



# Referendum Success

Turnout

25.95%

“YES”

2333, 89.6%

“NO”

263, 10.1%

## Finchampstead residents vote overwhelmingly “YES”

The Parish Council would like to thank the small group of councillors and the team of residents who volunteered 4 years ago to prepare a Neighbourhood Development Plan for the Parish.

The Parish Council would also like to thank the significant number of residents who turned out, despite huge obstacles, to vote in favour of the plan.

The “team” were devastated when they discovered that an alternative polling station for many residents was going to be in operation and the road to access the Ratepayers Hall was closed on polling day; they feared a low turnout. But you proved them wrong and are to be congratulated for your perseverance.

This plan, now it’s been formally adopted by WBC, sits alongside their planning considerations and the WBC Local Plan.

To find out what this achieves and means for the residents of the Parish, please turn to the last page.



Encouraging signs to vote and “pop-up” road shows appeared throughout the Parish in late August and early September



Congratulations to

Sally Gurney,

one of our own Councillors, who was recently elected as the Mayor of Wokingham Town for the year 2023-2024.

Sally is pleased to be known as the “cool” Mayor and tells us it is a real honour, an amazing opportunity and she is finding out so much about all the incredible volunteers who work tirelessly in and around our area to help others.



## Parish Calendar

Date for your diary:

On Sunday 12th November at 3pm there will be the annual Remembrance Day parade at the Memorial Park. The Scouts and Brownies will be on parade and the service will be led by Rev. Julian McAllen of St James Church. Afterwards

refreshments will be provided in the Memorial Hall by members of St James Church.

The dates of all Parish Council meetings and the Committee meetings can be found on the Parish Council

website and members of the public are welcome to attend.

Council and Planning meetings are monthly and the other committees meet 3 or 4 times a year.



## Fame for Finchampstead!



Residents might have noticed the arrival of a "Fun Fair" at the Memorial Park.

Finchampstead Park Management Committee was asked by film makers if the park could be used for a pre-war funfair scene in the film, code name "The Stunt Man".

Filming was delayed for a couple of days because of typical British weather and was re-scheduled to take place on Sunday 22nd.

Stars of the film are Ryan Gosling and Emily Blunt and it is believed the film is to be called "The Fall Guy" and will be premiered next year.

## Gorse Ride progress

Wates is keeping the Parish informed of progress on the re-development and although they reported being 3 weeks behind schedule, because of bad weather, they are hoping to make up some of this time.

The first 16 homes are up to roof level and residents are being invited to choose aspects of the interiors.

Numbers 17- 45 have had the foundations laid and building will shortly start.

We've also been advised that "piling" will soon be taking place for the apartment blocks. Pre-formed concrete piles will be used to limit the volume of site traffic and this method does not require high numbers of concrete lorries. There will be noise and vibration from this work but



work will not start until 9am to try and reduce inconvenience. The work will take two weeks from 23rd October.

**Please could anyone who parks vehicles on either side of Billing Avenue or Gorse Ride South (outside the bungalows) move their vehicles to the parking bays in Orbit Close before 8am on 23rd October. Once the load is delivered vehicles can go back to their normal parking space.**

## Aborfield Green progress

Plans were approved recently by WBC for the district centre. Enabling works are planned to start in early 2024 and will focus on prioritising key infrastructure for the new Sainsbury's with the store expected to open in Summer 2025.

The total project is expected to take around three years to complete, with the first shops also expected to open in Summer 2025.

However, expected to open in mid November 2023 is an

Artisan Café, Stables, located next to the Crest Nicholson sales suite on the corner of Biggs Lane.

The application for planning for the sports facilities has been slow in coming forward but it is now expected in early 2024.



### 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 continues to be updated with the latest advice and support.

Visit the hub for information on how you can get support with food and fuel, your health, household bills, household essentials and more. The hub includes information on the Household Support Fund which is now open for applications for help with food, energy bills and other essential costs.





## The Parish are pleased to announce:

The new play area at Waverley Playground is now open. Whilst this area does not fall within the Parish it was felt by councillors that as so many Finchampstead residents use this amenity the Parish Council should support its refurbishment with some funding. In recognition of the Parish support a plaque is being commissioned to place near the equipment.



The autumn hanging baskets, for the crossroads area, should soon be replacing the summer baskets which are now looking a little sad. It has been wonderful to see them last, in bloom, for so long.

Preliminary work has started in and around the crossroads area for the regeneration and improvement of this junction which is expected to start in spring 2024.

Preparation work has also started for the improvement of the Memorial Junction.



## The Parish congratulates Cresswells Garage on 100 Years of service to the Finchampstead Community



On 26-27th August Cresswells, a family run, trusted local garage, celebrated 100 years in the business with a weekend of fun for all the family and a great display of classic cars. They also displayed last year's William's F1 racing car.

Mr Colin Cresswell is the current holder of the Jones Trophy, an award presented annually by the Parish to a resident who has made a significant contribution to the community.





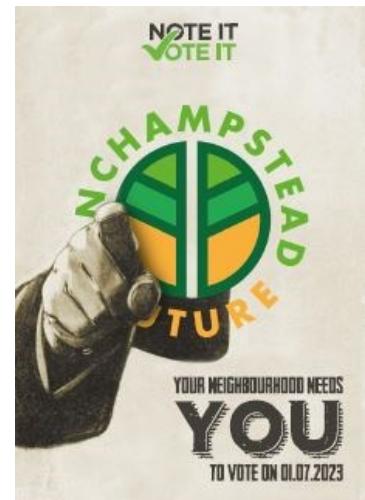
## The community benefits of the Finchampstead Neighbourhood Plan

The Finchampstead Neighbourhood Plan, now that it has been supported by local people through the referendum and has been formally adopted by Wokingham Borough Council, has legal standing and has to be taken into account when planning applications to build in the parish are considered..

The Finchampstead Neighbourhood Plan provides additional policies to inform development decisions and as such means additional safeguards against proposals which are not consistent with the character of our area and needs of our community. In this way, the people of Finchampstead have a voice in decision-making about development in their local neighbourhood.

Policies in the Finchampstead Neighbourhood Plan include:

- **Additional** protection for the gaps between the settlements in the parish, especially along the Finchampstead Rd and Sandhurst Rd
- **Guidance** of development towards existing settlements rather than in the countryside
- **Guidance** that any new housing development in the parish should be either at Arborfield Green / Finchwood Park, within the Gorse Ride Community or on two supported locations at 31-33 Barkham Ride and at Green Acres on Nine Mile Ride
- **Additional** protection for some of 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
- **Protection** of some of the most outstanding views in the parish
- **Policies** to protect areas of historical interest and listed buildings, habitats and trees
- **Guidance** that we only support 3-storey dwellings at Arborfield Green, Finchwood Park and the Gorse Ride Community
- **Guidance** to help prevent back-land development.



**THANK YOU ALL**

### A call for Volunteers

Community speedwatch really does make a difference - in the last year well over 600 vehicles have been reported to Thames Valley Police for exceeding the speed limit in Finchampstead. We aim to run a roadside speedwatch session each week, needing two volunteers per session, but at the moment we are really short of volunteers which limits the sessions we can run. Sessions take place on weekdays during the morning or afternoon and last an hour.



After setting up the equipment, the volunteers note down the details of any speeding vehicles. Training is provided.

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

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