



Chairman's report

We have had another busy and successful year thanks to the efforts of our voluntary Councillors, supported by our Clerk and the Assistant to the Clerk. We have had changes in the Council with the resignation of two Councillors, but were pleased to welcome David Cornish and Pat Hartwell to the Council after a co-option process in October.

Our Committees have undertaken a wide range of projects this year, some are included on the following pages. As well as these and many other initiatives, we have continued to work on ways to improve communication with our residents including launching a Facebook page. Involvement with plans for the Arborfield development does of course take up much of our time.

We continue to work closely with Wokingham Borough Council (WBC), local organisations, other partners and also our neighbouring Parishes, as through working together we can all help protect the character and features of the Parish, maintain services to residents, and ensure it remains a great place to live and work in. We look forward to another successful year ahead.

Roland Cundy

Support for local activities and services

This year we have again awarded over £20,000 to a wide variety of organisations. We support the Blackwater Valley Partnership, and the youth activity programme run through the FBC Centre. Donations have been made to local halls, churches and schools.

We have awarded grants to groups providing vital services for local residents, including the Citizens Advice Bureau, Berkshire Vision, the MS Therapy Centre, the Link visiting scheme, Cruse Bereavement Care, the Royal British Legion, Keep Mobile,

Home Start and the Job Support Centre. Other grants have been awarded to the Reading Football Club Kickz project, and the Simple Lunch scheme. We have also supported activities run by the Community House and Gorse Ride residents.

The Arborfield Garrison Development

We continue to pay close attention to progress with the Development, commenting on all applications, proposals and consultations as they come forward. Our Councillors continue to play an active role in the Steering Group meetings, and the new Community Liaison

Group, and are also involved with specific initiatives relating to transport and education provision. Our aim is to minimise the potential negative impacts on existing residents, and to ensure that infrastructure - for example roads and schools - meets local requirements. We also aim to keep residents

informed of progress. The first phase of development on the Garrison site has started, as has work on the new secondary school which will open in September 2016. We will share news on the development at Hogwood Farm - within Finchampstead Parish - as soon as this is available.

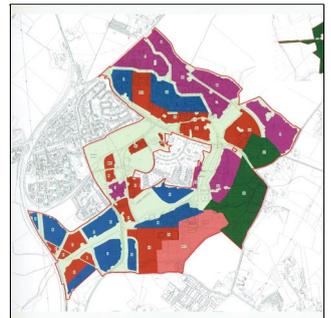
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Finchampstead NAG

is made up of local residents, the Police and local organisations, and representatives from both the Borough and Parish Councils. Its purpose is to help resolve community safety issues, and to improve the quality of life for residents.

Do get in touch if you have any local issues we can help to address.



Proposals for the northern part of the Arborfield SDL

Finance & General Purposes



You can now find us on Facebook
Please get in touch to sign up for
our e-newsletters



Our stand at the Village Fete

We are responsible for the overall management, administration, and financial arrangements of the Council. This includes budgeting, and setting the precept (the amount collected from residents by WBC as part of the Council Tax), the annual audit and return, risk management and insurance. The Council's Income raised from the precept in 2015/16 was £122,410 and our expenditure was £128,300. The balance was met from income.

We also oversee the grants and donations made to local organisations (see page 1) This year we have been working with WBC on proposals for how to work together in managing the Community Infrastructure Levy which will generate income from developments within the Parish. We are also monitoring local and national developments which may impact on local services in future.

We have continued to improve communications with residents with a new Facebook page, by extending our e-distribution list for newsletters, and by website improvements. We have also attended several local events.

Finchampstead Emergency Response (FER) was set up by FinchNAG with the Council, aiming to ensure Finchampstead is prepared if a local emergency occurs. The Council is now leading on this, and we are also working on other aspects of local emergency planning.



The September Tidy Up session

California Crossroads

Work has started on drawing up proposals to improve the Crossroads and the traffic flow, and we hope to hear more on this in 2016. In the meantime, we decided that the area was looking a bit 'tired', and one Sunday in September 2015 volunteers from the Council, local shops, residents and the Police turned out with mops, brushes, tins of paint and woodstain and various tools for a tidy up session. We weeded, pruned, litter picked, washed and painted, making a real difference to the area. WBC helped out by taking away all of the green waste and litter, and replacing the shabby litter bins. Well done and thank you to all those involved.

Amenities



Oak trees
planted at
Burnmoor
Meadow



Finchampstead Allotments

This year we installed another two community defibrillators, making a total of 3 of the life saving devices in the Parish.

Our Litter Warden collects over 70 sacks of litter from our roadsides each month, as well as cleaning many of our road signs. Our 20 'Adopt a Street' Scheme volunteers help to keep their local area clean and tidy, and we would like to see more people join the scheme.

We have planted oak trees at Burnmoor Meadow, and have added more hanging baskets at the California crossroads. We also look after the War Memorial, several seats, noticeboards, and even two bus shelters! Our allotment site is now 3 years old and continues to thrive. This year we have distributed 80 'Welcome Packs' to new residents, full of useful local information.

Plans for 2016 -17

- List the War Memorial as a historic monument.
- Install planters at the Crossroads.
- Plant more trees at Burnmoor Meadow.
- Continue to manage the allotment site with the Allotment Association.
- Arrange an event to mark the Queen's 90th birthday in April 2016.

Planning

The Council's Planning Committee meets every month and considers all planning applications for development in the Parish, from extensions to new homes, porches to agricultural buildings.

Comments on each application are reported to WBC. There have been 14 Planning Appeals this year and we often attend Hearings, presenting the views of the Parish Council. We

work closely with WBC on enforcement, helping to monitor local issues. We also respond to consultations on policy updates as well as on new policies.

Our Planning Committee has considered over 165 development applications in 2015/16 including some applications in adjacent parishes which may impact on Finchampstead.

Rights of Way

There are 26 miles of rights of way in the Parish, and we have continued to assist WBC by monitoring and reporting issues, and with regular maintenance work by our Footpath Warden. Working with WBC, the Ramblers Association and landowners, two new kissing gates have

been installed on FP8, and the surfaces of FP15 and BPI1 have been improved.

We have published and waymarked two circular routes, starting from St James' Church and Simons Wood.

Plans for 2015/16

- Publish and way-mark a third walk.

- Continue to work on the re designation of FP20 as a bridleway towards Horseshoe Lake.
- Continue to seek opportunities to improve and extend the path network and to improve access for all.



Bridle Path 14



Manor Farm

Mineral extraction east and west of Longwater Road

We are pressing for plans and timescales to be finalised for the restoration of these sites for nature conservation, public access and informal recreation, including links to the wider rights of way network.

Roads & Road Safety

We work with Thames Valley Police, WBC and others to help make the Parish a safer place for residents travelling around.

We continue to use our two speed data recorders (SDR) to collect information on local traffic volumes and speeds, sharing the information with WBC and Thames Valley Police. This year we purchased a Speed Indicator Device (SID) and carry out speed checks with volunteers

from Finch NAG, and Thames Valley Police. Working with WBC we have continued our 'gateway' project and four entrances to the Parish are now marked with a welcome, and a reminder of the speed limit. We have installed cycle racks at the Memorial Hall to add to those installed in the last two years.

We have worked with WBC and other partners to address various road safety

issues, including outside schools.

Plans for 2016/17

- Install a Parish 'gateway' on Wellingtonia Avenue
- Continue to use SDR units and SID in existing and new sites.
- Work with WBC on the replacement or upgrade of Parish owned lamp columns, including LED lanterns.



Speed Indicator Device (SID)



Cycle racks are now at the Memorial Hall, California Hall and California Crossroads



**PARISH OFFICE, FBC CENTRE
GORSE RIDE NORTH
FINCHAMPSTEAD
BERKSHIRE RG40 4ES**



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Assistant to the Clerk: Anna Kent**



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ABOUT THE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Councils are the most local tier of local government, at the heart of the community. Finchampstead Parish Council is made up of 17 Councillors, all acting voluntarily, and who are supported by the Clerk and the Assistant to the Clerk. The Council is not political.

The Council meets monthly, as does the Planning Committee. The other Committees - Amenities, Finance, Rights of Way, and Roads & Road Safety - each meet 4 times a year. For details of meetings please see our web site or contact the Parish Office. Members of the public are always welcome to attend meetings.

The Council also has representatives on many local organisations serving the community, and plays an active role in these. We liaise closely with WBC over many areas including community and environment, planning, transport and waste, doing what we can to ensure services meet local needs both now and in the future.

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Chair: Cllr Roland Cundy Vice Chair: Cllr Geoff Markham

PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

| AMENITIES | FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES | RIGHTS OF WAY |
|---|---|---|
| Cllr Mrs C Driver, Chair. Cllr G Markham, Vice Chair. Cllrs S Bowers, Mrs N Jennings-Frisby, G Veitch, J May. | Cllr R Woof, Chair. Cllr G Markham, Vice Chair. Cllrs S Bromley, J May, I Pittock, R Rampton, G Veitch. | Cllr R Woof, Chair. Cllr W Chapman, Vice Chair. Cllrs D Cornish, J May, A Pearce, I Pittock, S Weeks. |
| PLANNING | ROADS & ROAD SAFETY | WORKING GROUPS |
| Cllr G Veitch, Chair. Cllr R Marshallsay, Vice Chair. Cllrs S Bromley, W Chapman, D Cornish, Mrs C Driver, Mrs N Jennings Frisby, A Pearce. | Cllr S Bromley, Chair. Cllr I Pittock, Vice Chair. Cllrs S Bowers, W Chapman, R Marshallsay, J May, R Rampton, S Weeks. | Allotment Project; CIL; Community Consultation; Arborfield Development Devolution; Parish Hardship Fund Risk Assessment |

PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS

| | |
|---|--|
| OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS | |
| Blackwater Valley Partnership; CPRE FBC Centre Advisory Board; Finchampstead Emergency Response; Finch NAG Finchampstead Park Management Committee | Keep Mobile; Village Club Trustees; Veteran Tree Project Wokingham Area Housing Society Wokingham United Charities Trust Wokingham District Association of Local Councils |
| SCHOOL GOVERNORS | ARBORFIELD STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT LOCATION |
| Finchampstead Cof E; Gorse Ride Federation; Nine Mile Ride Primary | Arborfield SDL Steering Group Arborfield SDL Community Liaison Group |
| WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL GROUPS | |
| Biodiversity Forum Borough/Parish Liaison Forum Campaign Against Waste | Gorse Ride Community Forum Gorse Ride Working Group California Crossroads Working Group |