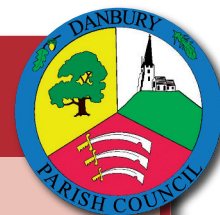
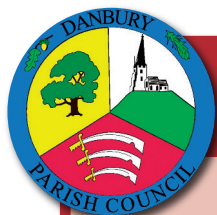


DANBURY

SPRING 2019

TIMES

No. 51



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

ALL DANBURY RESIDENTS

**are invited to attend on Monday 20th May in the Sports Hall
at the Danbury Sports and Social Centre at 8pm.**

Tea, coffee and soft drinks 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.

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

**The Director of Public Health will speak about the Essex County Council's Health and
Wellbeing initiative.**

**Representatives from Barkers GeoTech will give an explanation of solutions for dealing with
the land slippage, and of the decisions taken by Parish Council.**

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

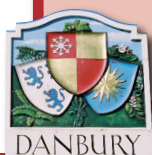
PARISH PARISH COUNCIL COUNCIL COUNCIL ELECTIONS ELECTIONS ELECTIONS 2ND MAY MAY 2019

Danbury Parish Council is calling on residents who are passionate about their community to stand for election in the May 2019 Parish Council Election. Local Councillors are the champions of their community who can make a real difference

- By engaging with residents
- Having a say about local issues
- Influencing how local services are provided
- Taking part in decisions about how local money is spent to improve the community

For information about being a Danbury Parish Councillor and to check the eligibility criteria, contact
Danbury Parish Council, The Old School House, Danbury CM3 4NQ
Tel: 01245 225111 Email: parish.council@danbury-essex.gov.uk

Further information and Nomination Packs can also be obtained from Chelmsford City Council
Electoral Services <https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/voting-and-elections/stand-for-election/>
Tel: 01245 606449



DANBURY PARISH COUNCIL

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Parish Council**

Ex-Officio member
of all committees

April Chapman

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**Vice-Chairman of
Parish Council**

Ex-Officio member
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Chairman of
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Member of
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Member of
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Planning,
Member of
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Vice Chairman of
Planning, Member of
Environment &
Resources

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS

John Alexander

Planning

Roger Cole-Jones

Danbury Society



Planning

PARISH COUNCIL STAFF

Michelle Harper

Parish Clerk

Maria Dyer

Assistant Clerk

Lesley Mitchelmore

Assistant Clerk.
Neighbourhood
Plan Co-ordinator

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

E-mail: parish.council@danbury-essex.gov.uk

Website: www.danbury-essex.gov.uk

Like us on Facebook 

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Welcome to the 2019 Annual Report, which is earlier than usual due to Parish Council elections in May and the need to comply with Purdah requirements.

At our January 2019 full Parish Council meeting we had the pleasure of several visitors and presentations:

Hopefully you all saw the 'Tommie' on Eves Corner in memory of the 100th anniversary of the end of World War 1. Mandy Hessing who researched and found ours, presented a cheque on behalf of the village to Sean Morgan, who we thank for very kindly making our 'Tommie', for onward transmission to the Pilgrim Bandits, his nominated charity.

We also had a presentation by Dr. Caroline Dollery from the Medical Centre on their work around Health and Wellbeing. Your council has established a working group with a view to how we can support this worthwhile work within the village; we have also had advice and support from Essex County Council. The work is in the early stages and it is hoped that with help from members and partners we can improve the lives of residents.



Special Constables

Parish Council has set aside funds to assist Essex Police recruit special constables from within our community with a view that they will be based and work within the village. We only have to fund their expenses, estimated to be around £1000 per year, and have allocated up to £4000 with a view to recruiting four of them. If you would like to know more please visit the council's website where you will find more details and how to apply.

Council Movements

During the year we have lost Dan Carlin who I would like to thank for his hard work, particularly on the Planning Committee and on the Neighbourhood Plan steering group – thanks Dan. Recently we co-opted Dan Chesterman who is slowly finding his feet – welcome Dan.

Highway Devolution

Essex County Council Highways consulted with local councils about the devolution of minor highways works to us if we wished to take them on. Following receipt of detailed proposals it was decided not to accept their offer as in our opinion insufficient funds were being made available, which would have resulted in either pressures on our budgets or in poor quality of service which we were not prepared to accept.

Land Slippage

Lots of hard work is continuing behind the scenes to resolve the problems and it is anticipated that professional recommendations will be received for Council to consider around the end of February/early March – we will keep you informed.

Danbury Library

As you are aware our library is at risk of closure by Essex County Council. There was a meeting held at Danbury Mission with County Councillor John Spence – thank you all for coming and also for the volunteers who have subsequently expressed an interest in helping try to keep a library open here. Following consultations with several interested parties the council has submitted an Expression of Interest on behalf of the village offering a range of options for consideration. It is our intention with partners and the village to do all that we can to keep the library as we know it; however, the outcome will depend on Essex County Council's decisions following the closure of the consultation on the 19th February.

Continued on next page

Chairman's Report Continued

Duck House Have you seen the new duck house on Eves Corner pond? If not you must visit and have a look. **It must be the best duck house in the country.**

Many thanks to Bakers of Danbury whose resident carpenter has made it and they have donated it to the village as part of their celebrations of 140 years of business in the village. They often take their lunch break sitting on the seats and watching the ducks.

Finally my thanks to all members, staff and volunteers that have contributed so much to our village and its community during the last year; without you we would not be able to achieve as much as we do.

Stuart Berlyn
Chairman



PLANNING REPORT

In the year from April 2018 to December 2018 the Committee met 11 times and considered 47 planning applications and 31 tree applications. Of the planning applications the Committee objected to 11; of these Chelmsford City Council approved 8. The Committee commented on a further 18 applications. Of the tree applications the Committee objected to 8 applications of which Chelmsford City Council approved 4.

Chelmsford City Council was due to hold a public enquiry into a Compulsory Purchase Order on Wickham House, however as planning had by then been granted, the Public Enquiry was cancelled. The situation will be monitored to ensure that the building is brought back into use.

The planning application for development of the Bell Pub carpark and garden was referred to our Chelmsford City Councillor and was heard by the Planning Committee at Chelmsford on 15 January 2019. Despite representation from the Parish Council and residents the application was approved with several conditions attached.

The Committee would like to thank the Tree Wardens for their invaluable input and assistance.

Max Telling

DANBURY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN OUR PARISH, OUR FUTURE

During the last year, the Danbury Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group developed and issued the second Danbury Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire to test the draft Visions and Objectives, as well as the suitability of a number of sites that were submitted for consideration to accommodate the 100 homes that have been allocated to Danbury through the emerging Chelmsford City Council Local Plan. In addition, residents were asked for their views on other land use and planning related issues.

More than 990 Danbury Residents completed the Questionnaire between August and September last year. The results were analysed and an exhibition, attended by around 160 people, was held in December 2018 to provide residents with a summary of the results.

The Steering Group is now working to produce draft policies for the plan based on the views of residents expressed in the two questionnaires, and on additional research. The Group is also assessing sites submitted for consideration under the plan and were awarded Technical Support for Site Options and Assessment through the Grant Funding Body, which will enable an independent assessment of sites.

It is anticipated that the draft plan will be presented to the Full Parish Council in the Spring of 2019 for agreement to progress to a consultation with residents.

Information from the exhibition is available for viewing at the Danbury Neighbourhood Plan

Website: <http://www.danburyneighbourhoodplan.com/>

ENVIRONMENT REPORT

The Environment Committee has met so far 5 times since April 1st and the start of the year.

Highways

Parish Council has no direct powers over Highways but we forward complaints to Essex County Council (ECC). ECC found the underlying concrete surface to West Belvedere and Belvedere Road sound so there are no plans to resurface at present. After a traffic survey showed speed limits along Woodhill Road were largely adhered to, there would be no reduction in the present limits. Improvements to the traffic warning signs on the Bicknacre Road promised in June 2018 have still not been implemented despite several reminders. A speed check at Frettons corner on the A414 showed a reduction in average speeds since 2014 so no speed reduction would be made. Decisions are awaited from the Local Highways Panel on the 3 Potential Schemes and 3 Approved Schemes, both for 2018/9.

Bus Transportation

Bus shelters are being repaired and refurbished. The Passenger Transport Representative reports wide dissatisfaction with bus delays, especially the 31. ECC's Bus Transportation Consultation has been returned by this committee and individuals are urged to answer it by March 22nd; the consultation letter is available at the local library or by phone: 0345 743 0430 or on-line at: www.essex.gov.uk/local-bus-consultation.

Public Footpaths

Our 2 footpath officers continue to monitor and report issues - often damaged/missing fingerposts or footpaths ploughed over and planted. A meeting with ECC's Public Rights of Way Officer about the Parish Paths Partnership (P3) was encouraging and may well enable Parish Council and village volunteers to have training and resources to effect some repairs to signs and bridges.

Living Landscapes

The Diocese of Chelmsford has decided that they wish Griffin Meadow to remain under its present regime (mowed under lease by Danbury Parish Council), so no wildflower meadow is possible. We await a response explaining the decision from the Diocese's agents.

Forms and information on the annual butterfly survey are available in the Parish Office.

Eves Corner Pond

Work was completed by The Conservation Volunteers, villagers and councillors to remove weeds and some reeds. Clearing the road drainage on which the pond relies was partly completed by Highways after their surfacing work had part-covered the drains.

Danbury Country Park

This has been put on the at-risk register by Natural England over areas such as the ice house and the ha-ha. Environment representatives will join the Danbury Park Forum on April 4th which will explain this and other matters.

Trees

The Tree Charter has been signed by this committee in support of 10 principles designed to protect trees, explain their importance, encourage more planting and involve people in tree activities. Some activities are planned by volunteers such as woodland walks and a tree dressing day; more information later.

Biodiversity

The Government's wish via DEFRA to have a nationally mandatory system of assessing the value of the biodiversity of potential development sites aimed at smoothing out applications to develop, caused the committee concern, particularly over the mitigation methods proposed. The consultation has been filled in and returned.

April Chapman

FACILITIES REPORT 2018-2019

Maintenance continued around the buildings on Dawson's Field with the fire escape stairs at the Sports and Social Centre and the tractor garage doors at the Groundsman's workshop being amongst the items receiving attention.

Following damage to the lower car park barrier improved security is being installed.

The upper car park barrier has also had further damage caused by an unknown vehicle. Another claim on our insurance resulted.

Due to the severe weather on March 18 extensive water damage occurred to the Bowling Clubhouse; yet another insurance claim resulted.

Meetings occurred with the Bowling, Cricket, and Tennis Clubs and the Danbury Community Association throughout the year.

It is hoped that by the end of March there will be a temporary path from the rear of the playing field below the Sports and Social Centre to the Tennis Club, for which lighting has already been provided.

The Danbury footpath maps continue to be popular and due to 'wear and tear' on some of the dispensing boxes a number had to be replaced.

Thanks go to the volunteers who helped with various matters during the year including the Elm Green protective fencing for November 5th, and the Christmas Tree protections.

The work put in by our Groundsman, Robin Dickens, to the playing fields was recognised at the Essex Playing Fields Competition 2018 when the Council was awarded 2 x Gold and 2 x Silver certificates for the football pitches, a Gold certificate for the playing field/children's play area and a merit award for the cricket square. Congratulations to Robin for his hard work resulting in these awards.

After a successful Play in the Park during the summer holiday period a further 3 sessions are planned for 2019.

Eves Corner and Runsell Green ponds were cleared by The Conservation Volunteers over a number of days in October.

The Elm Green War Memorial was cleaned during the year. A rededication of the memorial was carried out by the Vicar of St John's Church, Jaqui Jones, at the Remembrance Day Service. Over 200 people attended this moving commemoration service. Co-op Funeral Services very kindly provided refreshments. The war memorial has now been designated as Grade II Listed for its historical and archaeological significance.

The Christmas Tree was looking good again this year.

Many thanks to Bakers of Danbury who sourced, delivered and helped our Groundsman erect the tree., and to Danbury Society who donated £200 towards expenses. Our members were involved in installing the lights, fencing and security measures.

John Steel

RESOURCES REPORT 2017-2018

The attached charts provide an analysis of the Parish Council accounts for the financial year ending 31st March 2018 as ratified by the external auditor. At 31st March 2018 the Council's reserve figure stood at £257,364, including £122,075 earmarked moneys to be spent on specified projects.

Excluding pre-existing reserves, total income is reported as £298,566 – an increase of £63,590 compared to 2016-2017. The main driver behind this increase was a one-off grant of £53,592 ring fenced for drainage work that the Parish Council project-managed. There were no further grants awarded under the Local Council Tax Support Scheme that has now ceased. The precept, as our primary source of income, was £196,596 – a slight increase on previous years. Rental income from Council-owned facilities was £36,806, broadly flat when compared to historic volumes.

Total direct expenses for 2017-2018 (excluding transfers to reserves) was £254,776. This includes the initial payment of £26,769 of the contractor fees in relation to the drainage work referenced above with the balancing payment paid in the next financial year. In terms of other major expenditure, the Parish Council also funded essential maintenance work to the Sports & Social Centre roof amounting to £10,000. The Neighbourhood Plan remained a strategic priority for the community and the Parish Council continued to fund the Neighbourhood Plan Co-ordinator for the full year. The remaining surplus was transferred into reserves, primarily

earmarked for future expenditure on the land slippage project referenced below and to provision for ring fenced grants in relation to the drainage project.

2018-2019

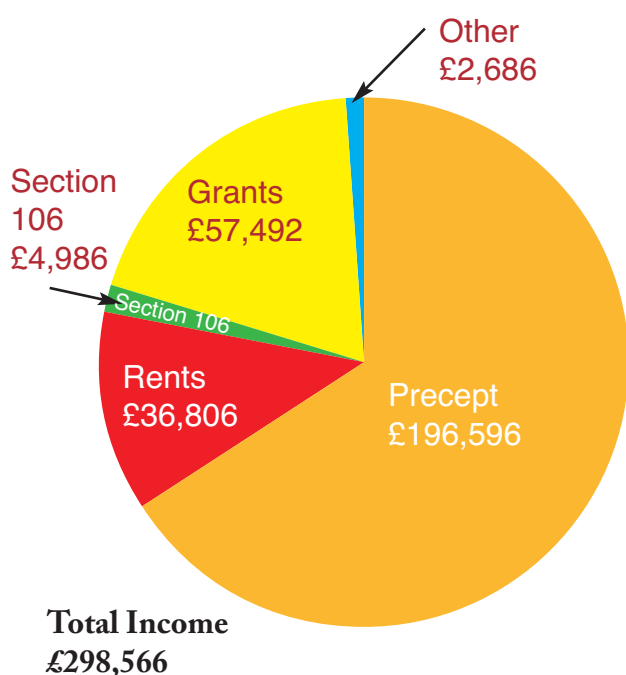
Accounts for 2018-2019 will be signed off by the external auditor in September this year. As per previous communications, the major challenge for the Parish Council continues to be addressing the land slippage South of the Mayes Lane carpark. At the time of writing, the final solutions and costs are still being assessed but are believed to be significant. The Parish Council have re-assessed current spending priorities, and made provision for a total of £97,095 to be allocated for the project out of existing general and earmarked reserves and budgets. Further balancing costs are expected to be funded through the Public Works Board Loan and not by a one-off precept increase.

2019-2020

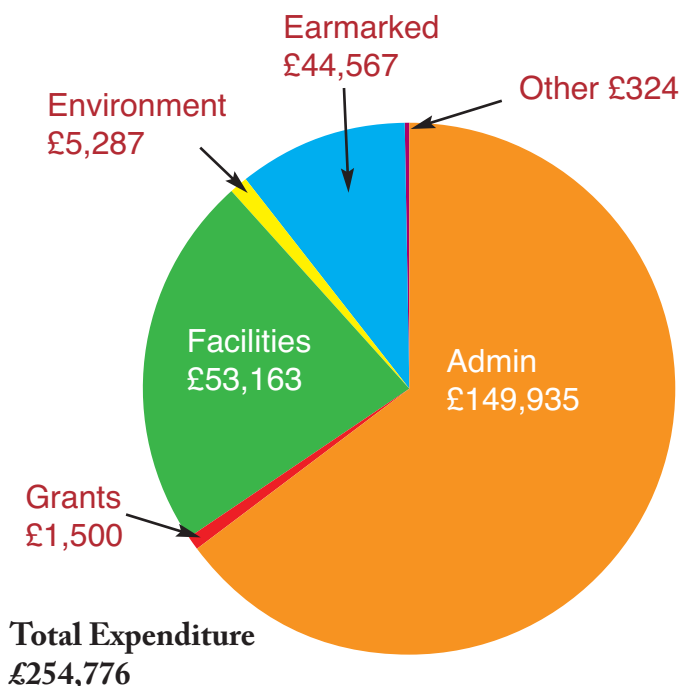
The budget for 2019-2020 has been assessed, and the Parish Council have been able to set the precept at £205,156. For Danbury residents, this will equate to an annual Band D contribution of £85.01 – a small reduction compared to 2018-2019.


Paul Sutton

Income



Expenditure





**MY COMMUNITY
MY OPPORTUNITY
MY OTHER LIFE**

ESSEX POLICE
Protecting and serving Essex

**SPECIAL CONSTABULARY
NOW RECRUITING
DANBURY**

My Other Life

#MyOtherLife

If you want to make a real difference in your town then volunteer as a Community Special Constable and play a part in keeping your neighbourhood safe.

Danbury are supporting Essex Police to increase local and visible policing in their area.

Visit www.essex.police.uk/Specials/Danbury to find out more

DATES OF MEETINGS

MARCH 2019

Mon 18th *Environment*
Weds 20th *Resources*
Mon 25th *Planning*
Weds 27th *Parish Council*

APRIL

Mon 15th *Planning*
Wed 17th *Resources*

MAY

Mon 2nd **ELECTIONS**
Wed 8th *Annual Parish Council*
Mon 13th *Planning*
Wed 15th *Environment*

All meetings begin at 7.30pm

MAY continued

Mon 20th **ANNUAL
PARISH
MEETING**
Wed 22nd *Facilities*
Wed 29th *Resources*

JUNE

Mon 4th *Accounts, then
Planning*
Mon 24th *Planning*
Wed 26th *Resources*

JULY

Mon 8th *Planning*
Wed 17th *Facilities*
Mon 22nd *Environment*
Wed 24th *Resources*
Mon 29th *Planning*
Weds 31st *Parish Council*

Danbury Sports & Social Centre - 30th Anniversary

It is 30 years since the Sports & Social Centre (formerly known as the Community Centre) was officially opened on 30th April 1989 by Trevor Brooking and Cllr Philip Firth the Mayor of Chelmsford. The Dawson family, in the 1940s, donated all the land known as Dawson Field to the residents of Danbury.

Residents agreed that a community centre should be built, and loans were raised to pay for the construction. These have now been repaid and the centre is managed on behalf of the Parish Council by the Danbury Community Association (Trust) Limited which has charitable status. The Trustees are volunteers and all profit is invested in the facilities of the centre. Day to day operations are undertaken by Adrian and his loyal staff.

Fitness Centre – with our gym partners, Lifestyle Fitness, we are celebrating our anniversary by refurbishing the gym and purchasing new equipment. Please visit the Gym to see what has been done.

Monthly Farmers' Market – a re-launch is planned for Saturday 6th April with many new stalls and quality products available. Stall-holders are committing to 6 months' attendance, but its success is very much in your hands so, please come along between 9:30 and 12:30 to support us (see advert below).

Activities – we offer a wide range of activities for adults and juniors. Look at our web site www.danburysportscentre.co.uk, contact us on 01245 224515 or better still come to visit us. If you are not familiar with the centre you will be impressed!

Stephen Holland
Secretary

DANBURY SPORTS CENTRE THE BIG RELAUNCH OF YOUR LOCAL MARKET!

A GROUP OF LOCAL
PRODUCERS HAVE COME
TOGETHER TO GIVE
DANBURY THE MARKET
IT DESERVES
...SO PLEASE COME
ALONG AND SUPPORT IT!
RELAUNCH ON
SATURDAY 6TH
APRIL 9.30 - 12.30PM
MARKETS EVERY FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH
Danbury Sports Centre, Main Road, Danbury. CM3 4NQ

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ESSENTIAL.