



Odiham Parish Council

Issue 19
October 2016

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 Children's Centre

01256 704685

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

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)

Our Parish has been a hive of activity over the last 6 months. It's been incredible to see the amount of time and effort that the small army of volunteers have put into the myriad of projects and initiatives that have progressed over that time.

Our Neighbourhood Plan has been submitted! We celebrated the Queen's birthday in style. A new visitor website has been launched - along with a new map and supporting literature. It's been great to see the return of the Hampshire Farmers Market, in addition to the launch of an all new 'Flavour Fest' event, which I hope will be back next year! We enjoyed more of our Parish's rich history with events to mark the siege of Odiham Castle and money has been secured to invest in enriching walks around the canal - as well as £100k from s106 contributions to establish an amenity for teens in our community. As we look ahead, having established a new successful fireworks night, that will be returning along with the Extravaganza, Christmas tree festival and Carols in The Bury.

That's a lot of work and as a community we are fortunate to enjoy the efforts and support of RAF Odiham, in addition to the ongoing efforts of organisations like InOdiham, OdSoc, The Lions, Rotary, All Saints Church and Odiham Fire Station - to name but a few that make it all possible. All this on top of the support regularly provided by the businesses in our Parish and of course the many individuals who have contributed to numerous projects - not least our Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

Not all projects are plain sailing - and sadly not everyone will agree with our decisions, ideas or initiatives. However, as a Council we are open with our discussions and ensure that decisions are made publicly. Over the last 12 months we continued to encourage public engagement and attendance at our meetings and it has been great to see the success of our first foray into Facebook, the ideal tool to keep everyone up to speed. Please do sign up to keep informed.

However, this edition of our Parish newsletter will give you a summary status of some of the significant projects and developments that are underway - as well as outline some of the activities recently completed.

Cllr Jon Hale - Chairman of Odiham Parish Council

**WITCHES AND
WIZZ BANGS**

Odiham's Halloween Fireworks night is back at Beacon Field - this time on Saturday 29 October.

Full details are on our website, Facebook Page and notice board - and advance discounted tickets are available from Fountains Cafe now!



PLANNING UPDATE

Odiham Parish Council's Planning Committee acts as a consultee to all planning applications lodged in the Parish (and a small number of applications in neighbouring Parishes where either OPC or the host Council feels that there is merit in hearing input from our community). Looking at the applications that the Council has commented on in the past six calendar months, it is clear to see that there is a lot of work being done in this role. Since March 2016 the Planning Committee has submitted comments on 85 separate applications.

It is important to understand that OPC's powers, as delegated by the full council to the Planning Committee, do not have a direct impact on the planning decisions ultimately made by Hart DC. OPC has no ability to grant or refuse planning applications in its own right. However, that is not to say that OPC's input has no value. Rather that, as a consultee, OPC can offer a local perspective to the decision making officers and Cllrs at Hart to reflect what we, as local residents, know and understand about our villages. For example: what might or might not be appropriate for a given location; examples of vernacular styles in the villages; the impact that a development might have on the way in which our community uses and moves around its immediate environment. This sort of local detail is not necessarily easily available to the Hart DC case officers who have even heavier workloads than us, covering planning applications from the many Parish and Town Councils' in Hart.

Residents will note that ground work activity has already begun on the Hatchwood Cottage site at the entrance to Odiham just the High Street side of the Broad Oak roundabout.

Hatchwood Cottage is a site where outline permission has been granted (3rd August 2015) for up to 35 houses to be built. The grant was despite clear input from the Conservation Officer that, despite the site being shielded from immediate view in some directions, it was of an inappropriate design and density for the immediately surrounding parts of Odiham, where our houses are set less densely and more comfortably in their garden plots. However, the outline permission has been granted and there is little or no hope that any developer, once granted (outline) permission for up to 35 houses, will build anything other than the full 35.

This application is now at the detailed application stage where the reserved matters (those details not completed in the outline submission) are being specified for Hart DC to move to consideration of full permission for the development to go ahead. OPC has lodged its strong objection to the detailed application (as it also did at the outline stage) based on the recognition that this site is sensitive, being the first visible approach to Odiham on the approach from the A287 Farnham Rd, is a real squeeze for the 35 houses proposed (contrast this density with the immediate neighbour Archery Fields) and the design and layout of the site remains totally urban in nature – at contrast to just about all of the village seen from the road.

OPC is pushing for this application to be decided by the District Cllrs in a public meeting of Hart's own Planning Committee, rather than by the delegated powers of the case officer. We shall be attending and using our right to speak at the meeting to ensure that the views of the current residents of the village are heard and fully understood before Hart DC concludes on this landmark application.

Cllr Mark Faulkner - Chair of Planning Committee



THE DEER PARK

OPC have been aware of the vision to restore the land known as the Deer Park for some time and have taken lengths to keep the community informed (<http://www.odiham.org.uk/planning/deer-park/> as well as through regular updates on our Facebook page). Indeed, the topic has been the subject of animated discussion in the Parish over many months and meetings.

Over that time we have seen two schemes presented by the owner and along the way the Council have also received public addresses from a variety of residents both against and in favour of the development. Cllrs have endeavored to listen to all views.

There was a two day public exhibition of the initial vision in May 2015, followed by a subsequent detailed public presentation of the revised plans 4 months later, which outlined how the public's feedback had been taken into account.

While OPC were critical of the initial presentation, when we discussed the revised vision in October, it was agreed by the majority of Cllrs that the opportunity to restore the land known as the Deer Park was a very special circumstance that will bring hugely improved recreational use to the land. And that the prospect of land being gifted to the community with additional legal covenants to protect it from future development, is expected to provide the legal safe guards to protect the Deer Park for our community and visitors to Odiham to enjoy forever.

Now that a full application has been submitted, the detail needs to be carefully reviewed with an open mind - with the input of experts like Hart DC and the 3rd party opinions of organisations like Heritage England considered. And of course, this all needs to be carefully balanced against the proposed development of 8 homes - measuring the impact this will have on our Conservation Area against the benefits they could enable for our community through the restoration of the park.

At the time of producing this newsletter, the formal application had recently been validated by Hart District Council. With plans available to review via their planning portal www.hart.gov.uk. The application numbers are 16/02214/LBC and 16/02213/FUL.

It is important to note that OPC are not the body who approve planning applications, however we do provide input into the process as consultees. We encourage all of our community to communicate your own views on the proposal via Hart DC's planning portal by the closing date of 20 October 2016. OPC reviewed the detail and decided it's position during an Extraordinary General Meeting which was held on 11 October in Mayhill School. An update from this meeting will be available on our website and Facebook page.



ALL SAINTS CHURCH UPDATE

The re-ordering and restoration work at the church is preparing our beautiful building to continue its mission and purpose of the last thousand years 'to glorify God and be a blessing to this community'. By adapting to the needs of an ageing society, improving access, providing more comfortable seating and better and more efficient heating, the project is well under way.

The removal of the former pew platform areas, which were found in danger of disintegrating because of insect infestation, has however also revealed a floor much less sound than anticipated and, more worryingly, the bases of the pillars which support the arches and the roof have been crumbling.

The structural engineer along with the architect, archaeologist and contractors are working together to reinforce these areas to ensure the structural stability of the church, work that is clearly urgently needed. We are indeed fortunate the Friends of All Saints are helping fund much of the work.



All Saints 'church' is about the people of this community. The new and beautiful oak chairs and much needed restoration work along with new heating will provide flexibility and a wonderful opportunity for new use of the space, here to provide into the next century and beyond, for the children of this generation and for All Saints Church to be here for their children thereafter. To help or for more information visit allsaintsodiham.org.uk or call 01256 703395.

Rev Alison Brown

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

Odiham Parish Council has submitted our proposed Neighbourhood Plan to Hart DC. The Plan sets out the vision and objectives for the future of the Parish and contains planning policies to guide the development and use of land in Odiham Parish.

Hart District Council has undertaken a six week consultation on the proposed Plan which will end at 4pm on Friday 14 October. All comments received will be sent to (and considered by) an independent examiner who will consider whether the Plan meets a set of prescribed 'basic conditions' and other legal requirements.

Details of the Plan can be viewed at <http://www.hart.gov.uk/Odiham>.

Once this consultation has been completed and our Plan has been through the independent examination, the examiner will prepare a report to Hart DC and OPC. This will include a recommendation on whether the Plan should proceed to a Parish referendum and, if required, any modifications that the examiner require are made to the Plan.

We will continue to keep you up to speed as the Plan progresses - and many thanks to everyone who has inputted throughout the process. Especially the Steering Group of volunteers and Cllrs whose time and effort was invaluable helping us prepare the Plan and who have now been formally disbanded as their formal role in this process has now concluded.

FACEBOOK PAGE CALL TO ACTION

If you aren't following it already, do take a look at our Facebook Page;

<https://www.facebook.com/odihamparishcouncil>. While we keep our website up to date, the Facebook Page is proving increasingly popular to keep up to speed.

TEENAGE RECREATION

Given I am a father of two very lively boys, this topic is very important to me. My children are nowhere near teenagers, but I am sure that day will come a lot quicker than I would like! I know that our Parish is very well equipped for younger children, which is great, but it does lack a space designed for the modern teenager.

However, this is soon to be resolved, as prior to me joining the Council, a £100,000 investment from the Section 106 agreement was agreed as part of the Montfort Place development. This is due to be given to OPC on completion of the 60th property within the development.

For those not aware, this money is restricted to be spent on a youth hub, teenage recreation area or a similar facility. It is not restricted to the Montfort Place site - and my committee are currently going through the due diligence of considering the best location for this amenity. With this goal in mind, OPC recently met with the Ecology and Countryside Manager from Hart DC to discuss the possible sites and equipment for the new teenage recreation facility within the Parish.

The officer from Hart agreed with our open minded approach and was very receptive towards the consultation we had already completed with the teen target audience as to what equipment they would like and to where they would like it within the Parish.

As the above investment is not tied specifically to the Montfort Place site, we discussed a number of OPC owned sites to which will still need further consideration. We will need to take the current guidelines into consideration which will include items such as distance of equipment from houses, safety, likely use, topography, area of land required and other amenities.

We discussed the use of a single site where we could have one item of equipment, to multiple sites where we would have a number of items installed. We then went on to discussing the different types of equipment that could be installed, the installation cost and how often they would require maintenance. Some items such as the zip wire have been put to the bottom of the pile due to the on-going maintenance cost, safety and the weekly checks that have to be carried out by a qualified person, this makes this option not only expensive but also draining on OPC resources.

The teenage recreation facility has produced some great feedback from people within the community as well as people raising concerns. We have been approached by members of the Parish who border our recreation ground who have raised concerns about potential noise, litter and anti-social behaviour, all of which will be taken into consideration. We will continue to consult with the local Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, Hart DC and the local PCSO to discuss these matters further.

We would like to reassure residents that we are doing our homework on this project and we will endeavour to engage with residents as the project progresses. OPC still have a way to go with gathering all the information required for this project, with no real firm date of when the money will be received. More information will be supplied on the various OPC channels as the project progresses.

Cllr Craig Worboys - Chair of Amenity Committee

UPCOMING EVENTS



As you will have seen from our front cover, after the success of last years first fireworks night, our fireworks Spooktacular is back on the 29 October. This is an event organised in partnership with the brilliant Hook and Odiham Lions. Full details are available on our Facebook page, but tickets are on sale now at Fountains Cafe. This year you will see the return of the kids fancy dress competition, some rides for children and food and drink served from the Beacon Field. The kind people of Ford Farm are lending us their field again and even organising a bonfire.

In Odiham always put on an amazing Christmas Extravaganza - so make sure you head to the High Street on the 26 November at 4pm to kick off your festive season in style. Following the success of last years event, it is returning on a Saturday again.

As well as supporting the Extravaganza, OPC is proud to be supporting the Christmas tree festival at All Saints as well as Carols in The Bury. Anyone who attended the event last year will tell you what an amazing evening it was. There aren't many places where you can see the arch angel Gabriel descend from a cherry picker - so make sure you are there to witness it. This year, Carols in The Bury is taking place on the 17 December.

LENGTHSMAN SCHEME

The term Lengthsman, coined in the 1800s, originally referred to someone who kept a "length" of road neat and tidy, lengthsman were used on canals and railways from the beginnings of both. On roads, lengthsman were responsible for a few miles between adjacent villages and sometimes their duties encompassed the village itself. Employed by local Parish Councils, their job was, inter alia, to keep grass and weeds down in the verge, keep drainage ditches clear, and sometimes repair fences. Litter, such as it was in those times, was collected and even wild flowers were tended to.

Parish Lengthsman schemes were deployed in Hampshire until the late 1960's, carrying out routine maintenance works across their allocated Parishes. HCC in recent years recognised that through working with the Parishes, an opportunity existed to improve local responsiveness, provide added value to the core service and improve the environment with the local communities by the re-introduction of Lengthsman schemes. Following its re-introduction, OPC are now members of this scheme.

Suitable jobs for a Lengthsman to carry out are mostly around the margin of the highways. Cleaning road signs, bus shelters etc., tidying up verges where missed by routine maintenance, clearing fallen trees and branches and repairing fences.

ODIHAM TRAILS

Having secured £10k from the Tesco Green Space grant scheme, OPC have developed 4 information panels for key points along the canal, being; Broad Oak Bridge, The Canal Warf, Deer Park cattle bridge and the North Warnborough lift bridge. The objective being to help direct and inform visitors. In addition we have identified sites for several supporting finger post signs to assist and direct walkers.

Having sought the input of The Odiham Society and Canal Association, we are now awaiting final content approval and aide authorisation from the Basingstoke Canal Authority to progress. We hope by the time this newsletter arrives work will have begun.

ALLOTMENT UPDATE

When I first volunteered myself to be chair of the amenities committee, I thought it would have been an easy task given it has been well looked after by my predecessor and supported by the office team. However, it is clear that the size and complexity of the projects we have underway are far from simple!

The proposed allotment site is a project that has been running for many years - with several challenges. We have found ourselves in a situation where the winning contractor for the construction of the new allotments site on the Hook Road has pulled out after starting works on clearing the site back in the spring. Negotiations were made between the contractor and OPC to see if works could continue, whilst we had a separate specialist contractor attend to complete the pruning and removal of some of the surrounding trees. Unfortunately, after a lot of correspondence between the office and the contractor, we will now need to seek a new contractor who can work within our finite budget

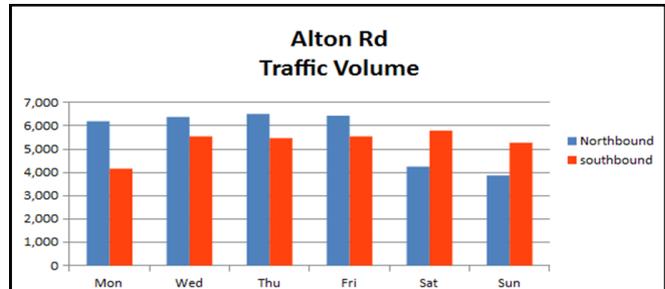
The situation now is that under the new guidelines we will have to re-schedule and re-tender the allotment project which will require further input from the office and also from the committee.

Initial feedback from new contractors who we have managed to obtain some verbal estimates from, suggest that the budget for completing our original vision has risen by about 35%. We are aware of the enthusiasm from many within the community to have the allotments in place and this is shared by myself and my committee, who are keen to see this project completed. However, this will now come down to what is achievable within the allocated budget and possibly looking for volunteers to assist in completing this project. We will of course keep you updated.

Cllr Craig Worboys - Chair of Amenity Committee

SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE

The SID has been in action on Alton Road, measuring the speed in and out of the village. The southbound volumes are slightly lower than the northbound ones as they were measured during a bank holiday week. This is in the 30mph speed limit and the police would consider enforcement where more than 15% of the vehicles are over 35mph. This is called the 85th percentile speed.



The overall figures for Alton Road were:

Southbound (out of village): 5235 vehicles / day 85th percentile speed 29.8mph
 Northbound (into village): 5607 vehicles / day 85th percentile speed 37.4mph

The SID is currently in use in Hook Road by the Mill stream and the traffic and transport committee will be considering the forthcoming programme at the next meeting. We will be publishing the full results on OPC's website in the next few weeks.

Cllr John Bell - Chair of Traffic and Transport Committee

ODIHAM SCOUTS ARE RECRUITING

Due to increasing demand Odiham Scouts are recruiting.

We would like to hear from anyone interested in helping run Odiham's local Scout Group, whatever their skills or background. Training is provided for people wishing to be leaders. On the other hand there are roles on the committee that do not involve managing children. Essentially all that is required is enthusiasm and some spare time.

Odiham Scout Group has about 35 local children in three sections: Beavers (aged 6 to 8 years), Cubs (aged 8 to 10) and Scouts (aged 10 to 14). These meet weekly in the Baker Hall during the school term. The children have fun learning practical skills working towards badges and the Chief Scout Award. Children get the opportunity to go on camp at various times through the year. You may have seen us at the Magna Carta and King John's Castle events.

We have many more children on our waiting list than we can accommodate and thus need more leaders and helpers. If you are interested in joining as an adult leader or supporting the leaders as a helper, we would be delighted to hear from you. Equally if you would like your child added to the waiting list please get in touch in the first instance to Dave Owen at daveowen076@gmail.com or call 01256 861019.

NORTH WARNBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL

The North Warnborough Village Hall on Priors Corner is a very well used facility which is managed entirely by our team of volunteers. However, as some members of the team are hoping to retire in the not too distant future we are now actively searching for new members for key roles.

If you would like to join our friendly, enthusiastic management committee, particularly if you feel you could take on the role of secretary, please call Sue on 01256 702425 or email bookings@nwvh.org.uk.

2017 VILLAGE CALENDAR

Over the year, OPC and All Saints Church have been asking the community to enter photos into a competition that will see the creation of a 2017 village calendar. We had over 100 amazing photos sent in and after a very tough session, our judges narrowed the entries down to 12. One for each month of the year and providing a stunning showcase for our village - including key village events for next year.

But that's not all. The calendar also serves as a Christmas AND a monthly prize draw,

How does it work? It's a calendar with local pictures and events that at the end of each month you tear off for it to become your free entry to a monthly village prize draw supported by our local community businesses!

How do I get one? You need to pre-order your calendar for just £10. This can be done via the website www.odihamcalendar.co.uk or via All Saints Church (see below). The objective of the calendar is to promote the Parish and help ensure that there is plenty of advanced notice of some key village events. However, as well as a beautiful calendar we hope to provide great value that includes an additional draw for this Christmas as well as the opportunity to enter a local prize draw each and every month of 2017!

Calendars and prizes for December will be available for collection at the village Christmas Tree Festival at All Saints Church. The first calendar draw is your chance to win a:

Christmas Turkey

Donated by Furney Copse Farm. Locally Produced Norfolk Black Turkey from our High Street Friday market.
Call Paul: 07722 209490

£100 Voucher

Donated by Bel & the Dragon toward a dinner for two this January.
For those with a penchant for fine wine, great food and a warm welcome.

Christmas Fruit and Vegetable Box

Donated by Tommy's Fruit & Veg locally supplied from our High Street Friday market.
Call Tommy: 07810 584654

So don't miss out! Please support this new initiative and pre-order your 2017 village calendar and entry to the Christmas draw. Order yours now on our website www.odihamcalendar.co.uk or enclose a payment of £10, cheques payable to Odiham PCC (Calendar) and post to: All Saints Church, The Bury, Odiham, RG29 1LZ. Tel: 01256 703395 or email admin@allsaintsodiham.org.uk - please include your name, your telephone number and your email or address details.



January



June



September



December