



## Council news

- **Community Litter Pick**

What an amazing turn out - over 380 volunteers took part in the Finchampstead Community Litter Pick on 24 March. More than 200 sacks of litter and recycling were collected - along with some odd items including windscreens, playing cards and even a telescopic light! Thank you to everyone who took part, helping to keep our Parish clean and tidy. It's not too early to sign up for next year - just get in touch and we will contact you with details nearer the time.

- **Adopt a Street**

Please get in touch if you would like to 'adopt your street'. We now have over 30 volunteers helping to keep their local area clean and tidy. There is no commitment - volunteers do as much or as little as they wish - it all helps. We can provide a litter picker, bags and a hi vis tabard, and any waste collected can be put out with your own blue bags of refuse.

If you have a passion for community engagement and keeping public spaces clean you may be interested in the Keep Britain Tidy **#Litterheroes Ambassadors** scheme. For more information visit <https://www.KeepBritainTidy.org/litterheroes-ambassador-programme>

- **Litter Wardens**

Our two part time Wardens are out and about working to help keep the Parish clean - do give them a wave if you see them. Together they have collected over 120 sacks of litter since January. The work of our Wardens adds to the work that the Borough Council does to keep our roadsides clean. Not forgetting our Adopt a Street volunteers!

- **Your Community Needs you!!**

Any extreme weather conditions, for example storms, floods or snow, can overwhelm the local emergency services during the first 24 to 48 hours of the emergency. The Parish Council has developed a plan to work with the local emergency services in these situations - this is known as Finchampstead Emergency Response (FER). More volunteers are needed. If you would be willing to help your community during an emergency, visit <http://www.finchampstead-pc.gov.uk/fer/Overview.html> for more information or contact us at [fer@finchampstead-pc.gov.uk](mailto:fer@finchampstead-pc.gov.uk) or on 0118 9088164. Working as a team improves the benefit we can bring to the community and the team could be directly helping your friends or family.

- **Avery Corner Car Park school drop off zone**

The school drop off zone was introduced in the car park in 2018 to help ease pressure on the busy car park and it has been really successful. Our intention was that the drop off zone could be used for parking outside the times when it is needed for school drop off and pick up, and in school holidays.

Unfortunately Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) has now advised that the Traffic Regulation Order that covers the car park states that vehicles must be parked in a marked bay, and the drop off zone can only be used as a drop off point. Therefore anyone parking in the zone is liable to get a parking ticket. We are following this up with WBC and hope that the Regulations can be changed so that the zone can be used for parking in future.

- **Highway problems**

We continue to be concerned about overgrown and narrow footways or pavements and missing, dirty, damaged or hidden road signs. Many of the issues are down to WBC, but if your hedges, trees or other vegetation are near the highway it is your responsibility to make sure that they are not obscuring traffic signs or street lights, or growing over the pavement and causing an obstruction for pedestrians.

WBC has a new and improved reporting system for highway problems - you can report these and many other issues here <http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/index-of-report-it-services/>



## Local events and information

- **The Big Valley Ramble - 28 April**

The Blackwater Valley Countryside Trust's major walk of the year, the Big Valley Ramble, takes place again this year in some of Berkshire's finest English scenery. The route takes in the countryside connecting Arborfield and Swallowfield, in all its Spring glory.

Everything is taken care of, allowing participants to relax and enjoy the scenery around them and the company of their fellow walkers. And of course there's the wildlife and landscape - spring flowers in abundance, striking country houses, red kites in numbers, and rolling fields. Further details and a booking form are on the link below. Early booking is advised.

<http://www.bvct.org.uk/event/big-valley-ramble-bvr2019/>

- **Water network improvements - public exhibition 1 May**

South East Water is holding a drop in event at the FBC Centre on 1 May from 3.30pm to 7.30pm. The water company is planning to install more than 3 kilometers of water pipe in Finchampstead Road, Billing Avenue, Gorse Ride South and Nine Mile Ride so that the supply of top quality drinking water can be maintained. An old and unreliable water main in Nine Mile Ride will be replaced at the same time.

Work is due to start in July 2019 and Nine Mile Ride is expected to be closed for several months from mid September. You can find out more by attending the exhibition or visiting [www.corporate.southeastwater.co.uk/finchampstead](http://www.corporate.southeastwater.co.uk/finchampstead)

- **Food Hygiene training - 11 May**

CCB (Connecting Communities in Berkshire) are running this course on Saturday 11 May at St. James' Church Centre, Finchampstead. This is suitable for anyone who works or volunteers in a food environment occasionally. For example helping at cake sales, scout camps and church fetes. Booking is essential - please telephone 0118 9612000 or email [kate.meads@ccberks.org.uk](mailto:kate.meads@ccberks.org.uk)

- **Wokingham Walk - 12 May**

The fourth Wokingham Walk takes place on 12 May. This charity walk is organised by the Wokingham Society and has four routes of 5, 10, 15 or 20 miles, all starting and finishing in Wokingham Town Centre. The chosen charities this year are the Me2 Club and the First Days Childrens Charity. For more information visit [www.wokinghamwalk.co.uk](http://www.wokinghamwalk.co.uk)

## Library events

Regular activities for adults continue at Finchampstead Library including book group, computer workshops, crochet group and social bridge. All events are free. For more information please contact the Library on 0118 9088176 or visit [www.wokingham.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/libraries)

Children (and their parents) can enjoy **Rhymetime** or **Storytime** on Fridays from 11am to 11.30am. The sessions are free - just drop in.

**Elmer storytime** is on 3 May from 11am to 11.30am - celebrate Elmer Day with a story and colouring activity. A free drop in event for children aged 5 years and under.

Wokingham Libraries **Home Library Service** provides a free book delivery service including large print books and audio books for people who find it difficult to get to the library. This is for people who are housebound, have mobility issues or are caring for someone. For more information telephone 0118 9781368 or visit [www.wokingham.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/libraries)



## **ARBORFIELD GARRISON STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT LOCATION (SDL)**

Over 200 new homes on the SDL are now occupied, with permission granted for over 600 more homes. While all of the homes constructed and occupied to date are within the part of the development known as Arborfield Green, around 50 of these are actually in Finchampstead Parish. 1500 more homes will follow on Finchwood Park, the southern part of the development which is all within Finchampstead Parish.

We are disappointed that there will be no health care facilities on the development and that as a result all the new residents will need to use the existing surgeries at Finchampstead, Swallowfield and Shinfield. As well as putting pressure on the surgeries it will also mean more traffic on our roads. We are continuing to press for a review of this decision.

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/](http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/major-developments/arborfield-garrison/)

## **LAND ADJACENT TO SANDMARTINS GOLF COURSE, FINCHAMPSTEAD ROAD**

WBC refused permission for the development of up to 80 homes on this green field site (application 170970) and the developer, Gladman Land, has appealed against this decision. WBC Councillors, Parish Councillors and local residents from the 'Keep it Green' campaign spoke at the Public Inquiry to express their opposition to the scheme. The Inquiry ran for 3 days in February and was then adjourned with the second phase taking place in early April.

The same developer, Gladman Land, has submitted revised proposals (reference 190286) for 216 dwellings on land east of Finchampstead Road. Although the site is not within Finchampstead it is in the adjoining Parish of Wokingham Town. Finchampstead Parish Council has therefore been consulted and has submitted objections to the proposals. The Borough Council will decide whether to allow or refuse the application in due course.

## **LAND NORTH OF NINE MILE RIDE**

Wokingham Borough Council has refused permission for a proposed development of up to 118 homes on this site, with associated parking, landscaping and open space. The application number is 181685. The site lies close to the California Country Park. The Parish Council submitted objections to the development proposals.

## **LOCAL PLAN UPDATE**

Wokingham Borough Council continues to work on the update to the Local Plan which will shape the future of the Borough to 2036, guiding where and how growth will take place.

All of the sites put forward for potential development through the 'call for sites' are still being considered as part of the plan preparation process. This includes the larger sites at Twyford, Grazeley and Barkham Square. The recent news regarding Grazeley simply means that funding is available for resources to carry out investigations in to the site, it does not mean that the site has been selected for development.

The draft Plan will set out the Borough Council's preferred special strategy, including sites for development. A public consultation is due to take place this autumn.

For more information on the Local Plan Update please visit <http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/planning-policy/planning-policy-information/local-plan-update/>



## Local Support Organisations

- **CLASP** is a charity for adults with learning disabilities. Activities include a weekly **coffee shop drop in** where you can find information and support and meet friends and new people. This takes place every Tuesday from 10am to 12 noon at the Bradbury Centre, Rose Street, Wokingham RG40 1XS. **Learn my Way** is a course for adults with learning disabilities to help them improve their confidence in using a computer. Wednesday 15 May from 10am to 12 noon at Wokingham Library. Telephone 0118 9796364 or email [admin@partnershipboard.org.uk](mailto:admin@partnershipboard.org.uk) for more details.
- **Wokingham Cancer Support Network** has been established to support people with the disease and their family, carers and friends. The support offered includes direct peer to peer support, monthly group meet ups, an online chat facility and an information and signposting hub. For more information telephone 01344 304404, email [vickie.randall@involve.community](mailto:vickie.randall@involve.community) or visit [www.involve.community/cancer/](http://www.involve.community/cancer/)

## Volunteer opportunities

If you are interested in volunteering the Wokingham Volunteer Centre can provide lots of information on opportunities which may suit you. You can contact the Centre on 0118 9770749 or visit [www.volunteercentrewokingham.org.uk](http://www.volunteercentrewokingham.org.uk)

If you like the idea of volunteering in the countryside, nature reserves or country parks there are several opportunities locally. Work could include path or pond clearance, installing gates, litter picks, wildlife surveys, trail marking or even helping with IT or marketing.

- **Blackwater Valley**  
Telephone 01252 331353, email [blackwater.valley@hants.gov.uk](mailto:blackwater.valley@hants.gov.uk) or visit [www.blackwatervalleycountryside.wordpress.com](http://www.blackwatervalleycountryside.wordpress.com)
- **Moor Green Lakes**  
The Moor Green Lakes Group has regular work parties and welcomes volunteers. For information visit [www.mglg.org.uk](http://www.mglg.org.uk)
- **Finchampstead Ridges and Simons Wood**  
The Friends of Finchampstead Ridges and Simons Wood have regular work parties on these National Trust sites. For information contact David on 0118 9736086 or email [david@sdkimber.plus.com](mailto:david@sdkimber.plus.com)
- **Wokingham Borough Council countryside and country parks**  
Many tasks are Ranger led and no experience is necessary. For information email [countryside@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:countryside@wokingham.gov.uk) or visit <http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/countryside-parks-and-conservation/volunteering/>

## FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

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



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