



We are continuing to share information and updates on the Coronavirus (Covid-19) situation through our website www.finchampstead-pc.gov.uk and Facebook Page.

Our website includes a direct link to the Wokingham Borough Council website www.wokingham.gov.uk with information about the virus, community support and how it is affecting the Borough Council's services. You can also sign up for the **Wokingham Borough Connect** regular e bulletin - the latest edition includes service updates plus information on lots of things from bike loans to keep fit classes.

Some impressive information about the local Community Response (1 May 2020)

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COVID-19 RESPONSE

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| 631 who have volunteered to help | Latest COVID-19 info direct to 40000 residents | More than 450 prescriptions delivered | 1849 food parcels delivered |
| 3500 calls to support vulnerable residents | More than 1000 families & 1500 vulnerable children helped | 100% of kerbside waste collections maintained | £27.5m passed on to support local businesses |
| More than 300,000 PPE items sourced | More than 100 staff redeployed to frontline COVID-19 response roles | 100% here for our residents | WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL |

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COMMUNITY RESPONSE

Citizens Advice Wokingham
Monday - Saturday, 9am - 5pm
0300 330 1189

If you or anyone you know needs help or support - whether food, a friendly chat or a prescription delivery - please get in touch with Community Response through

**Citizens Advice Wokingham on
0300 330 1189**

If you would like to volunteer to help in some way please visit www.wokinghamvolunteercentre.org.uk



Local information

- **Bottle banks**

Extra bottle banks have been installed in the Avery Corner Car Park on a temporary basis. They were filling up fast and this will reduce the number of times the Borough Council's contractors need to visit to empty them.

- **Fly tipping**

The Borough Council has just adopted a new Fly Tipping Strategy and is taking a hard line against those who do this. Fixed Penalty notices have been issued in relation to two recent fly tipping incidents in Finchampstead.

If you see an orange sticker on any fly tipping this means that the Borough Council is aware of it and is dealing with it. If not please report it at www.wokingham.gov.uk

If you use an independent waste removal company after a clear out, check they are licensed. If they fly-tip your rubbish, you are responsible.

- **Speeding**

Our Speed Watch sessions are on hold at the moment due to the restrictions placed by the Coronavirus situation. Of course there is less traffic on the road, but we have been disappointed to see and hear of drivers taking advantage of the situation and driving at excessive speeds.

Lots of people are out and about on walks and cycle rides at the moment, taking their daily exercise. Please take extra care when you are driving around the Parish.

- **Support our local businesses**

Some of our local shops and businesses providing key services are still open and we owe them all a big thank you for their work to support and provide for residents at this difficult time.

If you normally use a business - whether for decorating materials, plants or food - please look up their website or give them a ring. They may still be able to supply the goods - and your order will help keep their business going in these difficult times.

- **Potholes and road issues**

The Borough Council's contractors are still out and about filling pot holes, making improvements and keeping our roads safe. If you see any potholes or other problems please report them at www.wokingham.gov.uk

- **Litter and 'Adopt a Street'**

Much of the litter we see on our roadsides has been thrown out of cars, so with less cars on the road there should be less litter around. We hope so! However, our two Litter Wardens are still out and about doing what they can. We know that some of our Adopt a Street volunteers as well as other residents are doing a bit of litter picking while out for their daily exercise - thank you everyone.

At the moment our Office is closed so we are unable to provide equipment for new volunteers. If you would like to sign up please get in touch and we will contact you as soon as we can. There is no commitment, volunteers do as much as they can - it all helps.



VE Day anniversary

The Berkshire Records Office has launched its own World War I online exhibition titled 'Through their eyes'. It looks at life in Berkshire at the time and how Berkshire people coped and celebrated VE Day. You can see it here: <http://www.throughtheireyesww2.com>

Many libraries and museums are providing VE Day related information online. Why not visit the Reading Museum website as an example! <https://bit.ly/3c2tpUd>

There is lots of other local information held at the Records Office.
Visit <http://berkshirerecordoffice.org.uk/> to start exploring Berkshire's past.

Wokingham Community Hub

The Community Hub is providing **food, toiletries and essentials** to people who need them. They need items such as tinned fruit or veg, tinned soup, baked beans, cereal or porridge, pasta, rice, nappies and other baby supplies, food to meet special dietary requirements such as gluten free, biscuits, hand soap and dog and cat food.

Wellbeing goody bags are still needed with goodies and treats for older people or families, from sweets and puzzles to handcream. Please visit the Community Hub Facebook Page [@wokinghamcommunityhub](https://www.facebook.com/wokinghamcommunityhub) for information.

**Donations can be dropped off at St Crispin's Leisure Centre
between 9am and 3pm every Monday to Saturday**

Rainbows!



Rainbows have become a symbol of support for the NHS and you will have seen them spring up in windows, on fences and even pavements. You may have seen these examples on Nine Mile Ride and at the California Ratepayers Hall - there are lots more across the Parish.



The RHS is encouraging people to grow the colours of the rainbow in gardens, on balconies or in windows, providing brightly coloured blooms for all to see and to help lift spirits and brighten up people's days. Maybe you could encourage your neighbours to each grow different colours? Just remember to stay safe.

Every week the RHS is asking people to post images of their rainbow flowers on their Facebook Page [@rhscommunitygardening](https://www.facebook.com/rhscommunitygardening) They can be from your garden, or something you see on your daily walk.

This week we are on yellow, next week green then blue, indigo and violet and back to the beginning with red and orange!



Gardening and more

Allotments

We have had lots of enquiries about allotment plots recently. We don't have any plots available at the moment but we do have a waiting list - so if you are interested in getting a plot in future do get in touch and we can add you to the list.

Grow at home

The RHS has launched **Grow at Home** - a new initiative with gardening advice and inspiration to help everyone get growing and boost their wellbeing. It's especially great for people who aren't sure where to start. Each week the webpage will be updated with activities and advice for people, plus a few fun activities to try out with children. Visit www.rhs.org.uk



The RHS Campaign for School Gardening Facebook and Twitter pages have lots of activities that are great for keeping children busy, projects for families to do together, plus some fun weekly challenges for young people.

If you want some different inspiration to help children learning at home - such as getting artistic with drawing or creating a mini film **The Action Pack** is a creative and fun way for children to learn about recycling and protecting the environment <https://schools.recyclenow.com/resources/>

Butterfly Conservation is calling on the public to record information on pollinating insects, such as butterflies and moths, which could otherwise be lost during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Simply by sending in some basic information about the butterflies that you enjoy watching, in your garden or on your daily walk, you can make a real contribution to their conservation.

Visit www.butterfly-conservation.org.uk to find out more.



The RHS has some great tips on how to grow a butterfly garden to invite these lovely insects in to your garden - in return they will help pollinate plants and will add a splash of colour. Visit www.rhs.org.uk

We are fortunate to have some lovely parks, country parks, nature reserves and woodland in Finchampstead, but other places we may have liked to visit are closed at the moment. However, lots of them are offering virtual tours. Here are some examples.

National Open Garden Scheme <https://ngs.org.uk/virtual-garden-visits/>

National Trust <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lists/virtual-tours-of-our-places>

Ten virtual tours to do from home:

<https://www.gardensillustrated.com/gardens/gardens-to-visit/virtual-garden-tours-best/>



Your daily walks

We have 21 miles of rights of way in the Parish and the paths are being very well used at the moment! You can download a footpath map from our website www.finchampstead-pc.gov.uk (we are in the process of updating this map and hope to publish the new version this month).

The 'local walks' section of our website www.finchampstead-pc.gov.uk includes a walk from the California Country Park to St James' Church and back. If you live close to this it would be perfect for a daily walk of around an hour.

Another circular walk starting from the Memorial Hall in The Village can be found overleaf.

Some of our activities over the last month - in April we have:

- completed our end of year accounts and published our budget and precept for 2020/21
- held a full Council meeting, two Planning Committee meetings, a Rights of Way Committee meeting and a few other 'informal' meetings, all held by video conferencing
- attended a Village Club Trustees meeting
- been delighted that the Appeal against refusal of permission for the development of 118 dwellings on land north 197 Nine Mile Ride was dismissed. We submitted objections and Cllr Veitch attended and spoke at the Appeal.
- made progress with developing our Climate Change Action Plan
- updated our asset register
- received £174,839 in Community Infrastructure Levy Funds
- continued to liaise with Wokingham Community Response
- had 2033 page views on our website and 790 new users
- put 28 news items on our website

...and the Finchampstead Neighbourhood Development Plan Group - including volunteer residents plus several of our Councillors - has continued work on the development of the Plan,

The office may be closed but we are still around. Although some activities are on hold other work is carrying on so please get in touch if you need to - details below.

We are now permitted to hold 'remote' meetings and members of the public are able to attend a Council or Committee meeting virtually if they wish. Please contact us for details.

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



To subscribe or unsubscribe to this newsletter and other Parish Council information please contact us at the address above or follow the link on our website.



Walk Four

2.9 - miles

FROM 2000 TO 2005 FROM 2005 TO 2010 FROM 2010 TO 2015

FINCHAMPSTEAD

Grid ref: 792632

A super summer walk! - Start at Finchampstead Memorial Hall.

Cross the road and join the footpath at the side of the garage - continue down to the end, then turn right. The Path follows an attractive Green Lane, and then turns right over a stile onto a path at the edge of the field. Follow this path, which joins an un-made road, to the main road, cross and turn right - there is a footpath sign turning left into a field after a short distance.

Follow this path - some lovely views and varied scenery, and often a glimpse of local wildlife as well as grazing animals where the footpath reaches a 'crossroad' of footpaths then turn right and follow the path back to join the road a few yards from the car park.

