City Council Enforcement officers, Danbury Parish Council and local Charities to discuss the erection of Advertising Signs on the land at Eves Corner (fronting of Dawson Memorial Field). ECC Highways (owners of the land) put forward a proposal but it put the financial onus on the Charities and the Parish Council if something went wrong as a result of erecting the signs. Parish Council was not able to accept the risk and the proposal was rejected. Parish Council supported in principle outdoor advertising

for bone fide non-commercial organisations within Danbury if they were in conformity with existing regulations. Permission would also need to be granted by the landowner. Alternative methods using Parish Council's land were suggested: new noticeboards - on Dawson Memorial Field, the old Public Convenience site or on the sides of the bus shelter All these proposals would require Planning Permission and Advertising Consent. After consideration the Parish Council felt that they were unable to help further at the current time due to the requirements of the Charities.

DANBURY

SPRING 2013

TIMES

No. 33



SEE PAGE 7



SEE PAGE 8



SEE PAGE 8

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

All Danbury Residents

are invited to attend on Monday April 22nd from 7pm at the Danbury Sports and Social Centre

to meet the Parish Councillors and staff, and visit stalls and displays by village organisations.

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available.

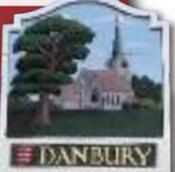
The formal meeting begins at 8pm with an introduction from the Chairman of the Parish Council, Stuart Berlyn, and then the guest speaker –

Peter Martin, Leader of Essex County Council,

who will be retiring later this year, on his experiences as a councillor and his ideas on the future for Essex.

Sue Lees will then introduce the launch of the new web site for Danbury Parish Council.

Monday April 22nd from 7pm
 at the Danbury Sports and Social Centre



COUNCILLORS

<p>Stuart Berlyn 13 Hopping Jacks Lane Danbury CM3 4PN 01245 225883 stuart.berlyn@danbury-essex.gov.uk</p>		<p>Chairman of Parish Council Ex-Officio member of all committees</p>
<p>Mike Wood 49 Hopping Jacks Lane Danbury CM3 4PJ 01245 222839 mike.wood@danbury-essex.gov.uk</p>		<p>Vice-Chairman of Parish Council Ex-Officio member of all committees</p>
<p>Arthur Allen New Rectory Farm, Southview Road Danbury CM3 4DX 01245 224707 arthur.allen@danbury-essex.gov.uk</p>		<p>Vice-Chairman of Planning, Member of Facilities and Environment</p>
<p>April Chapman 6 Southview Road Danbury CM3 4DX 01245 224791 april.chapman@danbury-essex.gov.uk</p>		<p>Vice-Chairman of Environment, Member of Planning</p>
<p>Chris Jacobs 1 Millfields Danbury CM3 4LE 01245222162 chris.jacobs@danbury-essex.gov.uk</p>		<p>Member of Environment and Facilities</p>
<p>Sarah-Jane Court 14 The Avenue Danbury CM3 4QN 01245 227604 sarahjane.court@danbury-essex.gov.uk</p>		<p>Vice-Chairman of Facilities</p>
<p>Alan Keeler Hazelbank, Fitzwalter Lane Danbury CM3 4DZ 01245 222329 alan.keeler@danbury-essex.gov.uk</p>		<p>Chairman of Environment, Member of Planning and Resources</p>
<p>Brian Kennewell 82 Maldon Road Danbury CM3 4QW 01245 226476 brian.kennewell@danbury-essex.gov.uk</p>		<p>Chairman of Resources, Member of Facilities</p>
<p>Arthur Pemberton 21 Barley Mead Danbury CM3 4RP 01245 224343 arthur.pemberton@danbury-essex.gov.uk</p>		<p>Chairman of Facilities, Member of Resources</p>
<p>Bill Scaife 3 Simmonds Way Danbury CM3 4PT 01245 226119 bill.scaife@danbury-essex.gov.uk</p>		<p>Vice-Chairman of Resources, Member of Facilities and Environment</p>
<p>John Scott 21 Mildmays Danbury CM3 4DP 01245 222673 john.scott@danbury-essex.gov.uk</p>		<p>Member of Resources and Planning</p>
<p>Max Telling Colne Lodge, 42 Peartree Lane Danbury CM3 4LS 01245 226037 max.telling@danbury-essex.gov.uk</p>		<p>Chairman of Planning, Member of Facilities</p>

John Thomson
3 Hyde Lane
Danbury CM3 4QX
01245 222935
john.thomson@danbury-essex.gov.uk



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

LAUNCH OF NEW WEBSITE

Danbury Parish Council's new website will be launched at the Annual Parish Meeting in the Danbury Sports and Social Centre. It has lots of regularly updated information and links to other sites such as Neighbourhood Watch.

DO COME TO THE MEETING TO FIND OUT MORE

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

Welcome to this the spring edition of your Danbury Times, which is also the Parish Council's Annual Report.

Annual Parish Meeting

Parish Council positively welcomes you to the annual meeting where we try hard to respond to your questions and in particular to listen to and hear what it is you are telling us about your council and your village. Do please attend and pass on your views.

Councillor Changes

David Bolwell has decided to leave the council and I would like to thank him for all his hard work for the village and in particular in the role of 'Parish Footpaths Officer' Thank you David.

Peter Martin our long serving County Councillor and Leader of Essex County Council has decided not to stand again in the May County Council elections to spend more time with his family. I thank him for his help and support to the village and to Parish Council – Thank you Peter, have a long and happy retirement.

Tyndales Farm

The county's Minerals Plan has now been published and is subject to a final examination in public during this year. At present Tyndales Farm does not appear in their preferred sites list.

Council Tax

You may have already read that central government changes to the council tax system have resulted in Chelmsford City Council now taking responsibility for Council Tax Benefit. Further details can be found elsewhere in the newsletter.

Medical Centre

At our Planning meeting in December, 'Ashley House', a development company specialising in the construction of G.P. Medical Centres, presented revised plans for a new medical centre next to the Mission.

Their draft plans showed a smaller medical centre (phase 1) plus two additional buildings (phase 2). These raised a number of questions. During the meeting I asked if phase 1 was dependent on phase 2 and was told 'no', the medical centre would be built regardless.

I also attended a presentation they made to a number of residents at a meeting in January at the Mission. During this meeting and in answer to a question from a member of the public the Ashley House Chief Executive Officer, who had not been at the Planning meeting, stated that phase 1 was dependent on some or all of phase 2.

Until such time as the final detailed plans are submitted to the City Council for consideration, Parish Council is unable to comment formally. However, when plans are received for consultation we will again hold a full extraordinary Parish Council meeting to allow the village to ask questions and make comments. We will then make our views known publicly and these will be forwarded to the City Council which makes the final decision, for their consideration.

We will notify every property in the village in good time for you to attend the meeting and to tell us what you think.

Special Thanks

As is usual 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, 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



HOW DO YOU RECEIVE YOUR DANBURY TIMES?

These are delivered by volunteers including councillors. Some have had to stop helping for various reasons, while others have very long routes to cover.

WE NEED HELP!

If you would be willing to help, perhaps by delivering to the other people in your road, please contact the Parish Office.

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

The Environment Committee met regularly throughout the last year although one meeting was cancelled and another re-scheduled, due to bad weather.

Traffic

Some topics discussed by the committee include the Pedestrian Crossing on the A414 by Danbury Park School, west of the mini roundabout at Well Lane. It was reported on several occasions that school children and others have been put at risk when cars have not stopped to let them cross. The main problem seems to be vehicles coming down the hill and not allowing enough time to stop safely. The road markings have now been repainted and visibility of the signage has been improved.

There have been complaints about the parking of cars along Well Lane. Drivers from the mini-roundabout have to negotiate a bend on the wrong side of the road. So far no solution has been found. Any suggestions will be seriously considered.

Data received from Department of Transport and Essex County Council has shown that traffic volume on the A414 has declined over the last 2 years. Whilst this may be true, there is a perception that lorry traffic has significantly increased. The data does not specify differences between private and commercial vehicle movements.

A Public notice has been received concerning a proposed 40MPH speed limit on the B1418, White Elm Rd., to the Oak roundabout. This could well be in place by the time you receive this newsletter!

Various other highway matters are being pursued with the ECC Highways Dept., such as uneven and broken footways in Hopping Jacks Lane and Mayes Lane. We are also pressing for improvements to footways in Penny Royal Road.

Environmental

There has been considerable discussion about cycling on our network of Public Footpaths. The Parish Office is liaising with landowners to seek permission to put "No cycling" signs on finger posts. Several have already been affixed.

Trees are being felled in Moores Bridge Lane due to Essex & Suffolk Water needing to install a duplicate pipeline. The contractor carried out work to clear a working strip along the route. Also in the same area UK Power Networks are cutting back and removing trees that interfere with the overhead power lines. Maps and further information are available from the Parish Office.

Bulb planting has been carried out, with the co-operation of the Neighbourhood Environmental Action Team (NEAT), on the verge at the junction of Gay Bowers Lane and Copt Hill. A thousand bulbs were planted by members of the Parish Council, public volunteers and N.E.A.T.

The annual Litter Pick is on Saturday 20th April, 9.30 to 11.30. Meet at the Parish Office to collect equipment. All volunteers will be very welcome. Some people have pickers and clear rubbish in their areas all year round. **Thank you to all volunteers who have helped with environmental projects.**

ALAN KEELER CHAIRMAN OF ENVIRONMENT

FACILITIES COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT.

As Danbury has lots of amenities on offer, a big slice of the annual budget is administered by this committee.

The Sports and Social Centre

This year, we finally solved a long term problem with a persistent but intermittent leak at the back of the building near to the entrance to the snooker room. It involved re-building the area and re-locating the emergency escape. Electrical work was also undertaken to rationalise and improve the emergency lighting. Outside on the car park, the lighting bollards which had been stolen were replaced with units which are much harder to remove! All this was in addition to the ongoing maintenance that the Parish Council must undertake as owners of the building.

The Bowling Green

Our commitment is to provide a green that meets county standards and with this in mind the green received fairly major surgery this year as a long strip along one edge had sagged and become unusable.



The Cricket Wicket

The wicket had become too unpredictable in use. Remedial work was undertaken before the 2012 season and the improvement was immediate. (see article page 8).

The Childrens Play Area

Annual safety checks are carried out and work is always put in hand immediately. Additionally, this year new pieces of equipment were provided.



The Ponds

We try to meet the challenge with our two ponds to find the balance between providing an aesthetic and enjoyable amenity for the public, and an ecologically self-sustaining environment for wildlife. Maintenance was once again performed with these two aims in mind.

Equipment

We are responsible for several green areas, not only the 11.5 acres of Dawson Memorial Field. To meet new vibration regulations this year, Robin, our groundsman, needed a ride-on mower and trailer plus a new hedgetrimmer.

The Road Salt Scheme

Because of fantastic support from village volunteers we were able to expand this scheme. In the recent inclement weather it worked very well. Thank you again to all who take the trouble to get involved.

ARTHUR PEMBERTON CHAIRMAN OF FACILITIES

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

In January 2012 the Chelmer Housing Partnership submitted a formal application to demolish Olletts and build eight two bedroomed affordable houses. This has been approved.

Chelmsford City Council's (CCC) site allocation Development Plan was adopted February 2012 without change to the defined settlement of Danbury. On 20th February the Committee considered an application for a wind turbine at Paternoster Farm, Sporhams Lane. Ten members of the public attended to register 11 different objections to this proposal. These included that it was in conflict with CCC Core Strategy and Danbury Planning Framework policies. An

ecological survey was completed in July and Parish Council raised objections as the wider area did not seem to have been considered. On 24th July CCC unanimously rejected the application. The applicant has appealed and Parish Council registered further objections to the Planning Inspectorate. The Planning Inspector has visited the site and the outcome is awaited.

In October a Planning Officer from CCC attended a meeting of the Planning Committee as part of their programme of visiting Parish Councils. Their aim is to familiarise themselves with Parish Planning meetings and to offer professional advice if needed. Mr Ben Oates, a resident who is qualified to

carry out tree work, and volunteers for the National Trust, offered his services as a Tree Warden and was formally adopted for this post on 19th November. The Planning Committee expressed their thanks. A further member of the public has since also expressed interest in volunteering. We would like to record our thanks to Mrs Pauline Bowen who filled post of Tree Warden for a considerable period and has now retired.

In the calendar year ending 31st December 2012 the Planning Committee met on 15 occasions and considered 99 applications, commenting on 23 of these; 5 were refused and 2 were withdrawn; the remainder were approved by CCC.

You will have read in the Chairman's Report about the application for the new Medical Centre. Look out for details of Parish Council's meeting on this and do try to attend.

MAX TELLING CHAIRMAN OF PLANNING

COUNCIL TAX and the PRECEPT 2013-14

The precept is the sum the Parish Council needs to collect from households in the parish to run its activities for the year.

Current System 2012-13

- Parish Council sets its budget for the next financial year.
- Parish Council then, based on the budget, decides the amount of precept to run the Council for the next financial year, taking into account income received.
- Chelmsford City Council spreads this precept between all households in the village and passes the monies on to the Parish Council.

New System 2013-14

- Central Government has devolved Council Tax Support payments to the Principal Authority i.e. Chelmsford City Council.

- Therefore Chelmsford City Council has to recalculate the Council Tax base to reflect the number of households receiving Local Council Tax Support.
- Chelmsford City Council receives a grant from Government which does not cover the amount of Council Tax Support payments.
- As a result, a proportion of the shortfall has been allocated to parishes relative to the number of people in each parish receiving Council Tax Support.

Parish Council only required a 1.9% increase in its precept but Central Government revisions have resulted in a higher increase in the parish precept proportion of the Council Tax (3.2% or £2.43 per annum on a Band D property) being charged.

RESOURCES (FINANCE) COMMITTEE REPORT

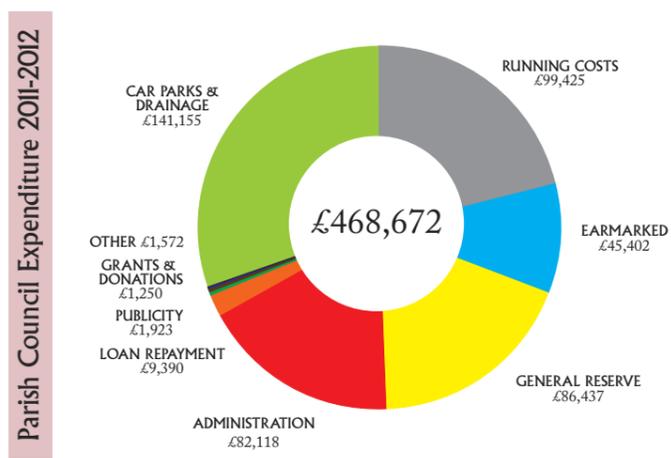
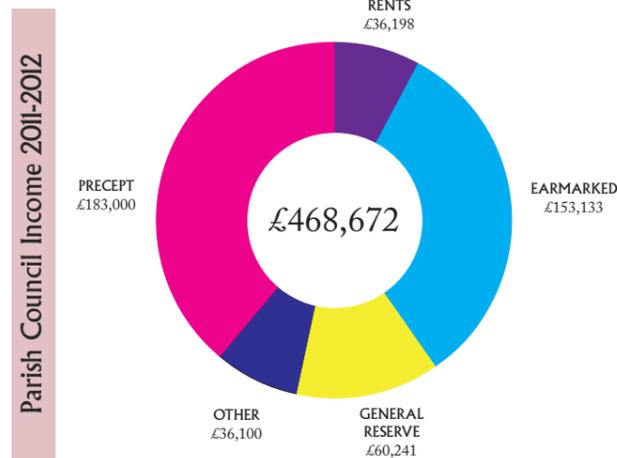
The pie charts below set out the Parish Council's income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2012. On the income side the major change has been the increased grants received during this period. These relate primarily to the work carried out on the car parks and include £23,350 grant from the Essex County Council Community Initiatives Fund and £1,000 from the Danbury Society. In addition some £9,578 of Section 106 monies received from Chelmsford City Council were allocated to the car park project.

Clearly the major item of expenditure during 2011-12 was the £141,155 devoted to the car parks and drainage project. This project included not only the drainage and resurfacing

of the car parks but also the installation of lighting on the Main Road car park, the height restriction barriers and improvements to the footpath to the Bowling and Tennis Clubs.

In the forthcoming financial year 2013-2014 we have had to accept a small increase in the precept from £183,000 to £186,450, an increase of 1.9%. It is disappointing that an increase is necessary but after three years where the precept has remained constant the committee found that they were faced with increased costs (including inflation) which could not be financed by savings elsewhere and accordingly accepted the need for a small increase in precept.

BRIAN KENNEWELL CHAIRMAN OF RESOURCES



DANBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Grants Received 2012-2013

- £200.00 from Danbury Society for the Christmas Lights
- £1000.00 towards equipment in the Children's Play Area from Essex County Council Community Initiatives Fund
- £1265.17 Planning Contributions via Chelmsford City Council

Work Completed (not mentioned previously)

- Installation two pieces of equipment in the Children's Play Area
- Christmas Tree installation
- Play in the Park days for children on Dawson Memorial Field
- Taking part in the Essex County Council Winter Salt Scheme
- Monitoring Tyndale's Farm Minerals Application
- Strategic Plan for the Parish Council compiled
- Visiting the local schools to explain the remit of the Parish Council
- Extension of the lease for the Parish Office in the Old School House to 25 years
- Transfer of land where the toilet block stood, back to the Parish Council
- The Clerk passed an additional module of the Cilca to cover the Power of Competence
- The Groundsman obtained 100% in his tractor refresher course

- The Beacon was lit as part of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations in June
- Essex Association of Local Councils' Winner of the Communications Award - £500 voucher for Monster Play Equipment

Awards Received

- Essex Association of Local Councils' Winner of the Annual Report Category
- Essex Association of Local Councils' Winner of the Web Site Award - £300.00
- Essex Playing Fields Certificate of Merit for Cricket Field
- Essex Playing Fields Certificate of Merit for the Best Kept Football Pitch - Gold Award
- Essex Playing Fields Certificate of Merit for Children's Play Area
- Essex Playing Field Certificate of Merit for the Playing Fields - Silver Award

Planned Items

- Repair of the steps and/or installation of a ramp from the top car park to the rear of the Sports and Social Centre; designs are being sought at the current time
- The British Legion Building is now called the Small Meeting Room, and this is being let through the Sports and Social Centre for a trial period until July, to see if there is any uptake. Please contact the Centre on 01245 224515.

JAPANESE KNOTWEED



This plant has caused problems in several areas of the country. It was reported to the Parish Council to be in two areas of Danbury last year.

Chelmsford's high temperature composting systems eradicate it. It has to be destroyed by specialist methods. Do contact experts to remove it - by spraying during its growing period and the removal of contaminated soil. Spreading it beyond your property is illegal according to the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981.

The problem is that it not only takes over in gardens from existing plants, it also spreads very quickly underground putting shoots through tarmac, paving and walls. Its seeds are not thought viable in this country but it spreads from even the tiniest of pieces of stem.

Chelmsford City Council is consulting on one area where it is spreading over the verge towards the road.

It is not a notifiable plant, but Biological Records in Essex is keeping a record of its spread, and can be contacted on 01621 862999 or on Brie@essexwt.org.uk.

If you find it on your property, please do not try to remove it yourself because some will almost certainly be left to flourish later, and putting it in the brown bins does not mean that even

Try looking at Cornwall's experience of this weed on www.cornwall.gov.uk/default.aspx?page13789, then Trees, Plants and Landscape to Invasive Plants.