

HIGHER DENHAM COMMUNITY

NEWSLETTER

2020: Issue 4

October 2020

www.hdca.org.uk



WHAT'S ON AT THE COMMUNITY HALL

Some activities have returned to the Hall after the lockdown. You will have been contacted by your organiser with information on how these will operate safely within COVID-19 guidelines.

For any further information about hiring the Hall, Glebe Field and Misbourne Meeting Room please contact Jane Blyth:
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Higher Denham CIO AGM

Thank you to everyone who attended the Zoom meeting on 30th September, in place of the face to face session originally planned to be held in the Hall. The new Committee was elected and their names are in the column on the left. Jacqui McGowan was re-elected Chair of the Committee at its first meeting on 21st October. Draft minutes of the AGM will be posted on the HDC website in due course, along with a copy of the Chair's Report. Meanwhile, here are the key items that were presented at the meeting.

CCTV Project - Long standing residents will be aware that we first looked at this over eight years ago, but technology was not advanced enough to allow us to progress. Unfortunately in the last couple of years there has been a rise in crime rates locally and also in Higher Denham. We decided that following a particularly bad spate of aggravated burglaries last year that it was time to revisit the proposal. A communication was delivered to all households asking if they would support CCTV and ANPR cameras being installed.

We had an overwhelming response from 142 households, all but one giving their personal support and pledging financial assistance for the project. Based on this huge positive response, we are progressing to the next stage and have been talking to security companies to get proposals and costings. We need to make sure the system we are looking at meets the needs of our community, that it is installed and maintained within the law and that we meet all the necessary GDPR requirements. We expect to make a decision shortly on which company to go with and will be updating you all in separate Newsletter and on the website as we get to the next stage.

Financial Update - Treasurer, Ron James, gave an update on the audited accounts for the year ending December 2019, a copy of which is available on the website. Income from the Hall and Field hire remained steady up to the start of Covid-19 lockdown. The Hall was being well used with an array of weekly classes ranging from Keep Fit, Line Dancing, Circuit Training, Pilates, Choir, Yoga, and the monthly Senior Lunches. The lack of regular activity in the Hall has much reduced income, although the grant of £10,000 secured in May is certainly helping to keep things running.

New Hall Proposal - Ron shared this artist's impression of the proposed new building. He met recently with the architects and will be discussing the next stage of the project further with them soon. More information will be given in a future edition of the Newsletter.



Bill Evans Cup - This year the Cup has been awarded to Graham Blyth of Side Road who works quietly behind the scenes doing jobs in and around the Hall and gardens. He is always being called upon, often at last minute, to do an array of things, from mending broken locks, doors, tables and even toilet seats! Graham's expertise is in electrics and he has helped many times in getting the Christmas lights working in time for the December switch on. He was also instrumental in getting the electrics installed for both of our defibrillators, which took up much of his free time and at no cost to the community.

Use of the Community Field - It has been noted there have been several organised training sessions taking place on the field. It is good to see the field in use and it is primarily for residents to enjoy. Since the government lockdown guidelines have been reviewed, we have been able to hire out the field and gain some much-needed income towards maintaining it. Therefore, to be fair to all hirers, if you are holding organised training activities on the field and charging others, please contact Jane Blyth on 07548 260709 to discuss hire rates.

Keeping HD Tidy - The *Clean-up Denham* weekend on 19th - 20th September yielded a massive amount of litter. In addition to the team of dedicated pickers for the field who do an excellent job, the roads of Higher Denham were picked by resident Dawn Jowers, her daughter Francesca and dog Lily. They collected a lot of litter and have identified places where additional rubbish bins would be useful.



From Jane Blyth, as one dog owner to another - I'm sure, like me, you must be fed up with the bad press our pets are receiving ... and like me fed up with having poo deposits outside your homes and on the paths we tread. Most dogs in Higher Denham are walked on a lead, so can we please all support the following advice, to try and keep Higher Denham free from unwanted deposits.

1. If your dog is a sniffer and drags behind, make sure you are watching
2. If walking in the dark, use a torch and be vigilant
3. Should you be caught without a poo bag, kick it off the path
4. If someone else is walking your dog, ensure they will follow this advice

Please also be reminded that dogs are **NOT** allowed on the field, as it is a play area. Unfortunately someone saw fit to rip up the **No Dogs** sign from the barrier entrance, and we now have the expense of getting this replaced!

Rubbish in the Field Old Rectory Lane - As mentioned in the last Newsletter, Julia Walsh, Chair of the Denham Parish Council has contacted the Enforcement Officer at Buckinghamshire Council, and at the time of going to print was still awaiting an update.

Martin Baker Access Road - Jacqui McGowan contacted the company for an update on the project, and this is the response: *"The Buckinghamshire Highways Authority has asked for an archaeological survey to be carried out. We have now arranged this which should be completed in the next two weeks. After that the Authority will make their decision - this is just to say that the proposal is acceptable to the Highways Authority. Planning and land ownership is another matter! My best guess is that we should know the final outcome in about a year."*

From residents, John & Jessica Hughes - *"Although we have thanked them personally, on behalf of the many residents who visited, please raise a thanks to Ron and Julia for their kind generosity in making their beautiful garden at Wind-in-the-Willows so accessible to residents during lockdown. This was a welcome escape for many of us to enjoy during what was a difficult time."*

Also, a big thank you to all the volunteers within the community that so willingly helped those of us self-isolating. It was very reassuring to know that help was available to those that needed it."

Higher Denham Social Club

New Resident Members Welcome!

The Social Club is open again and welcomes applications for new members. The Club is strictly following the government COVID-19 guidelines and for the safety of all its members and the volunteer bar staff, is currently restricting new memberships to Higher Denham residents only.

Current Opening Hours are:

Thursday and Friday	7pm – 10pm
Saturday	5pm – 8pm
Sunday	4pm – 7pm

There is a £5 membership joining fee (per family) up until the end of December. If you are interested in becoming a member please contact **Chris Malham on 07786 013292** or **Peter McGowan on 07979 700529** for further details on membership and to hear what the Club has to offer.