

**The past year has seen us make significant progress on a number of long standing issues.**

- 1 Laburnum Road Playfield Field is at last starting to look like a proper play area. This past year has seen two major phases come to fruition, the Toddlers Play Area last July and this month the completion of the Adventure Play Area. In addition we have some of the tree planting in place, waste bins located, the much needed safety fencing in place around the pond and field signage.  
Still to come are the next phase of tree planting, the seats and wild flower margins.  
The Parish Council is keen to encourage the residents of Laburnum Road to look at improvements to this deteriorating private road. In addition, after improvements are made, funding will be available from the Welcome Home Fund to place attractive Memorial gates at the end, thus enhancing this area further.
- 2 Part of that enhancement should be the proper maintenance of our assets and we do need to be more attentive in looking after both our natural assets such as trees and equipment such as the seats around the village.  
We now have proper system of safety monitoring and maintenance of play equipment in place which has already resulted in remedial actions at Butchers Stile.
- 3 Antisocial Behaviour and petty vandalism is still with us but fortunately at a much lower level than in other areas. However there was significant damage to the Christmas tree lights last year which meant that they had to be prematurely removed for safety reasons. Whilst litter and dog fouling seems to be declining, there is still a small minority who do not seem to either use the litter bins or clear up after their dogs.
- 4 Parking is a continuing problem as is speeding traffic. We do have a problem in the village, partly due to the lack of off-street parking, all the more reason for responsible parking and a willingness to walk a few more metres to the shop or pub. There are of course safety issues - particularly in the village centre and Church Street when vehicles are parked carelessly or [particularly for disabled people] block footpaths. Our PCSO has carried out speed and parking checks and the issuing of parking fines and warning letters.  
Cycling on footpaths seems to be on the increase and can be a considerable hazard to pedestrians. With care it does help to keep young children more safe but there have been some near misses particularly with teenagers and adults riding on

# Chairman's Annual Report.

footpaths and travelling at speed. The footpaths should primarily be a safe place for pedestrians, not cyclists and parked vehicles. On this the Highway Code states quite clearly that cycling on footpaths is against the law.

The issue of a new parish Council for Kingsmead is now happily behind us and we are now a smaller, more coherent, community and able to concentrate on some of the longer term issues in making Davenham and Whatcroft an even better area to live. The slight drawback is that a smaller community has meant that we have had to increase our small share of the Council Tax as the smaller size does not significantly reduce the council's administrative costs.

In looking to protect our community, especially in the light of recent changes in planning legislation, the Parish Council has begun work on a 'Neighbourhood Plan' which supersedes the previous process of Village Plans. If we do not prepare one [in conjunction with Cheshire West and Chester Council] we are less likely to be able to prevent what we would call, inappropriate development or possibly be unable to get improvements we may like to see in the village. Preparing a 'Neighbourhood Plan' is a long and time and resource consuming exercise which will involve consultations with the whole community.

There is the possibility of PC's being offered more responsibilities by the larger councils [CW&C] - but will it be fully funded by the new councils or an added charge on our council precept? Will PC's have to employ more staff to administer extra services? We will have to be very careful in considering any proposals which may come forward.

Despite all our problems, the Village is still a good and attractive place to live and offers many benefits to residents and visitors alike. We and the community all have a responsibility to care for it

Finally, may I thank all members for their work over the past difficult 12 months and making the meetings relatively easy to chair. Although we may benefit from adapting the rules of a well known radio programme and avoid 'repetition, deviation and [sometimes] hesitation. I would particularly like to thank our new Clerk - Phil Sanders who took over the post in January, for so quickly and efficiently picking up the reins.

May I end by offering my successor Chairman, Tony Sellers, our best wishes for his year of office.

Cllr Arthur Wood  
Chairman 2011-2012

May 2012



**Did you know?**  
Davenham is the birthplace of marathon runner Paula Radcliffe.

## What's on and where?

### Davenham Players.

13th-15th September. Mid Cheshire Youth Theatre present Alice in Wonderland at the Players Theatre.  
22nd September from 10am. Arts and Crafts Exhibition, plus Book Launch Day.  
27th September: 7.30 for 8pm Jazz @Davenham.

**Friends of Davenham School [FODS]** will again be holding a number of family events, between September and December, including the very popular Christmas fair. Please check [www.fods.org](http://www.fods.org) for full details as events are scheduled.



### Contact Us

- We welcome your feedback and engagement with the Parish Council.
- Please first address all contacts and questions to the Clerk, Phil Sanders.
- email: [clerk@davenhampc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@davenhampc.org.uk) or post to: 21 Linnet Close, Winsford, CW7 3FA.
- You can also contact Phil by phone: 01606 861748 (Monday – Friday 8am to 5pm).

# DAVENHAM PARISH COUNCIL



Summer 2012

## Welcome to your new newsletter from Davenham Parish Council.

It is exciting times for the Parish with the split from Kingsmead now complete and a new Parish Council wholly focussed on the Davenham and Whatcroft area.

Some of you will be very familiar with the Parish Council and its role in the community while for others, this may be the first time you have heard from us. Our aim is to produce, print and distribute a newsletter every 6 months but we also now have an active website where you can read the latest information and see upcoming events in the Parish.

To visit the Parish Council website please go to:

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

You can also see all the latest news and notices posted on the Parish Council notice board in the centre of the Village.

This first newsletter will introduce you to the Parish Councillors, our role and responsibilities, together with the key projects we are working towards.

Please let us know about content you would like to see in future newsletters – we'd love to hear from you!



**Did you know?**  
The village's football team reached the final of the 1887 Welsh FA Cup!

**Did you know?**  
Legend says that the church was founded by St Wilfrid on a journey through Cheshire in the 7th Century, but the first documented evidence of a church on the site is an existing priest and church in 1086.

### Introducing your Parish Councillors.

**Chairman: Tony Sellers**  
**Vice Chair: Helen Armstrong**  
**Parish Councillors: Simon McDonald, David Ravenscroft, Brian Robinson, Andy Duff, Arthur Wood, Suzanne Wilson.**

All Parish Councillors are local volunteers who give up their time and experience to support the local community.

### Our Purpose & Responsibilities.

The role of the Parish Council is a group of local people responsible for overseeing, advising and taking decisions on many aspects covering the day to day running of the Village. For example The Parish Council owns a few small areas of land in the Village (Laburnum Road field, Butchers Stile and the ground leased to Davenham Cricket Club) and is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of these assets. The Parish Council fund a local Police

Community Support Officer (Kat Stock) jointly with Moulton as well as a Village gardener to maintain the plants and common areas in the Village.

The Parish Council is the first tier of local government and members are elected every four years. We review all Planning Applications along side the CWAC planning process, managing and trying to resolve local issues affecting our community.

### Meetings

The Parish Council meets every month at Davenham Methodist Church. The official meetings start at 7.30pm and are open to viewing from the public and press, however the public is not allowed to participate in the meeting itself. Residents of the Parish are invited to raise matters for discussion with the Council prior to the meeting from 7.15pm, but due to legal constraints the Council cannot make decisions regarding such matters until the next meeting.

### Contact Us

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# The Neighbourhood Plan – What is it all about?

The Parish Council is embarking on developing a 'Neighbourhood Plan' for Davenham. This reflects the Government's renewed emphasis on planning at the local level. The Neighbourhood Plan will cover Davenham Village and Whatcroft and supersedes 'Village Plans'.

The Neighbourhood Plan is a new way of helping local communities influence the planning of the area in which they live and work.

Our aim is to use it to:

- Develop a shared vision for the 'neighbourhood'
- Influence where new developments may be built, if applicable
- Identify and protect our important local green spaces
- Influence the scale and design of new buildings
- Protect and improve the village infrastructure and built environment
- Consider traffic, transport and parking issues
- Enhance the conservation area and protected trees

The plan will need to conform with the strategic policies in the 'Local Plan' being prepared by our local planning authority, Cheshire West and Chester. There will also be the opportunity to influence the Local Plan.

A crucial part of the process will be to seek to involve and consult the wider village community in developing the plan which will include: • Residents • Community organisations • Businesses • Property and Land owners

The creation of the Neighbourhood Plan is a substantial piece of work. Government guidance suggests it is likely to take a couple of years and estimates costs to be considerable. An early part of the project is to work with Cheshire West and Cheshire to understand what funding opportunities and other assistance will be available to the Parish Council. We are working with Moulton Parish Council on Neighbourhood Plan issues of common interest to the two villages.

## Your early opportunity to let us know your thoughts – a pre-consultation

As part of producing a Neighbourhood Plan there will be a requirement to consult with the community at specific stages. However, in order for this consultation to be efficient it is recommended a selection of options is provided, albeit opportunities to have a wider say will also be available. The options will focus on topics specifically relevant to our village community.

This pre-consultation is an informal attempt to understand the aspects of most relevance at the moment, which can include both the physical environment and community aspects.

If you could give us your opinion on the following with as much detail as you can, ideally including examples, it will allow us to be really clear on your thoughts at this early stage.

**Q1. Please describe the strengths and positives in our local area of Davenham; things you value and would like to keep?**

**Q2. Please describe the negative features of our local area of Davenham; things you don't like and would like to improve or get rid of?**

**Q3. What are the things our local area of Davenham doesn't have that you would like?**

**Q4. What are the things you would not wish to see of our local area of Davenham?**

**Q5. Would you be happy to be contacted by email? If so please provide your name, email address, and other contact details.**

Please send your responses clearly headed 'DNP Consultation' by email to: [clerk@davenhampc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@davenhampc.org.uk)  
Or in writing, ensuring they are succinct and legible please, to:  
The Clerk, Phil Sanders, 21 Linnet Close, Winsford, Cheshire CW7 3FA.

We would appreciate your contact details so that we can follow up on any points we wish to clarify. Indeed we intend to provide updates (and a regular village newsletter) on progress at different stages. Thank you for your input.



**Did you know?**  
Davenham is recorded in the Domesday Book as Devenham. The name means "hamlet on the River Dane"

# Updates on latest projects:

## Play time!



**Laburnum Road Play Area.** We have just finished the build for the Adventure Play Area for older children at Laburnum Road field and continue to monitor and maintain the field since its drainage and re-planting last year. The Parish Council has been very well supported by Cheshire West & Chester Councillors in this new development and Veolia grant aid who have funded over 75% of the costs. Some benches and more established trees are still to be added later in the year to complete this area.

**Laburnum Road.** We continue to work with the Laburnum Road residents to review and recommend a solution to the road surface and private parking within this unadopted road and will keep everyone updated on progress.

## Clubs and Societies

As well as the local shops and services Davenham Parish contains a large number of clubs and societies to enjoy within the vibrant local community. Below is a list of key groups and contacts. If your Club or Society is missing or you have news you would like us to publicise please e-mail the Clerk with your information and we will add it to the website and next newsletter!

**Davenham Cricket Club:** [www.davenhamcc.co.uk](http://www.davenhamcc.co.uk)

**Davenham Junior Football Club:** [www.djfc.co.uk](http://www.djfc.co.uk)

**Friends of Davenham School:** [www.fods.org](http://www.fods.org)

**Davenham and Sandiway Players:** [www.davenhamplayers.co.uk](http://www.davenhamplayers.co.uk)

**Davenham Bowling Club.** April saw the start of a new season for Davenham Bowling Club at their Laburnum Road green. The club is fielding 11 competitive sides in the local bowling leagues and associated cup matches. New members are always welcome especially at the Thursday "Social Bowling" afternoons. The afternoons start at 2pm and there is a charge of £1 for members and £2 for non-members. All of the equipment needed is available for free and you will be made very welcome. For details of membership, fixtures and how to contact the club please visit the website: [www.davenhambowls.co.uk](http://www.davenhambowls.co.uk)

## Policing in the Community

The Parish Council helps to fund a local Police Community Support Officer (Kat Stock) jointly with Moulton.

The PCSO is employed by Cheshire Constabulary and works on a shift pattern which includes evenings up to midnight and daytime working and covers every day of the week. Together with the CAT (Community Action Team) officers this provides for a much greater coverage than we have previously experienced. Most importantly the tasks and priorities of the PCSO will be set by the two Parish Councils. Davenham and Moulton Parish Councils each make a contribution, together with the Constabulary, to the cost of employing the PCSO.

Kat will have bases in Davenham and Moulton and will have immediate access to all Police facilities and backup and will patrol the area so will be readily available to talk to people and deal with incidents, problems and issues. Please see below a short introduction from Kat.

**"You may well be aware that Davenham is a low crime area but we cannot be complacent in crime prevention within the community or within your homes. As the police we love nothing better than detecting a crime. However, we cannot do this without help from local residents. I ask that if you see something suspicious or something that doesn't feel right then please call 101 to report it. 101 is the new Police non-emergency number. When should I call 101? To report less urgent crime or disorder, to contact the police with general enquiries or to speak to a local station.**

**For example: • If your car has been stolen. • If your property has been damaged. • Reporting a minor traffic incident.**

- Where you suspect drug dealing or use.
- Giving information to the police about crime in your area.

How does it work? You can call 101 to contact Cheshire Police 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Calls from landlines and mobiles cost 15 pence per minute, no matter what time of the day or how long you are on the phone."

**ALWAYS CALL 999 IN AN EMERGENCY WHERE THERE IS A THREAT TO LIFE OR A CRIME IN PROGRESS.**