



Odiham Parish Council

Serving the People of Odiham & N Warnborough

Issue 5

November 2009

Useful contacts:

**Odiham Parish Council
Office**
01256 702716

**Basingstoke and North
Hampshire**
NHS Foundation Trust
01256 473202

Hart District Council
Harlington Way, Fleet,
GU51 4AE.
01252 622122

HDC Planning Dept
01252 774419

Hampshire County Council
The Castle, Winchester
Hampshire, SO23 8ZB
0845 603 5638

Neighbourhood Watch
01256 701805

Odiham Bridewell Library
0845 6035631

Odiham Care Group
Tel: 01256 702930

Odiham Cottage Hospital
Tel: 01256 393600

Odiham Health Centre
Tel: 01256 702371

Odiham Police Office
01256 405271 & 405272
24 hr non-emergency
(PC Vicky Bolan & PCSO
Elizabeth Wallace)
0845 045 45 45

Town Manager
Peter Fountain
01256 702128

CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA WEDNESDAY 2ND DECEMBER ODIHAM HIGH STREET 3PM TILL 9PM



ICE RINK COMES TO ODIHAM!

For the first time ever, at this year's Odiham Christmas Extravaganza, organised by Odiham Parish Council, it will be possible to don skates and enjoy a swoop round an ice rink in Odiham High Street!

Odiham is offering a completely new experience for all those who would like to get into the Christmas mood; enjoy fun and games for all ages and make progress with Christmas shopping.

Many local businesses, charities and visiting stalls will be offering excellent value, and if hunger or thirst strike, there will be mouth watering snacks, hog roasts, and refreshments. The skating rink in the High Street (with skates for hire) will give everyone an opportunity to show off, test their skills, or simply enjoy watching this exciting new experience for residents and visitors to the Extravaganza.

25 minute skating sessions can be pre-booked at Fountain's Coffee Shop, Fountains Mall, Odiham. Skating starts at 4.30pm. More on back cover....



APPOINTMENT OF PARISH CLERK

Odiham Parish Council were extremely sorry to lose Mrs Jan Hyatt as Parish Clerk, however wish her well in her new venture.

Mrs Sian Taylor has been appointed the new Parish Clerk and will commence her duties on November 30th.

A PLEA FROM A DISABLED BADGE HOLDER

One of our councillors was approached recently by a distressed lady with a disabled parking badge who could not park outside Lloyds chemist because someone, not displaying a disabled parking badge, had parked crossways in the disabled parking space, leaving no room for the disabled lady to park. She often has to return home because she is unable to walk from any other parking space.

Please be aware that, even if you only intend to park for a minute or two, those few minutes could be the very time that a person with a disabled parking badge is expecting to be able to park in that space. Another parking space which is often misused in the one outside the Wine Rack.

Please be considerate when parking in any of the disabled spaces in the High St

If you have a disabled badge please display it, so that misunderstandings will not occur.

WEBSITE CALENDAR

Did you know that on our website we have a Village Calendar. You can put your event on this, and it is intended, not just to inform about forthcoming events in Odiham and North Warnborough, but also to help you plan an event so that it doesn't clash with another. Please send details of your event to the Clerk. The Calendar is updated regularly.

ODIHAM AND NORTH WARNBOROUGH TRAFFIC PARTNERSHIP

As all residents know, traffic problems in Odiham and North Warnborough come in many and differing guises. Each of these has an impact on all who live, work or journey to one of our excellent schools. They also undermine the sustainability of our retail community, and deprive residents of the enjoyment of their property. Just over a year ago, your Parish Council set up the Odiham and North Warnborough Traffic Partnership, bringing together the various agencies at Parish, County and District levels and the schools. The Royal Air Force will join us at our next meeting. If the irritant outside your front door has not been removed, I am sure you will feel that nothing changes. However, things are moving.

The "safe route" footpath from RAF Odiham to Buryfields and Mayhill Schools will open shortly. Robert May's School has addressed the problem of people parking in front of the school. By using cones during evening events cars are guided onto the school grounds, where temporary parking is provided on the tennis courts. They have also carried out traffic surveys during September, involving local residents, to revise their School Travel Plan. When completed in November this will support an application for Road Safety funds to make the necessary improvements for arrival and departure.

Residents have raised concerns about speeding and volume of traffic in King Street Odiham, Dunley's Hill, the Street North Warnborough, as well as several other roads within the Parish. During the next few months we will be gathering information, on which future plans can be made. We are also addressing the problems of parking on pavements outside the Post Office on Odiham High Street. A land survey near the play area on Hook Road North Warnborough has been undertaken in order that we can make safer parking available for residents and for people attending Church.

The most serious problem is High Street Parking. For longer than most people can remember, efforts have been made to solve the intractable situation. It deprives residents of the full enjoyment of their property, is unwelcoming to visitors and stifles the retail trade. Three associated activities are being considered. First, the Parish Council has agreed to investigate the advantages of accepting Hart District Council's offer to delegate Parking Management to the Parish. This will be more sympathetic and flexible. Second, we will seek financial support from Hampshire County Council for professional consultants to work with the Partnership. Third, we will establish whether we are using existing resources to the best advantage of the villages.

Finally as chairman of the Partnership, I should like to acknowledge the support of all members, whose cooperation has been outstanding.

Roger Jones

PLANS FOR SKATEBOARD PARK



The Parish Council recognizes that facilities for the young people could do with boosting, and have discussed the possibility of having a skateboard park in the parish in line with neighbouring parishes.

We are starting to look at potential sites. If you have any views or feedback please contact the Clerk.

ELECTION OF 3 NEW COUNCILLORS

Following the resignation of the Chairman Simon Quarrell, Vice Chair Derek Kearns and Peter Fountain, Odiham Ward has elected 3 new councillors: Mark Faulkner, Richard Harris and Lee Jones. The council is now as follows:

Councillor Roger Clarke - Chairman and Chair of Amenity Areas Committee

Councillor Helen Fleming - Vice Chair of Council and Chair of Planning & Development Committee

Councillor Kathryn Ball - Chair Events & Community Committee

Councillor Simon Cabbage - Vice Chair Planning & Development Committee

Councillor Mark Faulkner

Councillor Richard Harris

Councillor Lee Jones

Councillor Roger Jones - Chair Traffic & Transport Committee

Councillor Mo Smith - Chair Staffing Committee

Mark Faulkner is married with 2 young children and lives in Odiham. His family has lived in North Hampshire for the past 30 years and he himself has been based in Odiham since 1995. Mark is an accountant and is semi-retired after a career in financial services, part of this time spent overseas. He is a school governor and is Treasurer of Odiham's local community pre-school. He is active in local affairs and is committed to remaining a resident of, and raising his family in, Odiham.

Richard Harris is a semi-retired businessman who has lived at Broad Oak for nearly 5 years. After 30 Years with Motorola Basingstoke he now carries out voluntary work as a Footpaths Officer for Odiham Parish Council and is a Trustee of the Sir Vivian Fuchs Foundation promoting Polar Education and Expeditions to school children and teachers in UK. His other love is of backpacking/mountain trekking in various regions of the World and UK long distance paths.

Lee Jones arrived in Odiham 18 years ago after his mother married a local man and rapidly settled in to this warm and friendly community. Lee brings many experiences and links to the role of Parish Councillor including his work at Odiham events liaising with police and other members of officialdom. He has links with the farming community and runs the sound infrastructure for public events such as Blues and Booze and this year the Church Fete. Until recently he also acted as Bar Manager at the Odiham and Greywell Cricket club which brought him into contact with many residents of the village.

UPDATE ON LEAPFROGS NEW BUILDING PROJECT

Following a lot of hard work by the team at Odiham Pre-School (LeapFrogs), the village is well on the way to having brand new buildings for this important community-run facility. The school has been successful in its bid to Hampshire County Council for a grant of over £400,000 to fund the replacement of the old huts at Recreation Road. Following this excellent news the project is now forging ahead, currently focussing on design work in readiness for the necessary planning application. The parish council owns the property and has supported the project by granting a new occupational licence at a nominal rent and by offering top-up funding.

23 HIGH STREET - APPEAL ALLOWED

The parish council and neighbours were disappointed to learn that the appeal against the refusal of planning permission at 23 High Street has been allowed, so building can now go ahead.

Residents and the parish council had identified concerns about the inadequacy of parking; loss of security, privacy and amenity; waste collection; and threats to wildlife. Hart District Council, as Local Planning Authority, refused the application on several grounds: some technical to do with the lack of a legal agreement on financial contributions, and two substantive ones – on inadequate car parking provision and the relative segregation of the affordable house from the market houses.

The planning inspector decided that Hart's guidance on parking is just that – simply guidance, and believes that because he saw no evidence of current parking problems, there will be none generated by this development, even though the 5 affordable houses are allowed fewer spaces than the houses currently at Seymour Place. He disagreed with Hart on the need to intersperse affordable houses with the market houses. And lastly, although he says that "I understand the concerns expressed (by residents) there is no evidence to demonstrate that the development would cause the problems being suggested", he concludes that "I appreciate the concerns of the surrounding residents amongst others but I am not convinced that the arguments they or the Council put forward are sufficient to dismiss the appeal."

Not only was the appeal allowed, but the appellants are also allowed to claim some of the costs of the appeal from Hart. This is particularly disappointing as Hart has been penalised for supporting concerns of residents and the parish council at a time when funds are very tight. The grounds for refusing an application are sometimes quite finely balanced, and we hope that this result will not discourage Hart in the future.

We're on the web!
www.odiham.org.uk

Parish Council Contacts:

Clerk to the Council:

Mrs Sian Taylor
The Bridewell, The Bury,
Odiham, RG29 1NB
01256 702716
Clerk@odiham.org.uk

Newsletter Editor:

Clerk Sian Taylor

CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA PARKING

Free parking will be available within easy distance of the High Street in the usual field (courtesy of Mrs Barder) off the Alton Road/Close Walk and all of the expected safety precautions and stewarding will be present to ensure everyone has a good time.

The Extravaganza will be open from 3pm – 9pm, and the High Street will be closed from 1pm – 10.30pm.

EXTRAVAGANZA NEWS

A hearty encore for the return of Brunomart's French & Continental Market.

Shoppers are able to say 'bonjour' once again to the French traders as they bring their charming 'ambiance Française' for the Extravaganza.



The market traders bring from France a large variety of produce from traditional French food and craft stalls.

Also, John Wall & Son fairground attractions with the Music Trip, Crazy Cottage, Tea Cups, Mini Copters, Inflatable Slide and much more.

Come and see a wood turning demonstration, listen to our brass bands, warm yourself up with some of the delicious food and drink available.

There will be stalls from our local retailers including, sweets, wine, beer, cider, specialist coffee, burgers, soup, sausages, hog roasts, fresh bread and of course mulled wine.

Other stalls include cosmetics, hair products, jewellery, wooden plates and bowls, fancy frames, cards and wrapping paper, Catalonian Pots, decorated pots, pot pourri and crafts galore.

Get all your Christmas presents in one go!



Time Table:

1pm Road closed to traffic

3pm Stalls open

4.30pm Ice Rink opens

5.30pm Father Christmas Grotto
in Richard Ward Opticians

7pm – 9pm Brass Bands

9pm Extravaganza closes

9pm-10.30 pm Clear up

ODIHAM COMMON

Residents may be aware that a consultation process is under way on the future management of Odiham Common. The owner of the common, Hart District Council, has appointed a specialist firm, Land Use Consultants, to prepare the management plan, and they would like to hear from as many local residents and common users as possible. Land Use Consultants have prepared a questionnaire, which is included with this newsletter and the parish council would like to encourage residents to respond with their views.

More information is available on the Hart District Council website at www.hart.gov.uk. Follow the links to **Leisure**, then to **Countryside and Open Spaces**, and finally to **Odiham Common Project** for more information. The questionnaire is also on-line, and further paper copies are available on the windowsill outside the library.

To save you time, a brief excerpt from the web site gives you some background into the project:

Odiham Common is a fantastic countryside recreational resource for the community and is a great educational resource for local children. Visitors to the Common can enjoy walking amongst the wildlife in a relaxing and tranquil atmosphere, possibly without seeing anyone else! Quite a rarity in itself nowadays! Historically it has much to say as well. Coppicing and clay pits give us glimpses of past industrial activity which many of us can perhaps try to imagine during one of Ranger Steve's fascinating guided walks. These changing landscapes of heathland, woodland and meadows can all be seen on this one site and you can move through history as you move through the site.

To preserve this valuable landscape the Council needs to have an agreed Management Plan in place. The Council does have a duty of care to both maintain the accessibility and recreational value of the Common and likewise maintain and enhance the Site of Special Scientific Interest status of the Common. An agreed Management Plan would help deliver a secure future for the Common as well as freeing up nationally available grant funding to minimise the financial impact to the community."