

# HIGHER DENHAM COMMUNITY

## NEWSLETTER

2020: Issue 3

September 2020

[www.hdca.org.uk](http://www.hdca.org.uk)



### WHAT'S ON AT THE COMMUNITY HALL

Some activities are returning to the Hall this month 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:  
07548 260709 or email  
[higherdenhamhall@gmail.com](mailto:higherdenhamhall@gmail.com)

### HDC Committee

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## Hello Everyone - we are back with the latest news!

**Annual General Meeting** - The Higher Denham Community CIO AGM which was deferred from March due to COVID-19 will now be held on Wednesday 30th September 2020 in the Hall. The meeting will take place within the current COVID-19 guidelines.

There will be a maximum of 21 residents allowed to attend in person (this is in addition to up to nine standing for election to the Committee). If you would like to attend, or stand for election, please email the Committee Chair on [chairmanhigherdenhamcio@gmail.com](mailto:chairmanhigherdenhamcio@gmail.com) or call 07876 391349.

Those interested in joining the Committee will be sent a Nomination Form. Candidates and their supporters must be Higher Denham residents. Due to the Charity Commission's requirements relating to the sale of alcohol on charity premises, CIO Committee members cannot also be a member of the Social Club Committee.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, please submit any questions for the Committee beforehand. An overview of proceedings will be included in the Newsletter following the AGM.

Ed Nash-Steer and Orlaith Senior will not be standing for re-election to the Committee. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them both for their valuable contribution over the last few years. Helen Banner from Upper Road is now supporting the Committee by taking the minutes at meetings.

**CCTV Security for Higher Denham** – You will have received the letter from the Committee regarding the proposal to install CCTV in Higher Denham. If you have not already done so, can you please let Chair, Jacqui McGowan know if you are supportive of the project by 15th September 2020, giving your name and address and saying if you would be willing to make a one-off financial contribution. Email [chairmanhigherdenhamcio@gmail.com](mailto:chairmanhigherdenhamcio@gmail.com) – text, call, WhatsApp to 07876 391349 or post the form attached to the letter in the Hall letterbox next to the main door.

**Rubbish in the Field Old Rectory Lane** – An enforcement notice to clear the site was issued to the landowner last year. He contravened this notice and was then liable for prosecution in March this year. Unfortunately, this coincided with the COVID-19 crisis and lockdown. A decision was taken by Buckinghamshire Council (BC) not to pursue prosecution of these type of offences at this time. This affected all similar sites and was to be a temporary measure. Higher Denham resident Julia Walsh, who is the new Chair of the Denham Parish Council, has been in regular contact with the Enforcement Officer at BC, who is due to contact all landowners this month to reassess the situation. We will keep you updated on developments.

## Financial Update - by Ron James, Treasurer

**Monthly Draw** - You may have noticed that there have been no winners announced in the past few months. The reason for this is that the money collected in any year up till now has been for 12 months ending in February each year. Normally the draw has run continuously from year to year. The end of one year and beginning of the next has not really been discernible unless one looked closely at the year-end balance sheet in the accounts, where two months' winnings was always accrued.

This year COVID-19 meant that it was inadvisable to have people knocking at doors to collect subscriptions, so the Committee decided to postpone the collecting of money and therefore the start of the draw until it was safe enough to do so. Hopefully that will be before the end of this year. As well as making a reasonable contribution to our income, it also provides you with the chance of making a profit on the deal, so I hope when it returns, you will all join in.

**COVID-19 Grant** - In March, COVID-19 stopped all activities in the Community Hall and should have indeed stopped all group activities on the Glebe Field. The Committee was able to enforce the Government's requirements during lockdown in the Hall, made easy because our users voted with their feet anyway. We were less successful with the field where young groups, mainly not from Denham, gathered believing themselves to be immortal, above the law and selfishly ignoring the possibility that they may have been passing the virus among themselves then spreading the infection to more vulnerable adults. We were able to persuade some groups to leave the field but not all, because we would have needed people on constant watch. Some others flatly refused to go when asked, and the local police were apparently too busy elsewhere to help!

With the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, we now have three groups of footballers paying to use the field for "training" and that is bringing in a little welcome cash, but the continued lack of regular activity in the Hall has much reduced our income. Where possible the cost of maintaining the Hall has been reduced. For example, there was no point in carrying out regular cleaning if it was not being used, but there are several outgoings that cannot be eliminated. To help this situation, one that was common across many charitable organisations, the Government made a grant available (from local County Councils).

In May I was successful in getting a grant of £10,000 which at present is covering our reduced expenses. If things return to normal soon, and some activities are resuming this month, we may even have some left over. However, if there is another rise in COVID-19 and potential users remain uncomfortable about using the Hall, we may still have to dip into our reserves to keep things running.

I am personally optimistic that a vaccine will become available, perhaps by the start of 2021, and this will allow us all to return to life as we once knew it. In the meantime I would like to thank a new group of residents who between them pick up litter, (including sometimes small gas canisters that contained nitrous oxide used by some youths to get a transient high), on a daily basis off the field. So, a big thank you to the litter-pickers for showing that the world is not all bad, and that there are good guys too.

## And finally...

**Keeping HD Tidy** - As well as the sterling team of litter-pickers, we would like to thank Denham Parish Council (DPC) for the flower planters that have recently arrived. The Council is getting a lot of positive feedback from people following the installation of planters and baskets all around Denham. These are watered and maintained regularly, and have survived the recent hot weather.

**Grass verges** - Dean Wardley has joined the Groundsmen Team to cut the grass verges. You will recall that this task was devolved to the HD CIO a couple of years ago by the DPC. The first cut has been done and will be carried out on a regular basis. We would ask, though, that if residents have a hedge or bush outside their property they keep it cut back to avoid blocking the footpaths.

**Speed Limit Lower Road** - Please remember that the speed limit on Lower Road is 20 mph. Please let your visitors know too. A reminder will also be sent to Martin Baker Ltd.

**Whatsapp Groups** - Given the success of the original group as a way of keeping in touch over the lockdown period, the Committee has created a new group purely to keep residents up to date about local community matters - leaving the other for social use. If you would like to be added to either of the groups, please text Jacqui McGowan on 07876 391349.

**Welcome** - If you are new to Higher Denham, there is a Welcome Pack on the CIO website giving a lot of local information and telephone numbers.