



ARBORFIELD GARRISON STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT LOCATION (SDL)

Crest Nicholson is working on a development brief for the Arborfield Green District Centre which will be located adjacent to the Bohunt Secondary School. Current proposals include a market square, shops, commercial space, community facilities, a restaurant and housing. Subject to planning approval later this year work on the District Centre is expected to start in 2019.

Three life size horse sculptures are planned for installation by the roundabout at the Nine Mile Ride Extension / A327. If you would like more information visit www.wokingham.gov.uk and look up planning application number 173473. Crest Nicholson has recently issued a press release about the project so you should be able to find information in local newspapers and other media.

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/

Household consultation

Thank you to everyone who completed our questionnaire in November 2017 and gave us their views on which types of projects we should support to help improve life for the people of Finchampstead. We asked you to rank five types of facility in order of importance - and this is the outcome.

1. Footpaths, cycleways and bridleways
2. Roads and road safety schemes
3. Parks, open spaces and play areas
4. Community halls and indoor facilities
5. Outdoor sports facilities

We received hundreds of valuable comments from you which we are currently looking at to see what action we can take, and we will report on our progress and plans in future newsletters.

Local events and information

- **Finchampstead Neighbourhood Action Group: 6 February**
The NAG includes representatives from the Parish and Borough Councils, Thames Valley Police and local organisations as well as a number of residents. The Group works to address local concerns and to make Finchampstead an even better place to live and grow up in. The next meeting is on 6 February at 7.30pm in the Library at the FBC Centre. Residents are welcome to attend to raise any issues and to see how they can get involved.
- **Annual Gathering: 7 March**
Our Annual Gathering for Parish residents and businesses and those we work with will be held on 7 March at 7.30pm at the FBC Centre. This is an opportunity to hear about the work of the Council over the last year and to meet the Councillors and Staff. There will also be a talk about the new nature reserves being created in Finchampstead. An invitation will follow but please put the date in your diary.
- **Defibrillator training: 27 March**
We have now provided 5 community accessible defibrillators in the Parish and will be holding another training / awareness session on 27 March at the California Ratepayers Hall. The session will be run by Heartstart Swallowfield, and will be in the early evening. Details will follow but if you are interested in attending please get in touch to reserve your place.



Local events and information (continued)

- **RSPB talk: 8 February**

There will be a talk by the Wader Quest, a charity supporting shorebird conservation, at the Memorial Hall on Thursday 8 February at 8pm. The event is organised by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Wokingham and Bracknell Group.

<https://ww2.rspb.org.uk/groups/wokinghamandbracknell/>

- **Quiz Night: 9 February**

The Finchampstead Society Annual Quiz Night takes place at the Memorial Hall on Friday 9 February at 6.30pm. The event is open to all - form a team of 8 or come along and join a table. Tickets are £12 including hot food and are available from Park View Village Shop.

- **Half term events at Finchampstead Library**

Friday 16 February from 11 to 11.30am: Rhyme time for under 5's and their parents - a free event, just drop in. **11.30am to 12.30pm:** Get Arty - fantastic Beast arts and crafts for children aged 4 - 12 years. £1.50 - just drop in.

Telephone 0118 9088176 for more information. Additional information about library services and about events at other libraries can be found at www.wokingham.gov.uk/libraries or <https://wp.me/p5mHbU-2ZZ>

- **The Wokingham Job Support Centre** offers free job search support every week day from 10am to 2pm at The Cornerstone, Norreys Avenue, Wokingham RG40 1UE. Confidential support and advice is available as well as interview training and other workshops.

Tel. 0118 977 0517 or email jobsearch@wjsc.org.uk www.wjsc.org.uk

The Centre has provided support to a number of Finchampstead residents and the Parish Council has awarded a grant to the Centre for the last 3 years to allow this valuable service to continue.

More about litter in Finchampstead

We reported some litter facts in our December newsletter. Sadly as expected there was even more litter on our roadsides in January - our Litter Warden collected 103 sacks compared with 75 sacks in December. This makes a total of 885 sacks since April 2017. Lets hope we see less litter in February.

Our '**Adopt a Street**' volunteers do a great job keeping their areas clean and tidy and we are very grateful to them for their efforts. If you would like to get involved we can supply the equipment, including bags which you can put out with your household blue bags for collection by Wokingham Borough Council. If you join the scheme there is no commitment to regular litter picking - just do what you can when you can. Every little helps. Please get in touch if you would like to help.

The **Annual Community Litter Pick** will be taking place over a weekend or weekends in March. There will be teams working in different parts of the Parish and more hands are always welcome to help keep our Parish clean and tidy. The event is organised by the Finchampstead Neighbourhood Action Group and we will provide more details in due course.

We are planning a further **tidy up session at the California Crossroads** on the morning of 15 April 2018. Tasks will involve litter picking as well as weeding, sweeping, pruning and even a bit of painting. Do come and join volunteers from the Parish Council and local businesses and help tidy up this important area. More details will follow nearer the time.



Rural Crime - an update from Thames Valley Police

Reports of rural crime in the Thames Valley have increased by 5% between October 2016 and September 2017. Rural crime can take many different forms including burglary, theft, criminal damage, fly tipping, poaching and hare coursing. Thames Valley Police relies on information from the local community and incidents are investigated by local policing teams who have dedicated Rural Crime and Wildlife Officers based across the Thames Valley. The Police continue to work with local residents, businesses and partners to raise awareness of crime prevention techniques while developing problem solving solutions to tackle rural crime.

You can reduce the risk of becoming a victim of rural crime by taking a few simple steps including keeping the boundaries of your land and property well maintained and secure, fitting strong locks to sheds, garages and outbuildings, and security marking your tools and equipment.

For more crime prevention advice visit
www.thamesvalley.police.uk/protecting-your-business/rural-crime/

You can receive the latest rural crime news from Thames Valley Police and their partners by signing up to CountryWatch at www.thamesvalleycountrywatch.co.uk/

Healthwatch Wokingham

Healthwatch is an independent community led organisation created to gather and represent the views of Wokingham Borough residents on health and social care services.

You can report your experience of health and care services - good or bad - to Healthwatch, and help improve the services for your community. Healthwatch tells the service providers and those who commission these services about your experiences, and holds them to account for any poor service.

Healthwatch represents the views of people who use the services, carers and the public on the Wokingham Health and Wellbeing Board, a multi disciplinary group set up to carry out the functions of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

Visit www.healthwatchwokingham.co.uk for more information

Contact Healthwatch on 0118 4181418 or email enquiries@healthwatchwokingham.co.uk

Healthwatch will have a **Community Pop Up on Saturday 17 February** from 10am to 2pm in Wokingham Town Centre. This is an opportunity to meet the team and share your experiences of health and social care services in the Borough.

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

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