



Summer Fetes

- **Finchampstead Village Fete - 29 June**

The annual fete will take place at the Memorial Park, The Village on Saturday 29 June from 1pm to 4pm. Something for all the family with games and stalls, BBQ and refreshments, prizes to be won and more. Telephone the St. James' Church Office on 0118 9730133 for more information.

Please look out for the Parish Council stall and come and say hello. We will have information on the Finchampstead Neighbourhood Development Plan, Finchampstead Emergency Response and other activities.

- **Gorse Ride Schools Summer Fayre - 22 June**

The Fayre runs from 11am to 2pm. For information call 0118 973 2666

- **Oak Tree Day Nursery Summer Fete - 22 June**

This Fete has a theme of 'a day at the beach' and will run from 11am to 2pm. For information call 0118 973 3231



FINCHAMPSTEAD NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN (FNDP)

Work to create the NDP is now fully underway. Over the next 2 years the project team, mandated by the Parish Council but led and staffed by community volunteers, will produce an evidence-based plan to inform and influence how the Parish develops up to 2035. The plan matters because it will form part of Wokingham Borough Council's new development plan and it will have to be taken into account when planning applications are considered at all stages of the planning approval process.

The idea of the plan, as stated in the draft vision statement, is not to resist all change. Rather, the vision "is to embrace the need for change and to meet the expanding need of a growing population whilst protecting those important things that have attracted generations of people to choose Finchampstead as a place to live and bring up their families."

Local people will be consulted in a number of ways to gather views about local needs and priorities, starting in the autumn with a questionnaire survey. The planning team really want to hear your views and encourage everyone to contribute (email: ndp@finchampstead-pc.gov.uk; for more information visit <http://www.finchampstead-pc.gov.uk>).

The plan will focus on issues such as housing, green spaces, social and economic needs, heritage and transport. When completed it will be submitted for approval by Finchampstead Parish Council, Wokingham Borough Council and the Independent Examiner. It will also need to be approved by local people in a local referendum as the final endorsement.

This is an important piece of work for our Parish. We will report on its progress regularly. Please get involved in developing your plan for your neighbourhood!



Arborfield Garrison Strategic Development Location (SDL)

The Legal & General Homes Visitor Centre is now open at Finchwood Park, located on Sheerlands Road (just off Reading Road, A327), Finchampstead RG40 4QY. The first homes are expected to be available from September or October 2019.

There will be a Community Forum on 25 June at the Arborfield Green Community Centre, Sheerlands Road, Arborfield RG2 9ND from 7pm to 9pm. All are welcome to attend to hear the latest news on the development.

Main construction works on the Arborfield Cross Relief Road are due to start later this month.

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/

Land at the rear of 6 Johnson Drive

In our last newsletter we mentioned the Appeal against Wokingham Borough Council's refusal of Application 172230 for a proposed development of 25 homes. The Public Enquiry was due to start on 14 May but has been deferred until later this year.

Land adjacent to Sandmartins Golf Course, Finchampstead Road

The Appeals by Gladman Land Ltd against the refusal of permission for up to 80 dwellings on this site, and for a change of use of land on the opposite side of the road to Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space (SANG) have both been dismissed by the Planning Inspectorate.

This is a great result for Finchampstead and thanks are due to the 'Keep It Green' Group who effectively campaigned against the proposals, and to all those involved in opposing the proposals at the various stages of the planning process, including the Borough and Parish Councils.

Gorse Ride regeneration

Following the public exhibitions held in May the plans for the second phase of the development are being refined and a planning application is due to be submitted this summer.

California Country Park improvements

If you have visited the Park recently you will have seen the improvements to the car park taking shape. The car park has been significantly extended and bays are now marked out allowing best use of the space available.

Parking charges do apply, with all income going towards the maintenance of the Park. You can get a season ticket if you are regular visitor. Visit www.wokingham.gov.uk and search for California Country Park.

Once the new car park is complete the current parking area by the café will be closed to vehicles and this area will be improved to make it a pleasant space for visitors. A canopy is being installed around the café to allow more seating outside the building.

The greenway link from the Park to Nine Mile Ride is due to be completed very soon, and we expect to see signs installed on the greenways later this year. This will include fingerposts, way markers and maps.



Priority services for the vulnerable and those with special needs

Many utility companies offer the opportunity to sign up to a Priority Services Register. Some examples are given below but other companies may offer similar services.

Thames Water

Thames Water offers a range of free services for customers who need additional assistance. This can include:

- If you have mobility problems - if the water supply is going to be off for a significant time help can be offered to get water from a standpipe, or a supply of bottled water.
- If you use a dialysis machine at home.
- If you need help to read your bills and letters or if you are deaf.
- If you would like a friend, relative or carer to deal with your bills.
- A password service to keep you safe and secure when answering your door.

Telephone 0800 0093652 or email ecs@thameswater.co.uk

Scottish and Southern Electricity

SSE offer the option to sign up to its Priority Services Register, providing extra support to customers who need it. This can include:

- A knock and wait service, giving you more time to answer the door, and a password scheme so you can identify who is at the door.
- Bills and communications in adapted formats such as large print, braille and audio.
- Additional services if English is not your primary language, or if you use Sign Language.
- Priority help in the event of a power cut if you rely on electricity for medical equipment.

For more information or to arrange extra support or services call the Careline on 0800 622838 or email careline@sse.com

British Gas

If you or someone in your family needs additional services, such as different bill formats like Braille, or advance warning when there's a planned interruption of supply then you can join the Priority Services Register.

You can register if you or someone in your household is of pensionable age, disabled, has a long term illness or if there are children under 5. British Gas also recognise that people can be vulnerable because of life changing events such as bereavement, relationship breakdown, job loss, recovery from hospital treatment or living independently for the first time. If you would like to join the register for any of these reasons then please get in touch.

Telephone 0800 072 8625, or 0800 294 8604 if you're a Pay As You Go customer.

South East Water

SE Water has a draft Vulnerability Strategy and has a Priority Services Register you can sign up to if you need extra help. Visit www.southeastwater.co.uk for details.



Food Waste recycling update

The Borough Council's first month of food waste recycling was a huge success, with residents collecting 383 tonnes of leftover food. Each household recycled an average of six kilos.

As a result of local people's efforts and enthusiasm for the new scheme more than 640 tonnes of polluting greenhouse gases have been prevented from entering the atmosphere through landfill.

By mid June the food waste collected in April had become more than 100 tonnes of compost, hundreds of litres of natural fertiliser for agricultural use as well as tonnes of harvested biogas, used as a source of renewable energy for homes and businesses.

For more information about where you can get new caddies, liners and to see waste collection dates visit www.wokingham.gov.uk and search for food waste.

Library news

Wokingham libraries are pleased to announce that they have been working in partnership with Relax Kids Wokingham, one of the leading experts in child relaxation training, classes and resources, to create booklists for parents of primary aged children to help support their emotional needs, mental health and physical wellbeing.

To find out more please visit <http://news.wokingham.gov.uk/news/wokingham-libraries-helping-to-support-the-emotional-needs-of-local-children/>

The **Summer Reading Challenge 2019** will be called Space Chase, an out-of-this-world adventure inspired by the 50th anniversary of the first moon landing. Children can sign up to the free challenge at any Library from 1 July to 1 September. Just read six library books and collect a poster and sticker as you go.

There is also a **Teen Reading Challenge** - borrow 6 books across the summer holidays and if you complete the challenge you will be entered in to a prize draw for some fantastic book related prizes.

Activities for adults continue at Finchampstead Library - including book group, free computer workshops, crochet group, social bridge and other sessions.

Family learning activities will be running throughout the summer as well as regular activities such as Rhymetime and Storytime. There are also bookable activities for children including a 'Handwriting Zoo' on 2 August and 'Space Chase with Fred in the Shed' on 9 August.

Contact the Finchampstead Library on 0118 908 8176 for more details.

Volunteer opportunities

There are lots of opportunities for volunteering locally. Contact the Wokingham Volunteer Centre on 0118 9770749 or visit www.wokinghamvolunteercentre.org.uk

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



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