



Odiham Parish Council

Issue 17
October 2015

Serving the People of
Odiham & North Warnborough

USEFUL CONTACTS

Odiham Parish Council

The Bridewell
The Bury
Odiham
RG29 1NB
01256 702716 or www.odiham.org.uk
Email: clerk@odiham.org.uk

Hart District Council

Harlington Way
Fleet
GU51 4AE
01252 622122

Hart Planning Department

01252 774419

Hampshire County Council

The Castle, Winchester
Hampshire, SO23 8UJ
0845 603 5638

Hart Children's Centre

01256 704685

Neighbourhood Watch

01256 701805

Odiham Bridewell Library

0845 6035631

Odiham Volunteers Care Group / Transport

Mon to Fri: 9am to 5pm
07551 587862

Odiham Health Centre

01256 702371

Odiham Police Office

24 hr non-emergency Tel: 101
(PC P Franks, PCSO E Wallace and SC Iain Tunstell)

AN EXTRAORDINARY YEAR

It has been an extraordinary year for the parish of Odiham. With the introduction of a new Parish Council, who will be introduced to you on the next page, the village and Parish Council have never been so busy.

The parish was the focus of the Magna Carta celebrations, a stunning success that the whole village enjoyed, for which The Odiham Society deserves all our gratitude.

However, it also saw our Neighbourhood Plan really gather pace, a document that is a blueprint for the parish over the next 17 years and is in a period of pre-submission public consultation that we hope the whole community engages with, with an open mind. The effort put in by our Steering Group, comprising residents and Councillors has been superhuman and we thank you all for your input too.

We have also seen a vision put forward for the Deer Park, something that will be a divisive topic for many in the village. A revised proposal was recently presented publicly that we have outlined within this newsletter. The Parish Council has looked at this objectively, considering the feedback to the previous proposal and we encourage the community to do so to.

Lastly, we hope to see you all at the new parish fireworks celebration, that the Hook and Odiham Lions are partnering with us on. Details are below.

Cllr Jon Hale: Chairman of Odiham Parish Council

WITCHES AND WITZ BANGS

ODIHAM'S FIREWORKS SPOOKTACULA
31st October at the Beacon Field (RG291NE)

Tickets: £5 per adult, £3 per child, under 4 years free
Family tickets (2 adults and 2 children) £13
Available at Fountains Coffee shop, Fountains Mall, Odiham

Gates open and food for sale from 5pm
Children's fancy dress competition starts at 5.30pm
Fireworks from 6.30pm

Full details available at: www.facebook.com/odihamparishcouncil
No fireworks (inc sparklers) or alcohol are permitted on site

INTRODUCING YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Cllr Jon Hale

Chairman of the Council and Chair of Community Committee



Chairing both the full Council and the Community Committee I moved to Odiham 10 years ago. As Chairman I sit across all committees and am passionate about keeping Odiham the perfect place to live with my family.

Cllr James Robinson-Giannasi

Vice-chair of the Council and Chair of Amenity Areas Committee



I am Vice-chair of the Council and Chair of the Amenity Committee. I represent the Odiham ward and also sit on all other committees.

Cllr John Bell



I am a mechanical engineer and computer programmer. I live in North Warnborough with my wife, Yana and two young sons. I have been gliding nearby at Lasham since 1973 and lived in the parish since 2009. I am interested in improving road safety particularly for pedestrians and cyclists.

Cllr Jean-Marc David



I serve on the Council as the RAF representative. I moved to Odiham with my family in March 2013 and joined the Council shortly thereafter and look forward to continuing to serve the community. I sit on the Amenity Areas and Community Committees.

Cllr Mark Faulkner



I am retired and have lived in Odiham for 15 years. I have a young family and am also a governor at one primary and one secondary academy. I sit on OPC's Community, Traffic and Transport, Planning and Development and Amenity Areas Committees and am a former Chairman of the Council.

Cllr Jeremy Fellows - Chair of Planning and Development Committee



I am Chair of the Planning and Development Committee, a member of the Traffic and Transport Committee and am on the Steering Group of the Neighbourhood Plan. I live in West Street with my wife Nathalie, daughters Lydia and Alice and hairy whippet Maple.

Cllr John Fleming - Vice-chair of Planning and Development Committee



When standing for election I promised that, if elected, I would strive that OPC is open in all its activities and use my knowledge of planning matters to fight against unacceptable development.

Cllr Richard Harris - Chair of Traffic and Transport Committee



I am a retired engineer and have lived in Odiham for over 10 years. As well as Chair of the Traffic and Transport Committee I sit on the Community Committee. Representing the ward of Odiham my focus is to look at safety and improvement initiatives for the parish.

Cllr David Stewart



I moved to Odiham in 1984 and now live in North Warnborough with my wife and 3 grown up sons.

I recently retired from the RAF after 30 years of service as a Chinook pilot and can now frequently be found cycling the local lanes.

Cllr Craig Worboys



I have lived in the parish for almost 7 years and was co-opted onto the Council a few months ago.

I represent the ward of North Warnborough and currently sit on the Amenity Areas and the Planning and Development Committee.

AMENITY AREAS

OPC continues to work to maintain and enhance its various assets for the benefit of the community.

Benches - our maintenance and repair programme continues. Recent benches repaired and treated include those sited in;- Palace Gate, The Bury, by the War Memorial and opposite North Warnborough village hall. We have also repaired and treated the surround and stocks in The Bury, although OPC does not own these.

Public toilets - These were painted inside and out this May.

Play areas - These are subject to ongoing inspections and maintenance. Repairs are carried out in accordance with our Health and Safety responsibilities. OPC will be looking at the possibility of further refurbishments if funds become available in coming years.

Allotments - The tender process is now completed and the Council has approved work to commence with a view to completion for next summer.

Chapels - Protective restoration work is under way on our Grade II chapels in the cemetery.

Cllr James Robinson-Giannasi: Chair of Amenity Areas Committee



HOOK AND ODIHAM RUGBY CLUB



Hook and Odiham Rugby Club was founded by a group of Serving and Ex Serving members of the Armed Forces. It was established in February 2015 and has grown from an idea to a club with over 30 members from across the local community.

Our mission statement is:

“Promote and develop the game within the community in order to increase participation in the sport in a manner that honours the game and spirit of the competition”.

We are looking to become an integral part of both communities and we aim to give another choice of sport to be played by all. This being Rugby World Cup year we hope to benefit and thrive from the potential that this will bring.

We have already started training which takes place on a Tuesday at 1815Hrs at Odiham and Greywell Cricket Club (who are kindly letting us use their facilities out of their playing season).

In an ideal world we would love to have our own pitch and facilities that we could call home and hence this is one of our main priorities to achieve over the next few years. Obviously, we can't achieve this on our own, it will also require the support of the local communities and businesses to help make it a successful club.

With this in mind, we are looking for potential players or sponsors within the Hart community to enable us to succeed. We would be very grateful to hear from anyone who is willing to become a member (player or social) or potential sponsors for the club.

We have started the season and played just two games. We have a few more to complete over the season until we can become associated to the Hampshire RFC and play in their leagues.

If you are interested, please contact Carl Wadmore (Chairman) 07867 974934 or Stu Oakley (Membership Secretary) 07967 692993.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

Hopefully by now you will have had a chance to read the Pre-submission version of the Neighbourhood Plan, which is available online at www.onwardplan.com/presub in some of our local establishments including OPC office, the library, WACC at RAF Odiham, Next Door and The Anchor. We are now in the middle of the formal consultation period which will last a minimum of 6 weeks. This is the opportunity for everyone who lives and works in the parish to register their views on the Plan. Previous consultations were designed to obtain information from residents about how to shape the Plan; now OPC wants feedback before the final version is sent for scrutiny by an independent examiner.

If you have any views on any aspect of the Plan, you will need to submit them by noon on 30 November. Please note, that even if you have commented before you will need to make your comments again for them to be recorded as part of the process to bring the Plan to its formal conclusion. You can do this either by letter to the Clerk at the parish office or online via www.surveymonkey.com/r/presub or comments@onwardplan.com.

The Steering Group continues to be very busy collating all the information gathered so far and this feedback will be important in determining whether any changes are required for the final version of the Plan. Your input is vital to enable OPC to ensure that the blueprint for Odiham and North Warnborough's development through until 2032 is right for our community.

Cllr David Stewart; Member of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group



SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE

Last year the Council purchased a Speed Indicator Device (SID) to carry out monitoring of vehicle speeding concerns around the parish.

We have to-date carried out two evaluations, at each location the SID looked in two directions.

- 1) At Archery Fields junction of Farnham Rd (our first evaluation test).
- 2) At RAF Odiham, Alton Rd B3349.

Both tests showed we did not have a speeding problem with speeds within the 85th percentile speed which is what the police look at. Results were:-

Archery Fields / Farnham Rd (30 mph zone)

- 85th percentile - 35 mph into Odiham. Weekday vehicle volume 4500.
- 85th percentile - 32 mph out of Odiham. Weekday vehicle volume 3900.

RAF Odiham / Alton Rd (40 mph zone)

- 85th percentile - 43 mph
- 85th percentile - 39 mph. Weekday vehicle volume 7000.

On both tests above we had a low volume of high speeding which we identified to the police to monitor. The 85th speed percentile is the speed police consider a safe maximum speed and is a very recognized speed measurement.

All of our data is shared with the local police and if a problem of speeding is identified, we will work with the police on two speed reduction actions:-

- 1) Police set up its own speed cameras.
- 2) Set up a Community Speed Watch.

So what next with the SID use? From complaints to OPC, the Traffic and Transport Committee reviews the complaints and looks to use the SID to evaluate and this is what we will be doing in the next month. The SID will be located in North Warnborough by the Mill House, then in Dunleys Hill just below and above the petrol station.

Each SID test takes around 5 weeks to complete i.e. setting up the SID, 3 weeks in analysis position, 2 weeks of data analysis and reporting.

We now have 7 SID Hampshire CC approved installations around Odiham which we will constantly review and add to if necessary.

PLANNING UPDATE

There is only one way to begin my piece about the Council's Planning and Development Committee and that is by paying tribute to my predecessor Helen Fleming as chair of the committee (sorry, Helen, I mean Chairman). Helen's knowledge, hard work, and scrupulous commitment to being fair and even-handed during her years of service on the Council, and on the P&D Committee in particular, was awe-inspiring. She is an impossible act to follow. I hope my fellow committee members and I give no cause for her to think her well-earned retirement from the Council was unwise!

The Parish Council may be a statutory consultee on planning matters in the parish but too often we feel the hard work put into considering planning applications is, to be frank, often a complete waste of effort. Quite why this is the case is something we as a committee are thinking a lot about at the moment. It is not as though we feel we are stuck in the past and deaf to the concerns of the wider community and those who wish to see the parish adapt and develop as it must do. For example, we recently objected to plans to build two houses on a plot of land towards Rye Common which is currently being used as business premises. This was on the grounds that the parish needs to protect employment sites in the parish to provide local employment and help ensure a supply of premises for smaller businesses, even if some residents felt it was an opportunity to remove a source of nuisance.

What is particularly galling however is where we express dismay at the quality of some of the more minor proposals within the conservation areas, only to find that the application is approved with no revisions requested. For example, there is in the parish room a delightful painting of some of the lovely doors and doorways in Odiham. However, when there was an application which involved doing away with a door in the High Street our pleas to have at least a false door went unheeded - and so bit-by-bit those little things that together make a big contribution to the urban landscape of the parish seem to be disappearing.

So a new approach may well be needed, one that perhaps tries to engage more with Hart's planning officers and planning committee to draw attention to what in Odiham needs special care, whilst not appearing to be against all development. In this task we are lucky in our local District Councillors, Ken Crookes, Stephen Gorys and John Kennett and their willingness to advise on the best way to air our concerns or to speak on our behalf.

Perhaps we can dare to hope that the recent rejection of the proposal for 30 houses in Hook Road may be a sign that our reluctance to adopt a 'resist-all' approach has legs. We appreciate many will have been disappointed the committee did not argue against the principle of development but it seemed clear to us that such an approach would be doomed to failure. We instead felt that giving encouragement to members of the Hart planning committee to agree the plans were an over-development in a conservation area would give a greater chance of success, and so it proved.

Finally, I end with a plea to help the committee. The time and resources of the committee are inevitably spread thin given the steady stream of planning applications that come its way. However, if augmented by a well-organised residents' group that basis its objections on facts and planning law, and which can undertake forensic analysis of the many documents often generated by planning applications, the committee's input will stand a greater chance of making a difference.

Cllr Jeremy Fellows: Chair of Planning and Development Committee

FOOTPATHS - HELP FROM THE COMMUNITY REQUIRED



We have a number of footpaths made difficult to access due to overgrown trees and bushes from residents homes. The problem with footpath 31, which runs from the Recreation Ground to the Church has recently been brought to OPC's attention. We are asking that residents whose gardens back onto this footpath and indeed any other footpaths, cut back hedges and trees to allow access by those on foot, especially children walking to school.

Hampshire CC can only cut footpaths once a year as per their cutting list and the frequency can't be increased due to financial constraints. OPC are looking at how we can do a second cut ourselves with the help of volunteers. Hampshire CC have made it clear that all houses that back onto footpath 31 on both sides have a responsibility to maintain the grass that abuts the other side of the wall to their property. As this is currently not being done, it may prevent HCC from carrying out there yearly cut due to the overgrowth from these gardens. HCC apparently are only responsible for a certain width either side of the path.

Footpath 31 is one of the most important footpaths in Odiham for children to get to and from school and we would appreciate help from all residents that back onto it to clear their hedges and trees.

OPC will in the next 3 months be reviewing the status of all of the main footpaths around the parish.

THE DEER PARK

On the 30 September, OPC held a meeting in public at the Old School to receive a presentation from the agents acting on behalf of the owner of the land known as the Deer Park. The land between the High Street and the Canal that you can see highlighted on the map. This meeting outlined how the owner has adapted his plans in response to the feedback received from his public consultation and the survey conducted as part of the Neighbourhood Plan. The meeting also gave Cllrs the opportunity to ask questions.

A copy of this presentation can be viewed in full on our website <http://www.odiham.org.uk/thedeerpark.html>. The minutes from this meeting will be published on our website once approved.

For those of you who could not attend the meeting, the outlined changes included:-

- A large area of land (approx. 6ha), to be put into community ownership along the southern boundary, as well as legal covenants on the remainder of the land, that provide guarantees to ensure no further development can take place on this land.
- A reduction in the scope of the project and the number of houses required to achieve it (from 12 to 8).
- Reducing the size of the Parker's House by 20% and moving its position slightly to the west.
- Detailed outline of the revised deer fencing (and how it is intended to be hidden by a Pale boundary), oak tree planting and community open spaces.
- Minimising the impact on the existing footpaths and outlining how the footpaths can be enhanced.
- Defining the details of an increased community space - and providing a future events area and car park.
- Outlining the opportunity for a community building adjacent to the Deer Park, or providing substantial funds for another community project.



Illustration of revised proposal



Pictures of the Deer Park (Sept 2015)

THE DEER PARK CONTINUED

Whilst this vision is yet to be put forward as a formal planning proposal, at a subsequent full Council meeting on 5 October, OPC agreed that this revised proposal to restore the land known as the Deer Park, as put forward to us on 30 September, a very special circumstance that will bring hugely improved recreational use of the land and provide the legal safe guards to protect it for our community and visitors to Odiham to enjoy forever.

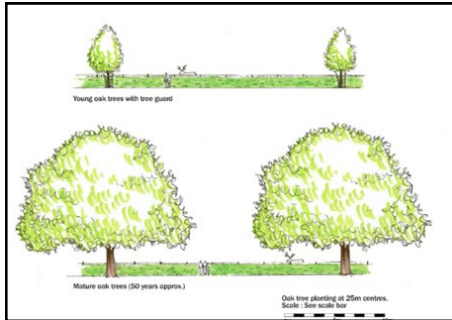
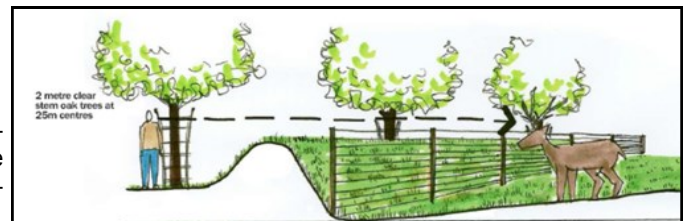


Illustration of the oak tree planting to show how views will still exist across the land between the oak tree planting.

Illustration of the pale boundary to hide the deer fencing.



This decision was reached, having balanced the impact of introducing 8 houses to this much valued community land vs the benefits that the proposal is expected to bring to our community. Such as:

- Making the land vastly more accessible from the muddy farmland it is.
- Provide the cycle and walkways the community have said they want.
- Provide crucially needed parking to support our ailing High Street.
- Link the Canal Wharf, tow path, High Street and Castle - making an attractive visitor proposition.
- Provide vital funds for the community projects - such as potentially provide much needed additional pre school places.

At this stage we can only provide our view on the vision and encourage the community to engage with the proposal. Should the owner progress his vision this will be put forward to the planning officers at Hart District Council and will need to satisfy their extensive planning criteria on its own merits. Should this happen, we encourage all our residents to engage and provide their feedback as part of the planning process (as indeed OPC will as consultees), that will allow for you all to provide your input and comments.

OPC has decided to clearly communicate our position to the parish to be open with our decision to support this revised version, given the unique opportunity it gives to fully protect this land through ownership and legal covenants. We now believe that our role is to be fully and positively engaged with the planning process to ensure that we maximise this opportunity and achieve the very best for our community. However, we would encourage you all to fully engage with the planning process once the application has been submitted and provide your own thoughts, views and ideas.

Full details of the presentation can be found on the Deer Park page of our website - <http://www.odiham.org.uk/thedeerpark.html>. If you have any comments or thoughts to the revised proposal presentation - please do share them with us by emailing planningconsultation@odiham.org.uk.

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

OPC would like to remind all residents that they are very welcome to address the Council during the public session of our meetings. We genuinely value your input. Over the last year we have heard from parents looking for better facilities for their families, concern over planning proposals and most recently a High Street retailer who has really focused our attention on how hard it is for businesses in Odiham, while outlining the need for more parking and attracting visitors / footfall to help save our High Street from further decline. Something we are now partnering with The Odiham Society and InOdiham to collectively consider and address.

We take everything that is brought to our attention on board and value your input. If there are issues or ideas that you have and would like to share them with us, please contact the Clerk for further details.

VILLAGE EVENTS

We have had an exceptional year for events in the village - especially with the Magna Carta anniversary celebrations which were a stunning success. The Odiham Society did a magnificent job, however OPC believe that John Champion deserves to be recognised for the supreme effort he put in to mastermind the celebrations. So, on behalf of the parish, thank you! But here are a few more events for the community to note.

WW2 BOMBING OF THE HIGH STREET

The publication of this newsletter may just miss the anniversary of the WW2 bombing of our High Street that led to the tragic loss of 5 civilian lives. This is being marked with a commemorative plaque on the building where the enemy bombs landed and a short ceremony at the Cross Barn on the 18 October 2015.



GUY FAWKES NIGHT

As we saw with the Magna Carta, the people of the parish clearly enjoy a bit of fancy dress, so OPC have partnered with the great team at Hook and Odiham Lions to bring this fireworks 'Spooktacular' to Odiham on 31 October. It is taking place at the Beacon Feld with the kind support of the nice people at Ford Farm who have lent us the adjoining field. The gates open at 5pm, with a children's fancy dress competition at 5.30pm. The fireworks start at 6.30pm. Please do support his event as we hope that if it is successful, it can become a annual fixture. Tickets can be purchased in advance at Fountains cafe.

CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA

The team at InOdiham really have taken this event from strength to strength.....so much so that they are now running it on a Saturday this year. THATS RIGHT.....A SATURDAY The 28 November 2015, between 3 and 7pm to be exact. There will be all the usual festive fun to really kick off the season.



STREET PARTY

We are already looking ahead to next year and with the nation planning to mark Her Majesty's 90th birthday with a massive street party on the Mall on the 12th of June 2016, we are wondering how we can do the same. All ideas would be gratefully received - please send them in via the contact details below.



KEEP IN TOUCH

Our parish website www.odiham.org.uk is a great source of information for all the key news in our parish, however for those of you with a penchant for social media, we now have our own Facebook page that is proving very popular. Sign up at <https://www.facebook.com/odihamparishcouncil>.