

## War Memorial relocation project

The project took an important step forward on 9 February when the Wokingham Borough Council Planning Committee approved the planning application for the relocation of the War Memorial to land in The Village adjacent to the Memorial Park.



Residents will recall that the Parish Council undertook a full household consultation across the Parish in June / July 2021 on the potential relocation of the Memorial to the site in The Village. We received a high level of response from residents, with a clear majority in support of the relocation to the Park, and are grateful to our residents for their interest in this significant project.

The more recent planning application process provided a further opportunity for residents to make their views known.

We are now moving forward to the next stages of the relocation project, with an anticipated completion date of early summer this year. The cost of the project is being covered through Community Infrastructure Levy funds, or developer contributions.

You can find a report on the consultation carried out, and the latest updates on the project, on our website at <https://www.finchampstead-pc.gov.uk/history/war-memorial/war-memorial-relocation>



The relocation of the Memorial will open up opportunities for improvements to the unpopular junction and we are currently in discussion with the Borough Council, the Highway Authority, to move this forward. We did ask the Borough Council to look at the junction a couple of years ago to see if any meaningful improvement could be made with the Memorial in situ, and a few options were drawn up. However, the view of the professionals, which we as a Parish Council shared, was that none of the options made a significant difference to the junction. Some in fact put the Memorial itself at greater potential risk, and none could overcome the issue of safety for people wanting to visit the Memorial either for individual visits or for Remembrance.

The professional highway engineers will survey the junction, consider all options and will come up with appropriate design proposals. Any plans will of course be shared with Parish residents, but there is unlikely to be any consultation on this as, with all due respect to our residents, neither they nor we at the Parish Council are experts in highway design matters. The timescale and funding for this work and any actual improvements to the junction is yet to be confirmed, but we will continue to do all that we can to move this forward.