



ARBORFIELD GARRISON STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT LOCATION (SDL)

Legal and General are now progressing with plans for the southern part of the SDL which lies within Finchampstead Parish. We expect to see plans for the first phase of 150 - 200 homes, including affordable homes, later this year.

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/

The Arborfield Leisure Centre, on the site of the old Garrison gym in Sheerlands Road, features a large sports hall, climbing wall, a floodlit 3G football pitch, three floodlit tennis courts, three floodlit netball courts, and changing facilities. Members of the public can now hire out the outdoor facilities throughout the day, and will be able to use the indoor facilities from 1 May 2018. The facilities available to the public during the day are separate from those being used by the adjacent Bohunt School. For more information email sport@wokingham.gov.uk

Local events and information

- **Annual Gathering - 7 March 2018, 7.30pm at the FBC Centre.**
Parish residents and representatives from local businesses and those we work with are invited to come and 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 is being forwarded with this newsletter and we look forward to seeing many of you on 7 March.
- **Community Litter Pick - 18 March 2018**
The date of the annual litter pick has now been confirmed and all are welcome to take part in the event to help keep our lovely Parish clean and tidy. There will be teams working in different parts of the Parish and more hands are always welcome. The event is organised by the Finchampstead Neighbourhood Action Group with support from Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) - contact Richard Rampton on 0118 973 3509 or email richard.rampton@finchampstead-pc.gov.uk to find out how you can get involved.
- **Adopt a Street**
We are really grateful for the efforts of our volunteers who litter pick in their area and would welcome more volunteers. We can provide litter pickers and bags, and the bags of waste will be collected by Wokingham Borough Council with your usual collection. There is no regular commitment - just do what you can when you can - every little helps. If you would like to get involved please get in touch.
- **Defibrillator training: 27 March 2018**
There are now 5 community accessible defibrillators in the Parish - all provided by the Parish Council. A training / awareness session has been arranged for 27 March at 7pm at the California Ratepayers Hall and will be run by Heartstart Swallowfield. The session is free of charge and all are welcome - it would be helpful if you would let us know if you plan on attending but there will be plenty of room so do just turn up if you wish.
- **California Crossroads - 22 April 2018**
We will be holding our 6th tidy up session up at the crossroads on 22 April from 9.30am. More details to follow - we would welcome help with litter picking, weeding, sweeping, painting and other tasks. We understand from WBC that the railings on the traffic islands which were damaged in November should be fixed within the next two weeks.



Local development

We circulated an information item with our December 2017 e newsletter which we hope helped to explain the current position and the challenges around local housing development. If any of you missed this please let us know and we will be happy to send the information on. We expect to be able to provide an update within the next month.

Rubbish and recycling

If everyone recycles one more item a day it can make a big difference - saving money but also helping the environment. You will all have received information about the recent changes to what you can put in your black box - which now includes plastic pots, tubs and trays, food and drink cartons, foil and foil trays - as well as the paper, card, tins, can and plastic bottles which you have already been able to recycle.

Bottle banks are available at the Avery Car Park near the California Crossroads and at the California Country Park.

It would be great to have another bottle bank in Finchampstead - ideally in the south of the Parish. If you have any suggestions for where this could be located do let us know.

The **blue bags** for 2018/19 are currently being delivered - you can find out when you will receive yours by visiting www.wokingham.gov.uk and searching for blue bin bags.

For more information about waste and recycling visit www.wokingham.gov.uk and search for rubbish and recycling.

Wokingham United Charities

Wokingham United Charities provide modern almshouse accommodation at Westende for elderly people in need and provide relief in need grants for organisations and individuals to tackle disadvantage in the community.

WUC has launched four new grant programmes:

- Grants to support the 3 most deprived communities (Norreys Estate, Gorse Ride Estate and the St Sebastians area). Applications with strong community involvement are particularly welcome.
- Grants for schools to improve the opportunities available for disadvantaged children and families. This could be equipment for activities, trips and residential breaks.
- Grants to address isolation and loneliness amongst the elderly and other vulnerable groups in our community.
- Grants to help prevent homelessness - providing support to people who are at risk of becoming homeless.

With the exception of the School programme, any not for profit organisation can apply for a grant. Priority will be given to joint applications from locally based groups, working together to deliver successful and sustainable approaches to tackling disadvantage.

Grants are also available for individuals in need, provided the applications are completed and referred to WUC via a recognised professional agency.

For further information or to apply visit www.wokinghamunitedcharities.org.uk/grants or contact Kay Tott, Grants Manager on kay.tott@wokinghamunitedcharities.org.uk or telephone 07598 583513



Crime Prevention advice from Thames Valley Police

There has been an increase in burglaries in the local area - you can greatly reduce your risk of burglary by taking a few simple security measures to help make your property less attractive to thieves

Please telephone the 101 number if you see anyone acting suspiciously. If you think a crime is being committed ring 999.

Tips to keep your home safe and secure

- keep front and back doors locked, even when you're at home
- install a burglar alarm with a visible alarm box
- fit a door chain and spyhole for extra security
- keep all valuables and keys out of sight and out of reach of doors and windows
- store high value items in a hidden safe
- mark your belongings and register them for free with [Immobilise](#)
- fit energy efficient security lighting
- don't leave spare keys in obvious places such as under doormats or plant pots
- keep items that could be used to break into your property such as ladders, tools and wheelie bins stored safely away
- lock side gates to prevent easy access to the rear of the property and check fencing regularly to keep it in good repair
- use pea shingle on driveways or under windows, it crunches loudly when stepped on
- trim overgrown hedges and plants to remove hiding places and improve surveillance
- use a timer switch to make your house look occupied, even when it isn't
- consider joining or forming a Neighbourhood Watch scheme if you are not already in one
- ring the police if you hear the sound of glass smashing - it maybe someone breaking into your neighbours house

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

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