

# **DNF** Denmead Neighbourhood Forum

*A Frontrunner community group, operating as a Working Party of the Parish Council, producing a Neighbourhood Plan for Denmead*

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## Newsletter – December 2012



### DENMEAD - IT'S OPEN FOR BUSINESS!

Part of the work of the Neighbourhood Plan team is engaging with the community. In planning for the future and doing the best for the parish, everyone's views are important, including those of the businesses and industry. To talk to employers the team has held two

early morning 'business breakfasts' at Barnard's Restaurant.



These meetings enable everyone to have a conversation, over a bacon sandwich and coffee without interfering with the working day. A range of employers have joined us representing shops, the service sector, farms and the self-employed as well as businesses from Parklands Estate. All have a

common need - to be allowed to grow, each in their own way. This is expressed in a number of ways such as more space, easier relationships with the City Council and employing more people, especially young people from the local area. All these ideas (and more) are now 'in the mix'. A further meeting is planned for February to follow up ideas and to look at how these ideas can be drafted into policies within our Neighbourhood Plan.

**Linking local people to local jobs** The Parish Council has already picked up on one – giving over part of their web-site to allow local firms to advertise local jobs for local people. It's free to local businesses and the advert will be placed for a month – unless you tell us the vacancy is filled of course! Why not take a look yourself at [www.denmeadparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.denmeadparishcouncil.co.uk) ?

**COMMUNITIES** (or rather the Department of Communities and Local Government) is the government department who awarded Denmead Neighbourhood Plan its *Frontrunner* status and the money to support the work. At the last Steering Group meeting we were joined by one of the senior members of the Communities team, Gareth Bradford. He wanted to find out how we are doing. Gareth told us that the first *Frontrunner* to pass their independent examination, Eden Valley in Cumbria, had just done so and would be holding the referendum to give the voters the final say on the Plan in March. Gareth was pleased to see our team making progress and gave us a lot of helpful and new sources for advice to help us through the work next year.

**How's the work progressing?** Small teams of three or four people are doing the research into particular aspects of our community, on subjects such as Recreation, Employment, Infrastructure, and the Demographics of our changing community. It has been a challenge to get these started but the teams are now finding out the detail that is needed to produce a robust Plan. Care to join them? If so contact Neil Lander-Brinkley on 023 9225 1484.

**MEANWHILE** watch out for more events in January and February where you can give us your views and help to manage the change that time and society bring. These will be held in the village centre, using the old Nat West bank premises, where you will be able to **DROP IN** and talk to members of the Neighbourhood Plan team.

**AND FINALLY** all the team wish thank every resident who has taken part in the work so far, especially those who filled in a survey card, and the parents at the Junior School who



took part in our first 'wall survey' during Parents evenings and **we wish everyone a happy, peaceful Christmas and enjoy your celebrations!**



***We'll see you in the New Year.***