



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 community support, the virus, and how it is affecting the Borough Council's services.

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 on 0300 330 1189



Wokingham Borough Community Response If you need help, we are here for you!

9am to 5pm, Monday to Saturday



0300 330 1189



admin@citizensadvicewokingham.org.uk



<http://citizensadvicewokingham.org.uk/>



Its Volunteer Week!

This week is National Volunteer Week, a great opportunity to thank the hundreds of volunteers who have come forward to help through Community Response and in their local areas.

Many of them will now be going back to work or have other obligations that mean they may not be able to volunteer as much time. Local voluntary organisations are putting out the call for new volunteers. There really is something to suit everyone, outdoors, indoors, in person or on the telephone, whether you have a lot of time or a little time to offer.

If you'd like to get involved, take a look at The Volunteer Centre's website at www.volunteerwokinghamborough.org.uk.



Lockdown measures are slowly easing

We are able to do more and meet up with more people outside

But it is really important to still remember - you must make sure you stay 2 metres apart from others





Local information

• **Slow Down, Save Lives**

Our Speed Watch sessions are on hold at the moment due to the restrictions placed by the Coronavirus situation, but we plan to start our sessions again in the near future. 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 in our Parish.

Thames Valley Police is supporting the National Police Chiefs' Council's 'Slow Down, Save Lives' campaign that runs to 7 June and aims to promote greater awareness around the dangers of speeding.

Police Officers are out and about, engaging and reassuring communities across the Thames Valley about the importance of driving within the speed limits.

PC Liz Johnson, of the Thames Valley Police and Hampshire Constabulary Joint Operations Roads Policing Unit, said: "Research from across Europe suggests speeding is the most significant factor that contributes to road deaths and serious injury.

Excessive or inappropriate speed has an appalling impact when you're involved in a collision. The forces experienced by the human body in a collision increase dramatically as the speed increases. If you collide with a pedestrian at 30mph they have an 80% chance of survival, however if you collide at 40mph then the pedestrian has only a 10% chance of survival.

It needs to be noted that the speed limit is a limit, not a target. There will be times when you have to drive much slower to stay in control. Drivers can become complacent about roads they are familiar with, causing them to be less alert to the road, and drive at a faster speed.

Please do not speed. It's not worth the risk, and you will massively reduce the chances of being involved in a collision when an unexpected incident happens."

• **Saving water**

Just look at how the demand for water has increased! There are ways you can help - please look at the advice from South East Water.



Together we can make a big difference

When it's hot and with more people at home water use has increased.

We're pumping millions of litres more through our pipes to keep up – but there may be low pressure at times for some people.

You can help us make sure everyone has the water they need to drink, cook, wash and clean with, when they need it.

Small changes, like **leaving your lawn to go brown** and **not washing the car**, can make a huge difference.

Water is precious, whatever the weather.
Thank you for being a water saving hero.

More water saving tips are at southeastwater.co.uk

Pure know h,ow



Parish Council news

May has been an unusual month for us as after 16 years we have a new Chair!

Every May we hold our Annual Meeting, when Councillors are elected to the Chair of the Council and other roles on the Council. This year Cllr Roland Cundy stood down from the position of Chair, but we are delighted and relieved that he is staying on the Council so we and the Parish can still benefit from his extensive experience. Our new Chair is Cllr Simon Weeks who has been a member of the Council for over 15 years. Cllr Steve Bromley continues as Vice Chair of the Council.

There have also been some changes on our Committees. The Chair and Vice Chair of each Committee for 2020/21 are listed below and details of other Committee members can be found on our website.

Committee	Chair	Vice Chair
Amenities	Cllr Sylvia McDonald	Cllr Steve Bowers
Finance & General Management	Cllr Roger Woof	Cllr Roland Cundy
Planning	Cllr Gordon Veitch	Cllr Roger Marshallsay
Rights of Way	Cllr David Cornish	Cllr Rebecca Margetts
Roads & Road Safety	Cllr Steve Bromley	Cllr Roland Cundy

As well as our Committees we have Working Groups for **Allotments; Climate Change; Consultation and Communications; Finchampstead Emergency Response; Human Resources; Neighbourhood Development Plan and Risk Management**. Members of these Groups were elected at our Annual Meeting and details can be found on our website.

We also have representatives on several outside organisations and again these were confirmed at our recent meeting. These organisations include:

- Blackwater Valley Partnership
- Campaign to Protect Rural England
- FBC Centre Advisory Board
- Finchampstead Neighbourhood Action Group
- Finchampstead Park Management Committee
- Finchampstead Village Club Trustees
- Keep Mobile
- Wokingham District Veteran Tree Association
- Wokingham United Charities
- Arborfield Development Steering Group
- Arborfield Development Community Liaison Group
- Wokingham Borough / Parish Liaison Forum
- WBC California Crossroads Working Group
- WBC Cleaner and Greener
- WBC Gorse Ride Regeneration Steering Group



***No wonder our Councillors
are busy!***



We are all getting out and about a bit more but this can mean much more litter. The Borough Council has upped collections in some places, but needs everyone to help us keep our open spaces clean and green.



UP TO SIX PEOPLE WILL BE ALLOWED TO MEET OUTSIDE

From **Monday 1 June**, up to six people will be allowed to meet up outside:

- in public parks and spaces
- in private gardens
- in other private outdoor spaces

Remember, you must still adhere to social distancing and stay 2 metres apart from people outside your household.

 WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL



We hope you are enjoying our lovely open spaces in Finchampstead. The California Country Park is always popular, but why not try one of our other open spaces especially now that car parks are open again. Even better, get your bike out or use our great footpath network to get there and enjoy some countryside on the way.

Moor Green Lakes Nature Reserve, Lower Sandhurst Road. www.mglg.org.uk

Simon's Wood and / or The Ridges. www.nationaltrust.org.uk

- The National Trust has a circular walk from Simon's Wood and you can also find one on our website www.finchampstead-pc.gov.uk by searching for 'local walks'. Visit the Friends of Finchampstead Ridges website www.fofr.btck.co.uk/Trails for even more walks.

Warren Wood Country Park. www.wokingham.gov.uk

- Our circular walk from the California Country Park has an optional detour to Warren Wood - for details visit our website as above.

A map showing our 21 miles (33km) of rights of way can be found on our website along with details of other local walks.



- Stay 2 metres away from others
- Show consideration to the wildlife
- Respect other park users
- Take all your rubbish home with you



and remember that parking charges and enforcement are being reintroduced!



Wokingham Libraries

Online library services are still available - so sign up for free to access ebooks, magazines and newspapers. New services now allow access to 15 million songs from thousands of artists, and to a family history website.



Find out about all of the services, online clubs from origami to lego, the latest art challenge and 'Listen of the Day' in the latest Wokingham Libraries Newsletter. Visit www.wokingham.gov.uk/libraries/

Do you know who your children are speaking to online?

During lockdown, many of us are turning online to stay in touch and this goes for children as well as adults. Sadly, some criminals are using these extraordinary circumstances as a way to exploit and target young people when they are online.

Thames Valley Police have seen an increase in reports of online sexual abuse involving children since movement restrictions were introduced and are urging parents to take this opportunity to have honest conversations about online safety with their children and to review privacy settings on the apps and social networks that they are using.



To support parents during COVID-19, the National Crime Agency's Child Exploitation and Online Protection division are producing fortnightly activity packs to help discuss staying safe online with your children. These age-appropriate resources, containing two 15-minute activities for each age group, can be found at www.thinkuknow.co.uk .

This information is shared on behalf of Thames Valley Police

Go wild in June!

This June, join thousands of people taking part in the annual nature challenge, 30 Days Wild! The Wildlife Trusts want you to do one wild thing a day throughout the whole month: for your health, wellbeing and for the planet. That's 30 simple, fun and exciting Random Acts of Wildness.

To get involved visit <https://action.wildlifetrusts.org/page/57739/petition/1> Tell them who is taking part - you, your family, your care home, your business, school or group - and you will get a free pack of appropriate resources to download, full of inspirational activities.



Cuckoo

Our local wildlife trust is BBOWT. Some of its reserves are shut but you can join live wildlife gardening Q & A, listen to a podcast or find out how to make a pallet garden or a home for a hedgehog. Discover more about how to help wildlife at home, what to look out for in June and other ways to stay connected with nature by visiting www.bbwt.org.uk



Some of our activities

June is already proving to be a busy month, with work on green spaces, refurbishment of a rather unusual signpost, and meetings about allotments, parks, trees and woodlands amongst other things! We'll tell you all about it in our July newsletter.

In May we have:

- Held our Annual Meeting and elected a new Chair (see page 3 of this newsletter)
- Held a Finance & General Management Committee meeting, and a Planning Committee meeting plus a few other 'informal' meetings, all held by video conferencing
- Attended a FBC Advisory Group meeting
- Met a WBC Highways officer about additional gateways and other road safety and traffic matters
- Met WBC Officers to discuss ways to improve joint working
- Received two grant applications
- Received four allotment plot applications (to add to the waiting list)
- Submitted an application to put a preservation order on some trees
- Reviewed our policies and agreed which are to be updated
- Heard that the that the Public Inquiry relating to the Gladman Land proposals for development at Woodcray, Finchampstead Road will now resume with written representations only and the Planning Inspectors decision will be announced this summer.
- Continued to liaise with Wokingham Community Response
- Had 3859 page views on our website and 1625 new users
- Put 28 news items on our website and updated several pages



...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.