



ARBORFIELD GARRISON STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT LOCATION (SDL)

Work continues on various parts of the development but there are no specific points to report at present. We hope to be able to give an update on progress with the Hogwood Farm site shortly.

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/

You can help us to make Finchampstead even better!

We are really pleased with the level of response to our consultation to date - if you haven't already completed the questionnaire we would really appreciate your views - the closing date is 30 November 2017.

Over the past few years Finchampstead Parish Council has contributed to several important projects that we believe have greatly benefitted the community.

Recent changes to the allocation of payments by developers to provide infrastructure for new homes, mostly at Arborfield Green, mean that Finchampstead Parish Council will now receive significantly more funds and have a greater say in deciding how these are spent. These can be used either to fund new or improved local facilities or to support major projects run by Wokingham Borough Council which will benefit Finchampstead residents.

We want to know what **you** think are the most important type of future projects to help improve life for the people of Finchampstead.

All households in the Parish should have received a questionnaire - if not please get in touch or alternatively you can complete it online by visiting our website www.finchampstead-pc.gov.uk

Thank you for your help. We will report the consultation findings in a future newsletter.

Local information

- **A good time of year for pruning!**

We have had a number of reports of vegetation encroaching on roads and pavements. This narrows the space available and is a particular issue for the less mobile, visually impaired or those with buggies. If your property is next to a road or pavement please make sure your hedges, trees and shrubs are well cut back to allow good and safe access for passers by.

It is also the responsibility of a property owner to ensure their trees do not obstruct the spread of light from street lights adjacent to their property.

- **Defibrillators**

We are delighted that our application to the SEPD Resilient Communities Fund was successful and as a result we have a grant to purchase two community accessible defibrillators for the Parish. These will be installed at the California Ratepayers Hall and the St James' Church Centre before Christmas, adding to those already provided by the Parish Council at the California Crossroads, the Memorial Hall and the FBC Centre.

In the last couple of years we have run two short **defibrillator / first aid training sessions** and plan another for early in the New Year. We will publish the date in due course but if you are interested please get in touch and we will put your name down.



Finchampstead footpath facts

Did you know that:

- Finchampstead has 26 miles (or 42km) of rights of way.
- We employ a Footpath Warden who spends a day a week maintaining our rights of way, adding to the work of Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) which is responsible for the paths.
- In the last 3 years we have installed 5 kissing gates, replacing inaccessible stiles. This has been achieved through working in partnership with landowners, WBC and the Ramblers.
- Cycling is allowed on bridle paths and byways.
- Cycling on a footpath is trespass against the landowner and is a civil offence.
- We contributed £20,000 to the new Green Way running from the FBC Centre to Commonfield Lane.
- A footpath map and details of 3 circular walks can be downloaded from our website.
- We have a Rights of Way Committee which deals with all of the above and more!

Local events

- **Wildmoor Heath Christmas Tree sale** - 9 December from 11am to 3pm.
Get your Christmas tree from the local wildlife trust - the trees are scots pines, felled as part of wildlife site management. Mistletoe, wreaths and cards will also be available. Wildmoor Heath car park, Sandhurst Road. RG45 7PP. www.bbowt.org.uk/events
- **Whats on at Finchampstead Library**
Regular activities for adults and children include the Bridge and Table Games Club on Mondays, Relaxing activities for adults - including jigsaws, colouring and more - on Wednesdays, Crochet Group on Thursdays and Rhyme Time for children on Fridays. Call the Library on 0118 9088176 for more information.

Wokingham Borough Council consultations

Wokingham Borough Council wants to hear your views on some of the major challenges facing the Borough which is undergoing vast changes with new houses, roads, schools and other facilities being built - at the same time as Government funding is being reduced.

In order to help make some important decisions two major public consultations have been launched - a budget consultation and a transport and highways consultation. These will help the Borough Council understand residents views on some of the key issues and the main priorities and concerns they have. To take part in the consultations, which will be open until 30 December, please go to www.wokingham.gov.uk and type 'consultation' into the search bar. Alternatively email communityengagement@wokingham.gov.uk to request a paper copy.

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

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