

News from the Community House

17 Billing Avenue, Finchampstead, RG40 4JE

February 2018

Jennie's tel:
07920 821919

Free Over 60s Trip to Henry Street Garden Centre Thursday 22nd February 2018, 10am - 1pm

Are you over 60yrs and would like to socialise with people of a similar age in the area? Jennie is organising a trip to Henry Street Garden Centre on **Thursday 22nd February**. Everyone will meet at the Community House at 10am, spend the morning at the garden centre and return to the Community House around 1pm. There'll be time to wander around the plants, browse in the gift shop and have some refreshments in their café. For more details and to book your free place, please see the Community House's notice board (on the driveway) or contact Jennie on tel: 07920 821919.



Children's Christmas Party

In December, the Women's Group and Jennie held a Christmas party for children in Gorse Ride. St Mary & St John's Church very kindly gave a donation towards the food & presents. The children had a great time playing games, making crafts, eating lunch, pulling crackers, plus there was a visit from Santa too! A good time was had by all. Thanks everyone 🙌



Refresh Your Mind & Body A Wellbeing Event Wed 21st March, 5-7pm



Is it time to give your wellbeing a boost?
We are organising a community event at the St Mary & St John's Parish Centre to help people look after their health & wellbeing. There will be food demonstrations with taster sessions, lots of information stalls, as well as activities such as yoga, mindfulness, craft and exercise. Why not pop along to find out how you can start looking after your wellbeing? More details will be available nearer the time and a poster put up on the notice board.

Craft for Wellbeing

After Easter, we are hoping to run a 6 week 'Craft for Wellbeing' course at Finchampstead library. The aim is to show how craft can lift your mood and encourage a healthier mindset. A poster will be put up on our notice board with more details.

Local Offer



The Special Educational Needs and Disability Information Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) has made a short video about how they can help support young people with additional needs. You can watch the video on the council's website. Go to www.wokingham.gov.uk and type Local Offer in the search bar, or go to: youtu.be/3o8SN0zfQSc

Universal Credits Roadshow

In January, Kim (Housing Services) and Velma (Rents Income Team) held a Universal Credits Roadshow at the house to explain how the changes may affect Tenants. For more information you can pick up a Universal Credits leaflet at the house, or ring Velma and her team on 0118 974 6238.



To contact Jennie, Community Development Worker, please ring: **07920 821919**, email jennie.grieve@wokingham.gov.uk or drop a note through the door of 17 Billing Ave. Please follow our Facebook pages by searching [@FinchampsteadCommunityHouse](https://www.facebook.com/FinchampsteadCommunityHouse) for general information and [@GorseRideCommunityForum](https://www.facebook.com/GorseRideCommunityForum) for regeneration information.



Coffee & Crafts with the Family Worker

This is a new, free monthly activity for mums & dads and their young children at the Community House. It's an opportunity to chat with other parents, create some craft 'masterpieces' with your child, and get advice from the Family Worker.

We haven't set the date for the next session yet so please let Jennie know if you're interested in coming and we'll get something organised.



Tea & Tales



Tea & Tales is a small reading group that meet once a week to read short stories. Some members take it in turns to read out loud and others sit back and listen. A different story is read each week so it doesn't matter if you can't attend every session. We meet on Mondays from 2pm - 3.30pm at the Community House and free refreshments are provided. All ages are welcome! Please contact Jennie for more details.

Update: Gorse Ride Regeneration Project

Website: www.wokingham.gov.uk/housing-and-tenants/tenant-services/gorse-ride-estate-regeneration/

Project Update:

- **Phase 1: Cockayne Court, Arnett Ave (odd nos 97-107), 154 Barkham Ride** - Most of these homes have been vacated in preparation for clearance. The aim is to build 37 new homes made up of 1 & 2 bed flats and 2 & 3 bed houses. Draft plans were presented at December's Steering Group meeting. They are now being updated to reflect the pre-application planning advice received earlier this year. A wider community consultation event is planned for Spring 2018 ahead of a planning application.
- **Phase 2+ Study area: Whittle Close, Gorse Ride South, Billing Ave, Orbit Close, Dart Close, Firs Close, Vicarage Close** - As part of the feasibility work, architects ACG prepared 3 draft options for the redevelopment of the estate, showing layout of new homes, green spaces, roads etc. The Council asked the community to give their feedback on the different options. Following their feedback, a preferred option was selected which is now being developed into a Masterplan. The Masterplan and associated phasing plan will be presented to the next Steering Group meeting. They will then be on display at the Regeneration Surgeries in the Community House.

How you can get involved:

Residents can get be kept updated on the progress of the project through the monthly Steering Group meetings and the fortnightly Regeneration Surgeries at the Community House:

- **Steering Group:** The next meeting will be on **Wednesday 7th February** from 7-9pm at St Mary & St John's Parish Centre. Minutes from the previous meeting are available from the Community House and also on the Council's website: www.wokingham.gov.uk/housing-and-tenants/tenant-services/gorse-ride-estate-regeneration/
- **Regeneration Surgeries:** The aim of these surgeries are to give residents a chance to drop-in, ask questions, view the current proposals, give their feedback and hear project updates. The next surgery will be on **Tuesday 6th February** from 10-11.30am.

Contact Details:

If you have any questions and can't make the Regeneration Surgeries, you can contact **Zareena Ahmed-Shere**, Project Manager on:

Tel: 0118 974 6587 or 07809 310914

Email: Zareena.ahmed-shere@wokingham.gov.uk

General enquiries: GorseRideSouth.Consultation@wokingham.gov.uk