



## Local events and information

- **Annual Gathering 11 March at 7pm**

All of our residents and those who work in the Parish or with the Parish Council are invited to our Annual Gathering on 11 March at the FBC Centre. The event will include presentations on our work over the last year and some of our plans for the future, and an update on the Finchampstead Neighbourhood Development Plan.

There will be an opportunity to chat to the Parish Councillors over refreshments at the end of the meeting.

- **National Nest Box Week 14 - 21 February**

If you enjoyed the Big Garden Birdwatch in January why not think about building or buying a nest box for your garden to create safe homes for the birds. Visit [www.nestboxweek.com](http://www.nestboxweek.com)

- **California Country Park**

Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) has granted permission for the construction of a new block of toilets adjacent to the café in the Park. This will be a welcome addition to the facilities and should be complete by the summer.

- **Leopard 3B service to Bracknell**

The Leopard 3B service between Arborfield and Bracknell is no longer running. In the two years it has been in operation the number of people using the service has been very low and it is no longer viable to run the service.

From Monday 3 February the Leopard 3 service will still run every 20 minutes between Reading, Shinfield and Arborfield, with one journey an hour continuing to Wokingham.

For more information on local bus services please visit [www.reading-buses.co.uk](http://www.reading-buses.co.uk)

- **Wokingham Community Directory**

WBC has developed a community directory where you can search for a wide range of support and activities for children, families or adults. For example adults could look up topics in you local area from leisure and learning activities to transport services, community organisations or care homes. Visit [www.wokingham.gov.uk](http://www.wokingham.gov.uk) and search for 'community directory'

## Litter and waste

- **Blue bags are on their way**

Blue bags are being distributed over the next 5 weeks with each household receiving 80 bags in two rolls of 40. Waste collections will continue on a weekly basis in the coming year. To find out when you will receive your bags visit [www.wokingham.gov.uk](http://www.wokingham.gov.uk)

- **Community Litter Pick**

The Finchampstead Community Litter Pick will take place on Sunday 29 March. If you would like to get involved and haven't heard from us yet please get in touch.

- **Access to recycling centres**

A reminder that when you visit the tip you now need to take a document proving you live in Wokingham Borough - such as a driving licence, utility bill, bank statement or photocard bus pass. The windscreen stickers are no longer accepted.

Some of you may use the Hartley Wintney recycling centre but note there are plans to restrict access to Hampshire residents only - so do check before you visit.



## Consultation on the Wokingham Borough Council draft Local Plan

All homes will be receiving a 'Right Homes Rights Places' leaflet soon, seeking your views on the draft Local Plan which will be the blueprint for development in Wokingham Borough in the years ahead to 2036.

The Plan sets out where and how development can take place. The borough council believes the draft Plan would provide the best protection possible for the countryside and the environment while providing homes that are genuinely affordable, sustainable and supported by massive investment in facilities and infrastructure.

The focus for development proposed by the draft Plan is a new Garden Town at Grazeley, providing 15,000 dwellings.

Many sites in Finchampstead were put forward for potential development by land owners, developers and others. The draft Plan recommends 3 small sites for development in our Parish - at Tintagel Farm, 166 Nine Mile Ride and Jovike on the Lower Wokingham Road.

155 new homes are proposed on the Reading Football Club Training Ground at Hogwood which is in Barkham Parish but close to Finchampstead.

The consultation has been launched this week and runs to 20 March 2020. All the background information and the survey can be found at [www.wokingham.gov.uk](http://www.wokingham.gov.uk) Search for 'local plan update' or 'consultations'

The Parish Council will be submitting comments on the draft Local Plan.

## Local development

### • **Sand Martins Golf Club**

Following a public consultation in 2019 the Golf Club has submitted a planning application for the development of new facilities including guest accommodation, a new restaurant and function suite, a private members health club and spa and improvements to the golf club house. The golf course itself will not change. For more information and to put forward comments visit [www.wokingham.gov.uk](http://www.wokingham.gov.uk) and search for application ref 193394.

## Arborfield Garrison Strategic Development Location (SDL)

Work on the development at Arborfield Green and Finchwood Park continues and we will keep you updated on progress.

The new roads in the Arborfield Green development which lie in Finchampstead Parish are named after poets and authors including Chaucer Grove and Orwell Drive, and traditional crafts including Weaver Avenue and Fletcher Grove.

The names of the roads on Finchwood Park are not confirmed, but we think will be on a rural theme.

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/)

You can also sign up for a regular newsletter - visit [www.wokingham.gov.uk](http://www.wokingham.gov.uk) and search for 'major developments'.



## The Friendship Alliance

Wokingham Borough Council is working in partnership with local charities on a new project to promote friendship and reduce the impact of loneliness and isolation and they are looking for more volunteers to help.

The Friendship Alliance is a new initiative funded by the Better Care Fund that brings together four local non-profit organisations – the Link Visiting Scheme, Age UK Berkshire, Involve Community Services and the Wokingham Volunteer Centre - to develop new ideas to tackle loneliness and improve the mental and physical wellbeing of residents.

The Friendship Alliance is looking to establish a network of Friendship Champions and Chatty Cafes across the borough to join them in their fight against loneliness. The Alliance will also be looking to expand their existing services, so more volunteers are needed. Volunteers are invited to offer as much or as little time as they can to provide; transport, hosting a chatty café, being a Friendship Champion or befriending a local resident in need of some company.

The Link Visiting Scheme, one of the local support providers behind the Friendship Alliance, provide a personalised visiting and befriending service to lonely and isolated adults who live in the borough.

If you are feeling lonely and would like to find out more about what's on in your community and across the borough you can contact

Community Navigation on 01344 304404 or visit [www.involve.community](http://www.involve.community)

The Link Visiting Scheme on 0118 979 8019 or visit [www.linkvisiting.org](http://www.linkvisiting.org)

Age UK Berkshire on 0118 959 4242 or visit [www.ageuk.org.uk/berkshire/](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/berkshire/)

To find out more about volunteering, call the Wokingham Volunteer Centre on 0118 977 0749 or visit [wokinghamvolunteercentre.org.uk](http://wokinghamvolunteercentre.org.uk)

## “Learn, laugh, live”

Staying active, learning and having fun in your third age are the basic rules for anyone involved in the U3A. The Third Age is not about a particular age but more about people who are no longer in full time employment or raising a family.

Interest groups are formed by the members and cover a wide variety of topics and activities ranging from yoga to art, bridge, languages, politics, walking, dancing, photography and more.

Wokingham U3A has around 2000 members and over 90 groups. The group also holds monthly afternoon meetings on the third Tuesday of the month from September to May at 2.30pm at St. Paul's Parish Rooms in Wokingham. Visit [www.wokinghamu3a.org.uk](http://www.wokinghamu3a.org.uk)



## What we have been doing in 2020

### In January we have

- had a few meetings! Planning Committee, Finance & General Management Committee, Amenities Committee and Main Council plus the Finchampstead Emergency Response Working Group
- agreed our budget and precept for 2020/21
- met WBC to discuss potential cycle routes to Wokingham
- met the Wokingham District Veteran Tree Association and an arboricultural consultant and agreed the next stages with the Wellingtonia Avenue tree health project
- submitted a response to the Arborfield Green School consultation
- attended the WBC Local Plan Update briefing
- formed a Climate Change Working Group
- started planning the annual community litter pick and reminded local schools about the Keep Britain Tidy 'Great Big School Clean'
- seen the improvements to a section of byway 24 (Heath Ride) finally completed - funded by the Parish Council
- completed tree works on the allotment site
- planted trees at Burnmoor Meadow and the California Country Park
- finally confirmed that we have 21 miles of public rights of way, not 26 miles!

### This month

- we have a few more meetings! Planning Committee - 5 February; Roads & Road Safety Committee - 12 February; Main Council - 20 February plus meetings of the Communications and Consultation Working Group and the new Climate Change Working Group - dates to be confirmed.
- we will be preparing our presentations and sending out invitations for our Annual Gathering on 11 March

**We have many other activities underway or planned for this month  
and will tell you more in our March newsletter**

## **FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL**

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