



Odiham Parish Council

Issue 20
April 2017

Serving the People of
Odiham & North Warnborough

USEFUL CONTACTS

Odiham Parish Council

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

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 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 Tel: 101
(PC P Franks & PCSO E Wallace and
SC Iain Tunstell)

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REFERENDUM

On 4 May Hart DC will be holding a Referendum for our community to vote to decide to adopt our Neighbourhood Plan. The Plan sets out the vision and objectives for the future of the Parish and contains planning policies to guide the development and use of land in the Parish.

There are restrictions on how we promote the Neighbourhood Plan before a formal community Referendum, however you can review a copy of the Plan at Hart DC Offices, Odiham Library, the Parish Office, The Purcell Rooms and The Welfare and Community Centre at RAF Odiham. It is also available digitally at www.hart.gov.uk/odiham

We encourage all residents to review the Plan and participate in the Referendum. Hart DC were sending all eligible voters a Referendum Poll Card with voting details during the week commencing 27 March.

Cllr Jon Hale - Chairman of Odiham Parish Council



122nd Annual Parish Assembly

Tuesday 23 May 2017

7.30pm – 9.00pm

All Saints Church, Odiham



We are very lucky this year to have Head Teachers Mrs Jacqui Jennings from Buryfields Infant School and Mr Tom May from Mayhill Junior School addressing the assembly. We will also be inviting our newly elected County Councillor to provide us with an overview of their visions and plans.

Of course, the various Chairs of the Parish Council's committees will be giving a brief update on what we have been up to and we will allow time for questions. We hope that there will be plenty of time for everyone's questions, however, priority will be given to questions submitted in advance by 10 May to the clerk at clerk@odiham.org.uk

Cllr Jon Hale - Chairman of Odiham Parish Council

ROYAL AIR FORCE ODIHAM 80

Celebrate RAF Odiham's 80th anniversary and mark Armed Forces Day on the 24 June before the annual Bands in the Bury event - full details on OPC's website and Facebook page.



RAF ODIHAM – A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE EARLY YEARS

The Truth

RAF Odiham opened as an active RAF Station on 11th January 1937. Used from 1924 as an active 'field', military aircraft operated at Odiham until its official opening in 1937. The Station was designed to accommodate a fledgling Army Co-Operation (AC) Command Wing. This was part of the mid-1930s RAF Expansion Programme in preparation for the European War that all were expecting to come; the thinking was to centralise the current AC Sqns at permanent locations which were also near to the parent Army Formation that they supported. The first Station Commander at RAF Odiham, Wing Commander L O Brown DFC AFC also acted as the Officer Commanding of No.50 (AC) Wing.

No. 4 (AC) Squadron was originally located at RAF Farnborough in Hampshire and No.13 (AC) Squadron was stationed at RAF Old Sarum, Wiltshire; the plan was to co-locate the units under No.50 (AC) Wing at RAF Odiham taking personnel from both units to form the nucleus of the Station. On 4th February 1937, No. 4 (AC) Squadron landed the first operational aircraft at the recently opened Station.

No. 50 (AC) Wing was designated to support the British Army's 1st Division whose HQ was in Aldershot. Between the Station opening and September 1939 it was a constant programme of training and exercise deployments until the whole Wing was mobilised on the 24th August 1939 and moved in its entirety to forward airfields in France in the Middle of September 1939.

Originally the Wing was fully equipped with Hawker Audax aircraft, these were replaced by Hawker Hectors in mid to late 1937, which in turn were replaced by Lysanders for No. 4 (AC) Squadron & No.13 (AC) Squadron Sqn in late 1938 and early 1939. Following the arrival of No. 53 (AC) Squadron over the same period, long range reconnaissance activity was mounted from RAF Odiham using Blenheims.

The Myths

A popular myth which has persisted in local legend and printed word about the Station is that the Station was opened on the 18th October 1937 by the Chief of the General Staff of the German Luftwaffe, 1st World War Ace, General Erhard Milch. This is total fiction; Milch was leading a party of very senior Luftwaffe Officer including Generals Stumpff and Udet on a goodwill mission to 'learn' about the RAF. This 'mission' lasted a week and took in various RAF Stations representing the wide roles of the RAF. The tour took in RAF High Wycombe (RAF HQ), RAFC Cranwell (College and Flying Training), RAF Mildenhall (Bombers), RAF Hornchurch (Fighters) and finally RAF Odiham (Army Co-operation).

Milch's visit led to another myth in that that Milch liked Odiham so much that he wanted it as his HQ after the German invasion and therefore it was a banned target for bombing raids. RAF Odiham was a listed primary target for the Luftwaffe in August 1940 on 4 occasions. Sadly the most serious attack in the area was by a single JU88 on the 18th October 1940 with its bomb load falling on the village just missing the Bury and Church causing 5 fatalities on the High Street. The Station was attacked infrequently throughout 1940 and 1941 without any major success.

80 Years Old

This year, RAF Odiham celebrates 80 years of operational service as an RAF Station. Whilst the people change and with new technology come new aircraft, the links between the Station and the local community remain strong. The Station will commemorate the 80 years with several events throughout the year and will continue to support the community in its efforts to celebrate this shared achievement.

Links with the Parish Council remain vibrant and the Station readily recognises the support of everyone in the local area – without that support the last 80 years may never have happened.

As a reminder, National Armed Forces Day 2017 will be held on 24 June this year when the community and the Station will come together to celebrate our Armed Forces and 80 years of RAF Odiham; mark a date in your diary now!

Sqn Ldr John Hook, Chief of Staff Base Support Wing

BANKING SERVICES IN ODIHAM

There was wide spread disappointment and concern when Lloyds Bank announced last year that they will be closing their Odiham branch, which was made worse following the recent closure of our Barclays Bank.

We would like to thank our residents, businesses, District and County Councillors as well as our MP, for their extensive efforts and support to try and help make Lloyds Bank change their mind. However, these efforts fell on deaf ears and like many small towns, Odiham now finds itself without a High Street bank. Something that not only attracted vital footfall to our High Street, but also provided an essential service to residents and business owners. For our residents who rely on public transport, this now means a four hour return journey by public transport to visit a bank.

Whilst this is a blow to our community, we are still fortunate to have a Post Office that can help fill the gap created by the loss of our last bank. This being the case, I asked Odiham Post Office to provide a list of transactions that they can carry out on behalf of many High Street banks, as I believe many may not be aware of the banking service that our Post Office offers. These include:-

- Cash withdrawals - With a debit card, customers can take out as much as their card account allows them e.g. £300 a day.

- Cash deposits - These can be accepted on behalf of your bank, however customers will need their own personal paying in slip from their banking provider. However, HSBC, First Direct, Barclays and Santander can use their debit cards to deposit cash. It is worth noting, that if cash is paid in by card, then the cash is cleared straight away. If it is paid in with a slip, it will be paid over night.

- Cheque deposits - Again this requires your personal paying in slip from you existing bank. However the Post Office do provide the cheque envelopes. Cheques will be sent securely at the end of the day and the Post Office have been advised that cheques will take about one day longer than if paying directly into the bank. Although some customers have reported that it has also been as fast as the next working day.

With High Streets like ours facing increasing pressure, especially when faced with change like the loss of a prominent retail bank, it puts added emphasis on our community to value what we have left and support our local retailers at every opportunity. We do still have brilliant local businesses!!

Cllr Jon Hale - Chairman of Odiham Parish Council

LENGTHSMAN SCHEME

For all of those who were unaware, but might have noticed that some of the footpaths around the Parish have been cleared of encroaching vegetation, or that some of the signage seems a little more sparkly and that the litter around the village seems to be putting itself in the bins, then this is down to OPC entering into the Lengthsmans Scheme.

This scheme, paid for by Hampshire County Council, is a labour only scheme where each Parish in the scheme get £1000 worth of labour to be spent in areas such as clearing paths, cutting/ trimming bushes, weed killing and litter picking. 25% of this work has to be spent on local rights of way and from what I have seen, the Lengthman has been doing a sterling job!

In my eyes, this scheme has been very successful given that the local Council look at these items when cutting back services and costs. We will be entering into this scheme for the current financial year.

The £1000 worth of labour does not amount to much in the grand scheme of things and it would be great to put together a volunteer group for a yearly litter pick within the Parish to help keep our village looking neat and tidy. Please feel free to contact me if you are interested in lending a hand at cllrworboys@odiham.org.uk

Cllr Craig Worboys - Chair of Amenity Committee

PLANNING SUMMARY

Odiham Parish Council's planning committee acts as a consultee to all planning applications lodged in the Parish (and a small number of applications in neighbouring Parishes where either OPC or the host Council feels that there is merit in hearing input from our community). Looking at the applications that the Council has commented on in the past few months, it is clear to see that there is a lot of work being done in this role. Since we last wrote in October 2016 the Planning Committee has submitted comments on 61 separate applications – of which 42 were standard applications but, interestingly, 19 were Listed Building Consent applications.

Although we don't have the corresponding data for other Parishes, we would expect that as home to 25% of Hart's listed buildings, Odiham has more than the district wide average level of Listed Building Consent (LBC) applications to review.

Listed Building Consent applications may be associated with almost identical applications that are submitted as FUL (typically full (rather than outline) applications for new buildings, including all details of a proposal) or HOU (typically alterations and extensions to existing buildings) applications to Hart DC, or may be entirely free standing applications, dealing only with the listed status of a property for which an application is being submitted. Should, for example, an application relating to a listed building only involve internal changes that would not normally be subject to the mainstream planning scrutiny, but which are considered material in the context of potential for intrusion into the fabric of a listed building, then a Listed Building Consent only will be sought. If proposed changes span both mainstream planning policy and conservation policy, then both LBC and HOU applications will be submitted. In this way we can be sure that the built heritage assets of our Parish are protected by the attention of the Conservation Officer or consultant at Hart DC, ensuring that, while change may be permitted to listed buildings (as is needed to ensure the relevance of listed buildings to today's way of life/living), it will be limited within parameters that cause the least damage to the listed structure.

Notable applications and their outcomes (where known) in the past 5 months have included:-

- Palace Gate House, 168 High Street – the former Spectro Jet-Care offices – where permission has been granted for conversion in to residential use.
- A terrace of 4 2bed houses behind Bel and the Dragon at The George which has been refused in its proposed form.
- Construction of new sports pitches at Buffon Field – proposal by Hampshire CC for Robert Mays School facilities - granted.
- Proposed changes to the interior and exterior of Next Door following a change of ownership – awaiting decision.
- Additional steel structure to accommodate small retail units at Lodge Farm – awaiting decision.
- Conversion of the former Barclays Bank at 80, High Street to a single dwelling – granted.
- Removal of the signs and ATM from the former Lloyds Bank at 61 High Street - granted.

As reported in our previous update in October, the proposal for development at Hatchwood Cottage of 35 new houses was passed to Hart DC's Major Sites Committee at the end of 2016 where, subject to some amendments, the application was approved. Residents will have noted that work has now begun on site and new access points to the development on the Farnham Road are currently being formed ahead of the construction of the 35 new homes.

Cllr Mark Faulkner - Chair of Planning Committee

TEENAGE RECREATION

We are still pushing on with our work to develop a teenage recreation facility within the Parish which has included meeting with the Ecology and Countryside Manager from Hart District Council to discuss the possible sites and equipment for the new teenage recreation facility.

As some of you may not be aware, a £100,000 investment from the Section 106 agreement which will come from the Montfort Place development (this money is restricted to be spent on a teen amenity), is due to be submitted to OPC on completion of the 60th property within the development. We have been told that the current occupation is around 30 properties and that the site will be completed towards the end of the summer.

As the above investment is not tied specifically to the Montfort Place site, we have discussed a number of OPC owned sites to which will still need further consideration.

We will need to take the current guidelines into consideration which will include items such as distance of equipment from properties, safety, likely use, topography, area of land required and other amenities.

We discussed the use of a single site where we could have one item of equipment, to multiple sites where we would have a number of items installed.

Given that some of these items of equipment are expensive such as a skate bowl which will use most of, if not all of the allocated budget to buy and install; OPC will still be required to maintain them going forward, and we will have to take this into account.

The teenage recreation facility or hub as it has been known has produced some great feedback from people within the community as well as people raising concerns. We have been approached by members of the Parish to raise concerns about potential noise, litter and anti-social behaviour which will be taken into consideration and we will hold talks with the local Neighbourhood Watch co-coordinator, Hart District Council and the local PCSO to discuss these matters further. We would like to reassure the Parish that we are doing our homework on this project and we will endeavour to engage with the Parish as the project progresses.

OPC still have a way to go with gathering all the information required for this project, with no real firm date of when the money will be received.

More information will be supplied on the various OPC channels as the project progresses.

Craig Worboys - Chair of Amenity Committee

CANAL SIGNS



Having secured £10k from Tesco's Bags of Help Scheme to improve our green spaces, the new canal information boards and finger post walk signs are now in place! These signs are designed to provide some ecological and historical facts about the area around the canal and also provide some simple direction for visitors so that they know where they can walk to and what they will see. The contractors who installed the signs did have a few teething problems, however these are/have been fixed and we would like to thank the residents who pointed these out.

Additionally, to make the wharf area more accessible we have sourced a new wheel chair friendly picnic bench.

This area really is a beautiful place to visit - and we hope these additions will help make it even better.

We would like to thank Tesco for the grant, everyone who contributed to the information panel - and the Canal Authority for helping source the material and arranging the installation.

ALLOTMENT UPDATE

It's now been almost a year since I first volunteered myself to be Chair of the amenities committee, I now know what a huge task this is for such a small village and must say I could not have done it without the support of OPC's office staff.

Now that we have dealt with the issue with the planning application it is all systems go for the allotment project. After clearing the site late last year to include the removal of some bushes, trimming of the trees overhang, even the addition of some fly grazing has kept the site neat and tidy.

We are now in the process of obtaining up-to-date estimates for the installation of the new water mains, completion of the access off Hook Road, further vegetation clearance of the site due to regrowth, repairs to fencing and construction of a car park area. Once these costs have been obtained and agreed via the amenities committee, phase 1 will be underway.

Due to the increased costs of the installation of the allotments a more pragmatic approach may be required to see this project through, my suggestion at this point is to break the project up into stages, first being the entrance into the site where we will complete a hard standing/parking area to the front of the site so that contractors can gain access to clear the site of the grass, drop off and store material and as a working platform to set out and create the new individual plots.

As I stated last year, the committee are keen to see this project completed however this will now come down to what is achievable within the allocated budget.

Therefore, it maybe necessary to put together a working party to bring this project to completion. I know some of you have already put you names down for one of the new plots and I would ask for your time to help build the new paths, create the plots and complete other works within the site if the materials were provided. This will not mean that if you put your name down to help you will automatically be shortlisted for one of the newly formed allotment plots as this would be unfair to the other members of the community who have also applied but might not be available to lend a hand. However, if you are interested please feel free to contact me at cllrworboys@odiham.org.uk

Cllr Craig Worboys - Chair of Amenity Committee

COLLABORATION

Over the last couple of years, with the help of several colleagues the objective of the community committee has been to find the best way to form effective partnerships with the other community organisations within our Parish and collaborate to better promote the village, help the High Street and benefit the community. In other words endeavour to have a collective impact.

This includes simple initiatives like working with the Southern Co-operative, to use their former building windows to help promote the Parish and its key events. To partnering with All Saints to produce a village calendar to promote the beauty of our Parish, loaded with all the key village dates for next year - and promoting our local businesses. Through to forming partnerships with community groups like the Lions to ensure we can deliver events that the community want, like our Fireworks night and of course helping where we can with the brilliant initiatives led by InOdiham and The Odiham Society (and of course there are many other fabulous organisations).

This approach has had the additional benefit of encouraging fresh thinking, enthusiasm and help from new quarters. People within our community who were not members of existing village organisations but want to play their part. For example, our idea of closing the High Street for a street party to mark the Queens Birthday seemed impossible given our limited man power. Where would we get the tables? How would we promote it? How would we deal with all the work required? However, simply by asking for help, the enthusiasm and skills were there and a team of highly motivated volunteers (including InOdiham, the RAF and local businesses) came together to work with the Parish Council to make it happen. Each taking on their own part of the task - but working collaboratively for the benefit of the community. So if you have an idea for a community led initiative, please do get in touch, as we would love to hear from you - if we can help, we will!

Cllr Jon Hale - Chair of Community Committee

FAIRTRADE



Did you know you live in a Fairtrade community? Well thanks to the efforts of many in our community, led by our Vicar Alison Brown our Parish is now recognised as having Fairtrade status.

This is an initiative that the whole community has got behind, and OPC Vice Chairman James Robinson-Giannasi was delighted to be invited to Mayhill School to listen to a robust Fairtrade debate from some of the children.

To recognise our Fairtrade status, we have approved Fairtrade village signs to be added to each of the Parish gateways, which by the time you read this are hopefully already in place. We would like to thank our District Council for arranging this.

In addition, there will be a Fairtrade Village declaration ceremony on the 5 May at All Saints. This will include an address from the outstanding TED forum speaker Jamie Drummond, who was elected Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum and is the co-founder and executive director of ONE a strategic leadership team that inspires and changes attitudes for aid, trade, debt cancellation, investment and governance reform to help the citizens of emerging countries drive and determine their own destiny and the UN's development goals for health, justice and well-being. His achievements include co-founding of the organization DATA (Debt, AIDS, Trade, Africa) with Bono and others in 2002. DATA, ONE, and its partners helped persuade the Bush Administration and US Congress to launch a series of initiatives for Africa including the Millennium Challenge Account, the President's Emergency AIDS initiative, the Malaria Initiative, Multilateral Debt Relief, and the African Growth and Opportunity Act. Through the G8, DATA, with partners, helped negotiate and advocate for a new high-water mark of promises at the 2005 Summit, involving a doubling of aid promised for Africa by 2010, including improvements in aid quality.

We think Alison and her team have done an amazing job of championing this and we look forward to collaborating on other community initiatives.

Cllr Jon Hale - Chair of Community Committee

A BIG THANK YOU

We would like to say a special thank you to Jan at The Frame, who recently offered and undertook the reframing of many of the historic pictures and documents that are on display in the Parish room. Many of the old frames were damaged and falling to pieces, where as thanks to Jan they have now been replaced. Whilst our Parish room is rather small, we do get regular public attendance at our meetings and Jan's handywork will soon be on display for everyone who visits the Parish room to see.

Cllr Jon Hale - Chairman of Odiham Parish Council

FOOTPATH CLEARANCE VOLUNTEER GROUP

With the pressure on local government budget there is now less money to maintain our local footpaths. The Parish Council would like to set up a volunteer group to help clear the paths of vegetation and carry out other simple maintenance tasks. The group will operate under the supervision of Hampshire Council, which will provide tools, guidance and insurance as necessary. If you would like to help and could spare a few hours a month please contact me, either through the Parish Council office or by email cllrstewart@odiham.org.uk

Cllr David Stewart - Chair of Footpath Clearance Voluntary Group

EVENTS

For those of you who didn't get your Odiham Calendar packed with all this year's village events, here are a few of the upcoming highlights for you to book.

MASTER OF THE BEER

Last year All Saints launched a new event - Master of the Beer. It was an amazing evening of music..... and well..... Beer! It returns this year on 13 May. Even with the renovations at All Saints that have turned the building into a fabulous community space, tickets will be limited so move fast to secure your place. Contact 01256 703395 or admin@allsaintsodiham.org.uk

BANDS IN THE BURY

We have already covered Armed Forces Day on 24 June. However, don't forget that this is also the date of the annual Bands in the Bury event that provides a fabulous summer celebration for all of our community at the heart of the Village. Please do come along to show your support of service personnel and then enjoy the party atmosphere for the rest of the afternoon.

HAMPSHIRE FARMERS MARKETS

We have the Hampshire Farmers Markets in the village on 23 April, 23 July and 22 October. InOdiham do a great job supporting these events which attract people to our High Street and support our local businesses. To help make each market feel like more of an event, OPC's community committee plan to help provide some live music. Please do support our local markets and come along.

FLAVOUR FEST



Flavour Fest was a superb success last year. A huge congratulations to the InOdiham team who supported it - along with Fuse Projects. Also thank you to our County Councillor, Jonathan Glen for providing some grant funding to help make the event the success it was. We are delighted to say that the event will be back again this year on 28 August.

ALL SAINTS VILLAGE FETE

All Saints always put on a superb Village Fete and we understand that this year will be just the same. Keep the 8 July free.

ODIHAM FIRE SHOW



The Odiham Fire Show is almost a national event. It's a huge draw for our Parish and the team who organise it, do an amazing job. Keep the 5/6 August free for this unmissable event.

These are some of the highlights, however there will be other events that we will promote on our Facebook page and out notice boards as dates are set and details confirmed, as well as the usual series of seasonal events towards the end of the year.