



**NOTE IT
VOTE IT**

WHY: YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY, SO MAKE IT COUNT

WHERE: YOUR LOCAL POLLING STATION (BRING VOTER ID) OR POSTAL VOTE

WHEN: THURSDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER 7AM-10PM

**Local People.
Local Decisions.
Local Future.**



**Finchampstead
Neighbourhood
Development
Plan**

YOUR CHANCE TO VOTE

REFERENDUM

**ON THURSDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER 2023
BY POST OR AT YOUR LOCAL POLLING STATION**

Protecting the future of Finchampstead

Your chance to decide on September 7th

What is the Plan and what is it for?

The Finchampstead Neighbourhood Development Plan has been produced by local residents, working with the Parish Council, to create planning policy to guide future development in our parish over the next 15 years. We believe this is needed to safeguard what we value most.

We all know the pressures for development which exist in our area. A Neighbourhood Plan is not there to stop development, but it is a way people can influence how and where development takes place. Well-designed developments, such as Finchwood Park, can revitalise and renew a community; but unplanned, speculative development can be insensitive to the local area.

The policies in the FNDP, drawn up after extensive consultation and research over four years, will support these vital objectives.

The Plan has been scrutinised by the relevant planning authorities and it's now time to decide if you want it to be used in making planning decisions in Finchampstead.

Our vision is to embrace the need for change and to meet the expanding needs of a growing population, whilst protecting those important things that have attracted generations of people to choose Finchampstead as a place to live and raise their families.

What happens after the vote on September 7th?

If there is a majority in favour of approving the Plan, it will form the starting point for assessment planning applications alongside the local plan.

Assuming the plan is supported on 7th September, from that date, it must be used to determine planning applications within the area of the parish.

Having the Finchampstead Neighbourhood Development Plan as part of the Borough's planning policies means that the people of Finchampstead will have a stronger voice when decisions are being made about building and other developments in our local area. All that will remain is for Wokingham Borough Council to formally 'Adopt' the plan, which is a necessary step to complete the process.

What does the Plan do?

The policies in the Plan:

- Identifies and seeks to protect gaps between the settlements in the parish from inappropriate development, especially along the Finchampstead Rd and Sandhurst Rd.
- Guide development towards existing settlements rather than in the countryside.
- Support new housing development in the parish at Arborfield Green / Finchwood Park, within the Gorse Ride Community and at two supported locations at 31-33 Barkham Ride and at Green Acres on Nine Mile Ride.

- Identifies and seeks to protect our most valued Local Green Spaces, including:
 - Burnmoor Meadow,
 - Warren Wood Country Park,
 - Shepperlands Farm Nature reserve,
 - Gorse Ride Playing fields,
 - The Moors (Waverley Way),
 - Finchampstead Memorial Park and Leas Field,
 - St James' conservation area and Green.

- Identifies and seeks to protect some of the most outstanding views in the parish.
- Identifies and seeks to protect areas of historical interest and listed buildings, habitats and trees.
- Provides guidance around appropriate building heights, including generally only supporting 3-storey dwellings at Arborfield Green, Finchwood park and the Gorse Ride Community.
- Guidance to help prevent harmful back-land development.



Why Should You Vote on September 7th?

The referendum on the FNDP is part of our democratic process and gives you an opportunity to make a choice that affects how planning decisions are determined in Finchampstead.

Who Can Vote?

Anyone registered to vote in local elections can vote in this referendum.

Can I Vote by Post?

If you are registered for a postal vote, then that will be made available to you. If you are not normally registered for a postal vote, you can get one by applying to Electoral Services at Wokingham Borough Council via electoral.services@wokingham.gov.uk

Where do I vote?

Polling station details will be issued by WBC before the election, and you will receive a Polling card as you would do for any election. Don't forget to bring Voter ID.

Does this affect Wokingham Borough Council or Finchampstead Parish Council?

This is a Referendum, not a vote for electing members of any council. The current representation on Finchampstead Parish Council and Wokingham Borough Council will not be affected by this vote.

Will this vote affect Wokingham Borough's Local Plan?

This vote will not affect WBC's Local Plan Update but if approved, the FNDP will sit alongside any Local Plan update in the future.

Where I can I read the full Finchampstead Neighbourhood Development Plan?

You can find a full Referendum version of the FNDP and the associated documents at:

<https://www.finchampstead-pc.gov.uk/community-projects/neighbourhood-development-plan/documents>



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