

We should all by now have received our latest Council Tax bills and whilst we have previously mentioned that the Parish Council portion would be increasing, many would have forgotten why and quite frankly, because ours is such a small sum of the overall rate, the increase in percentages terms looks very significant, so we would take this opportunity to remind you of our street light audit taken in the latter part of last year.

Our street lights in the main are 20 to 25 years old and have finally reached an age where they need replacing. We tried to alter them to take the latest LED bulbs but regrettably the workings were too old to accommodate the latest technology! SSE, who maintain the lights for us condemned many of them and it was therefore necessary to start a replacement program urgently and budget for them to be done this year. However, there is some good news here because this will save us money in the future. In fact, savings have already started since we renewed 41 lamps as a matter of urgency. The monthly energy costs have already reduced and will continue to do so quite significantly as further new lamps are installed. This replacement program will also save on our annual maintenance costs as they carry a 25-year guarantee.

We held the inaugural meeting of the 'Denham Befriending' Good Neighbour Scheme last week and agreed the constitution. However, we are still looking for someone to chair the meetings, as one of the group has since had to drop out due to other commitments. Would you step forward and take on this role? It doesn't matter if you have never chaired a meeting before as you will have plenty of support and guidance from us. SBDC are also supporting this initiative with some funding to get it off the ground. Have you any time to spare? You may only have an hour a week to spare, but it could be so rewarding for you to spend that time helping someone, 'please **be that person who cares** and get in touch with us'.

The Health and Wellbeing Fair held at the end of February went very well and we are still hoping another one will be run, albeit smaller, towards the end of March, so please keep an eye out so that you don't miss the posters telling you about it. These events are free of charge so just turn up on the day.

**Save the Date: Tuesday 16 May 2017, 7:30pm. Your Parish Council AGM.**

This had to be moved from the Monday to the Tuesday due to us being unable to find a suitable venue. This will now be held in the May Coles room off the Denham Village Memorial Hall, in Cheapside Lane. All are welcome. We are holding this at a later time this year as we are hoping it will be more convenient for residents to attend.

**Save the Date: Sunday 21 May 2017, 2pm. 'Beating the Bounds'**

For all you keen walkers out there this is a date for your diary. It is the Annual 'Beating the Bounds'. Please join us in this Parish Council tradition of an annual walk along part of the Parish Boundary. This year we will walk Route 4 - Slade Oak Lane, Shire Lane (west), Juniper Wood, with refreshments available at the end of the walk.

**Please note:** This year's walk is unsuitable for children in buggies or pushchairs.

Marilyn Heath.  
Chairman, Denham Parish Council

Our very grateful thanks to 'In and Around Denham' for providing this platform for us.