



Odiham Parish Council

Issue 18
April 2016

Serving the People of
Odiham & North Warnborough

USEFUL CONTACTS

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The Bridewell
The Bury
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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
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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)



121st Annual Parish Assembly



How quickly a year has flown by - and once again the Annual Parish Assembly is upon us. This year it will be taking place at 7.30pm on the 20 April - and we are being kindly hosted by All Saints Church.

We are also very lucky to have our new Station Commander: Group Captain Phil Robinson giving an update on RAF Odiham. Our vicar, Alison Brown, will be telling us about the exciting plans for All Saints Church (there is a sneak peak in this newsletter) and Mr Richard Janaway will be giving us an overview of the excellent and valued work the Odiham Consolidated Charities continues to do for our community.

Of course, the various Chairs of the Parish Council's committees will be giving us a brief update on what we have been up to and we will allow time for questions. We hope there will be plenty of time for everyone's questions, however, priority will be given to questions submitted in advance, by 13 April to the deputy clerk at deputy.clerk@odiham.org.uk.

2016 is going to be a very busy year. This newsletter gives you a flavour for what we have on. While we have plenty to look forward to, there are some very significant topics that will likely be coming to a head that will really shape our Parish for the future. These include our Neighbourhood Plan, a body of work that will have taken almost two years to complete (and all thanks to our magnificent Steering Group), as well as the much anticipated and talked about plans for the Deer Park.

Topics such as these generate much debate (both within OPC and our community as a whole) and indeed differing opinions. However, in both cases everyone has the opportunity to have their say.

Cllr Jon Hale, Chairman of Odiham Parish Council



*Celebrate her
Majesty's 90th
Birthday
with a 'High Street
Party' to remember*

12th June - full details inside

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

I don't think that there are many people in our community that will not be aware that we are undertaking a Neighbourhood Plan. This was started 2 years ago and we are delighted to say is entering into its closing stages before you, as the community which the Plan aims to serve, need to vote on it at a referendum.

Neighbourhood Planning is a right for communities introduced through the Localism Act 2011. Communities can shape development in their areas through the production of Neighbourhood Development Plans.

Neighbourhood Development Plans become part of the Local Plan and the policies contained within them are then used in the determination of planning applications.

It must be stressed that the policies produced cannot block development that is already part of the Local Plan. What they can do is shape where that development will go and what it will look like. It means we have our say!

At an Extraordinary Meeting of OPC called on 24 March and, owing to high public interest, held at the Vine Church on London Road, the Council voted by a count of 6:4 to defer its consideration that "residents should be asked a question in the Council's newsletter, via social media and via the notice boards regarding the proposed High Dependency Care Home in the Neighbourhood Plan". This decision was arrived at after some debate and to allow OPC to review the information that was supplied by the NP team during the course of the meeting.

With the Plan confirmed as being ready for OPC's review towards the end of April, this will give us time to explore concerns raised by our Health Centre with regard to the impact of a Care Home on the service that the Health Centre is able to provide.

The final version of the Plan will, following consideration by an Independent Examiner (appointed by Hart DC) be subject to a local Parish referendum. If more than 50% of those voting in the referendum support the proposed Plan it will become adopted and become a statutory document to be incorporated into Hart DC's planning framework.

The Plan will then be used by Hart District Council to help determine future planning applications made during the 2014-2032 period covered by the Plan. However, if more than 50% voting in the referendum do not support the Plan, Hart District Council will conduct its own site allocation review to identify potential sites for development within our Parish, as part of developing the overall Hart Local Plan.

Odiham and North Warnborough are not only beautiful villages, with a wonderful community, but also both have a unique heritage and important place in history. Support for this Plan will help to safe guard what we all love about where we live and ensure that any development and changes in the years ahead will be worthwhile and help make a positive difference to the lives of local people and the future of our community.

Odiham Parish Council and everyone within our community wish to thank the members of the Steering Group who have driven this Plan. These are local people who have volunteered for this task and have been acting under the auspices of the Parish Council. The Steering Group members have been working tirelessly to generate and analyse detailed information upon which the Plan is based. These volunteers have poured thousands of hours into the task over the last 2 years, it has been an incredible commitment that will hugely benefit our Parish.

Additionally, our thanks go to everyone in our Parish who has contributed to this process via the public consultations and in providing your comments and feedback. All of you have provided an essential and valued contribution and I can assure you all that your feedback has been fully considered.

We anticipate the referendum taking place in the summer, but once we have a date, it will be well advertised and we hope that you all take part and support the Plan.

Cllr Jon Hale, Chairman of Odiham Parish Council

ODIHAM AND NORTH WARNBOROUGH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 2014 - 2032

PRE-SUBMISSION PLAN



Published by Odiham Parish Council for consultation under the
Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 and the Environmental
Assessment of Plans & Programmes Regulations 2004

October 2015

ANYONE RECOGNISE THESE?



Thames Water have followed up on their last correspondence by showing the culprits of the blockage at the North Warnborough pumping station. Please forgive the picture.

Blockages like this could be introduced at any point along the system that feeds in from Odiham - hence their 'Bin it don't block it' campaign - <http://binit.thameswater.co.uk>. While we would hope that people's underwear is a rarity, left over cooking fat and wet wipes are apparently a big problem, which we would ask you not to introduce to the sewer system.

This particular blockage was cleared at the end of January and we are told that their monitoring equipment has shown that this had an immediate effect. However, the subsequent spikes also show rain water getting into the sewer and causing the level to rise. The flows then revert back to normal, suggesting the short sudden increase of flow is due to surface water and rain water getting into the sewer. This is something that Thames Water need to monitor.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



Hello All

My name is Sally Tunstell and I am the Area Co-ordinator for the Odiham, North Warnborough and RAF Odiham Neighbourhood Watch. I thought I would take this opportunity to invite you to join the Neighbourhood Watch. It is free to join, all I require is your name, postal address, and email details. If you are not on the internet do not despair, we will make every effort to keep you updated. The simple idea is to keep us all safe and updated if incidents occur that may affect us. I personally also believe that we should all support our local community, so the issues of the dreaded 'dog poop', parking around the schools and the state of some of our footpaths have been raised. These things don't change by themselves and it is often found that if an area looks untidy and unloved, crime, antisocial behaviour and graffiti increase.

You can contact me by leaving a message at the Police Office in the library building, speaking to a member of the beat team, or by email using nhw@odiham.org.uk. I look forward to hearing from you.

We currently have about 900 members, it would be good to increase that number and ensure that those who live and work within our community and the surrounding areas are updated, enabling us all to support one another.

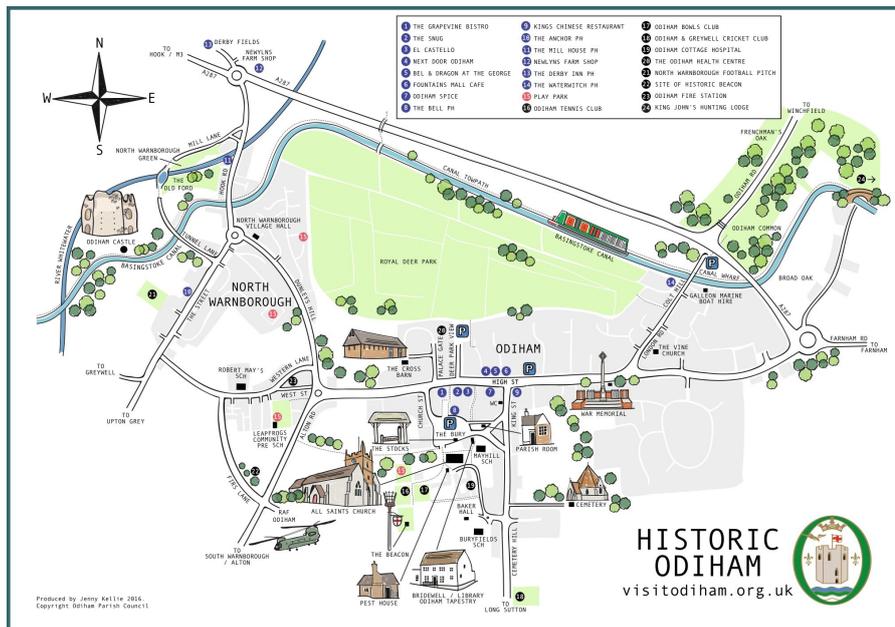
Regards Sally

MAPS

The Parish Council has joined forces with our friends at InOdiham, The Odiham Society and the Canal Society to consider how we can attract more visitors to our Parish and crucially drive footfall to our High Street. First on our hit list are new visitor maps that clearly sign post all the reasons to visit and things to see in our Parish, with the intention of using this within promotional leaflets, PR and of course within the village to sign post people to things to see and do.

We are delighted to say that local artist, Jenny Kellie has taken this project on - having done such a brilliant job with the Magna Carta festival map. The initial design that she shared with us (see below), has been put on our Facebook page for comment and input and we are looking forward to getting this printed as soon as possible.

All of Jenny's work is produced digitally, meaning that we can easily update and change the map in the future. The plan is to create a visitor website with more detail of what people can see and do - it's not live yet, but keep your eye on www.visitodiham.org.uk.



TESCO GREEN SPACE GRANT

We were delighted to hear that our project, 'Odiham Trails' was successful in receiving an amazing £10,000 grant from the Tesco's 'Bags of Help' scheme - which received over 5000 applications attempting to take advantage of a financial grant from the money raised through the 5p bag charges in Tesco's stores. Money which has been put aside by Tesco to pay for community projects to improve green spaces in local communities and allocated based on the votes of Tesco's customers.



The project is designed to support greater use of our canal, tow-path and common, all of which are areas of outstanding beauty in the Parish. However, the Basingstoke Canal (which runs through the Odiham Parish) and Odiham common lack visitor information or suitable signage. The Parish Council's goal is to provide visitor information and map boards identifying local walks and providing information about the history and ecology of the area. The plan is to focus on three key locations along the canal towpath that connect to Odiham's historic common, the Deer Park and King John's Castle (which was the hub of last year's national Magna Carta celebration).

Our thanks for the help and guidance from the Canal Society, as well as input from Basingstoke Canal Authority, the Hart District Council Countryside Manager and their Senior Ranger - and of

course the voting Tesco's customers!

CEMETERY

Last Autumn the Council undertook a survey of the stability of all the grave memorials in the King Street Cemetery. Unfortunately, it was necessary to lay some headstones down as they were at risk of falling, and thus posing a hazard to visitors and maintenance staff. It appears that the cement used in fixing breaks down over the years and is no longer sufficient to support the stone. Most of the graves affected are those from the mid 20th century and a full list of those concerned is to be found on our website. Just a reminder that the Council must be informed before any work is undertaken on memorials and this work must be undertaken by a registered stone mason.

This year we have appointed a new gardening contractor to do the cutting at the cemetery. The company did some work at the end of last season and provided an excellent, reliable service, so we are hoping to get off to a good start this year.

We are continuing with the wild meadow area this year. Last year there were some lovely flowers and butterflies, it is well worth a visit.

AN UPDATE FROM ALL SAINTS CHURCH

All Saints Church has been standing at the heart of Odiham for over 800 years, there to glorify God and be a blessing to our community, serving spiritually and socially. It is a place for regular worship but it is also an important place for many of us at one time or another, for baptisms, weddings and funerals, as a place of solace in times of trouble, for remembrance each November or celebration for important national events like the recent Magna Carta anniversary. It is a historic building, open for all every day, and we all love and value it, however infrequently we may step inside.

The interior of the Church has undergone many changes over the centuries. Until the mid 17C there were no pews in the nave. People stood during services with the weakest probably sitting on benches along the walls. Then box pews were introduced for the wealthiest, with the poorest continuing to sit on benches at the back. In the mid 19thC the Church was altered again with all the box pews replaced by the plain Victorian pine pews which fill the Church today, to accommodate the large numbers of people who attended Sunday services.

Times and worship patterns have moved on and All Saints is moving with the times, making changes to ensure that the Church building continues to provide for the needs of our community. Since 2009 "Operation Warm Welcome" has seen many improvements to provide modern facilities such as a kitchen and lavatories. Approval is now being sought to remove the pews in the nave, replacing them with high quality oak chairs, and to upgrade the heating system so that we create a warmer, more efficient, flexible and comfortable space for the community to use for concerts, charity events, meetings, art and flower shows, children's activities etc. The east end of the Church, including the Lady Chapel and the chancel, will not be altered and the aim of all the alterations is to enhance the welcoming appeal, beauty and use of our Grade 1 Church.

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION - 2017 CALENDAR

OPC has partnered All Saints Church to launch a new village initiative and we would like your photographic entries for a calendar that will help promote the village, our events and highlight our wonderful community. This can include images of our Parish landmarks such as our Church, the RAF, the High Street, Magna Carta, Flags over Odiham, the market, canal, walks, fetes, castle, Bands and Blues, Teddy Bear's Picnic, Armed Forces Day, High Street extravaganza, Fireworks, Carols in the Bury, the Christmas Tree Festival or the countryside, wildlife and faces of our community.

Remember the photographs are for a calendar, where we plan to use an image for each month. There are no age limits and we plan to display a selection of entries in the Parish Church this summer.

Entries to: All Saints Church (Parish calendar), The Bury, Odiham, RG29 1LZ. Photographs to be a minimum of 2MPixel digital capture resolution for print quality. Email to admin@allsaintsodiham.org.uk and remember to include your name, age if under 16, contact details and where and when you took the photograph. The closing date for entries is 1 September 2016.

DOG FOULING

While OPC shares the disappointment that many of you have expressed towards this minority of dog owners who don't pick up after their dogs, we would ask that you report any issues directly to the district dog warden - who with a sufficient number of reports can take enforcement action and measures to stop this unfortunate blight on our footpaths. Please contact the dog warden directly at dog.warden@hart.gov.uk.



PLANNING UPDATE

Did you know that in the last census 14 Odiham residents stated their religion as Jedi Knight? And that the toilets in King Street are listed Grade 2? No, nor me, until I recently wrote a Parish profile for our Neighbourhood Plan. As well as being enlivened by the discovery of a few 'well I never' facts, the exercise proved to be a useful reminder of the quality and quantity of the natural and built environment assets (to use the planning jargon) in the Parish. For example, Natural England notes:

- the Basingstoke Canal is not just a Conservation Area but also 'the most species-rich aquatic system in England';
- Warnborough Green (the land opposite the former Chilli Pad) 'supports an outstanding assemblage of invertebrates, including two national rarities';
- Butter Wood (near the M3 and partly in the Parish) is 'an outstanding example of wood pasture'; and
- Odiham Common 'supports a number of nationally rare flies'.

The built heritage comprises 240 listed structures, 26% of Hart's total, with two Grade 1 buildings, eight Grade 2*, and three Conservation Areas. It has thus been for me a timely reminder as to both the general and the particular characteristics of the Parish that are at stake when I and my colleagues on the planning committee bury ourselves in the detail of individual planning applications.

Three applications in particular have recently required particularly careful consideration:

Land behind Beech Cottage, King Street. A Planning Inspector has ruled on appeal against the building of 28 houses on this site. Our objection was based primarily on the overly-dominating size of the buildings in a Conservation Area. Mindful also of the need for smaller houses in the Parish, we objected to the fact that of the 17 market houses, 13 had 4 or more bedrooms and only 4 had fewer. Thankfully the Inspector agreed for these and other reasons. The land is being proposed by the Neighbourhood Plan for what is known as Local Green Space (LGS) designation to prevent development on the site other than in exceptional circumstances. This will be decided by the Plan's Examiner who will assess if the site meets the very high standard of justification required before LGS status is granted. Should the Examiner reject the designation the site will remain developable, subject to the normal planning process.

Hatchwood Cottage, Farnham Road. Outline permission for up to 35 houses has been granted for the field south of Hatchwood Cottage. The preservation of the view and the effect of development on the oak trees in and around the site are the prime concern of the committee and our District Councillors but the sheer number of houses permitted means this is going to be a tricky site for which to achieve an acceptable outcome.

The Crown, Alton Road. Whilst not objecting to the use of the site for housing, the committee is very concerned that the developer is seeking to cram too many houses, of sub-standard design, onto the site, at the expense of the effect on this prominent part of the Conservation Area and parking in the immediate vicinity. We have pointed out that sympathetic designs are possible, as shown by the houses built a couple of years ago on Farnham Road by the telephone exchange.

Cllr Jeremy Fellows – Member of the Planning and Development Committee

FOOTPATHS UPDATE

We are lucky to have so many footpaths in Odiham and North Warnborough that allow access to the local schools, shops and the countryside. Although the responsibility of maintenance is Hampshire County Council's, due to financial constraints the Parish Council is looking at ways that it can assist with some of the maintenance costs of the most important footpaths. Some maintenance is also the responsibility of residents who share a border with a public footpaths, so we respectfully ask you to kindly help keep any footpaths clear that border your property.

At the meeting on 1 February 2016, the Traffic and Transport Committee agreed that footpath 21 (that runs from the Farnham Road to London Road) will be the priority for maintenance at the current time. A meeting was arranged with HCC at the end of February to discuss the options available for improving the surface on a section of this footpath. We are hoping that the Small Grants Scheme (who provide 50% of funding for successful applicants) will be accepting applications in April. The Parish Council has also been advised that HCC is looking at the re-installation of a wooden bridge across the ditch in the Deer Park on footpath 17.

In February, OPC paid a contractor to clear footpath 31 (the path that runs from the Church to the Recreation Ground) and in March paid for the nettles to be sprayed out of our budget.

Each year Hampshire County Council asks Parish Councils to give a list of 6 footpaths that they will cut once during that year. This year, OPC agreed that the priorities should be footpaths 7, 18, 31, 33, 34, Love Lane and the Janaway footpath that links to FP57. These were chosen as they give access to the schools, Odiham and RAF Odiham.

SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE

The SID that OPC purchased in 2014 with s106 money has been put to continuous work to monitor traffic in various locations in the Parish. Since the last newsletter, the SID has been located outside the Mill House in North Warnborough and is currently sited on Dunleys Hill. The tests to date have shown that in the three completed test areas speeding is not a major concern in that the 85% speed volume falls within the Police recognised maximum speed limit. The results from outside the Mill House are as follows:

	Test 5 Traffic from Odiham Volume	Test 6 Traffic from M3 Volume
<u>30mph Area</u>		
Weekday	7100	7200
Saturday	5200	5100
Sunday	4100	4200
Peak weekday volume	0930 and 1750	0900 and 1830
85th percentile	32.9mph	31.9mph
% >40mph	4%	2%
Max speed	80mph	55mph (the max speeds could be emergency response vehicles)

The data shows that there is no major problem in Hook Road and has also been forwarded on to the police for their information.

Cllr Richard Harris - Chair of Traffic and Transport

NEW WEBSITE

We have been working on a new user friendly website. Take a look.....and keep up to speed with what's happening within OPC and the village by visiting www.odiham.org.uk.

However - if Facebook is more your cup of tea, then our page is proving very popular. Visit. <https://www.facebook.com/odihamparishcouncil> and follow us.

THE QUEEN'S STREET PARTY

With Her Majesty celebrating her 90th birthday this year we will be marking the occasion by joining in the national celebrations. This includes planning to join hundreds of other communities by lighting our village beacon on the 21 April and inspired by HRH's own plans to host the world's largest street party in the Mall, we will have our own on the High Street on 12 June. While not quite managing 10,000 guests like HRH is accommodating on the Mall, with the help of the RAF, we will be hosting 600+ residents on the High Street between 12 and 4pm. There will be a small cost of £20 for each table, which can be reserved now by visiting www.odihamstreetparty.co.uk or phoning 07428 326167. There will be 100 tables available, so book yours now to ensure that you don't miss out on a memorable event!

BANDS AND BLUES

The annual Armed Forces "Bands and Blues" event takes place on 25 June in The Bury, with entertainment from three top rock, jazz and blues bands and hopefully supported by two local youth bands. We are looking for two youth groups to play a 30 minute slot - please contact InOdiham for further details.

It is always a great afternoon of music, fun, dancing and plenty of food and drink on hand.

ST GEORGE'S DAY

This St George's day (Saturday 23 April), Odiham will have hundreds of Morris men marking the occasion. We will post a full schedule on our Facebook page and website shortly.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH FETE

All Saints Church fete is taking place at Hatchwood House on Saturday 9 July, 1.30pm - 5pm. This is always well organised by the Church and is always a great afternoon out and not to be missed.

Attractions include a dog show, entertainment for children and a Pimms tent for the grown-ups!

SAVE THE FOLLOWING DATES

Hampshire Farmers Markets make a welcome return to Odiham on 21 May, 23 July and 22 October. All are Saturday mornings between 10am and 2pm.

Odiham Open Gardens - Saturday 21 May, 1pm - 5pm. Organised by All Saints Church. An opportunity to check out 10 or so gardens around the village.

Odiham Fireshow is back - this is usually held in August. Please keep an eye on our website nearer the time.

Fireworks Spooktacula - Following last years success, the Lions will be back, partnering with us on another Fireworks Spooktacula. The 29 October has been earmarked, but keep your eyes on our Facebook page and website.

Christmas Extravaganza - Scheduled for Saturday 26 November from 4 to 8 pm.

Living History Weekend 2016

ODIHAM CASTLE BESIEGED!

Step back into 1216 when Hampshire was occupied by an invading French army and King John's Castle was under siege



Living History Recreated by 'The Feudals',
Falconry Displays, Archaeology,
Hog Roast, Ale and Refreshments

July 2nd and 3rd
11am to 4pm daily
Free Entry

Dress for the period or come as you are

For information on this event and much more besides visit
www.odihammagnacarta.com

