



You can find the latest information on local cases and statistics on the Covid-19 dashboard at www.berkshirepublichealth.co.uk

You can also find information at www.wokingham.gov.uk

The weekly Covid-19 infection case rates in the borough are 653.1 per 100,000 people (up to 16 October). Case rates are the highest they've ever been in the borough and are continuing to rise, with cases particularly high amongst school aged children (2,732 per 100k people in 10 to 14 year olds) and consequently also rising in the adults who live with them.

What can you do to help keep your children and your wider family well?

- **Take a Lateral Flow Test (LFT)** – even if you all feel well, take an LFT before you meet up with people indoors. This is because 1 in 3 people get Covid-19 without any symptoms. You don't want to pass on the infection to someone who doesn't have as strong an immune system as you

You can visit a local test site without an appointment to get a LFT test on site, or to pick up a kit to take home with you. Visit <https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/covid-19/testing-and-vaccinations/covid-19-testing/>

- **Wear a face mask in enclosed, crowded spaces** – Covid-19 is spread through airborne transmission which means when someone with Covid-19 breathes, speaks, coughs or sneezes, they release particles. Face masks help reduce the spread of these particles from an infected person
- **Wash your hands** – frequent hand washing has always been the best way to avoid getting ill as it reduces the spread of bacteria and viruses. With Covid-19 this is now even more important for us all
- **Meet outdoors if you are able** – not only is it safer to meet outdoors, having a wander through a park and seeing the breath-taking colours of Autumn can do wonders for your wellbeing and keeps us all fit and active
- **Open windows when indoors** – good ventilation reduces the risk of Covid-19 particles spreading in the air, so keep some windows open when you have visitors at home
- **Use the NHS Covid-19 app** – the test, trace and isolate system is helping to manage the positive cases mixing in the community, so please continue to use the app
- **Get enough sleep** – lack of sleep can have a serious impact on your immune system, making you more vulnerable. Try to keep to regular sleeping hours
- **Flu jabs and Covid-19 boosters** – the over 50s will be contacted by the NHS to get flu jabs and Covid-19 boosters this winter. Please get yours if you are eligible
- **Stay home if you feel ill** – take a PCR test and don't go out, this stops the spread of Covid-19 and other viruses, protecting your loved ones and colleagues

Anyone who has Covid-19 symptoms, or who tests positive on a lateral flow test should then get a follow-up **PCR test** to confirm if they have Covid-19. There will be two PCR mobile testing units running in the borough from 21 October - 27 October.

These new PCR testing sites are at: Shute End – Eastern Car Park (RG40 1BN) and Thames Valley Park & Ride (RG6 1PQ). Both are open from 9am-3pm.

Appointments must be booked in advance through www.gov.uk





Finchampstead Neighbourhood Development Plan (FNDP)

Public consultation 18 October to 29 November 2021



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 the draft Plan took place from 1st February to 19th March 2021. A report on the consultation can be found at www.finchampsteadfuture.com

A further public consultation is now underway and runs to 29 November 2021. Information is being delivered to every household in the Parish and we hope you will take the opportunity to submit your views on the draft Plan and supporting documents.

The consultation documents include an updated version of the draft Plan, and of the Topic Papers on Green Spaces and Key Gaps, and a new Topic Paper on Housing Allocations.

Full details of the consultation and how to respond are available at www.finchampsteadfuture.com

Remembrance 2021

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

Those wishing to attend should arrive at the Park at 2.45pm. The Parade will commence at 3pm, followed by a Service in the Park.



Need help with finding a job?



The Wokingham Job Support Centre (WJSC) provides a free and unique service to Job Seekers in Wokingham Borough and Bracknell Town.

WJSC offers friendly face to face support, unrestricted by time and independent and confidential.

The experienced Advisors offer a skilled blend of coaching, advice, IT support, workshops and internet job search knowledge.

Over the last 30 years WJSC has supported some 11,000 local residents back into work, or into better jobs.

The Wokingham Job Support Centre is open from 10.00am to 2 pm, Monday to Friday at the Cornerstone Building, Norreys Avenue, Wokingham, RG40 1UE. Call us on 0118 977 0517 or jobsearch@wjsc.org.uk to make an appointment, or just drop in. www.wjscadvisors.org.uk

Finchampstead Parish Council is pleased to be supporting the Centre with a grant this year.



Grants for local groups and organisations

The Parish Council allocates funds for grants and donations to local organisations providing important services or facilities for our residents.

The Council has now approved grants for Citizens Advice Wokingham; the Friends of Finchampstead Ridges; Involve Cancer Support; the Me2 Club; the MS Therapy Centre; Sue Ryder and the Wokingham Job Support Centre.

Donations to the California Ratepayers Hall, The Memorial Hall and the St. James' Churchyard have been approved. We will also be making donations to our local primary schools to help ensure all pupils can participate in on and off site extra curricular activities.

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



We are very pleased to be able to support **Citizens Advice Wokingham**, which provides such a valuable service to our residents.

CA has just launched a brand new **Mobile Advice Unit**. An 'office on wheels', this specially adapted van has been designed to help CA provide free, confidential and impartial advice and information, direct to communities across Wokingham Borough - with ease.

The schedule for the **Mobile Advice Unit** will be advertised on Facebook and Twitter and on the CA website www.citizensadvicewokingham.org.uk

There are three key aims with the new advice unit, which are to:

1. support communities across the borough facing increased issues of hardship and deprivation to help people 'make ends meet' and get the support that they're entitled to
2. increase access to its free, confidential and impartial advice and information services to all parts of Wokingham Borough
3. work with other charities and services to help people get the most effective support for their issues, including local domestic abuse charities and foodbanks

Partner organisations signed up to take to the road with CA include;

Local anti-poverty charity The Cowshed, AgeUK Berkshire, domestic abuse charity Kaleidoscopic UK, Homestart Wokingham, Involve, carers charity Tuvida, Wokingham Foodbank, Healthwatch Wokingham and learning disability charity CLASP.

CA continues to support people with their issues, and through One Front Door, to signpost to other organisations that can meet the needs of clients.

As well as visiting the new Mobile Advice Unit you can still contact CA in the usual way on 0808 278 7958 or via their website www.citizensadvicewokingham.org.uk

**citizens
advice**



Half-term activities with MyJourney Wokingham

Are you looking for something to do this half-term? Why not join MyJourney Wokingham at one of their events?



Halloween Picture Hunt - California Country Park and Stanlake Meadows, Twyford

Suitable for ages 5 and under. Using the map, can you find the 12 Halloween posters?

Halloween Treasure Hunt - California Country Park and Stanlake Meadows, Twyford

Suitable for ages 6+. Using the map, find the 12 clues and match the monsters with their mode of transport.

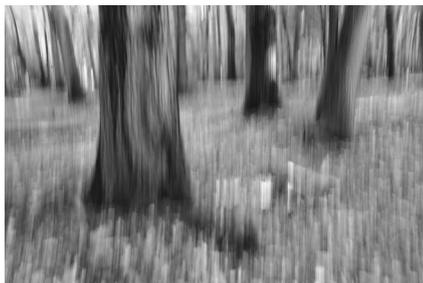
All details of the above activities can be found at <https://myjourneywokingham.com/events/>

There's lots of great reasons to head down to your local library this October half-term as families can pick up their free monster-tastic activity pack filled with lots of fun things to do.

People can also keep up-to-date with what's happening in their local library by following Wokingham Borough Libraries on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram, or by signing up to receive the Libraries Connect e-newsletter. Find out more by searching for Libraries on our website www.wokingham.gov.uk

Simon's Wood, Finchampstead Ridges and Ambarrow Woods

Do we always see the same image and colours when walking the woods in Finchampstead ?



With camera phones becoming ever more sophisticated you can capture an image that is something a little different, so why not make your walk an opportunity to enjoy the woods with a different perspective.

Maybe set yourself a little challenge such as 'after the rain' or 'unusual shape and form'.

So next time why not take your camera or phone with you, you might just surprise yourself as to what you can see and capture on your woodland doorstep.

Woodland offers peace and tranquility and in recent times has seen to be beneficial in providing an escape from everyday life and the opportunity to relax in Sylvan surroundings.....

So whether or not you have a viewfinder to your eye with a thought as to what you can record or just taking in the sights do enjoy these special places.....

www.finchridges.co.uk





Roads and Road Safety



We are very aware of the traffic issues in the Parish and get many reports of speeding. Road safety is one of our priorities.

Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) is the Highway Authority responsible for the road network and traffic management and Thames Valley Police (TVP) is responsible for enforcement of speed violations. The Parish Council itself has no jurisdiction over highway matters. However, it works closely with these organisations and is committed to help identify areas with problems and to raise awareness of traffic issues.

The Parish Council owns a Speed Indicator Device (SID). Our roadside SID sessions are dependent on volunteers from the Parish Council, the Finchampstead Neighbourhood Action Group and residents. We run one session a week at present in various locations across the Parish, with a high proportion of sessions taking place on our most problematic roads - Nine Mile Ride, the Finchampstead Road and Longwater Road.



Sessions run for 1 to 1 1/2 hours. Vehicles exceeding the speed limit are recorded, and reports are passed to the Police who will then send a letter to offending vehicle owners. If a vehicle is caught more than once, TVP will take additional action.



We also own two post mounted SID's. These units have a flashing indicator of a vehicles speed and are used in rotation, staying in one location for around 2 weeks. These are proven to be more effective than static cameras or signs.

WBC owns the fixed vehicle activated signs (VAS) in Finchampstead, and occasionally deploys temporary VAS in problem areas in our Parish.

Road works



Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) is continuing to work on plans to address the road failure at The Ridges, ensuring they put plans in place to fix the problem to prevent it happening again. We will share information on plans and timescales for repair as soon as they are available.

We were all relieved to see Jubilee Road re-opened on Friday 22 October following the damage caused by a major water pipe failure.

The emergency works at the A327 Reading Rd / Fleet Hill were also completed on Friday 22 October and the traffic lights removed.

Nine Mile Ride is due to re-open at its western end at the end of October, although there are likely to be traffic lights in place.

Unfortunately there is nothing any one can do when emergency works are needed on our roads. What we can and will continue to do is to encourage the Borough Council to co-ordinate its planned highway maintenance works, and where possible to put these on hold when unplanned emergency works are affecting traffic flow in the Parish.





Bathroom recycling

We all use toiletries and bathroom cleaners on a daily basis and our bathrooms are packed full of stuff that can be recycled after we've finished with it. The great news is, most people are doing just that, but there's always room to recycle more.



If everyone in the UK recycled one bathroom cleaner bottle, enough energy would be saved to vacuum around 82,460 homes.

The top 10 things everyone can recycle from their bathroom

1. Shampoo and conditioner bottles
2. Shower gel and bubble bath bottles
3. Cardboard boxes e.g. toothpaste or soap boxes
4. Toilet roll tubes
5. Bathroom cleaner and bleach bottles
6. Deodorants
7. Shaving foam
8. Hand soap bottles (but remember you can't recycle the pump dispenser)
9. Moisturiser bottles
10. Perfume and after shave glass bottles (take them to the bottle bank)



For more handy tips and tricks to help you recycle bathroom bits, visit <https://re3.fccenvironment.co.uk/bathroom-recycling/>

Essential Item Grants

Wokingham United Charities has partnered with Citizens Advice Wokingham to provide comprehensive support to those in need.

The essential item grant programme is open to residents of Wokingham Borough and requests can be considered for items up to £500.

We can help with: Household items / Debt related fees / Counselling support / Ad hoc requests



How to apply:

Contact Citizens Advice Wokingham
0808 278 7958
www.citizensadvicewokingham.org.uk

About Wokingham United Charities...

Wokingham United Charities is a registered charity (number 1107171) and helps local people in poverty, hardship or distress by providing charitable grants and running semi-sheltered Almshouses. We are an amalgamation of 21 local charities and have supported people in need in Wokingham since 1451.





Shape your waste and recycling service

We are launching the first phase of our journey to a new waste and recycling service – and we need your input!



The borough's current waste and recycling collection contract expires in 2026 and, to make sure we get the right service for the future, we are starting early engagement with residents to understand your priorities.



This will increase our understanding of your priorities for future waste and recycling services – such as cost, environmental issues and convenience. Later we will consult on different service options to make sure your views are considered at every stage as we produce our new Waste Strategy.

You can sign up to Engage Wokingham Borough and take part in the waste and recycling survey and others via our Engage Wokingham Borough webpage.

<https://engage.wokingham.gov.uk/en-GB/projects/reducing-waste-creating-a-new-waste-strategy>

Recycle your Halloween pumpkin

If you are carving a pumpkin this Halloween don't forget all of it can be recycled!

Your pumpkin and all the insides can go straight into your food waste caddy. If the pumpkin is too big, sit it next to your bin on your collection day and it will be taken away too.



Your pumpkins make for tasty treats

Many animals can eat pumpkin – and the RSPCA is encouraging anyone who carved a pumpkin not to throw the remnants away; but to provide a tasty treat instead for their fellow living creatures!

Wildlife like squirrels, foxes, badgers and birds all enjoy pumpkins, so leave your chopped up pumpkin outside for wild animals to eat if they choose. Wildlife can struggle to find food this time of year so some chunks of tasty pumpkin could be very welcome.

This Halloween, let's celebrate bats!

Did you know despite seeing bats EVERYWHERE during Halloween, they are actually hibernating in the UK at this time of year?

Bats are an indicator species, meaning they tell us a lot about the health of our environment. Decreasing bat populations is a warning sign of wider problems within nature. These amazing creatures are also important pollinators and pest controllers because UK bats feed on insects.



Six species of bat in the UK remain endangered but it is encouraging that the four populations of other bat species are showing initial signs of recovery after significant historic declines.

To find out more about these amazing species and download their Halloween pack, visit

<https://www.bats.org.uk/support-bats/halloween-for-bats>



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, and meetings of the Planning, Amenities and Finance & General Management Committees.
- Attended the Borough Parish Liaison Forum (Cllr Roland Cundy is our representative and is the Vice Chair); the FBC Centre Advisory Board (Cllrs Roland Cundy and Simon Weeks are on the Board); a Keep Mobile Management Committee meeting (Cllr Sylvia McDonald is our representative) and a meeting of the Gorse Ride Steering Group (Cllr Steve Bowers chairs the Group and Cllrs Becky Eytel and Chris Driver also represent us).
- Met representatives from the Parochial Church Council and the Uniformed Youth Groups to discuss arrangements for Remembrance
- Agreed grants and donations to local groups and organisations for 2021/22
- Discussed plans to mark the Platinum Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II in 2022
- Met WBC to discuss future allotment provision in the Parish
- Continued our roadside speed watch sessions - thanks to the great team of volunteers.



- Saw new Speed Watch Area signs installed at or near entrances to the Parish

- Let three allotment plots
- Seen our Litter Wardens collect 48 sacks of litter from our roadsides.
- Put 19 news posts on our website and 20 posts on our Facebook Page.



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 information about the current public consultation on page 2 of this newsletter or visit www.finchampsteadfuture.com



Staff 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 get in touch to ensure we will be in the office when you wish to visit.

We are still 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

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