

Finchampstead Society Meeting 26-1-21 Planning & Environment Report

Planning Developments

- **Government Changes to Planning Regulations** : petitions, lobbying and intervention by Theresa May have all helped to change the government proposals on future housing development in Finchampstead. As a result, the government's annual target of 1,635 units has been reduced to 759.
- **Relocation of the War Memorial** : a site in the memorial park close to St James church has been proposed by the Parish Council as the new location. The council has written to the Parochial Church Council and the memorial park management committee to seek agreement for this proposal. Agreement has been received from the Parochial Church Council, but a response is awaited from the memorial park management committee
- **Reading FC Training Ground** : The planning application by Reading FC to build 140 housing units on their old training ground at Park Lane has been approved by WBC. Concern has been expressed by the Parish Council that WBC are not observing planning guidelines regarding countryside development and this could set an unwelcome precedent for future planning applications.
- **Neighbourhood Development Plan** : following reviews by WBC Officers and the Planning Consultant, the first round of public consultations will take place in February for six weeks.
- **Gorse Ride Regeneration** : Phase 1 covering Cockayne Court and Arnett Avenue witnessed a "topping out" ceremony in October last year and completion is expected in spring this year. This phase will comprise 46 homes. WBC have agreed planning permission for Phase 2 and work is expected to start later this year. This phase will comprise 249 homes.

Arborfield Development

- The new primary school at Arborfield Green will open in September this year.
- CALA Homes (L&G) have made a presentation to the Parish Council regarding their proposals for building 235 homes in Phase 2 of their development at Finchwood Park.

Cemex/RSPB Nature Reserve

- Still no progress.

California Crossroads

- Work on the improvement project, which will incorporate changes arising from the public consultation in December 2018, will commence in July. The Parish Council will ask WBC to confirm the extent of the changes.

Major Roads Programme

- The Arborfield relief road opened in November last year.
- Construction of the southern section of the Nine Mile Ride extension through the Arborfield SDL will commence in spring this year and completion is provisionally fixed for summer/autumn 2022. This will connect the already completed northern section with the end of the existing Nine Mile Ride at Park Lane.