

## OFFORD CLUNY AND OFFORD DARCY PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

### Planning

Council has received one application since the last issue of Out & About.

Planning Application 0803340 – An extension to the dwelling at Orchard House, 206 High Street Offord Cluny. This application will be deliberated at the next Planning Meeting which is scheduled for 7pm on Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009 – immediately before the Full Council Meeting.

Due to the scale of recent applications and the controversy surrounding them, and the way Parish Council views appear to be disregarded by District Council, it was arranged for representatives from the Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) Planning Department to attend Council meetings to discuss Development Control and Planning Enforcement issues. These discussions were very welcome and informative.

Updates on recent applications:

#### **Planning Application 0802296**

#### **Erection of Wind Farm Comprising Eight Wind Turbines, Substation, Anemometry Mast, Access Tracks & Ancillary infrastructure. Cotton Farm, Graveley Road**

Parish Council recommended refusal and subsequent to this it has received a copy of a letter from HDC Planning Department to the applicant informing NPower of the reasons that refusal is likely and suggesting the application is withdrawn. The main reasons are the size of the development and the impact on Graveley Village and Toseland Hall. This letter was a recommendation and not a formal planning decision and the applicant can choose to ignore the advice and proceed with the application. Alternatively the applicant may decide to withdraw this application and submit a scaled down version. If a new application is received the process begins again.

#### **Planning Application 0802744**

#### **Retention of use of land as a Caravan Site for Gypsy and Traveller residential purposes, Pumping Station, Paxton Road, Offord Darcy.**

Parish Council recommended refusal. The item was originally placed on the Agenda for the HDC Development Control Meeting in December but later withdrawn. It does not appear on the January agenda.

Planning Application 0802788FUL

61 Graveley Road – Extension to Roof

Parish Council recommended approval and this was approved by HDC

Copies of the full responses are available from the Clerk.

### Council Membership

December saw the resignation of Councillor Alistair Sim due to work commitments. Council was very sorry to lose Alistair and would like to thank him for all he did on behalf of the villages. A vacancy now exists and anyone interested should contact one of the councillors or the clerk for more information.

### Councillor Contact Information

Most council issues are dealt with via the Clerk but if you wish to contact a Councillor on any matter the details are as follows:

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Parish Council Chairman  
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Chairman of Finance, Risk Assessment & General Purposes  
Chairman of Planning  
Chairman of Leisure & Amenities

Cllr Liam Small  
Cllr Keith Ridley  
Cllr Malcolm Reece  
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## Parish Plan

A circular was delivered to all houses in the community two months ago informing you of our intention to develop a Parish Plan during the forthcoming year to provide a mandate for the newly combined Offord Cluny and Offord D'Arcy Parish Council. The process is time consuming and will need to involve as many members of the community as possible. A committee needs to be formed and, ideally, all groups in the village need to be represented. It is a long process, especially during the consultation phase, and the Committee will need support from all residents and organisations. While the Parish Council may take the lead, it will be up to members of the Parish Plan Committee to develop and publish the final document; some Parishes have taken two years to produce their plan.

The first step is to ensure that everyone within the community wishes to have a proper plan for the villages. To that end the Council will be briefed on the Parish Plan by Mr Alan Hampton from ACRE on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2009; ***all members of the public are invited to attend***. Once we have established that there is sufficient interest, the Committee needs to be formed; it needs to develop a plan and allocate projects to action groups. The committee cannot be chaired by a councillor and only three councillors can be on the committee, so it is not council controlled and needs an independent chair from the community. The projects will provide a basis for establishing what the residents' aspirations are and what actions need to be taken; the Plan will then be developed from those conclusions.

It is important to remember that once the Plan is formed it becomes a living document. It will provide a document to which the Parish Council can refer and use in their bids to improve the villages. More importantly, as the communities evolve, so will the Plan through amendments and revisions, thus enabling residents to keep their views in full sight of local politicians at Parish and District levels.

## Agendas, Minutes and Meetings

Full Council meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at 7.30pm at the Village Hall preceded by a Planning Meeting at 7pm subject to plans being received. The Agendas for the meetings go onto the noticeboards the weekend before the meeting. Additional copies can be obtained from the Clerk. Minutes can also be obtained from the Clerk. There is an open forum at each meeting where residents can speak about any concerns they might have.

I am happy to help in any way I can so please feel free to contact me on any matter.

Kind Regards

Jackie Stanbridge  
Clerk to the Council

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