

Overton News & Views

OCTOBER 2026

Editor: Amanda Hepburn | onv@overtonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Copy deadlines: Nov edition – 14 Oct | Dec edition – 11 Nov

Overton Parish Council Diary

Our meetings are held at Overton Community Centre. They are open to residents and are recorded.

| Full Parish Council Meeting
Tues 13 Oct | 7.30pm

| Planning Meeting
Tues 27 Oct | 7.30pm

Meet us at the
| Saturday Market in St Mary's Hall
Sat 3 & 31 Oct | 10am–noon

Your local safety team

| Community Safety Patrol Officer
CSPO Drew Mechen
drew.mechen@basingstoke.gov.uk

| Police Community Support Officer
PCSO Andy Jones
andrew.jones.13301@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

Access Parish Council documents any time online

You can find all the Parish Council's documents, including the latest Neighbourhood Plan on our website at:

https://overtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/documents/

Call for Sites: Do you own land in Overton Parish?



Anne Phillips, OPC Chair

Overton Parish Council (OPC), as part of its Neighbourhood Development Plan review, is asking landowners to submit sites for potential future development. This could be a large field or small piece of land.

The letter to landowners and submission form can be found at **https://overtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/2026/09/11/call-for-sites/** or visit the Parish Council office on a Wednesday morning where Shelly, the Parsh Clerk, can give you a hard copy.

Submission Deadline

A submission form and supporting maps should be sent by **1 Nov** to the Neighbourhood Plan group at **ndp@overtonparishcouncil.gov.uk**.

Please note that inclusion of a site in this process does not mean OPC allocates the site for development, nor does it grant any form of planning permission. All submitted sites will be objectively assessed against standard planning policies and technical criteria.

Why is there a Call for Sites?

Many residents have asked why a Call for Sites is happening when the village has made it clear it doesn't want more housing. The answer is that it's a required part of the national planning process, not a sign that the Parish supports development. A Call for Sites is essentially **a piece of formal housekeeping**. Importantly, running the process does not mean any site will be approved, supported, or even considered suitable.

In fact, completing the Call for Sites helps the village by giving us:

- A chance to formally reject unsuitable land
- Evidence to show we've already taken our fair share of development
- Stronger grounds to protect sensitive areas
- A clear voice later in the Neighbourhood Plan process

Without running it, the village becomes more vulnerable to speculative development, because developers can argue that the Parish hasn't followed required steps. So while the village may not want further housing – and the Parish Council fully understands that – carrying out a Call for Sites is **a necessary part of protecting our position**. It's a procedural step, not a green light for building.

Safety first on public paths and streets

If you have hedges that back onto public paths, please make sure you trim them back to avoid accidents on the pavement and aid visibility to road users. And remember to monitor height – hedges over two-metres tall may fall under high-hedge legislation.

Please think **'safety first'** when parking around the Parish. Your choices can make a huge difference to access for vehicles such as fire engines and ambulances when they're attending an emergency.

Also available online!

Find the latest copy of **Overton News & Views**, past editions, deadlines and submission guidelines at:

https://overtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/overton-news-and-views/

THE FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT

Help shape the future focus of Sustainable Overton

Six years ago, Sustainable Overton (SO) launched with one aim: to make it easier for residents to live more sustainably. Now they want your help to decide what happens next by answering a short questionnaire that takes **just 30 seconds** of your time.

What matters most to you when it comes to living sustainably and how can SO support you to make a difference? Share your thoughts right now at: https://www.sustainableoverton.org.uk/make-a-difference (closes **30 Oct**).

Life returns to vacant premises

It's always good news for Overton when empty spaces are put back to use. This month we are pleased to welcome two new businesses to the village.

The Village Office at 25 High Street is a new co-working and meeting space. To ask about booking hot desks or a room, email hello@thevillageoffice.co.uk.

The Haven, based in Shire House, is a neuro-affirming tutoring and mentoring centre, supporting children and young people with learning and wellbeing. For more information contact Michelle on 07816 567 349.

Recreation Centre looks to gain ground

Overton Recreation Centre is raising funds to acquire additional grounds to meet demand for sport and recreation from our growing population. For more information or to see how you can help, visit **https://orc.org.uk**

Grant support for non-profits

If you are looking for funds to support future projects at a not-for-profit organisation or community group, the Hampshire County Council's County Councillor Grants Scheme is open for applications until **28 Feb 2027**. Grants are generally available in the £100 to £1,000 range. Find out more at www.hants.gov.uk/News/20260626MembersGrantsScheme.

Calling 12–16-year-olds!

Do you know a person aged 12-16 who's not engaged in sport or other groups, but would welcome something to get involved? The ORC is looking for young people to share their views on what the village needs to support their age group – parental consent required. Contact Steve Williams at: stewill@hotmail.co.uk.

Young persons career support

If you know someone whose A-level results weren't quite what they expected, Hampshire Futures can help. A disappointing set of grades does not close off the future: careers advice, employment, apprenticeships and alternative routes remain available, and Plan B is still a plan. You can find careers information at: www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/hampshirefutures

Could you provide Adult reading support?

Read Easy Basingstoke helps adults in the borough to transform their lives with personalised, one-to-one reading coaching that is free and confidential, in-person and online.

If you know someone who could benefit from their services – or if you would like to become a volunteer – they would love to hear from you!

Find out more at https://readeasy.org.uk/

ON THE ROAD

Reporting issues with local roads



Did you know that Hampshire County Council are responsible for maintaining our local roads? And the more people who report an issue, the greater chance of it being resolved? Here are some direct links to reporting specific issues. When you've made a report, you'll be sent an email with a reference number so you can check progress on what is being done.

Potholes: www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/potholes

Faded or missing road markings: www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/road-markings

Problems with rights of way: www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/reportaproblem

Broken or missing signs: www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/brokensigns

Tree/hedge problems: www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/treehedge

Flooding/drainage issues: www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/flooding

Pavement problems: www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/paving

Faulty street lights: www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/streetlight



WEEKLY DATES

Overton Walking Group
Mon 9.45–11.30am | Meet at ORC Bridge Street for a choice of short (c. 2.5 miles) or longer (c. 5 miles) walk. overtonwalkinggroup@gmail.com

Short Mat Bowls Club
Mon & Thurs 7:30–9.30pm
St Luke's Hall – Trevor 01256 770409

Overton Taekwondo
Tue, Fri & Sat | St Luke's Hall – overtontkd.org.uk

Overton Art Group
Tues, 2–4pm | ORC Bridge Street – 07743 776290

LiveWell Longer Social Group
Tues, 2–4pm | Community Centre – Margaret 01256 771710

Welcome Hub
Thurs, 10am–noon | St Mary's Hall – Denise 07787 530677

Coffee and Chat
Thurs, 10:30–11:45am | The White Hart – Alison P. 07745 327049

TWICE MONTHLY

LiveWell Longer Drop-ins | **5 Sept & 3 Oct 10am–noon** at the **Saturday Market** | **Tues 15 Sept** at the Community Centre, Palmer Room – Janet 07341 983305 (For PIP help call David 07551 956095)

Rosemary Portals Social Group
1st/3rd Weds, 10am–noon | The Stute – Alison H. 07919 418551

MONTHLY

1st Weds | Overton Folk Club **8pm** Community Centre

2nd Weds | Village Tidy Group **2pm** meeting at St Luke's Hall

1st Thurs | The Cocktail Choir **7:45pm** St Mary's Church Rooms | £6

3rd Fri | Platinum Players **2:30–3:45pm** St Mary's Church Rooms – Ann 01256 771199

1st Sat | Ladies Golf, Coffee & Chat, Town Meadow – Sue – peartsue@yahoo.co.uk

1st Sat | **10am–noon**
Repair Café at the Community Centre
Bring items in before 11:30am.

Sat 3rd & 31st Oct | **10am–noon**
Saturday Market at St Mary's Hall

VILLAGE DIARY VILLAGE DIARY



COMMUNITY

Welcome to the Welcome Hub

Created one cold winter to provide a warm and friendly space to meet (and eat cake), the Welcome Hub was enjoyed so much by residents it is now a regular event. Everyone is welcome, **every Thurs** at St Mary's Hall **from 10am–noon**. £1 donation for tea, coffee and bakes. See you there! Contact Denise on 07787 530677 for information.

SEE & DO

From ice cream to Iron Lady – Tony Harris presents 'Margaret Thatcher'

Margaret Thatcher was our first female Prime Minister, and for some, is regarded as the most divisive in history. The IRA couldn't kill her; she won a war to save the Falklands; and she was once a scientist who helped improve the flow quality of ice cream. Find out more with the u3a at St Mary's Hall on **Weds 21 Oct at 10am**. Non-members £3 on the door.

Accompanist and male singers wanted

Overton Choral Society is looking for an accompanist, and for more tenors and basses to join the choir. If you are interested, or have any questions, contact overtonchoralsoc@gmail.com.

The choir is currently preparing for the Mayor's Carol Service on **Sat 5 Dec**, and the society's own Christmas Carol Concert on **Mon 14 Dec** at St Mary's Hall, in aid of St Michael's Hospice.

THANK YOU

Exhibition success for Overton Art Group

Overton Art Group would like to thank all those who visited their summer exhibition for making it such a success, and congratulate the following for their artistic triumphs:

- Chairman's Cup (public vote) – Sandra Jeffery, *Bulls Bushes*.
- Wheeler Trophy (voted by visiting artist Angela Huggett) – Eirwen Rosam, *Near the Solent*.
- Rosemary Cup for painting in oils (members vote) – Lorraine Cramp, *Mixed Emotions*.

Overton Recreation Centre supporter gives 60 years!

The ORC give a huge thanks to Derek Davis as he steps down after an amazing 60 years as a membership collector. Thanks for all your support, Derek. You will be missed!

BOOK YOUR SPOT . . .
at the **Repair Café** at:

www.sustainableoverton.org.uk/repair-cafe-form

Sat Oct 3
knife sharpener available

Bring your items in before 11.30am

HEALTH & WELLBEING

A message from Watership Down Health

from Susannah Altmeyer-Ennis Practice Business Manager

We understand that growth in the Parish raises important questions about access to healthcare, and we want to reassure you that we are committed to continuing safe, high-quality care to our patients.

Watership Down Health already operates in a dynamic environment where local needs are continually changing. We work closely with NHS partners and our commissioner (the Hampshire & IOW Integrated Care Board) to monitor these changes to ensure our resources are aligned with demand. Housing developments are considered within these plans.

We are continually reviewing and adapting how we deliver our services. This includes making the best use of a wider multi-disciplinary team (such as nurses, pharmacists and physiotherapists) so that patients can access the most appropriate care.

To give patients more flexibility, we have also **expanded the use of digital solutions**, including call-back telephone services and video consultation, alongside traditional face-to-face appointments.

Importantly, **any increase in population will be carefully considered** in terms of workforce, space, and service provision. We will continue to work with local and regional healthcare planners to ensure the infrastructure needed is in place.

We appreciate your continued support and encourage anyone with questions to engage with us directly. You can give your feedback at https://watershipdownhealth.com/services/managing-your-health-online/online-forms/feedback/or by writing to any of our sites.

KEEP UP TO DATE AT: www.watershipdownhealth.com

CELEBRATING OVERTON

Jane MacKenzie shares the origins of...



William Sprents came from a well to do farming and business family. He built the brick-and-flint cottages set back opposite Papermakers in 1854 and ran a boarding school, Sprent's Academy sited on the corner of Sprents Lane facing The Greyhound. Madam Sprents was French.



Hubert Berry, a local builder and milkman, bought part of this area which had been used as the Sheep fair site and built the houses. He didn't like the suggested Hubert Road but said his middle name could be used . . . Alexander!

Need urgent mental health support?



ON&V is published monthly by Overton Parish Council (OPC) and distributed by volunteers to every property in Overton, Ashe, Laverstoke and Freefolk. Would you like to deliver to your street/area? Please contact the Clerk.

Your Overton Parish Council Contacts

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Shelly Webb

01256 771919 or 07342 639872

clerk@overtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

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Open for public visits:
Every Weds 9.30am–1.30pm

For Laverstoke & Freefolk, email:
clerk@laverstokeandfreefolk.org.uk

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