



## WORKING TOGETHER TO SECURE A POSITIVE FUTURE FOR FINCHAMPSTEAD

### Draft Finchampstead Neighbourhood Development Plan (FNDP) – Further Public Consultation 18th October to 29th November 2021

Dear resident,

This letter, with the accompanying document ‘Sites for Additional Housing’, is being delivered to every home in Finchampstead Parish as part of a further public consultation regarding the new Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Earlier this year Finchampstead Future (FF), a team of volunteer residents working with the Parish Council, conducted a consultation on a draft neighbourhood development plan for the next 15 years. We had 350 people and organisations give us their views. It was our intention to then adapt the plan and pass it to Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) for it to progress to the next stage of the approval process, but we have had to change our plans.

As we explained in an open letter to residents in June via the Parish Newsletter, our website, and social media; the strategic context for the FNDP has been significantly affected by the effect of a decision to extend the Burghfield AWE emergency planning zone, which negated WBC plans to build a new ‘garden village’ near Grazeley. This site was intended to provide about 3,750 homes against the requirement set by government. Its loss means that WBC must identify ways to replace these homes across the Borough and our Parish will be affected by this.

The FF team and the Parish Council recognise that it is not sensible to ‘just push on regardless’, hoping for the best. The FF team has worked closely with WBC and understands that replacement homes must be found and that some of them will be located in our Parish. It is a requirement for the FNDP that it must not conflict with WBC’s strategic plan. Pragmatically the FF Team has decided that it is in the best interests of local people that we do our own analysis to identify the most suitable locations for new housing, ones that protect our countryside, preserve key gaps and which best conform to the policies we have set out in our draft FNDP.

We have now completed our work to review and assess ‘promoted sites’ (sites for housing put forward to WBC by landowners and developers) in the Parish and formed a view about which of these are most consistent with our plan. It is proposed that the draft FNDP will be extended to identify five sites as acceptable for development, which together could provide an additional 179 homes in the period up to 2036.

As this is a substantive change of significance, we are conducting a second phase of ‘focused’ consultation about this specific proposal. Most of the draft FNDP remains unchanged and can be viewed on our website: [www.finchampsteadfuture.com](http://www.finchampsteadfuture.com). We have produced, and enclose, a Topic Paper ‘Sites for Additional Housing’ setting out the rationale for our current proposals.

We realise that the first preference of many will be not to have any additional houses over and above what is already planned and that was the stance of the draft of the FNDP consulted upon earlier this year. However, having considered the risks and the best interests of our local community, the FF Team, supported by the Parish Council, believe that a revision to the FNDP is necessary.

We invite residents of Finchampstead and interested parties to give us their views on the proposals set out in the enclosed Document, which supports and is integral to the draft FNDP.

You can comment on the proposals using the details below:



**FNDP, c/o Finchampstead Parish Council, FBC Centre, Gorse Ride North, Finchampstead, RG40 4ES**



Email us at [ndp@finchampstead-pc.gov.uk](mailto:ndp@finchampstead-pc.gov.uk)

Complete an on-line survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/FinchFutureFeedbackV2>

The consultation period runs until 29th November.

Allan Gibson  
Chair, Finchampstead Future