

ODIHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Serving the People of Odiham & North Warnborough

SAVE THE DATES

Queen's Platinum Jubilee

BEACON LIGHTING CEREMONY

Thursday 2nd June

[Further details - page 12](#)

STREET PARTY

Sunday 5th June

[Details on how to book a table - page 12](#)



Your 
Odiham

Notice is hereby given that the

Annual Parish Assembly

Will be held

Tuesday 26th April 2022

6.30-8.30pm

At All Saints Church, The Bury, Odiham

All residents are invited to attend.

Agenda:

- Overview of 2021
- The year ahead
- Guest speaker from RAF Odiham Station Commander

Odiham Parish Council

The Bridewell, The Bury, Odiham, RG29 1NB

Tel: 01256 702716 clerk@odiham.org.uk

<https://odihamparishcouncil.gov.uk/>



Odiham's new Community Orchard



On Monday 28th March Odiham's new Community Orchard was officially opened by the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire. The Orchard is part of the Queen's Green Canopy celebrating her 70 years of service to the nation details of which can be found on <https://queensgreencanopy.org/map-education-hub/qgc-map/#/>. It is the first event in Odiham to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.



The ceremony was attended by children from Buryfields Infant School and Mayhill Junior School, volunteers from local community groups: Hook and Odiham Lions and Odiham Rotary, members of Odiham Parish Council and Hart District Council.

The project started back in December 2021 when 30 fruit trees were planted in what was Cemetery Meadow, just off the drive into Odiham Cemetery. There is a mixture of apple, pear, plum, greengage and quince varieties.

The trees are 4-5 years old but it will be a

while before they bear fruit. When they do, everyone in the community will be welcome to their share. Until then, the trees create a space where you can have a peaceful moment, contemplating the changing seasons. In time Odiham Parish Council also hopes to add some seating.

This project could not have happened without the support of the volunteers from Odiham Rotary, Hook and Odiham Lions, and Odiham Parish Council who all dug the holes then supervised children from Buryfields Infant School and Mayhill Junior as they planted the trees.

Odiham Parish Council Chair, Cllr Angela McFarlane, led the planting and is exceptionally well qualified to do so, having spent 6 years as a Director at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

Cllr McFarlane said "I am delighted we have been able to plant this new orchard for everyone to enjoy. I hope it will be the first of many projects to boost biodiversity in public spaces in the Parish. Improving biodiversity offers significant mitigation of climate change."

This community project was supported by the generous funding from Hart District Council's Biodiversity fund which funded the trees.



The Bridewell

Odiham Parish Council now owns The Bridewell community building in The Bury!

Following eighteen months of research, working alongside Hampshire County Council, The Bridewell freehold has now transferred from Hampshire County Council to Odiham Parish Council. The property has been gifted to the Parish on the condition it remains as a community building.

Odiham Parish Council first learned that the building was under threat following the announcement that Odiham Library would close at the end of 2020. The Grade II listed Bridewell is as an Asset of Community Value which meant the building was first offered to the Parish before considering other future options.

The Parish Council carried out extensive research on the building condition, associated management costs and alternative options to house the Parish Council Offices. A public consultation gave a 96% response in favour of keeping the Bridewell. After careful consideration of all the pros and cons, OPC formally resolved to accept the freehold in January. The decision will support community activities such as the Odiham Book Exchange and protects office premises for the Parish Council, Police and MP.



Odiham Parish Council Chair Cllr McFarlane says "Residents made it very clear that saving the Bridewell as a community building was a priority so I am delighted the Parish Council has been able to do this. The Odiham Book Exchange is thriving and is the first example of the services that can be brought to Odiham as a result of this acquisition."

Building repairs will soon be carried out utilising a £10,000 grant from Hampshire County Council. Other funding is also being sought to develop the Bridewell and improve access. The first improvement will be the installation of a second toilet to support future room hirers.

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE VISION FOR THE BRIDEWELL
TUESDAY 3rd MAY, 6-7pm at The Old School, London Road.**

Plans are already under development to enhance the building further and these will be on display in The Bridewell on 26th, 27th and 28th April and a consultation meeting will take place on 3rd May. We need to hear your ideas as to how you want the Bridewell to develop and what activities you would like the building to house.

Parish Council public meetings are now being held in the Library Room – a much improved space which can accommodate more members of the public. This has freed up the Parish Room which will now become a Local Heritage Centre managed by the Odiham Society, who are moving their archive there from the 1st April. Look out for news of the planned public exhibitions.

Planning & Development Committee

Since the beginning of March 2021 the committee has submitted comments to Hart District Council as a statutory consultee for 134 planning applications throughout the parish. These are for a mixture of extensions, changes to listed buildings and new buildings.

The Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Group met in February and a report detailing what has happened over the last year is available on the Parish Council website <https://odihamparishcouncil.gov.uk/council/planning/np>. In brief:

Land at Burford, Western Lane, Odiham: Development well under way.

Land at Crumplins Yard: Completed

Land at Hook Road, North Warnborough: Application refused and appeal ongoing. A different developer has put forward new plans for its development although a full application has not yet been submitted.

Land next to Crownfields: Planning permission granted subject to approval of S106 agreement. At the request of the OPC, this includes a 20 space car park to support the pre-school and users of the recreation ground.

Land at Dunleys Hill, Longwood Western Lane and Albion Farm: No new applications

Conservation Area Appraisal Update

The Parish Council, together with members of the Odiham Society, Conservation officers of Hart Council and professional consultants, has completed the update following public consultation which resulted in some changes to the draft. It can be viewed here

<https://odihamparishcouncil.gov.uk/council/planning/ca>

The Appraisal is due to go to Hart Cabinet for adoption, hopefully in May.



Odiham and North Warnborough Conservation Area Appraisal

August 2021

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Solar Farm

Councillors from the Parish Council attended the Hart planning committee where the applications for two large solar farms were considered. Despite strong objections from various parties including Odiham, permission was granted for two large solar farms, one at Chosley Farm just south of Odiham and the other between Rotherwick and Mattingley. Whilst fully supportive of renewable energy sources as a response to climate change, Odiham Parish Council has since written to Hart asking them to develop a policy for emerging renewable energy projects to ensure that the overall effect of them is considered, including the loss of valuable agricultural land.

Self-build Homes

Following enquiries from residents, the Parish Council is contacting Head of Place at Hart District Council to get advice on what can be done to increase the number of opportunities for self-build homes in the parish and what the planning constraints are for these properties.

Traffic & Transport

We are regularly contacted by residents with concerns about speeding and parking. In response to the first, OPC launched the Community Speedwatch campaign supported by Hants Police and run by volunteers including Councillors from OPC and Hart. So far this has resulted in 160 drivers observed speeding between May 2021 and January 2022 receiving letters from the Police. The Odiham and North Warnborough Speedwatch needs more volunteers to further develop its impact so please contact deputyclerk@odiham.org.uk if you can spare a few hours a month to help. Each session lasts for about an hour, with the aid of the portable speed indicator device known as SID, the volunteers collect data of vehicles that are travelling above the speed limit.



We have also been in dialogue with Hart DC on the matter of the increased parking charges in Odiham car parks which we believe has contributed, along with changes in behaviour as a result of Covid, to the reduction in income to Hart compared to 2019. Unfortunately, Hart are unwilling to contemplate a return to the £2 all day charge unless OPC commits to fund £2 for each £2 ticket sold, ie to cover the £4 charge. This could cost up to £12k per annum. So for the moment the £4 remains (the latest exchange on this can be seen in the minutes of the HDC meeting on 24th February). We understand that from April 2023 management of off-street parking will revert to Hampshire County Council.

OPC hosts a quarterly meeting with Hart DC, Hampshire CC and Hampshire Constabulary to consider residents' concerns on all matters related to Traffic Management – the Odiham Traffic Partnership Group. A precis of each meeting will now be published on the OPC website and the first can be found at <https://odihamparishcouncil.gov.uk/council/tp>.

This includes actions planned or taken to address a number of concerns. Any items relating to traffic or transport that require OPC decisions will now be referred to Full Council.



Finance Committee

Residents will see a small rise in their Parish precept bill this year, with an average of 66p per household per month, ie £7.90 per annum. This represents a 9.65% increase with a total expenditure budget of £262,561.50 and precept of £211,410.50. Setting the budget, and hence the precept, for the Parish is a carefully considered process and a decision to impose an increase on residents is not taken lightly.

There are several factors within this, over some of which OPC has no control, including increased costs imposed on all employers and building owners such as higher utility bills, National Insurance and business rates. In addition, OPC has a responsibility to ensure that all its amenity areas are maintained safely for the benefit of the community. This year there will be costs for groundworks in the cemetery to provide additional interment space. We also need to build a reserve to replace irreparable play area equipment. In January two budgets were presented to Councillors when agreeing whether to accept The Bridewell - one including The Bridewell and one without. This showed the direct cost of The Bridewell to residents of £3.26 per annum per Band D property. During OPC's research on The Bridewell, OPC looked at the cost of alternative office space and, based on 2021 prices, this would have added £3.19 to Band D properties. The decision to agree to the budget including The Bridewell was taken by Full Council and transfer of the building from HCC to OPC was completed in recent days.

During 2021 OPC won external funding for the Community Orchard, picnic benches and Bridewell works and OPC will continue to seek external funding to supplement projects not funded by the precept.

Amenity Areas Committee

We continue to manage many of the local open spaces and amenities on your behalf. This includes routine maintenance and regular reviews by the Amenity Areas Committee aimed at keeping each site up to date, fit for purpose and generally looking its best for your enjoyment.

You may have noticed some of the sites have undergone some additional maintenance recently, tackling some of the long standing issues in preparation for the 2022 growing season. This is thanks to Larkstel Ltd who took over the main grounds contract last year and have recently won the new cemetery grounds contract, starting April 2022.



Bufton Field Play Area—Safety surfaces have been cleaned and planting around the site has been thinned.



Cemetery— two very large hedges on the driveway and parallel with Mildmay Court have been reduced to a manageable height and width.



New noticeboards were installed on the HighSt and at North Warnborough

ADVANCE WARNING OF WORK IN ODIHAM CEMETERY

Odiham Parish Council kindly advises plot holders and their families that work to extend the main burial lawn and install further interment beds will take place Spring/Summer 2022.

We will ensure this work causes minimal disruption.

Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to find out more about this work.

PICNIC BENCHES WILL BE BACK SUMMER 2022!

Thanks to further funding from the Government's Welcome Back Fund.





The Odiham Village Centre Action Plan was adopted by OPC on 15th March.

The Plan was drafted during 2021 in consultation with representatives from community organisations, Hart District Council, High Street businesses and an online community survey.

The Action Plan is a working document which guides a co-ordinated delivery of improvements, responding to the things you say are important to you. The Plan will be used:

- For direct project delivery by Odiham Parish Council or other Steering Group partners
- To secure external funding
- To influence other local authority strategic spending or plans
- To identify, protect and invest resources in the things which are important to the community.

The Plan sets out nine priority areas and lists projects which OPC can either influence or deliver directly:

1. Public Spaces and Services.
2. Streetscape and Public Realm.
3. Business Support
4. Identity and Branding.
5. Parking, access and travel.
6. Community Cohesion.
7. Digital technology.
8. Disability access, health and wellbeing.
9. Environmental Impact.

You can read the full Action Plan <https://odihamparishcouncil.gov.uk/council/vcap>

Council Service Delivery in Hampshire

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allotment site • The Bridewell, The Bury • Cemetery in King Street • Christmas trees and lights in the High Street • Reporting footpath issues • Grit bins – requesting new ones • Noticeboards • Odiham Sports Centre Trust • Parish Room • Play areas at Bufton Field, Chapel Pond Drive, Chamberlain Gardens and Recreation Ground • Public benches • Public toilets • Rubbish bins in the play areas • Stocks • War memorial | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building control • Car parking services • Delivering affordable housing on new developments, managing the housing register, helping the homeless and supporting private sector housing • Electoral register / elections • Food, health and safety inspections • Housing benefit • Leisure and Countryside services • Licensing including taxis and entertainment • Recycling including garden waste and glass collections • Rubbish collection and dealing with flytipping • Street cleaning and most bus shelters • The Local Plan and most planning applications • Pest control and dog warden | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption and foster care • Bus passes for older or disabled people • Civic amenity sites • Libraries and museums • Meals on wheels • Roads, footpaths, pot holes repairs and gritting • Registration of births, deaths and marriages • Social services (child and adult) • Schools and education • Trading standards • Apply for a “blue badge” for parking |

Global Warming – we can all take action to help our planet

To help our planet and all the creatures that live on it, we each need to make some changes to the way we go about our daily lives. If we all act together we can make a real difference. We need to create less ‘greenhouse gases’ – measured in tonnes of Carbon Dioxide and its equivalents (CO₂ e tonnes). In the UK each household produces an average of 17 CO₂ e tonnes every year. In Odiham and North Warnborough we produce closer to 20 CO₂ e tonnes every year. If we all agree to work together and make some small adjustments in our lives, we should be able to reduce our CO₂ e tonnes every year to at least get it down to the average – maybe we can do even better than that.



OPC has made a start. At the full Council meeting on 21st September 2021, Councillors debated Climate Change and resolved that:

“OPC acknowledges the Government’s Climate Emergency pledge and will:

1. Consider Climate Change in all decision making and delivery of services and activities.
2. Review all Council services and functions and draw up an Action Plan within 6 months setting out where carbon emissions can be reduced.

Following adoption and review of the Action Plan, OPC will consider whether to declare a “net zero carbon pledge.”

On 16th November, OPC further resolved to set up an Environment and Climate Change working group to start developing OPC’s Climate Change Action Plan. This group also included interested and very knowledgeable members of our community. The first meeting took place on 22nd November and on 15th February an Action Plan was adopted by OPC with the following actions:

- Develop and ratify an Environment and Climate Change Policy – *adopted on 15th February*
- Commission a biodiversity audit of all OPC owned land – *to take place in May*
- Commission and adopt a management plan for all OPC land which prioritises methods which will protect and increase biodiversity and reduce the carbon footprint – *this has been commissioned through Hampshire and IoW Wildlife Trust*
- Enrol in the Greening Campaign and lead the campaign across Odiham and North Warnborough – *See below*
- Review business and services of OPC and move to options that reduce the carbon footprint of the OPC wherever practicable. *This was included for the first time in the annual review of contracts on March 15th*

The Greening Campaign

Together we can make a difference.

Many people think that switching a light off, or turning down the heating by 1°, or switching the TV off stand-by can’t make much difference to anything. And if one person does one of those things, they are probably right. But what if a whole village made those small changes? Then those savings begin to make a difference. With the price of energy at the moment, if one household did all those things they could see a significant reduction in their bills too. The Greening Campaign is all about bringing a community together to agree to make some small changes that together can make a big difference – to the climate and to our bills.

If you would like to learn more and hear how you can join the Greening Odiham and North Warnborough project – part of a national campaign to help our planet - Contact Cllr McFarlane at cllrmcfarlane@odiham.co.uk



Congratulations to the amazing volunteers who have made such a great success of the Odiham Book Exchange. It now has more members than the branch library it has replaced. The book stock is bulging with popular titles and there is a steady turn over as members swap their books. A recent 'mystery book' offer with a meeting to discuss the titles was popular with readers and gave rise to an interesting discussion about what makes a good book. Look out for more of the same in the coming months.



OPC has been 100% behind the book exchange from its inception. We led the negotiation with Hampshire CC on the hand-over and managed the transition grant to get the doors open again and the current offer up and running. It is now time to hand over to the volunteers and from 1st April the Book Exchange will be run by the Friends of Odiham Book Exchange, a Community Interest Company set up for the purpose. The volunteers who staff and co-ordinate the sessions each week have been closely involved in this process and have a voice in the future of the Book Exchange.

It has always been the intention that access to good quality books should remain free to users. There are running costs for the Book Exchange, and the volunteers have plans to enhance and extend the offer to:

- Offer high quality fiction, children's and teenage books, including large print and audio books
- Respond to requests to offer biographies
- Organise regular events for both children and adults to promote the joy of reading
- Form a strong link with local schools and those in surrounding villages, with under-fives facilities and with out of school activity groups
- Provide opportunities for the young - and others - to volunteer.

In order to raise funds, the Friends will be launching a campaign to recruit supporters who are prepared to make a small monthly donation. Look out for the communications on this – including a letter distributed with this newsletter - or take a look at the Odiham Book Exchange Facebook page.

A Parish survey in 2021 showed tremendous support for this project. Please continue to support Odiham Book Exchange and its volunteers. We wish them every success!

Community Grants

Odiham Parish Council offers grants within the parish of Odiham and North Warnborough to support the health, wellbeing, protection and enhancement of its area and residents. This year due to the development of the Community Hub at the Bridewell, the Community Grants Budget is smaller than in previous years. If your organisation would like to apply and can demonstrate how the residents of Odiham and North Warnborough would benefit from the grant spending please see the Odiham Parish Council website [Chttps://odihamparishcouncil.gov.uk/council/council-services/cg](https://odihamparishcouncil.gov.uk/council/council-services/cg) or contact the deputyclerk@odiham.org.uk for further information. The closing date is 30th June.

The George Rothery bequest will award an annual grant of up to £300 and is available to young people aged 14-25 in the year of the award who are resident in the Parish of Odiham and North Warnborough or who have a member of their family so resident and is to support a 'one-off' event or project that will broaden the education of the applicant. This could be a trip or expedition, training course, community event or a creative arts or sporting activity. For further information and how to apply please email deputyclerk@odiham.org.uk. The closing date is 30th June.

Community Awards—who is your local hero?

Odiham Parish Council works in partnership with a number of community organisations to present annual Community Awards in recognition of outstanding service to the community. Any resident of the civic parish may be eligible for an award and must be nominated by at least one resident who is not a family member. The OPC Community Awards are an opportunity for our community to show appreciation to those who have gone 'above and beyond' to make a positive difference, to help those in need and tirelessly volunteer their time to support others.

In 2022 a maximum of four Community Awards will be awarded and for the first time the awards will include a youth category for the under 18s.

If you know of someone who deserves to be recognised please see OPC's website Community Awards Nominations <https://odihamparishcouncil.gov.uk/council/can> and either download the nomination form or you can submit your nomination online. We cannot accept nominations for previous award recipients for the same type of contribution or for people who are being recognised for their paid role unless their contribution is truly outstanding or is additional to their work. Serving Councillors are not eligible. Closing date for nominations is 30th April.

Odiham Parish Council is busy planning **Platinum Jubilee events** for the community in Odiham to enjoy. The first event of the Jubilee weekend is the lighting of the Beacon on Beacon Field on Thursday 2nd June which will see Odiham join the nation in lighting over 1500 beacons throughout the UK and Commonwealth.

The occasion will include music, singing, refreshments and of course the lighting of the beacon. The festivities all start earlier during the day with the Town Crier's Proclamation on Odiham High Street. OPC with your help has found a piper and a bugler and has the support of the Odiham Military Wives Choir but we still need to find a Town Crier.

If you would like to be Odiham's Town Crier please contact deputyclerk@odiham.org.uk for further information and an application form.

The closing date is 15th April.



Oyez! Oyez! Oyez!

Odiham Parish Council seeks applicants for a Town Crier initially to support the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations from 2nd to 5th June 2022

Could this be you?

Please contact deputyclerk@odiham.org.uk for details on how to apply.

Closing date for applications 15th April

Open to all ages!



Odihamparishcouncil.gov.uk
Tel: 01256 702716



Chair's Message—Cllr Angela McFarlane

Once again it has been a busy few months. Taking on the Bridewell is a very exciting opportunity to provide a hub for community based activities – but the decision was a major one with on-going liabilities for the Parish Council and thus residents. Thanks again to all those who took time to respond to the survey on this matter – this gave us confidence that we were acting according to residents' wishes in ensuring the library did not simply close along with the rest of the building. Another key factor was the estimated cost of finding alternative space for the OPC offices. Renting equivalent space at commercial rates would have resulted in a similar increase in costs as the shortfall in running costs of the Bridewell but without the benefits of keeping the Bridewell for the community.

Owning The Bridewell offers potential to develop a community hub and we want to hear from you about what you want to see there – please come and comment on potential plans which will be displayed in the Bridewell on 26-28th April and at the meeting at the Old School, London Road, on 3rd May.

The new contracts for ground maintenance have resulted in major progress in addressing a backlog from a number of years – in the cemetery benches had been entirely enveloped by hedges in places and the driveway is now at least 1m wider again.

We have had turnover in Councillors as some have retired or moved away from the Parish – so I am delighted to welcome new Councillors who bring fresh insights to the OPC. All OPC Councillors are volunteers and receive no remuneration.

Over the next six months one of my priorities will be the Greening Campaign. We have a climate emergency and we can all make some small changes which together can make a difference.

And finally a huge THANK YOU to ALL the volunteers without whom OPC could not have achieved all we have. Your work made a huge contribution to OPC being awarded HALC Hampshire Local Council of the Year 2021 - recognition shared with the community.



ODIHAM WARD



Cllr Kathryn Ball



Cllr Charlie Brown



Cllr Rowena Coleman



Cllr Leo Cornall



Cllr Helen Tyler



Cllr Pam Verdon

NORTH WARNBOROUGH WARD



Cllr Angela McFarlane



Cllr David Sanger

RAF STATION WARD



Cllr Alex Fraser

BEACON LIGHTING CEREMONY

Beacon Field, Thursday 2nd June, 9pm

EVERYONE WELCOME! NO NEED TO BOOK!

BAR AVAILABLE—thanks to Odiham & NW Bowling Club



| | |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------|
| 2pm | Proclamation on Odiham High Street |
| 9pm | Arrival Beacon Field |
| 9.30pm | Proclamation |
| 9.35pm | Piper: Diu Regnare |
| 9.40pm | Bugler: Majesty |
| 9.45pm | Military Wives Choir: A Song for The Commonwealth |
| 9.45pm | Beacon is lit |



STREET PARTY

Odiham High Street

Sunday 5th June, 12-4

Live entertainment

Bring your own picnic

TICKETS £30 for a table to seat 6

Ticket sales available from 11.30am on 9th April on Eventbrite

<https://odihamjubileestreetparty.eventbrite.co.uk>



Event organisers Odiham Parish Council
jubilee@odiham.org.uk