



The **Friends of Finchampstead Ridges** are an active group that not only secure funding but also become involved directly with construction projects. The latest was a design and build by members of the committee with direct support from the regular volunteer team. This was the removal of the existing bridge and rebuild of the same at the Southern end of Heath Pond. Replacement of the structure was possible through the generous financial support from Finchampstead Parish Council.



Following a comprehensive survey to assess what specifically was required work commenced on site on the 28th November . After the removal of the existing bridge the construction then started.

The new bridge is now complete. So why not take a stroll over to Simon's Wood to see the latest addition to the local landscape...



<https://www.finchridges.co.uk/>

Improvements to Bridlepath 26

Its also been a busy couple of weeks for a contractor commissioned by the Parish Council to sort out the drainage problems on Bridlepath 26.

This path runs from Wick Hill Lane near the junction of Heath Ride and the Kiln Ride Extension, turning South East then South and over Wick Hill, passing Bridlepath 55 and then on to The Ridges B3348 opposite Dell Road.



Drainage on a section of this path has been a problem for years - with blocked ditches, a blocked culvert and water running down the path.

The Parish Council has used Community Infrastructure Levy funds to cover the cost of these works and is delighted with the outcome. The path should now be much more useable all year round.





CALLING ALL COMMUNITY HEROES



Finchampstead Parish Council
NEEDS YOU!

MAKE A CHANGE
BECOME A COUNCILLOR

Councillor vacancies

We have two vacancies on the Council at the moment.

As a local parish councillor you can become a voice for your community and make real change. Local councillors are the champions of their community who invest time in local projects and issues to the benefit of residents and the area.

The Parish Council depends on volunteers who want to contribute a little time to make a lot of difference. The Parish Council is about people, not politics - our Councillors work together as one team on behalf of the parish and its residents.

If you are interested in joining our busy and enthusiastic team of Councillors and would like to find out more please get in touch with Katy Dagnall, the Parish Council Clerk, for an informal chat.

Telephone 118 9088164 or email clerk@finchampstead-pc.gov.uk



Creating a tree strategy for the borough

Residents' views are being sought on proposals to clearly outline how existing trees are cared for, and new ones are planted, across Wokingham borough.

The Borough Council is consulting until 22 January on a draft tree strategy, which it is drawing up to protect the environment and biodiversity as well as local people's health.

The proposals include better co-ordination of how our trees are managed, developers' duties towards planting and how you can help protect trees with historic or community value.

They also support our efforts to increase planting on public and private land, in line with the Wokingham climate emergency action plan, to offset carbon emissions and a recent decline in individual trees.

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

Finchampstead Parish Council will be submitting a response to the consultation on this important and much needed strategy.

Garden Forest Scheme

We were pleased to hear that 88 Finchampstead residents received a total of 300 young trees in November from Wokingham Borough Council through its **Garden Forest scheme**. We hope they are doing well in your gardens! WBC has just launched a second phase of the scheme - apply by 12 February to receive up to 10 trees in March 2023.

To find out more or apply for the tree(s), visit engage.wokingham.gov.uk



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/>

The hub includes information on how you can get support with food and fuel, your health, household bills, household essentials and more.



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



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



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/>

The **Citizens Advice Mobile Advice Unit** will be at the FBC Centre, Gorse Ride North between 9am and 12 noon on 3 and 31 January 2023, providing free, confidential advice, information and support. Just drop in - no appointment needed.

Staff vacancy on the Council

We have a vacancy for a part time Deputy Clerk. If you or anyone you know is 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

Full details of the role can be found on our website at <https://www.finchampstead-pc.gov.uk/job-opportunities>





Food waste recycling

A quick list of what you can put into your food waste caddy! Remember no amount is too small!

What can I put in my caddy?

You can recycle all your food waste, including the following:

Remember to recycle your mouldy and out of date food, including ready meals removed from their packaging

 food waste	✓ All uneaten food and plate scrapings	 dairy	✓ Dairy products ✓ Cheese ✓ Eggs	 bread & pastries	✓ Bread ✓ Cakes ✓ Pastries
 meat & bones	✓ Raw meat ✓ Cooked meat ✓ Bones	 tea & coffee grounds	✓ Tea bags ✓ Coffee grounds	 fruit & vegetables	✓ Raw vegetables ✓ Cooked vegetables ✓ Whole fruit ✓ Peelings
 fish	✓ Fish ✓ Cooked fish ✓ Bones	 rice pasta & beans	✓ Rice ✓ Pasta ✓ Beans	 cooking oils	✓ Pour your oil into a plastic bottle, seal it and place inside your outdoor food waste bin

Food waste is collected from households and brought to the re3 Transfer Stations. It is then transported to the Anaerobic Digestion facility in Oxfordshire.

In the digesters, the food waste is broken down by bacteria, creating a gas called methane. This gas is captured and used to create electricity. The plant produces 2.4mw of electricity continually, which is enough to power 4,800 homes.

In addition, the food waste breaks down into a liquid fertiliser, rich in nitrogen, used into fields to improve the soil and help grow crops.

The plant recycles 50,000 tonnes of solid food and liquid waste and captures 4.5 million cubic metres of methane gas each year.

To watch a video on how your food waste is recycled head to <http://bit.ly/re3foodwasterecycling>

STORYTIME WITH

* Fiona Barker *

Wednesday 21st December
10:30am
Finchampstead Library

Booking is essential



Christmas Storytime at Finchampstead Library

Local author - Fiona Barker will be reading her latest picture books during Christmas Storytime.

Suitable for ages 2-5. Sessions are free but booking is essential.

To book your place visit www.wokingham.gov.uk/libraries/

The Finchampstead Library will be closed between Friday 23 December and Monday 2 January, re-opening on 3 January.

For opening hours at other Wokingham libraries, and information on services and events visit www.wokingham.gov.uk/libraries/



With food, water and shelter scarce over the winter months, give your garden birds a treat with an edible Christmas wreath.

As the days get colder and snow starts to fall, our garden and countryside birds can struggle to find enough food and fresh water naturally. Providing bird food and clean water in the garden is an important way to help our feathered friends over winter. And it will also give you the chance to see these creatures up close and personal, including some species, such as waxwings, that are only around in the winter months.

You can find more resources for people of all ages to help make gardens of all sizes a haven for wildlife at www.bbowt.org.uk/actions



Winter walks

We are fortunate to have such a great network of paths to enjoy. Visit our website www.finchampstead-pc.gov.uk and search for 'local walks' to find information about the local rights of way - and our 3 popular circular walks.

If you spot any damaged way markers on the circular walks, or any other problems with signs, do let us know.

The Ramblers www.ramblers.org.uk has lots of information on one off or regular walks - both local and further afield. There are also regular 'wellbeing walks' - short local group walks to make it easier for you to start walking and stay active.





*With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year
from all the Councillors and staff at
Finchampstead Parish Council*



Christmas opening hours

The FBC Centre and therefore the Parish Council Office will be closed from Friday 23 December to Monday 2 January inclusive, re-opening on Tuesday 3 January. Staff will be working at home during some of this period so please get in touch on clerk@finchampstead-pc.gov.uk

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 Finance & General Management Committee, the Rights of Way Committee, the Planning Committee and the HR Sub Committee.
- Attended meetings of the Gorse Ride Steering Group (Cllr Steve Bowers chairs the Group), and the Finchampstead Allotment Association Committee (the Clerk represents the Council).
- Saw work start on access improvements to Rooks Nest Woods - the project should be completed in January.
- Agreed a provisional budget for 2023/24 - this will be finalised in January.
- Continued roadside community speed watch sessions.
- Let two allotment plots, and added more applications to the waiting list.
- Published our meeting schedule for 2023. Members of the public are welcome to attend a Main Council or Committee meeting - please contact us if you would like to attend.



The Finchampstead Future Group, made up of Parish Councillors and local volunteers, has submitted the
Finchampstead Neighbourhood Development Plan
to the Borough Council.

The Regulation 16 consultation has now closed and the next stage - the independent examination of the Plan - is underway.



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

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH OFFICE, FBC CENTRE, GORSE RIDE NORTH, FINCHAMPSTEAD RG40 4ES
Tel: 0118 908 8164 email: clerk@finchampstead-pc.gov.uk www.finchampstead-pc.gov.uk



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YOUR RUBBISH AND RECYCLING COLLECTIONS DURING CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

Original collection day	Change to
25 December (Sun, Christmas Day) No scheduled collections	
26 December (Mon, Boxing Day)	*27 December (Tues, Bank holiday)
27 December (Tues, Bank holiday)	28 December (Wed)
28 December (Wed)	29 December (Thurs)
29 December (Thurs)	30 December (Fri)
30 December (Fri)	*31 December (Sat)
1 January (Sun, New Year's Day) No scheduled collections	
*2 January (Mon, Bank holiday)	No change
3 to 6 January (Tues to Fri)	No change



*Earlier start

Collections on
27 Dec, 31 Dec and 2 Jan
will start earlier from 5.30am

Put out your waste
the night before collections



Garden waste

Collections will follow
the schedule above



Christmas tree

If you use our garden waste
collection service, cut up your real
tree, place it in your brown bin or
sack on your collection day

You may also take it to re3
household waste recycling centres



Wrapping paper, Christmas cards, cardboard packaging

Reuse or recycle where possible
Metallic paper and cards with glitter
go into blue rubbish bags



Leftover food

Turn your leftovers into new meals

If you can't eat them all, put any food
waste into your food waste container
to turn it into fertilizer