



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)

The weekly Covid-19 case rate in the borough is 225.9 per 100,000 (up to 18 September). With cases fluctuating, it's important that we all take accountability in keeping ourselves, our loved ones and our communities safe.

Analysis suggests that the majority of cases are among school children right now, with the virus spreading amongst families into different age groups. Please remember our **Test, Isolate, Vaccinate** message:

- **Test:** Take regular lateral flow tests if you have no symptoms, and book a PCR test if you have symptoms.
- **Isolate:** Remember, even if you are double-jabbed you still need to self-isolate for the full 10 days if you test positive.
- **Vaccinate:** Book your first or second vaccination appointment if you haven't already, doing so helps save lives and prevents you from getting seriously ill from Covid-19.

### Lateral Flow testing at the FBC Centre next week

A Mobile Lateral Flow Testing unit will be at the FBC Centre car park, Gorse Ride North on:

**Wed 29<sup>th</sup> Sept Test Opening Times: 10.15 - 4.45pm**

**Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct Test Opening Times: 9.30 - 3.45pm**

No appointments are necessary, just turn up for your free test.



## COVID-19 IS AN AIRBORNE VIRUS

When someone with Covid-19 breathes, speaks coughs or sneezes, they release particles.



Protect yourself. Protect others. Protect our borough.



One of the primary ways Covid-19 spreads is through airborne transmission

This means when someone with Covid-19 breathes, speaks, coughs or sneezes, they release particles containing the virus. If someone breathes in these virus particles, they can become infected

Preventative measures can help fight this. So, remember to:

- Opt to meet outside, or open windows and let fresh air in so Covid-19 particles can blow away if you're meeting indoors
- Wear a face covering in crowded and enclosed spaces
- Maintain a safe distance from others and respect people's spaces when out and about



## **Council news**

- We are delighted to welcome Colette Warke to the Council. Colette joined us on 13 September as our Deputy Clerk and we all look forward to working with her.
- Our staff - Katy, Colette and Caroline - are now working in our Office at the FBC Centre on certain days, while continuing to work from home on other days. If you would like to see a member of staff please contact us to ensure that we will be in the Office when you wish to visit.
- The Council is continuing to meet virtually but is keeping this under review and we hope to be able to hold at least some of our meetings in person before too long. Members of the Public are welcome to attend Main Council and Committee meetings - if you would like to do so please get in touch.



## **Finchampstead Neighbourhood Development Plan (FNDP)**

A draft Neighbourhood Plan to influence what development occurs in our area has been prepared by the Finchampstead Future team.

To have the FNDP approved as a formal input to Planning decisions we have to ensure that we consult with local people, organisations, businesses, landowners, etc. about our analysis and policy proposals, and that their views are considered and used to influence the plan as appropriate.

Part of this process is evidencing that the plan accurately reflects the needs of the area and the views of local people.

The first formal public consultation on a draft plan took place from 1st February to 19th March 2021.

The Report circulated with this newsletter gives the results of that Consultation and provides details of the level of support received for each of the Policies, publishes the analysis of the feedback received, and identifies the changes proposed to be made to the plan in response to comments. The Report has also been published on our website [www.finchampsteadfuture.com](http://www.finchampsteadfuture.com)

A further public consultation will be taking place from mid October to late November 2021. Information will be delivered to every household in the Parish and we hope you will take the opportunity to submit your views on the proposals.

Full details of the consultation will be available on [www.finchampsteadfuture.com](http://www.finchampsteadfuture.com) in due course.

## **Grants for local groups and organisations**

Grant applications from local organisations providing services or facilities for our residents will be considered by our Finance & General Management Committee at a meeting this week.

There is still time for local organisations to submit an application for a grant for 2021/22. Any further applications will be considered in November - please contact us for an application form or visit our website. We will be happy to discuss any potential projects with you - just get in touch by emailing [clerk@finchampstead-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@finchampstead-pc.gov.uk)



## Hazebrouck Meadows path improvements



We are delighted that the improvements to the paths across Hazebrouck Meadows were completed in August. This project has been jointly funded by Finchampstead Parish Council and Barkham Parish Council, with the works arranged by Wokingham Borough Council.

The works included widening and building up the paths, and creating a new section of path. This means that the young people cycling to and from Bohunt School, many also using the California Greenway as part of their route, now have a continuous and more suitable path to use across Hazebrouck Meadows.

Hazebrouck Meadows is a natural area and the paths were not originally designed for cycle use. However, they have become well used by Bohunt School pupils, and pending future completion of the final link of the 'official' cycle route to and from the School, both Barkham and Finchampstead Parish Councils felt that the paths should be upgraded.

The cost of the path works has been covered by Community Infrastructure Levy funds.

## Finchampstead War Memorial relocation

The consultation on the potential relocation of the War Memorial closed on 31 July 2021. 5500 consultation documents were distributed to households across the Parish and there was a high response rate of 10.8%.

We would like to thank everyone who responded for their interest in this important project, and for the many comments received.

Of those responding 89% supported the proposed relocation of the Memorial to the site adjacent to the Memorial Park, and 11% objected to the relocation.

Of those objecting, almost 40% supported the relocation of the Memorial, but not to the chosen site.

On 16 September 2021 the Council considered the current position and the consultation outcome and formally agreed to proceed with the project.

The consultation report is being circulated with this newsletter and will be published on our website [www.finchampstead-pc.gov.uk](http://www.finchampstead-pc.gov.uk) We will keep you informed of progress through these newsletters and updates on our website.

## Remembrance 2021

The 2021 Remembrance Parade and Service will take place in the Finchampstead Memorial Park, The Village on Sunday 14 November 2021.

Those wishing to attend should arrive at the Park no earlier than 2.45pm and the Parade will commence at 3pm. More details will be provided in our next newsletter.





## News from the Friends of Finchampstead Ridges

It has been a significant period of time since we were able to undertake work on the Heathland at Simons Wood. We missed a complete autumn/winter season which made this task even more of a challenge.

To put it into context, in times past Heathland management was determined by the removal of Birch regrowth on an annual basis to make Besom brooms and also it was common for cattle to graze as part of managing this environment.



So wind forward many years and this aspect of land management is now undertaken by a National Trust Ranger and volunteer team with loppers to remove the Birch and Pine saplings. Without this intervention, in time this important landscape would revert to a wooded area and we would lose this important habitat and the bio-diversity it provides.



There were two other tasks undertaken in September, the first being the Car Park tidy up. Hedge trimmers were deployed to tackle the vigorous Spring/Summer growth to open up the area, additionally an aggregate fill will be added to the lower section of the car park to extend and consolidate this area which in winter becomes boggy.

We also returned to Wellingtonia Avenue for the second time this year with both strimmers/brush cutters and the Grillo - fundamentally a ride on lawnmower with attitude !

Very well done to all the volunteers involved.

[www.finchridges.co.uk](http://www.finchridges.co.uk)



## Wellingtonia Avenue trees

Following a pilot survey of a small number of the Wellingtonia trees (*Sequoia sempervirens*) in 2020 we commissioned tree specialists to survey the remaining trees - where property owners granted permission. These surveys took place in April this year and the specialists are in the process of completing the reports which will be circulated to the property owners as soon as they are available. We will also publish a summary of the findings.

We hope that through the surveys and the implementation of any management recommendations this will help ensure that these important trees live a long and healthy life.



## Roads and Road Safety

### The Ridges

Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) is continuing to work to identify the cause of the road failure at The Ridges, so that a proper solution can be put in place. This will ensure they are fixing the problem, not just 'patching the wound', or else there is a likelihood the failure may occur again.

WBC is undertaking investigations to gather data and identify the cause of failure. That also allows WBC to gather the geotechnical information to carry out the design, which they anticipate will be completed early 2022, though this timeline is subject to change dependent on the findings of the investigations



Once a design has been approved, WBC will tender for companies to complete the work. The timescales for completion of the work are yet to be determined, as this will be dependent on the type and extent of works that need to take place.

### Barkham Ride speed camera

We know that many of you are aware that the speed camera on Barkham Ride has not been in use for some time, not least because it faces in the wrong direction having been hit by a vehicle.

We understand that Thames Valley Police are currently working through a 5 year plan for fixed camera site digitisation and upgrade as the historical wet film equipment is no longer serviceable. We have also been told that the Barkham Ride camera has not been selected for upgrade as part of this digitisation programme, but it will be reviewed for other possible enforcement options in the future.

The maintenance of the existing fixed camera housing is the responsibility of WBC and we understand that they have a project planned to review the maintenance of any unused camera housings such as this one.

### Parking at the California Crossroads

There are no plans to introduce charging at the Avery Corner car park. However, WBC does plan to introduce legislation to prevent larger commercial vehicles from parking in the car park.

There is also a plan to introduce a restriction on the time allowed for parking in the bays in front of the Co-op store, pharmacy and dentist. These bays are intended for short stays of less than one hour only, and those wishing to park for longer should use the Avery Corner car park.

The Chef Peking Chinese restaurant kindly allows short term parking in its rear car park until 5.30pm each day.

### Road and building name suggestions wanted!

The regeneration of Gorse Ride is moving forward apace with phase 1 almost complete and construction of phase 2 due to start in late spring 2022.

Names are needed for the new roads, and for the blocks of apartments. If you have any suggestions for names or themes please email [joanna.flaxman@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:joanna.flaxman@wokingham.gov.uk)

Alternatively contact us at [clerk@finchampstead-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@finchampstead-pc.gov.uk) and we will pass any ideas on.



## California Country Parkrun

The California Country Parkrun is a free, fun and friendly weekly 5km community event. Walk, jog, run, volunteer or spectate - its up to you!

The event takes place at California Country Park, Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham, Berkshire, RG40 4HU at 9am every Saturday. It is free but please register before you first come along.

For more information and to register visit [www.parkrun.org.uk/californiacountry/](http://www.parkrun.org.uk/californiacountry/)

## Balance Bike challenge

**Thursday 14 October 2021**

at

Finchampstead Baptist Church Centre MUGA (Multi Use Games area)  
Gorse Ride North, Finchampstead, Wokingham RG40 4ES



2 sessions

1 till 2pm and then 2 till 3pm

For ages 2 - 4 years

Sign up for a place at [myjourney@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:myjourney@wokingham.gov.uk)

Come along and have fun on your balance bike, using the MUGA you will be able to go round the track following a course. Please bring your own bike and helmet – we do have some spare bikes (but you will need to bring your own helmet for hygiene reasons) There will be some prizes for some of the challenges but it's all about fun and taking part.

[www.myjourneywokingham.com](http://www.myjourneywokingham.com)





## **re3 reports recycling success**

Re3 recycling centres recently published its annual environmental report highlighting another record-breaking year for recycling - despite the pandemic!

Here are some of the amazing achievements over the last 12 months:

- Less than 10% of household waste was sent to landfill which is the best performance since WBC partnered with re3 in 2006.
- A successful roll out of food waste recycling across the area, resulting in over 8,000 tonnes of food waste being collected – increasing our recycling rates to over 50%.

A record-breaking volume of materials were processed, including a 37% increase in the volume of glass collected and over 2,700 tonnes of plastic sent for re-processing in the UK.



## **Your recycling impact**

The environmental impacts of our waste are huge. Waste in landfills is a large contributor to global warming, as well as creating toxic substances when materials are burnt.

However, there is a solution. Recycling saves resources and energy by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases that contribute to global climate change.

There is an online calculator on the re3 website which allows you to find your households recycling impact. Simply enter the number of items you recycle to find how much of CO<sub>2</sub>e (carbon dioxide equivalent) is removed from the environment thanks to your recycling habits!

<https://re3.fccenvironment.co.uk/recycling-vs-climate-change/>

## **Recycling = rewards**

Are you signed up for Greenredeem? Through them you can get discounts, enter competitions and donate points to help local schools or national charities.

Thousands of residents are already members of the service run by our partners and are reaping the benefits. Watch videos, play quizzes and make pledges to be more sustainable, then get rewarded for it. Visit <https://account.greenredeem.co.uk/wokingham>

## **Cough, cough, engine off!**

Running your engine unnecessarily while your vehicle is stationary pollutes the environment. Avoiding unnecessary idling time has a multitude of benefits including:

- Savings in fuel and maintenance costs
- Extending vehicle life
- Reducing damaging emissions
- It is also against the law on a public highway

[www.publicprotectionpartnership.org.uk/environmental-health/air-quality/vehicle-idling/](http://www.publicprotectionpartnership.org.uk/environmental-health/air-quality/vehicle-idling/)





## Some of our recent activities

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

- Held a Main Council meeting, two Planning Committee meetings and an HR Sub Committee meeting.
- Attended a Keep Mobile Management Committee meeting (Cllr Sylvia McDonald is our representative) and meetings of the Gorse Ride Steering Group (Cllr Steve Bowers chairs the Group and Cllrs Becky Eytle and Chris Driver sit on the Group) and the Finchampstead Allotments Association Committee.
- Received an unqualified report from the external auditor PKF Littlejohn. You can view our Annual Governance and Accountability Return on our website.
- Welcomed Colette Warke to the Council as our Deputy Clerk.
- Continued our roadside speed watch sessions - these restarted in June this year and are now taking place weekly with details of vehicles exceeding the speed limit being forwarded to the Police. 304 vehicles were reported to the Police between mid June and mid September.
- Continued using our post mounted speed indicator devices to remind drivers of the speed limit.
- Let one allotment plot and received more applications to add to our waiting list.
- Issued the annual invoices for allotment rent to our 100 tenants.
- Seen our Litter Wardens collect 35 sacks of litter from our roadsides.
- Responded to WBC consultations on the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan and the Bus Service Strategy.
- Met WBC to discuss the emerging Mental Health Strategy.
- Completed our annual asset inspections - from bus stops to lamp columns, office equipment to seats and gates, and some unusual historic features
- Had 896 new user sessions on our website and 2266 page views.



The Finchampstead Future Group, made up of Parish Councillors and local volunteers, continues to work on the

**draft Finchampstead Neighbourhood Development Plan.**

Please see the update earlier in this newsletter.



## **FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL**

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