



R. A. D. I. O.

RESIDENTS AGAINST DEVELOPMENT IN OTFORD

NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2006

RADIO AGM

The first Annual General Meeting of RADIO will be held in **Otford Village Memorial Hall on Wednesday 6th December, commencing at 8.00 p.m.** We would like as many people as possible to attend so that we can hear your views about the effectiveness of the group and how we can improve in the future. Anyone wishing to stand for election to the committee should make themselves known on the night.

The AGM will be followed by a cheese and wine party to which all attendees at the AGM are cordially invited.

PLANNING MATTERS

There have been a number of issues in recent weeks, as follows:

Telston Lane:- A plan to convert a number of barns at the end of Telston Lane into five houses was submitted. The site is within the green belt and is at the end of a narrow lane which would have difficulty coping with the increase in traffic. Residents living nearby therefore approached us, asking for our support in opposing the development; we gave them our opinion on the key areas to concentrate on and have written to the planners to add our voice to the opposition. Since our letters were written, we have heard from SDC that the application has been withdrawn.

Well Road:- We are pleased to advise that, following representations from SDC and receipt of numerous letters of protest by the Planning Inspectorate, the decision to determine the planning appeal by written representation has been shelved in favour of a full Public Inquiry. The date of this inquiry has yet to be advised, however, this is very unlikely to take place before the New Year.

Pilgrims Way West:- We have also been concerned about a proposed development in Pilgrim Way West where there is a proposal to convert one existing bungalow into two new 'linked detached' houses. Whilst we have not specifically been asked by local residents to oppose this, we have sought to clarify SDC's position on this application in light of the new housing policies that they would like to introduce.

New SDC Housing Policy:- We are sure that everyone will be aware of the response from the Government Office of the South East to SDC's proposed new policies to regulate housing development in the region and the threat that this poses. Given that SDC are way ahead of the agreed targets for their area we believe that the GOSE intervention is intrusive and unwarranted. We will be considering what action we can take to support SDC in this matter.

RADIO CONSTITUTION

RADIO has produced a draft written constitution which is available to view on our website at www.otford.info/radio. Alternatively, you may contact Mr. Bryan Symons on 01959 522419 or by e-mail at bryan.symons@yahoo.co.uk for a copy. The draft will also be available at the AGM, where the constitution will be formally adopted.





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VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT

A working committee to produce a VDS for Otford had been set up some years ago under the auspices of the Otford Society. Unfortunately, this initiative has ground to a halt for various reasons.

At the Autumn meeting of the Otford Society, Mr. Keith Stockman was invited to speak about the need for Otford to possess a Village Design Statement and how this would be integrated into the planning system to help regulate development in the village.

Following a lively debate after the address it was agreed that RADIO would co-ordinate the formation of a new working group to revive the production of the Village Design Statement. This group would comprise members of the respective committees of the Otford Society and RADIO, plus volunteers from the community who wished to be involved.

We need as many people as possible of all ages and background to become involved with this scheme so that we can produce a truly representative community document. Would all those wishing to assist please contact Keith Stockman on 01959 523475 or by e-mail at stockers@dsl.pipex.com. Thanks in advance.

Please add your support to this important project

VILLAGE PLANTERS – a call to RADIO members

The maintenance and upkeep of ALL the village planters is purely voluntary and O.P.C. are looking for the planter outside Otford Pharmacy to be 'adopted' and cared for by a community group.

Are there any of our members (or indeed other residents) out there, with a little time on their hands to simply plant (when appropriate), maintain and water (importantly) the single planter in front of the pharmacy – two volunteers would be good. Please contact Mr Richard McDowall for details on 01959 525336 or by e-mail at rmm62a@yahoo.co.uk – thank you.

FUNDRAISING

We were going to finish off with a review of the 'Letz Zep' fundraiser held in the Memorial Hall on 30 September, but we're out of space, so it will have to wait. Take note, though, that there will be other events of this nature in the future, amongst other fundraising ventures, and 'Letz Zep' will definitely be back!! Watch this space for details.

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE FETE COMMITTEE

The AGM for the Otford Village Fete took place on Wednesday 22nd November in the Village Hall. The current committee, many of whom have been assisting with the fete for 6 years or more, all stood down with the exception of one person. As it currently stands **there will be no 2007 fete**. If a new committee can be formed of a minimum of 5, preferably 8, people then we can reinstate this. There is currently in excess of £4500 surplus from the fete, which is available for village organisations and societies. As there is no committee these funds cannot be dispersed. The Village Fete Committee, one of the committee's able to donate funds throughout the village, is a pleasure to be on, along with rewards of the organisation of the fete and the exhausting but fun fete day itself. Should you be able to assist please speak to either Debbie on 522354 or Linda on 522710 to discuss the way forward.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT OR THIS IMPORTANT VILLAGE EVENT MAY BE LOST FOREVER!

