



R. A. D. I. O.

RESIDENTS AGAINST DEVELOPMENT IN OTFORD

NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2005

The inaugural meeting of RADIO was held on 9 November in the Otford Village Memorial Hall.

Many thanks to all those who attended the meeting and to the guest speakers, Mr. Jack Malan, one of our local SDC councillors, Mr. Ken Gunderson of the Otford Society and Mr. Brian Woods of SP Planning, who will represent SDC at the Public Inquiry into the Well Road development.

The meeting was a “full house”, with in excess of 130 residents in attendance, which is most encouraging!

At the meeting, four residents were kind enough to volunteer to sit on the committee of RADIO, which will now comprise the following:

	Tel. home	Tel. mobile	E-mail
Keith Stockman	01959 523475	07798 767770	stockers@dsl.pipex.com
Richard McDowell	01959 525336	07733 350934	rmm@ancaster.co.uk
Bryan Symons	01959 522414	07733 228828	bryan.symons@v21.me.uk
Mike Steeden	01959 523174	07884 267570	mike@steedenhome. freeserve.co.uk
Dave Chatterjee	01959 523559		dave.chatterjee@virgin.net
Wayne Patrick	01959 524360	07710 477177	dianedeller@aol.com

The fight against the Well Road development comes to a head at the forthcoming Public Inquiry, to be held at SDC Offices in Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, on 22, and at Bradbourne Road Council Offices on 23 and 24 November. We would like as many residents as possible to attend to show the Inspector the depth of concern in the village over this proposed development. If you intend to speak at the meeting, we would be grateful if you would let us know, as we are endeavouring to co-ordinate the response from the village. The Inspector will not be impressed by too many people saying exactly the same thing.

In this respect, we are looking for local residents who have knowledge of specific areas of expertise such as the history/archaeology of the area, environment and wildlife, and highway issues. If you have such knowledge and are prepared to speak at the Public Inquiry please contact either Richard McDowell or Keith Stockman at the numbers above. And thanks to the lady at the meeting who suggested the use of tree preservation orders as a tool in our fight – we will certainly look into this matter!





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The initial meeting of the new committee will take place on Monday 14 November – prior to your receiving this newsletter – but please let any of the above know if there are any matters that you wish to be considered by the committee in future.

A large number of residents at the inaugural meeting also volunteered to assist in the distribution of documents on behalf of RADIO. A big vote of thanks to all those who volunteered, their assistance is invaluable. We need to get our message across to as many local residents as possible.

One matter of concern expressed at the meeting was the relationship between RADIO and the Otford Society which, among its many other functions, has served in the past as a vehicle to voice protest on planning matters on behalf of the village. This is a pertinent point and one which the new committee will resolve. We fully support the work of the Otford Society (and would encourage everyone to join). It is our intention to meet with them with a view to arranging for RADIO to be affiliated to the Society and to pool our knowledge and resources. Clearly, we all have much to gain by working together on these matters.

Aside from the Well Road proposal, we have a concern over a number of other potential developments in the area. These include the proposal to develop the old chicken farm in Otford Hills (which has been rejected by SDC but is likely to be the subject of an appeal by the developer), Frog Farm on Pilgrims Way East (rumours of development applications) and the huge development proposed on the site of West Kent Cold Storage in Dunton Green, which could have major traffic implications.

We would welcome your views and comments on these issues and on any other matter of concern that you may have regarding planning/development proposals in the village.

Finally, for those of you who have not yet joined RADIO, we have attached a further membership form to this letter. This should be completed and returned as indicated. Membership is free, we would implore everyone to join as we need as large a membership as possible to be as effective as possible. Other than giving their support by joining, members will not be called upon to do anything other than write letters of objection to relevant bodies as and when these are required.

REMEMBER, OTFORD IS YOUR VILLAGE, AND WE MUST ALL WORK TOGETHER TO PRESERVE ITS UNIQUE CHARACTER AND CHARM.

That's all for now folks. Please feel free to contact any of the committee on any matters of concern and we look forward to receiving completed membership forms from those of you who have not yet joined up.

Thank you.

