

ODIHAM PARISH COUNCIL

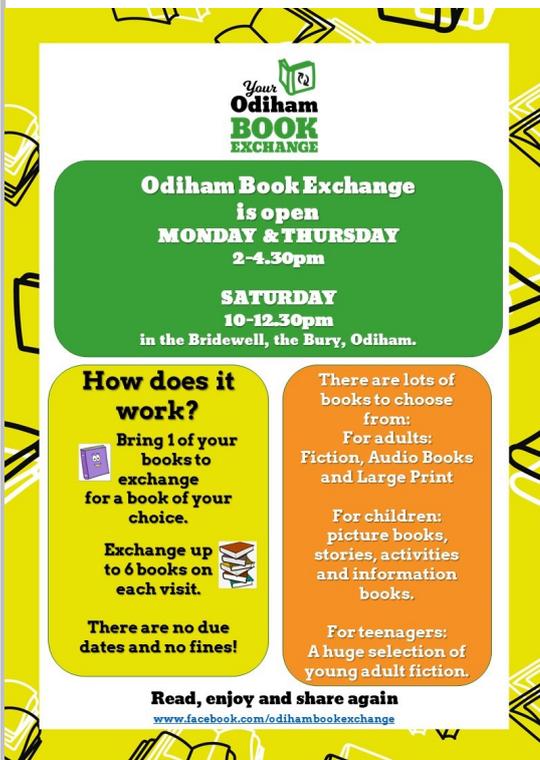
Serving the People of Odiham & North Warnborough

This has been a busy year and there is a lot to share so this newsletter is rather longer than usual. OPC is committed to working with and for our community. All decision making meetings are open to the public and advertised, with papers, the week before. All relevant information is on the OPC website.

We meet in the Library Room in the Bridewell, by the entrance to Mayhill School, on the third Tuesday of the month. We also use our website, social media and this newsletter to communicate as widely as we can and Councillors and the Clerk are also happy to hear from you on any matters of concern. All Councillors are volunteers.

As well as the matters OPC is directly responsible for, we lobby at District and County level to make residents' concerns known. The most visible and regular area for this is commenting on planning applications. One of the reasons OPC is heard on these matters is that Odiham and North Warnborough have a Neighbourhood Plan which was adopted following a local referendum, which gained over 80% support. This Plan guides all OPC responses to any planning applications. Such large scale consultation as informed the Neighbourhood Plan is not always possible or affordable. Recently it has also been impossible to host large scale gatherings to invite input, but social media and working groups with representation from various local organisations have been very helpful in guiding a number of projects. We welcomed some 70 people to the online Annual Parish Assembly. Most recently the online poll concerning the takeover of the Bridewell from HCC was extremely helpful in guiding OPC's decision. Some 90% of the over 370 respondents wanted OPC to retain the Bridewell even if this leads to a rise in the portion of Council Tax which comes to the Parish Council (the Precept). So we are proceeding with due diligence to negotiate the handover, anticipated in early 2022. We hope to make the Bridewell pay its way and will keep the budget under tight scrutiny. The aim is for the running of the Bridewell to be cost neutral although this is a challenge with a listed building.

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Your Odiham BOOK EXCHANGE

Odiham Book Exchange is open
MONDAY & THURSDAY
2-4.30pm

SATURDAY
10-12.30pm
in the Bridewell, the Bury, Odiham.

How does it work?

Bring 1 of your books to exchange for a book of your choice.

Exchange up to 6 books on each visit.

There are no due dates and no fines!

There are lots of books to choose from:

For adults:
Fiction, Audio Books and Large Print

For children:
picture books, stories, activities and information books.

For teenagers:
A huge selection of young adult fiction.

Read, enjoy and share again
www.facebook.com/odihambookexchange

Odiham Parish Council

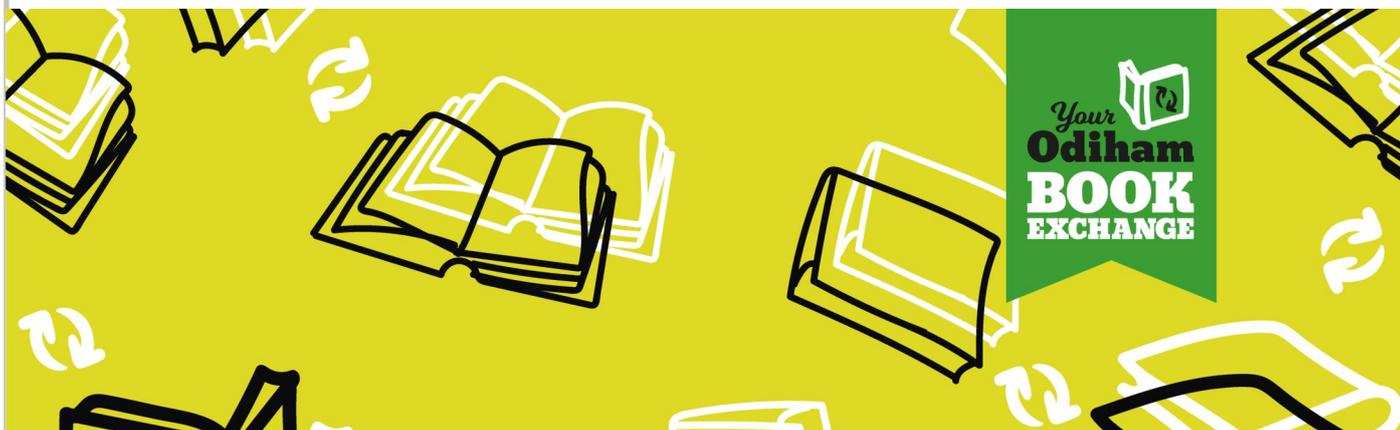
The Bridewell, The Bury, Odiham, RG29 1NB
Tel: 01256 702716 clerk@odiham.org.uk
<https://odihamparishcouncil.gov.uk/>



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Plans to develop the Bridewell as a vibrant community hub in the heart of the village are an important part of the Village Centre Action Plan – this is in draft, having had input from various interest groups. Now is your chance to tell us where you think the priorities should be. The plan is ambitious and looks at potential developments over the next 5 years. Some of the proposals can be achieved by OPC, working with our community, and some will require partnership and influencing of other authorities. A mandate from the community strengthens the OPC position and helps with raising external funds. Please take the time to look at the plan and let us know what you think via the link on the following pages.

Cllr Dr Angela McFarlane, Chair



The Book Exchange (OBE) is doing a swift trade! Thanks to the volunteers who are running the OBE, there remains free access to good quality fiction for all ages in the heart of the village. If you have not joined already do drop in between 2 and 4.30 on Monday or Thursday or 10-12.30 on Saturday. You may be surprised at the quality and variety of books available for exchange. Please bring at least one book with you to start exchanging – although no-one will be turned away, especially children.

The OBE has taken the place of the branch library which was in the Bridewell building until HCC closed it in December 2020. In response to demand from residents, OPC has led the transition to a community led service with support from HCC. It was always the intention that the service would become a community owned and run operation and this hand over is now in progress with the formation of the Friends of Odiham Library.



The Bridewell

Further to an article in the last Newsletter, the legal process of transferring The Bridewell freehold from Hampshire County Council to Odiham Parish Council is well underway. We hope this process will be completed by the end of the year. We are also working with a Surveyor to ensure a buildings maintenance grant from Hampshire County Council is spent wisely on the highest priority issues.

Alongside this work we are working on a feasibility study to improve the building for better community use. We are grateful to local resident and Architect Leo Cornall for producing concept plans showing us what can be achieved. The principle of these plans has been adopted by the Council to help move our research forward. Once initial building repairs have been carried out, our next priority will be to install a second toilet which will enable us to consider more building users, in response to a number of expressions of interest already received.



Rural Exception Site—Local Houses for Local People



Near Rough's Cottage, North Warnborough construction is under way for 5 x 2 bed houses, 3 x 3 bed houses, and 4 x 1 bed flats for local people. These properties will be available either as affordable rented dwellings or as shared ownership properties.

To qualify for any of these properties it is necessary to demonstrate a strong local connection with the parish.

To register for one of these please contact:

www.harthomes.org.uk for rented properties

www.helptobuyagent3.org.uk for shared ownership properties

The location of the site next to a busy road has been taken into consideration and the design has orientated properties to screen rear gardens from traffic noise, internal layouts have noise sensitive rooms located away from any potential traffic noise and the distance between the road and the properties has been maximised. In addition, acoustic fences have been incorporated into the site layout, with higher acoustic fencing at the points that may have more traffic noise at certain times of the day.

The homes all have mechanical heat ventilation systems which are fan driven systems which extract stale air while supplying fresh air to the habitable rooms. This means that residents do not have to open the windows to ventilate their homes if they do not want to.

To learn more about Hastoe Housing Association see their website:

<https://www.hastoe.com/>

Cllr Pam Verdon



Planning & Development Committee

Since the end of lockdown the committee has mostly met in person in the Bridewell except where it was not possible to be quorate in person and the meeting was held on Zoom, any decisions were then ratified at the following Full Council meeting.

The committee has considered 76 applications since the end of March and sent their comments to Hart District Council as statutory consultees.

The current position with regard to the **Neighbourhood Plan** development sites is:

Land at Burford, Western Lane, Odiham

Building is underway and the development is due to be named May Fields

Land at Crumplins Yard

Completed

Land at Hook Road

The latest application has been refused with a detailed report accompanying the refusal.

<https://publicaccess.hart.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=QGRAZ2HZLTJ00>

Lane next to Crownfields

This application for 30 houses plus a care home has been approved subject to the agreement of S106 contributions between the developer, Hart District Council and Odiham Parish Council.

There have been no recent applications for development at the other sites: **Land at Dunleys Hill, Longwood Western Lane and Albion Farm, North Warnborough.**

Development of Solar Farms in the local area

An application for a large solar farm in the south of the parish at Chosley Farm has been submitted and may be decided in November.

There is also the possibility that two other applications will be submitted in the near future near Long Sutton and another one near Rotherwick.

All these proposals are for large 49.9 MW solar farms, this is just below the limit of what would be considered national infrastructure projects.

The Parish Council is asking Hart District Council to take into account the effect of all three projects rather than individually as they will make a difference to the landscape in our area.

Public Open Space at Montford Place

There have been meetings between OPC and Hart District Council regarding this land. Hart has confirmed that they have not yet issued a certificate of practical completion for the landscape planting as a number of items have failed or not been maintained in accordance with the Landscape Management Plan. For this reason it is likely that OPC will not need to make a decision on this area for a two further years. The amount to be provided for its future maintenance has also to be agreed.

Land at the Deer Park

Pre application advice for a development in this area was sought by the owner and OPC submitted a comment to Hart District Council. The decision given by Hart can be read on their website:

<https://publicaccess.hart.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=QTR80LHZ0GB00>

Cllr Pam Verdon

Planning & Development Committee

The Bell Public House, The Bury

This pub was closed during lockdown and did not reopen again. The brewery have sold it to a development company who have plans to develop two homes on the site. There was much local comment about the loss of this pub due to its location at the centre of the village. OPC resolved to apply to Hart District Council to get this property listed as “an asset of community value” and this was successful. Once listed as an Asset of Community Value, the local community will be informed if it is put up for sale within the five-year listing period. If they express a wish to do so, local community interest groups then have the chance to ‘pause’ the sale for a period of 6 months so they can prepare to bid for it, known as the Community Right to Bid.

Cllr Pam Verdon

Conservation Area Appraisal Update

The Conservation Area Appraisal is a document used by Planning and Conservation Officers as a guide to what is special about the area and what should be allowed in terms of changes and new developments.

The previous Appraisals were produced in 2008 and there were separate ones for Odiham and North Warnborough. Hart District Council informed us last year that it was important to update these appraisals as they were out of date and their format was lengthy and not easy for officers, developers and residents to refer to. They advised us to appoint consultants to help us in this task which we have done.

In order for Hart to adopt the new Appraisal it is necessary to carry out a public consultation so that residents can give us their comments for consideration which will then be discussed by ourselves, Hart DC and the consultants to decide on any necessary changes to the draft. Following this Hart DC will formally adopt the policy and use it to help them make their planning decisions.

The new Draft Appraisal document can be viewed odihamparishcouncil.gov.uk/council/planning/conservation-areas.

Please note that the document is viewed best opening it with Adobe Reader as then the interactive mapping pages can be used. However if you cannot use Adobe then your usual PDF Reader will also open it and all the maps are available as appendices at the end of the document.

After viewing the document we would be interested to know the following:

Do you consider the boundaries of the Conservation Areas to be correct, if not, how would you alter them and why?

Do you consider the views correct, if not, how would you alter them and why?

If you have any other comments please give us your reasons for the changes you suggest.

Please email your comments to the clerk by 30th November
clerk@odiham.org.uk

Cllr Pam Verdon



Odiham and North Warnborough Conservation Area Appraisal

August 2021

Introduction.....	1
Overview.....	6
Summary History.....	8
Character.....	11
Heritage assets and opportunities for enhancement.....	45
Management risks, opportunities and recommendations.....	52
Technical terms, methodology and further information.....	60
Appendix A: History of the Odiham and North Warnborough Conservation Areas.....	64
Appendix B: Article 4 Direction.....	71
Appendix C: Maps.....	73
Appendix D: Policy.....	89

Community Speedwatch

Odiham & North Warnborough Community Speedwatch launched in May 2021 with a small group of dedicated volunteers and with support from PCSO Liz Wallace and Hampshire Police.

Since the launch there have been planned weekly Speedwatch sessions. Each session lasts for about an hour and takes place on roads that have been risk assessed by the Police to make sure the identified Speedwatch standing area is safe for volunteers, pedestrians and drivers.

To keep everyone safe there must be a minimum of three volunteers at each session and each volunteer has specific data to record on the data sheets. At the end of the session one designated volunteer collates the individual data sheets to compile and submit to the Police for them to verify. If a driver has been monitored travelling above 35mph on a 30mph road the Police will send a letter to the driver alerting them to the fact they were driving too fast.

If the same driver has already received a letter from the Odiham Speedwatch group or any other Hampshire Community Speedwatch group, a second letter is sent. The third time the driver is observed driving too fast they will receive a visit from the Police.

Monthly Speedwatch data is sent to all the community Speedwatch groups in Hampshire to see the results of their monitoring. Currently the Parish Speedwatch monitoring takes place on the Farnham Road, the Hook Road and Dunley's Hill.



Odiham Speedwatch Results May-August 2021			
Total number of sessions	Total number of cars observed travelling above the road speed	Number of 1 st time letters sent	Number of 2 nd time letters sent
10	105	84	1

Drivers still travel at speeds too fast through the Parish but through continued Speedwatch monitoring, in addition to other speed reduction initiatives, hopefully drivers will start to reduce the speed they travel at while driving through Odiham and North Warnborough.

If you would like to support Odiham & North Warnborough Community Speedwatch and become a volunteer please email deputyclerk@odiham.org.uk for more information.



Amenity Areas Committee

The Amenity Areas Committee, chaired by Cllr John Raw, meets quarterly and is responsible for overseeing the parish owned open spaces and facilities on your behalf.

Assets include: the Recreation Ground, three further play areas, Beacon Field, Odiham Cemetery including two Chapels and a cottage, Peace Garden, allotments, King St public toilets, Odiham war memorial, land at The Firs and Colt Hill. This portfolio is made up of land and property which has been either gifted to the parish, purchased, transferred from a principal authority or gifted as a result of a housing development, which comes with a commuted sum (Section 106 contribution) for future maintenance. Once a commuted sum has been depleted, it falls upon the Parish Council to continue management from the Parish precept and this liability is something Councillors have to bear in mind when considering whether to accept a new asset. Taking on The Bridewell is just one example of this and we are busy researching ways of improving this community asset to increase income and help support running costs.

There is now a tendency for developers to build playgrounds as part of their developments then transfer future maintenance responsibility to a management company, a cost which is then passed on to the new property owners. Following the Recreation Ground refurbishment in 2019 there are no local Section 106

funds available so the Amenity Areas Committee has to look for different ways for continued improvement. Over the Summer

A new defibrillator was installed at the Recreation Ground as requested by Leapfrogs Pre-School and a grant from the Government's Welcome Back fund allowed us to hire picnic benches which were placed at the Recreation Ground and Chamberlain Gardens.



A big thanks to the Odiham Fire Station Crew who helped us re-locate one!

Projects planned for the Autumn include new noticeboards on the High Street and at North Warnborough, repairs to playgrounds and a new community orchard at the Cemetery. We are particularly looking forward to this project aimed at increasing biodiversity and contributing towards our local response to Climate Change. Look out for further details soon.



NOTICE OF MEMORIAL SAFETY TESTING ODIHAM CEMETERY, KING STREET, ODIHAM.

As part of Odiham Parish Council's memorial safety programme, testing of memorials will begin in Odiham Cemetery from 1st November 2021.

As the land owner, Odiham Parish Council is obliged to undertake this work to ensure that the cemetery is a safe place for the public to visit. Testing will be carried out on all memorials over 18 inches/457mm in height, in line with the Council's Memorial Testing Policy:

<https://odihamparishcouncil.gov.uk/council/council-services/cemetery-bookings>

Any memorial found to be unsafe will be marked with a letter:

- For memorials under 15 years old – memorials will be staked and banded. The owner/family will be required to arrange repair within 12 months by a Namm or BRamm registered Memorial Mason to avoid the monument being laid flat.
- For failed memorials over 15 years old – the memorial will be laid flat and notification sent to the exclusive rights holder at the last known address.

Odiham Parish Council endeavors to carry out testing with minimal disruption and asks all cemetery visitors to take note of warning signs during testing.



Community Grants

Each year OPC offers grants to community organisations to support activities which benefit the residents of the Parish. Full details of the grants policy are available on the website for those wishing to apply.

As well as the usual grants to support events such as Spooktacula and the Christmas Extravaganza there is a small fund each year for more one off needs and these are awarded twice a year in January and June.

This summer OPC was pleased to award grants to the Raft Race which took place in September and raised funds for Basingstoke Canal Society, the Canoe Club and Accessible Boating Association by providing a fun afternoon for some 1000 people. Grants were also awarded to the Old School in London Road for new blinds as part of their planned refurbishment, and the Odiham Society to update the village map and produce a leaflet to support walks around the village in support of Heritage Open Days.

Additionally, £1500 was earmarked in the budget to support the Citizen's Advice service. Talks are underway to offer a local service in the Bridewell once it is transferred to OPC and ready for wider public access.

If your organisation would like to apply for a Community Grant the next application round ends on 31st December. Full details are available:

<https://odihamparishcouncil.gov.uk/council/council-services/community-grants>

G Rothery Grants

As part of the review and updating of the OPC accounts and financial management systems undertaken by the Clerk in 2020, an interesting discovery came to light. In 1994, **Mr George Rothery** made a bequest to fund annual grants for people aged 14-25 with links to the Parish in order to support an educational experience outside the normal provision. Little is known about Mr Rothery other than that he was an accountant and he lived for a time at 1, High St, until he died in 1994. If anyone knows more, please do get in touch!

The terms of his bequest allow OPC to award up to 10% of the capital and any interest accrued in any one year. We can find no record of any awards before this year, or explanation for this omission, and the original capital was untouched. With interest, there was some £800 available this year and OPC was able to make an award to four applicants who are all, as it happens, undertaking sports coaching courses which will provide benefit to many other young people in their turn.

Congratulations and good luck to:

Amelie Bhattacharya - Level 1 Trampoline Gymnastics Coaching Qualification.

Anna Eaton - Level 1 General Gymnastics Coaching course.

Olivia Eaton - FA Introduction to Coaching Football.

Ryan Golesworthy - LTA Instructor Level 2

Your 
Odiham

Odiham Village Centre Area Action Plan

2021-2026



Over the last eighteen months, we have committed valuable Council resources towards developing robust policy plans which aim to give the Council clear direction and attract external, project funding.

The Odiham Village Centre Area Action Plan is the latest plan ready for public consultation.

The Plan was developed in partnership with representatives from community organisations and the Hart District Council Economic Development Team. It focuses around the High Street area and aims to:

- Protect what is important to local people.
- Enhance the here and now.
- Encourage future growth.

We would like to hear your views on these categories:

PUBLIC SPACES AND SERVICES
STREETScape AND PUBLIC REALM
BUSINESS SUPPORT
IDENTITY AND BRANDING
PARKING ACCESS AND TRAVEL
COMMUNITY COHESION
DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY
DISABILITY ACCESS, HEALTH & WELLBEING
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Please visit <https://odihamparishcouncil.gov.uk/council/village-centre-area-action-plan-consultation> for details on how to complete the survey.

This survey ends 30th November 2021. Please email clerk@odiham.org.uk if you have any questions.



ODIHAM CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA



SUNDAY 28th NOVEMBER 2pm - 7pm

The inOdiham team are delighted to be able to bring the Christmas Extravaganza back to the High Street. Our volunteers are working hard to deliver the event with all the usual festive fun, including:

80 STALLS

OUR TRADITIONAL BIG WHEEL (AND OTHER RIDES)

PLENTY OF FOOD AND DRINK

BRASS BANDS

THE MILITARY WIVES CHOIR

THE ODIHAM MELODRAMATIC GROUP

FATHER CHRISTMAS GROTTTO



REMINDING YOU TO LOVE LOCAL!

For more information follow us on facebook.com/inOdiham or visit our website inOdiham.co.uk
A huge thank you to all our volunteers and for the grant funding from the Parish Council

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS!

June 2nd 2022 - June 5th 2022

Discussions are underway for local events. We will share further details with you soon!

REMEMBRANCE—Sunday 14th November, 10am



Odiham Parish Council, as the civic authority, is officially responsible for the Service and Parade at the War Memorial on the 14th November.

The memorial was erected by public subscription in 1920 and records the names of 89 men and women, associated with this parish, who died in the two world wars. There are no names recorded for subsequent conflicts. On the wings of the memorial are engraved slabs commemorating two holders of the Victoria Cross, born in the parish, who both survived the wars.

In this parish Remembrance Sunday arrangements will be almost the same as before the pandemic, although the need for spacing etc will remain and there will not be a reception at Mayhill School after the All Saint's Church Service. Please continue to observe the restrictions in force on the day. Whilst it is hoped there will be no need to limit the numbers attending at the War Memorial there may be a need to restrict numbers entering All Saints Church, to avoid over-crowding.

Members of the public are encouraged to attend the event and should congregate on the pavements and the access road behind the War Memorial in Odiham High Street. Space should be left directly behind the War Memorial for the clergy and officials. The High Street will be closed to traffic. Marching contingents, double spaced, should form up on the road from just to the left (east) of the memorial. The area in front of the memorial being reserved for the Royal British Legion and RAF Odiham contingent. Wreath layers should gather at the steps of the War Memorial by 1010. The Church Parade starts at 10.15am with prayers, wreath laying and the march to All Saints, where the traditional service will take place from 10.50am. A Chinook from RAF Odiham will over fly the parade at 10.30am.

All ex-servicemen and women, irrespective of whether they are members of the RBL, are invited to fall in at the front of the War Memorial by 10.10am. Before the march to All Saint's Church an opportunity will be given for those who wish to fall out to do so.

Simon Lloyd , Chairman & Secretary, Odiham & District Branch Royal British Legion

RBL Poppy Appeal Centenary

Many thanks to Odiham Parish Council for allowing me to make everyone aware that Remembrance Sunday will be commemorated in a more "pre-lockdown" way this year. You will see all of our fantastic volunteer Poppy Appeal collectors out and about in the community from 28th October, in the High Street, Odiham shops, North Warnborough and House-to-House, where appropriate. The organisers of the appeal are mindful that we all still need to keep safe, so you may see some collectors in masks and adhering to social distancing measures.

Since it was chosen as the symbol of Remembrance over 100 years ago, the poppy has become a symbol of support for the British Armed Forces across the generations, who, in the last two years, have also been very active in providing frontline assistance with essential workers in the fight against the Coronavirus.

Remembrance has been part of our awareness of the service and great sacrifices of our British Armed Forces past and present, all over the world, and every poppy counts towards the demonstration of our support.

Thank you, in advance, for yours. **Monica Good, Poppy Appeal Organiser**

