



# Odiham Parish Council

Issue 21  
October 2017

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](http://www.odiham.org.uk)  
Email: [clerk@odiham.org.uk](mailto: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

### Neighbourhood Watch

01256 701805

### Odiham 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)

## NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

It's been 5 months since our Neighbourhood Plan was formally adopted by Hart DC. Whilst much of the Plan focuses on where future housing will be built, it also sets out many aims and objectives for how the community would like us to improve our parish. In this time, OPC and its various committees have been considering how we can start work on delivering some of these aims and objectives.

As well as initiating the Neighbourhood Plan, over the last few years OPC has been building on an extensive level of community engagement to help guide our efforts. This includes our Parish Project research, developing a successful social media strategy, collaborating with other village organisations and listening to feedback from the public during the public session at our meetings. The full details of our Principles Governing OPC's Engagement and Consultation process can be viewed on our website.

Based on the input gleaned from this engagement, OPC's committees have started developing their 5 year plans to prioritise and implement the projects that we believe the community want. We do our best to get it right and endeavour to consider all the residents we represent - and we always welcome any input and ideas, either at our public meetings, via emails to our office, on our Facebook page or directly to your Cllrs.

In this edition of our newsletter we will outline some of the progress made on the initial projects. However, we also want to build on the engagement undertaken to date and ask for your opinions and views on how exactly these first projects should progress. This includes asking for your input on two projects aimed at improving recreation facilities in the parish, as well as your thoughts on how we can improve our public toilets. Please do take a few minutes to read the update and provide your views.

### Cllr Hale - Chairman of Odiham Parish Council

**WITCHES AND WIZZ BANGS**

Odiham's Halloween Fireworks night is back at Beacon field - this time on Saturday the 28th of October.

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



## NEWS FROM THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Odiham Parish Council's Planning Committee has had a relatively quiet time since I last wrote in the March newsletter. The committee has met 7 times and has considered 32 household applications (extensions and changes to existing properties), 16 listed building consent applications (often mirroring household applications on listed buildings) and 13 applications relating to other developments, often including new residences and sites with multiple new homes.

The split between household and listed building applications remains much as in previous periods with Odiham having a relatively high proportion of listed building applications for obvious reasons. Once again, it is worth pointing out that Odiham contains 25% of all listed buildings in Hart.

Applications (and their outcomes where known) that are particularly worth noting are:

**Palace Gate House** - Where multiple applications have dealt with preparation of what the community knows as the old Spectro Jet-Care offices at the top of the High Street in front of the Cross Barn for residential use. There remains an issue over the parking covenant granting public access to a number of parking spaces on the site which needs to be resolved but the granting of applications has moved the site closer to multiple residential occupation.

**Close Cottage** (next to the old Crown PH) - Has been refused permission for updating and changes but is currently under appeal against the refusal.

**The White House** - On the High Street which is currently being re-roofed and repaired externally and which has had permission granted for a range of internal alterations.

**Lodge Farm** - Further expansion of the retail provision at the farm shop site has been granted permission.

**Robert May's School** - Has been granted permission to install a MUGA (a multi use games area) on site, although the community will be noticing the works currently ongoing on the extension to the school at the front of the site, previously approved but not in construction.

**Installation of a new telephone kiosk/ATM** - Opposite the Co-op on the High Street was approved retrospectively.

Permission for **8 new houses** was granted on land adjacent to **Crumplins Business Court** on Dunleys Hill after an original application received detailed local comment and was amended.

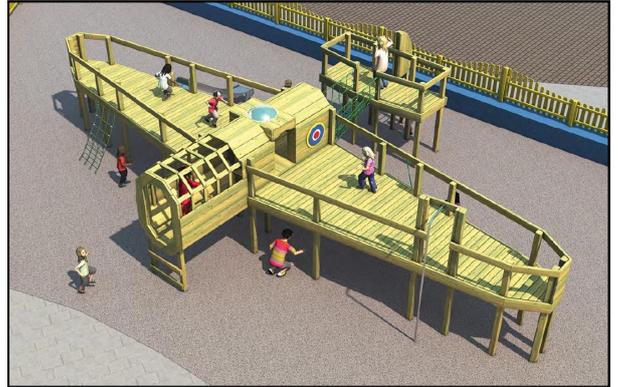
Whilst OPC's comments are not always completely in line with the decisions made by Hart DC as the Local Planning Authority, the Planning Committee remains committed to offering local guidance to the LPA on what it considers local nuance and vernacular design on applications in the village. It also aims to offer input where proposals would have unexpected or second order impacts on the way the village functions. This may not always be clear to Hart DC's case officers who have a broader brief to consider applications from a range of localities and may not immediately recognise the sensitivity to local features. As an example, OPC as a council and the Planning Committee in its role as consultee often comments on applications intended to put the parking constraints of the village into an accurate perspective. Hart DC does have parking guidance in place designed to ensure that proposals adequately allow for on-site parking in line with the likely occupancy levels of new developments, extensions or conversions. For the smooth functioning of the community in future periods, the Planning Committee believes that it is crucial that Hart DC's guidance is adhered to and in its comments, the Planning Committee regularly picks this point up to ensure that Hart DC's officers place sufficient importance on parking when assessing proposals.

Finally, and on a more visible note, the community will have seen that the two developments at the Farnham Road end of the village are progressing swiftly, with Montfort Place, the larger of the developments at 89 residences, entering its final construction phase and with many houses already occupied. The development behind Hatchwood Cottage remains in the earlier phases of construction, but the traffic control while services are connected confirms that it will not be long before the village welcomes new residents into up to another 35 houses on the site.

**Cllr Mark Faulkner - Chair of Planning and Development Committee**

## JUNIOR PLAY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Improving recreation facilities is an objective in our Neighbourhood Plan and enhancements to our recreation ground at Recreation Road is an initiative that the community has expressed clear enthusiasm for in our Parish Projects survey. As a result of OPC putting forward improvements to the recreation ground to Hart DC a number of years ago and them approving it, s106 contributions are already being collected from developers by Hart DC for this project.



The need for better junior play equipment and highlighting that our current play parks have limited appeal past a toddler age group is a theme that has been raised by several members of the public at our council meetings. With some possible funding in place this has prompted OPC to consider the second stage of our community engagement for this project.

As such, we would like to ask the community how you would like this initiative to proceed and to get some ideas and inspiration for what we could do to improve our recreation ground. Specifically in terms of the nature of the play equipment you believe would work well for the target age group and how big you believe our ambition should be to improve the recreation ground. Should we look at traditional play equipment, something sports focused, or niche/themed to Odiham? Perhaps as home to the nations Chinook force even something to acknowledge next year's 100th Anniversary of the RAF?

We have set up a short survey and would value your input. This will then shape how we progress our third stage of engagement, in terms of asking the intended users exactly what we should look to procure for them to use.

The survey can be found here - <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/opcjuniorrecreation>

A paper copy of the survey is also available in the Parish Office.

**Cllr Hale - Chairman of Odiham Parish Council**



## ALLOTMENT UPDATE

Following on from the article in our Spring 2017 newsletter, I am pleased to advise you that the Amenity Committee were presented with quotes to carry out Phase 1 of the project at its Extra-ordinary meeting held on 25 September. The committee agreed to recommend the appointment of a contractor to the Full Council.

At the Full Council meeting on 2 October, it was resolved to appoint the contractor as per the recommendation from the Amenity Committee. It is hoped that works will start in the next few months and we will keep you updated on the progress on our website.

To remind you, Phase 1 consists of: installation of the water to the site, completion of the access off Hook Road, further clearance of the site due to regrowth, repairs to the fencing and construction of the car park area. The Amenity Committee will be looking at Phase 2 of the project at a future meeting.

## TEENAGE RECREATION

In our Spring newsletter, I outlined the details of the £100,000 investment OPC is due to get from what is known as Section 106 funding. This is money that the developer of Montfort Place is giving the community for a specific purpose, in this case towards the provision of a youth hub or similar in Odiham. This funding is due to be transferred to OPC on completion of the 60th property, which we understand is imminent.

However, the money is not by any means restricted to the Montfort Place site, although we expect the green space surrounding the development will eventually be given to the wider community making it a viable location.

From a point of view of land ownership, OPC have explored options at Montfort Place, the Recreation Ground and the Beacon Field. Our initial work has suggested that the Beacon Field is not a suitable site due to access.

We are now moving into the next phase of our engagement on this project and would like to ask the wider community for its views on how this project should progress.

For transparency, this will build on some excellent focus group research undertaken with teens from Robert May's School and the local scout group, by a member of our former NH Plan steering group working on behalf of OPC. These focus groups were designed to generate ideas from the teens themselves asking them what type of equipment they would like and where they would like it to be situated. The report is available at: <http://www.odiham.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/REPORT-TO-ODIHAM-PARISH-COUNCIL.pdf>. It outlines that the teens we spoke to had a strong desire for a central location - and from our owned sites the recreation ground was favoured by the target audience. However we are still considering Montfort Place and would value your views.

The teens also showed a preference for Baker Hall, which we do not own and further research concluded this would not qualify for the investment.

Based on the teens input and guidance by Hart DC on types of equipment, we are considering:

- A skate bowl
- Pump track
- Fitness equipment
- Multi use games court (converting the existing basketball court)

Please take a few moments to complete the survey via the link below. Consider what you think teens would use - and where. What would you like our community to have to benefit this teenage group? This is an entirely separate initiative to the junior recreation project also outlined in this newsletter (which has its own funding source) - and while there is a clear benefit to the two projects being considered together, in this case any investment has to have teens as its primary consideration.

The survey can be found here - <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/opcteenrecreation>

Copies of the survey are available in paper form at the Parish Office.

**Clr Worboys - Chair of Amenity Committee**



## THE SWAN PUBLIC HOUSE

OPC have been provided with a brief update on The Swan public house as follows;

The current position with regard to The Swan is that the Secretary of State has declined a request from the owners to delay the Compulsory Purchase Order process and it will now all be dealt with by written representations. From a point of view of process moving forward, we are told it is fairly straight forward and will involve an exchange/response between the District Council's and the owners respective submissions. The expectation is that by the beginning of November the administrative process should be finished and we will then have to await a decision.

## KING STREET TOILETS

As a Parish Council we have asked on several occasions if the community would like to see our public toilets on King Street refurbished. The answer has consistently been yes. However to date, the work undertaken has only included a limited amount of re-decoration in preparation for the 2015 Magna Carta celebration.

Refurbishing the toilets was a top ranked project in our Parish Project research as well as detailed as an objective of our Neighbourhood Plan which outlined that a refurbishment project would be favoured by many residents. A recent informal straw poll at our May Annual Parish Assembly also showed, by a strong majority from the public in attendance, that refurbishment of our toilets was seen as preferable over a scheme that would ask High Street businesses to provide use of their toilets for non-customers, or seeking a new facility at an alternative location.



Against this community engagement, there is now a desire from OPC's Amenity Committee to get cracking and actually look to improve Odiham's public toilets.

Informal social media engagement by Cllr Hale supported the notion that the community overwhelmingly wants us to keep and improve our public toilets. However, it also generated extensive feedback that detailed the types of improvements that many people would like to see. Including: improved lighting, baby changing facilities, fixing broken facilities and general modernisation. There was additional input that many residents were also not aware that we even had public toilets, suggesting a need for better signage.

A significant refurbishment will likely cost many thousands of pounds. We need to look into where funding can be found, although we do hold some reserves that may be used. Before we progress this project further we would like to get some formal input as to what improvements you see as most urgent.

We also want to take the opportunity to review the opening days and times - and ask if you believe the toilets should remain free to use. Currently the toilets are only open weekdays and according to the cleaning company, we believe they are used on average 15-20 times a day. The toilets are cleaned everyday that they are open and overall running costs are almost £7k per year, which across our community, works out at £1.24 per person on the above numbers. Increasing the availability of the facilities would likely increase these costs further, so your view on how important a 7 day a week service is would also be valued.

The survey can be found at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/opctoilets> and we would value your input. Hard copies will also be available at the Parish Office on request.

Lastly, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Oast Garage, who have for many years opened and closed the toilets during the week for the benefit of the community.

**Cllr Worboys - Chair of Amenity Committee**

## RAF100 - HOLD THE DATE

Next year sees the centenary of the RAF. This will be a national event and we are starting to think about how Odiham can play a part to mark the occasion.

It's early days.....and plans are still forming, however our current thinking is that we should repeat the success of last years street party for the Queens 90th birthday - by throwing something similar to celebrate 100 years of the RAF and of course celebrate RAF Odiham. Having had some initial discussions with the RAF, the date we have provisionally in mind is 9 June but this will be confirmed as soon as possible.

But could we do more? Can we make it even bigger and better? There are other ideas in the mix too. Such as a themed RAF soap box / cart race - hopefully involving entrants from the community, RAF Odiham and other organisations and local parishes.

Please watch our Facebook page for more details. However, if you think you would like to participate in a RAF themed soap box / cart race please get in touch - [cllrhale@odiham.org.uk](mailto:cllrhale@odiham.org.uk)

**Cllr Hale - Chair of Community Committee**

## 2018 CALENDER

Our 2017 village calendar was a great success and one we are planning to repeat for next year.

Once again, 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 next years village calendar. Again we have hundreds of amazing photos to choose from. One for each month of the year, providing a stunning showcase for our village - including key village events for next year.

Just like last year, the calendar also serves as a Christmas AND a monthly prize draw. Thanks to the generosity of many of the businesses in the village.

You can take a look at the shortlisted pictures, review the potential prizes - and of course order a calendar at [www.odihamcalendar.co.uk](http://www.odihamcalendar.co.uk)

How does it work? It's a calendar with local pictures and events that at the end of each month .....you tear off a slip 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 mentioned above 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 2018!

Calendars and prizes for December will be available for collection at the village Christmas Tree Festival at All Saints Church.

So don't miss out! Pease support this new initiative and pre-order your 2018 village calendar and entry to the Christmas draw. Order yours now on our website [www.odihamcalendar.co.uk](http://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 [admin@allsaintsodiham.org.uk](mailto:admin@allsaintsodiham.org.uk) - please include your name, telephone number, email or address.



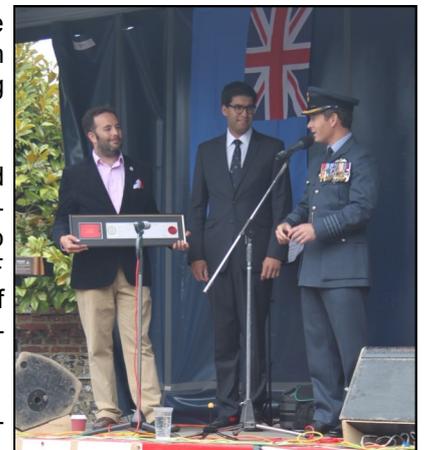
## COMMUNITY AWARDS

Those of you who attended the Armed Forces Day celebration in June will have seen our first ever Odiham Community Award presented to the men and woman of RAF Odiham. The award was presented to the Station Commander during the parade by one of Odiham's scout troop.

This award is a new initiative that OPC's Community Committee have worked with representatives of All Saints Church to develop. It seemed fitting and appropriate during our communities celebration of RAF Odiham's 80th Anniversary to launch the initiative by giving the first award to the entire personnel of RAF Odiham - for all they do for us both nationally and internationally as well of course for everything they have done for us over the years within our own community.

Moving forwards the objective will be for residents within our community to nominate people that they believe have made an outstanding contribution to the people of Odiham and North Warnborough.

The aim is to establish an awards program to cultivate a sense of gratitude, encouragement, inspiration, social cohesion and partnership across the various groups within the villages. It is hoped that this initiative will bring together different sections of the community both young and old, to support and promote their work and hopefully provide new interest, new leaders and membership of voluntary groups that are essential to the existing and future fabric of



## COMMUNITY AWARDS - CONTINUED

our community and highlight the advantages of community life, provide opportunities to develop people and untapped skills sets and illustrate the importance of working together.

The process for nomination will be announced early next year - and include a call to action for nominations within the Spring newsletter to all households. Supported by social media and our notice boards. The intention is that nominations for awards will be taken from all corners of our local community. The people who serve our village, in children's nurseries, voluntary groups, charities, police, fire and service men, schools, businesses, landlords and shop keepers.

The nominations will follow a requested format that will demonstrate the highest moral character and record of admirable and outstanding service and contribution to our community, that can then be emailed to an address to be set up by OPC. However, they will then be reviewed by a panel of people from a variety of organisations within the village who will ultimately decide who will receive the 2018 award.

**Cllr Hale - Chair of Community Committee**

## PALACE GATE

A covenant at the Palace Gate site between the Cross Barn and the High Street gives Hart DC the right to park up to 39 vehicles on a defined area of land between 18.00 hours and 23.30 hours on Fridays, 08.00 hours and 23.30 hours on Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays. The right to park on the land at these times was granted for a period of 99 years from 28 September 1988. The existence of this covenant was not widely known within the community, even within OPC, prior to a couple of years ago.

The new owner of the land is seeking to have the covenant removed. Its removal would help the owner achieve a more effective use of the land for the car parking that is needed by the future owners of the houses that are being created out of the former offices on the site. In return for securing relief from the covenant the owner is offering some permanent parking. OPC has been invited to help Hart DC establish what should be its objectives during the negotiations with the new owner. Hart DC has requested that OPC's discussions about this matter are kept private and confidential so that its negotiating position is not known to the new owner in advance of formal discussions.

Matters OPC will consider during its own deliberations are likely to include:

- Trying to evaluate the true value of the covenant for providing parking in central Odiham when its actual existence was not widely known.
- How any permanent parking should be managed (charges, restrictions) and by whom?
- The importance of parking adjacent to the Cross Barn to the barn's ability to attract users.
- The configuration of any permanent spaces.
- The future of the existing permissive right of way on foot from the car parking to the High Street.
- How any unprovided parking demand from the residents of the new homes being built there would affect surrounding streets?
- The cost of creating any permanent spaces and who would pay for this?
- Maintenance considerations.

**Cllr Fellows**

## CUTS TO TRAIN SERVICES FROM WINCHFIELD TO HOOK

Please be advised that South West Railway are proposing to cut train services from Winchfield and Hook. They are proposing to cut the peak time services to London from 8 services a day to 6 and only 2 of those will be direct services.

Please give your feedback by emailing the link below by 22 December 2017.

[timetable.feedback@swrailway.com](mailto:timetable.feedback@swrailway.com).

## CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA



Last year the team at InOdiham changed the date and time of the Extravaganza - to a Saturday and started the event earlier in the afternoon. All those who attended will agree it was a huge success and one that we look forward to seeing repeated this year on the 25 November between 4pm and 8pm. There will be all the usual festive fun to really kick of the season. So please make sure you have this one well and truly in your diary.

For further details see [www.inodiham.co.uk](http://www.inodiham.co.uk)

## CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Back for the third year, All Saints Church will be holding the Christmas Tree Festival from the 15-17 December. This event is a festive marvel of creativity with many amazing Christmas trees entered for you to vote on. The display is open Friday 3pm to 7pm, Saturday 10am to 8pm and Sunday between 12.30pm to 4pm.

## CAROLS IN THE BURY AND NATIVITY

All Saints Church will be organising this years Carols In The Bury on Saturday 16 December starting at 6pm. There will be choirs, bands, food and more.

This will be followed by the village nativity play that is as festive and fun as it gets. Will Father Christmas arrive by Fire Engine again? - will the Archangel Gabriel 'rise' from the choir?.....come along on 16 December at 6pm to find out.



## RAF ODIHAM STATION COMMANDER

It has been my good fortune to be associated with Royal Air Force Odiham and the Chinook Force in particular since 1998. Over that time it has always been the sheer professionalism, dedication and fortitude of the people who serve on the unit which has been a source of immense pride and inspiration to me. That pride is unabated and it is an honour and great privilege to return here as the Station Commander.

Since I last served at Royal Air Force Odiham in 2014 the focus of the Station has changed. At the time it was Afghanistan which consumed us and the relentless deployments over the course of almost 14 years were a permanent part of our lives. As a Station we now support contingent operations, those short notice deployments across the globe in support of Her Majesty's Government which often make the headlines. Contingency is less certain and demands much of us, but the deployment of the Chinook Force in support of relief operations in the Caribbean in the wake of the devastating Hurricane Irma has proven our capability once more. It has taken every element of the Station to deliver it and you can be very proud of their achievements. Perhaps as a result of the previous publicity surrounding Afghanistan and our continued support to operations I note that the bond between the Station and the local community is stronger than ever. It is a bond which we cherish enormously. Support from County and Parish Councils, local schools, the Church, charities, businesses and the community itself both enriches the lives of those who serve at Royal Air Force Odiham and adds to the sense of pride, belonging and 'value' that our people and their families feel. It is all the more important to us because of our current role, as contingency generates uncertainty for Service families when loved ones deploy at very short notice. Your support during these testing times is crucial and on behalf of the Station I thank you.

In early September I had the pleasure of hosting the Annual Reception. The Reception is one of the few times in the year when we meet to say thank you for your continued support. It was a pleasure for the Station to host and while such gatherings are unfortunately rare I note that the coming 12 months promise to be slightly different. 2018 will see the Royal Air Force's centenary no less and the celebration and commemoration of this momentous event falls under the banner of RAF 100, which will run from Oct 17 until mid-Sep 18. The Station will be fully involved in this unique event and I encourage you all to participate wherever possible.

Once again it is a great privilege to return to Royal Air Force Odiham and I look forward to further strengthening our excellent relationship over the next two years.

**Group Captain L Turner BEng (Hons) RAF, Station Commander RAF Odiham & UK Chinook Force Commander**