



R. A. D. I. O.

RESIDENTS AGAINST DEVELOPMENT IN OTFORD

NEWSLETTER 2 - DECEMBER 2005

Well Rd Public Inquiry

The Public Inquiry was held on 22 and 23 November. Submissions were made by both Sevenoaks District Council (SDC), in support of their rejection of the three applications and by Laing Homes in support of their appeals.

Following this, Keith Stockman and Richard McDowall made a presentation on behalf of the residents in objection to the proposals. Richard's slide show amply illustrated the beauty of the site contrasted to the ugly and overpowering aspect of the new development at Becketts Place. The Inspector also made an extensive site visit, to see for herself the lie of the land. Despite the poor weather, she was able to appreciate the views and how these would be affected by the proposed development. We would like to extend a big thank you to all residents who attended to support Keith and Richard in making their objections, to all who sent in written comments to the Inspector and to Leon Baker and Jack Malan, our local councillors, both of whom spoke out against the development.

Other Planning issues

On other planning issues, we understand from SDC that the Old Vicarage will not now be demolished, although a second dwelling will be built in the existing grounds, and that the controversial site in Coombe Road has been sold, a 'traditional' house will now be built on this site. Good news on both counts. No appeal has yet been received against the Council's decision to reject the application to develop the old chicken farm in Otford Hills, although the developers have six months within which to lodge an appeal.

We will be looking into the impact for Otford of the proposed development at Dunton Green Cold Store and intend to comment on any revised planning application. The main issue that concerns us is how to prevent the inevitable increase in traffic that will result from the development affecting the village too badly. There is information on the proposed development and a form you can send in with your comments at www.greenissues.com/westkentcoldstore.

IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS, COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS ABOUT ANY ASPECT OF PLANNING OR DEVELOPMENT IN THE VILLAGE, PLEASE DO GET IN TOUCH WITH US.



Relationship with the Otford Society

The question of RADIO's relationship with the Otford Society was raised at the first committee meeting. It was generally agreed that it would be beneficial to both groups to co-operate and pool resources. As a result, we wrote to the Otford Society whose committee are in agreement with our position. Carol Griffiths, the secretary to the Otford Society, has offered to sit in on RADIO committee meetings and to act as liaison between the two groups.

Committee

At the first committee meeting of RADIO, held on 14 November, the following appointments were made:

Chairman:	Keith Stockman
Vice-chairman:	Richard McDowall
Treasurer:	Wayne Patrick
Membership Secretary:	Mike Steeden
Council Liaison Officer:	Bryan Symons
Media & Publicity:	Dave Chatterjee and Richard McDowall

Volunteers

Thanks again to all those who have volunteered to act as distributors on our behalf. We would be very grateful for any additional volunteers who may wish to help. In particular, we need distributors in Telston Lane/Darnets Field, Willow Park/Flowerfield, Rye Lane, the High Street/Pickmoss and Pilgrims Way East. However, additional distributors in any area will be welcome! Please call any of the committee members if you are able to help.

Webpage

We are pleased to announce that we now have our own page on the Otford village info website. Please see www.otford.info/radio.

Apologies

There are a few apologies we need to make:

- For our failure to give the commencement time of the Well Road Public Inquiry in the last newsletter. No excuses, we just forgot to include it!

- To all those who received the last newsletter late. Please be patient with us, we are a new organization and have only just put our distribution network in place. It will get better.
- For misprinting Mr. Bryan Symons' phone number in the last newsletter. Sincere apologies to the lady who fielded all the incorrect calls. For the record, his correct phone number is given below.
- For omitting the return address on some of the membership forms attached to the last newsletter. We really don't know how this happened!

We will try to do better in the future, please bear with us!!

Membership

Last, but not least, a big thank you to all those who returned membership forms after the last newsletter. In view of the mistake with the return address on the previous issue, we attach hereto a further membership form, with full details. We would urge all those who have not already done so to join up and show their support for the cause. We will respect members' confidentiality and not publish phone numbers or email addresses without agreement.

IT'S YOUR VILLAGE, WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT !!

Contacts: Keith Stockman, 01959 523475 / 07798 767770, Richard McDowall, 01959 525336 / 07733 350934, Bryan Symons, 01959 522419 / 07733 228828, Mike Steeden, 01959 523174 / 07884 267570, Dave Chatterjee, 01959 523559, Wayne Patrick, 01959 524360 / 07710 477177

***A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
A HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO ONE AND ALL***