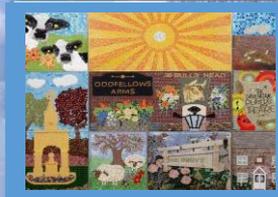


DAVENHAM PARISH COUNCIL



Newsletter for Davenham and Whatcroft

Spring 2019

Welcome to the latest Parish Council newsletter and, if you are new to Davenham and Whatcroft, a warm welcome to village life. The Parish Council aims to send a couple of newsletters each year to keep residents and local businesses up-to-date with village issues and news.

The composition of the Parish Council has changed considerably since our last newsletter with some new faces including our clerk, Elaine Hamlett. The Parish Council is made up of local residents who are volunteers.

We aim to represent the views of residents in local matters including planning, maintenance of village assets and working on special projects to protect and improve village life. Take a look inside this newsletter to see what we've been up to. **If you are interested in supporting the Parish Council in any of our work, please let us know by contacting Elaine at clerk@davenhampc.org.uk, or any of the Councillors (details available on the website).**

Keep up-to-date:

Don't forget to check the Village Notice Boards

Email updates – to be added to the mail list please contact Elaine at

clerk@davenhampc.org.uk

Visit www.davenhampc.org.uk



Forthcoming Meetings:

Monday 25th March 2019

Monday 29th April 2019

Monday 20th May 2019 (AGM and Annual Parish Meeting)

Monday 24th June 2019

Monday 29th July 2019



The Village Gardener has requested that any members of the public who identify issues that need attention around the village public spaces should contact the Parish Clerk Elaine by email or mobile - clerk@davenhampc.org.uk ...07902 633193.

Parking

The PCSO has reported that problems continue to arise around the village with inconsiderate parking. There have been particular problems when two vehicles have been parked almost opposite so that wide vehicles have been unable to pass. Residents and visitors are asked to remember to show consideration to pedestrians and the less able by avoiding parking on pavements and ensuring access is always available on the footpaths.



What has the Parish Council been up to?

Community Hub:



As many of you will know, Davenham has been without a village hall for many years following the flooding of the church hall at the end of 2010. The Parish Council, residents and local community groups have since been exploring feasible alternatives to provide a location for a community hub.

The Parish Council established a Community Hub Project Team consisting of volunteers from the Parish Council and local residents to review the options for the development and potential siting of a community hub. At the end of last year, the team conducted a feasibility study to assess how such a building could be financed and, importantly, to understand if the right facility could be viable without becoming a drain on the community in the future. There was review of several other buildings in Cheshire to see how much they are being used and what for. The good news is that we do believe that the right facility could be viable for the future.

Support has been commissioned from Cheshire Community Action who have successfully helped other villages bring the dream to life and we have held a briefing with local community groups. We will be holding future sessions where we will be asking for more volunteers to help in a variety of roles.

Progress continues to be made with the various options being explored. The Parish Council has agreed to pay for a physical survey of the existing church hall to evidence the rebuilding options on that site. We look forward to sharing the outcomes of this work and consulting further with local residents as soon as more definitive information is available.



Post Box There have been a number of complaints from village residents about the loss of the external post box that occurred when the Post Office was transferred from the old shop to the Spar garage. The Parish Council, with the support of the Eddisbury MP, Antoinette Sandbach, has approached the Royal Mail management to have this situation rectified. We are pleased to be able to confirm that a post box is to be installed near the centre of the village within the next three months. We have not been advised of the precise location and we will provide more information as it becomes available.

Speed Signs Many roads in Davenham now have 20 mph zones but the high cost has restricted us to the purchase of only two flashing speed signs. The re-siting of one of the signs to Hartford Road is under review, but there is a very significant cost and no change is planned for the immediate future.



Butchers Stile development: The recreation equipment on the Butcher's Stile field is very basic and is in need of significant improvement. The Parish Council is commencing a project to make improvements to this community field beginning with some much needed drainage to improve the general condition of the land. Feedback from a consultation with local children has helped to identify possible play equipment and the development of the recreational area will be the second stage of the project once the drainage is complete. The project will be partly funded by statutory monies secured by the Parish Council to ensure it is used for the benefit of the local residents. The Parish Council will also be seeking to identify any additional funding opportunities to support these improvements.

HS2 Response

The Parish Council have submitted a response regarding the HS2 Phase 2B Draft Environmental Statement. A summary of the full submission is given below: The concerns raised by Davenham Parish Council to the previous consultation concerning the route, remain and the points raised at that time have not been addressed. The Parish Council remain concerned and opposed to HS2 Phase 2B. The Parish Council are not only concerned about the direct impacts that HS2 2B will have on the Parish, but also the impact and damage to the surrounding area, having hugely negative impacts on the road network, local economy, environment, landscape, ancient woodland and associated wildlife habitats.

Fields in Trust: We are delighted to report that, alongside Laburnum field, two more fields within the village have been protected with Fields in Trust status, Butchers Stile field and Davenham Cricket Club. This legally protects the land from any future development and secures its use for recreational use for now and future generations.



www.davenhampc.org.uk

Breaking News: Davenham Mosaics are Going on the Map! The British Association for Modern Mosaic (BAMM) is celebrating its 20th anniversary and to mark this event they are planning to publish a list of all public art mosaics in the UK, including both Davenham mosaics - the one by the Theatre showing unique land marks and scenes of Davenham, and the new one by the Bull's Head. Well done to all involved.

Other Village News



Village Mosaics There has been considerable interest in the new mosaics that have gone up by the Bull's Head and some lovely compliments on both the quality of the work and the sentiment behind it.



There are still two more panels to go up on the continuation of the wall that goes around the corner towards the cottage, facing onto Church Street. These are being made by members of the community and everybody is welcome to join in whether you might want to just put one piece in or many. The sessions run on Thursday afternoon, Saturday afternoon and Sunday afternoon at Vine Cottage, next to the theatre on Church Street. If you would like to come and join in could you please call Jan 07701054327 or email Mosaicopia@gmail.com to book a space so that everybody who wants to contribute can be accommodated.

War Memorial Gates Last September saw the grand opening of the War Memorial Gates at the entrance to Laburnum Road Playing Fields. The event was well attended and we must give thanks to 146 Squadron Northwich Air Cadets for making the day so special. Thanks also goes to Ken Goodier, one of the village's oldest residents and a veteran of the Second World War, who kindly cut the ribbon for the official opening. The memorial gates were predominantly funded by the Welcome Home Fund, which was initially started during the Second World War to provide a memorial for those from the village who served their country at that time, although it now represents those who have served in all wars. The wording on the gates reads: "In grateful thanks to those from this Parish who served our nation in times of conflict."



The gates were designed by the late Arthur Wood, a Parish Councillor for Davenham for over 40 years. Arthur gave up his own time to thoughtfully design the gates to reflect their purpose as a memorial. An explanation for the design of the gates in Arthur's own words:

"There is no strong representation of war in the design, rather a suggestion of the post war healing of people and nations. The flowing curves of the gate design are symbolic of a decimated battlefield restored with the stylised poppies which have remained such a strong image of healing and recovery. The whole entrance frontage is symbolic of the strength of our nation. The pillars give a monumental scale to the gates and lead the view through to the landscaped play area and beyond, a typical English country landscape facing the rising sun and dominated by the church spire."