

ODIHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Serving the people of Odiham & North Warnborough

Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC) “excellence in community engagement”

As the winners of the 2022 title, the “Hampshire Association of Local Councils, Hampshire & IoW Village of the Year”, we were proud to host the 2023 awards evening at The Cross Barn on 28th September. The evening was a fantastic celebration of what can be achieved when people care about their communities and work together for the good of their local area.

The first part of the evening was chaired by Cllr McFarlane and showcased presentations from Odiham Book Exchange, The Cross Barn, RAF Odiham, Galleon Marine, Accessible Boating and U3A.

We were delighted that representatives from local, voluntary organisations and from RAF Odiham were able to join us, especially when we were able to proudly welcome visitors in the traditional Odiham way, with a Chinook flypast. The second part of the evening presented the 2023 awards.

With some very inspiring nominations, we were absolutely delighted to accept the special award for “excellence in community engagement” recognising the wonderful people in Odiham, North Warnborough and RAF Odiham. In our opinion, this was the best recognition of a strong, vibrant community we could have asked for.

Our nominations for the 2022 and 2023 awards focussed on the remarkable sense of community and service that pervades our Parish. We are not very big – some 2,300 households altogether – and yet we have over 60 groups and organisations where people can gather to learn, to have fun, to make friends, to pursue sports or hobbies and much more.

It starts from before birth, with the Bumps and Babies group, and there is something for everyone over a lifetime. We have one of the largest per capita U3A groups in the country. All these groups are organised and operated by volunteers, people who give of their time and energy to help and support others and who do so much to make Odiham a real community.

The HALC award is a tribute to you all.



Odiham Parish Council

The Bridewell, The Bury, Odiham, RG29 1NB

Tel: 01256 702716 clerk@odiham.org.uk

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



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



Chair's message—Cllr Angela McFarlane

It has been a busy 6 months since our last newsletter as the following pages attest. Once again, volunteers have been at the heart of what has been achieved. If you have a few hours to spare to help with the Conservation Volunteers or Speedwatch do get in touch – even if you can only offer to make the tea – every bit of support makes a difference.

The current OPC Councillors pride ourselves on listening to residents and helping where we can. The projects reported on in this newsletter all have their origins in responses to surveys we have conducted to ascertain community priorities. We have two topics we would like your views on currently, both of which have arisen from queries or suggestions from residents.

The first is the matter of transport in the Parish.

- Would more people use the 13 bus route if it stopped in the High Street as well as at its current stops? The bus company aren't interested unless enough people would.
- Is there a market for a 'ZIP car' style service for when you need a second car on those odd occasions – or even a first car?!
- Are either of these options things the OPC should be campaigning for?



Another question we have to answer is whether we should support the community to take on the Hardware Shop eg as a Community Interest Company?

- Would enough people be prepared to volunteer, or take on director responsibilities, managing stock and so on?

If you have views on either of these questions, or ideas of your own to contribute on these topics, please visit <https://odihamparishcouncil.gov.uk> and give us your input.

Since the last newsletter, OPC has officially made the Armed Forces Covenant pledge which demonstrates OPC's support for the Armed Forces.

The Armed Forces Covenant is "a pledge that together we acknowledge and understand that those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces, and their families, should be treated with fairness and respect in the communities, economy and society they serve with their lives".



OPC has also signed the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) Civility and Respect pledge, joining 1,350 other English local councils.

NALC introduced The Civility and Respect Pledge was introduced to pledge there is no place for bullying, harassment and intimidation within our sector.





The Library Room in The Bridewell is now available for hire!

This comfortable and well lit room caters for 20 seated at tables, 30 seated theatre style and 50 standing. It is suitable for club and business meetings, talks and lectures, book clubs, film shows and training etc.

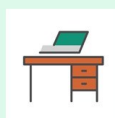
Each letting is for a minimum of one 3 hour session @ £24 per session; morning 9.30—12.30, afternoon 13.30—16.30 and evening 18.30—21.30.

Bookings can be made directly at <https://odihamparishcouncil.gov.uk/the-bridewell-community-hub/bookings> or by contacting the Parish Office. You are welcome to view the facilities before booking.

The Bridewell also offers informal hot desking. Please note desks are on the first floor and only accessible by stairs.



HOT-DESKING available at The Bridewell



- Do you struggle working from home, looking at the same four walls day to day?
- Are you looking for an informal, drop in space to work which can be booked at short notice?
- For just £10 a day, you can use The Bridewell in The Bury (includes free wifi & tea/coffee).

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. Hot-desking is offered for a trial period until 31st March 2024.

To make a booking or make an enquiry, please visit:

Odiham Parish Council

The Bridewell, The Bury, Odiham, RG29 1NB. Tel: 01256 702716

<https://odihamparishcouncil.gov.uk/the-bridewell-community-hub/bookings>



facebook

A new, dedicated Facebook page has been set up to promote rooms for hire and what's on. Please follow:

<https://www.facebook.com/TheBridewell.CommunityHub>



UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Thank you to Hart District Council for awarding funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to refurbish the ground floor accessible toilet.

These works will be completed before Christmas and will include fitting a RADAR key to allow disabled access during opening hours.

Planning & Development Committee

The Planning & Development Committee has continued to meet every 3 weeks but sometimes, due to the need to be quorate, some meetings are now held on Zoom and the Clerk has delegated authority to submit our responses which are ratified at the next Full Council meeting. Members of the public are welcome to join and the link appears on the Agenda. <https://odihamparishcouncil.gov.uk/council/meetings-agendas-and-minutes>

Neighbourhood Plan sites:

Crownfields:- The S106 payments have now been made by the developer. These included a contribution to a village gateway scheme on the Alton Road, providing car parking for pre-school use and a grant of £5,000 towards The Bridewell conversion into community use. It is expected that construction will begin soon.



Dunleys Hill:- an outline planning application was submitted for 33 houses on this site and did not include any plans for the public open space as detailed in Policy 14 of the Neighbourhood Plan. This application was refused by Hart District Council and the developer went to Appeal. This appeal was dismissed by a Planning Inspector on 18 August.

There have been no further applications for the other sites: Land at Hook Road, land at Longwood and land at Albion Yard.

Other Applications:

Lodge Farm: At present there is still no planning application for a warehouse development site at Lodge Farm. A public consultation held by Obsidian Strategic on a possible new application was held on Zoom on 4th October.

The Rural Exception Scheme has now been completed at Warren Andrew Drive, Derbyfields in North Warnborough. All properties have now been allocated tenants and owners with a local connection. The Parish Council was pleased to be invited to the official opening on 6th October.

Planning and Development

Neighbourhood Plan Review

The Parish Council has engaged a planning consultant to carry out a health check on the current Plan to see how it has been working and to find out how current it is, taking into account any changes to National and Local Planning Documents since the Plan was made in 2017. The report concludes that the Plan would benefit from a review with potential minor revisions.

The health check report indicates that the review would most likely be classified as “material modifications which do not change the nature of the Plan or order”. This means that the Plan “would require examination but not a referendum.”

Council has since resolved to review the Plan, subject to successful grant funding from central Government, and the application is in progress. A working group comprising councillors and external members has been set up and is ready to start work.

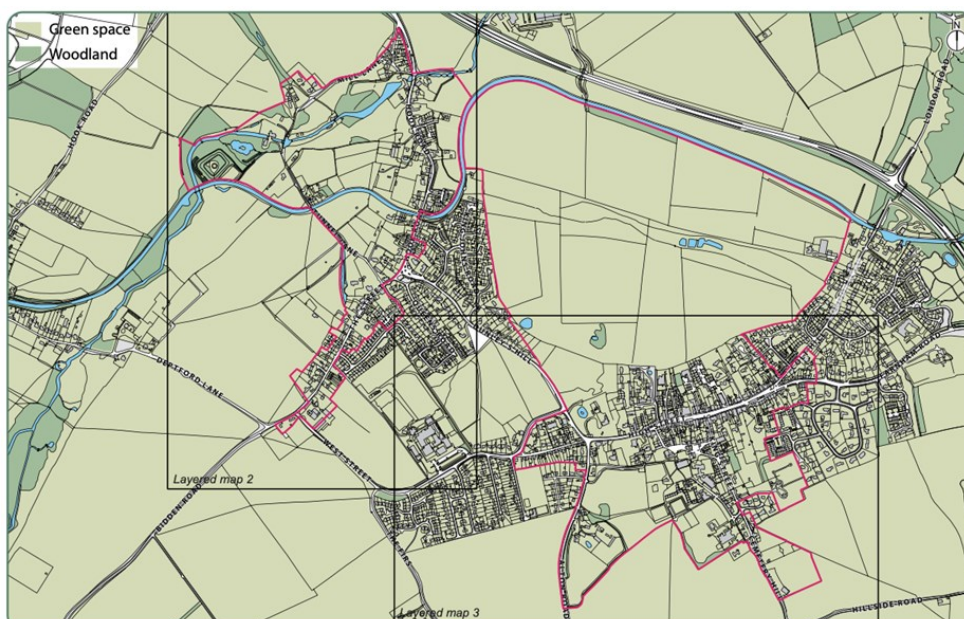
The current Plan can be viewed at: <https://odihamparishcouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Odiham-NH-plan-adopted-June-2017.pdf>

Conservation Areas

We often receive calls from residents and from people looking to move to the village asking what modifications are permitted and whether they require planning permission. These are referred to Hart District Council which is the planning authority for Hart. A common question relates to trees, especially in a Conservation Area. There is a dedicated Trees Officer who can be contacted via trees@hart.gov.uk

Conservation Areas are places of special architectural or historic interest and subject to tighter controls over demolition, minor development and the protection of trees. There are three Conservation Areas in the Parish—the Odiham , North Warnborough and the Basingstoke Canal Conservation Area.

You can check whether your property falls within a Conservation Area and find details of how to make an application at <https://www.hart.gov.uk/countryside-and-leisure/green-spaces-and-nature/trees-and-hedges/conservation-area-trees>



The King's Coronation

We are proud to have celebrated His Majesty's Coronation with you in such a community spirited fashion. With the added extra of the family picnic on Beacon Field, it was great to see so many people out enjoying the celebrations.

A special thank you to The Cadets, The Rotary club of Odiham and Hook, Hook and Odiham Lions, The Tennis Club and the Bowls Club. Your dedicated time helped make the day a success.

Photos of the street party are still available, thanks to Neil Gibbons Photography:

<https://neilgibbons.smugmug.com/Odiham-Coronation-Celebration/>



Promoting Biodiversity

Biodiversity is the variety of living organisms in a specific area. OPC adopted a Biodiversity Action Plan in 2022 following a biodiversity audit by Arcadian Ecology Consultants, part of Hampshire and IoW Wildlife Trust. We are now doing what we can to reverse biodiversity loss on OPC owned land.

Odiham Parish Councils amenity sites are now managed differently to provide a mixture of mown open spaces and longer grassy areas where there is less footfall, to help encourage biodiversity.



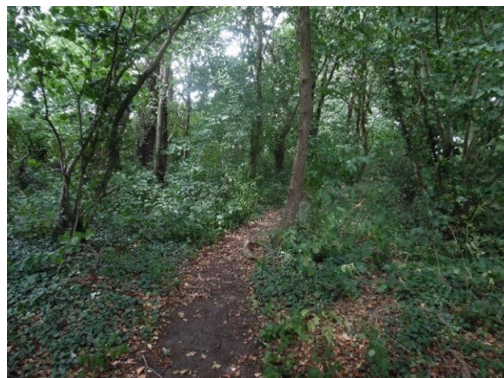
Recreation Ground- After taking advice from the Hampshire and IoW Wildlife Trust on managing open spaces to improve biodiversity, we asked Larkstel, OPC's grounds contractor, to leave a wildlife corridor at the edge of the field to grow longer. This creates an area known as an 'ecotone' which supports a variety of insects as more plant types can grow. It's a great way of responding to climate change and biodiversity loss without affecting the amenity use of the space.



The Peace Garden- Flowers and fruit blossom which are rich in pollen and nectar also benefit biodiversity by helping bees and other pollinators. Further planting will soon take place.



The Firs- The UK's native woods and trees are incredibly biodiverse. They support many different species of fungi, lichens, mosses, plants and insects. This site is inspected regularly by staff and included in OPC's tree inspection surveys but the site is relatively untouched, unless a tree or vegetation causes a H&S concern.



Land at Colt Hill- The small woodland at Colt Hill, opposite the entrance to the main car park is another low footfall area rich in biodiversity. Trees are managed to promote biodiversity and wood is left on site wherever possible. Following a tree survey in 2022, one tree was identified for removal and a monolith was constructed. A monolithic tree is achieved by removing the entire crown (all the main branches), whilst ensuring the standing stem remains a balanced structure. This will provide shelter for birds and, as it rots down, more habitat for the invertebrates that are so important as a food source for them.

A lease has now been agreed with a new Forest School who will use the site to promote hands-on education on the natural environment. It is hoped that the school will help to progress other recommendations in the Biodiversity Action Plan, such as creating habitat stacks which are great for bugs and beetles.

Promoting Biodiversity



Wild flower meadow area, Odiham

Cemetery- There is a wild meadow area in an unused area of Odiham Cemetery. June and July are the perfect months to see the new array of wildflowers appearing at the cemetery. There is a bench overlooking the wildflower area which gives a picturesque view across to the cricket club and fields beyond. The meadow is cut between late August and late November which removes surplus growth and helps to keep grasses at bay, letting the wildflowers thrive.



Community Orchard -Routine mowing removes habitats and vastly reduces biodiversity. Only shorter plants survive, which has a knock-on effect on the biodiversity of organisms such as pollinators and herbivores. Less frequent or intensive mowing will enable bees, butterflies and other such wildlife to take up residence.

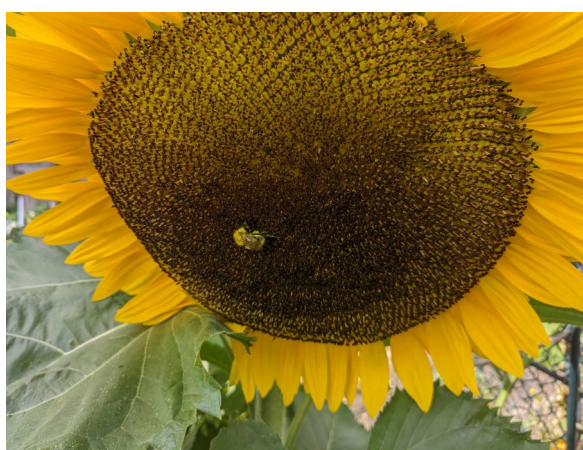
The mowing regime at the Community Orchard has been revised so that only swathes are mown which create pathways for visitors. This is a community orchard and visitors are welcome to pick the fruit.



New Bund- This area was created when the cemetery lawn was extended in 2022 to increase burial space for the future. Councillors planted hedging whips in early 2023. A management plan is being developed to ensure the whips flourish whilst maintaining the biodiversity benefits.

Allotments provide the perfect environment for many types of beneficial creatures which assist the plot-holder in a number of ways: Insects pollinate the flowers of fruit and vegetable plants in their search for nectar. Birds, insects and other creatures devour garden pests such as aphids, mealy bugs and whiteflies.

Further enhancements are due to take place soon.



The Greening Campaign

The UK has escaped extreme weather this summer, but it has been impossible to avoid the news of devastating heat in the Mediterranean – 50°C in southern Italy – and terrifying wildfires across the US and Canada are just two examples. These radical changes in weather are now recognised as the result of human driven climate change. We need to undo the harm caused by release of CO².

Luckily we can all do our bit. Last year we pledged as a community to take 8 actions to reduce our carbon footprint and our bills. These actions remain important and it is never too late to start – turn down the thermostat, only boil the water you need, switch off lights and swap to LED bulbs, eat vegetarian one day a week, line dry washing, keep showers to 3 minutes, turn off all standby devices (these use a lot of power especially if online like some game consoles).

Last winter we borrowed thermal imaging cameras and with the help of 30 volunteers, took images of some 150 properties in the Parish to help them improve their insulation. It's amazing the difference thick curtains, especially across a door, can make. Or how many people forget to insulate the loft hatch.

This autumn we are looking for members of the community to help increase biodiversity in the Parish, both at home and in community spaces. We live in one of the most species depleted countries in the world. OPC has already made a start and you may have noticed a change to the way spaces like the rec, old cemetery and community orchard are mown. Leaving the grass to grow over summer gives a chance for other species to grow and we are already seeing changes. To keep things neat and accessible, paths are being mown. Also, to encourage people to get out and about and enjoy our beautiful Parish, we have had a programme to refurbish benches at key sites. Taking time in a green environment is good for all of us, boosting mental health and wellbeing. This is also linked to the great work of the OPC Countryside Volunteers keeping paths open.



Save the date:

Saturday 21st October

Please join us at the Peace Garden 10-12am and the community orchard from 2-4pm to help plant crocuses. The crocuses have been kindly donated by the Rotary Club of Odiham and Hook.

Contact: cllrmcfarlane@odihamparishcouncil.gov.uk, or watch OPC facebook page for details.



A huge thank you to the Conservation Volunteers work group

Well, what can we say? Other than a massive thank you to everyone who has given up their time to support the new Conservation Volunteers work group. The group, led by Cllr Steve Bell, has made some fantastic improvements to the parish rights of way this year. The group needs more volunteers to enable it to continue to be such a success. Anyone interested in joining the group can sign up at <https://odihamparishcouncil.gov.uk/countryside-conservation>.



*OPC: Making
positive change
through....*

“HARNESSING THE POWER OF COMMUNITY”



Improving the Rights of Way in our Parish

Tel: 01256 702716

Email: clerk@odihamparishcouncil.gov.uk

THE PROBLEM



Odiham and North Warnborough Parish has a rich variety of ancient rights of way, enjoyed by many parishioners and local rambling clubs.

Unfortunately, many of these paths had become overgrown, unusable or impassable.

Given the resource limitations that faces local authorities, OPC decided to take on the responsibility to clear and maintain our rights of way through voluntary mobilisation of the local third sector.....



YES, THIS WAS A PATH.....



So what have we achieved?

- **Nov 22:** We liaised with, and sought advice, from experts:
 - Hampshire Countryside Services
 - NE Hampshire Ramblers Association
- **Dec 22:** With our new partners, we surveyed the Parish to understand the ground truth
- **Jan 23:** We drew up a prioritised plan of action
- **Feb 23:** We used SM to appeal for assistance from the local community and developed a database of volunteers
- **Mar 23:** We undertook our first Volunteer Conservation activity
- **Apr 23:** We successfully bid for over £2500 of funding to improve access for parishioners
- **Apr-Jul 23:**
 - Further Volunteer Conservation events
 - Gained agreement from a village pub and a local farmer for specific assistance
- **Aug 23:** With our partners, we cleared old, not fit-for-purpose, bridges in the Deer Park and built two new bridges that will last for years....
- **Looking ahead,** we will keep on making a positive difference in the community: new volunteers are always welcome!



Who Are We?

Our fantastic volunteers are all local to the Parish or nearby. Amongst others, we include:

- Parish Councillors...
- Retirees...
- A Carer...
- An aerospace engineer...
- A receptionist...
- People with disabilities...
- A farmer...
- A job seeker...
- An apprentice...
- The local Church Youth Group...
- Ukrainian Refugees...

We are everyone. We are Odiham Parish.



ACHIEVEMENTS IN PICTURES....

Over the past 6 months, local volunteers have cleared and maintained over 14 paths; cleared and installed a new step system with a handrail on a particularly steep incline; built a new bridge, and erected and installed a new boardwalk....

All achieved through over 200 hours of effort from people who have been inspired to **just do good...**



Forthcoming events

THE FOLLY COFFEE BAR
Proud Main Sponsor of
SPOOKTACULA 2023
Saturday 28 October. Beacon Field, Odiham. RG29 1NE

Meet **Ice Queen** And **Snowman**

NEW LIVE ENTERTAINMENT,
BURGERS, BAKED SPUDS, COFFEE
NEW FREE KIDS GAMES AREA, BAR,
DOUGHNUTS, KIDS COMPETITIONS,
NEW STREET FOOD, FIREWORKS

GATES OPEN & FOOD, FUN & FROLICS START AT	5.00 PM
CHILDREN'S FANCY DRESS COMPETITION STARTS AT	6.00 PM
THE ICE QUEEN AND SNOWMAN	7.00 PM
FIREWORKS BLAST OFF AT	7.15 PM
THE ICE QUEEN AND SNOWMAN	7.35 PM

ORGANISED BY
HOOK & ODIHAM
LIONS CLUB

BY KIND PERMISSION OF
ODIHAM PARISH
COUNCIL

Joint Second Major Sponsors
THE OPTICIAN Odiham ODIHAM DENTAL CARE

Other Important Sponsors
KING STREET DENTAL PRACTICE Moutan

FIREWORKS BY
ILLUSION FIREWORKS
2018 British Firework Champions

ADVANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM:
Fountains Cafe & The Folly Coffee Bar

Adult: 16yrs and over	£7 in advance	£9 at the gate
Child: 4 to under 16yrs (under 4s free)	£4 in advance	£5 at the gate
Family: (2 Adults/2 Children under 16)	£20 in advance	£25 at the gate

www.facebook.com/odihamparishcouncil OR www.hookandodihamlions.co.uk



Remembrance Sunday 12th November
War memorial, Odiham High Street

Parade leaves All Saints 10.15am

Wreath layers should congregate by the war memorial by 10.10am

Ex-service men and women are invited to fall in at the front of the war memorial by 10.10am

2 minutes' silence and flypast 10.30am

Following the service at the war memorial, there will be the traditional interdenominational church service at All Saints at 10.50am. All are welcome.



ODIHAM HIGH STREET
CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON
Thursday 23rd November 5-6pm

To help kick start the festive season you are invited to join Odiham Parish Council on Thursday 23rd November 2023 for the switching on of the village's Christmas tree lights

LIGHTS SWITCH ON AT 5.30PM

Please keep an eye on our Facebook page for more details to follow.

COME ALONG & GET READY FOR CHRISTMAS
WITH A VARIETY OF FOOD, DRINK & GIFT STALLS

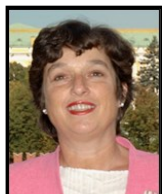
SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR BIGGEST EVENT OF THE YEAR
... SUNDAY NOVEMBER 26, 2023 ...

OUR VILLAGE RESTAURANTS, BARS & SHOPS
WILL ALL BE OPEN AND THERE IS ALWAYS
MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, JUST FOLLOW US
ON FACEBOOK OR VISIT INODIHAM.CO.UK

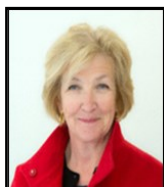
Your Council

ODIHAM WARD



Cllr Pam Verdon Cllr Leo Cornall Cllr Helen Tyler Cllr Caro Seabrook Cllr Henry Woods

NORTH WARNBOROUGH WARD






Cllr Angela McFarlane Cllr Steve Bell Cllr David Stewart Cllr David Sanger

RAF ODIHAM WARD

Vacant

Council Service Delivery in Hampshire

Public services in Hampshire are split between three tiers of local government. We encourage residents to report matters directly to the relevant Council but we are always happy to help anyone who can't access online services. <https://odihamparishcouncil.gov.uk/contact-us/which-council-is-responsible>

	 Hart District Council	 Hampshire County Council
<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 and open spaces 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

Council meetings:

Full Council, including planning applications —Tuesday 17th October, 7.30pm at The Bridewell followed by The Finance Committee

Planning & Development Committee—Tuesday 7th November, on Zoom (tbc, refer to website)

Full Council—Tuesday 21st November, 7.30pm at The Bridewell followed by the Amenities Areas Committee

Planning & Development Committee—Tuesday 28th November, on Zoom

Full Council—Tuesday 19th December, 7.30pm at The Bridewell