

## Finchampstead Society

### Planning & Environment Report 2021/22

#### Introduction

- Due to the disruption caused by the Covid pandemic, you may remember our 2020/21 annual general meeting did not take place until October last year. This report therefore covers the six month period from October 2021 to April 2022.

#### Housing Developments

- **Gorse Ride Regeneration** : Phase 2 construction is likely to start in late spring of this year, with the first occupation possible by early 2023.
- **Rooks Nest Farm** : WBC are proposing to build 270 houses across two sites at Rooks Nest Farm and No.27 Barkham Ride. Although the sites are located in Barkham, the major impact will be felt in Finchampstead. The development is opposed by the Parish Council, the four WBC councillors representing Finchampstead and a gathering swell of public opinion. Finchampstead Society has submitted a letter of protest to WBC and has urged members to also send protest letters with the aid of guidance notes from the Parish Council on major areas of concern.

#### Major New Roads

- The second stage of the Nine Mile Ride extension from Bohunt School in Arborfield Green to join up with the end of the existing Nine Mile Ride at Park Lane is due to open during summer 2022.

#### Relocation of the War Memorial

- WBC granted planning permission for the relocation of the War Memorial to the wide grass verge adjacent to the Memorial Park in February this year and completion of the project is expected to be in June/July this year.

#### The Ridges Road Closure

- WBC has identified a solution to the subsidence problem which led to the closure of the road at the War Memorial. Design work has now been completed and costed and work could commence by May/June this year.

#### Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)

- At a meeting in January this year between WBC and members of the Finchampstead NDP team, the impact of the Rooks Nest Farm development proposals (see Housing Developments above) on the NDP in terms of the site allocations proposed in the Plan was discussed. The NDP team has subsequently decided not to change any of the site allocations. The rejection by WBC of six of the sites proposed for Local Green Space designation was also discussed and WBC confirmed that further submissions relating to the rejected sites would be considered.

#### Litter Pick :

- The Finchampstead annual community litter pick took place last weekend. This was the first since 2019 because of the Covid pandemic disruption.

