



Finchampstead
Parish Council

Note it, Vote it



“Note it Vote it” boards erected on roads throughout the Parish.

On September 7th, residents of Finchampstead will be asked to vote on whether to adopt the Finchampstead Neighbourhood Development Plan (FNDP).

If they vote 'yes', the policies in the FNDP will be used by Wokingham Borough Council when making decisions on planning applications in the parish of Finchampstead.

As some background to this important decision and to answer many of the questions being raised through social media channels, the Parish Council thought it might help residents to understand how the FNDP has come into being.

In 2018, as part of a review of the role of the Parish Council, a group of parish councillors conducted a 'fact-finding' review about the role of Neighbourhood Development Plans in the planning process. The team met with a number of other parish councils in Wokingham Borough but also in Hampshire, Bracknell and West Berkshire. They also examined plans from other parishes across the country.

As a result, Finchampstead Parish Council decided that the parish would benefit from having a Neighbourhood Development Plan, and supported by Wokingham Borough Council, embarked upon the process at the start of 2019.

The project was run under the oversight of the Parish Council, via a Steering Group led by Parish Councillors.

- The Parish Council recruited a community team of volunteers, known as 'Finchampstead Future', including 5 Parish Councillors. Over 30 people have contributed during the lifetime of the project, chaired by a community volunteer, Allan Gibson (not a councillor). Special care was taken to ensure the best possible diversity within the group, as well as having the experience of individuals with specialist skills.
- To create the Plan, the group researched local opinion, analysed data and statistics and employed the resources of professional consultants.
- There has been extensive consultation on the plan as it's progressed (See the Consultation Statement on the FF webpage). This has included a parish wide postal household survey in 2019 which generated 1000 replies; two six-week public consultations on draft proposals in 2019 and 2021 led by FF and a further six-week consultation in 2022 led by WBC; public newsletters; mailshots to all homes in the parish; public events; a dedicated FF web page and a presence on FaceBook.
- Most of the work has been financed through a government grant but Parish Council funds have also been provided.
- ***The key result of this work was to ensure that the Plan contains essential Planning Policies which best meet local need and can be used by WBC in deciding upon planning applications.***
- The Plan being voted on has been approved by the full Parish Council.
- The FNDP has been externally examined and deemed to be fit for purpose and compliant with the guidelines by an Independent Examiner.

Finchampstead Parish Council is keen that as many people as possible take the opportunity to vote on September 7th about the proposed FNDP.

For this reason the Parish Council is conducting the following series of drop in stands for residents to ask any questions about the forthcoming referendum:

Date	Location	Hours
Saturday 19 th August	Post Office, Cali Crossroads	1000-1300
Sunday 20 th August	Simons Wood Carpark	1000-1300
Saturday 26 th August	FBC Centre	1100-1400
Sunday 27 th August	Jacksons, Cali Country Park	1000-1300
Saturday 2 nd September	Post Office, Cali Crossroads	1000-1300
Sunday 3 rd September	Jacksons, Cali Country Park	1400-1600



Residents drop in facility at California Cross-Roads and Simons Wood on 19th & 20th August: