



PROMOTING LOCAL DEMOCRACY AND CITIZENSHIP

Parish Council – Local Democracy and Schools

Parish Council visits local schools to promote local democracy. A group of Parish Councillors have given a presentation on the subject to Year 6 children. Please see attached for the presentation.

The schools regularly complete litter picks of the village in their own local areas in the spring.

Advertising

The Parish Council advertises through Notice-boards, Library, Danbury Times, Web Page and local magazines for vacancies on the Parish Council and maintained a full membership of 100% at the last election.

Neighbourhood Action Panel

The Parish Council is an active member of this group. There is a representative from the young people of the village on this panel. The Council has listened to the views via a poll of the young people of Danbury using questionnaires to ascertain whether they would like a youth shelter for Danbury. The young people submitted a grant application and obtained £5000 for the shelter. The Parish Council has submitted a planning application for the shelter as the land where the shelter is being situated is in a Conservation Area on the local playing field. The youth shelter to be installed has been chosen with advice from the local police, a representative of the young people visited the Parish Council and met the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council.

Over Sixties Group

The Parish Council offered advice to the over sixties who were having transport difficulties in attending meetings. Advice was also offered on speakers and access information for the group. The group were linked with the Danbury Community Bus which now operates a service to and from their meetings which are held once a fortnight on a Thursday. The Parish Council supports the Community Bus via a grant system.

Youth Club

The Parish Council continues to investigate methods to reach the young people of the village. Research was completed into a youth council but without a local senior school within the parish council boundary it was difficult to find 11 – 18 year olds to participate. One of the parish councillors visited the youth club which met regularly on Thursday evenings having such items as a Wii, computer games and table tennis and also went on outings. The club has remained in place for a period of three years but unfortunately this winter it has closed. The Parish Council together with the youth club is continuing to advertise to try and achieve the re-opening of the centre.

Cricket Club

The Parish Council has supported the local cricket club which had found difficulties remaining viable. With support from the Parish Council a youth section of the club has now been initialised and revitalisation of the club is beginning to take place.

Christmas Tree

The Danbury Society had for over 40 years provided a Christmas Tree and organised a Christmas Carol service. The event was under threat due to the withdrawal of electricity for the event from a local resident. The Parish Council has now provided an electrical lighting pillar, after seeking permission from the National Trust who own the land where the event took place. This year the event has been reinstated with the erection of Christmas Tree including lights and the local churches joining together to arrange the carol service.

Parish Paths Partnership

The Council is an active member of the Parish Paths Partnership and last year with the help of grants from the Essex County Council and the Danbury Society a printed Footpaths Map to promote the walks within the village was achieved. This will soon be available on the Website.

Calor Essex Village of the Year

For the past two years, Danbury has been the winner of Class I of the competition. This means the whole village has to work together to achieve this status. The Parish Council purchased and provided litter pickers and a local resident co-ordinates a group of villagers to regularly remove litter from areas of the village. As part of this competition the Parish Council has to prove that it communicates with the village regularly.

Essex Playing Fields Association

For the past three years, Dawson Memorial Field which is managed by the Parish Council has been awarded the shield for the Best Kept Playing Field. Additionally, this year the Play Area and the Cricket Ground were awarded certificates of merit. The Playing Field was used this year by the judges for training for the competition with the following quotation being used "Thank you Danbury Parish Council for allowing us to use such an impressive variety of play facilities to set the benchmark for our judges".

Grant Awarding Policy

The Council has a grant awarding policy in place for awarding grants to the local community which includes an application form, with supporting notes. The closing date for grant is the 30th September. A meeting of the working party takes place each year in October/November to include the monies in the next financial year's precept and budget. (Documentation is attached)