

ODIHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Serving the people of Odiham & North Warnborough

Chair's message—Cllr Angela McFarlane

At a recent meeting of the Hart District Association of Parish and Town Councils, I was reminded how fortunate we are in Odiham Parish. We are large enough and have a community which is engaged enough to have 10 seats on the Parish Council and 10 people willing to fill them. Sadly, this is not the case in all parishes and many struggle as they are very small, and/or cannot attract enough people to be councillors.

Parish councillors are volunteers and local government at this level is not party political. We are all independent and other than making sure, with the Clerk, that the meetings are run in a way that satisfies the law in terms of making legally binding decisions, the Chair has no more authority than anyone else. I suppose the one exception is that in the case of a tied vote, the chair has a casting vote. In 5 years that has only happened once and that was in our very first meeting.....in another time.

As a Chair I am very fortunate in the councillors who have come forward to serve. We have a wide range of expertise and experience in matters of building, planning, financial management, parks and woodland. We also have a great range of viewpoints when it comes to deciding how best to support the whole community. Perhaps even more importantly we have people who roll their sleeves up when necessary – giving time and expertise to help OPC to progress projects from plans to enhance the Bridewell to planting trees to clearing footpaths to running Speedwatch. And we could not do any of this without the superb support of our team of three in the Parish Office, led so ably by the Clerk.

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You are cordially invited to:

Odiham and North Warnborough Annual Parish Assembly

To be held on

*Tuesday 30th April 2024
at The Old School, London Road*

Doors open for refreshments and community stands from 6pm

Meeting 6.30 – 8pm

Guest speakers include: **Sam Mabbott (CEO, Hart Citizens Advice)**
Revd Chris Dudgeon (All Saints Church)

All Parishioners are invited to attend (no need to book)



See you there!

Your 
Odiham

Chairs message continued ...

Inevitably, there is turn over in councillors and although we are elected for a term of 4 years, councillors can resign at any time if life takes over and they no longer have the time. So next time there is a vacancy – why not think about standing? Also, if you don't have time to consider being a councillor, there are many ways you can give a few hours to help out with community projects. Look for news on the OPC Facebook page, website or in this newsletter. I look forward to seeing you at a project sometime soon!

Earlier this month I was very honoured to visit 1827 (Odiham) Squadron Air Training Corps to present a cheque to boost Air Cadet funds for group activities. The George Rothery bequest fund was gifted to the Parish Council in 1995 for “the purposes of young people aged 14-25 to broaded their education, experience or ability in a way which may not be available in the education system” and the Parish Council unanimously agreed that the local air cadet squadron was the perfect recipient. Accompanied by Cllr Chris Greensides and the Station Commander, we observed a STEM activity before presenting a cheque in the value of £3,564.28.



National Winner

We are delighted to congratulate our Clerk, Andrea Mann, on being named National Association of Local Councils Clerk of the Year at a ceremony in the House of Lords last November.

Since joining Odiham in 2019, Andrea has really made a difference to the way the Parish Council operates and interacts with our Community.

In no small part this is why we have won Hampshire's Parish Council, Village and Community Engagement awards over the last three years. Andrea's recognition at National level is well deserved and we thank her for her service.



2024-25 Parish Precept

The Odiham Parish Council precept is the Parish Council's charge to residents which covers the cost of running the local Parish Office, facilities and services plus staff costs for running these services and supporting the Council. It is shown as a separate line on council tax bills.

The Parish Precept for the year ended 31st March 2025 is £224,259 with budgeted expenditure of £279,580 and income of £55,321. The average annual charge per household is reported as a Band D equivalent at £93.92.

The small annual increase of £3.79 per year for Band D equivalent covers a direct increase in costs for managing the Council's community assets.

Planning & Development Committee—Cllr Pam Verdon

Planning Applications: Since March 2023 to the end of February 2024 the Committee has considered and commented on 128 planning applications submitted to Hart District Council.

Neighbourhood Plan Review



Following the health check which was carried out in the Autumn, it was decided that a limited review of the Plan should take place to ensure the Neighbourhood Plan stays current and complies with planning law and guidance so that it can be relied on to support decisions on granting or refusing planning applications. Funding for this was granted by central government in November 2023 and must be spent by the end of March 2024.

Consultation of the revised Plan took place for 6 weeks from 22 January to 7 March and the responses are being considered by the Parish Council, Steering Group (made up of volunteers) and Hart District Council.

The revised Plan and reasons for the changes can be viewed on the Parish Council website

<https://odihamparishcouncil.gov.uk/planning-matters/neighbourhood-plan-review-2024>

The revised Plan will be submitted to Hart for them to continue the process which includes submitting it to an Examiner before it can be officially adopted by Hart Council.

Neighbourhood Plan Sites:

Crownfields: The access from Alton Road is now under construction so it is expected that development of the site will commence when this is completed.

Dunleys Hill: Another outline application has been submitted and can be viewed on Hart Council website <https://publicaccess.hart.gov.uk/online-applications/simpleSearchResults.do?action=firstPage>

This is for 30 houses but again does not include any plans for the public open space in Policy 14 of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Land at Hook Road: Two applications have been submitted for this site and are still under consideration by Hart Council

<https://publicaccess.hart.gov.uk/online-applications/simpleSearchResults.do?action=firstPage>
<https://publicaccess.hart.gov.uk/online-applications/simpleSearchResults.do?action=firstPage>

These applications are being considered together and are for 22 houses.

Other applications:

Lodge Farm warehouse development: Obsidian Strategic presented to the full council meeting on 21st November 2023 which was attended by approximately 50 members of public. Obsidian stated that they expected an outline application to be submitted either in February or March. Residents are reminded that their comments should be registered in the Hart Planning portal <https://www.hart.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-development/viewing-and-commenting-applications>. Anyone wishing to make comment should note it is important to register comments at the outline application stage (an application reference number will include /OUT).



Since councillor elections in May 2023, the new Council has been working to develop its new Business Plan which will cover the 4 year election term.

The new Plan, adopted at the full Council meeting on 19th March, sets out the Council's strategic priorities to May 2027 and will guide the Council on how to spend its limited time and resources.

The priorities are a mix of projects which aim to improve Council owned land and buildings, projects which OPC has the power to deliver directly and other campaigns on matters you say are important to you and where we can only campaign for change on your behalf.

The Plan will be reviewed annually and the full Plan can be read at <https://odihamparishcouncil.gov.uk/business-plan>

The agreed priorities are as follows:

I. Providing high quality community facilities

The Bridewell

- * To continue transforming The Bridewell into a thriving community hub.
- * Submitting a pre-application planning application based on existing concept plans.
- * Researching external funding.

The Firs

- * To improve accessibility and amenity value.

Benches

- * To continuing improving bench provision and interpretation boards in the Parish.

War memorial

- * To improve the condition and protect the heritage.

Future provision

- * Keeping all assets under review to ensure they are useful to the community and maintained in a safe condition.
- * To maintain a rolling programme of maintenance and future replacement.

2. Supporting the Parish as a pleasant, safe and enjoyable place to live and work

Promoting community cohesion

- * To have regard to the valuable role community groups play on uniting the community through grants, promotion and partnership working.
- * To acknowledge and respect RAF Odiham as a much valued contributor to the Parish.
- * To assume a leading role in civic events.

Traffic and transport

- * Speed reduction – Community Speedwatch, supporting 20mph zones and village gateways.
- * Supporting walking routes – supporting Hampshire Rights of Way in keeping local walking routes free from obstruction.
- * Infrastructure improvements - lobbying relevant responsible authorities for improvements to hot spot areas - a cycle/footpath to M3 footbridge, pedestrian crossing points on Dunley's Hill and Hook Road, improvements to the RAF/B3349 junction and safe pedestrian route on King Street.
- * Bus shelters – to liaise with Hampshire County Council to lobby for shelters in the right places.
- * Parking – to lobby for a Parish wide review of public parking provision.

Supporting the Village Centre

- * Actively supporting the High Street and its businesses - projects which support increasing visitor footfall and signage from the High Street to community facilities in The Bury.
- * Maintaining the public toilets including increased provision of accessible toilets.

3. Action against Climate Change to protect our environment and the planet

Controlling the Council's carbon footprint

- * To follow the Council's adopted Environment and Climate Change Policy in all decisions.
- * To develop an action plan to reduce carbon emissions when carrying out Council activities.

Raising community awareness

- * The Greening Campaign.
- * Supporting tree planting schemes.
- * Supporting recycling schemes.

Biodiversity gain

- * To follow the Council's adopted Biodiversity Action Plan.
- * To manage the Council owned sites to encourage biodiversity gain.
- * To support sustainable development and biodiversity net gain when considering planning applications.

Supporting responsible and sustainable development

- * To support developments for renewable energies and campaigning for national joined up policies.

Sustainable transport

- * Provision of electric vehicle charging points in the Parish to support Hart District Council's provision.
- * Lobbying for improved cycle routes and safe pedestrian routes including the clearing of footpaths.

4. Aspiring for excellence in the sector

Providing value for money

- * Managing budgets to provide value for money whilst allowing improvements and growth to support the future community.

Communication

- * Demonstrating transparency, community engagement and inclusivity through the development of plans based on community feedback and a new communications strategy which strives to reach everyone in our community.

People

- * Setting high standards to retain and attract the best people to represent the interests of residents.
- * Encouraging training for all Councillors to support them in their roles.
- * Appointing qualified and experienced staff to support the Council and supporting their continued professional development.

Civility and respect

- * Conducting all activities with civility and respect.

Support for the sector

- * Respecting and supporting the work of the National Association of Local Councils, Hampshire Association of Local Councils and other sector support organisations.
- * Working towards accreditations and awards which confirm best practice and commitment to continued development.

Did you know there's a public access PC in the Library Room in The Bridewell?

The PC is available to use during Odiham Book Exchange sessions Monday 2-4pm, Thursday 2-4pm and Saturday 10am-noon.





**2024
Community Awards**

Would you like to nominate a local hero for a 2024 community award?
 Nominate now at <https://odhamparishcouncil.gov.uk/council/nominate>
 Or alternatively scan the QR code below
 Deadline 5th April 2024
 Awards will be made at the Annual Parish Assembly on 30th April.





HOT-DESKING available
at **The Bridewell**



- Are you looking for a work space for the new year?
- Something that is informal and can be booked at short notice?
- For just £10 a day, you can use The Bridewell in The Bury
This includes FREE Wi-Fi, FREE tea and coffee and use of the courtyard
- To make a booking or make an enquiry please visit our website:
- <https://odhamparishcouncil.gov.uk/the-bridewell-community-hub/bookings>
- Or alternatively call us on 01256 702716

Available Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm




Odiham Parish Council's long term vision is to transform the first floor space into a hot desking/co-working space for community use.
 Visit our Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/TheBridewell.CommunityHub>
 to keep up to date with what's on in the Bridewell.




Odiham Parish Council invite you to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of D-Day with the lighting of the Beacon at Beacon Field.

There will be performances from The Military Wives Choir and Cove Brass Band.

Date: Thursday 6th June 2024
 Time: 8pm-10pm
 Beacon lighting at 9.15pm
 Food & drink stalls and refreshments courtesy of the Bowls Club.
 More details to follow on our website and Facebook page.





RBL POPPY APPEAL 2023- THANK YOU

As I wrote in November 2021, concerning the RBL Poppy Appeal, I recalled that every Poppy sold and donation made, demonstrates our support for the Royal British Legion and their amazing work with the British Armed Forces. Last year, 2023, I had the pleasure of attending our local Primary School to give one of the students a certificate in recognition of the great achievement in raising over £100.00p. for the RBL Poppy Appeal. That person represents the many wonderful people of Odiham and North Warnborough who contribute so much to the Appeal.

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard and donated so much, including our individual collectors, schools, hospitality venues, retailers, petrol stations and Odiham Cricket Club. You are all the linchpin of RBL Poppy Appeal

We are very happy to report that in 2023 your efforts raised over £ 8,754, and this year we introduced the use of QR codes, which have proved to be a successful additional method of donating to the Appeal.

Traffic & Transport



In response to your direct messages, we now own two speed indicator devices (SIDs) which are rotated on key routes through Odiham and North Warnborough.

All locations are approved by Hampshire County Council (HCC) but there is an opportunity to add more, subject to HCC's consent.

The recorded data is downloaded and high recorded speeds referred to the Police. The recorded data from December until February can be found on the website at:

<https://odihamparishcouncil.gov.uk/council/projects-and-activities/speed-indicator-devices-sids>

The Odiham & North Warnborough Speedwatch group is always seeking new volunteers—the more volunteers the higher the number of Speedwatch sessions. All volunteers must undertake a one hour safety training session which is either held locally or online. If you would like to become a volunteer please email deputyclerk@odihamparishcouncil.gov.uk for more information.



Other smaller enhancement projects we are involved in include village gateways. Village gateways are intended to be a “relatively” low cost measure which encourage motorists to slow down when they enter the village.

OPC campaigned for the new gateways on the Alton Road south of the RAF Odiham junction. We are also holding funds from the new Crownfields development site for a further gateway close to the new junction. Research will progress once the site construction phase has started to find a suitable site which doesn't obstruct sight lines. OPC has also resolved to campaign for new gateways on the other two main gateways into the village; Hook Road and Farnham Road. Each gateway costs in the region of £4-5,000 which is still a considerable cost to the Parish Council so we keep a watching brief on grant opportunities and potential contributions from nearby developments.

Can you spare an hour to help keep your local area tidy?

OPC holds a supply of litter pickers and high-viz jackets which residents or local community groups are welcome to borrow.

Please get in touch with the Parish Office if you are interested.



Cemetery improvements

Works to the rose beds in the Garden of Remembrance have taken place which will help to keep the beds looking tidy and free from weeds. The works include laying a weed membrane, installing edging and laying slate shingle.

The works follow several challenging growing seasons which has made it difficult to align grounds maintenance regimes with the ever changing British climate.

We hope these works will improve the area for families visiting the cemetery.



Conservation work group - Cllr Steve Bell



Hopefully many of you have seen or have heard about our volunteer conservation group, that typically meets monthly? If not, well, let me tell you all about it.....

With a mission to try and clear the public rights of way within the Parish for the benefit of all, our small, but perfectly formed, group has seen over 50 people voluntarily give up some of their time to achieve this mission. Volunteering, as well as being altruistic and good for fellow parishioners and others, does have positive benefits. It can, as pointed out on helpguide.org (one of the world's leading mental health websites) help you make friends, learn new skills, advance your career, and even feel happier and healthier. Hopefully, any of the good folk who contributed in 2023 would attest to this. It can also contribute to schemes such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and Scout badges, etc.

In terms of why the rights of way, and not all roads and paths that are overgrown? Well, in truth, for roads, that responsibility usually belongs to Hampshire County Council, who have a schedule to undertake most works like this. Of course, if you are a property owner whose plants and trees impinge upon public roads and paths, you are also obliged to maintain them to keep access clear for the public. If anyone needs help with doing this, please get in touch.

The Conservation Volunteer group will restart in March, and will carry out one 2– hour session each month. The planned Spring schedule is 13 April, 25 May, 22 June, 27 July (subject to change). Follow updates at <https://odihamparishcouncil.gov.uk/events>.

Everyone irrespective of age or ability is very welcome. We will also continue to work with the fantastic folk in the local Ramblers' groups and Hampshire Countryside Services. So if you fancy joining in, please register your interest with our fab office team on clerk@odihamparishcouncil.gov.uk and look out on our Facebook pages. See you there.



Conservation work group

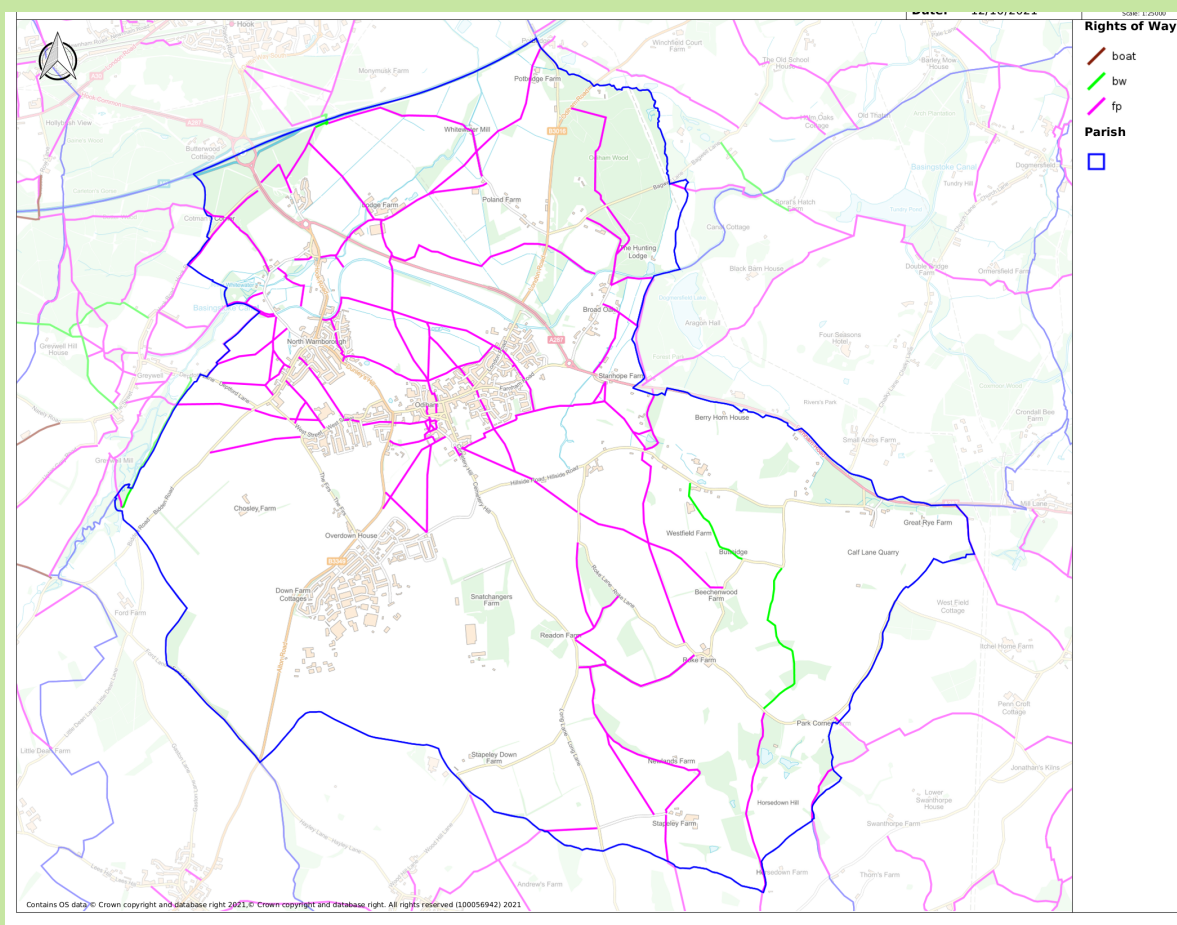
There is also a Google sign up form at

<https://odihamparishcouncil.gov.uk/countryside-conservation>

This group was initially set up with the support and guidance from Hampshire Countryside Services. The group has since won 3 grants totalling almost £5,000 which has paid for materials for a board walk, steps, power tools and associated training courses.

Types of rights of way:

- ⇒ Footpath (FP) - for walking
- ⇒ Bridleway (BW) - for walking, horse riding and cycling
- ⇒ Restricted Byway - for walking, cycling, horse riding and horse drawn carriages (or other non-motorised vehicles)
- ⇒ Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT) - for walking, cycling, horse riding, horse drawn carriages and motorised vehicles. Most do not have a surface suitable for ordinary motor traffic



Do you own or manage land next to the highway and are you interested in free trees on your land?

OPC has resolved to support Hampshire's Forest Partnership "**SHOOTS ALONG THE ROUTES**" scheme. This scheme aims to improve landscape connectivity outside woodland areas. The Forest Partnership will provide free trees to landowners and land managers to create over 630km of new green networks across the county. These networks will follow the routes of several A and B-roads across Hampshire. The scheme will also support eligible tree planting schemes within a 2km wide corridor along the routes to boost nature recovery.

We are hoping to co-ordinate a local response to the scheme and invite interested parties to an inception meeting to hear more. Please email cllrbell@odihamparishcouncil.gov.uk for further details.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/hampshireforestpartnership>

Responding to Climate Change



All things bright and beautiful

November saw two events OPC ran with the Hampshire and IoW Wildlife Trust – a talk on 8th November in the NW Village Hall and a children’s fun day at the RAF Base. Both were well attended and we all learned how to make more room for wildlife around us and took a little time to celebrate the beauty of living things.

Many thanks to Craig Whitelock of the Hampshire and IoW Wildlife Trust for running these two events for us.



GREENING



**ODIHAM & NORTH
WARNBOROUGH**



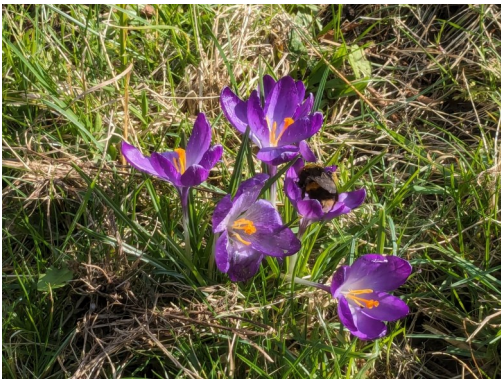
Responding to Climate Change

Bloomin' Lovely!

Many thanks to Hook and Odiham Rotary Club for the donation of 2000 crocus corms and to the hardy volunteers who turned out on a rather soggy Saturday in October to plant them in the Community Orchard and Peace Garden.



They are now flowering and as well as looking jolly, they provide an early source of pollen and nectar for insects when there is not much else around. As you can see from the pictures, the sward on both sites is looking nice and healthy, supporting a range of plants which in turn support many types of insects.



Find out how to

CREATE A WILDLIFE CORRIDOR

To help hedgehogs, insects and other wildlife to move around.

FREE EVENT

at the Cross Barn, Monday 8th April at 7.30pm

Enjoy a glass of wine and find out how we can really help these endangered and lovable creatures – some of the myths can kill them!

Supported by the Prickle Lodge Hedgehog Rescue.

NO BOOKING REQUIRED

How you can become a Hedgehog Street Champion!

OPC has made changes to the way the sites we own are managed; the biodiversity is increasing and they are more wildlife friendly (see the Autumn Newsletter for more details

<https://odihamparishcouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/FINAL-newsletter.pdf>).

The next step is to create wildlife corridors across the Parish to join them up. Hedgehogs need to be able to roam up to 2 miles a night – and if we make paths for them we also help insects and other wildlife to move around.

Come and hear how you can become a Hedgehog Street champion at our free event at 7.30pm in the Cross Barn on 8th April.




Enjoy and glass of wine and find out how we can really help these endangered and lovable creatures – some of the myths can kill them! Supported by the Prickle Lodge Hedgehog Rescue.



Council Meeting Calendar for the civic year ahead

	Apr '24	May '24	Jun '24	Jul '24	Aug '24	Sep '24	Oct '24	Nov '24	Dec '24	Jan '25	Feb '25	Mar '25	Apr '25
Full Council	16 th	20 th (Annual) Monday	18 th	16 th	20 th	17 th	15 th	19 th	17 th	21 st	18 th	18 th	15 th
Planning & Development Committee (Zoom)	2 nd 23 rd	14 th	4 th 25 th	15 th or 17 th tbc)	6 th 27 th	16 th , or 18 th (tbc)	8 th 29 th	18 th or 20 th	10 th	7 th 4 weeks) 28 th	17 th or 19 th	11 th	1 st 22 nd
Finance Committee	16 th (After full Council)			16 th (After full Council)			15 th (After full Council)			21 st (Before full Council)			15 th (After full Council)
Amenity Area Committee		20 th (After full Council)			20 th (After full Council)			19 th (After full Council)			18 th (After full Council)		
Staffing Committee		29 th 11am					11 th 11am						
Budget Workshop (councillors only)								7 th (Zoom available)					
OPC Community events	30 th Annual Parish Assembly	-	6 th D-day beacon lighting					10 th Remembrance 28 th Christmas tree lighting		28 th		11 th	

Council Service Delivery in Hampshire

 Odiham Parish Council	 Hart District Council	 Hampshire County Council
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allotment site The Bridewell, The Bury King St Cemetery and orchard High St Christmas trees and lights Reporting footpath issues Grit bins – requesting new ones Noticeboards Odiham Sports Centre Trust Parish Room Play areas and open spaces at Bufton Field, Chapel Pond Drive, Chamberlain Gardens, Peace Garden and Recreation Ground Public benches Public toilets, King Street Rubbish bins on Parish Council land only 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 On street parking enforcement

Odiham Parish Council

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

 <https://www.facebook.com/odihamparishcouncil>

