



Council news

- We have a vacancy on the Council. If you would like more information on the role of a Councillor and how you could get involved with our work for the local community please get in touch with the Clerk on 0118 9088164 or email clerk@finchampstead-pc.gov.uk

The closing date for applications is 19 December 2018 and we plan to meet candidates and co-opt to the vacancy on 17 January 2019.

- We are delighted that Councillor Steve Bowers has received a 'Roll of Honour' award from the Wokingham Borough Mayor. The Mayor introduced the awards this year to recognise community champions.

Local events and information

- **'California Cross' improvements consultation - 1, 3, 4 December**

A public consultation on proposals for major improvements to the California crossroads area will be held at the FBC Centre, Gorse Ride North RG40 4ES at the following times.

- Saturday 1 December from 8.30am to 12.30pm
- Monday 3 December from 2pm to 8pm
- Tuesday 4 December 9am to 1pm

Do drop in and have your say on the proposals. Alternatively you can complete the online survey by visiting www.wokingham.gov.uk and searching for 'California Cross'.

- **Coat Exchange event - 13 December**

If you are struggling to afford a winter coat for your child please come along to the Coat Exchange 'Pop-up' Event on 13 December from 10am to 11.30am at the Community House, 17 Billing Avenue, Finchampstead RG40 4JE.

Coats can be donated on the day or dropped off at the Community House in advance of the event. Contact Jennie on 07920 821919 to check opening times or for more information.

- **Finchampstead Archives - 6 December**

The Finchampstead Society Archive is open in the Library on the first Thursday of every month from 2pm to 4pm. Drop in and discover a wonderful collection of history, local interest stories, maps dating back centuries and a wealth of other information about Finchampstead.

- **Library activities**

Storytime with the Christmas Fairy - from the Enchanted Players Theatre Company - will be held on Friday 7 December from 11am to 11.30am. Please telephone the Library on 0118 9088176 to book a place.

There are lots of regular activities in the Library for both children and adults. For information visit www.wokingham.gov.uk/libraries or telephone 0118 9088176

If you are unable to get to a Library due to health, caring responsibilities or disability the **Home Library Service** can deliver books and audio items to your home. This is a free service. For more details telephone 0118 978 1368

- **Nativity on the Loose! - 15 December**

Information on this Outdoor Living Nativity will be circulated with this newsletter.



ARBORFIELD GARRISON STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT LOCATION (SDL)

To date around 200 new homes on the SDL are occupied, with permission granted for over 600 more dwellings. Work continues to progress on various parcels, with applications for approval for additional parcels coming forward regularly.

The first planning application submitted by Legal & General Homes for 178 new dwellings on Hogwood Farm has been approved and we expect to see work starting on site next 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-garrison/

'HOMES FOR THE FUTURE' CONSULTATION

Wokingham Borough Council has recently launched a public consultation on its Local Plan which will guide development in the borough in the years up to 2036.

The consultation asks where you think development should go and whether there are locations suitable for higher densities or taller buildings. There are also questions about land for new employment centres. You can also see all of the sites put forward for development as part of the 'call for sites' process and can make comments on these.

All households should have received a 'Homes for the Future' brochure and all of the information can be found at www.wokingham.gov.uk/localplanupdate The consultation runs to 15 February 2019 and WBC is holding a number of drop in events during this period including at St. Sebastians Memorial Hall, Nine Mile Ride RG40 3BA on 7 January from 7pm to 9pm and at Henry Street Garden Centre, Swallowfield Road, Arborfield RG2 9JY on 30 January from 7pm to 9pm.

LAND ADJACENT TO SAND MARTINS GOLF COURSE, FINCHAMPSTEAD ROAD

A planning application (no. 170970) submitted by Gladman Developments Ltd. proposing the construction of up to 80 homes on the land adjacent to Sand Martins Golf Course on the Finchampstead Road was refused by Wokingham Borough Council in April 2018.

Gladman Developments Ltd. has now appealed this decision and if you wish you can submit comments to the Planning Inspectorate on the proposals by emailing Robert.wordsworth@pins.gsi.gov.uk or writing to Robert Wordsworth, The Planning Inspectorate, Room 3/O Kite Wing, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Bristol BS1 6PN. You should use the reference "Appeal: APP/X0360/W/18/3213163 - Land to the west of Finchampstead Road and adjacent to Sand Martins Golf Club, Finchampstead North, Wokingham". Comments must be submitted by 5 December 2018.

Local residents have formed a 'Keep it Green' Group. For more information and advice on how to submit comments please visit www.facebook.com/groups/KeepItGreenFinchNorth

The Parish Council objected to the planning application and will be submitting detailed comments in relation to the appeal.

GORSE RIDE ESTATE REGENERATION

Plans for the first phase of the regeneration were approved in October 2018. This involves the construction of 46 new dwellings following the demolition of Cockayne Court and a number of properties in Arnett Avenue. Demolition work is due to start soon.



PARISH COUNCIL GRANTS AND DONATIONS

Each year the Parish Council invites applications from local organisations for support towards specific projects and / or running costs. Applications must demonstrate that the grant will bring significant benefits to the Parish and / or its residents.

The Council has recently considered the applications received and has awarded a total of £12,000 in grants to:

- ARC Youth Counselling
- Berkshire Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre
- Citizens Advice Bureau
- 2nd Finchampstead Scout Group
- Home Start Wokingham
- Me2 Club
- School Days by First Days
- Wokingham Job Support Centre
- Wokingham Poppy Appeal
- Wokingham Volunteer Centre

Donations of a total of £2200 have been made to our important community facilities including the **California Ratepayers Hall** and the **Memorial Hall**, and towards the maintenance of the **St. James's Churchyard**.

We have also provided a donation to **Nine Mile Ride Primary School, Gorse Ride Infants and Junior Schools** and **Finchampstead Primary School** specifically to allow all pupils to participate in extra curricular activities both on and off site. These donations total £6736.

A donation of £4000 has been made to the **Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership** in recognition of the importance of the Valley for outdoor recreation and relaxation for residents, for wildlife and as a local landscape feature.

Community Transport

The Council also supports the provision of community transport and has provided a grant of £3500 to Keep Mobile as well as a total of £500 in grants to the Finchampstead Community Trips Group to support its two weekly trips and to the Finchampstead Womens' Group to cover transport costs for its Christmas pantomime trip.

Future grants policy

We intend to continue to provide grants and to make donations but are currently reviewing our policy on this area of work. We will cover this in a future newsletter so that all groups and organisations are aware of any changes to the criteria and application process.

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

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