



NOTES FROM THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
HELD AT ALL SAINTS CHURCH ODIHAM
ON TUESDAY 23 MAY 2017 AT 7:30PM

Present:

Cllr Jon Hale (JH)	Chairman of the Council and Chair of the Community Committee
Cllr Mark Faulkner (MF)	Vice-Chair of the Council and Chair of the Planning and Development Committee
Cllr John Bell (JB)	Chair of the Traffic and Transport Committee
Cllr Jeremy Fellows (JF)	
Cllr Jean-Marc David (JMD)	
Cllr James Robinson-Giannasi (JRG)	
Cllr David Stewart (DS)	
Cllr Craig Worboys (CW)	Chair of the Amenity Areas Committee
Mrs Sarah Weir	Clerk to Odiham Parish Council
PCSO Liz Wallace (LW)	Hampshire Police

1. Apologies

Cllr John Fleming
District Cllr John Kennett
District Cllr Ken Crookes
District Cllr Stephen Gorys
County Cllr Jonathan Glen

2. Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman of OPC, Cllr Hale, welcomed approximately 35 members of the public and speakers to the Annual Parish Assembly and went through various housekeeping items.

3. Signing of the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 20 April 2016

The minutes from the meeting held on Wednesday 20 April 2016 were signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. Presentation from Mrs Jacqui Jennings - Head Teacher of Buryfields Infant School

Mrs Jennings advised that she and Mr May from Mayhill Junior School had worked together on a joint presentation which covers the schools' context, ethos, vision and values, academic records and aspirations for the future.

Mrs Jennings advised how both schools work together to achieve the best for the children that attend the schools in the parish. She advised that Buryfields has 198 children in three year groups, split into 8 classes, all named after trees in the school grounds. The school is proud that 40% of the children are

from service families with 30-50 children coming and going in a school year. The school ensures that the arrival and departure of these children is as painless as possible, encouraging all pupils to have a wide circle of friends. 7% of children qualify for free school meals, 4.5% of children are classed as special needs, 6% of children have English as their second language and 11.6% are from ethnic minority groups. There are 40 members of staff working full/part time in the Victorian building, which dates back to 1898. Newer additions include the library, hall, four classrooms and kitchen. The school has extensive grounds with trim trails, a pond, sensory gardens, gazebo, woodland area and a large scale climbing and play equipment.

Mrs Jennings said that being the head teacher at Buryfields is the happiest position in her teaching career. Focusing on giving all the children the best start in life is her particular passion.

Children come to the school from a wide range of pre-schools, which are all visited, as are all of the children at home before they start. Transition into Buryfields is expertly planned and sensitively managed with a wide range of visits to the school and each child having an individual start time.

In a recent parent survey, 100% of parents said that their child enjoys school, that there was a good range of learning activities on offer, that the school has high expectations, that the school prepared the children for the future, that the school is effectively led and managed.

The school's ethos is one of care and nurture, with high expectations of behaviour and academic achievement.

Buryfields school's vision is for every child to foster a lifelong love of learning through an exciting, enjoyable, challenging and motivating curriculum. They believe that every child deserves the very best start in life and have high aspirations for all. The values are expressed through the school's motto which promotes "excellence, respect and achievement".

The school creates an environment where children will develop a lifelong love of learning through an exciting and enjoyable curriculum. The school recognises that each child is unique, but everyone is treated equally and in a respectful way. Each child is challenged and motivated, the needs of all children are met appropriately and standards and achievement levels are continually raised. The whole child is educated, with help from parents, carers and the community.

Ofsted rated the school as good in 2008 and 2013, with the 2013 report reflecting improvements since 2008. They are currently awaiting inspection. The school's results remain above the National RWM and Hampshire's RWM. High standards are achieved by high quality teaching which is made interesting and accessible through stimulating topics on a two year cycle.

Mrs Jennings read an extract from Anne Pitcher MBE's book Illustrated history of Buryfields School 1898-1998, "where on 3 April 1905 a new teacher had arrived, the inspector gave a favourable report and the children wrote on slates" - they would spit on them to clean them. Quite similar to today - except white boards are used.

The school is a healthy school, an Artsmark school, and Arts Award school and a STEAM leading school - working with STEM subjects, Winchester Science Centre, Artwork and the Arts Council.

Children have the tenacity and resilience to tackle problems by listening, speaking, using their senses, applying what they have learnt, persisting when faced with a challenge and responding with wonderment and awe.

The school is in receipt of a very small Pupil Premium as they have so few disadvantaged children. The premium is used directly to support their achievement.

The Service Premium enables the school to offer excellent support, taking into account the turbulence they experience throughout the year. All new arrivals have a dedicated member of support staff who provides an induction and there is the Buryfields Flyers Club which is run by a higher level teaching assistant and qualified ELSA.

The school has received extra funding via grants from the MOD which has improved the school and grounds for all. Support also comes from the PTA and the community, i.e. The Odiham Society, Odiham Consolidated Charities and Rotary. Extra support is also given from parents, grandparents and special friends who with the children also get involved with the community, i.e. harvest distribution with the church

at the Almshouse, singing at Christmas, entertaining at Rosefield and involvement in events like the Magna Carta and Christmas Extravaganza.

Future uncertainties are mainly regarding sufficient funding to continue to offer the quality provision the school values so highly. The school is faced with rising costs due to pay and inflation costs, rising pension costs, increased NI costs, the introduction of the Apprenticeship Levy and cuts in Education's Services grants. This means that schools have to continue to achieve standards with fewer staff and rising class sizes.

The school will never stop learning, refining practices and seeking new and exciting ways to engage the children. They have great expertise in teaching, but are never complacent. They are outward looking and work with many schools in the area. As a moderator, Mrs Jennings sees what other schools and children are doing.

Everyone was welcomed to get involved with the school.

5. Presentation from Mr Tom May - Head Teacher of Mayhill Junior School

Mr May advised that he joined Mayhill School in September 2014 and that it is a turbulent time in education due to new curriculum and assessments. The school has 206 children split over 8 classes - some classes are quite small with only 20/22 pupils in them. The school was last rated good by Ofsted. 90% of children from year 2 at Buryfields move onto Mayhill and 95% of year 6 will move to Robert May's School.

There is a great community focus in the school, more than anywhere else he has worked. 40% of the pupils at the school are from military backgrounds, with about 25 pupils moving in and out of the school in each year.

Older children take on responsibilities in the playground; supervising the chill out room at lunchtimes where there are craft activities and an opportunity to make new friends and can help in the library and office.

The recently refurbished music room was down to funding by the MOD and there is wraparound childcare for both schools.

A Mayhill curriculum will: develop high expectations in every child; celebrate success and individuality; create curiosity and from this a love of learning; provide children with responsibility and respond to their needs; be challenging and progressive; develop skills, knowledge, understanding and character and support an outstanding transition programme for RAF families and from year 2-3 and year 6-7.

Year 5 have a residential stay in Stubbington and year 4 have been camping for 2 nights.

Academically Mayhill pupils also achieve higher standards than the National RWM and Hampshire's RWM. 61.2% of students achieved the standard, with 58.7% in Hampshire and 53% nationally achieving the standard.

Expectations are changing. In 1909 there were 80 applicants for the role of headteacher, when Mr May applied for the role there were 2 applicants. Finding teachers to work in Hampshire is difficult due to the cost of living and the Surrey allowance.

Funding is a topical issue. Support has been given to Mayhill by the MOD, the parish council and Hart DC Fine Arts, which is hugely appreciated by the school. The PTA has raised over £20,000 which also helps the school.

After school clubs include a gardening, netball, rugby and pentathlon club.

6. Update from the Chair of InOdiham

The Chair of InOdiham informed the assembly that InOdiham was a group of 12 volunteers that set up the group in 2010. InOdiham was set up due to Odiham's declining High Street with many empty shops, the fact that there was a large historical building in the centre (The George Hotel that was empty), the parish

council wasn't interested in running community events, there was a demoralised group of traders who were barely surviving and there was seismic shock when the annual Christmas evening fair was cancelled.

InOdiham is responsible for the Extravaganza, the planters and hanging baskets on the lamp posts, the weekly markets and the farmers markets (3 booked for this year), planting of the bulbs at Broad Oak, Bands in the Bury and Flavourfest (which had 3/4K visitors last year).

The Chair advised that the organisation receive an income from the weekly market, from individual sponsorship of the flower baskets, corporate sponsorship of events and individual advertising at events. As well as sponsorship, they also receive grants from OPC for specific events and often make a small surplus from their events.

7. Committee highlights of the year

The Chairman advised that OPC has 10 Cllrs, who chose which committees they want to sit on annually. OPC currently has 5 committees and each Chair of these committees will give a brief overview of the last year.

Amenity - Chaired by Cllr Worboys

Cllr Worboys gave an update on the allotment project, advising that it has now been broken into phases; phase 1 will include the water supply to the site, access off Hook Road, hardstanding for the car park, repairs to the fences and clearance of the vegetation. Due to finances, it may be necessary to ask for volunteers to help in the future.

OPC will be getting £100K in s106 contributions for teenage facilities from the developer of Montfort Place. The council is looking at suitable equipment which is very expensive and suitable locations for the equipment as the facilities do not have to be located at Montfort Place. Feedback has been received from local teenagers and from local residents living near the recreation ground.

The Montfort Place development is taking shape, with planting being carried out and footpaths being levelled. OPC may take ownership of the open space in the future, which will come with some form of dowry for maintenance.

Lengthsman scheme is a scheme funded by HCC whereby OPC received £1000 worth of labour for works in the parish which must include 25% of works to the rights of ways.

It has been suggested that the King Street toilets are closed and sold to enable new facilities to be built in a more suitable location. There are no definite plans for the toilets at the present. The assembly was asked for a show of hands to show all those in favour of closing the toilets = 3, providing new facilities = 5, refurbishing the current toilets = the majority vote.

A significant amount of money has been spent over the last few years on the grade II listed chapels in the cemetery. Works have included replacement oak fascia and soffits, a lightening protection system, replacement of the air bricks and roof repairs. The programme of required works will be on-going.

The play areas are about to have their annual inspection by a registered inspector. Each year there is required maintenance works to be carried out.

All of the trees on parish council land have been surveyed this year and works will be carried out as per the recommendations by the surveyor.

Community - Chaired by Jon Hale

The community committee are responsible for the newsletter that is sent out every 6 months to all residents and the council's Facebook page. The committee has worked with InOdiham on some events and with help from RAF Odiham and volunteers were able to arrange the street party to mark Her Majesty's 90th birthday. The committee has also partnered with the Lions on the fireworks evenings - OPC provided the funding for the first event which is now self-funded.

In December the council purchased the Christmas trees for the High Street and new tree lights. We also partnered with All Saints Church to produce the calendar which is now self-funding. We have purchased

A Frames (used to advertise the NH Plan referendum) for organisations in the village to use to advertise events and have issued grants to organisations in the parish. Over the year grants have been issued to: The RAF Service Fund, the Poppy Appeal, CAB, Odiham toddler group, Victim Support and NW football club.

OPC was awarded £10K from Tesco's Bags of Help funding to purchase and install new signage and footpath markers on the canal. The committee was assisted by the Canal Authority and The Odiham Society to complete this project.

Finance - Chaired by John Bell

The committee met quarterly and looked at the actual to budget of the finances, the budget and precept, OPC's reserves and a new bank account with on-line banking facilities.

The current portion of the precept that OPC receives on a Band D property is 16p a day. The expenditure of the council is split via committee budget headings; general = 45%, amenity = 35%, community = 13% and the balance split between traffic and transport and planning. OPC's precept request has not changed in the last 3/4 years.

Planning and Development - Chaired by Mark Faulkner

The chair advised that over the last year the committee had reviewed 135 planning applications and 34 listed building applications. He reminded the assembly that the council is a statutory consultee only; all planning decisions are made by Hart DC. Of the applications reviewed, the committee agreed to no objection to 82% of them and Hart DC granted them, the committee objected to 13% that Hart granted and objected to 5% that Hart also objected to. The 13% that OPC objected to and Hart DC granted provides a learning curve for future objections.

The building of 35 homes at Hatchwood Cottage has been granted and works started.

Traffic and Transport - Chaired by John Bell

The committee covers footpaths, with a priority been given to safe routes to school. The committee has recently set up a footpaths volunteer group to review and carry out works on footpaths in the parish.

The committee are invited to attend the quarterly Traffic Partnership meetings with representatives from Highways, Hart DC, the RAF and the local schools to discuss items like parking, signage and footpaths.

The SID has been set up in numerous locations around the village and any issues passed on to the police.

The committee is looking at additional bike racks in the High Street and finances permitting, hope to have some new racks installed this year.

The committee supported Hampshire County Council with the installation of the new footpath along the Firs and is looking at applying for a grant application to re-surface a section of footpath 21.

8. Question Time

OPC received questions from 3 residents prior to the closing date of 10 May and one via the website after this date for the 2017 APA which are listed below according to the order in which they were received by the office.

1. Received 28 April

Now that the draft information is visible for the Hart Local plan, can you please explain to the parish why Odiham has opted to build more houses than any other of the surrounding villages? I noticed in particular that Hartley Wintney has opted for no additional housing altogether!

I feel that this is a real blow to the village especially seeing as the care home that has been suggested seems to not count towards the 119 suggested in the Plan. Which when the two are added together means 179 new homes in our beautiful village - nearly 50% more than Hook and nearly 3 times the amount suggested for Crondall.

It saddens me that we now risk losing some of the precious countryside that the village have shown such a strong desire to keep and I feel that the community needs to understand the situation.

This question relates to our Neighbourhood Plan. And while I respect the expressed concerns, I would like to take the opportunity to once again thank all those involved in the Neighbourhood Plan: The Cllrs, Volunteer Steering Group Members, Hart Officers and of course the public that engaged in it.

To provide some context, our Neighbourhood Plan passed referendum a few weeks ago, with a very strong majority. It is yet to be approved by Hart DC's cabinet, but the assumption is that this is a formality.

The person who submitted this question has clearly picked up that the Hart Local Plan for the whole district has allocated our parish the housing numbers that our Plan defined. However, the Local Plan has allocated no houses at Hartley Wintney, who are just starting on the Neighbourhood Plan journey and are now in the fortunate position of technically not requiring the inclusion of a specific number of houses. My understanding is that this is correct.

Similarly, compared to us, Hook and Crondall have a comparatively low number of houses in their Local Plan.

I fully understand the issue that this question raises. The implication is that we could and perhaps should have put in for a lower number of houses. The author also references the care home in our Plan - and I know that some Cllrs, myself included had concerns about the need for a care home that will likely not count towards our housing number.

However, we have a Plan and it is a good Plan.

Throughout the lengthy Neighbourhood Planning process we were well aware that we were running ahead of the Local Plan - and that this had some risk. However the planners at Hart very much guided us and our team on the housing numbers we should be aiming for. Which is the numbers we have been allocated.

I have no reason to suspect that without our Neighbourhood Plan that we would not have been given this level of housing, regardless of what our neighbouring parishes have been allocated.

Let us also remember that without a Neighbourhood Plan, our parish, an appealing site for development would have been very exposed and our Plan now ensures that the housing will go where the majority want it to.

I appreciate that many people who live near Crownfields will not necessarily take much comfort from this however, the Plan was made with extensive engagement and we strongly believed that we are going to be allocated the housing numbers that the Local Plan outlined - and that our Neighbourhood Plan legislates for where that development will go.

So while I sympathise with the concerns that have been posed in this question, my belief is we should move forward positively - and focus on making the bold vision in the Plan a reality.

2. Received 10 May

It is a shame that in order to have a really fun time at a playground, villagers have to go to Crondall. When will Odiham have a playground they can be proud of, that suits children of all ages?

The parish council owns a number of play areas in the parish; Chamberlain Gardens, Bufton Fields, Chapel Pond Drive and the Recreation Ground. With the s106 money from the developer of Montfort Place, facilities will be provided for teenagers in the parish. The amenity committee will need to look at the possibility of other facilities suitable for a wider range of age groups.

3. Received 11 May

"I share the support of the parish council for the Neighbourhood Plan. No doubt the parish council, like me, was pleased to see that the result of the referendum on 4th May was a resounding endorsement of the Plan.

I, and I believe the community, now expect those on the parish council who were previously opposed to ANY aspects of the Neighbourhood Plan to put personal reservations to one side and wholeheartedly to embrace and support the Plan in both its letter and its spirit. Indeed it would be comforting to hear confirmation from ALL councillors that they intend to do this now at the start of the new parish council year, especially the elected chair and those councillors who are to be tasked with the primary responsibility for planning matters. This is particularly pertinent given that the newly appointed chair of the planning sub-committee has previously been expressly opposed to the Neighbourhood Plan.

If confirmation is not forthcoming, please can the chairman explain how he sees the parish council operating properly when there is a potential conflict of interest perceived to exist because the planning sub-committee, which is tasked with the implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan, is chaired by an anti-Plan councillor?"

I have covered this in part in my response to our first question. For any clarification of my support for the Plan, I would refer you to page 3 of the plan document which includes my personal endorsement.

It is also worth noting that the planning committee are not tasked with the implementation of the Plan. The Planning Committee are consultees in the Hart Planning process.

Hart are the planning authority and will now use our Neighbourhood Plan as well as the Local Plan if passed, to guide their planning decisions. Our Plan does however have a myriad of aims and goals for our community.

The vision outlined within the Plan is bold. Not just in terms of ensuring access to more affordable housing and quality of design - but in terms tasking ourselves to deliver improved footpaths and cycleways that connect our settlements, improved amenities and making more of our history in an environmentally sustainable way. We are clear that we want the parish to flourish as a place for both residents and visitors.

It doesn't stop there. Through the Plan, the community has set its sights on improved recreation facilities and improving accessibility to our green spaces. Along with maintaining and enhancing the character and vitality of Odiham's village centre by providing an attractive and interesting place for people to meet. We want to encourage existing and new businesses and services - and for our schools to continue to thrive, along with continuing our close relationship with RAF Odiham.

Perhaps in these straightened times and with a limited parish council budget you might also ask how we will afford such initiatives. It was not long before we embarked on the Plan process, that our parish project research also showed parking, a community centre for recreation, toilets and our recreation ground as the prime focus for project investment. Projects that have yet to come to fruition.

This is where the investment that comes with proposed new houses will be crucial. I have little doubt that the housing numbers and sites defined by the great work undertaken through the Plan will be swiftly and eagerly delivered by the developers. However gaining the investment is just the start, as significant time and energy is required to deliver the type of projects our Plan defines, once the investment is secured. As those who have (and continue), to work to deliver the already funded parish allotments project can no-doubt testify.

My perhaps overly detailed point is that with Hart DC being the planning authority is that much of the delivery of the vision for our community will come from the whole council and its other committees.

In terms of making decisions it is also worth noting that the council operates by a majority vote. Indeed this is how the Plan was approved - by a strong majority reflective of the actual referendum result.

My understanding is that the concerns that the Cllrs who did not approve the Plan were in part also shared or addressed by the Plan examiner - however this is an assumption on my part, so I will pass you over to Cllr Faulkner.

Cllr Faulkner commented that the democratic process was in place during the referendum of the Plan. Out of a turnout of 39% of residents, 1299 voted in favour of the Plan, 178 voted against the Plan and 19 ballot papers were rejected. Cllr Faulkner advised that he will not apologise for having a different opinion on the

Plan which he is allowed to have and confirmed that the council follows a democratic process when voting.

He advised that OPC will monitor the Plan and progress what comes under the council's responsibility, but OPC is not responsible for implementing all of the Plan, some of it will be down to Hart DC.

4. Received 19 May 2017 via the website

There is scepticism among many in the community that their interests and concerns are not duly recognised or pursued appropriately on planning issues. For example, with the Hatchwood Place development would councillors at OPC and HDC level comment on the delivery of Conditions 21 and 22.

For the OPC have current safety and traffic management at the intersection of the footpaths and into Waverley Close been addressed with due vigour.

For the Ward Member at Hart DC I would welcome:

1. Reassurance that, as the charged Ward Member, he had indeed been involved in the approving chain for discharge of the conditions; or if not, perhaps some comment
2. Reassurance (in the light of the apparent disconnects that have subsequently been encountered) that, as an elected member, you were satisfied at the time that officers had appropriately managed the respective interfaces with HCC and OPC; or if not, perhaps some comment on how you may have followed up what has been reported by local residents.
3. Comment on the substance of the residual open issues, e.g. current safety and traffic management at the intersection of the footpaths and into Waverley Close.

These questions have the backing of a significant number of residents whose names can be provided if necessary.

Unfortunately there was no ward Cllrs present to answer this question.

OPC would question what responsibility it had if there was an accident on someone else's land. In the countryside, there are many paths that are shared by cyclists and pedestrians, without any form of distinction being required and work fine. OPC advised that it is limited in what it can do and is doing all that it can. OPC believes that there is no right to cycle on FP 504, but people do, usually in a safe way.

9. Chairman to close the meeting

The meeting closed at 9.15pm. The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and thanked All Saints for hosting the assembly.