



Issue 12
April 2013

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 Volunteers Care Group / Transport

Mon to Fri: 9am to 5pm
07551 587862

Odiham Health Centre

01256 702371

Odiham Police Office

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



118th Annual Parish Assembly



Wednesday 24 April 2013

7.30pm – 9.00pm

Mayhill Junior School

The Annual Parish Assembly will be held on Wednesday 24 April from 7.30pm to 9.00pm at Mayhill Junior School to which all residents are invited.

The agenda will include talks by

**Hart's Rural Police Inspector Halfacre
and Phil Allen from Hampshire CC on the Basingstoke Canal
and question time**

The following Councillors are attending to answer questions:
Parish Cllr James Robinson-Giannasi: Chairman and Chair of
Amenity Areas

Parish Cllr Duncan Janaway: Vice Chair of the parish council
Parish Cllr Helen Fleming: Chairman of Planning and Development
Parish Cllr Jeremy Fellows: Chair of Events and Community
Parish Cllr Richard Harris: Chairman of Traffic and Transport

County and District Cllr Jonathan Glen

District Cllr Stephen Gorys

District Cllr Ken Crookes

Priority will be given to residents who have given advance notice that they wish to speak and this also allows the Councillors an opportunity to give more detailed feedback on the day.

You are therefore invited to email your contact details and questions to the Deputy Clerk (deputy.clerk@odiham.org.uk) or by post or telephone to the Parish Office (contact details in the left hand panel).

PARISH OFFICE CONTACT DETAILS

The office is normally open to the public between 10am and 2.00pm 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

ARMED FORCES DAY

Odiham will be marking Armed Forces Day on Saturday 29 June with a parade by the RAF along the High Street to The Bury at 11.15am followed at 12 by an afternoon of live music and activities for all ages. Headlining the music will be the rock, roll, rhythm and blues of 'Fast Buck', supported earlier in the afternoon by the melodic rock, pop and folk of 'Kindred Spirit', returning after appearing at Odiham's Jubilee picnic last year, and bluegrass outfit 'Mardi Gras'. We are hoping to have a couple of short sets by local teenagers to showcase their talent so please contact OPC if you would like to be considered.

The Bell, Paella Man, Tony Fresko's Ice Creams, Andwell's Brewery and Mr Whitehead's Cider Company will help keep everyone fed and refreshed during the afternoon, whilst various local organisations, schools, playgroups and clubs will be running stalls and activities including teddy bear parachuting from the church tower. If your organisation or club wishes to be involved but has not yet made its interest known please contact Councillor Rebecca Reid via the parish office as soon as possible.

Cllr Jeremy Fellows

TENNIS COURTS

Although the tennis courts in Chamberlain Gardens near Buryfields are home to Odiham Tennis Club, non-members are able to play there under an arrangement negotiated between the club and OPC, as the owner of the site. We are currently looking for a volunteer to administer these casual bookings. Please contact the parish office for further details. For fees and booking information please look at OPC's web site.

ROBERT MAYS SCHOOL EXPANSION

Hampshire County Council has begun exploring the options for expanding Robert Mays by a further 300 places in order to meet the increased demand for places in a few years' time as more houses are built in the area, particularly in Hook. The current thinking is that additional buildings will be put where the existing front entrance is and car parking and sports fields re-configured or augmented using newly-acquired land. A new school elsewhere is not an option due to the cost. Whilst it is still early days OPC has already met with an HCC representative to highlight the local community's interest in the plans due to their effect on traffic and the built environment generally.

BROAD OAK COMMON

From 1 April, Hart DC has agreed to take over the maintenance of the common under their Environmental and Bio-Diversity policy. This will ensure that the common is maintained to a high environmental standard that will enhance it as a natural resource for all to enjoy, close to Odiham common and the canal.

PLAY AREAS

Odiham Parish Council is responsible for the play areas at Recreation Road, Hook Road and Chamberlain Gardens. We are about to take over the responsibility from Hart for those at Chapel Pond Drive and Bufton Field as well. These are all subject to our regular inspection and maintenance programme.

Cllr James Robinson-Giannasi, Chairman

REDUCED CAR PARKING CHARGES

The Odiham Parking Strategy Working Party by way of review and discussions with Hart DC has achieved its first success by way of reduced parking charges at The Deer Park and Bury car parks. Charges will shortly be as follows:-

Monday to Saturday 8am to 6pm

Up to 30 minutes - 35p

Up to 1 hr - 70p

Up to 2 hrs - £1.40

Over 2 hrs - £2.00

Monday to Saturday 6pm to 8am

No charge

Sundays / Bank Holidays

No charge

Recently two surveys have been sent out to High Street residents and to businesses and retailers. The aim is to finalise a full understanding of how the High Street is used for parking during the day and in the evening. With the survey results, the working party can analyse and review to finalise improvement initiatives and with OPC's approval take forward with Hart for implementation.

Overall we are looking at achieving much needed improvements to allow easier High St parking for shoppers both local and visitors and resolve as best we can High St parking for residents.

Cllr Richard Harris

GRANTS

In recent months the Parish Council has made the following grants:-
 Odiham & Greywell Cricket Club - £2540 towards a new pavilion to replace the one destroyed by fire.
 Hart Citizen's Advice Bureau - £1250 towards general funding
 All Saint's Church - £1000 towards improving the entrance area

Application forms for grants to village organisations can be printed from our website.

ODSoc USE OF PARISH ROOM

Odiham Parish Council has recently agreed with the Odiham Society that they can use the parish room to store much of their archive material relating to the parish. They will also be displaying pictures, maps, etc relating to the area and using the room from time to time as a resource information facility for visitors.

FARMERS' MARKET

In the last parish newsletter we reported that the Parish Council had contacted the organisers of Hampshire Farmers' Markets expressing its hope that the Market would return to Odiham in 2013. Unfortunately we have been told that there was insufficient support from stall holders for the idea and that consequently there will be no Farmers' Market this year.



YOUR COUNCIL TAX CONTRIBUTION

The Council owns several buildings notably the Parish Room and the Victorian Chapels in the cemetery and we will over the next year be making provision for the cost of carrying out a future programme of maintenance. The chapels which are grade II listed require long-overdue work to preserve and enhance their fabric.

The Council is also having to provide for the maintenance and improvements to its play areas and the public toilets in King Street which have featured highly in the recent survey seeking your views of what you think should be provided by the Council.

For a Band D property the Council decided to increase the precept by only £5 per year (new total is now £59 per year) to offset increasing costs and inflation.

Cllr Robinson-Giannasi, Chairman

PARISH COUNCILLORS

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

PARISH PROJECTS SURVEY

We received 405 responses to our recent survey. The various projects suggested together with other ideas will help inform our discussion with Hart DC for future expenditure within the parish.

Among the most popular were:- cycle paths, car parking, public toilets, improved facilities at the recreation ground and improvements to community buildings.

Thank you to everyone who responded.

Cllr Robinson-Giannasi, Chairman

NEW BUS SERVICE

Use it or lose it! A new bus service has been announced between Basingstoke and Farnborough and Frimley Park Hospital, by Fleet Buzz. The new bus 30/31 replaces the No 10 bus from Basingstoke to Odiham. Please see our website for more details.

ODIHAM WELL-BEING DIRECTORY

The directory contains information on clubs and organisations in the local area, including details of where to get help and advice for the over 55's in Odiham. Copies are now available for collection from the library, parish office, The Vine Church, All Saints Church, The Cottage Hospital, The Village Agents, The Optician, The post office, Lloyds pharmacy and at the monthly meetings of the U3A .

HATCHWOOD FARM

Since I last wrote about planning in this newsletter, outline permission has been granted for up to 89 houses at Hatchwood Farm. This application was needed by Hart District Council, which has to be able to demonstrate a supply of "*specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide five years worth of housing*", known as the "5 year supply". Without a 5 year supply, sites across Hart including those in Odiham parish were vulnerable to unplanned development. We await the detailed planning application (for what is known as "Reserved Matters") at Hatchwood Farm. As yet we have no news on this.

*National Planning Policy Framework, paragraph 47.

FUTURE HOUSING SURVEY FEEDBACK

The survey of residents' views about which sites we should nominate generated over 400 replies. The intention is that this will allow us to have a say in where the houses go, unlike at Hatchwood. The clearest result of the survey is that "The Gap" between Odiham and North Warnborough should not be built on. Otherwise the overwhelming conclusion is that everybody voted with their back yards – Odiham residents voted to put all further development in North Warnborough, and vice versa. The Parish Council has to work through the survey results with Hart, using professional planning advice from Hart, and somehow combine the two into a fair and workable recommendation. No-one said it would be easy.

For details, please read the planning pages of our web site, or look in the library for our report. This is a piece of work in progress. Our initial recommendations may very well change. Any changes will be agreed at meetings of the Parish Council, which are held in public in the parish room. They will be documented in the minutes of our meetings which are published on our web site or available from the parish office once approved, normally at the following meeting. The advice from Hart is that sites in Conservation Areas will not necessarily be excluded from development; but any development on such sites must be handled with care.

BMW WOOD SITE – 56 HIGH STREET, ODIHAM

An indication of how applications within a Conservation Area will be dealt with can be seen with regard to the BMW Wood site, where Hart's planning committee in February agreed that there were too many problems with the proposal from Linden Homes to grant the application on this key site in the High Street. The result is an amended application, due to go to Hart's April planning committee. This now proposes 20 instead of 23 houses, and the full quota of spaces required by Hart's parking guidance for those houses. The Parish Council still has a number of reservations, but the plans have improved considerably since they were first produced. The comments from residents, and the work of Hart council officers and members of both parish and district councils have contributed to these improvements, so even if it is granted as it now stands, the effort will have been worthwhile.

The next few years will require continued efforts, given the undoubted effect on developers of the NPPF.

All planning articles written by Cllr Helen Fleming