



ARBORFIELD GARRISON STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT LOCATION (SDL)

Legal and General are now progressing with plans for the southern part of the SDL - land at Hogwood Farm, Finchampstead. There will be a public exhibition on the proposals for the first phase of the development on Wednesday 28 March 2018 from 3pm to 7pm at the Arborfield Green Community Centre, Sheerlands Road, Arborfield RG2 9ND.

When complete the Hogwood Farm development will have 1500 homes, including affordable homes. There will also be community facilities including a new primary school and public open space, employment opportunities and highway improvements.

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/

Council news

- **Annual Gathering**

It was great to see so many residents and representatives from local organisations at the Annual Gathering on 7 March - thank you all for your interest in and support for our work.

- **Councillor vacancy**

We were pleased to welcome Graham Jukes OBE to the Council in February. We now have a further vacancy and would welcome applications for the role. Please contact the Clerk for more information.

Local events and information

- **Defibrillator training**

Our training / awareness session on 27 March 2018 is now fully booked but we plan to run additional courses in future - if you are interested in attending course please let us know. Heartstart Swallowfield is delivering our course and is also running a course in Wokingham on 24 April 2018 - visit www.heartstartswallowfield.co.uk for more information.

- **Avery Corner Car Park**

We have finally agreed a scheme to improve the layout of the car park, including a new school drop off zone to ease congestion at busy times. The changes will be implemented during the Easter holiday and the car park will be closed for 2-3 days to allow the work to take place.

- **California Crossroads**

Unfortunately the yellow railings have still not been repaired - we have been advised that the work will now take place in the Easter holiday.

You may have noticed the new sign at the parking bays in front of the shops at the Crossroads, stating there is free parking in the bays for a maximum of 2 hours and that the disabled parking bay is for disabled badge holders only. This is linked to the introduction of Civil Parking Enforcement and the parking regulations here are very likely to be monitored and enforced. We are liaising with Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) to see if the parking here can be reduced to a maximum one hour stay as we believe this is more appropriate.

Our next tidy up session at the Crossroads is on Sunday 22 April 2018 from 9.30am. Do come and join us for all or part of the session. There will be plenty of tasks for everyone!



More local events and information

- **Gorse Ride Estate Regeneration**

A public consultation event on proposals for the first phase of the regeneration of the Estate will take place on Friday 23 March 2018 from 4pm to 7.30pm at St Mary & St John's Parish Centre, Vicarage Close, Finchampstead RG40 4JW. The first phase covers Cockayne Court and part of Arnett Avenue and the proposals are for 46 new dwellings including 10 houses and 36 flats.

- **Finchampstead Neighbourhood Action Group**

The next meeting of the NAG is on Tuesday 10 April 2018 at 7.30pm at the FBC Centre. Residents are welcome to attend.

- **Finchampstead Library activities**

Easter activities at the Library include Lego creations on 5 April, 'Amazing animals' arts and crafts activities on 6 April, Story time on 7 April and Rhymetime on 13 April.

Telephone 0118 908 8176 for more information or visit <https://wp.me/p5mHbU-33Z>

There is also a Family Face Painting session at the Library on Monday 9 April. Telephone 0118 974 3797 or email lifelonglearning@wokingham.gov.uk for more information.

- **Broadmoor Hospital Siren**

The West London Mental Health Trust has reviewed the 13 sirens located within a 7 mile radius of Broadmoor Hospital and has decided to decommission a number of the sirens in view of the greatly improved security at the Hospital. This includes the Finchampstead siren located off Longwater Road, which has not been operational for a number of years.

The 65 year old siren tower was removed earlier this month. We have asked if we can have the siren as a memento and are waiting to hear if this is possible.

Road Safety in Finchampstead

We spend a considerable amount of time on road safety matters and have produced an information sheet summarising our activities. This is being sent out with this newsletter and we hope you find it of interest. Additional volunteers to help with our activities are always welcome - if you would like to find out more please get in touch.

Pavements and road signs

Many of our pavements and road signs are suffering from encroaching vegetation, we know many pavements have leaf litter or other debris on them and we also know that many road signs are in need of a clean. All of these matters are the responsibility of WBC - we have raised this with the Council and to help with resolving the issue we will be doing a survey of the Parish to identify the problem areas and report this to WBC.

Please remember that if your property is next to a pavement or road it is your responsibility to make sure that your shrubs and trees do not encroach on the pavement or road, or obscure road signs or street lights. Please check your boundary and do some pruning if required.

Grates and gullies

Road gullies can get blocked, causing flooding and other problems. Please become a 'grate mate' and keep an eye on any gullies and grates close to your property. If it is safe to do so you can remove any debris from the gully grate, but please do not try to clear the gully yourself - report it to Wokingham Borough Council on 0118 974600 or at www.wokingham.gov.uk



Wokingham District Veteran Tree Association

Wokingham District Veteran Tree Association is a voluntary organisation that surveys and records veteran and notable trees across the borough as well as working as local Tree Wardens. Their objectives are to promote the protection and management of significant trees, to increase public awareness of the environmental and historical importance of these trees and to improve the environment through the care of trees in general.

The Association covers all the parishes and towns within Wokingham Borough and to date their survey has recorded and mapped over 7500 veteran and notable trees. In 2017 they celebrated their 10th Anniversary and published an Anniversary Report which includes a description of the notable trees in each of the seventeen towns and parishes as well as descriptions of their work and a summary of their findings to date.

The Woodland Trust have described WDVTA as ‘a brilliant example of how local groups can make a real impact for projects like the ancient tree inventory’. Ted Green, a founding member of the Ancient Tree Forum promotes the enlightened view that ancient and veteran trees should be regarded as historic living monuments. He describes the Association as a unique organisation in the UK that is doing valuable work for the borough.

Alison Griffin chairman of WDVTA said *“Surveying the veteran trees across the Borough has been a valuable activity. We have learned about our trees, history, land usage and biodiversity. Our data is used by residents and councils and has contributed to national records of significant trees. This is especially important at this time of unprecedented environmental pressure in Wokingham.”*

As well as the survey and Tree Warden activities WDVTA organises talks, training courses, walks and visits. The Association now has 240 members and welcomes more. Membership is free. Their survey of veteran trees has been completed in half of the parishes and towns of the Borough. WDVTA would also appreciate help to complete the remaining parishes and are looking for additional tree wardens across the borough.

The WDVTA website www.wdvta.org.uk has details of the survey and other projects. For further information contact chair@wdvta.org.uk The Anniversary Report is available from outlets listed on the website or by calling 0118 978 4013.

The information above has been provided by the WDVTA. The Parish Council has a representative on the organisation and contributed to the production of the Anniversary Report.

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

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