



# R. A. D. I. O.

RESIDENTS AGAINST DEVELOPMENT IN OTFORD

## NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2007

Firstly, a belated **Happy New Year** to one and all. We have a lot to cover in this, our first newsletter of 2007 and the new committee all look forward to your continued support and assistance throughout the year.

We had hoped to include a review of our activities in 2006 in this issue, however, for reasons of time and space we have decided to hold this over until our next newsletter.

### RADIO AGM - held on 06.12.06

A well attended meeting, with over 40 people braving a cold night to be present, carried by RADIO Chairman, Keith Stockman. Included on the Agenda, in addition to the customary items, were the adoption of our **Constitution** and a discussion regarding recognition of being a RADIO member.

After some debate, the **Constitution** was duly adopted. It is possible to view a copy of this document on our website at [www.otford.info/radio](http://www.otford.info/radio). We are exploring the use of re-useable car/window stickers for RADIO members as opposed to membership cards. This was generally felt to be the best option by all present.

The AGM included re-election of the existing committee: Keith Stockman; Richard McDowall; Mike Steeden; Wayne Patrick; Dave Chaterjee ; Bryan Symons. No-one present at the meeting wished to stand, however, we would welcome anyone who would be willing to join the committee.

### WELL ROAD DEVELOPMENT – Public Inquiry

The Public Inquiry will be held on **6 March 2007** at SDC Offices, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, commencing at 10.00 a.m. This is as stated, a Public Inquiry and as such, anyone can attend and have their say. We would like as many residents as possible to attend to support our cause. RADIO will be speaking against the development, if other residents would like to speak you should notify the Planning Inspectorate in writing, quoting appeal **reference number APP/G2245/A/06/2024028**. (You may try telephoning the case officer on 0117 372 6372 to make your request.)

The Planning Inspectorate has already received in the order of **150 letters** of objection from residents – your ongoing determination is quite extraordinary, so a massive thank you so far, on behalf of Otford. However, there is still time if you have not already written and we would urge you to do so. This is an important battle in the fight against the arbitrary development of Otford.

Requests to speak and letters of objection should be sent to **The Planning Inspectorate, Room 3/14 Eagle Wing, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6PN**, quoting the above reference number.

Alternatively, please contact RADIO to discuss if you prefer.





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### OTFORD Railway Crossing

We were asked at the AGM to write to the Planning Inspectorate who are considering a proposal to close the crossing near Otford Station. We have done so and urge people who agree that the closure of the crossing would be bad for the village to do the same. You need to write to: **Mrs Yvonne Oddy, Rights of Way Section, Planning Inspectorate, Room 4/04 Kite Wing, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay House, Bristol BS1 6PN.**

Your letter should be headed: "Highways Act 1980 Section 118 / Kent County Council / 'Pilgrims Way' Public Footpath SR49 (Part) / Otford Rail Crossing Extinguishment Order 2004 & / Highways Act 1980 – Section 26 / Otford Station Footpath Creation Order 2004".

Identical letters are less effective than individual ones so we are not suggesting a format, but we made the following points:

- There is no record of a fatality on the crossing and the main alternatives which involves walking along a narrow pavement over the road bridge and then going across the station forecourt and car park is more dangerous, especially for young children
- The other option means using the station footbridge. This would still involve crossing the forecourt and car park and in any case it means going through the station. Network South East is unlikely to be happy with this and may ban people using the station as a thoroughfare & may lock the station at night.
- Both alternatives involve using a number of steps and while the current arrangement is not ideal for people with any disability the alternatives are worse
- We recognise that there is a problem with loud train horns, but flashing lights and a buzzer could be installed at the crossing to replace the horns.

### RADIO Distributors.

A very big and warm **THANK YOU** to all our distributors for their help throughout 2006 and indeed, in advance for 2007 !! **Any more volunteers please ?**

### Village Planters.

Following the plea in our last Newsletter, we are very pleased to thank the Otford Brownies for stepping forward and taking on the planting and maintenance of the planter in front of the pharmacy – this, against all the odds! (ie: vandalism over New Year and since) So, **thank you Brownies**, on behalf of Otford.

### RADIO Window Stickers

As mentioned previously, it was agreed by all attending the AGM that car/window stickers would be a good way for residents to show their membership of and support for RADIO. We are currently canvassing quotes for these and hope they will be available in the near future. These are costly items, so if anyone can assist with the printing we would be very grateful.





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### RADIO Promotions

Following the success of the 'LETZ ZEP' gig last year, we are pleased to advise that the band are returning to Otford to play on **SATURDAY 19 MAY**, again in the Memorial Hall. Tickets are available at the discounted price of £12.00 each to RADIO members. Call Keith Stockman on 07798 767770 for reservations and further information. This is sure to be a sell out, so please book early.

In advance of this, we are pleased to announce that the fabulous 'NINE BELOW ZERO' are appearing at the Memorial Hall, on **SATURDAY 31 MARCH**. All proceeds from this event go to Sevenoaks Amateur Boxing Club. Tickets are £14.00 but, once again, RADIO members can enjoy a discounted ticket price of £12.00, call Keith on the number above for reservations. This will be a night not to be missed – NBZ really rock!

### A MESSAGE from the Otford Society

*"Thank you for asking us for a contribution to your New Year newsletter; a happy New Year to all your members.*

*It is good to know that RADIO has maintained a pro-active response to the concerns and problems of our community. The coming months may be a testing time for the village, particularly the outcome of the Well Road public inquiry. Now that the Government has given the green light to developers we must be extra vigilant and ultra aware as any new proposals are put forward.*

*The Otford Society and RADIO have a combined membership approaching two thousand residents. If this entire body of people is mobilised into action it must be a 'voice' to be reckoned with. The links that the two groups have forged must remain strong and well informed.*

*Finally, a thank you to RADIO for its continued efforts on our behalf.*

*On behalf of the Otford Society  
Tony Wiltshire (Chairman)"*

### VILLAGE Design Statement

We are pleased to advise that, after all our efforts, a **new VDS design team** has been formed with the intention of completing this task on behalf of Otford. If anyone would like further information, or would like to join the team, please call **Rod Shelton on 01959 523371** or alternatively, by e-mail to **rod.shelton@tiscali.co.uk**. Otherwise, please look out for further announcements as to how you can get involved. Your input is needed!!

### SPEEDING in Otford !!

We have been asked by the Otford Society to add a request in this Newsletter to **ALL RESIDENTS** to (a) abide by the speed limits within and through the village and (b) deter those passing through by maintaining your own correct speed. This comes on the back of an extremely serious accident along the Shoreham Road on 7 November 2006 and other previous 'near misses'. **REMEMBER – KILL YOUR SPEED !!**

