



# Odiham Parish Council

Issue 24  
May 2019

Serving the People of  
Odiham & North Warnborough

## USEFUL CONTACTS

### Odiham Parish Council

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Odiham  
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01256 702716 or [www.odiham.org.uk](http://www.odiham.org.uk)  
Email: [eo@odiham.org.uk](mailto:eo@odiham.org.uk)  
[admin.officer@odiham.org.uk](mailto:admin.officer@odiham.org.uk)  
[opc.admin@odiham.org.uk](mailto:opc.admin@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 A Oliver & PCSO E Wallace)

## £270,000 INVESTED IN OUR COMMUNITY

As this Council reaches the conclusion of its 4-year term, it has been great to see so many of our projects come to fruition, bringing circa £270k of investment to the Parish over the last year and enhancing our community.

This newsletter contains updates on many of these projects, which have involved a tremendous amount of effort from all of the Cllrs involved and our Parish Office team. Of course, the projects have been guided by our residents and we are very grateful for the input that has been provided in the engagement research we have undertaken, specifically on the large amenity projects such as the Youth Hub (junior play park, Multi Use Games Area and fitness trail) and the toilet refurbishment.

As a Council, we have worked hard to ensure that the majority of this money has been sourced from grant funding, with the balance drawn from our reserves built up over several years to contribute towards these projects. As I have personally learnt, while it is easy to set your sights on such goals, it takes time, careful planning and a solid team to deliver them.

Having served as the Chairman of the Council and Chair of the Community Committee for five years, I will be stepping down from OPC in May and I wish the next Parish Council the very best in driving forward the plans they develop for the benefit of our community.

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

## ARMED FORCES DAY 29 JUNE 2019



This year's Armed Forces Day will start at 10 am with a parade and fly past along the High Street by personnel from RAF Odiham. The parade will start at the top of the High Street heading towards King Street. At approx 10.30 am we will have an Armed Forces themed Box cart race, where crews will be judged on their cart design, team swagger, speed of the scramble start and overall course speed.

This will be followed by a superb line up of music at Bands in the Bury organised by the brilliant team at InOdiham, starting around noon.

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

## THANK YOU

With the current Cllrs reaching the end of their term, 8 of the 9 serving Cllrs have decided to step down and will be leaving OPC on 7 May when the new Cllrs take office. I would like to take the opportunity to thank them all for their service and efforts on behalf of the community and their support of the Parish Office.

### Cllr Jon Hale

Jon has been the Chairman of the Full Council and Community Committee for the last 5 years. He championed the new youth hub and worked hard to ensure its delivery with his fellow committee members. He devised and delivered ambitious plans with the Community Committee and volunteers for the Queen's 90th birthday High Street Party and the RAF100 event, including the Box Cart race. In addition he introduced the Community Awards in partnership with other organisations, devised and worked with Hook & Odiham Lions to bring back the village fireworks night and partnered with All Saints Church to assist with the delivery of the Village Calendar initiative. Jon worked to introduce village maps, entry signage, secured grant funding for the canal information boards and came up with the idea for a visit Odiham website - [visitodiham.org.uk](http://visitodiham.org.uk). Most recently he led on the WW1 Centenary commemoration, including the delivery of the new Parish Peace Garden.



Due to Jon's involvement with all of the above projects and initiatives, he was awarded one of the National Association of Local Councils prestigious Star Council trophies, having been shortlisted in the Cllr of the Year category at their annual general meeting at the end of last year.

### Cllr Mark Faulkner

Mark has served as a Cllr for almost 9½ years. He is currently Vice-Chair of the Full Council and Chair of the Planning Committee and has also been the Chairman of the Council during his term. Mark works across all our committees and has been involved in a huge number of projects. His hands on support has also been key to village events. One of Marks lasting contributions was his effort to ensure our Community Pre-school got the funding to provide the facility we now have. Mark also worked closely with Cllr Harris to champion the need to reform the parking on the High Street.

### Cllr John Bell

John has been a Cllr for 4 years. He is the current Chair of the Traffic and Transport Committee and has represented the Council and Chaired the Traffic Partnership meetings. John has worked across several of our committees and provided support at numerous village events, especially with the PA system.

### Cllr Jean-Marc David

JM has been the ward Cllr for the RAF station for the last 4 years. Throughout that time he has been an active member of both the Amenity and Community Committee. He was central to the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday High Street Party and of course RAF100. JM has been intrinsic to the close working relationship OPC has continued to develop with RAF Odiham and has also worked hard to ensure that families on the station and the wider community are well-integrated.

### Cllr John Fleming

John has been a Cllr for the last 4 years. In that time he has had a strong focus on planning. He has also recently worked with the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust to bring local outreach events to the Parish.

### Cllr Richard Harris

Richard has been a Cllr for 9½ years. He has chaired the Traffic and Transport Committee and taken on the role of Footpaths Officer. During his term he has been incredibly hands on, personally undertaking many projects for the benefit of our community. He has had a passion for local events and was key for many years in the running of Bands in The Bury. He has also focused on improving our local footpaths - not to mention ensuring that the High Street has its Christmas trees in place and are well lit. Richard also championed the need for our Speed Indicator Device (SID), personally installing it throughout the Parish.

### Cllr James Robinson Giannasi

James has been a Cllr for 8 years. In his time he has been Chairman, Vice-Chair and Chair of the Amenities Committee. James has volunteered for all of the Council's committees and supported his colleagues on a host of projects. More recently James has been supporting the office with the DMMO application for the path alongside Mildmay Court.

### Cllr Craig Worboys

Craig has been a Cllr for 4 years and is the current Chair of our Amenities Committee. The volume of work and number of successfully implemented projects and investment that this committee has made over the last 4 years is a testimony to Craig's commitment and personal effort. Although he inherited the allotment project, he has been key in getting it completed and has immediately moved on to focus on renovating our public toilets. He was also appointed to our NH Plan Steering Group.

Thanks also go to **Jeremy Fellows** who resigned as a Cllr in March 2019 after serving as a Cllr for 7 years. Jeremy was appointed to the NH Plan Steering Group and over the years has served on the Amenity, Planning and Traffic and Transport Committee and also chaired the Community Committee.

**Sarah Weir - Executive Officer**

## AMENITY PROJECTS

Thank you to all the residents who have provided such positive feedback on our youth hub project at the recreation ground. The equipment has now 'settled in'.

It looks like all the amenities that we have added are being extremely well used and have provided a wonderful new facility for our community.



While being used by young and old alike, the fitness trail has, it would seem, provided the unforeseen benefit of also doubling as a dog agility circuit. This is absolutely brilliant to see, however I would like to take the opportunity to advise that the fenced off play area is dog free, as per the signs.

We were aware that several of the residents in the recreation ground action group had voiced concerns over our plans, in part, on the basis of their fears over anti social behaviour that they believed this facility would court by providing facilities for older children and teens. To date, 8 months after launch, having checked with our PCSO, the youth hub has not had any such reported issue. We very much hope this remains the case.

**Cllr Craig Worboys - Chair of the Amenities Committee**

## KING STREET TOILETS

It's all systems go (no pun intended) and work has begun on a much-needed upgrade to our public conveniences. This involves a complete re-fit with new equipment, cubicles re-decorating and tiling. The toilets have been shut since work began in April, however the newly refurbished toilets should be in action in late May.

This refurbishment has been a key objective for the committee, responding to community feedback and surveys which indicated a clear need and desire to keep and enhance this amenity. We also believe it is a valued amenity to support our High Street.

Many thanks go to staff at the Oast Garage who have held a key to the toilets and made sure that the building is opened and closed for many years.

**Cllr Craig Worboys - Chair of the Amenities Committee**





## ALLOTMENTS

Many thought this project would never finish! It's one this Council inherited and has been fraught with problems. However, I am delighted to say that I leave chairing this Committee and indeed the Council, with the project done and dusted. All the plots have been allocated and for anyone interested, there is now a waiting list. Please contact the Parish Office or visit our website for further details.

We have even managed to relocate the old benches from Chapel Pond (now the Peace Garden) to the allotments.

Happy Growing!

**Cllr Craig Worboys - Chair of the Amenity Committee**



## PEACE GARDEN

What started as a Community Committee initiative has now ended up as a new amenity for the Parish. If you haven't been there, I encourage you to take a look. It is located just inside North Warnborough off Dunleys Hill (the land known as Chapel Pond), at the heart of our community, a stone's throw from the birthplace of one of our WW1 VCs. As it matures, blossoming trees, hundreds of bulbs, as well as our 'Poppy Pond', will provide plenty of colour. We have also installed two special WW1 centenary benches.



It has been an absolute pleasure to be part of this project and work with my colleague Cllr Hale, in what could politely be put as 'ambitious timings', to deliver in approximately one month what seemed like the impossible task of creating a fitting tribute to our fallen. We discovered at the last minute that this was suggested by a committee of our predecessors 100 years ago. A huge thank you to Yew Tree Landscapes and Hart District Council who also helped make this possible.

**Cllr Craig Worboys - Chair of the Amenity Committee**

## PLANNING UPDATE

Odiham Parish Council's Planning Committee has had a quiet patch over the Christmas period, although over the six months since I last wrote, total applications that the Planning Committee has considered were much in line with the previous 6-month period.

The Planning Committee has reviewed 61 applications in total since September. Fifty one percent (31 applications) were regular householder applications, in the main seeking permission for extensions and alterations to existing properties. Twenty seven (44%) were Listed Building Consent applications, in most cases accompanying householder applications, although 10 of the applications submitted in the period related to one property - Danetree House on the High Street. Slicing the data in another way, 15 applications related to Danetree House were decided in the period (a large number had been submitted in prior periods and were awaiting a decision from the Local Planning Authority (LPA) at the start of the period under review). The balance of 3 applications was split between change of use and amendments to existing granted applications.

Continued.....

## PLANNING UPDATE CONTINUED

During the period October to February the LPA (Hart DC) decided 45 applications, granting approval in 19 cases, with OPC's Planning Committee offering a 'No Objection' or 'Support' comment to each of those decisions. OPC offered a differing opinion from Hart's final decision on twenty three applications, the great bulk being applications that included (but was not necessarily limited to) repair, restoration and improvement works to Danetree House. OPC has consistently offered no objection in principle to applications aimed at maintaining and sustaining Danetree House and is a supporter of works aimed at that goal, but the applications submitted for these works appear to have been complicated by including additional non-essential actions that the LPA has considered sufficient to justify refusal. OPC does not hold a different view from the LPA on the decisions made by the LPA on these applications, although it is, in principle, supportive of the restoration of Danetree House in its prominent position on the High Street. To bring the number of decisions made by the LPA to 45 applications, OPC and Hart DC officers agreed on decisions not to support 3 applications.

Significant applications that have been considered by OPC's Planning Committee since October include proposed amendments to the Crumplins Yard development with respect to layout and provision of pedestrian access, an application for Fountains Mall where the providers of children's play activities have left the building, and Hook Road, where an application (19/00069) for 21 houses is currently being considered by Hart DC. The Hook Road site and the Crumplins Yard site are both identified within the Neighbourhood Plan and OPC has in each case asked the LPA to pay regard to the guidance given in relation to each site in the Neighbourhood Plan.

A change of use application has been submitted for conversion of the office building alongside the North Warnborough Village Hall into 16 residential units (18/02740) - submitted in October - and is awaiting a decision from the LPA. More recently applications for 2 new dwellings along the A287 bypass at Broad Oak have been submitted and considered by OPC's Planning Committee but as the proposed sites for the new houses are outside of the settlement boundary the Committee concluded that it could not support these applications.

Observers will note that the Planning Committee is now including the comment "OPC wishes to draw the case officer's attention to the planning policies in the Odiham and North Warnborough Neighbourhood Plan" on all relevant applications to ensure that the planning decision makers at Hart DC (the case officers) are aware of the Odiham and North Warnborough Neighbourhood Plan and review its policies when making decisions on applications submitted in the Parish.

It is also worth reiterating that OPC is tasked by the Local Planning Authority, Hart DC, to offer, in its role as a consultee to planning applications, local guidance on what it considers local nuance and vernacular design on applications in the village. Through the Planning Committee, 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.

For residents interested in an update on our Neighbourhood Plan sites, I would point you to a full update in our Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring report 2019, available on our website <http://www.odiham.org.uk/planning/neighbourhood-plan/>.

**Cllr Mark Faulkner - Chair of the Planning Committee**

## RURAL EXCEPTION SCHEME

### **Rough's Cottage, North Warnborough**

The parish council has been working with HARAH and Hart Housing to bring this site forward to supply Affordable Housing for people with eligible local connections to our parish. This has been a key initiative for us over the last 4 years. It has been a challenge to find a suitable site and a land owner open to the idea, however, we have seen it as an essential opportunity to provide local affordable housing to those with a demonstrable connection to the parish. We hope the next council will be able to work towards providing additional opportunities.

The current proposal is for twelve units (a mix of houses and flats).

The site will be undergoing final surveys shortly and our latest information is that the application will be made to Hart Planning in June/July. Further details of the proposal can be found on our website: <http://www.odiham.org.uk/planning/rural-exception-scheme/>.

**Cllr James Robinson-Giannasi**

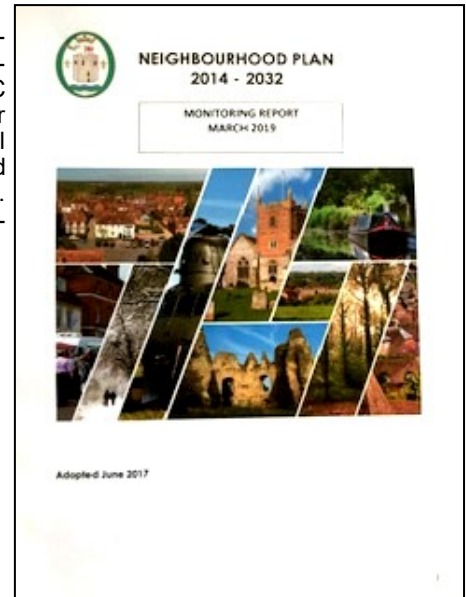
## NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN MONITORING REPORT 2019

The Neighbourhood Plan monitoring report was published at our Annual Parish Assembly and is available to read on our website <http://www.odiham.org.uk/planning/neighbourhood-plan/>. This report outlines the progress that has been made against a substantial number of the aims and goals in our plan, as well as updating the current status of the identified housing sites.

The report also identifies that our High Street faces an ongoing challenge to maintain its retail offering. The recent news regarding McColls only adds further concern. For the Parish to enhance its High Street as intended within the Plan, OPC will need to develop a bold strategy. OPC's support of plans to restore the Deer Park directly behind the High Street was in part based on the potential additional parking and the attractive amenity that a well-maintained parkland and a managed deer herd would create and in doing so attracting more visitors to our High Street. Although this application did not progress, OPC will need to consider future opportunities that could be a positive game-changer for our High Street.

The report recommends that the Parish Council:

- Work with the District Council to develop a plan to enhance the economic appeal of our High Street.
- Continue the work undertaken by the Council's Community Committee to promote the village.
- Continue its commitment to support and collaborate with other village organisations.
- Consider new parking options (noted as a key issue for businesses in the NH Plan research).
- Establish a High Street sub-committee with other interested parties.
- Consider innovations such as free Wi-Fi for the High Street.



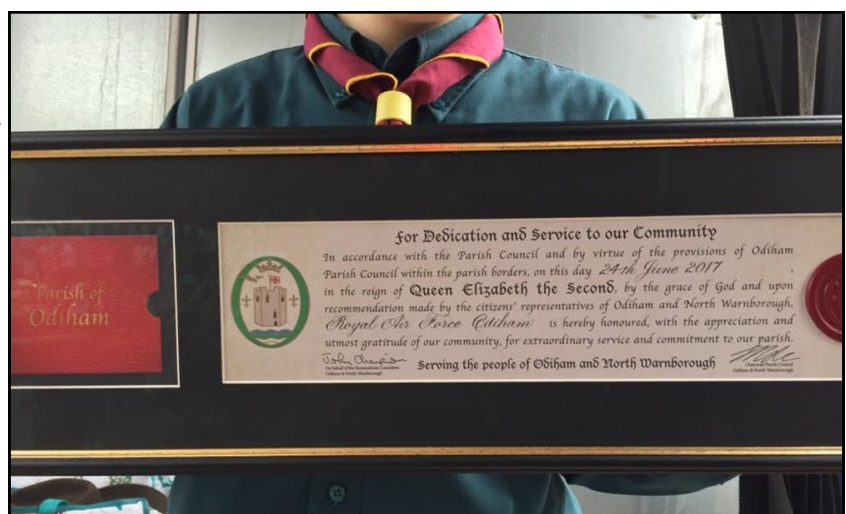
## 2019 COMMUNITY AWARD

Those of you who attended the RAF100 celebration last year will have seen two Odiham Community Awards presented at the Street Party. One was presented to Katie Bleathman for her work with the school's PTA and the other to Mick Paull for his service to our community.

The aim of the community award is to establish a programme to cultivate a sense of gratitude, encouragement, inspiration, social cohesion and partnership across our villages - something Katie and Mick absolutely encompass.

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, armed services, schools and businesses, as well as landlords and shopkeepers and anyone else who does a great job for our community but may be going unrecognised.

If you would like to nominate an individual resident for this year's community awards, please email [admin.officer@odiham.org.uk](mailto:admin.officer@odiham.org.uk) with a maximum 500-word citation / summary for the panel to consider, by the end of May.



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



## TREE OF LIGHT

The Community Committee agreed to allow Hook & Odiham Lions to use the Christmas tree in the High Street supplied by OPC as a Tree of Light this year. The initiative allows people to sponsor a light in memory of a loved one and the Lions will also be looking at arranging a short dedication service. All money raised will be donated to charity.

Please check our website nearer the time for further details.

## UPDATE ON THE NEW HART DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN

### Initial Outcome of the Examination in Public (EiP)

Hart District Council have taken a significant step forward with their Local Plan, having received the independent inspector's report. Full details can be found on their website: <https://www.hart.gov.uk/local-plan-examination-2018>.

### Key conclusions

Among the Inspector's key conclusions are his views on Policy SS3, covering the proposed new settlement at Winchfield/Murrell Green, a policy to which OPC had objected, and the requirement for Hart to meet the un-met need generated by Surrey Heath of 731 houses during the plan period.

The Inspector stated that he considers that Policy SS3 cannot be justified on the currently available evidence since the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal failed to adequately consider the historic environment (a range of notable heritage constraints, listed buildings and a Conservation Area), the use of the best available agricultural land, potential flood risks and other constraints such as biodiversity features, ancient woodland, landscape sensitivity, the M3, railway line, gas pipes, electric pylons and uncertainty regarding water and sewage services.

The Inspector further stated: *I am of the view that a significant level of further supporting work would be required for Policy SS3 to be found sound in its current form, which would need to include appropriate and proportionate area/site assessments, infrastructure considerations, viability testing, evidence in support of deliverability and further SA work, which would need to be done in an impartial manner with sufficient evidence to support its findings and comparisons with alternative options. .... and*

*Given my earlier findings in terms of the housing requirement, Policy SS3 is not required for the Plan to be sound and, in light of my comments above, I consider that the most appropriate course of action would be to remove it.*

### Outcome

The upshot of all this is that Hart's Cabinet has confirmed to the Inspector that they accept the additional housing numbers from Surrey Heath of 731 dwellings, and that they will remove the Policy for the new settlement, whilst retaining the aspiration for one.

**Cllr John Fleming**

## MILDMAY FOOTPATH

Following the erection of the fence and gate by the Mildmay Court management company, blocking access to the well-used path from Reyntiens View to King Street, OPC has now submitted over 70 residents' letters in support of an application to have the pathway formally recognized in a Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO).

It was also brought to our attention that the fence and gate, erected without notice by the management company on the west side of the path, were placed significantly on community-owned land that has been maintained by OPC on behalf of the community. This error by Mildmay's management company was initially identified by an expert independent surveyor and then also by the Land Registry. OPC made repeated requests, providing evidence, to Mildmay Court management company to remove this barrier from the community land. As this did not happen, having sought legal advice, OPC had the fence and gate removed and have now marked the correct boundary.

We hope that the DMMO is actioned by HCC and this path, which was always intended for public use when Mildmay was built, is back in action soon.

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

## KING STREET CEMETERY

One of OPC's responsibilities is to manage its cemetery. We are aware that many people choose our lawn cemetery because of the environment it offers and recognise that we have an obligation to maintain it to the standards that we have committed to. In this regard, the cemetery has long standing rules that families are made aware of and agree to adhere to prior to interment, to ensure that we can maintain the environment that makes it special.

In every case our office staff work with families and their chosen registered stonemasons to guide on the headstone, to ensure that it adheres to the cemetery rules that are in place and have been previously agreed to. Crucially OPC has to ensure that headstones are safely installed by a qualified stonemason.

Unfortunately the Council has been made aware that a headstone has recently been installed that does not follow the agreed rules and we are also concerned that this has been done without the services of a registered stonemason. Outside of the style of the stone, if this installation has not been undertaken by a registered mason, then given the safety implications of a stone of its size and weight we have been advised that it will invalidate our insurance, which we have to have in place and as such OPC has a legal responsibility to address this sensitive issue.

OPC is in contact with the owner of the exclusive rights and is exploring how to mitigate this situation.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank those grave owners who have cleared their grave plots to allow the contractor to cut the grass without obstruction and request that all grave plots in the lawn cemetery are kept clear.

**CLlr Jon Hale - Chairman of Odiham Parish Council**

## SOCIAL MEDIA AWARD



OPC was awarded the HALC Annual Social Media award based on our Facebook page and the content used to keep the community informed and engaged.

OPC are relatively new to social media, with the community committee having tentatively launched the page a few years ago to help ensure residents were informed of our meetings, decisions, projects and events. It really has gone from strength to strength, even helping inform and guide key decisions, such as our recent youth hub, with embedded surveys and questionnaires. So thank you to all who follow our page! <https://m.facebook.com/odihamparishcouncil/>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

13 July 2019: All Saints Parish Fete. All Saints Church delivers the perfect family village fete: Pimms, ice cream, BBQ, performances, plenty of games and, no doubt, a repeat of the Odiham vs North Warnborough tug of war.

26 August 2019: Flavour Fest. OPC are delighted to support Flavour Fest. The team at InOdiham will be bringing back this hugely popular event with a wide range of delicious produce from local businesses.

## CONTACT US

The Parish office is usually open to the public between 9 am and 2 pm on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. We would however recommend phoning in advance to ensure the office is attended.

If you would like to keep up to date with Parish Council matters and community events please visit our website at [www.odiham.org.uk](http://www.odiham.org.uk) or for those of you with a penchant for social media, visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/odihamparishCouncil/>.

A calendar of Council meetings can be found on the website. Members of the public are welcome to attend all Council meetings. Agendas are published on the website giving 3 clear days' notice prior to the meeting along with draft minutes of the previous meeting and meeting papers.