



Update on the Finchampstead Neighbourhood Development Plan (FNDP)

Work to create the NDP is progressing purposefully. Over the next 2 years the project team, mandated by the Parish Council but led and staffed by community volunteers, will produce an evidence-based plan to inform and influence how the Parish develops up to 2035. The plan matters because it has legal status, it will form part of Wokingham Borough Council's new development plan and it *will have to be taken into account* when planning applications are considered at all stages of the planning approval process.

The idea of the plan, as stated in the draft vision statement, is not to resist all change. Rather, the vision "is to embrace the need for change and to meet the expanding need of a growing population whilst protecting those important things that have attracted generations of people to choose Finchampstead as a place to live and bring up their families."

The first major round of consultation will take place in October 2019 when every home in the parish will receive a postal questionnaire asking their views on the draft Vision and Objectives set out in the plan. It will also be possible to complete the questionnaire on line via <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/FinchampsteadFuture>

After the first phase of consultation, the plan will be further developed to draw up locally derived planning policies to inform and assist planning decision makers in areas such as housing, green spaces, social and economic needs, heritage and transport. This will include important issues such as what type of development local people want to see, where and also what aspects of the locality they wish to protect and preserve.

When the plan is completed it will be submitted for approval by Finchampstead Parish Council, Wokingham Borough Council and an Independent Examiner. The final and most important approval will be by the electorate of Finchampstead Parish who will be asked to give their approval in a local referendum in the spring of 2021.