

ODIHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Serving the people of Odiham & North Warnborough

Chair's Message, Cllr Dr Angela McFarlane

It has been a busy few months since our last newsletter. As well as the OPC-led activities you can read about here, there has been a number of opportunities to visit and work with the wider community. I had the pleasure of attending the 'Mayhill's Got Talent' final and was given the very difficult task of helping to judge the winners. The range and depth of talent on display was truly awesome, especially in such young students. Mayhill is clearly doing a fabulous job in nurturing their children and giving them a space to shine.

With Hook and Odiham Rotary Club we have a joint project to restore The Firs and create a space for nature that we can all enjoy. This project afforded an opportunity to work with students from Robert May's School on the content and design of two interpretation boards that will be installed in the Autumn. The range and quality of the entries to the competition to design these boards was very impressive but a worthy winner was identified. We will update you on the production and design of these in the Autumn newsletter. The Firs project is supported by a grant from Hart District Countryside Services.

On behalf of OPC, I attended a screening of the People's Emergency Briefing held in the Cross Barn and hosted by the U3A Environment and Climate Change Group. This video offers a range of information from global experts on every aspect of the challenge we face from Climate Change, and most importantly, what is needed to mitigate the effects likely to impact on each of us – now and in the near future.

OPC has had an Environment and Climate Change Policy for some years and we regularly report on the actions taken to implement this. One action is to disseminate information – I therefore urge you to seek out a screening of the People's Emergency Briefing. You can find out where here: <https://www.nebriefing.org/screening-map>

The recent hot weather is perhaps a wakeup call for us all. The duration, frequency and widespread nature of these heatwaves (across most of Europe and elsewhere) is unprecedented.

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Showing our support for all Armed Forces

To mark the start of Armed Forces Week, OPC hosted a Flag Raising Ceremony in partnership with RAF Odiham as a fitting tribute to all the men and women who make up the Armed Forces community: from currently serving personnel to Service families, veterans and cadets.

Our special thanks to RAF Odiham for their presence and parade. We were honoured to be joined by Force Commander, Gp Capt Hannah Bishop, and all three local schools. We were grateful to the Odiham & North Warnborough Bowling Club for the use of their facilities and for serving refreshments. OPC chair Cllr Angela McFarlane, Alex Brewer MP and Hampshire County Council Cllr Chris Dorn all gave thanks, emphasising RAF Odiham's valued part of the local community.

William Walker's poem "Our Wall", read by Robert May's School pupil Orlando, beautifully reflected the thoughts of everyone present. William Walker was a Battle of Britain RAF pilot. His poem reflects the legacy of protection and the bond between the armed forces and civilians.

*"We value peace, we value life. We value freedom from all our strife.
We value all the things you did, to keep us safe, our futures hid.
You flew into the summer's sky, you didn't ask the reasons why.
You fought the foe, you held the line, to give us hope and give us time.
And now your names are on this wall, a testament to one and all.
That we will never quite forget, the standard that you proudly set."*

Armed Forces Week culminates with Armed Forces Day on the Saturday and, following local tradition, the day is left free for local service personnel and their families to enjoy the Bands in The Bury festival. Organisers InOdiham have reported another fantastic event for 2026 and we are fortunate for their commitment to volunteering which makes events like this possible. OPC proudly sponsors the event through a grant of £2,500 from the local precept income.



Odiham Cemetery

Chapel Cottage

As reported in the previous edition, OPC has opted to sell a Council owned property as part of a broader effort to manage resources more efficiently.

Chapel Cottage, located in Odiham Cemetery, is a Grade II listed building which means it carries specific preservation duties and ongoing maintenance costs. Over time, OPC found that the liabilities of regular upkeep and staff time required for managing the property placed a steady financial burden on budgets.



An offer has now been accepted. By selling the property, the Council aims to remove long term obligations, ensuring that funds are not tied up in a single asset with uncertain future costs. We believe the sale will also give a new lease of life to this beautiful property through transferring it to owners who value its heritage and character and have the time to lovingly maintain it.

The sale income will be redirected to projects that ensure a wider return for residents, such as investing in local road safety schemes, outdoor spaces and other capital expenditure projects which aim to benefit the entire community rather than maintaining a single property with minimal use. Follow OPC's news channels for further details.



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 SEPTEMBER 2026.

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-business/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 endeavours to carry out testing with minimal disruption and asks all cemetery visitors to take note of warning signs during testing.

Parish wide review of road safety

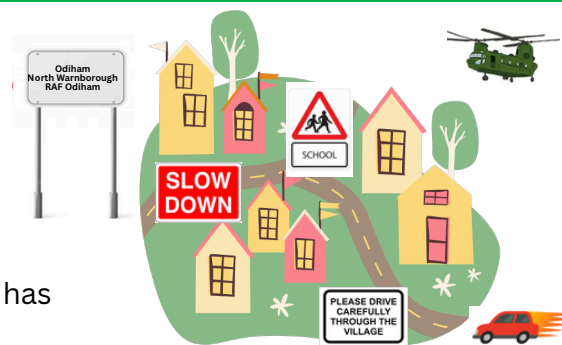
The Parish-wide review of road safety has now concluded and OPC has adopted a list of proposed measures aimed at reducing speeds and improving pedestrian safety in some parts of the Parish. These include a mix of schemes which Hampshire County Council (HCC) has agreed to progress and Community Funded Initiatives (CFI), which OPC will lead and fund.

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Parish led road safety initiatives matter because they bring the people who live and work on the roads into the design process. They know where the hazards are, who is most at risk and when the problems are most likely to occur. This results in measures tailored to meet actual need, rather than generic ideas, and avoids changes which might benefit one resident but impact negatively on the majority of others.

Proposed measures are a result of our partnerships with HCC highways, local schools, Hampshire Police and councillors and residents living across the Parish, all evidenced by feedback through the community survey which generated 400 responses.

As previously reported, there's a balance to be struck between what is desirable and what is possible with the Parish Council's limited resources but we believe the following improvements are feasible and we are currently progressing feasibility assessments with the help and technical support from HCC.



Short term

Those which are being addressed now with HCC and could be quick wins

CFI

- Increased speed indicator devices (SIDs):
 - Cemetery Hill
 - War Memorial to Farnham Rd roundabout
 - Dunley's Hill
 - Hook Road leading to the Newlyn's roundabout
 - Alton Road
 - The Street

HCC

- Re-lining of road markings and traffic speeds on Dunley's Hill and The Street
- Improved signage:
 - Cemetery Hill to King Street - review signage to deter HGVs from Long Sutton
 - West Street - reflective bollards to enhance the school crossing point
 - Hook Road - review signage to direct Odiham traffic via bypass
 - The Street - review signage to deter HGVs from Upton Grey and The Firs

Medium term

Schemes which will require a longer process (eg legal work and/or consultation) and funding.

CFI

- A 20mph zone on the High Street and King Street** - the full extent of the zone has yet to be determined and will be confirmed following feasibility assessment
- A courtesy crossing point on Churchill Avenue to provide a pedestrian crossing point for families living in military housing south of Churchill Avenue

HCC

- Parking review of West Street, opposite Robert Mays School - possible yellow lines
- Parking review of the Alton Rd end of the High Street - feasibility assessment of moving parked cars onto the wider section of pavement
- Parking review of the parallel parking in central section of High Street - to assess suitability for changing to a herringbone layout

Longer term

There are also a number of longer term schemes - those which will require significant additional funds eg from a developer contribution - which are under review and will be reported separately.

See following page for map showing the proposals.

Please contact the Parish if you would like a higher resolution file emailed to you.

v - War memorial to Farnham Rd r/a

Current speed limit - 30/40

The issue - speeding, especially around the change of speed limits.

Data - OPC SID data- 1/05/24-8/06/24 shows the average speed of 144,324 vehicles as being 34.3mph. The maximum speed recorded was 75mph on 26/05/24.

The community consultation says - 41.5% of respondents say this location is an issue.

- Proposed action:
- a. Possible extension of current 30mph zone to include Oak Tree Close and Langton Avenue.
 - b. Additional SID coverage.
 - c. Possible CFI funded gateway/or narrowing of road.
 - d. Possible CFI funded speed cushions.

Clerk

vi - Dunley's Hill, mini r/a to Hook Rd r/a

Current speed limit - 30

The issue - Speeding, inadequate pedestrian crossing points (one pelican to the west and crossing island to the east), multiple junctions with residential roads including West St, school walking routes with no crossing to Western Lane.

Data - no survey scheduled. OPC SID data - 12/03/25 - 10/04/25 shows the average speed of 171,226 vehicle's as being 29.32mph. The maximum speed recorded was 80mph at 23:20 hrs.

The community consultation says - 33.1% of respondents say this location is an issue.

- Proposed action:
- a. HCC to discuss and assess crossing points including review of Hart's walking/cycling strategy.
 - b. More SID coverage.
 - c. Regular re-marking of road markings including speed limits.

Clerk

vii - Hook Rd running through North Warnborough

Current speed limit - 30

The issue - Speeding, no pelican crossing points, sections of pavements impassable at times, multiple junctions with residential roads, no residential parking in some locations, length of parked cars at southern end.

Data - no survey schedule. OPC SID data - Jan 2024- shows the average speed of 142,546 vehicle's as being 26.56mph. Maximum speed recorded 62mph.

The community consultation says - 34.5% of respondents say this location is an issue.

- Proposed action:
- a. Consider replacing sign at Lord Derby r/a to direct Odiham traffic via A287 and not through NW.
 - b. Check weight limit of Swan Bridge.
 - c. More SID coverage north of 2 existing approved locations.
 - d. Assess suitability and safety for a new crossing point before research.
 - e. Keep pavements clear using Parish Lengthsman..

Clerk

iv - High St, between traffic lights & war memorial

Current speed limit - 30

The issue - Highest footfall section of High St, perpendicular parking with reversing into road, busy junction with King St and poor sight lines, speeding at certain times of day.

Data - Speed surveys from two locations were carried out in October 2025 and supports thresholds for a 20mph scheme.

The community consultation says - 48% of respondents say this location is an issue.

- Proposed action:
- a. CFI funded 20mph zone to include i and iii.
 - b. Review herringbone parking layout.
 - c. Seek advice from HCC parking team re layout of parking bays and changing to herringbone layout.

Clerk

iii - High St, between Alton Rd r/a to traffic lights

Current speed limit -30

The issue - Perceived speeding which is not confirmed by data. Long stretch of parked cars reported as a concern.

Data - no survey scheduled. HCC officer and Speedwatch suggests speeds do not exceed speed limits.

The community consultation says - 40.1% of respondents says this location is an issue.

- Proposed action:
- a. CFI funded 20mph zone to include i and iv.
 - b. Review parking at western end - consider gap in middle of line of parked cars, poss move to south carriageway? poss dual footpath/parking markings on pavement.
 - c. Review herringbone parking layout.

Clerk

ii - West Street, around Robert Mays School

Current speed limit - 30

The issue - Speeding around school (especially during school drop-off/pick-up times), no pedestrian crossing from the south-east of the school, poor condition of the courtesy crossing to the south-west, poor condition of line markings, poor parking habits making it difficult for school buses. New and planned development in the area which is likely to increase traffic (Cholsley Farm solar farm, McCarthy Stone apartments (app submitted).

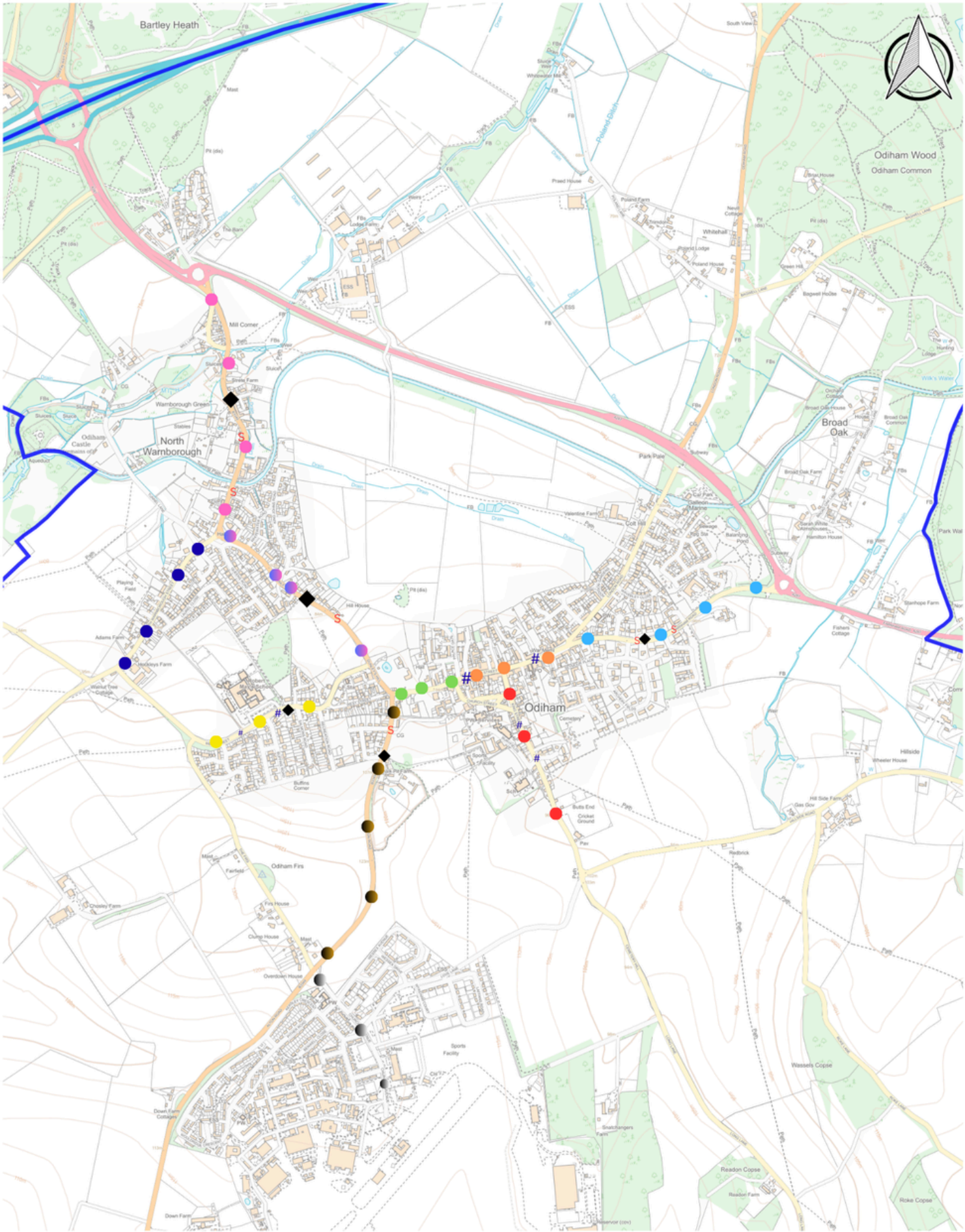
Data - speed survey data does not support a 20mph scheme

The community consultation says - 21.2% of respondents say this location is an issue.

- Action taken -
- i. Grant app made for improving informal courtesy crossing points (raised hump on existing west of school and new courtesy crossing point to the east).
 - ii. Reported faulty light to the west of school.
 - iii. Requested contribution from proposed McCarthy Stone development.

- Proposed action:
- a. Line markings already refreshed. Keep under regular review.
 - b. HCC to review school signs to ensure a sign at both approaches to school.
 - c. Review parking opposite school and consider restrictions at certain times.
 - d. Watching brief on opportunities for 20mph zone as part of HCC's 2027/28 policy.
 - e. Could look at viability of CFI pedestrian crossing points after reviewing effectiveness of a-c.

Clerk



i - Cemetery Hill/King Street

Current speed limit - 50/30

The issue - Speeding from Cemetery Hill, large vehicles, no pavements, school walking route, properties fronting road, long stretch of parked vehicles, public toilets accessing straight into road.

Data - Speed surveys from two locations were carried out in June 2025 and show a mean average speed less than 26mph with higher speeds from the south, on the approach to Cemetery Hill.

The community consultation says - 18.6% of respondents say this location is an issue.

- Proposed action:
- a. CFI funded 20mph zone to include iii and iv.
 - b. New SID location on brow of Cemetery Hill.
 - c. Review signage at Long Sutton to deter HGVs.

Clerk

Key

- Community Speedwatch sites
- Existing SID locations
- Traffic speed survey location

x - The Street

Current speed limit - 30/20

The issue - There is an existing 20mph speed limit on The Street which residents say isn't patrolled or enforced. No pavements. Heavy vehicles unsuitable for this road. Also used for as route from Alton Rd to Hook Rd and unsuitable for heavy vehicles.

Data - none available.

The community consultation says - support but no specific question asked.

- Proposed action:
- a. Seek advice from the HCC strategic infrastructure team and include request to repaint 20mph limit on road.
 - b. New SID locations in addition to existing 2 already approved.

Clerk



A Parish wide review of
TRAFFIC CALMING
Covering Odiham, North Warnborough and public highway around RAF Odiham
2026
Odiham Parish Council and community representatives



Reporting highways related matters

We continue to receive regular calls and emails directly to the Parish Office reporting highways related matters and, more recently, questions about local roadworks.

We agree, there have been rather a lot recently and, quoting a local resident, one particular road “needs a zip installing in it!”.

We always try to follow up enquiries by referring them on to the relevant authority, liaising with Hampshire County Council (HCC) Cllr Chris Dorn and sometimes directly with the works contractor. OPC and Cllr Dorn are also more than happy to assist if a resident needs specific support.



Roadworks are generally for the benefit of everyone - improving the actual road itself and the various utilities services we all use. Legally, utility companies have the right to work on their “apparatus” at any time. HCC say they do try to coordinate works and most utility companies seek to minimise the impact of road works. Some locations have a huge effect on traffic flows but national guidance on the safety of such works often leads to more expansive road works. This is for everyone’s safety, although the rules and practices have evolved over recent years, due to irresponsible drivers abusing road workers and in some cases injuring them.

More details are available on HCC ‘s website [HCC's FAQs page](#) and [utilities companies](#)

HCC say “It is important to clarify the limitations of Hampshire County Council’s legal powers in relation to road works. Highway authorities have the authority to inspect works in progress to ensure they are being undertaken in accordance with national safety legislation and relevant requirements. Where any non-compliances are identified, the authority can require the works promoter to take appropriate action to make the site safe. However, any changes to the site that go beyond legal compliance remain at the discretion of the works promoter.”

The best and quickest way of reporting a road related matter is directly to HCC via their online reporting system.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem>

The easiest way of checking forthcoming roadworks in your area is by visiting website

<https://one.network/>

WHAT WILL LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

IN HAMPSHIRE

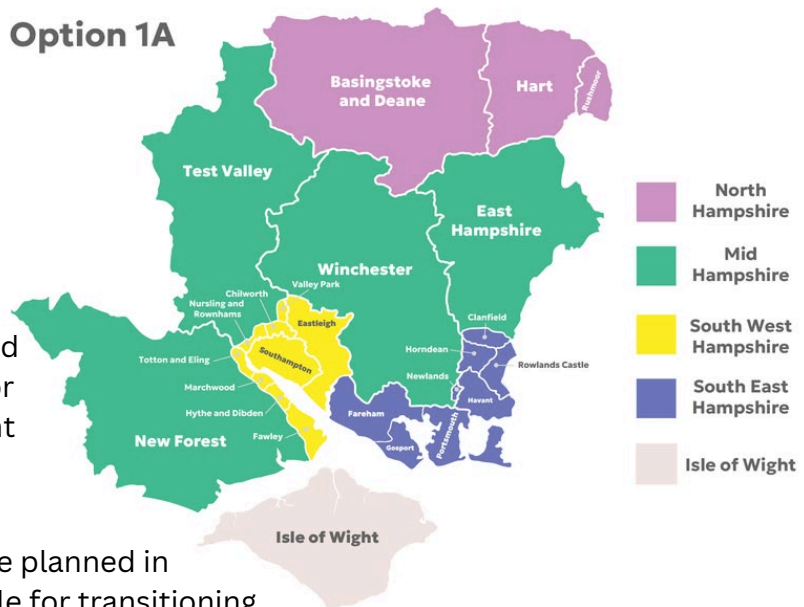
MEAN FOR

**ODIHAM, NORTH
WARNBOROUGH
AND RAF ODIHAM?**



HAMPSHIRE

Option 1A



In March, the Minister for Housing, Communities and Local Government announced the final structure for new councils across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight which will see the creation of the new North Hampshire Council.

Elections for a shadow North Hampshire Council are planned in May 2027 and the shadow council will be responsible for transitioning the change to the new council. The new council will go live on 1st April 2028 and deliver services currently run by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Hart District Council, Rushmoor Borough Council and Hampshire County Council. All current services will remain with current councils until then.

Elsewhere in Hampshire, Hampshire County Council and some unitary authorities are mounting a legal challenge and seeking a judicial review of the government's reorganisation decision.

We are keeping informed and joining local briefing sessions wherever possible. OPC is not affected by these governance changes and will continue to function as a separate parish council, the closest council to the community, but there will be work involved due to existing contracts and arrangements in place with the principal authorities. The OPC elections will also take place in May 2027 and will see the creation of one additional position, taking the total number of councillor positions to 11.

The English Devolution & Community Empowerment Act (2026) (which is the legislation driving local government reorganisation) requires the new unitary authorities to make arrangements for the effective governance to neighbourhood areas and OPC is taking part in the Hampshire Association of Local Councils study on the practical consequences of neighbourhood governance, as this is the area most likely to impact on Local Councils. Some parts of Hampshire are focusing on community asset transfers to the parish or town council and considering service devolution too. We currently believe opportunities for Odiham will be limited but we are keeping a watching brief nevertheless and will report further if opportunities arise.

Hampshire and the Solent Combined Authority

Areas of responsibility

Transport | Economic development and regeneration |
Housing and strategic planning | Skills and employment support |
Public safety | Health and wellbeing | Environment and climate
change | Culture | Rural and coastal |

North Hampshire Council

Areas of responsibility

Waste and environment | Social care and health | Education |
Infrastructure and travel | Housing and planning |
Some community services such as leisure centres and
environmental health |

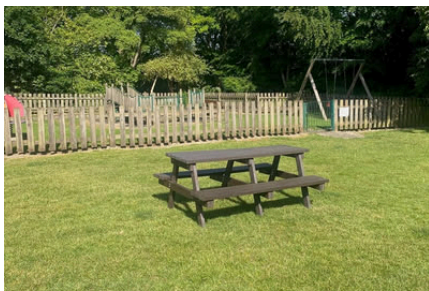
Odiham Parish Council

Areas of responsibility

Local parks and open spaces | Odiham Cemetery | Public toilets |
Community buildings including The Bridewell | War Memorial |
Civic events | Speed Indicator Devices | Speedwatch |
Statutory consultee on planning applications |
Neighbourhood Plan | Other community projects |

Enjoy a staycation in Odiham this Summer - there's lots on offer!

Our commitment to providing outdoor seating



New picnic benches at Beacon Field, Chamberlain Gardens and Recreation Ground



We manage requests for memorial benches, trees, memorial plaques and more

See OPC's policy at:

<https://odihamparishcouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Memorial-bench-policy-April-2025.pdf>



Refurbished bench at Priors Corner

Local Parks



Recreation Ground, Recreation Road

- Two playgrounds - suitable for all ages.
- Multi-use-games-area.
- Informal football pitch and goals.
- Trim trail.
- Large kick-about area.
- Picnic benches.
- Small car park.

Small play area at Chapel Pond - RG29 1EF

- Minimal play equipment primarily for toddlers.
- Quiet, peaceful, fenced greenspace.
- Please note that the play equipment offer is limited at this site due to the Council waiting for developers contributions to provide new equipment. However, it would still provide a quiet, peaceful and safe fenced area for young children to play.



Chamberlain Gardens

- Junior playground - suitable for under 10's
- Large kick-about area.
- Picnic benches.
- Peaceful setting, away from roads.

Beacon Field

- Large kick-about area.
- Picnic benches.
- Peaceful setting, away from roads.

Playground at Bufton Field - RG29 1EF

- Play equipment suitable for under 12'2.

1 King John's Castle



King John began construction of the castle in 1207 as a convenient stopping place halfway between Winchester and Windsor. It is believed that the King rode out from Odiham castle to meet the baronial leaders at Runnymede in June 1215, to sign the Magna Carta. Copies of the Magna Carta were made in Odiham at the time.

2 Pest House



Built in 1622 as a dwelling for the poor, the Pest House was used as an isolation hospital for residents or travellers with plague, smallpox and other infectious diseases. It is one of only 5 surviving examples in England.

3 The Bridewell

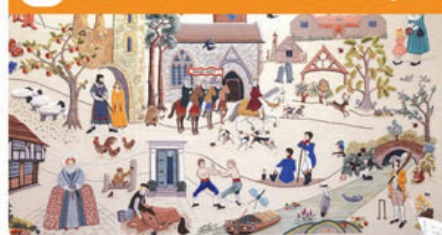


Originally a prison built in 1743 with a small exercise yard and separate accommodation for male and female prisoners. Later it was a police station and a Court. It is now run by Odiham Parish Council as a community hub with various users and a co-working hub on the first floor.

www.odihamparishcouncil.gov.uk/the-bridewell-community-hub/bookings

It is also home to Odiham Book Exchange www.odihambookexchange.co.uk and the Odiham Embroidery.

4 Odiham Embroidery



Designed by Odiham artist, Mary Turner, it depicts 800 years of local history. Over 70 volunteer stitchers worked separately to complete sections of the panel. You can view it in the Odiham Book Exchange during opening hours.

5 Odiham Book Exchange



Situated in the former Odiham Library in the Bridewell. The Book Exchange is run by over 40 volunteers to keep books accessible to the public. Anyone can join and exchange books. www.odihambookexchange.co.uk

6 The Cross Barn

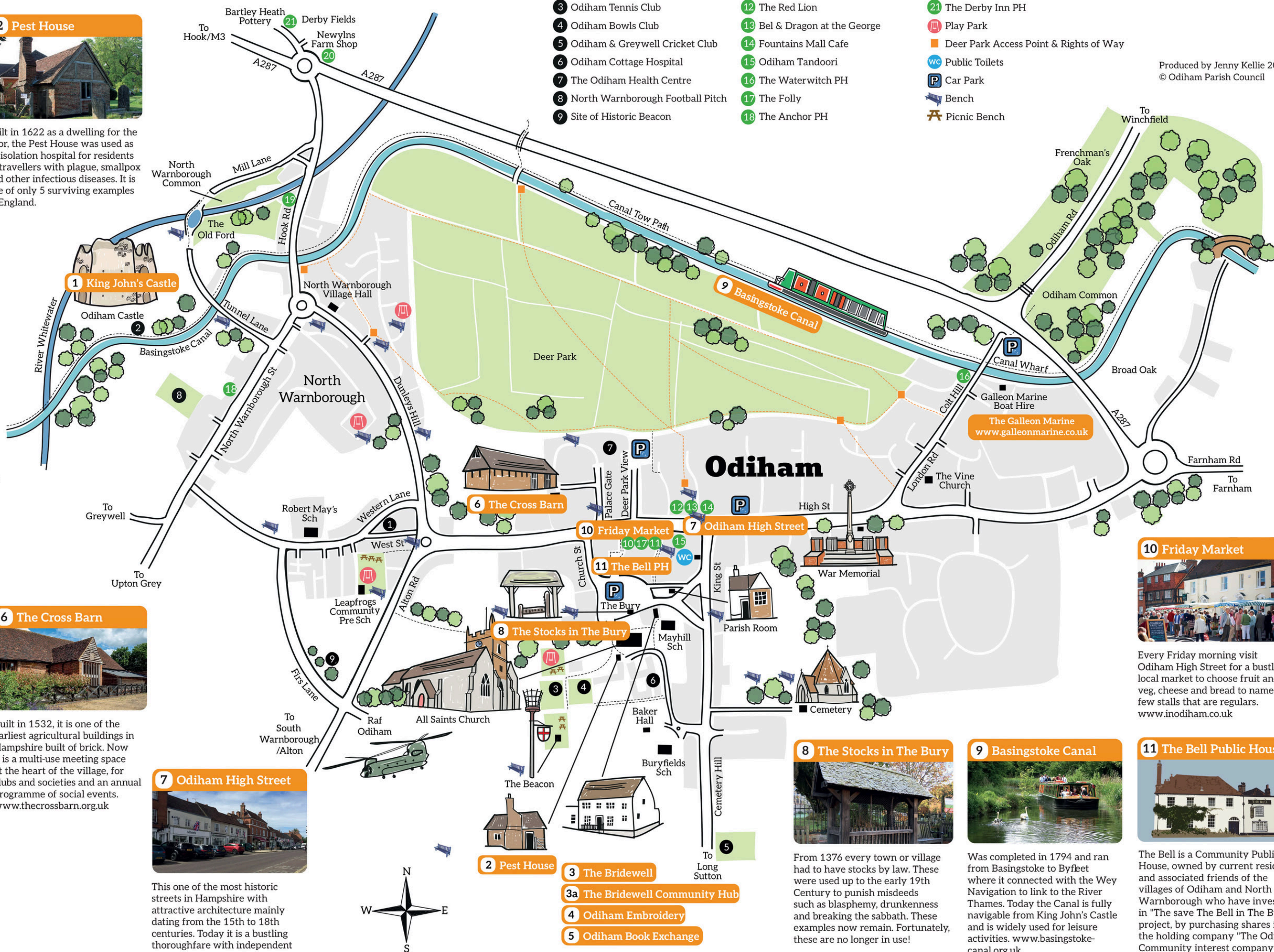


Built in 1532, it is one of the earliest agricultural buildings in Hampshire built of brick. Now it is a multi-use meeting space at the heart of the village, for clubs and societies and an annual programme of social events. www.thecrossbarn.org.uk

7 Odiham High Street



This one of the most historic streets in Hampshire with attractive architecture mainly dating from the 15th to 18th centuries. Today it is a bustling thoroughfare with independent retailers, a variety of eating establishments and a Friday morning food market.



Produced by Jenny Kellie 2021
© Odiham Parish Council

10 Friday Market



Every Friday morning visit Odiham High Street for a bustling local market to choose fruit and veg, cheese and bread to name a few stalls that are regulars. www.inodiham.co.uk

11 The Bell Public House



The Bell is a Community Public House, owned by current residents and associated friends of the villages of Odiham and North Warnborough who have invested in "The save The Bell in The Bury" project, by purchasing shares in the holding company "The Odiham Community interest company". www.thebellinthebury.com

Enjoy a staycation in Odiham this Summer - there's lots on offer!

NEW community directory - coming very soon!

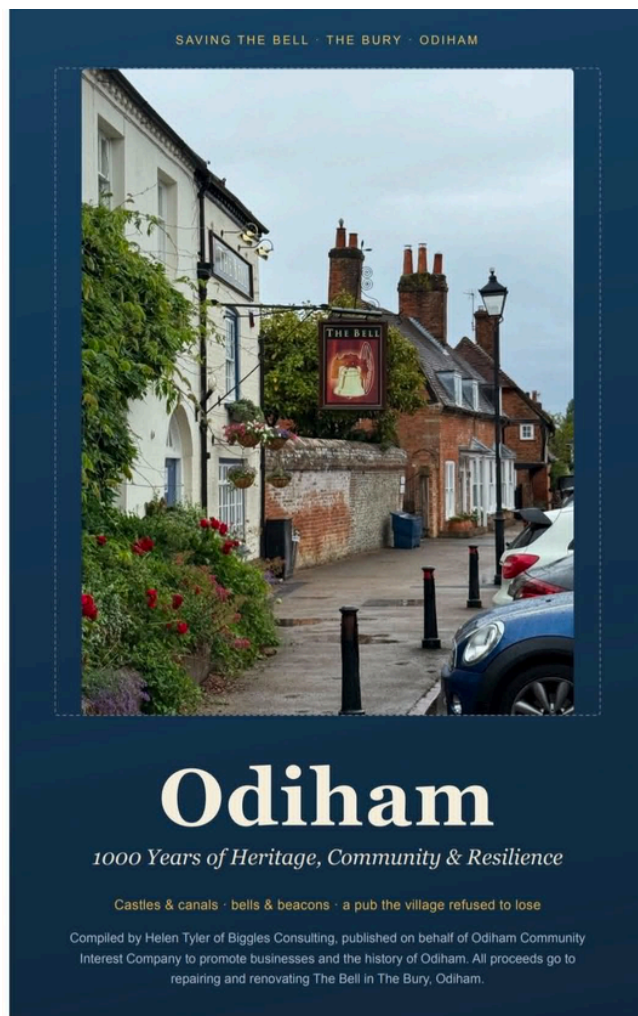
A comprehensive Visitors Guide to Odiham, targetted at overseas tourists, visitors and history enthusiasts.

The book:

- a) celebrates everything that is wonderful about Odiham and its vibrant community,
- b) advertises everything Odiham has to offer (including all local amenities, shops, restaurants, cafes, businesses, trades etc),
- c) tells the history of Odiham and provides maps, and information for visitors,
- d) provides a directory of all the listed buildings and historic treasures in Odiham.

The aim of the book is to increase tourism and footfall in the village, to increase revenue of the Bell and other businesses in the village, and sustain the commercial viability of the high street.

Launched on 31st August at Odiham Food Fayre. Limited Edition Hard Back Books will be available to purchase from The Bell and Fountains Coffee Shop. Paperback versions will be sold online - details to follow.



Heritage walks and trails

Downloadable at <https://odiham-society.org/publications-test/walks-and-trails/>

The Blue Plaque Walking Tour takes you on a 'blue plaque' trail through the centre of Odiham, starting and finishing in the High Street. Available to purchase at The Card Shop at 115 High Street

Eating, drinking and shopping



Friday morning market



Follow OPC's High St noticeboard - updated weekly

Odiham Raft Race



Sponsored by **Galleon Marine**

Sunday 6th Sept 2026 1pm - 5pm
At Colt Hill Wharf, Odiham

Main Race
2pm



Tug-O-War
3:30pm

A Charitable Event to raise money for Accessible Boating & The Basingstoke Canal Society



**Stalls,
Licensed Bar
& Hot Food.**

**FREE
ENTRY**

If you would like to enter please visit
www.galleonmarine.co.uk/rafttrace

Full details and rules can be found online

Our thanks and appreciation to the following supporters



Come and join us for...

HOLIDAY CLUB!

3rd - 6th August

9am - 12.30pm

At All Saints Church, Odiham

Sign up here



ART CRAFTS GAMES
FRIENDSHIP & FUN!

more+
KIDS

ODIHAM & NORTH WARNBOROUGH

BOWLING CLUB

We're open to new members!

*A great opportunity to meet new friends,
come along and get some gentle exercise*

WHERE: BURYFIELDS, ODIHAM RG29 1NE

**Practice Roll Ups: Monday mornings, Tuesday &
Friday afternoons**

*Outdoor season: on the green
Indoor season: short mats*

*We enter leagues during all seasons if you fancy
getting competitive!*



**TAKE A LOOK AT
OUR WEBSITE**

Tel: 01256 704341

Email: secretary@onwbc.org.uk



SUMMER PROGRAMME

THE BAKER HALL, ODIHAM, RG29 1NE

WEEK COMMENCING 30/07/2026
OVER FOUR WEEKS THURS/FRI

Activities Include:

**Nerf Academy | Bubble Football
Bushcraft | Outdoor Games
Ultimate Assault Course | Colour Run
Dodgeball | Spray Painting
Capture the Flag | Slime Making
and Much More***

FREE FOR HAF ELIGIBLE CHILDREN,
£30 FOR NON ELIGIBLE CHILDREN.
ALL SESSIONS INCLUDE LUNCH,
SNACKS AND REFRESHMENTS

*ACTIVITIES MAY BE ADAPTED DUE TO
WEATHER, PARTICIPANT NEEDS OR
OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS.

HAF
**SPACES
AVAILABLE**

BOOK VIA WEBSITE OR SCAN QR CODE

WWW.RMDADVENTURELEARNING.CO.UK



In Odiham's annual Food Fayre is going from strength to strength. Last year we had a whopping 60 stalls, so this year, on the **31st of August**, we'll be looking to once again make our summer celebration of all things edible even bigger and better than ever before.

We are extremely proud of this event, not just because it attracts hundreds of visitors to our High Street to support our local businesses, but because it is a great event to showcase a variety of local, small, artisan producers based around Hampshire and the surrounding counties. So whether it's gluten free products, award winning olive oils, vegan granola, artisan cheeses or delicious cakes and patisseries our High Street will be hosting the lot - and we will share the full line up on our Facebook page nearer the time.

Our own local Hampshire based distilleries and breweries will also be joining us and, now that word has spread about this brilliant event, we will be adding yet more variety – spicing things up even more for our wonderful community.

While we believe that events like this are vital to attracting visitors, showcasing our High Street and our local businesses, we realise that closing the road creates an inconvenience to some local residents. So we wanted to thank anyone impacted for their understanding and patience - and hope that you can enjoy the day.



Summer Holiday availability at The Bridewell Community Hub

**Hot desks £10 per day
Monday to Thursday 9-5pm**



**small meeting room for
6 people £24 for 2 hours**



All prices include FREE Wi-Fi and refreshments. To book or for more information please scan the QR code



Bookings



**Summer
Camps**

Odiham
Tennis Club

Weeks of
**27th July &
24th Aug**

9:30am to 12:30pm

FUN for both new and
experienced players
(4-16)

For details and
to book, visit
**[odihamtennis.com/
coaching/camps](http://odihamtennis.com/coaching/camps)**



An engaging and fun way to learn to play tennis, alongside other skill-building games and some friendly competition.



Who owned Odiham and North Warnborough?

Exhibition at the Society's Heritage Centre in
The Parish Room,
The Bury, Odiham, RG29 1NB



Thursdays 2 – 4 pm and Saturdays 10 – 12 noon
and from June to September will also be open Mondays 2 – 4 pm



The exhibition shows both the wider picture of how the area developed, and who owned both the land and the buildings, going back to the earliest written records.



Almost all houses in the parish have been researched – even if recently built you will find information on how the land was used, what crops were grown and who the farmer was.

VISIT ODIHAM'S RICH HERITAGE



SEPTEMBER 2026

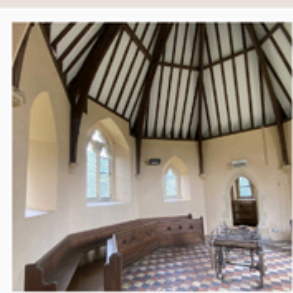
PROPERTIES OPEN FOR VIEWING
TUESDAY 15TH, WEDNESDAY 16TH &
THURSDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER, 10AM TO 3PM



The Bridewell in The Bury -
dating back to 1742 when it was
first built as a prison. Home to
the Odiham Embroidery.



The Bell, first licensed
in 1509 and one of the
oldest pubs in
Hampshire.
(open from 11am)



South Chapel - one of two
Grade II-listed Victorian
mortuary chapels in
Odiham cemetery.

All within the Odiham Conservation area, within 5 minutes' walk:

- The picturesque Odiham High Street with plenty of eating & drinking establishments.
- The Odiham Heritage Centre (open 1-3pm - earlier on request) - including a heritage display of local people at their work - builders, farmers, housewives and all manner of small trades.
- The Pest House.
- All Saints Church.
- Pay & display car park.
- Public toilets.

Our thanks to the Odiham Society. For further details on their projects and for downloadable heritage walking trails, please visit:
<https://odiham-society.org/publications-test/walks-and-trails/>



For further guidance, please contact Odiham Parish Council -
<https://odihamparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

Join our team

Do you want to make a difference in your community
by helping to reduce Speeding?

Can you spare just a few hours a month?

Community Speed Watch is an educational scheme that enables members of the public to volunteer alongside Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary to monitor the speed of traffic passing through their area and identify vehicles which exceed the speed limit. Each scheme is run by the volunteers and supported by their local Neighbourhood Policing Team.

Community SpeedWatch
Application



If you are interested, aged 18 or above and would like further information on joining or setting up a local scheme, please email Citizens in Policing at speedwatch@hampshire.police.uk or apply using the QR code attached.

We are very fortunate that we have had more volunteers come forward for community Speedwatch, meaning that we were able to purchase another kit bag and run extra sessions - we even had our first weekend session!

We will always be in need of extra volunteers, so if you think this is something you can help with please email deputyclerk@odihamparishcouncil.gov.uk or scan the QR code opposite to send you directly to the application form.



National Volunteer Week



A huge thanks to the Odiham Scouts group for their community volunteering session in June, as part of National Volunteers Week.

Work included tidying the garden beds around the stocks in The Bury, trimming the Close path and the path behind the Bel and Dragon.

Scout Leader Jenny Pateman said "the session went really well and the Scouts thoroughly enjoyed it."

Thank you for your efforts in supporting the local community.

Celebrating the 2026 International Town Criers Day in July with Odiham Town Crier, Natalie. Starting with a visit to Mayhill School then a cry on The High Street. Oyez, Oyez, Oyez!

If you would like to book the Town Crier for an event or proclamation, please contact the Parish Office.



Volunteers' Corner

Caring for Odiham War Memorial

Back in May, the War Memorial benefitted from a spruce up thanks to volunteers Steve, Simon and Shaun who spent a couple of hours carefully and sympathetically tidying the area. This work continues OPC's commitment to properly maintaining and caring for Odiham War Memorial, following many years of neglect.

We're very pleased to let residents know that the next stage of the wider project to repair its structure will commence from mid-August and be completed in time for Remembrance Sunday. The contractor, MSF Historical, will require access to the rear of the memorial and we will write to the surrounding properties directly as we did last year.



Thanks for everyone who showed an interest last year by stopping to speak to the contractor and contacting the Parish Office directly. Restoration costs have been a burden on budgets due to the specialist work involved and having the community's support helps to confirm that OPC made the right decision to properly preserve the important significance of the war memorial. As always, the end result will be a mix of expenditure and voluntary support.

**Next Conservation
Volunteers work day
Wednesday 5th August
Meet at The Bridewell 10am
Tools and refreshments provided**



Report from Odiham Book Exchange

It's five years since we first opened our doors at Odiham Book Exchange. During that time, we have signed up over 900 new members and issued an incredible 16,387 books. We've also welcomed children's groups from across the community, hosted regular 'Mystery Book' events and run two very successful one-day Book Festivals! Over the last five years we've built a fabulous library collection, thanks to the great quality donations we receive from our members. Our book stock is constantly being refreshed and updated.

Run entirely by members of our community, the book exchange provides free access to books for everyone and fills the gap left when the Hampshire County Council branch library closed at the end of 2020. It was set up by the Parish Council but now runs as an independent Community Interest Company. It opens three times a week: Monday and Thursday 2- 4 .30 and Saturday 10-12.30 in the Bridewell next to Mayhill School.

We couldn't provide this service without our amazing volunteers, our generous 'Friends of Odiham Book Exchange' supporters and the help of Odiham Parish Council. If you'd like to join, become a volunteer or a Friend of Odiham Book Exchange, please pop in and see us or visit our website at:

www.odihambookexchange.co.uk

or follow the Odiham Book Exchange on
<https://www.odihambookexchange.com>

Report from Hampshire Council Cllr Chris Dorn

Election Outcomes May 2026

Following the election in May 2026, I was elected as your new Hampshire County Cllr for the Odiham and Hook Division (replacing Jonathan Glen after his 30 years of service). I remain a Hart District Cllr (for the Odiham Ward). Thank you to the other candidates for a good -humoured and mature campaign. I will, of course, serve all or you however you voted!



Hampshire and Solent Combined County Authority

The Hampshire and Solent Combined County Authority (CCA) has now been formally created, marking a significant step in devolving power to the region. This was billed as “Devolution” with an accompanying Mayor and money, but with the Mayoral Elections deferred to 2028, it appears Whitehall is creating much of the structure now to add a Mayor later. Readers may have noticed “significant dynamic flexibility” in these plans, cynics might identify a lack of planning and foresight from central government!

Done well, Devolution can bring us real local benefits by shifting decisions on transport, skills, housing, investment, public safety, health and economic growth closer to the communities they affect. The new Authority creates a platform for councils to work together, attract investment, improve infrastructure and support long-term economic growth.

But fairness must be central: the advantages of devolution cannot be limited to already successful areas. The focus must include our most deprived communities, where residents face poorer health, lower skills, weaker transport and fewer opportunities. Growth must reach people who have been left behind, using new powers to support regeneration, tackle inequality and improve access to skills and jobs. Hampshire’s strengths including: major ports, rural towns and world-class universities give the region a strong foundation. With the CCA structure now in place, the priority is ensuring the new Authority delivers visible, practical benefits for all.

Local Government Reorganisation

The merging of: Basingstoke, Hart and Rushmoor, with those Hampshire functions that cover that area has been confirmed by government as the “North Hampshire Unitary”. It will formally start on 1st April 2028. A transitional “Joint Committee” is being set-up to determine the details.

It’s fair to say that across the political parties in Hart there was a unanimous view that: we didn’t ask for it, didn’t need it and didn’t like the options! But since it is being done to us, we need to get the best outcome for all of our residents. We need to stay extremely vigilant about the details. But don’t worry too much: fellow Cllrs and I are very much on the case!

Roadworks

The better weather and longer days allow the highways teams to make good progress on the multitude of repairs across the area. Roadworks are a mixture of Hampshire Highways works and a range of utility providers (water, gas, telecoms, electricity). They are coordinated, as far as is possible, but some disruption is inevitable. Local access should be maintained “where possible”, but please do speak to the work crews if you have a specific access need.

Hart Local Plan

Hart needs to update its Local Plan, after the government doubled our housing targets. Work is under way to identify sites, but the schedule is already starting to fall behind. I’m very concerned about this, as the process needs to dovetail with LGR and while we’re without a strong Local Plan, we risk “planning by Appeal”.

Planning Process

Recent national changes in planning law, mean that the options for local councillors to bring decisions to Development Management Committee are now severely limited. These changes reduce local democratic accountability for Cllrs and removing us from many of the local planning decisions. Planning Authorities will also have to offer refusals for >150 homes or >15,000m² industrialised developments back to the Secretary of State for potential call-in.

Contact

I’m always happy to talk to people, but the best way to contact me is to email: chris.dorn@hants.gov.uk for HCC matters and chris.dorn@hart.gov.uk for Hart matters Or follow my Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Cllr.Dorn>

Cllr Chris Dorn

Hampshire County Council for Odiham & Hook Division and District Cllr for Odiham Ward and Western Parishes on behalf of the Conservative Party

Just to caveat: Cllrs can't provide definitive planning or legal advice, but I'm happy to share my personal thoughts on matters while asserting my open mindedness to any related future planning applications or formal council decisions.

Odiham Ward

Cllr Leo Cornall
cllrcornall@odihamparishcouncil.gov.uk
Cllr Mike Tate
cllrtate@odihamparishcouncil.gov.uk
Cllr Helen Tyler
cllrtyler@odihamparishcouncil.gov.uk
Cllr Pam Verdon (vice chair)
cllrverdon@odihamparishcouncil.gov.uk
Cllr Henry Woods
cllrwoods@odihamparishcouncil.gov.uk

North Warnborough Ward

Cllr Steve Bell
cllrbell@odihamparishcouncil.gov.uk
Cllr Chris Greensides
cllrgreensides@odihamparishcouncil.gov.uk
Cllr Angela McFarlane (chair)
cllrmcfarlane@odihamparishcouncil.gov.uk

RAF Station Ward

Cllr Alex Cooper
cllrcooper@odihamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Welcome to new councillor Cllr Liz Wilmot-Sitwell who was co-opted to the Council at the full Council meeting on 21st July.

Please note that the
Parish Office will be closed
from Monday 27th July to
Friday 7th August for a long
overdue redecoration.

Staff will be working so
please email or phone and
leave a message.

COUNCIL 2026 MEETINGS



All meetings start at 7.30pm at Odiham Parish Council Offices,
The Bridewell, The Bury, Odiham, RG29 1NB.

Don't do social media and would like
to be kept informed?
Subscribe to our **e-newsletter** by scanning
the QR code below

Odiham Parish Council
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