

Davenham Parish Newsletter

December 2006

The Parish of Davenham consists of two wards,
Davenham Village (including Whatcroft) and Kingsmead

Plan for the Future

The Parish Council is starting the process for the development of a Parish Plan and Village Design Statement. The purpose is to set out the **vision** of what is important for the future of the community – a bit like the larger and grander 'Northwich Vision'. Originally conceived as a 'land use' plan it now has a wider scope and incorporates social, economic and environmental issues. A Parish Plan covers key facilities and services, local issues and problems and a description of the 'distinctive character' of an area.



The plan will identify the needs of the community: are there too many play areas for the under 10's (Kingsmead?) and not enough (or none) for the teenagers, what do the children need and what should be provided? Do we need a community centre or 'village hall' where public, and private, events can be held? How about a community shop or café? We can also state what restrictions there should be and what facilities should be provided for parking, what speed limits we would like to see and so on. We can set out a design structure for the area to which future planning applications would have to conform, and we can identify an environmental policy about what we want our natural areas to look like and provide for wildlife as well as people. Overall it's what *we* want, how *we* want to live and what *we* are going to do about it.

A Parish Plan is not just a document, but a community based and community driven project comprising a critical and constructive survey of the community by the community to form an action plan to implement that vision in a defined timescale (usually 5 years). It will identify a 5-year plan of achievable goals together with the appropriate alliances with other bodies and authorities that are needed to achieve those goals.

The Parish Plan is a **community** project rather than a Parish Council project. It starts with consultation, usually at an open meeting, (possibly workshop style – an event rather than a formal meeting). A steering committee of 10-12 people is appointed from that meeting with a simple constitution and a chairman (who is not usually a Parish Councillor). All elements of the community are involved including local businesses. The first task is to complete an application to Cheshire Community Council for funding but there are a number of criteria to be met. The main body of work consists of fact finding through

questionnaires, interviews and focus groups followed by an analysis stage leading to a draft plan. The community carries this out by working with the Parish, Borough and County Councils and local employers and landowners. A Parish Plan will normally be produced in around 12 to 18 months with the first 3 to 6 months taken up in generating a proposal used to secure funding.

Some of the benefits of producing a Parish Plan have been: Increased community spirit, revelation of hidden talents, fresh focus for the Parish, information and evidence about the community, new partnerships, new funding streams, tangible infrastructure benefits, traffic management & speed limits, community shops, youth centres and clarification of local planning policy, amongst others.

A Parish Plan is *not* just a document, a wish list or a shopping list. It is not the end result, just the beginning. In 2007, the Parish Council will organise an appropriate event to establish the level of interest in the community. Whether or not the process continues will depend on the outcome of that event and how much people in Davenham, Kingsmead and Whatcroft want to influence the future of the area. A Parish Plan becomes a statutory document and will allow us as a community to exert much more influence than the Parish Council or the various residents associations can do at the moment.

Ben Coker, Chairman



Davenham's Mastermind

By Dave Ravenscroft

Looking a good deal more relaxed than he did sitting opposite John Humphrys in the 2006 Mastermind Final, Geoff Thomas proudly showed me the superb glass trophy presented to him as the 29th winner of this most prestigious quiz programme.

To win, Geoff had answered questions on Edith Piaff the singer, William Joyce the traitor and Margaret Mitchell the author of *Gone with the Wind*.

Born in Manchester, he attended Burnage High School and continued his education at Manchester University studying for a degree in Modern Languages. National

Service interrupted Geoff's academic achievements when he joined the Royal Army Educational Corps. In 1966 he took up a position at Mid-Cheshire College as a French lecturer and took the opportunity to study for his Masters degree. He retired in the 1990s and moved to Davenham in 1997 with spare time on his hands to pursue his hobbies of badminton, supporting Manchester City FC and cricket. Geoff is a member of the Association of Cricket Statisticians. Geoff has also travelled widely including visits to Argentina, Libya, Estonia and Malaysia.

Geoff returned to quizzes with his most infamous achievement in 1983 on Jimmy Tarbuck's 'Winner takes All' when Geoff took nothing! However, in 1996 he won BBC2's 'Today's the Day' quiz with local lad, Ian Pickering along with Radio 4's 'Counterpoint' in 1995. He also became runner-up in the popular '15-1' quiz.

Geoff's achievement in 2006 tops it all however and I am sure that everyone in the village would like to congratulate Geoff and thank him for the fame he has brought to Davenham.

Bitter about Litter

Ben Coker

The past summer saw a huge increase in the level of litter throughout the parish, not just in Kingsmead where the problem was at an unprecedented height but in Davenham village and the playing field areas as well.

So where does it all come from? The answer in most cases, directly or indirectly, is us! Yes, people who don't live in the parish drop some litter but it is also dropped by those who do. Other litter is actually created by 'recycling day' - usually the worst day for litter being added to our roads!

Many people have complained about the lack of litter collection from the roads, verges and playing areas. Here's who is supposed to do what:

- The adopted roads should be cleared up to a distance of 1 metre from the kerb by Cheshire County Council (some of this work is subcontracted to Vale Royal)
- The unadopted roads in the Kingsmead area (with a couple of exceptions that are currently the responsibility of the residents) are contracted to be cleared along with the verges and play areas by Kingsmead Landscape Management Company, subcontracted to CPM who collect an annual 'management fee' from Kingsmead area residents.
- The playing fields and common areas such as the 'village garden' in Davenham are the responsibility of the parish council and this work is also subcontracted out.

Apart from recycling day problems other reasons for the proliferation of litter are:

- The lack of litter bins in certain areas
- The fast food and takeaway shops ('fast food' includes items like sandwiches and fruit bought from stores such as Tesco)
- Young people (and in some cases older ones who should know better) being thoughtless and careless
- Drivers dumping items such as sweet wrappers and cigarette packets out of their windows

The food stores have a responsibility to clear away any litter within 100 metres of their front door – in most cases this is done – but not always, and this will be one of the things addressed by the new PCSO (see Page 5) who will also be able to impose on the spot fines of up to £70 on people seen to be depositing litter in any open space (public or private).

Some people have expressed the opinion that because companies are being paid to pick up the litter or that picking up litter is paid for by Council Tax, they should not have to pick it up 'on principle'. A community is what *we* make it – not what we pay others to do – so if you do see litter lying around just pick it up and put it in a bin or help with one of the 'litter-pick' events that are being organised – after all it's *our* community, and for the most part our litter!

Bridge Players

Kathy Gordon

Davenham Bridge Club now has its own website www.davenhambridgeclub.org.uk and details of meeting dates and results can be easily accessed. We welcome new members at any time and you don't need to bring a partner! If you would like more information please call Alan Goodier on 47339 or email gordonkathome@aol.com

Dynamic Davenham School

By Phil Hilditch, Head Teacher

A big *thank you* to the Friends of Davenham School and all our supporters who made the Craft Fair in November such a huge success. FODS continues to give the children the 'extras' including most recently funding, alongside Cheshire County Council, for taster sessions in playing brass instruments.

Our music teacher, Mrs Turner, has set up a Ukelele Club for some of the younger children as well as establishing a School Band with all the children who play musical instruments given the opportunity to take part. Instruments include; piano, brass, clarinets, flutes, recorders, guitars and a drum set kindly donated by the High School.



Our PE Co-ordinator, Mr Strefford has been working hard with the children and has been instrumental in achieving the Activemark and Sportsmark for the School in recognition of our commitment to ensuring that sport remains an important feature of our school curriculum. Mr Strefford has also coached our 7- a side football team and the team, after beating considerable opposition, will be representing Cheshire at the northern finals of a national competition to be held at a Premiership venue – either Blackburn Rovers or Newcastle United!



The School Choir has enjoyed singing at the village Christmas tree lighting ceremony and is looking forward to singing for parishioners and the Stroke Club as well as supporting our nativity celebrations in the church. We are currently waiting to see whether our bid to be awarded an Artsmark in recognition of our efforts in music, visual and performing arts will be granted. Watch this space!

In conclusion we continue to be indebted to the wider community for all the support that we receive, which contributes to the achievements and successes of Davenham School.

Make a Difference - become a Home-Start Volunteer



Do you have parenting experience? Could you spare 3 hours a week of your time?
Could you be a Home-Start Volunteer and help a Mum or Dad who needs someone to talk to, someone to listen or someone just to lend a hand?

Call Christine or Joyce on 01606 75222
chrisbhomestart@aol.com for further information

We offer training, expenses and lots of support.

Davenham Parish Council

Vacancy for Clerk - Approximately 16 hours per week

Liaison with members via email, maintenance of website and electronic records with full responsibility for administration, financial recording and legal obligations of DPC and required attendance at monthly meetings. Salary under review plus home use allowance and expenses.

Contact: Ben Coker, Chairman on cokerb@davenhampc.org.uk

Davenham Parish's PCSO – Police Community Support Officer

In the next few months the Parish will have its own PCSO who will have:

- Direct access to the Police radio communication system
- Full backup from regular Police Officers when requested
- The ability to collect on the spot fines for littering
- The ability to confiscate alcohol from under-age drinkers
- The ability to confiscate vehicles being used in an anti-social way
- The ability to collect on the spot parking fines

The PCSO will be a permanent presence in the parish and under the control of the Moulton & Davenham Safety Action Group (MADSAG – covering Moulton, Davenham and Kingsmead), which will decide what the priorities are. The PCSO will not be managed by the police but by our community via the parish council. Davenham and Moulton Parish Councils are funding the PCSO jointly and in proportion to the sizes of parish.

The PCSOs are currently in training and will be deployed in the community in December and January. Meanwhile the work of the Community Action Team and the community safety wardens continues in the Kingsmead area. Although few in number they have been able to contain some of the problems we have had with anti-social behaviour from the younger generation. They are a very dedicated and professional group of people and have done an excellent job so far in generating a rapport with the youth of the area whilst at the same time, where necessary, implementing and enforcing ASBOs and Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs). They have a difficult job to do and we hope to see a small increase in their strength in the near future.

Working with the PCSO in the New Year they should be able to ensure that the neighbourhood settles down to a more comfortable and acceptable way of life for everyone. Meanwhile, if you have any issues that relate to policing or witness any incidents remember that in order to get anything done (and this will still apply when the PCSO is deployed) you must report it immediately with as much detail as possible. Full details are on the parish council website at www.davenhampc.org.uk

Police 0845 458 0000 or 01606 48000
Report crimes to the police, request assistance or pass information. Your call will be assessed and may result in police attendance.
Ring 999 in an EMERGENCY only

Remembering Village Businesses

By Dave Ravenscroft

How many local residents can cast their minds back over the last 50 years and recall some of the village shops long since forgotten?

- Ramsbottom Butchers, 413 London Road, most recently a doctor's surgery and now looking forward to a new owner! Many will recall the jovial face of Harry Ramsbottom, cleaver in hand, behind his well-stocked counter.
- The Village Co-op, now occupied by Bargain Booze
- Mulliners Shoe Shop, now Davenham Guest House
- Bert Price's general store on the corner of Church Street sold just about everything imaginable being a local B&Q, Homebase and Woolworths combined
- Bob Cotterill's Barbers occupied the current Nail and Beauty Clinic
- Shout's confectionary shop next to the Post Office was always a village favourite
- Miss Maddock's haberdashery shop was next to the present Tuccoccini restaurant which was in those days -
- Lunt's grocery store
- During my school days a call at No 5, Hartford Road, Miss Eliff's sweet shop, was a must port of call on the way home from school – an old penny's worth of sherbet please!
- Next door was Warburton's green grocers and the family also ran a horse and cart delivery service around the village
- Further up Hartford Road in the once more empty doctor's surgery was Platts the grocers shop with its art nouveau frontage similar to black marble, very modern in its day
- At the top of Hartford Road was Bob Arnold's butchers shop, still there today but empty and boarded up
- Just past the cricket club entrance at No 93 was Darlington's Paint shop
- At No 135 was Percival's Grocery store and at
- No 157 was Dean's grocers – much more competition in those days!
- Opposite Dean's at No 104 was Gertie Davies' off-licence where jugs of ale could still be bought post-war.

Other businesses that I can recall include the village smithy situated on what is now the village garden and demolished to make way for the road and visibility improvements. There was also B. Poole's TV shop next to the present day chippy, later to become Albert Hilton's cycle shop. Anyone with a puncture will also remember Jack Hughes' cycle garage at the corner of Graingers Road, Leftwich Green. If you can recall others with tales attached do send your stories in and these can be shared in future editions.

Ed- See old photos of Davenham at www.francisfrith.com and search for 'Davenham'.
Do you have any we could print next time?



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



Say NO to doorstep crime!

Our local Homewatch service and Cheshire Police have been campaigning for a long time to stop rogue traders from preying on people on their own doorstep. The Homewatch message is simple: Say No every time.

If you are approached by any person offering to carry out repairs to your property, turn them away and call 0845 11 32 500 to report the matter to Trading Standards. Don't buy from Cold callers – it is illegal! The Parish notice boards will carry details of any known rogue traders in the area. In the event of a crime, please call Cheshire Police on 0845 458 0000.

Traffic Updates

DPC has been liaising with County Highways on a number of matters affecting the roads in the Parish. These include:

London Road (Woodpecker area) – re-phasing of the traffic lights to allow traffic from the A556 to turn right across London Road onto the Davenham bypass. At peak times traffic is impeded from turning right due to the priority given to traffic travelling away from Northwich on London Road. This ongoing problem has caused traffic to back up onto the Davenham roundabout itself as well as encouraging drivers to use Davenham village as a rat run. Work should be completed within the next 6 months along with calming measures further along London Road in the vicinity of the new homes development. Traffic lights re-phasing will also take place at the Art College end of this section.

Spine road through Kingsmead – an increase in speed limit from 30mph to 40mph. Measurements have shown that the mean speed on this road is well over 40mph and there is difficulty in enforcing the lower limit. Motorists are uncertain of the correct limit, which can lead to dangerous overtaking. The design criteria for the road were for a higher limit than the current 30mph. Research has shown that the introduction of a 40mph limit will bring the average speed down. It will also enable 40mph repeater signs to be installed as well as 30mph signs at the junction of side roads. This has the effect of reducing speed limits on those roads, which is where the main speeding problems occur.

Davenham bypass – the lack of a left turn filter lane for Manchester bound traffic leaving the bypass at the Kingsmead traffic lights is due to the need to preserve a safe pedestrian route.

Laburnum Road – DPC has been liaising with residents and County Highways investigating the possibility of bringing the road up to adoption standards. However this has proved frustrating and investigation continues.

Kingsmead: road adoption issues – Now that the spine road has been adopted it is hoped that the side roads will be brought up to standard too. DPC is being kept abreast of progress and will continue to help keep this matter at the top of the Highways agenda.

Accidents on the A556 – the police and CCC accident investigation team looks at the cause of every Road Traffic Accident (RTA). During the most recent spate, the 70mph speed limit is not thought to be the root cause and has been at this level for many years before the most recent spate. The County is introducing a number of improvements on a phased basis. These include roadside direction chevrons, surface improvements and warning signs.

Safe Walking Route to The County High School – All the children know to use the underpass below the A556 that runs adjacent to where the bypass cuts under the A556. However it would appear that many parishioners do not know about it. There are blue pedestrian signs pointing the way and there is good lighting alongside the path. Pedestrian barriers have now been erected alongside Davenham roundabout to discourage crossing at this point.

Green Lane and Church Street junctions with London Road – DPC has pushed for consultation on the installation of double yellow line restrictions on these junctions as reported in the summer newsletter. Consultation is now in process and should be completed within 6 months.

Clock Tower – DPC has campaigned to have the footpath altered to direct pedestrians towards the safe crossing point. This work is now in progress.

www.davenhampc.org.uk

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Enjoy the Winter Sun across Delamere