



ARBORFIELD GARRISON STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT LOCATION (SDL)

To date 6 phases of the development with a total of 835 dwellings have received reserved matters consent. This includes 179 dwellings in Finchampstead Parish.

Crest Nicholson is currently undertaking a public consultation on Parcel C2 where the proposals are for 104 one and two bed homes for private rental. Legal & General has submitted a reserved matters application (no. 181422) for the first phase of development of 178 dwellings on the Hogwood Farm site including market and affordable housing - all within Finchampstead Parish.

Crest Nicholson has recently submitted a reserved matters application (no. 181616) relating to proposals for the District Centre - with shops, a restaurant, community facilities and housing.

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/

Local information and events

- **Litter Warden**

Unfortunately our Litter Warden is still unwell and unable to work. He normally collects around 100 sacks of litter from our roadsides each month so you may well notice more litter around. If you would like to help keep your local area tidy you can join our Adopt a Street scheme - we can supply bags and litter pickers and any rubbish you collect can be put out with your normal blue bag collection. There is no commitment - volunteers can do as little or as much as they are able - it all helps. Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

- **California Country Park**

We are pleased to have been able to make a contribution to enable the boardwalk in the Park to be replaced. Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) has placed an order for the work and construction is due to start in mid July.

- **Greenways**

The new Greenway running from the FBC Centre to Arborfield Green continues to be well used. Lighting will be installed on the route by early September this year, and the link from Heather Close to the Greenway will be properly surfaced as will the link from the Greenway to the lakeside path within the California Country Park.

The second Greenway - running from the California Country Park to Nine Mile Ride - will be constructed this summer.

- **Moor Green Lakes**

The Moor Green Lakes car park on Lower Sandhurst Road will be extended during July to cater for the increasing number of visitors to this popular site. The Moor Green Lakes Group has raised funds for the project and the Parish Council has made a contribution.

You can find out more about the site at www.mglg.org.uk

Finchampstead Magazine

The July edition of the Magazine will be out shortly - it is a great way to keep in touch with local events and information as well as supporting local charities, organisations and businesses. To subscribe telephone 0118 9831009 or email richard@finchmag.co.uk Alternatively pick up a copy (only 50 pence) from the Co-op, Cresswells Garage, Park View Motors or the Barbers.



Local housing development

- **Gorse Ride Estate regeneration**

A planning application is expected shortly for the first phase of the regeneration, involving Cockayne Court and part of Arnett Avenue. 46 new dwellings including houses and flats will be provided.

In May 2018 WBC approved funds for phase two of the regeneration which covers the remainder of the Estate. Approximately 243 new homes will be provided over the next 8 years.

- **Other development proposals**

We circulated an information item on local housing development in December 2018, explaining why the Parish and other parts of Wokingham Borough are under such pressure for development. We also included information on some of the unexpected development proposals which have come forward in the Parish. A copy is available on our website or from the Parish Council Office. We will provide a full update in due course but in the interim the following may be of interest.

Land rear of Johnson Drive - application to build 25 homes was refused by WBC.

Land adjacent to Sand Martins Golf Club, Finchampstead Road - application to build up to 80 homes was refused by WBC.

Land south of Woodmoor - application to build 40 homes was withdrawn.

Local events and information

- **Finchampstead Library**

There are lots of activities for all ages and interests at the Library in the FBC Centre, Gorse Ride North, from Computer Workshops to Crochet Group, Learning with Lego to Puppet Crafts - and additional activities in school holiday periods. For more information visit www.wokingham.gov.uk/libraries/whats-on-in-our-libraries/

Please note that the Finchampstead Library will be closed on 11 July for essential work.

- **Finchampstead Archives**

The Finchampstead Society Local History Archive is open on the first Thursday of every month from 2pm to 4pm at the Finchampstead Library. Find out about the early history of Finchampstead, its people and buildings by browsing old maps and photographs. The next session is on Thursday 5 July. Enquiries to Wendy Graham on 0118 9736569 or email thegrahams2@btinternet.com

- **St James' Church Patronal Festival**

The Festival will be held from Friday 20 July to Sunday 22 July and will include a Flower Festival with a 'Fizz and Flowers' opening event, a choir concert and a summer buffet. On Sunday 22 July the Church Tower will be open and there will be various stalls and games as well as refreshments. For details please telephone the Church Office on 0118 9730133.

- **Fancy having some fun with flowers?**

Come along to one of the Finchampstead Flower Club meetings held at the California Ratepayers Hall on the fourth Monday of the month at 7.30 for 8pm. Meetings include either a practical workshop or a professional demonstration. For details of the July meeting please telephone Elisabeth on 0118 9892092.



More local events and information

- **Lunch time music at St Eligius Community Church, Arborfield Green**
These free concerts are now quarterly. The next event is a piano recital on Thursday 2 August at 12.30pm. If you wish to book lunch please contact Rita Le Var on 01252 372320 or email rita_le_var@ntlworld.com
- **Community Fun Day**
This will be held on Wednesday 8 August from 10am to 2pm at the FBC Centre playing fields. There will be lots of stalls with information and activities, and hopefully the odd fire engine or other emergency services vehicle. More information to follow.
- **First vehicle charging points in Finchampstead**
Cresswells Garage at the California Crossroads has installed two electric vehicle charging points. These are not connected yet but should be very soon - if you want to check before visiting please telephone Cresswells on 0118 9732201.
- **M4 Smart Motorway Scheme**
Highways England plan to improve the M4 between junction 3 at Hayes and junction 12 at Theale by upgrading it to a smart motorway. Work will start in summer 2018 and is expected to be completed in spring 2022. The first phase of work will be from junction 8/9 to junction 10.

There will be a public information event regarding the proposals at Sindlesham Court, Sindlesham, Wokingham RG41 5EA on Wednesday 11th July from 3pm - 8pm.

Recycling

In 2017/18 Wokingham Borough Council's contractors collected 72,000 tonnes of household waste and just under 40% of this was recycled waste. Another 40% is sent to an energy from waste plant, and the remainder is sent to landfill sites.

With the increased range of items you have been able to put in your recycling box since April this year, including plastic pots, tubs, trays, cartons and foil, this should help WBC reach its target of 50% recycling by 2020 - and importantly reduce the waste being sent to landfill sites.

Bottle banks are located at the Avery Corner Car Park near the California Crossroads and the California Country Park as well as at various locations outside the Parish such as at Tesco in Wokingham and the Pinewood Centre.

Many other items can be recycled - from batteries to ink cartridges, coffee capsules to textiles. You can find out more about what you can recycle and where at

www.wokingham.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling

From April 2019 WBC will be introducing food waste recycling - more information will follow nearer the time.

'**Re3grow**' compost is now available to purchase at the recycling centres in Longshot Lane, Bracknell and Smallmead, Island Road, Reading. This is a peat free compost made from recycled garden waste and is available at £3.50 for a 40 litre bag or 3 bags for £10.

Compost bins and water butts for use in your garden are available from www.getcomposting.com



With temperatures set to soar for the next few weeks South East Water has some hot tips to keep cool, keep hydrated and keep plants blooming – all while keeping a watchful eye on water use.

During a hot spell the average amount of water each person uses each day can increase by more than 50 per cent.

That can not only mean a slightly higher bill for customers, it puts pressure on our water network and the reserves of the natural resource we all rely on as more water is put into the system to meet demand.

Dr Simon Earl, Operations Director at South East Water, said: “While our reservoirs and underground water sources are in a good position as we start the summer season, we all need to be mindful of how much water we are using day-to-day, whatever the weather.

“There’s very simple things we can do during a hot period to limit the amount of extra water we use and make sure none is wasted.

“Of course, it’s essential to keep hydrated, so fill a covered jug and pop it in the fridge ready to make cool drinks. This means you don’t have to run the tap until it’s cold enough for a single serving.

“Children love a paddling pool in the garden, but keep it covered when not in use to reduce evaporation and keep it free from bugs and leaves, so it needs changing and topping up less often. When you’re done, encourage the kids to help with garden watering by filling the watering can with the leftover water – don’t throw it over the lawn, it won’t need the drenching and other plants will prefer benefit.

“Gardeners are already very good at keeping their veg patches and flower beds moist by using rainwater stored in water butts, but in hot weather it is tempting to use a hosepipe or sprinkler.

“A sprinkler can use up to 1,000 litres of drinking water in just one hour – that’s more than a family of four would use in a whole day. While most people can keep their garden blooming with a watering can, if you do need to use a sprinkler, put it on the lowest volume setting, if it has one, and only use it for very short periods early morning and late evening, when you will again lose less to evaporation. And also, don’t worry about the lawn going brown – it will soon recover as soon as we get the next round of good rainfall – with Wimbledon due to start soon that might not be far off.

“We don’t know how long the hot weather will last, so we all want to enjoy it while we can. We all just need to be aware of how and when we use our water – our greatest natural resource.”

For more tips on saving water all year round, go to <https://www.southeastwater.co.uk/my-water-supply/water-saving-tips>

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH OFFICE, FBC CENTRE, GORSE RIDE NORTH, FINCHAMPSTEAD RG40 4ES
Tel: 0118 908 8164 email: clerk@finchampstead-pc.gov.uk www.[finchampstead-pc.gov.uk](http://www.finchampstead-pc.gov.uk)



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