



## **Annual Report 2022-23**

### **Parish Council**

I would like to start this report by thanking the council staff for their hard work and dedication and my fellow parish councillors for all the time and hard work they freely volunteer on behalf of the parish.

We said a sad farewell to Katy Hughes, who has spent the last four years as our Parish Clerk. In November Locum Clerk Steve Milton joined us as an interim measure until a new clerk was recruited. The search ended earlier in the year when Debbie Gooch was appointed as our full time Parish Clerk. Debbie joins us with experience having spent the last two years as Parish Clerk to West End Parish Council. I know you will join me in wishing Debbie well in her new role.

Our May Annual meeting saw Cllr Aaron Plume step down as Chairman due to work commitments and Cllr Lesley Foxwell take up the mantle. Our thanks to Cllr Plume for his steadfast chairmanship over the last two years.

### **Past Parish Councillors**

We say a fond farewell to a long-serving councillor Ken Newland who, due to moving outside the area, did not stand again at this year's parish elections. Ken served as a parish councillor for eleven years, eight of those as Chairman. We thank Ken for his years of service to our parish.

We also said farewell to councillor Janet Cannon who took the decision to resign her position earlier in the year. Our thanks to Janet for her contribution to the parish council.

### **New Parish Councillors**

This civic year we welcomed two new councillors, James Millett and Jordan Montgomery. First co-opted in June 2022 and now, following the recent parish elections, fully elected members of the parish council. We look forward to the continuing contribution of both James and Jordan to promote the interests and well-being of the parish.

### **Borough Councillors**

Borough Councillor Angus Ross stood down from his role as ward councillor for the parish, after many years of service. We are grateful for his dedication to the parish and wish him a very happy retirement.

We welcomed Borough Councillor David Davies who took over from Angus and more recently, following this year's elections, Borough Councillor Jordan Montgomery.

We wish former Borough Councillor Cris Bowring all the best in his future endeavours.

## **Investment and activities across the parish**

### **St Sebastian's Memorial Hall**

Hall hire rates have increased and the hall is now regularly booked by a variety of groups, including a new pop-up play village, Pilates, Scottish County dancing, Women's Institute and many more.

The council recently appointed a specialist stained-glass window restorer to renovate the First World War memorial window at the hall. The rejuvenated window is complemented by a new clear glass pane so hall visitors can better appreciate the beautiful memorial window located in the hall lobby.

### **Wokingham Without Byway 28**

The parish council in partnership with the borough council has been managing a program of works to improve Byway 28. Improvements to the third, longer section, from Heathlands Road through to Gorrick Woodland towards the railway line were completed in the Autumn of 2022. This upgrade will provide our residents an all-year-round, predominantly off-road walking and cycling route from Wokingham Without into Wokingham Town Centre.



### **Pinewood Hall Renovation**

The council has invested to upgrade and modernise the Pinewood Hall building with the help of local firm Creative Project Services. The comprehensive refurbishment has seen the front of the building completely remodelled to provide a new kitchen, changing and toilet facilities as well as break out and waiting areas for hall users. The hall itself is now a modern, bright space with upgraded heating and air conditioning units.





## **Platinum Jubilee**

To celebrate the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee, Wokingham Without Parish Council held a bunting competition inviting adults, teens and younger children to create a bunting triangle which was displayed around the Pinewood site. The winning designs all won a prize of either an Amazon voucher, Squires Garden centre voucher or a book token, along with a commemorative bookmark.



## **WWPC Annual Litter Pick**

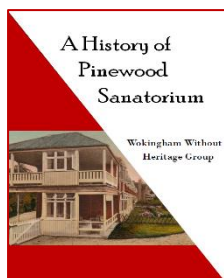
In March, the council organised an Annual Litter Pick. Over twenty-five people attended, and 30 bags of litter were collected. We extend our grateful thanks everyone who volunteered their time to help tidy up the parish.



## **Adopt A Street**

If you would like to find out more about how you can help keep your street free of litter, or if you are looking for a volunteering activity for the Duke of Edinburgh scheme, please do contact us for details of our 'Adopt A Street' program.

## **Pinewood Sanatorium booklet**



A second edition of 'A History of Pinewood Sanatorium' was reprinted in May 2022. Prepared by the Wokingham Without Heritage Group, the booklet provides a fascinating insight into the long and varied history of the Pinewood site. The book can be purchased from the Parish Office, The Pinewood Bar & Café and various outlets in the parish including Rogers Hardware, Handy DIY Store, The Village Cobbler and Squires Garden Centre.

## **Grants**

In November, the council was pleased to approve more than £12,500 in grant funding for local organisations who provide valuable services to Wokingham Without residents.



The parish council are now considering grant applications for 2023/24. For full details on how to apply can be found on our website: [www.wokinghamwithout-pc.gov.uk](http://www.wokinghamwithout-pc.gov.uk). The application deadline is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023.

## **Budget**

In January, the council approved the budget for the next financial year. The council's prudent budgeting and careful management of resources has enabled us to restrict the increase in the precept to 5%.

## **Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG)**

Crowthorne and Wokingham Without Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) meet twice a year. The meetings are well attended by residents, both parish councils and Thames Valley Police along with both Bracknell Forest and Wokingham Borough Councils. The group continues to provide a platform for residents and local stakeholders to discuss concerns.



## **Looking ahead**

In the year ahead the council hope to finalise the renewal of the Pinewood leases, which will provide greater security and stability to the clubs on site and allow them to invest for their futures. The parish council is also looking forward to developing the community orchard.

## **Councillor vacancies**

At the time of writing, the council still has two vacancies. If you feel inspired by what you read in our report, please do contact our Clerk, Debbie to find out more about what is involved.



## We have a vacancy for a parish councillor

Please contact the Clerk for more information

Clerk@wokinghamwithout-pc.gov.uk or 01344 771425

The Lodge, Pinewood Centre, Old Wokingham Road, Wokingham, RG40 3AQ

Thanks for reading our report. If you have any questions, please do contact our Clerk, Debbie, or contact us via our website.

Cllr Lesley Foxwell

Chairman, Wokingham Without Parish Council

**Wokingham Without Parish Council**

The Lodge, Pinewood Centre, Old Wokingham Road, Wokingham, RG40 3AQ

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