

# DANBURY

SPRING 2022

TIMES

No. 59



## ANNUAL REPORT



### Jubilee Celebration Festival



The initial suggestions of 4 days' activities are changed. Keep an eye on Danbury Parish Council website for any further details.

On Thursday 2nd June **Lighting the Beacon** at 9.45pm. Refreshments will be available from 8pm in the Dawson Suite before the lighting.



On Friday 3rd June the **Big Lunch** will combine with the **Festival** between 1pm and 6pm.

The only cost would be any food and drink purchased; tables and chairs will be set out on the field behind the Sports and Social Centre for people to bring their own picnics if they wish.



We hope activities will include inflatable Helter-skelter and Bouncy Castle shaped like a Ferris wheel, Splat-a-Rat, Hook-a-Duck, the Human Fruit Machine, taster Bowling and Tennis sessions, a stage and MC with music, choirs and displays of local dance and gym groups, competitions like Guess the Name of the Corgi and a Farmers/Craft Market.

Local businesses and organisations are generously sponsoring these and providing other activities.

At 8pm in the Sports Hall there will be a **Quiz** with entry fees of £2 per person and tables of up to 6 people. Contact the Parish Office to book your table.

**This festival celebrates not only the Queen's Platinum Jubilee but also Danbury's community spirit with people coming together for mutual help over the last 2 years. More volunteers are needed to set up, marshal and clear afterwards plus any other activities you are able to provide. Contact the Parish Office.**



# DANBURY PARISH COUNCIL

## PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

**Stuart Berlyn**  
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**Chairman of Parish Council**  
Ex-Officio member of all committees

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**Vice-Chairman of Parish Council**  
Ex-Officio member of all committees, Chairman of Environment

**Jacob Armstrong**  
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**Member of Facilities**

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**Chairman of Facilities, Vice-Chairman of Leisure and Activities, Member of Environment, and Resources**

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**Vice-Chairman of Community Engagement, Member of Health and Wellbeing**

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**Chairman of Planning, Vice-Chairman of Facilities and of Health and Wellbeing, Member of Community Engagement and of Leisure and Activities**

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**Member of Environment, Facilities and Planning**

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**Member of Environment, Facilities and Planning Leisure and Activities**

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**Chairman of Resources and Member of Leisure and Activities Health and Wellbeing**

## DATES OF MEETINGS

|                  |             |                              |
|------------------|-------------|------------------------------|
| <b>April</b>     |             |                              |
| Monday           | 4th         | Planning                     |
| <b>Monday</b>    | <b>11th</b> | <b>ANNUAL PARISH MEETING</b> |
| Monday           | 25th        | Planning                     |
| Wednesday        | 27th        | Resources                    |
| <b>May</b>       |             |                              |
| Monday           | 9th         | Environment                  |
| Wednesday        | 11th        | Health and Wellbeing         |
| Monday           | 16th        | Planning                     |
| Wednesday        | 18th        | Resources                    |
| Monday           | 23rd        | Facilities                   |
| Wednesday        | 25th        | Annual Parish Council        |
| Monday           | 30th        | Community Engagement         |
| <b>June</b>      |             |                              |
| Monday           | 6th         | Planning                     |
| Monday           | 20th        | Community Engagement         |
| Wednesday        | 22nd        | Resources                    |
| Monday           | 27th        | Planning                     |
| <b>July</b>      |             |                              |
| Monday           | 4th         | Health and Wellbeing         |
| Monday           | 11th        | Environment                  |
| Wednesday        | 13th        | Facilities                   |
| Monday           | 18th        | Planning                     |
| Wednesday        | 20th        | Resources                    |
| Monday           | 25th        | Community Engagement         |
| Wednesday        | 27th        | Parish Council               |
| <b>September</b> |             |                              |
| Monday           | 5th         | Planning                     |
| Monday           | 12th        | Environment                  |
| Wednesday        | 14th        | Facilities                   |
| Monday           | 19th        | Health and Wellbeing         |
| Wednesday        | 21st        | Resources                    |
| Monday           | 26th        | Planning                     |
| Wednesday        | 28th        | Parish Council               |
| <b>October</b>   |             |                              |
| Monday           | 3rd         | Community Engagement         |
| Monday           | 17th        | Planning                     |
| Monday           | 24th        | Community Engagement         |
| Wednesday        | 26th        | Resources                    |
| Monday           | 31st        | Health and Wellbeing         |
| <b>November</b>  |             |                              |
| Tuesday          | 1st         | Facilities                   |
| Monday           | 7th         | Planning                     |
| Wednesday        | 9th         | Facilities                   |
| Monday           | 14th        | Environment                  |
| Monday           | 21st        | Community Engagement         |
| Wednesday        | 23rd        | Resources                    |
| Monday           | 28th        | Planning                     |

## PARISH COUNCIL STAFF

**Michelle Harper**



Parish Clerk

**Maria Dyer**



Assistant Clerk

**Lesley Mitchelmore**



Assistant Clerk

## CO-OPTED COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**John Alexander**  
Planning

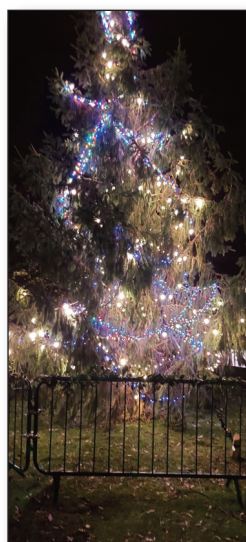
**Mark Schofield**  
Planning

## NORMAL PARISH OFFICE OPENING TIMES

Monday - Friday 9.15am to 1pm  
The old School House, Main Rd, 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

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



### Christmas Tree Lighting Event

Once again Bakers of Danbury very kindly donated and positioned the Christmas tree at Eves Corner and many residents attended a festive evening with carols accompanied by the Salvation Army Band and the choir of St John's School. This was followed by the opportunity to warm up, visit Santa in his Grotto (provided by Danbury and Villages Rotary Club) and enjoy refreshments in the Dawson Suite. Thanks to the Co-op and Tesco for the refreshments.

### Phone Box

Following the recent refurbishment of the phone box in Pedlars Path it has now been established as a place for residents to swap books, magazines, puzzles, plants and seeds. The phone box will be monitored regularly to ensure that it doesn't become too full and untidy.



### Queens Platinum Jubilee 2022

Planning is going ahead for the Jubilee in June when we will have the opportunity for residents to come together to celebrate. With the number of volunteers we have, we plan to go ahead with the Lighting of the Beacon on the evening of Thursday 2nd June. On Friday 3rd June there will be a Community Festival on Dawson Memorial Field and in the Sports and Social Centre. This will be for Danbury residents and we made the decision that most activities would be free. (See page 1 for more current details).

The intention is to order The Queen's Jubilee bench which will be installed in place of the bench on Eves Corner which is in need of repair.

### Commemoration of the Community Woodland

The woodland is now becoming more established and we have now purchased plaques to be placed at the entrances. This wood is dedicated to the people of Danbury during the pandemic. There will be an opening/dedication ceremony led by Reverend Canon Jacqui Jones on Saturday 2nd April at 1pm at the woodland after the Farmers' Market, followed by refreshments in the Sports and Social Centre.



## PLAY IN THE PARK

This is aimed at 3-11 year olds and is run on Dawson Memorial Field by Chelmsford City Council. Parish Council have booked 2 days:

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Friday August 12th</b>  | 2 general sessions 10am - 12noon, and 1-3pm, plus Galleon Inflatable at the afternoon session (all ages)                    |
| <b>Tuesday 23rd August</b> | 2 general sessions 10am - 12noon, and 1-3pm, plus skateboarding and/or scooter lessons at the morning session (for 5+years) |

Dedicated web page for details on possible number restrictions and booking:

[Play in the Park/Community Sport and Wellbeing \(chelmsford.gov.uk\)](https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/play-in-the-park)





## HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The last 12 months have been a challenge for a lot of people. Danbury Medical Centre has facilitated over 50,000 vaccinations with the amazing support from Danbury Volunteers. A fabulous achievement from all concerned.

The Health and Wellbeing Committee has continued to go from strength to strength supporting local residents with a number of initiatives. We are happy to announce that our Danbury Citizens' Advice Bureau CAB is operational and giving valuable advice to our residents. We are delighted to work with the Chelmsford CAB and with the launch of our Danbury Citizens' Advice service were the first parish-based service in Essex.

**Danbury Carer's Group**  
ARE YOU CARING FOR A LOVED ONE AND WOULD LIKE TO LINK UP WITH OTHERS IN YOUR LOCAL AREA FOR MUTUAL SUPPORT?

Danbury Carer's Group is a newly formed group who meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at the Old Pavilion, Main Road, Danbury from 2pm to 3.30pm.

Please come along and enjoy a cup of tea and a cake alongside a natter. We also arrange visits and talks from organisations that may be of assistance and interest

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU**

If you, or a neighbour, relative or friend, think that this is something that you would like to join, please contact **Michelle Harper**, Parish Clerk, on 01245 225111 or email: [parish.council@danbury-essex.gov.uk](mailto:parish.council@danbury-essex.gov.uk)

**DANBURY COMMUNITY CITIZENS ADVICE**

Citizens Advice Chelmsford are offering a new advice and support service for the Danbury Community.

Citizens Advice can offer support in areas such as Benefits, Income Maximisation, Debt, Housing, Consumer, Employment, Legal and many other areas you may feel you need support with.

Please contact us on our dedicated telephone number and speak to one of our Community Information Assistant Volunteers on: -

**01245 951339**

Or refer yourself via our web-form at: - [www.danbury.chelmsfordcab.org](http://www.danbury.chelmsfordcab.org)

Or email us at: - [danbury@chelmsfordcab.org](mailto:danbury@chelmsfordcab.org)

Please find more information at: - [www.danbury.chelmsfordcab.org](http://www.danbury.chelmsfordcab.org)

Citizens Advice is a registered Charity. Registered Charity No. 1088290, Company No. 4063248

Danbury Carers' Support Group now meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 2pm in the Old Pavilion for tea, cakes, a chat and to pass on useful knowledge and advice. If you are or know a carer, pass on this invitation.

In conjunction with Essex Men's Sheds, part of a national programme to support men's mental health and wellbeing, we have started our very own Danbury Villages Shed Group, situated in the Grounds Store at the Mayes Lane carpark and it is well supported by local members. Please contact the Parish Office for more details.

You may have noticed that a new bench has been installed down Little Baddow Road, near St. John's School, in partnership with Little Baddow Parish Council and funded by Essex County Council's Locality Fund. This is of benefit to residents who wish to take a break while walking to and from the village centre.

## NEW PLAY FACILITIES

The anticipated start date for the works is 13th June. All permissions/ approvals have now been received but we need to wait until after the Jubilee beacon event. We hope the new play facilities will be open for use in early Autumn.

## LEISURE AND ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Discussions and meetings between the Danbury Community Association Trust Limited, Lifestyle Fitness and Parish Council about the Sports and Social Centre lease and the future of the Centre are on-going.

## ENVIRONMENT

### Highways Issues:

The Environment Committee has no direct power to implement highways measures but has negotiated with Essex Highways and the Local Highways Panel (LHP) over several issues raised by residents:

To solve problems of parking and congestion on The Heights' service road, the best option following consultation with residents, was making this a one-way road. Funding is awaited.

An "Unsuitable for HGVs" sign for Sporhams Lane because of damage to verges and the ford has been added to our list for consideration by LHP.

With support from County Councillor John Spence an A414 Route Based Strategy Study has been funded by LHP for Spring 2022. This will identify danger points and suggest mitigations.

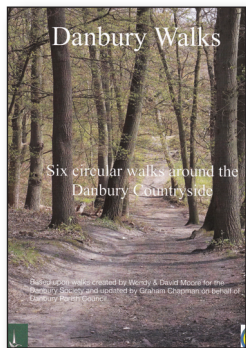
Dangerous incidents (not all officially reported unfortunately) resulted in Environment's request for a signalised crossing across the A414 by The Bell pub. Highways decided that the footway was too narrow for this but would recommend enhancing the Zebra crossing for 2023/4.

LHP's Schools Crossing Patrol's Design Team will be researching measures needed to have a lollipop person at the Well Lane entrance to Danbury Park School.

The Pennyroyal/Woodhill Road walkable verge has been funded by LHP and work is currently taking place.

### Footpaths:

The Parish Paths Partnership scheme is now up and running. One Councillor and 3 volunteers so far, have completed training. They have had approval for a list of works they can do, including renewal of fallen way marker and finger posts, and rebuilding broken bridges.



The original Danbury Circular Walks booklet has been updated for current accuracy and safety by our footpaths officer. It is available at the Parish Office and on our website if you wish to download either single walks or the whole booklet.

### Trees and Planting:

The safety and health of trees on Parish Council land is checked every 18 months. Work arising from the last survey has now been completed. A replacement Field Maple for one which had to be felled on Dawson Memorial Field will be planted.

The landslip work being finished, 3 new hedges of native species have been planted - one South of Pitch 2, one South of the Mayes Lane carpark and one South of the relaid path to the Bowls and Tennis Clubs. Lots of shrubs have also been planted to the South of the path offering flowers and berries for wildlife and to look good winter and summer. They will also help stabilise the soil on the slope.

A Dutch Elm disease-resistant elm variety has been planted on Elm Green and 6 other trees to the East of the Bowls Club. These 7 trees are to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee - one for each decade of the Queen's reign.

In Autumn on New Bowers beside the A414 daffodils and crocus bulbs were planted by the Marie Curie charity and Danbury Villages Rotary with councillor and resident volunteers. The same councillors and volunteers also planted a variety of bulbs on the edges of Runsell Green and Eves Corner.



## FACILITIES

Our open spaces, including Dawson Memorial Field, continue to be maintained by contractors who undertake general grass cutting, hedge trimming, tree maintenance and litter picking tasks. The cricket pitch and football pitches are maintained by specialist contractors who undertake to keep them at the required standard. Although during the early part of last year, due to the effect of Covid 19, the use of our outdoor facilities was not fully utilised it is expected that use will increase during the coming year. In particular it is anticipated that there will be cricket played every Saturday and Sunday during the cricket season and that two football pitches will be utilised.



The decision was made to support the provision of cricket for the next 3 years to March 2026.

The children's play equipment continues to be well used. Repairs have been carried out to the more popular pieces of apparatus. The equipment is subjected to an annual independent inspection to ensure its operational safety.



Play in the Park during August was again very successful and we aim to repeat the activity in 2022. (see page 3).

We have been successful in achieving recognition in the Essex Playing Fields Awards 2021 by being awarded Silver Certificates of Merit for our Playing Fields and Football Pitches and a Gold Certificate for our Children's Playground.

A concerted effort has been made throughout the year to improve the condition and look of our open spaces by replacing wooden posts, renovating seats and benches, replacing litter bins and maintaining the exterior of our buildings, namely the Sports and Social Centre, The Old Pavilion and the Groundsman's Store.

Repairs have taken place to the lighting bollards on the approach to the Sports and Social Centre and all bollards have been upgraded to LED. Similar bollards have been installed on the new footpath to the Tennis and Bowling clubs.



As part of the the Parish Council's commitment to undertake climate change actions a review of recycling is underway to ensure that 100% of all waste placed in litter bins on Dawson memorial Field is recycled. At present all the waste is collected by a specialist company who sort it into specific categories and aim to recycle at least 98%. Additional litter bins are to be installed in the Community Woodland.





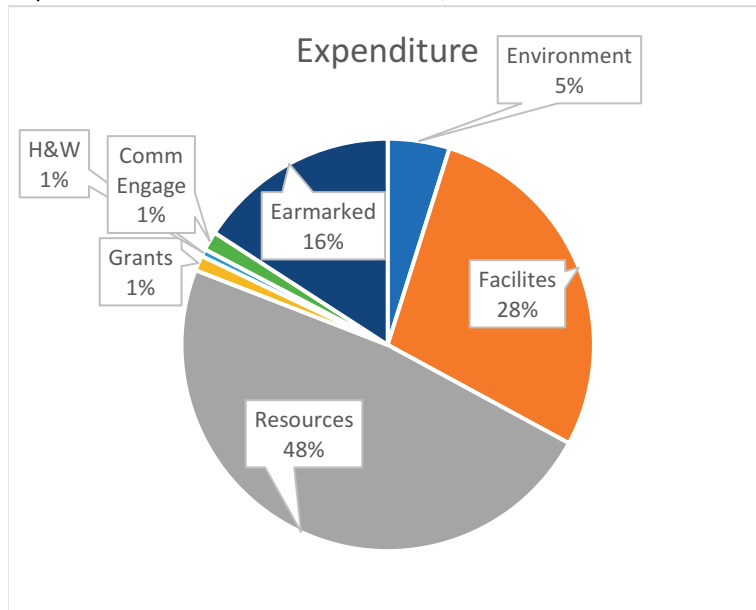
## RESOURCES

### 2020-2021 –Unqualified Accounts

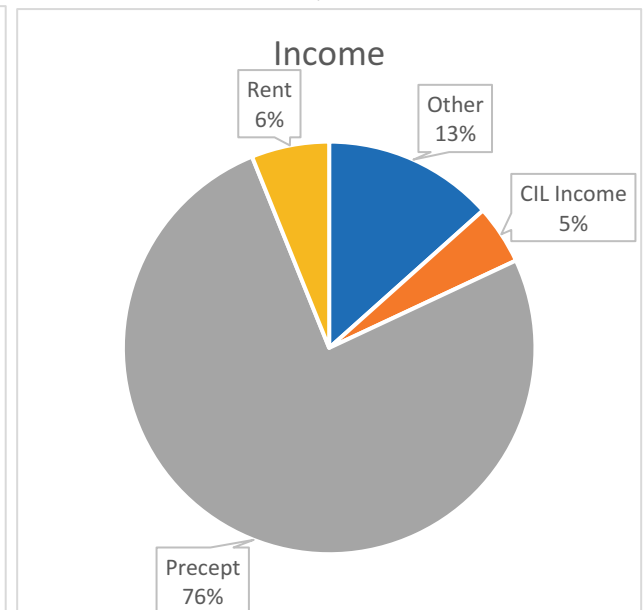
During the financial year 2020/2021 the Council was in receipt of a total income of £280,096; of this the precept was £212,481 (a small increase on the previous year) and rental income from Council owned properties was £17,098. This was a significant reduction in rental income triggered by difficult trading conditions on the back of the pandemic. An additional £13,004 was received in Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) from Chelmsford City Council in respect of developments in Danbury for investment into projects that enhance and improve the village infrastructure. £37,513 was received from other sources including the one-time sale of redundant grounds equipment.

The total expenditure for 2020/2021 was £258,964, leaving £172,170 in Earmarked Reserves and a General Reserve of £119,627. Spending was broadly in line with budget planning.

Expenditure 2020-2021 – Total £258,964



Income 2020 2021 - £280,096



H&W – Health and Wellbeing  
 Comm Engage – Community Engagement

### 2021 – 2022 – Unaudited Accounts

At the time of writing (March 2022) this financial year has not yet closed, however the precept had been set at £265,623, an increase of 25% on the previous year mainly due to the need for the Council to increase the Earmarked Reserve for the facilitation of a sports and social centre in Danbury and to cover the loss of rental income caused by the pandemic. Income was slightly higher than planned due to the receipt of grant payments and CIL monies. Expenditure is expected to be slightly below budgeted costs. Earmarked reserves are forecast to be around £138,000.

### 2022-2023

The Parish Council set the precept for the financial year April 2022 to March 2023 at £331,618. This represents an increase of 24.84% on the previous year and equates to an increase of £0.50p per week for a Band D property. This increase is largely due to the need for the Parish Council to ensure that there is sufficient financial support available for a sports and social facility in the village.



## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

ALL DANBURY RESIDENTS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND  
**ON MONDAY 11TH APRIL 2022**  
**AT THE SPORTS AND SOCIAL CENTRE**

MEETING STARTS AT 8.00 PM (Residents Welcome From 7pm)

There will be teas, coffees and biscuits available, and the bar will be open. There will be stalls representing some of Danbury's community groups.

### AGENDA

**1. Welcome and Introduction:**

Danbury Parish Council Chairman: Stuart Berlyn

**2. Approval of Annual Parish Meeting minutes 19th April 2021**

**3. Guest Speaker:**

Sustainable Danbury: Stuart Bird on Biodiversity Enhancement, Community Energy. Questions for Speaker

**4. Danbury Neighbourhood Plan Update:**

Chairman Danbury Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group: Sue Dobson

Questions for Speaker

**5. Questions for the Parish Council**

**6. Chairman's Concluding Remarks**

## PLANNING

Determination of applications lies with Chelmsford City Council which tests compliance with their Local Plan, and against quality of design within the context of setting, impact on neighbours, highways and other considerations. Danbury has a large conservation area and a feeling of openness especially around our rural lanes. It is important that we protect our heritage assets and valued landscapes with a variety of vernacular designs.

Over the last year the Planning Committee considered 74 building and 34 tree applications:

| Parish Council Response | CCC Refused | CCC permitted | Withdrawn/ returned |
|-------------------------|-------------|---------------|---------------------|
| 72 No objection         | 5           | 63            | 4                   |
| 15 Objected             | 2           | 13            |                     |

CCC have not yet determined 21 other applications.

Thank you for the advice from our Parish Council tree officers.

We are sometimes asked to comment on applications just outside Danbury as they may affect our village. Two examples are the additional 70 holiday lodges (20/00519/FUL ) at The Warren Estate; our comments should be on the Maldon District Council planning portal, and land East And West of St Clere's Hall Pit, Main Road Danbury ( Solar farm 21/00081/FUL ) which was approved.

It is worth reading the planning officers' reports on applications, especially if we have made comments as the planning officers will respond to them in their reports.

The committee welcomes residents to our meetings, especially if there are planning issues that affect you as it helps us to understand the wider implications an application may have for you.