

**ODIHAM PARISH COUNCILS ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
HELD AT MAYHILL JUNIOR SCHOOL
WEDNESDAY 22 APRIL 2015**

Present:

Cllr Jon Hale (JH)	Chairman of Council and Chair of Community Committee
Cllr James Robinson-Giannasi (JRG)	Vice Chair of Council and Chair of Amenity Committee
Cllr Helen Fleming (HF)	Chair of Planning and Development Committee
Cllr Richard Harris (RH)	Chair of Traffic and Transport Committee

Cllr Jean-Marc David (JMD)
Cllr Mark Faulkner (MH)
Cllr Jeremy Fellows (JF)

Mrs Sarah Weir - Clerk to Odiham Parish Council

District Cllr Ken Crookes (KC)
District Cllr Stephen Gorys (SG)
District Cllr John Kennett (JK)
County Cllr Jonathan Glen (JG)

Welcome

The chairman welcomed everyone to the annual parish assembly and informed all of the running order of the meeting:-

1. Presentation by Joanna West - Headteacher at Robert May's School
2. Overview of the Neighbourhood Plan by Philip James - Chair of the NH Plan Steering Group
3. Update from OPC including elections
4. Question time

1. Robert May's School - Joanna West

Who are we?

1194 students supported by 84 teachers, 35 support staff, which equals a medium to large charitable business. The school is fully comprehensive, which allows all abilities to attend. Students attend from Hartley Wintney, Hook, Odiham and further afield. The school is proud to provide a service to RAF Odiham; - in fact many families choose to stay at RAF Odiham due to the school. RMS has a learning support department which provides a resourced provision for autistic diagnosed children, placed by the local authority. The school has excellent primary feeder schools – Hook has just received excellent from Ofsted.

What are we?

Set up originally in 1694 when a local Mercer Robert May bequeathed £600 for the maintenance of a Free School to provide education for 20 boys in Odiham. The current site was donated by the Odiham Consolidated Charities in 1974 and in 2012 the school became an academy. RMS achieves high standards in extra curriculum activities as well as curriculum ones. Students have travelled to various countries to take part in challenges and exchange programmes to France, Germany and Spain. Students regularly organise events to raise money for charities which is encouraged and recently marked Armistice Day with their own display of poppies.

The aim is that students leave the school accomplished, knowledgeable, rounded individuals who will go on to make a positive contribution to other people's lives, locally, nationally and worldwide.

There is a strong ethos of mutual respect and appreciation of hard work at the school. The statement of the school is "Excellence Every Day with Learning at the Centre of All That We Do".

What's next?

Not only is the curriculum changing but also the way students are examined. The transition from junior to secondary school is important to the school as is performance. The catchment area for the school is wide spread, which has implications with regards to the demand for places. Due to this demand and the new houses proposed for the area in the Local Plan, the school is likely to get larger. The increase in intake is expected to increase modestly, ending up with between 1250-1300 students by 2022. It is believed that RMS already has the culture of a large school and that the traffic around the school is well managed to be as inconvenient to residents as possible.

2. Overview of The Neighbourhood Plan - Philip James

Philip advised that there are approximately 20 volunteers working on the various aspects of the NH Plan. The next stage will be a consultation with the residents. He paid tribute to Cllrs Jeremy Fellows and Helen Fleming, knowing that Helen would not be standing again as a Cllr.

NH Plan's were introduced by the Localism Act. They give communities the opportunity to have some power on where development goes for the life of the plan, but no power on the numbers of houses. To receive more of developer's contributions locally for infrastructure, the council needs to fit set criteria, one of which is that two thirds of Cllrs must be elected. The plan is aiming to defend Odiham's heritage and shape the community for the next 18 years.

Philip asked everyone to look out for the consultations that would be delivered to every household in the parish in early May and wanted to encourage everyone to have their say. The plan affects everyone in the parish.

3. Elections – Jon Hale

The assembly was informed that OPC is split into 3 wards; Odiham, North Warnborough and RAF. There have been 7 nominations for the 6 seats on the Odiham ward, which means there will be an election for this ward only. Each of the 7 candidates introduced themselves to the assembly, along with the nominee for the RAF ward. Neither of the 2 nominees for North Warnborough were present at the assembly. The assembly was informed that there will be a vacancy for North Warnborough after the elections, which the new council will need to fill by co-option.

OPC

The chair informed the assembly about the structure of the council and gave a brief overview on the last year for each of the committees with the assistance of the committee chairs:-

Amenities – Chair Cllr Robinson-Giannasi

- responsible for all play areas.
- allotments - nearly there, got a plan drawn up, ready to request quotes for the work for creating the allotments.
- Chapels - are grade II listed. Works will be taking place once LBC is approved for maintenance works.
- Benches - Works have taken place to renovate some benches and there is a programme for further works to take place, although OPC is not sure who owns some of them.
- Toilets - money budgeted for re-decoration.
- Litter - aware of the problems and keeping an eye on it. Asked all to report any issues.

Community – Chair Cllr Hale

- Armed Forces Day - working with the RAF and InOdiham to organise AFD/ Bands and Blues.
- Working with The Odiham Society to support the Magna Carta Celebrations.
- Village signs - with the assistance of District Cllr Crookes all signs into the villages have been updated and replaced.
- Defibrillator - coming soon outside the new Co-op, with the assistance of Hook & Odiham Lions.

Planning - Chair Cllr Fleming

- The council is a statutory consultee for all planning applications submitted to Hart DC.

- The committee meets every 3 weeks and comments on behalf of the parish.
- There have been many large applications submitted recently, which the council has been able to influence Hart's decision on, e.g. Adams Farm, Down Farm, Beech Cottage, Hook Road, and Archery Fields.
- Urged residents to comment on applications on Hart's website and to also comment if present at any of the developers presentations.

A member of the assembly thanked Cllr Fleming on behalf of the public for all of her work as she will be standing down from being a Cllr in May.

Traffic and transport - Chair Cllr Harris

- Buses - OPC has tried to fight the changes in the service with the support of the District and County Cllrs.
- Parking - new initiative for parking in the High Street.
- Speed Indicator Device - just been purchased and is now monitoring speed in the village.
- Resurfacing of part of footpath 7.
- Traffic partnership meeting with representatives from the police, schools, RAF, Highways, Hart DC to discuss safety issues, speeding and children's journeys to and from school.
- Projects ongoing - crossing over the Alton Road by RAF Odiham, Stagecoach to divert buses 3 times a day down the High Street.
- Flooding - issues in The Street, North Warnborough are ongoing.

4. Question time

Two **submitted questions** were forwarded to the council before the assembly and will take priority:-

(1) Belinda Hallam – Cruck Cottage, The Street, North Warnborough. RG29 1BL

I would like to see the Councillors views on proposals to develop the historic environment of the Deer Park, coming as it does in this 800th anniversary of when King John rode out from Odiham Castle to sign the Magna Carta at Runnymede.

JH answered on behalf of OPC. OPC has had meetings with the developer and the owner, but has not formed an opinion. Individual Cllrs are not in a position to express personal views due to purdah. The assembly was informed about the informative history walks being carried out by Odsoc. OPC asked the public to engage with the developer, after making informed decisions.

(2) Gill Harden

It would appear contained within the Hatchwood Development a sum of £100,000 is to be paid to Odiham Parish Council in respect to the provision of a skate park to be built prior to the development being completed. I do have serious concerns on a number of fronts. Firstly bearing in mind the non used BMX site near Newlands is there actually a need for this facility? Was there any research carried out by the Parish Council to establish from residents how an amount £100,000 could be best used? It also seems very strange decision to start this type of development - before and possibly during development of the site itself - the age range for this style of - in and out of fashion facility - means that adolescents will be exploring the site putting themselves in danger with building works, and machinery - and causing potential damage to the site itself.

At the meeting she said - Bearing in mind the very delayed start to building on this site due to the still unresolved issues that Hart have on the disposal of waste between Persimmon and Thames Water. Would OPC consider revisiting the subject of a Skate Park to ensure that this not inconsiderable amount of money goes to the very best possible use - and also the health and safety issues surrounding the timing of such a scheme so not to endanger life and limb.

OPC advised that the funding had been allocated for a specific use and was a capital sum only. If OPC doesn't spend it on this, it could face losing it. There are suggestions of a cycle bump track but they are not finalised. OPC's desire is that the final plan is advertised so that when people view the new houses they know what is going to be in this area before they make an offer. The council are

taking advice from Hart DC and this will be something for the new council to progress. Feedback is showing that the parish doesn't have enough facilities for the 13+ age group.

Understanding of the lack of teenage facilities was expressed by another attendee, who suggested that the location chosen at the far end of the parish, next to a busy road was perhaps not the best location and perhaps the right location should be on the recreation ground.

Other questions:

Ian Ruddy – Colt Hill

He congratulated Cllr Fleming on the fantastic job she has done, especially with regard to Hatchwood, which he has learnt a lot about. He expressed his concerns about the way the details in regard to the Hatchwood planning application had been dealt with.

SG – stated that he was unhappy also. Both KC and himself were trying to resolve the issues.

Ian commented that process had not been followed and was subject to challenge. The residents challenged the decision, but Hart presided and it went fundamentally wrong.

SG - never seen this level of input from the community on an application. He will apply pressure to ensure the developer does as promised. Although Hart DC's agenda had been published, there were ways to deal with this.

John Fleming commented that allowing an outline planning application at Hatchwood had been a disaster. He suggested that our District Cllrs should not accept outline planning applications in the future, but should put pressure on developers for full planning applications.

KC – advised that they have no power to reject outline plans. The issue at Hatchwood was that development was established, the land sold and then the current developer refused to talk. He commented that we can't change what has happened but they will continue to work hard on this.

Traffic and Transport

A resident expressed their concern that students choose to cross the road over the roundabout on Dunleys Hill rather than using the crossing. This is extremely unsafe. Joanna West advised that staff regularly talk to students about walking and crossing safely and will talk to students again. She will also send staff to monitor this when possible.

Requests to use the SID to monitor speed coming into the village on the Alton Road before the roundabout and further along Dunleys Hill were received. It was agreed to look into this by RH.

Concern was also expressed that speed limit signs were not visible on Dunleys Hill to remind vehicles of the speed limit. The police advised that this is because signs are not required where street lights are present, and if signs were put up they would make the speed limit unenforceable.

Another concern expressed was the fact that motorcycles travel too fast and have been seen to overtake lorries stopping at the lights on the footpath. Rumble strips were suggested by a resident to slow bikes down, but it is understood that these can only be used away from where people are living due to the noise.

It was agreed that education was the best way forward for both the children and drivers, something the police and RMS are working on.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.