



You can find the latest information on local cases and statistics on the Covid-19 dashboard at [www.berkshirepublichealth.co.uk](http://www.berkshirepublichealth.co.uk)

You can also find information at [www.wokingham.gov.uk](http://www.wokingham.gov.uk)

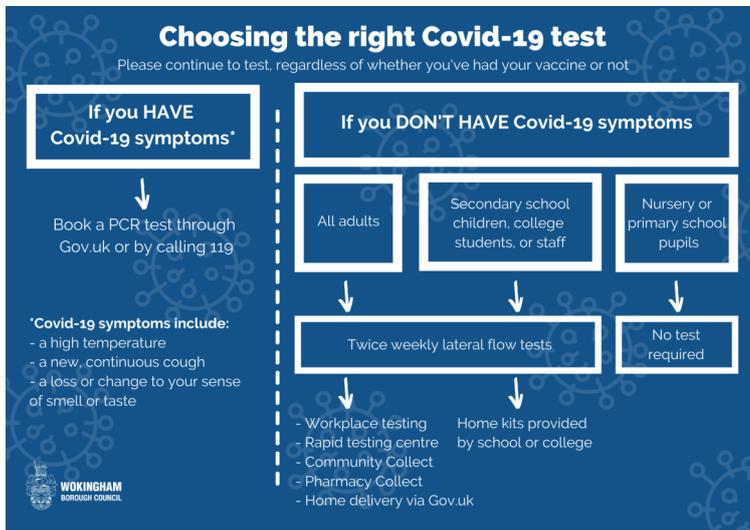
## Wokingham Borough Community Response



The pandemic has put a financial strain on so many people; and we can all face problems that seem complicated or intimidating. Citizens Advice Wokingham believes no one should have to face these problems without good quality, independent advice.

If you're worried about your finances, please contact Citizens Advice for a free benefit check, to make sure you're getting the support you're entitled to. The team can help you with any next steps if needed, and provide other support on issues around debt, housing, employment law and more.

Call 0808 278 7958, Monday to Friday (9am-5pm), and Saturdays (9am-1pm)  
or visit [www.citizensadvicewokingham.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvicewokingham.org.uk)



Testing will, in combination with measures such as hands-face-space and fresh air, following national guidance, self-isolating when required and getting vaccinated when eligible, help to suppress and control the spread of the virus and new variants.

## Surge testing to contain Covid-19 variant

Extensive surveillance of Covid-19 has identified a small number of cases of the Covid-19 Delta variant that was first found in India in Wokingham Borough, that cannot be traced back to international travel.

As such, surge testing is taking place in the following council wards between Monday 7 June and Monday 21 June:

- Bulmershe and Whitegates; Evendons; Norreys; Wescott

This will enable us to identify any community spread of the new variant and restrict further transmission.

**RAPID TESTING SITES BEING USED FOR SURGE TESTING**

If you usually have a lateral flow test at, or collect test kits from, Shute End, Sindlesham Court or the Microsoft Campus, please instead use the Pharmacy Collect service, or order tests through Gov.uk, during the surge testing period.

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Test. Isolate. Vaccinate



## Changes at the Parish Council

We held our Annual Meeting on 19 May. Cllr Simon Weeks continues as Chair of the Council and Cllr Steve Bromley as Vice Chair, but there have been some changes on our Committees. The Chair and Vice Chair of each Committee for 2021/22 are listed below and details of other Committee members can be found on our website.

Committee	Chair	Vice Chair
<b>Amenities</b>	Cllr Sylvia McDonald	Cllr Steve Bowers
<b>Finance &amp; General</b>	Cllr Roger Woof	Cllr Graham Jukes OBE
<b>Planning</b>	Cllr Roland Cundy	Cllr Roger Marshallsay
<b>Rights of Way</b>	Cllr David Cornish	Cllr Rebecca Margetts
<b>Roads &amp; Road Safety</b>	Cllr Steve Bromley	Cllr Roland Cundy

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

We also have Councillors who follow the activities of and / or are 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
- Citizens Advice
- FBC Centre Advisory Board
- Finchampstead Neighbourhood Action Group
- Finchampstead Park Management Committee
- 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!***

## New member of staff

We are delighted to welcome Caroline Cordell to the Council. Caroline joined us on 1 June as our Planning Committee Clerk and we all look forward to working with her.



You may have seen these signs on some of our public footpaths. We have produced them, with the approval of the Borough Council (the Highway Authority), to try and explain why some paths should not be used by cyclists and horse riders.



## Footpath



A Public Footpath means that you have the right to go along the path on foot. You don't have the right to cycle or ride a horse on it unless the landowner has given you their permission. If you do so without permission then you are trespassing.

**THIS SPECIFIC PATH IS ONLY SUITABLE FOR PEDESTRIAN USE AND THE LANDOWNERS DO NOT GIVE THEIR PERMISSION FOR ANY OTHER USAGE.**

### Why is this rule important?

- Footpaths are designed for people travelling on foot and may contain hazards which you cannot see and which can be dangerous
- Use by cyclists or horse riders can easily damage the surface and the path
- Other users will not be looking out for you, which can put them and you at risk
- The path may go through working farmyards or near to animals which might take fright

Finchampstead Parish Council is working with local landowners and Wokingham Borough Council to expand the options available for horse riders and cyclists.

**Please respect other users and the law, and do not cycle or ride on this path.**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION**

FBC Centre, Gorse Ride North, Finchampstead RG40 4ES.  
Tel. 0118 908 8164 Email: [clerk@finchampstead-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@finchampstead-pc.gov.uk)  
[www.finchampstead-pc.gov.uk](http://www.finchampstead-pc.gov.uk)



We know that the rights of way network has been particularly popular over the last year or so and that some of the paths have suffered from the increased use. We plan to walk the whole network over the next month or so to identify problem areas. We will then seek to work with the Borough Council to make improvements where these are needed.

Do get in touch if you know of a path in need of repair.



## Job opportunity

We have created a new part time post of **Deputy Clerk** to support and deputise for the Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer. This role will include involvement with the financial affairs and the general management of the Council, and with the work of the Amenities, Rights of Way and Roads & Road Safety Committees, depending on experience.

We would like a highly motivated, innovative, organised and community focused applicant to undertake this key role and candidates will need to hold or be prepared to work towards the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) qualification. This part time post is initially for 60 hours per month with a salary from £32,910 pro rata depending on skills and experience.

**For an informal chat about the post and / or an application pack please contact the Clerk on 07802 669004 or email [clerk@finchampstead-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@finchampstead-pc.gov.uk)**



## The UK's biggest nature challenge!

There is still time to take part in 30 Days Wild which challenges you to do one wild thing a day throughout the month of June, whether it's listening to birdsong, building a log pile or going plastic free for a day.

When you sign up you'll get a free pack of goodies to help you plan your wild month, plus lots of ideas to inspire you to stay wild all throughout June (and beyond!).

The Big Wild Weekend runs from 18 - 20 June with lots of special events to bring people closer to the natural world. This includes free online quizzes and talks as well as other events.

[www.wildlifetrusts.org/30-days-wild](http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/30-days-wild)

## Memorial Park Tennis courts

Some of you may have noticed the work underway at the tennis courts.



The Finchampstead Park Management Committee (FPMC) which manages the Park and the tennis courts would like to thank all those who donated to the project through the JustGiving page. This raised £1600.



The sale of strawberries has raised £1100 so far. With 50p per punnet sold going to the tennis court project that's an awful lot of strawberries eaten in Finchampstead in recent weeks!

We join FPMC in thanking the Finchampstead Community for their amazing support for the project! The total cost of the improvements is around £20,000 and FPMC will be funding the balance required.

The courts are expected to be open in late June and there will be an online booking system called Clubspark. Details will be provided as soon as they are available.



## Beat the Street Wokingham is underway!



Find your nearest Beat Boxes on the map - you can use a paper map or our online map



Start your journey by going to your first Beat Box. Keep your distance from other players and wait for your turn at the Beat Box



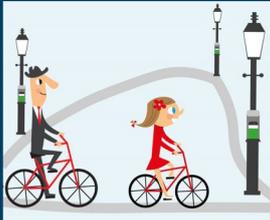
Hover over the Beat Box with your card or fob until it beeps and flashes. You don't need to touch the Box - it's contactless!



Walk, cycle, run or scooter to a different Beat Box within an hour



Hover over the Beat Box with your card or fob until it beeps and flashes to score 10 points



Now carry on your journey and score more points for each extra Beat Box you swipe

Beat the Street runs from 8 June to 20 July in Finchampstead as well as in Wokingham Town Centre and Woosehill.

It's fun, free and simple to play. The aim of the game is to earn as many points as possible for you and your team by walking, running, cycling or rolling between Beat Boxes.

There are great challenges to enjoy and prizes up for grabs

[www.beatthestreet.me/Wokingham/](http://www.beatthestreet.me/Wokingham/)



Each week in June people across the country will be riding their bikes and you're invited to join in. Whether you want to ride every single day or just dip your toes in you can get access to all the information you need to get pedalling! Everyone who takes part will be entered into draws for prizes ranging from t-shirts through to brand new bikes. You can take part in Bike Month by registering for free at [www.lovetoride.net/Wokingham](http://www.lovetoride.net/Wokingham)



My Journey in partnership with Wokingham Town Council are running an electric bike event on Saturday, 26 June 2021. The event is taking place at the Wokingham Borough Council Car Park, Shute End, Wokingham.

You can try out an electric bike or get a free bike check by Dr Bike but places must be booked - see below.

There will also be balance bikes for young children to try, clothing and accessories on sale, discounted bike helmets, a Bike Challenge activity and a WATCH group active travel stall.

For more information and to book places visit [www.myjourneywokingham.com/events/](http://www.myjourneywokingham.com/events/)

### Cycle training and activities

Find out about Bikeability Learn to Ride sessions, free Balance Bike Clubs and Woky Wheels for All - all run at the FBC Centre playing fields - at [www.myjourneywokingham.com/events/](http://www.myjourneywokingham.com/events/)

British Cycling's Breeze encourages women to ride bikes for fun - with regular rides in the Wokingham area Visit [www.letsride.co.uk/Breeze](http://www.letsride.co.uk/Breeze)



## Road works

Park Lane in Finchampstead will be closed for 10 weeks from 10 June as part of the Nine Mile Ride Extension project.

It will be shut between Robinson Crusoe Park and Shepperlands Farm to allow construction work to take place.

The extension will be the primary road in and out of the area, connecting the existing A327 with Nine Mile Ride and improving access for a major employment area at the nearby industrial estate.

The work will see some changes to Reading Buses Leopard 3 route to and from Wokingham due to the closure. More information is available on the Reading Buses website.

There's more background information on the Nine Mile Ride Extension webpages at [www.wokingham.gov.uk](http://www.wokingham.gov.uk)

A temporary 3-way traffic light system will be in place at Hogwood Junction from the 10th June 2021 to the 23rd December 2021. These works are to facilitate the tie in works at Hogwood Industrial Estate Junction with Park Lane.

You can keep up to date with local traffic and travel by following the Facebook page [www.facebook.com/WokinghamRoadworks](https://www.facebook.com/WokinghamRoadworks) or signing up for the regular e bulletin at [www.wokingham.gov.uk](http://www.wokingham.gov.uk)



**NATIONAL PICNIC WEEK**

*Top Tips for a Picnic*

**#1 Preparation:**  
Fill up your picnic hamper with all the essentials. On the list should be, cheese and crackers, plenty of water, hand wipes for those mucky few and a blanket to keep you comfy.

**Entertainment:**  
As well as a traditional game of frisbee or rounders to keep the kids entertained, bring some music along. For those looking to relax with a good page turner, try 'The Secret Garden' by Frances Hodgson Burnett.

**#2**

**#3 Protection:**  
Be sure to avoid stinging and biting bugs by packing insect repellent and bug bite cream, and remember to protect yourself against the sun's rays with sunscreen, sunglasses and hats for the kids.

**Tidiness:**  
Make sure you tidy up after your fun day out. Don't leave any litter that could harm the environment or any of our furry friends who live in the park.

**#4**

**National Picnic Week**  
Fri 21th - Sun 30th June 2019 for more information visit: [www.nationalpicnicweek.co.uk](http://www.nationalpicnicweek.co.uk)



Neighbourhood Watch Network is a charity registered in England & Wales, CIO no: 1173349

## PROTECT YOUR POOCH

Dog theft is on the rise and we are urging the public to keep their dogs **SECURE, IN SIGHT** and **SEARCHABLE**, and to help make pet theft a **SPECIFIC OFFENCE**.

Keep them:

- 1. SECURE** (pets are easily stolen from unsecured gardens if left unattended)
- 2. IN SIGHT** (when out and about keep them close and practice good recall)
- 3. SEARCHABLE** (to support quicker recovery if they go missing keep them microchipped, tagged and up to date photos)

AND HELP MAKE PET THEFT  
**A SPECIFIC OFFENCE**

Find out more on all of the above and more at [ourwatch.org.uk/ProtectYourPooch](http://ourwatch.org.uk/ProtectYourPooch)





## The Finchampstead Society Local History Archive



The Archive contains many unique items including:-

- an original copy of the 'Chronicles of Finchampstead' by William Lyon, 1885.
- most of the Parish Magazines dating from 1887.
- archaeological information on the Roman Road.
- historical photographs and press cuttings of local events including the Finchampstead Pageant of 1956.

It also holds copies of the Census Records, 1851 – 1891, photographs and details of local listed buildings and biographies of some interesting Finchampstead residents. There are around 80 historical maps including tithe maps and lot maps from the Bearwood Estate Sale in 1911.

A full list of the Archive material can be found on [www.finchampsteadsociety.org](http://www.finchampsteadsociety.org)

**To access The Archive** please contact Wendy Graham on 0118 9736569 or email [thegrahams2@btinternet.com](mailto:thegrahams2@btinternet.com).

We no longer operate a public 'open' afternoon but are happy to arrange for you to visit at a mutually acceptable time **or** to undertake research on your behalf.

### **Can you contribute to our Archive?**

We are always grateful to receive additional historical material. Please contact Wendy Graham as above if you can donate anything which may be of local interest.

## Trees!

Have you got a young tree on a grass verge or other green area near your property?

If so do give it a helping hand in dry weather - but please take care if the tree is on a verge by the road and only water it if it is safe for you to do so.





Watering should ideally be carried out in the early morning or evening.



It is good practice to water trees for the first three years after planting.



If the tree has a watering pipe, then half of the water should be poured down the pipe and the other half on the surface of the tree. If the tree has a watering bag, then fill that.



Where possible, water should be sustainably sourced. Harvested rainwater is ideal, but bath water, or water which has been used for the washing up, is also suitable.

Keen gardeners can get tips and some water efficient freebies at

[www.southeastwater.co.uk/garden](http://www.southeastwater.co.uk/garden)

**If you had a tree on a roadside verge outside your house but it is no longer there do let us know. We would really like to see these replaced and will try and make that happen - unless the location is unsuitable for any reason.**

Did you know that as a Wokingham Borough resident you can get a discount on a water butt , compost bin and other accessories? Just enter your postcode at [www.getcomposting.com](http://www.getcomposting.com) to place an order.



## Some of our recent activities

Here are just a few of the things we have been up to over the last month. We have:

- Held our Annual Meeting, and meetings of the Finance & General Management, Rights of Way, Planning and Amenities Committees. Minutes are available on our website.
- Attended meetings of the Gorse Ride Steering Group (Cllr Bowers is Chair of the Group) and the Finchampstead Allotment Association
- Welcomed Caroline Cordell, our new Planning Committee Clerk
- Seen our Clerk, Katy Dagnall, re-elected as the Chair of the Wokingham Town and Parish Clerks Forum
- Attended the unveiling of the horse statues at Arborfield Green (photos to follow in the next newsletter)
- Met WBC and landowners to discuss rights of way matters
- Continued using our post mounted speed indicator devices to remind drivers of the speed limit
- Put plans in place to start roadside speedwatch sessions again from 15 June
- Installed summer hanging baskets at the California Crossroads
- Seen our two part time litter wardens collect 45 sacks of litter from our roadsides
- Reviewed and updated our Risk Management Policy and Financial Regulations
- Let 3 allotment plots, but received another 5 applications to add to our waiting list,
- Had 1126 new users on our website and 2994 page views



The Finchampstead Future Group, made up of Parish Councillors and local volunteers, continues to work on the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan following the public consultation earlier this year. Please read the letter circulated with this newsletter for an update on the latest position.



*The office may still be closed but we are still working - so please get in touch if you wish. We are now meeting using video conferencing and members of the public are welcome to attend a Main Council or Committee meeting - please contact us if you would like to do so.*

## **FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL**

PARISH OFFICE, FBC CENTRE, GORSE RIDE NORTH, FINCHAMPSTEAD RG40 4ES  
Tel: 0118 908 8164 email: [clerk@finchampstead-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@finchampstead-pc.gov.uk) [www.finchampstead-pc.gov.uk](http://www.finchampstead-pc.gov.uk)



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