



Odiham Parish Council

Serving the People of
Odiham & North Warnborough

USEFUL CONTACTS

Odiham Parish Council

The Bridewell
The Bury
Odiham
RG29 1NB
01256 702716
Email: clerk@odiham.org.uk

Basingstoke and North Hants NHS Foundation Trust

01256 473202

Hart District Council

Harlington Way,
Fleet
GU51 4AE
01252 622122

Hart Planning Department

01252 774419

Hampshire County Council

The Castle, Winchester
Hampshire, SO23 8UJ
0845 603 5638

Neighbourhood Watch

01256 701805

Odiham Bridewell Library

0845 6035631

Odiham Care Group

Mon to Fri: 9am to 5pm
01256 765265

Odiham Health Centre

01256 702371

Odiham Police Office

24 hr non-emergency
(PC P Franks & PCSO E Wallace)
0845 045 45 45

ODIHAM CHRISTMAS EVENING

Thursday 29 November 2012

Late night shopping 6-9pm in the High Street
Illumination of the village Christmas Tree at 6.00pm

An enthusiastic organising committee with funding from the parish council has been hard at work since August arranging this year's evening. Please be aware that the High Street will need to be closed from 4 pm until 11pm between Church Street and King Street with traffic being diverted via the Bury.

As well as Odiham's shops and restaurants being open for business there will be something for all ages: food and gift stalls, a hog roast, Santa's grotto, Millers Ark Farm and non-stop entertainment from an assortment of choirs, street entertainers, bands, the Musical Belles and the Basingstoke Salvation Army. The fun starts at 6pm with the lighting of the Christmas tree by Alex Danson, Olympic hockey bronze medallist and former Odiham resident. There will be an opportunity to take photos of Alex with her medal and members of your family in return for a donation to her favourite charity, so don't forget to bring a camera! Find out more about the evening on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/odihamChristmasEvening.

POST OFFICE & CHARLIE'S BARBERS

We welcome the new post office that has opened in the High Street opposite the old Wood garage. It is run by Kevin Molloy and Jacqueline Wheeler, who also operate Hook post office. In a novel move they have opened Charlie's barbers at the back of the premises. They can be contacted on 01256 702634.

PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS

The office is open to the public between 10 am and 2 pm Monday, Wednesday and Friday but we would recommend phoning in advance to ensure the office is attended.

Keep up to date with Parish Council matters on the website at www.odiham.org.uk

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The last 6 months have seen the village celebrate the Diamond Jubilee, the "Booze and Blues" in the Bury and we will shortly be having the Odiham Christmas Event. The parish council is pleased to have planned or been involved with these events.

With regard to amenities, the council has a programme of maintenance and repair for the play facilities, the cemetery and the Chapels. OPC will shortly be taking over responsibility for the King Street public conveniences, Chapel Pond Drive and Bufton Field play areas from Hart District Council.

Other councillors will talk about their responsibilities but planning pressures and attendant parking issues remain major concerns and areas of activity for OPC.

Please do take time to reply to the questionnaires you will find enclosed with this newsletter. It is really important we know what you think and that we can use the information in our dealings with Hart on these issues.

The council, like everyone else, operates under increasing cost pressures. We are determined to fulfil our responsibilities in the most cost-efficient manner possible.

Please feel to contact the parish office with any issues or questions you may wish to raise.

Cllr James Robinson-Giannasi

INTRODUCING OUR NEW COUNCILLOR

Cllr Rebecca Reid has recently joined the council as a co-opted member. She grew up in the village and follows in the footsteps of her father David who served on the council a few years ago. Rebecca is a solicitor and is looking forward to using her skills and enthusiasm to make a contribution to keeping Odiham the beautiful place it is.



CEMETERY CHAPELS



The parish council owns and maintains the cemetery in King Street, including two listed chapels. These chapels are no longer used for their original function so the council is seeking appropriate uses for them. If you have any ideas please let us know via the parish council office.

VILLAGE EVENTS

Farmers' Markets

The parish council has not been involved in previous Farmers' Markets in the village but this year it responded to a request by the organisers for help with the arrangements and publicity for the market held on Bank Holiday Monday. Following on from the success of this market the council contacted the organisers saying that it would like to assist with the market next year. A market at Hythe had however already been organised but if enough stall holders express an interest in attending, Hampshire Farmers' market will organise one in Odiham.

Booze and Blues in the Bury

Booze and Blues has been an annual event in Odiham every Armed Forces Day for the last six years. It was previously organised by the late Peter Fountain with funding from the parish council. The 2012 event happened largely due to resident Ben Greetham stepping into Peter's shoes. Many thanks to Ben for all his hard work this year. Unfortunately he is unable to organise next year's event so we are looking for volunteers to assist. If you are able to help please contact the parish office.

Cllr Jeremy Fellows

ODIHAM VILLAGE AGENTS



Welcome to our new village agents, Valerie Cloke (above) and Sarah Voysey. They have been busy introducing themselves to the older people in the village. The main role of the village agent is to aid the older people to access services, information and advice. Why not go along and meet them in the Fountains coffee shop on a Tuesday throughout November between 10.30 and 11.30 or call 07543 294703 or email them on:

odihamva@ageconcernhampshire.org.uk.

S137 GRANTS FOR LOCAL PROJECTS

Odiham parish council sets aside a sum of money each year that can be applied for by organisations in the parish for projects that will be of benefit to the residents. So far this year we have granted £3000 to The Cross Barn to help fund new doors and each year there is a sum put aside for gifts to families of service personnel at RAF Odiham who will be serving overseas at Christmas.

OPC is keen that the availability of this funding is more widely known. Application forms and further information is available on the website. Applications will only be considered in January and July on a yearly basis. The council will next be considering requests in January so all completed forms should be returned to the parish office by early January.

Cllr Jeremy Fellows

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The parish council is seeking volunteers to help with the Booze and Blues event 2013.

Can you spare the odd hour or two to help pick litter around the village? We have a local resident who would like to organise regular litter picking but needs your help.

Please contact the parish office for further details.

Odiham's retained fire station is urgently seeking additional fire fighters to ensure it stays open. Potential recruits must live or work within 4 minutes of the fire station.

PARISH COUNCILORS

Cllr James Robinson-Giannasi
Chairman and
Chair of Amenity Areas

Cllr Duncan Janaway
Vice Chairman

Cllr Mark Faulkner
Chair of Staffing

Cllr Jeremy Fellows
Chair of Events and Community

Cllr Helen Fleming
Chair of Planning and Development

Cllr Richard Harris
Chair of Traffic and Transport

Cllr George Daws
Cllr Mike O'Neill
Cllr Rebecca Reid
Cllr Katie Sheppeck

MORE MONEY

The Community Covenant Grant Scheme is a scheme that has been established by the MoD to give financial support to projects which strengthen the ties or the mutual understanding between members of the armed forces community and the wider community in which they live. Sums between £100 and £250,000 are available. Examples of projects elsewhere in the UK that have received funding are a play area for a playgroup serving both the children of service personnel and those of local residents (£33k) and a school film project involving local schools exploring the lives of servicemen and women (£19k). Find out more information at www.mod.uk/covenant

HATCHWOOD FARM UPDATE

Hart District Council has in principle approved development at Hatchwood Farm for up to 89 houses. However, the current application has not been approved; amended plans for the outline application are required. These will be subject to consultation, but because the site has been approved in principle, comments will be sought on the plans themselves, not on whether to build there. These will be considered by Hart District Council's Planning Major Sites Sub-committee. Ultimately, the final details (reserved matters) will be the subject of another application.

Cllr Helen Fleming

WOOD IN HAMPSHIRE SITE

Residents will be aware that Wood BMW has vacated its long term site on the High Street in favour of purpose built premises in Hook. This is an important site for the village and its future use will affect the character of the High Street in years to come. We understand that Linden Homes, a substantial regional developer, has acquired an option on the site and is currently working towards a plan to be submitted to Hart District Council in the near future. In order to gauge local response to any proposal the company held a presentation for residents in the Old School on London Road in September. The proposal revealed in that presentation suggests a mixed development of housing and retail use and we expect this to give rise to a formal application to Hart before the end of the year. Having had a chance to comment at the pre-application stage, residents, and other interested parties, will have a further opportunity to comment once the application goes live. In order to have your say on the impact that the site will have on our High Street over the long term, we would urge residents to do just that. The application has just gone live and is for 23 residences and 3000sq ft of retail. The application no is 12/02303/MAJOR.

Cllr Mark Faulkner

PLEASE MAKE YOUR VIEWS KNOWN NOW

Enclosed are TWO questionnaires on where new houses should be built and on possible new facilities in this parish

We have an opportunity now to influence where new houses will be built in our parish (but not how many). More information is on the front of the questionnaire. Choosing enough appropriate sites will be very hard. But if you do not express your view, others will do it for you. Once sites are allocated, planning permission will still be required as normal.

As we will have these extra houses, the developers building them will be making contributions towards facilities for leisure and open space. The parish council has produced a list of possible projects and we seek your views on this list. We will not be "bribed" into taking development simply because of payments for facilities. Development is going to happen and developers are required to provide some funds. We would like your views on which projects you would support.

SO PLEASE READ, COMPLETE AND RETURN BOTH ENCLOSED QUESTIONNAIRES

PROPOSED PARKING IMPROVMENTS TO ODIHAM HIGH STREET

Problems parking in Odiham High Street have got worse over the years, making it very difficult for locals and visitors to access shops to the detriment of the retailers and businesses. A working party including representatives from the retailers, other businesses, residents, visitors and OPC Cllrs has been set up to look at ways of improving parking in the High Street. In particular the working party has looked at how the current 2hr restrictions work in practice and have suggested ways in which "all day parkers" in the High Street can be discouraged from doing so. Other proposals include making better use of the car parks by introducing more reasonably priced parking and also establishing a parking scheme away from the 2hr restricted areas. These suggestions will only work if they are broadly acceptable to the Odiham community as a whole.

Improved parking was previously considered over 5 years ago. Although the new proposals have been difficult to formulate, Odiham does require an improved parking scheme. These proposals will now be submitted to Hart District Council by the end of the year. If you have any comments please email the parish office.

Cllr Richard Harris