



ARBORFIELD GARRISON STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT LOCATION (SDL)

Work on the development - now known as Arborfield Green - continues to progress and the next application we expect to see is for Parcel Q. There is still no news on the development planned on the Marino Family Trust land in the southern part of the SDL, in Finchampstead Parish.

The interactive maps at the following link give a useful overview of how the development is moving forward. www.wokingham.gov.uk/major-developments/arborfield-progress-map/

Wokingham Borough Council is providing a new Safe Route To School - a continuous path for Finchampstead pupils to walk to the new Bohunt School in Arborfield. Creation of the route involves improvements to Nine Mile Ride, Park Lane and Byway 18 (Hogwood Lane) and there will be off peak road closures until 4 September to allow works to be completed in safety. Diversion routes will be signed and advance warning signs will be displayed prior to the closures. For more information see www.myjourneywokingham.com and www.reading-buses.co.uk

Local events and information

- **Finchampstead Library**
All of the Wokingham Libraries are running summer reading challenges including a Teen Reading Challenge for 12 - 19 year olds, and the Animal Agents Challenge for primary school aged children. There are also Animal Agents events at Finchampstead Library throughout August. For information visit www.wokingham.gov.uk/libraries or call 0118 9088176.
- **Friendly Finches - 20 July 2017**
The Friendly Finches have a monthly get - together on the third Thursday of each month from 2.30 to 4pm at the Memorial Hall. This year's theme is 'Musicals' and on 20 July 2017 the Group will be covering 'My Fair Lady'. All are welcome. For more information about the Group, or if you would like a lift please call 0118 9731833 or 0118 9733114.
- **St James' Church Patronal Festival - 22 and 23 July 2017**
The Festival includes a Choir Concert and summer buffet on the evening of 22 July and on 23 July the Church and Church Tower will be open for visits. There will be cream teas, games and stalls. For more information please ring the Church Office on 0118 9730133.
- **Community Fun Day - 8 August 2017**
There will be a Community Fun Day at the FBC Centre Playing Fields on 8 August 2017 from 10am to 2pm. Organised by the Borough Council's Tenants Services Team there will be lots of stalls and activities, and representatives from the Emergency Services will be present.
- **California Country Park**
The paddling pool opened last week but sadly had to be closed almost immediately due to anti social behaviour. Wokingham Borough Council will be re-opening the pool as soon as possible, hopefully this week.

The boardwalk in the Park is ageing and has also suffered some vandalism so will remain closed for the foreseeable future. As well as the slats some of the uprights are rotting, and it is likely that the boardwalk will need to be replaced.

The Green Way which will run from the FBC Centre through the Park, on to Commonfield Lane and the new development at Arborfield Green is progressing well and will be open by September. This is a surfaced route for walkers, cyclists and in some sections horse riders.



California Crossroads

- **Defibrillators**

You may have noticed that the community defibrillator located outside Bathroom Concepts has been out of service for some time. Unfortunately the defibrillator and the cabinet have suffered water damage and cannot be repaired. We are submitting an insurance claim and plan to replace the equipment as soon as possible.

We are also applying for a grant to purchase a further defibrillator which will be located at the California Ratepayers Hall, adding to those we have provided for the Memorial Hall and the FBC Centre.

- **Hanging baskets**

We recently removed the hanging baskets as we were advised that the lamp columns were about to be replaced. However this has now been delayed until September so we will be reinstalling the baskets as soon as possible so that they can be enjoyed for the summer season.

PARISH COUNCIL GRANTS

Last year the Council awarded over £40,000 in grants and donations to local groups and organisations providing services for Parish residents.

We supported the Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership - as many of you will know the Blackwater River forms the southern boundary to our Parish. The Valley is a wonderful resource for both people and wildlife.

We also supported the youth activity programme run through the FBC Centre, and provided donations to the St James' Churchyard extension project, to our community halls and to local schools. The donations to schools were towards extra curricular activities both on the school sites and trips away from school, and ensured that all children were able to participate in and learn from the activities.

We awarded grants to Berkshire Vision, the Citizens Advice Bureau, Cruse Bereavement Care, the Finchampstead Women's Group, Home Start, the Job Support Centre, Keep Mobile, the Me2 Club, the MS Therapy Centre, the Neighbourhood Action Group, Relate, the Royal British Legion, a local Scout Group, the Veteran Tree Group and Wokingham Volunteer Centre.

We do have a grants budget for 2017/18 and have already received a number of applications. The closing date for applications is 15 September 2017 and applicants will be notified by the end of October 2017.

**The grant application form is available from our website or from the Parish Office.
If you would like to discuss any potential projects please get in touch.**

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

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