

News from the Community House

17 Billing Avenue, Finchampstead, RG40 4JE

September 2018

Jennie's tel:
07920 821919

Rent Surgeries returning to the Community House



Tenant Services along with the Rents Income Team would like to hold weekly Rent Surgeries at the Community House again. The aim is to see if Finchampstead residents would make use of the surgeries so they're trying a **pilot scheme for 4 weeks** from **Monday 15th October to Monday 5th November**. The surgeries will take place at the Community House (17 Billing Ave) from **9.30am to 11am**. Tenants can pop in for a friendly chat with a Rents Officer and talk about things like housing benefit issues, rent arrears, methods of payment and additional support for paying rent. *(Don't forget, tenants can also come to the Housing Surgery which is at the Community House every Monday morning from 9.30am to 11am.)*

If you think the Rent Surgeries would be useful, please come to a session during the pilot scheme. If there's a good take-up, the council will consider holding regular Rent Surgeries in future.

Tell the Council what you think!

Did you know that our council receives the least funding from the Government compared to other local authorities in the country? As budgets are constantly being cut, WBC is thinking of ways to work differently in order to continue delivering services. And they need your help! They're running a consultation to find out what residents think about a new plan to work with the community and partner organisations to deliver services. Go to: www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=153138368402 to respond online or see Jennie at the Community House. Deadline for responses is 30th Sept 2018.

Teaching Assistant Course, Finchampstead Library

The council's Adult Education team run many courses across the borough to help people get into work. Their **Teaching Assistant Course** will run for 6 weeks at Finchampstead library starting **Thursday 11th October** from 10am–12noon. Go to adulthoodeducation@wokingham.gov.uk or ring: 0118 974 3797 for more details.



Women's Group Day Trip to Brighton

This summer, the Women's Group organised a day trip to Brighton for Gorse Ride residents. Nearly 70 people went, including a family that followed the coach down in their car.

The Women's Group had bought all the families buckets & spades as well as a few things to keep the children busy during the journey. On arrival, all the youngsters were given some money to buy an ice cream and then everyone split up to do their own thing for the day. Most families stayed around the beach and enjoyed a dip in the sea to cool down in the hot sun. Some people made a large lizard on the beach using coloured stones; others explored the rock pool collecting crabs, seaweed etc. A few families had fun at the fairground with some of the boys experiencing their first ever rollercoaster ride! And a few others enjoyed a leisurely stroll down to the Royal Pavilion to admire the beautiful old building.

It was a lovely day out and everyone had a great time. A big thank you to the Women's Group for organising the trip and to **Wokingham United Charities** for their generous grant that made it all happen.



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 Avenue. Please follow our Facebook pages by searching **@FinchampsteadCommunityHouse** for general information and **@GorseRideCommunityForum** for regeneration information.



Jumpers for Juniors

A big thank you to Helen who knitted these colourful children's jumpers. The jumpers have been donated to the local refugee worker who will pass them on to children in need. If you're a knitter or would like to learn, please let Jennie know and maybe we could start up a friendly knitting group at the Community House!



Community Fun Day

In August, the Tenant Involvement team held a Fun Day on the FBC field. It was a great day for all the family! The Women's Group ran a Tombola to raise funds for future activities such as a party for local children at Christmas.

A big **Shout Out to Tesco** for supplying some bottles for the Tombola, and thank you to everyone who bought raffle tickets!



Gorse Ride Regeneration - Green Space Ideas

Last month, Jennie, Zareena & Mark talked to local children and young people to find out what they'd like to see in the green spaces of the new, regenerated Gorse Ride estate. Things that have worked in other areas include skate parks, outside gyms etc. Teenagers wrote down their ideas on a form and younger children drew their ideas on huge pieces of card that were laid out on the Community House's driveway. Some of the children's great ideas were high slides for skate boards, 5-a-side football pitches and intricate climbing frames! All participants got a free ice-cream. It's not too late to contribute to this feedback. Please see Jennie at the community house to share your views.



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.

On 10th October, the Council's Planning Committee is due to make a decision on the planning application for 46 new dwellings consisting of 1 and 2 bedroom flats and 3 bedroom houses. If planning consent is granted then demolition work will begin November/December 2018.

Phase 2+: Whittle Close, Gorse Ride South, Billing Ave, Orbit Close, Dart Close, Firs Close.

Loddon Homes have appointed architects ACG and consultants AECOM to continue work with the local community to take the Masterplan forward to the Planning Stages. The Steering Group is meeting on 1st October to review the Masterplan. Residents can get involved in firming up the design at this meeting or through the regular Regeneration Surgeries (see below). Council Officers are continuing to have 1:1 discussions with residents about their housing needs and preferences, and to share information. To book your 1:1 meeting, please ring: 0118 974 6587.

How you can get involved:

You can be kept updated on the project's progress through the fortnightly Regeneration Surgeries at the Community House, or Steering Group meetings, or by visiting the Council's website listed above.

- * **Steering Group:** The next meeting will be Monday 1st October, 7.15pm to 9.15pm at the St Mary & St John's Parish Centre (at the end of Billing Avenue).
- * **Regeneration Surgeries:** The next 2 surgeries are **Tues 2nd & 16th October, 10-11.30am.**

Contact Details:

You can contact **Zareena Ahmed-Shere**, Project Manager for more information on:

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

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