



Annual grants and donations

Each year the Parish Council sets a budget for grants and donations for local organisations and projects which provide valuable services or facilities for the Parish and its residents.

Earlier this year a grant of £300 was awarded to Berkshire Vision, and a grant of £250 awarded to Saving Abandoned Fly Grazing Equines. This month the following grants and donations have been approved by the Council.

Citizens Advice Wokingham	£3500
Gorse Ride Community After School project	£400
First Days Childrens Charity	£1000
Growing Places Horticultural Therapy Scheme	£725
Me2 Club	£750
Wokingham Job Support Centre	£1000
Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership	£4000

The Council has also approved a total of £2500 in donations to the California Ratepayers Hall, The Finchampstead Memorial Hall and the St. James' Churchyard.

Donations of a total of £7175 have been made to our local schools - Gorse Ride Infants and Junior Schools; Nine Mile Ride Primary School and Finchampstead Primary School. These donations are intended to help ensure that all pupils are able to take part in extra curricular activities, both on and off the school sites.



The Finchampstead Neighbourhood Development Plan

In August the Plan was finalised by the NDP Team and submitted to Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) for a formal review.

WBC has now launched a 6 week consultation (Regulation 16) on the plan, running from 12 October to 5pm on 23 November.

Please let the Borough Council have your views on the Plan.

Full details of the consultation can be found at <https://engage.wokingham.gov.uk/en-GB/>

You can complete a consultation response form and either

- **email it to** policyandplans@wokingham.gov.uk or
- **post it to** Growth and Delivery Team, Wokingham Borough Council, Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham, RG40 1WR

Alternatively you can just send your comments to either of the contact addresses above.

Following the consultation, all comments received will be sent to an independent examiner who will consider whether the plan meets the necessary requirements to proceed to referendum and potential adoption.

We hope that the referendum will take place in early 2023.



FINCHAMPSTEAD REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE & SERVICE Sunday 13th November 2022

The event will include the rededication of the War Memorial

and will take place at the

Finchampstead Memorial Park

The Village, Finchampstead RG40 4JU

Please arrive from 2:50pm.

Parking is available on site.

The Parade will take place in the Park at 3:00pm.

The Rededication and Remembrance Service
will follow.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Please telephone **0118 9088164** with any queries.





The War Memorial relocation project



Our previous newsletters have included a visual illustration of how the Memorial will look in its new location by the Memorial Park, but now we are nearing final completion of the project we can include an actual photograph.

Some final works will be completed this week, with further discussion to take place on a couple of optional items included in the contract.

We are delighted with the positive feedback we have received - thank you for your support. We hope to see many of you at the Remembrance event on 13 November (see previous page) which will include the rededication of the Memorial.

Full details of the project can be found at the link below.
<https://www.finchampstead-pc.gov.uk/history/war-memorial/war-memorial-relocation>

The Memorial Park

Regular users of the Memorial Park will be familiar with the sign setting out the history of the Park which was purchased for the Parish in 1947 to mark the Second World War.

We are pleased to have been able to give the sign a clean and a smart new frame before reinstalling it in the Park, just a few metres west of where it previously stood.

The Parish Council owns the freehold to the Memorial Park and is the Custodial Trustee, but its management is vested in a Committee including representatives from various local organisations from the Sports Club to the Parish Council, the Finchampstead Primary School to the Women's Institute.



Vacancy on the Council

We have a vacancy for a part time Deputy Clerk, having accepted Colette Warke's resignation with some regret. If you or anyone you know are interested in a varied and busy role supporting the work of the Clerk and the Parish Council please get in touch.

Contact Katy Dagnall, Clerk, on 0118 908 8164 or 07802 669004 or email
clerk@finchampstead-pc.gov.uk



The 'War Memorial junction'

Our discussions with the highway professionals at the Borough Council over future improvements to the junction have reached an important stage.

The Borough Council has drawn up concept design options for the junction, and has selected the one which is most appropriate. However, this is still subject to monitoring traffic flows when both The Ridges and the Nine Mile Ride Extension are open, to ensure that the selected option is suitable. Only then will the project progress to the next stages.

The Borough Council, the Highway Authority, has limited funds for works on the highway network, and has to prioritise where these are spent. There are other junctions in the Borough which are a higher priority than the Finchampstead War Memorial junction.

The Borough Council has drawn up an estimated cost for the proposed improvements, and after much discussion the Parish Council has decided to commit a provisional sum of up to £300,000 to these works. This is still subject to more discussion and final approval by the Parish Council as the project progresses.

The Parish Council will use Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds to cover the cost of the project. These CIL funds are intended to be used to ensure that appropriate infrastructure is in place to address demands, such as increased traffic, that local development places on an area. Our September newsletter included more information about CIL - if you missed it you can see the newsletter at <https://www.finchampstead-pc.gov.uk/newsletter>

We know how important improvements to the junction are to Finchampstead residents, and are pleased that we are in a position to fund the improvements from the CIL funds we have received and continue to receive in connection with local development.

The Borough Council and developers have funded the other major road infrastructure improvements in the area which benefit Finchampstead residents, including the Barkham Bridge, the Nine Mile Ride Extension and the Arborfield Relief Road. The Parish Council has not been asked to contribute to any of these projects.

We will keep you informed of progress through these newsletters and our website.



Recycle your pumpkin this Halloween

Halloween is just around the corner and if you've bought a pumpkin, don't forget to recycle it.

Our food waste recycling service means you can put all the insides straight into your food waste caddy.

If your pumpkin is too big, chop it up first. Alternatively, sit it next to your bin on your collection day next week and our crew will take it away for it to be turned into fertiliser.

<https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling/food-waste/>



Help shape your future waste and recycling collections

Due to unprecedented financial pressures, new government legislation and its climate emergency goals, the Borough Council will no longer be able to continue collections as they currently are.

We need to reduce the amount of waste we produce as a borough and increase our recycling rate. The Borough Council is also under significant financial pressures and needs to reduce costs to protect essential services.

The changes we could make are about how often our waste is collected, as well as the size and type of the containers.

Under both possible options, we would continue to have food waste collected weekly and subscription garden waste fortnightly.

- **Option 1:** Weekly food waste collections, with fortnightly general rubbish and recycling on alternate weeks
- **Option 2:** Weekly food waste collections, with fortnightly recycling and three-weekly general rubbish

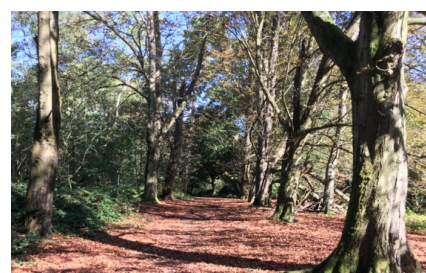
Please give the Borough Council your views by completing the survey

Visit www.wokingham.gov.uk and search for 'consultations'

New entrance to Rook's Nest Wood

The Borough Council is going to provide a second entrance to its nature park at Rooks Nest Wood near Finchampstead, encouraging local residents to walk there instead of driving, working in partnership with Finchampstead Parish Council.

Since Rook's Nest Wood opened in 2011, we know that some local residents have been entering via the neighbouring woodland off Booth Drive and then crossing the ditch instead of using the main entrance and free car park off Barkham Ride.



Following a positive response to a consultation, we're going to formalise this arrangement and make it safer by installing a kissing gate at the gap in the fencing and a bridge crossing the ditch.

The Borough Council is very grateful to the parish council for conducting the survey, applying for planning permission and funding these works.

The woodland itself, which the Borough owns, won't become part of the nature park and the new path won't be signed or made a formal right of way so it won't appear on maps. The existing fencing that protects the badger sett will remain and the Borough's ecologist is happy that there will be no significant impact on the badgers.

This proposal has been broadly supported but we know some people still have concerns, so we'll review things after a year to see if there's been any impact which we might need further measures to address.



Cost of living help

Visit the Hardship Alliance's cost of living help hub for the latest advice for you and your family.

<https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/cost-of-living/>

If you are struggling to pay for food, energy bills and other household essentials, help is available. If you have children using Free School Meals you could get additional support in the school holidays. You can apply to the Household Support Fund - find information at the link above.

Talk to someone if you need help

Contact One Front Door, a service led by Citizens Advice, Wokingham, that helps residents find the most appropriate support. Call 0808 278 7958, Monday to Friday or visit

<https://citizensadvicewokingham.org.uk/onefrontdoor/>

Volunteer to help others

If you're not struggling with the cost of living but want to help others who are, the Wokingham Volunteer Centre will help you find a role.

www.wokinghamvolunteercentre.org.uk

How to save £500 on your energy bills this year

Here are the Energy Saving Trust's top energy saving tips to bring your bills down (savings are averages).

Appliances off at socket - £65

Shower in four minutes - £95

Draught proof windows/doors - £125

Swap baths for showers - £20

Turn off lights not being used - £25

Avoid overfilling kettle - £13

30-degree washing cycle - £34

Completely fill dishwasher each time - £17

Avoid tumble dryer - £70

Insulate hot water cylinder - £70

www.wokingham.gov.uk/cost-of-living



Citizens Advice will be at:

FBC

Tuesday 8th November
between 9:00 and 12:00

with our Mobile Advice Unit.
Providing free, confidential
advice, information and support.





Please protect your bike from theft

TVP has seen an increase in reported bike thefts across the Bracknell and Wokingham areas.

If you've ever had your bicycle stolen, you'll know how upsetting it can be. Our practical tips should help keep your bike safe and out of the hands of thieves – and also advise how to get it back if it is stolen.

The most important thing to remember is, double lock your bike and register the frame number.

Follow these 10 tips to help ensure your bike remains safe, secure and not a statistic.

1. Double lock it

Using two locks slows thieves down and makes your bike less of a target. Use two quality locks, at least one of which is a D-lock. Thieves are less likely to carry multiple tools, so use two different types of lock if possible.

2. Lock the lot - Lock the frame and both wheels to a secure cycle stand.

3. Secure it

Secure your bike as close to the stand as possible to give any thieves little or no room to manoeuvre.

4. Take removable parts with you

Take parts that are easy to remove with you, such as wheels, lights, baskets or the saddle. Or use locking skewers or nuts which can increase security by securing the bike's components to the frame permanently.

5. Park securely

Lock your bike at recognised secure cycle parking. It should be well lit and covered by CCTV.

6. Register it

Register your frame number for free on a cycle database such as BikeRegister or immobilise.com. Alternative companies can be found on the Secured by Design website. The frame number is usually found underneath the bike between the pedals or where the back wheel slots in. If your bike is ever stolen and recovered by the police, it can be traced back to you.

7. Mark it

Get your bike security marked. It's a highly effective, visible deterrent to bike thieves. They know that if they are caught with a registered bike, the owner can be traced and they will be arrested. BikeRegister provide a list of police bike marking events. You can also mark your bike with SmartWater.

8. Remember safety begins at home

Take the same care to lock your bike securely at home as you would on the street. Avoid advertising that you have a bike at home, for example, by removing car roof racks, and creating 'privacy zones' on apps like Strava to avoid disclosing your location.

9. Check ownership

Ask for proof of ownership and check the bike frame number on a cycle database such as Bike Checker at BikeRegister. Alternative companies can be found on the Secured by Design website.

10. Act fast

If your bike has been stolen, contact the Police as soon as possible by calling 101 or reporting online. Give us your frame number, cycle database number, a photo and any other details and make sure you update the status on the cycle database where you registered it.

Stolen Bikes will help to spread the word on the theft of your bike and offer you advice to help get it back. Find That Bike lists adverts for bikes placed on online marketplaces, which you can check frequently to see if yours has been listed for sale.

It might also be worth posting on these Forums - Ride.cc Bike Forum / Bikeradar / CycleChat



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:

- Held meetings of the Planning Committee, the Roads & Road Safety Committee, the Finance & General Management Committee and Main Council.
- Attended meetings of the Gorse Ride Steering Group (Cllr Steve Bowers chairs the Group), the FBC Advisory Group (Cllr Roland Cundy represents us) and the Finchampstead Park Management Committee (Cllr Simon Weeks represents us).
- Met FBC representatives to discuss the Parish Council's support for youth activities FBC provides for the community. This is our largest grant - currently £12,000 per year.
- Inspected our allotments - a regular task undertaken with the Chair of the Allotment Association!
- Awarded £21,050 in grants and donations to local organisations (see page 1 of this newsletter).
- Attended a presentation on proposed sports facilities and infrastructure at Arborfield Green.
- Continued to make good progress with the War Memorial relocation project (see page 3) and moved a stage further with the future improvements to the junction where the Memorial previously stood (see page 4).
- Planned roadside speed watch sessions until mid December. We need some more volunteers - please get in touch if you are interested.



The Finchampstead Future Group, made up of Parish Councillors and local volunteers, has submitted the **Finchampstead Neighbourhood Development Plan** to the Borough Council. See page 1 of this newsletter for details



www.finchampstead-pc.gov.uk/community-projects/neighbourhood-development-plan/documents

Staff are now working in our office at the FBC Centre on certain days, while working from home on other days. Some of the staff are part time. If you would like to see a member of staff please get in touch to ensure we will be available when you wish to visit.

Some of our meetings are now held in person, and others by video conferencing. 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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Tel: 0118 908 8164 email: clerk@finchampstead-pc.gov.uk www.finchampstead-pc.gov.uk



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