

News from the Community House

17 Billing Avenue, Finchampstead, RG40 4JE

May 2018

Jennie's tel:
07920 821919

Children's Easter Party

The Women's Group held a lovely Easter party for children during the school holidays. They were supported by Jennie (Community Development Worker) and Ashley (Family Worker). It was a huge, noisy affair with 45 kids creating masterpieces like chocolate nests, Easter bunnies and other themed crafts; as well as a chance to win a raffle basket beautifully made by Tracy Young. Our thanks go to St Mary & St John's Church for letting us have the hall and giving a donation towards the chocolate eggs.



Health & Wellbeing Event and Felix

In March, Jennie organised a free community event at the St Mary & St John's Parish Centre to help people look after their health & wellbeing. There were information stalls, blood pressure checks, food tasters and bitesize yoga sessions; plus 4 chances to win £5 Tesco vouchers! Thanks to Tesco for all their support, **and** all the other stallholders who did a brilliant job sharing information to promote good physical & mental health. If you'd like more information on this subject, please contact Jennie.



Over 60s Trip to garden centre

In February, Jennie and Mark (Community Warden) took an older and cheerful group of residents to Henry Street Garden Centre. They spent the morning browsing around the plants & gift shop, and then met in the café for coffee and cake before returning home with their purchases. Everyone had a great time and came up with some interesting suggestions for the next trip! If you would like to join the group, please let Jennie know.



Facepainting fun!

During the February half term, the Women's Group held a facepainting session at the Community House. What do you think of the results?! If you'd like to sign up to future children's activities, please contact Jennie or a Women's Group member.



Universal Credits Roadshow

On Wed 31st May, there's another chance to find out about Universal Credits. We're having a roadshow at the Community House at 1pm, and Kim (Housing Services) and Velma (Rents Income team) will be on hand to give tenants information on possible changes to their benefits. In the meantime, you can ring Velma on tel: **0118 974 6238** for Universal Credits support.



Home Library Service

Do you know someone who loves to read but struggles to get to the library? The Home Library Service delivers books and audio items to people who are unable to visit their library because of ill health, disability or they're caring for someone.



This is a free service. For more details ring Wokingham library on **0118 978 1368** or contact Jennie.

Local pharmacy opening times for May Bank Holidays

Monday 7th & Monday 28th May

Morrisons, Woosehill: 10am - 4pm

Tesco, Wokingham: 9am - 6pm

Blue & Brown Bin Bags

To save Gorse Ride residents going down to the main Council offices for their blue bin bags and brown garden waste bags, you can now pop round to the Community House. Jennie is keeping a stock for residents to purchase when required.



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](#) for general information and [@GorseRideCommunityForum](#) for regeneration information.



Action Fraud

Be aware of fraudsters cold-calling people saying they're from BT or other phone providers and selling a call-barring service. The real service is FREE and is called the Telephone Preference Service (TPS). You can register at: www.tpsonline.org.uk or ring: **0345 070 0707**. Remember, never give out personal details or financial information to people who 'cold call'. For more advice, ring the Action Fraud helpline: 0300 123 2040.

Craft for Wellbeing

This is a 6 week course held on Thursday mornings at Finchampstead library. The aim is to show how craft can lift your mood and encourage a healthier mindset. Although the course has started, you can still join the sessions -

please let Jennie know.



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** - In preparation for demolition and re-development hoardings have gone up around parts of the site as they became vacant. Demolition work is expected to start in late May once the remaining affected tenants are re-housed. A revised proposal has been drawn up in light of the pre-application Planning Advice received. These plans provide a total of 46 new dwellings consisting of 1 and 2 bedroom flats and 3 bedroom houses. A Public Community Consultation Event took place on 23rd March where people were able to see the plans and give their views. The design team are currently updating plans in response to the feedback received. The Planning Application is due to be submitted next month and a decision is expected in Autumn 2018.
- **Phase 2+: Whittle Close, Gorse Ride South, Billing Ave, Orbit Close, Dart Close, Firs Close** A Masterplan that provides 243 replacement homes and a large village green has been drawn up. The Masterplan and associated Phasing Plan was presented to the Steering Group on 7th February. The plans indicate that the development will progress in 3 phases over a 7 year period starting in Summer 2020 when the above Phase 1 scheme is expected to complete. At an Extraordinary Meeting on 16th May, the Council's Executive will consider a report on these regeneration plans. The Council will send a copy of the Executive report to all affected residents in early May. Residents are welcome to attend the meeting and submit a related question (beforehand) that they would like the Executive to answer.

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 6th June** 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 the 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 2 surgeries will be on **Tuesday 1st May & 15th May** 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