



## Local events and information

- **Annual Gathering 11 March at 7pm - all are welcome**  
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 at 7pm. 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.
- **Afternoon Tea - 21 March**  
The St James' Churchyard Trust afternoon tea will be held on Saturday 21 March from 3pm to 4.30pm at St. James' Church Centre. The afternoon includes a raffle and interesting items to buy, all proceeds go to the upkeep of the churchyard.
- **Citizens Advice Bureau drop in event - 30 March**  
The CAB is holding a pop up advice event at the FBC Centre, Gorse Ride North, on 30 March from 10am to 1pm. Please drop in for useful advice and information.
- **First aid / defibrillator training - 30 April**  
We have arranged another training session through Heartstart Swallowfield which will take place at the Memorial Hall, The Village on 30 April at 7pm. If you can't make this date there will be another session on 9 November at the California Ratepayers Hall. Please contact us on 0118 908 8164 or [clerk@finchampstead-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@finchampstead-pc.gov.uk) to book a place.

## Sensory Needs Service (SNS)

Wokingham Borough Council's Sensory Needs Service (SNS) are reaching out to residents who are visually impaired, d/Deaf, hard of hearing and Deafblind to ensure they are aware of the valuable support their service can offer them.

The SNS team, which includes staff able to communicate in British sign language, is available to assess the needs of residents and provide help and support which, for the visually impaired, may include mobility training and help with kitchen skills, movement and orientation, as well as providing them with information about services within the community.

For further information about the Sensory Needs Service you can pop along to their drop in session on the last Friday of the month, 9am-1pm at the WBC offices at Shute End, Wokingham.

Alternatively you can contact them on 0118 974 6896 or mail [sensoryneeds@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:sensoryneeds@wokingham.gov.uk)

## Coronavirus information

For the latest advice and information please visit these sites that are regularly updated:

If you have questions about coronavirus, Covid-19, and health – such as what the symptoms are and how to stop it spreading - you should visit: [www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus)

If you have questions about the situation – such as the number of cases and where they are, and what countries are affected - you should visit: [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)



## Free trees available for communities and schools

The Woodland Trust has hundreds of thousands of free trees to give away to schools and communities. You need to apply now for trees which will be delivered in November 2020. For details visit [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities/](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities/)

## Lots about Litter and Waste!

- **Community Litter Pick - 29 March**

The Finchampstead Community Litter Pick will take place on Sunday 29 March. If you would like to get involved please get in touch.

The largest groups will be meeting at the FBC Centre at 9.30am and at the Greyhound on Longwater Road at 10am. Just turn up on the day or contact us for more information.

If you would like to get together with a friend or a few neighbours to litter pick your road or local area do get in touch - we can provide the kit and some useful advice.

- **Adopt a Street**

We are very grateful to our 30 'adopt a street' volunteers for the work they do to keep their local area clean and tidy. If you would like to get involved do get in touch - there is no commitment, volunteers do what they can when they can. We can provide a litter picker, hi vis vest and bags - which can be put out with your blue bags for collection.

- **California Crossroads tidy up - 26 April**

We will be having another tidy up session at the crossroads on Sunday 26 April from 9.30am to 12 noon. Do come along and help with litter picking, weeding, sweeping and other tasks to help this important area look better.

- **Blue bags are on their way**

Blue bags are now being distributed over 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)

You can purchase extra blue bags or brown garden waste bags at the Finchampstead Library. Food waste bags are also available - free of charge. Please call first to make sure they have bags in stock and to check opening hours. Telephone 0118 9088176.

- **Garden Waste collections**

Garden waste opt in applications for 2020-21 are now open. The annual fee for a 240 litre brown wheeled bin is still £60. Visit [www.wokingham.gov.uk](http://www.wokingham.gov.uk) or call 0118 9746000 for details.

Making use of the service means residents are able to have 6,240 litres of green material including grass cuttings, prunings, leaves and weeds collected from the kerbside each year – more than one large skip.

The materials are then sent to Oxfordshire to a composting facility, creating **re3grow compost**, which is now available to residents from the Re3's household waste recycling centres at £3.50 per 40 litre bag.

This is an example of the council making the most of a circular economy, collecting something from residents and turning it into a useful resource.



## Library news

As well as books and lots of local information Finchampstead Library continues to have many activities for adults and children - from crochet group and computer workshops to rhyme time and story time. Visit [www.wokingham.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/libraries) or telephone 0118 9088176 for more information

## Consultation on the Wokingham Borough Council draft Local Plan

All homes should have received a 'Right Homes Rights Places' leaflet, 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 consultation 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'.

This is your chance to have your say on where development takes place so please have a look and send in your comments.

## Local development

- A Public Inquiry starts on 10 March into the appeal by Gladman Developments Ltd. against the refusal of permission for its proposed development at Woodcraze, off the Finchampstead Road. Members of the public can attend the Inquiry - contact Wokingham Borough Council on 0118 9746000 for more information.

This proposed development site lies within Wokingham Town but as Finchampstead is an adjoining Parish we were consulted on - and submitted objections to - the proposals.

## Arborfield Garrison Strategic Development Location (SDL)

We have already submitted our comments on proposals for the management of the new **Arborfield Green Primary School** due to be opened in September 2021. The public consultation is now open - visit [www.wokingham.gov.uk](http://www.wokingham.gov.uk) and search for 'consultations' - comments need to be submitted by 13 March 2020.

The current proposal is for Farley Hill School to be moved to the new school - a proposal we support in principle but we do have concerns that a new school may take pupils from the Finchampstead schools and want to be sure that measures are put in place to ensure that there is no adverse impact on our local schools.

We are concerned that the **cycle / pedestrian route to Bohunt School** is missing a vital link - the final section of the route leading to the School - which means that school pupils are having to cycle across the Hazebrook Meadows open space. The open space is not meant to be cycled on, and the paths are only suitable for walkers. We are looking in to how the final link can be put in place as soon as possible.

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'.



## Some of our activities over the last month

### In February we have

- had a few more meetings! Planning Committee, Roads & Road Safety Committee and Main Council plus the Communications and Consultation Working Group and the first meeting of our Climate Change Working Group
- let two allotment plots (only one plot left now on our 98 plot site)
- attended the Public Inquiry relating to proposals for up to 118 dwellings on land north of Nine Mile Ride adjacent to the California Country Park and presented our objections to the proposals
- attended the Wokingham Borough / Parish Liaison Forum (our Councillor Roland Cundy is now the Vice Chair of the Forum)
- met to discuss our response to the WBC Local Plan consultation
- run 4 Speedwatch sessions - with the help of residents and volunteers from the Finchampstead Neighbourhood Action Group (Finch NAG)
- considered and commented on the Finchampstead Sports Club proposals for improvements to the changing rooms, bar and groundsman facilities
- completed improvements to the path leading from Briarwood to the FBC Centre playing fields
- seen Nine Mile Ride Primary School, Finchampstead CE Primary School and Waverley School all show commitment to the eco schools programme [www.eco-schools.org.uk](http://www.eco-schools.org.uk) following our encouragement and the welcome assistance from a local volunteer with eco schools experience
- replaced the old noticeboard at the Memorial Hall with a recycled plastic board

### In March

- we have a few more meetings! Planning Committee - 5 March; Finance and General Management Committee - 10 March, Main Council - 18 March and Rights of Way Committee on 25 March.
- our Annual Gathering for our residents and all those we work with is on 11 March at 7pm at the FBC Centre - everyone is welcome to join us to find out about what we have been up to over the past year and some of our plans for the coming year and to chat to Councillors.

**We have many other activities taking place this month**

**and will tell you more in our April newsletter**

## **FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL**

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