



Odiham Parish Council

Issue 22
April 2018

Serving the People of
Odiham & North Warnborough

USEFUL CONTACTS

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Neighbourhood Watch

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Odiham Volunteers Care Group / Transport

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Odiham Police Office

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

NEVER BUSIER

We can't think of a time when the Parish Council has ever been busier. Since the completion of our Neighbourhood Plan, we have been progressing a myriad of projects designed to help us meet the Plan's aims and objectives. From play parks, toilet refurbishments, teen amenities, cycle paths, footpath repairs to providing affordable homes specifically for local people - there is even a rumour that the allotment project will soon be finished! More details can be found inside this newsletter. We will also be providing updates at our Annual Parish Assembly on the 1 May at 7.30pm in All Saints Church. Where, as ever, the public will be welcome to attend and I hope to also field any questions.

This year will see Odiham mark two significant Centenaries.



The first is RAF 100. Whilst the RAF's formal centenary was on 1 April, as the home of the UK's Chinook Force and with the clear objective within our Neighbourhood Plan to continue our close community partnership with RAF Odiham, we plan to join the national celebrations. This will focus on hosting a High Street party for RAF personnel, their families and of course the wider community on 9 June.

Following the success of the Queen's Jubilee street party, we plan to double the size of the street party, which will be no mean feat - and will only be made possible thanks to the efforts of the team of volunteers and the RAF personnel that we are working with to make it happen. The tickets went on sale on 14 April and will likely have sold fast, but do check the website. However, the street party is not all we have planned. We will also be holding a RAF themed box cart event. This will take place at 10am on the morning of the 9th before the street party - and is sure to be lots of fun. For further details please visit www.opcraf100.co.uk.

The second significant centenary is the 100th anniversary of the conclusion of WW1. OPC committed some time ago to participate in the national event 'Battles Over' to mark the occasion. In addition to the Remembrance Sunday service we will also be lighting our village beacon alongside hundreds of other communities around the country as a mark of respect for the sacrifice. This and other activities to mark the occasion will be publicised nearer the time!

Cllr Jon Hale: Chairman of Odiham Parish Council

RAF CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

On 1 April 2018, the Royal Air Force celebrated its 100th Anniversary.

One hundred years ago, on 1 April 1918, King George V authorised the creation of a new branch of the British military. It was formed in response to the growing role of airpower in modern warfare, and was created by merging the aviation branches of the Royal Navy (Royal Naval Air Service) and British Army (Royal Flying Corps) together into a single Service, the Royal Air Force (RAF). The creation of an independent air force was a world first and the RAF served as the standard of excellence for other world powers to follow suit.



The new service had its own ministry under a Secretary of State for Air and was commanded by Major General Sir Hugh Trenchard, the first Chief of the Air Staff, who is fondly remembered as the father of the RAF. The 'new' RAF was the most powerful in the world with more than 290,000 personnel and nearly 23,000 aircraft and fought effectively from 1 April 1918 over the western front in support of ground forces during WW1. The RAF again proved its worth in WW2 when 'The Few' valiantly fought off the advancing Luftwaffe during the Battle of Britain in September 1940.

The Women's Royal Air Force (WRAF) was also formed on 1 April 1918 from those serving in air units of Women's Royal Naval Service, Women's Auxiliary Army Corps, the Voluntary Aid Detachment and the Women's Legion. It disbanded in 1920 but due to impending war, the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) was formed in 1939. The WAAF existed beyond WW2 but on the 1 Feb 1949, the WRAF was re-formed as a permanent female peacetime force which was eventually fully integrated into the RAF in 1994.

Nowadays, the RAF has approximately 32,000 personnel of which around 2000 are based at RAF Odiham, just to the south of Odiham village. It has been a permanent RAF base since 1937 and celebrated its 80th anniversary last year.

Over the past 80 years, RAF Odiham has been home to many different squadrons and aircraft types including Dakotas, Spitfires, Tempests, Vampires, Meteors, Hunters and Javelins. Since 1960, rotary aircraft have been based here starting with the Sycamore and Whirlwind, followed by Single and Twin Pioneer, Belvedere, Wessex and Puma helicopters.

In 1981, the Wessex left for RAF Benson, and were replaced in 1982 by Boeing Chinook helicopters. In 1998, the base became an all Chinook organisation until July 2000, when an Army Air Corps Lynx Squadron joined the complement. Sadly, the Lynx Squadron has recently been disbanded and RAF Odiham is once more a Chinook only base.

When the Falklands conflict erupted in April 1982, 5 Chinooks were deployed to assist and there began an unbroken 36 year period, wherein not a year has passed without Chinooks being deployed on operations of some kind around the world, be it for either humanitarian relief, security or war fighting. Most recently, the Chinook force provided humanitarian assistance on Op RUMAN in the Caribbean following the devastation caused by hurricane Irma.

Since 1998 RAF Odiham has been home to Nos. 7, 18 and 27 Squadrons, who together form the UK Chinook Helicopter Force. They are equipped with the Boeing Chinook HC Mk 5/6/6A. There are also many support functions such as logistics, engineering and administration that all work together and contribute to the effective operational output of RAF Odiham.

Our Neighbourhood Plan outlines that an effective and close community partnership with RAF Odiham will continue, with local residents able to make use of available RAF sporting facilities and with military personnel and their dependents encouraged to continue to utilise the many services and facilities available within the Parish. I hope the community will join us in celebrating the RAF with our RAF100 Street Party and Soap Box Race on the 9 June. Full details are available on www.opcraf100.co.uk.

Also, check out the RAF100 website (<https://www.raf.mod.uk/raf100/>) for details of events around the country to celebrate and commemorate 100 years of the RAF.

Squadron Leader (and Cllr) JM David

AMENITY COMMITTEE PROJECTS

Our Neighbourhood Plan listed lots of great aims - such as improving green spaces, enhancing recreation and even noting the refurbishment of our public toilets and the Amenity Committee has been working hard to progress these objectives.

I would like to thank the hundreds of people who took the time to participate in the focused research that we promoted in our last newsletter. These surveys were invaluable in showing us how the community would like junior and teen recreation projects to progress, as well as the type of refurbishment the public wanted for our village conveniences. The detailed results of these surveys were published on our website. We have taken the insights, thoughts and ideas you have kindly provided from the three surveys and used them to guide our next steps and as such, I thought you may like a further update.

Junior Play Park:

Having secured £60k from s106 funding to enhance our recreation ground at Recreation Road, Cllrs Hale and David were delegated to build on the insights from the survey by undertaking supervised research with junior aged children from Buryfields and Mayhill Schools. The intention being to validate the input from the wider community, with more focused input from the intended target audience - i.e. junior school aged children. The results of these sessions were written into a public facing report which is available on our website <http://www.odiham.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/School-engagement-Junior-recreation.pdf>.

From this additional research a tender document was published allowing suppliers of play equipment to tender for the project. The tender details were also published on our website. We have now received an extensive number of exciting tenders against the brief, which we are looking forward to reviewing before progressing the project further. I look forward to sharing more details with you and have every expectation that the improved recreation facilities will be in place for the summer holidays.

Teen Project:

With £100k of grant funding secured, the teen project is also progressing well.

The committee listened to the strong preference to focus efforts on the recreation ground and progressed the preference for a Multi Use Games Court (MUGA) and outdoor fitness equipment. This will provide a first class amenity, centrally located, that is easily accessible to all the teens within the Parish. It also provides a key step in our Neighbourhood Plan's objective of extending the provision of recreational opportunities and sporting facilities for community use.

Research has since been undertaken by members of the Council to help inform the nature of the sports surface, markings and opportunity to mitigate noise by enhancing the fencing surrounding the court. Based on this a tender document has since been created and issued (available on our website) with the expectation that a supplier will be appointed for work to commence this summer.

King Street Toilets:

As indicated in our Neighbourhood Plan, our survey showed extremely strong support to maintain and enhance our public toilets, as well as to keep them free to use. This was checked against alternative initiatives and visibility of their running costs. The surveys also provided clear community input on the types of refurbishment required.

However, before this project could progress we required an asbestos survey report as this would be crucial to the cost and nature of the work we could plan for. Had asbestos been present this would have significantly complicated any refurb plans.....however I am relieved to report that it wasn't.

The next step is for a scope of work to be put together to help guide a funding strategy, although we are taking the very simple step (thanks to the feedback reviewed) of introducing some improved signage, pointing to the toilets from the High Street.

I would like to take the opportunity to again thank all those who inputted into the surveys, that have given us the insights to drive these projects forward. But also to the efforts of the office staff and those Cllrs who have invested hundred of hours of their own time to progress what we hope will be significant amenity improvements for our community.

Cllr Craig Worboys: Chair of the Amenity Committee

KING STREET CEMETERY

OPC's cemetery officer Sue Bennett retired at the end of March after over 9 years of service. The council wishes to thank Sue for all of her work over the years looking after the cemetery and wishes her well in her retirement.

OPC is aware of some breaches in the rules at the cemetery by some grave owners. Letters have been sent to those that it concerns respectfully requesting that graves are levelled and the various pots, lights and decorations of all sorts are removed.

The later part of the current burial area is designed to be mown as a lawn area with headstones only and it is OPC's intention to start mowing in this way. A copy of the rules can be found on our website or alternatively the office can email you a copy if requested.

ALLOTMENTS

The rumours are true. We are indeed very close to completing our allotment project. This is a project that I inherited when taking on the role of the Chair of the Amenity Committee.....and it's been in the pipeline for some time. However, with the rest of the committee there has been a focus on getting it finished, which we are now very close to completing.

To date we have cleared the land, created a car parking area and gates - as well as providing the required water pipes with some help from a local neighbouring land owner. We now have some small jobs to complete, including marking the plots and defining the path areas.

Those members of the community who originally registered for an allotment have all been contacted. However, should there be any availability for one of the new allotment plots we will advertise them on our website, Facebook page and notice boards.

Cllr Craig Worboys: Chair of the Amenity Committee

THE VILLAGE CALENDAR

OPC was delighted to partner with All Saints Church for the second year in a row on our joint calendar initiative. We would like to thank everyone who purchased one - as well as the local businesses who supported the calendar with prizes for its monthly prize draw and of course all the people who submitted the photos that make the calendar so special.

As well as helping to promote our village and its events, this year's calendar also had the objective of raising funds to provide a Community First Responder Kit, which includes an auto-defibrillator, oxygen and resuscitation equipment.

A Community First Responder (CFR) is a person available to be dispatched by an ambulance control centre to attend medical emergencies in their local area. They carry a CFR bag to attend the scene of the emergency within a few minutes; often before the ambulance service arrives, to provide life saving first aid in those vital first minutes.

Thanks to everyone who purchased the calendar (not to mention the huge efforts from the people who helped sell them) enough funds were raised to purchase this kit for our community.

If you take any photos that you believe could make the village calendar, please do send them to admin@allsaintsodiham.org.uk - and of course, please do buy one for 2019!



Cllr Jon Hale: Chair of the Community Committee

DEER PARK

We are well aware that the land behind the High Street, known as the Deer Park, is an emotive topic and a divisive planning application and that several residents were unhappy by OPC's majority view on the application that was reached at a public EGM held on the 28 February. This meeting was called to consider our feedback as consultees to the planning application and whilst well attended, several residents have since asked me to outline why the majority of Cllrs looked favourably on the application.

To do this, I need to give some background. Since the land owner's plans have been visible to the community, we have had a variety of individual residents who chose to address the Council on the topic (both for and against the vision), at several of our meetings. There is a comprehensive timeline summary including meeting minutes on the subject on our website, however to provide some background, the land owner's vision has been talked about for several years.

In 2015 this Council agreed by the majority vote to endorse the owner's restoration vision, expecting it to progress to a formal planning proposal, where its detail could be subjected to the rigours of Hart DC's planning process - and where members within the community could express their own opinions as individuals. As consultees in local planning matters, OPC would also get the opportunity to comment, just as other residents have.

In September of that year, OPC also agreed that the land should be designated as a Local Green Space in our Neighbourhood Plan. Unfortunately the land was removed by the independent examiner who judged that it did not qualify and we had to amend our Neighbourhood Plan accordingly. Whilst there is not a specific focused policy on the Deer Park in the Plan, there are some that apply. For example, the land does fall within the Local Gap, a policy designed to avoid the visual coalescence or damage to the integrity and distinctive identity of the adjoining settlements (Odiham to North Warnborough) and it is in our Conservation Area. However, whilst it is Hart's job as the planning authority to consider them, such policies do not preclude development.

In December 2016 a formal planning application was put forward by the land owner, which following our EGM in 2017, as consultees OPC responded to Hart with 11 points of feedback being:

- 1) OPC inputting on the need and possible alternatives for the proposed community centre which several Cllrs felt was not necessary.
- 2) The covenants need to be clarified, robust and in perpetuity. There is a requirement that the covenant with OPC is in the same terms of 'heirs and successors in title' as the one with Hart DC.
- 3) That OPC is included in discussions and decisions concerning the management and associated covenants regarding the car park and open space.
- 4) That OPC has visibility of a Hart conducted assessment of the maintenance cost of any gifted land before we decide to accept it.
- 5) The inclusion of an article 4 direction over the site to restrict any permitted development rights, thus controlling all further development.
- 6) That the existing hedgerows should be protected and maintained as they follow historic lines.
- 7) That both Hart DC and OPC can have input into how any privacy issues from increased public usage of the footpaths/cycle way can be mitigated – perhaps by providing a greater distance to neighbouring properties or with planting.
- 8) That Hart DC work with the landowner to provide an improved cycle way to better connect Odiham and North Warnborough as part of the proposal.
- 9) To consider 2 minor modifications to the proposed footpaths on the site to follow desired lines.
- 10) Considerations for how the public footpaths will be impacted by the presence of deer.
- 11) Exploring the opportunity for affordable housing, as there is no provision for affordable housing in this scheme on the site or elsewhere. Perhaps the idea of a rural exception site could be revisited.

Following our feedback, the application was subsequently withdrawn.

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DEER PARK CONTINUED

A new application was then submitted a few months ago, which we considered in February of this year. The revised application had the following changes:

Removing the unneeded community centre.

- No central 'Park lodge'.
- The covenants have been confirmed as including the Parish Council and being provided in perpetuity.
- No existing footpaths will be removed - however the cycle path is included.
- The car park has been revised to providing overflow or event parking.
- We have had some clarity of the future management costs, but understand that OPC will input in the management of the park.
- Changes to permitted development rights have been offered.

It was also noted that while the experts at Natural England do not object to the application subject to some mitigation, Historic England take this application as an improvement on the last one and believe it to be finely balanced. It was clarified that Historic England do conclude that the harm still slightly outweighs the historic benefits and that Historic England had advised Hart DC to balance this against the public benefits that Historic England had not factored in.

At the meeting on 28 February each of OPC's Cllrs were given an opportunity to cover what they perceived to be the level of public benefit that this application brings, against the harm that the 7 homes and development will inflict on the land.

The balance of opinion expressed by the Council was positive and a resolution was put forward that: OPC supports the application on the grounds of the wider community benefits including, the improved public access and footpaths, cycle way, provision of open space to the community and added security from the improved covenants. This was carried by 7 votes to 3.

Whilst many residents in the community clearly do not like the application or OPC's input, Cllrs are elected to represent the views of all residents in the community, not delegated to represent the most vocal. I have many Parish friends and neighbours who are both for and against the application - for a variety of reasons that I have listened to with an open mind. Ultimately, the Parish Council has no power to approve this application, but only to comment on it as a statutory consultee. Hart DC may very well (and possibly already have) decide to refuse the application. However, my understanding from those Cllrs who supported it, including myself, is that this application can help meet the defined goals, objectives and aims of our Neighbourhood Plan by:

- Making the land more accessible.
- Providing a safe cycle way between Odiham and North Warnborough.
- Sustaining and improving key footpaths for all residents, including those with limited mobility.
- Supporting our High Street by providing visitors and residents with an attractive destination.
- Linking the canal warf, tow path, High Street and castle - making an enhanced visitor proposition.
- Provide community ownership of a large part of the land - with stronger covenants tying in the community to any future decisions, that will help prevent future and possibly larger development.

Cllr Jon Hale: Chairman of Odiham Parish Council

COMMUNITY AWARDS

Those of you who attended the Armed Forces Day celebrations in June 2017 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.



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COMMUNITY AWARDS CONTINUED

This year however 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 nominations will then be reviewed by a panel made up of representatives from community organisations such as All Saints Church, In-Odiham, The Odiham Society, Mayhill School, Neighbourhood Watch and RAF Odiham.

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. 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.

If you would like to nominate an individual resident for this years community awards, please email admin.assistant@odiham.org.uk with a maximum 500 word citation / summary for the panel to consider, by 18 May 2018.

PLANNING UPDATE

In the last newsletter I wrote that "OPC's Planning Committee has had a relatively quiet time since I last wrote in the March newsletter". That pattern has not persisted! The absolute number of applications reviewed for comment by the Planning Committee has been 48 in the period since October - 24 household applications, 18 listed building consent applications, one outline application and 5 applications to amend conditions applied in previously granted applications. Thirty two applications have been decided by Hart DC in the period and of these 28 were granted, with OPC agreeing with the decision (i.e. did not raise objection comments) in 86% of these applications. Hart DC refused 4 applications, with the Planning Committee agreeing with one of these decisions - in two instances where the committee had not raised objections it had deferred to the Hart Conservation Officer for technical appraisal of the application which subsequently gave rise to a refusal.

Within the applications dealt with there have been some that have raised more comments than others:

Lloyds Bank - Where an application was requested from the freeholders to make good the infill of the former bank's ATM machine location. Following comment from the community the brick infill and mortar was reworked to make the infill less (if not in -) visible in the front elevation of the building. The Planning Committee supported this application.

Danetree House - An application to create 6 residential units by converting and extending the existing structure. This application was refused by Hart DC on advice given by the Conservation Officer and OPC's Planning Committee added concerns that the impact of the development on already scarce parking on the High Street would be detrimental to the health of the High Street and that the proposed parking arrangements fell short of Hart's Interim Parking Guidance. Interestingly there were 19 comments of support recorded for the application following an open house display at the site, many noting with fondness personal experience of the building as a school in days gone by.

Albion Farm - An outline application was submitted but subsequently withdrawn for 4 houses on a site identified for development in the Neighbourhood Plan. This application drew some comment from the community at the Planning Committee's comment: "While we recognise this is an outline application only at this point, Odiham Parish Council has no objections to the layout of the application and defers comment on the number of dwellings and housing density with respect to the Neighbourhood Plan's assessment of this site, to the local planning authority". The members of the Planning Committee concluded that while the Neighbourhood Plan allocates higher housing density at this site, an outline application at lower density should not automatically raise an objection by the Committee and agreed unanimously that, having flagged in its comments that the case officer, in determining this application, should refer to the policy in the Neighbourhood Plan covering this aspect the point had been succinctly made. Many applications are submitted with conflict to planning policy and it is not at all unusual for the Planning Committee to wish to hear how the final arbiter of an application - the case officer - judges the mitigating arguments and merits of an application in this context.

Another of the sites proposed for development by the Neighbourhood Plan - the previously granted permission for 8 new houses on land adjacent to Crumplins Business Court on Dunleys Hill raised objections by the Planning Comm-

Continued

PLANNING UPDATE - CONTINUED

itee after an original application received detailed local comment and was amended. Concerns for the Planning Committee here included the loss of an opportunity to increase access to what may become public open space under the guidance of the Neighbourhood Plan in due course.

A Pre-Application Consultation has been filed (17/02920/PREAPP) and responded to by Hart DC, on land at the top of Dunley's Hill opposite the Texaco garage. The proposal is for 42 houses on a site approximating to, but not identical to, site v) in the NH Plan list of Housing Development Sites. The proposal includes a slightly greater area of the field from which it would be subdivided than the site envisaged by the Plan and looks for a greater number of houses (against 30 included in the Plan). The response from Hart recognizes that the principle of development is accepted as a result of the site's inclusion in the Plan, but that the quantum of the development, being larger by area and greater in number of houses than suggested in the Plan, is unnecessary, particularly in view of the fact that Hart is currently demonstrating a supply of land for housing in excess of 8 years. With the number of houses proposed by the Odiham NH Plan (119, by 2032) being neither immediately essential to meet Hart's housing pipeline, nor critical in terms of the overall numbers expected from the emerging Hart Local Plan, it seems very sensible for Hart to advise that upwards creep in housing numbers is likely to be resisted. This site, in combination with sites i) and ii) in the Neighbourhood Plan is flagged to deliver a total of 54 new houses accessed from Western Lane and sited between Dunley's Hill and Robert May's School.

OPC aims to offer, in its role as a consultee to planning applications, 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'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. Hart DC's case officers are fully aware of the policy implications of individual applications, and OPC would not expect to teach those case officers their jobs, but would aim to guide where it feels that there is a likelihood that either policy or local sensitivities could be overlooked. 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 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. OPC aims to ensure that parking does not become a greater problem than it is currently.

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 towards completion. Totalling 124 new houses, this represents an increase of approximately 10% of the pre-existing housing stock in Odiham and OPC welcomes these new residents to the community.

Cllr Mark Faulkner; Chair of the Planning and Development Committee

UPCOMING EVENTS

As well as occasionally organising our own events already covered, OPC would like to take the opportunity to promote some of the other brilliant events that are arranged by some of the village's other organisations and their amazing volunteers.

InOdiham would like you to know that they have two events coming up:



Bands in the Bury will be returning on the **30 June**, including fantastic live music and a party throughout the afternoon in the Bury from 12.30 - 7.30pm.

FlavourFest will be back in Odiham on Bank Holiday **Monday 27 August 2018** from 11am - 5pm, with irresistible offerings from a delectable range of artisan food and drink producers. Join your friends and celebrate summer!

Taste your way across the County as you experience Hampshire's varied and vibrant cuisine. Meet local artisan producers in the Marketplace, visit the Hampshire Flavours Marquee where we're serving up gourmet tastings and talks from leading experts and taste your way around the village's restaurants. Entrance is

free.

Held annually, **All Saints Church Fete** is a great attraction for all ages and is supported by the local schools and our friends from the RAF. The fete is held in the beautiful grounds of Hatchwood house, by kind permission of Mrs Veronica Parsons. The fete will be held on **Saturday 14 July 2018**.