

Winnersh Matters

The community newsletter for the residents of Winnersh and Sindlesham



Winnersh Parish
Council

Hatch Farm Dairies – The latest

After lying dormant since 2006 the Bovis/Persimmon Homes proposal to develop the Hatch Farm Dairies site between the Chatsworth Park development and the M4 has finally been submitted for outline planning approval. The plan includes 433 houses, a primary school and an access road connecting King Street Lane and Lower Earley Way, which is intended to form part of the Winnersh Relief Road. The remainder of the Relief Road from King Street Lane to the Reading Road is projected to be built by Wokingham Borough Council, although plans have yet to be submitted for approval.

A public meeting, jointly sponsored by the Parish Council and Winnersh Residents for Action on Planning (WRAP), was held in the village hall and representatives of the developers explained their proposals and responded to the questions of the 150 concerned Winnersh residents who attended. Concerns centred around potential flooding problems and traffic congestion and safety problems that are anticipated.

The Parish Council has submitted a long list of objections and observations on this outline application, and will continue to monitor and comment on the proposals as they develop.

The aim of the Parish Council is to deliver planning developments that benefit the community. Keep an eye on the parish website for further information.

John Grimson (Chair of Planning Committee)

!!! WINNERSH SUMMER FETE !!!

**Saturday 18th June 1:00 – 4:30pm at the
Bearwood Recreation Ground, Sindlesham**

Join us for all the fun of a traditional family fete. Now in its fourth year the fete has become a focal point for Winnersh residents to get together in the summer. Over 40 local voluntary groups and charities will be providing an enjoyable afternoon for us all.

Attractions include a large bouncy castle, jousting, ball pond, Circus Scene, small roundabout, Hands-On Arts Pavilion, birds of prey display, dog display and fly-ball racing, maypole dancing, gymnastics, jazz band, displays in the hall and much, much more!

**FREE ENTRY, parking and children's attractions
Make a note of the date: 18 June!**

For the latest information on Winnersh, the Parish Council, local news, events, contact details and back copies of *Winnersh Matters* see the **Winnersh Parish Website** at www.winnersh.gov.uk

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Thought for the season:-

Now that summer seems to be on its way we all start to think about getting out and about. Now is the time to think outside your house and think village.

What do you think should be happening in Winnersh?

Winnersh Parish Council

Winnersh Community Centre
New Road, Sindlesham,
Wokingham, RG41 5DU

Phone: 0118 978 0244

Email: clerk@winnersh.gov.uk

Website: www.winnersh.gov.uk

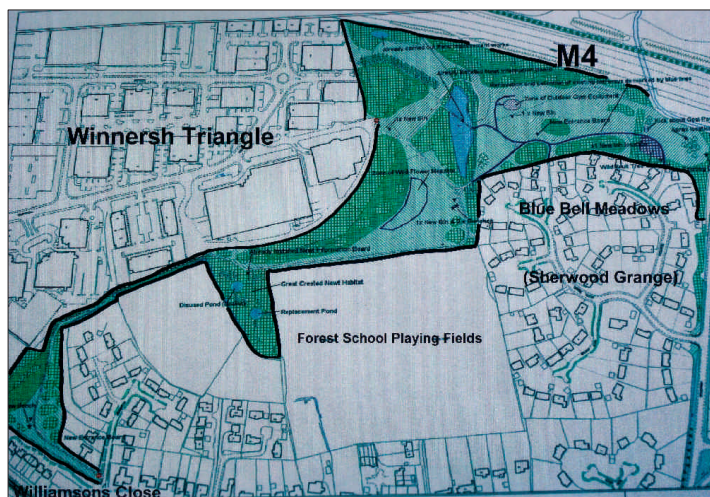
New Parish Council Starts Work

The new parish council had its first meeting on 10th May following its 'election' on 5th May. All parish councils come up for election every four years and 2011 was an election year. However there were not enough people nominated to fill the 15 places on the council so those nominated were 'elected' unopposed. The council therefore decided to co-opt three members at its first meeting to expand its number and also elected its 'officers' for the coming year. The new line-up of 13 councillors is:

David Green (Chairman), John Southgate (Vice-Chairman & Finance Committee Chairman), John Grimson (Planning Committee Chairman), Jill Plant (Recreation & Amenities Committee Chairman), Prue Bray, Frank Breedlove, Ted Cooke, David Hunt, Lisa Lainsbury, James Leask, Imogen Shepherd-Dubey, Rachelle Shepherd-Dubey and Liz Siggery.

Cllr Green said "I hope to build on the successes of the previous council. The development of the Bearwood Recreation Ground site and the Winnersh Community Centre over recent years, along with recent initiatives regarding the fete, Christmas Lights, litter picks and allotments, have all helped to enhance the community spirit." He said that he hoped that the Council will be able to build on this foundation and observed that the Localism Bill may give opportunities to engage people locally.

Funding Secured for Winnersh Meadows Improvements



The Ground Force Lottery has awarded £50,000 to improve *Winnersh Meadows*, the area between Arbor Lane and the M4 motorway shown on the map to the left. Work will commence later this year and will take about a year to complete.

The improvements will include additional tree planting, a wild flower meadow, a new pond, an outdoor 'trim trail' (exercise circuit), new picnic tables, benches and bins, along with football goalposts and netball facilities. It will also provide better access for prams, buggies, cycles and wheelchairs with a new 600 metre path.

A public consultation took place in January 2008 and established what residents would like to see improved in the 10 hectares of green public open space owned by Wokingham Borough Council.

The application for the funding was made by the Winnersh Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG), chaired by Pat Rowell. Over the past three years Pat has worked with NAG member Roberta Tweedy, officers of Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) and the facilitator for Ground Force Lottery to achieve this result.

Pat said: "It has been a long time coming and a lot of hard work has gone into securing this grant. I am sure that it will be well worth waiting for. With all of the development that Winnersh has undergone in the last few years, this under-utilised green public open space is a little gem! It will be given a face-lift so that Winnersh residents of all ages can enjoy it to the full."

Along with a donation of £9,000 from Winnersh Parish Council and a further £38,000 from WBC ("section 106" development money), funding for the project totals nearly £100,000. All monies will be held by WBC and the Council will be responsible for implementation and up-keep of the project. More details can be found on the NAG website at www.seeds.org.uk/winnersh.naq.

Be a community reporter. The Royal Wedding – Did you attend a street party?

It is estimated that three quarters of the UK were glued to their TV's during the royal wedding. After the wedding a considerable number of local residents attended street parties. The street parties showed that the community spirit is alive and well and living in Winnersh.

During the coming months other community events will be taking place. Your event may not be as high profile as the Royal Wedding but still of interest to the residents of Winnersh.

If you have an article accompanied with a photograph why not send it to the parish council for inclusion in the autumn version of *Winnersh Matters*. Be a community reporter.

Winnersh Matters

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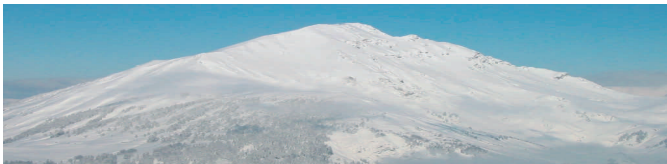


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For more information, see our website
www.winnershrangers.com
or contact Neil Chalfont 07818 441950
Email: chairman@winnershrangers.com



Have You Ever Thought About Fostering?



There is a shortage of 10,000 Foster Carers in the UK. PACT (Parents And Children Together) is a charity working to improve life chances for children. They need people to permanently foster children around 8+ years of age.

PARENTS AND CHILDREN TOGETHER

You don't have to be married to become a Foster Carer. You don't have to have your own children, just experience of working with children. You do need to have a spare room though and as an approved Foster Carer you will get paid a weekly tax free allowance of £335.70 a week.

A good foster carer can change a child's life. To find out more contact PACT on 0800 731 1845; email fostering@pactcharity.org or visit www.pactcharity.org.

New Health Trainer Service in Winnersh

Do you want to have a healthier lifestyle, but need help to achieve it? Our aim is to help individuals to live healthier lifestyles – to eat more healthily, be more active, lose weight, stop smoking, drink sensibly and more...

Health Trainers meet clients on a one-to-one basis on up to 8 occasions, to encourage them to establish new healthier habits. The service is available to anyone over 16 and is FREE and confidential. Individuals can refer themselves – no GP referral is necessary, and appointments are available in Winnersh.



To sign-up for the service or get more details simply: phone 0118 955 1214; text 0782 448 2047; email elainefraser1@nhs.net or visit www.berkshirewest-pct.nhs.uk/healthtrainer.

A Health Trainer can also visit community groups to explain the service and promote health awareness, or even lead a group walk. A recent walk around Dinton Pastures Country Park with families from Winnersh Children's Centre was enjoyed by all (see picture).

Elaine Fraser

Health Trainer for Wokingham



Have You Visited Your Library Lately?

Winnersh Library is in the grounds of the Forest School in Robinhood Lane and is open to the public at the following times:

Tuesday and Thursday: 2pm – 8pm
Wednesday: 10am – 6pm
Friday: 10am – 5pm
Saturday: 10am – 1pm

As well as a wide range of books for all ages, there is free internet and computer access, DVD and spoken word CDs to hire, photocopy and printing facilities, newspapers and magazines, local and family history resources and community information.



There are regular events such as a story time for the Under 5s on the first Wednesday of each month and during the summer holiday we will again be running our popular Summer Reading Challenge for 5 to 12 year olds. Pop in for a visit sometime, telephone 0118 979 7519 or visit the website: www.wokingham.gov.uk/libraries.

Finally, a hidden concern. Adult literacy is a very personal and sometimes tragic problem. Imagine being bright and ambitious but constantly frightened of being asked to write or read. If this is your problem contact your local library to start realising your full potential.

A Fond farewell

It is 8 years since I was first elected to the Parish and Borough Councils and I have been blessed with good friends and only a few adversaries but now it is time that I got out of the way and let younger and more talented folk takeover. Our community includes the high fliers and the talented enthusiasts. We have youngsters who seem to have boundless energy, families with plans and aspirations and the oldies, like me, who are just pleased to be around. I am proud to see that Winnersh Matters is going from strength to strength, The Fete and the Christmas Lights are seasonal fixtures and the various committees and the Parish Council are dynamic and are in a trusted set of safe hands.

My concern, as I back out and make a dash to retirement, is that after recent efforts members of the community will assume that it is the other blokes responsibility. Remember, if it needs to be done YOU NEED TO DO IT



A fond farewell to all my friends in the village and fellow parish councillors.

Malcolm Armstrong

Bowled over by the creation of a new club

The Rainbow Centre is a unique community facility hidden away in a cluster of Winnersh housing estates that provides a whole range of activities for a wide cross section of people. What's extra special about the centre is that the hall is available as a place for local residents to create new and exciting groups. One of the most popular groups recently started is the bowling club and it's gone from strength to strength as word has spread. What began as an idea and a suggestion on a bus trip has grabbed the attention of many residents and has become such a highlight in people's week that keen members can be found groupina outside well before the sessions start.

It's a clear example of how sport can be a powerful tool in bringing people together whatever their age or ability. The club has a strong social element which carries much of its appeal. Residents who wouldn't step foot in the community centre a few months ago now show up every week due to the warmth and friendliness offered to visitors and new members. One resident was recently heard claiming he'd 'come bowling every day if he could'.



The Winnersh Business Forum

Recently Winnersh Parish Council has established a business forum in order to create a more dynamic and sustainable commercial focus within Winnersh, by engaging local businesses in both policy formulation and the development of Parish Council strategies. With the ever increasing development of IQ Winnersh the council has set up a special business forum liaison group with SEGRO plc. the owners and developers of IQ. This development falls within the parish and represents an important employer of Winnersh residents and contributor to the local economy. The site borders Winnersh Meadows, which has just been granted lottery funding for a major make over. Currently there are twenty two companies on the site, employing 2,000 people, ranging from large employers such as the Royal Mail Group and Harris Systems, to smaller but nonetheless important companies such as Thales Properties limited.

IQ already has a first class hotel, a retail centre and railway station with direct links to both London and Reading and all points west. The eye catching pedestrian bridge, linking the site to Winnersh Triangle railway station has been short-listed for an architectural award. Segro's own office buildings on site, employ intelligent energy systems, which reduce their carbon emissions by 50% and recover up to 85% of the heat generated

Now is the time to take advantage of a flourishing business environment. Get in touch and get you message over. Contact the Parish council for more details.



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MONDAYS

6.30pm Children's Class Ages 6-12

7.30pm Family Class

Winnersh Community Centre, New Rd

SATURDAYS

11am All Ages

Loddon Valley Leisure Centre,
Rushev Way, Lower Earley

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Email: info@btkd.co.uk

Opera at Bearwood – The Theatre, Bearwood College, Sindlesham.

Winnersh has a secret. The secret is that it is the home of a regular musical event. Each year Bearwood College acts as the host to Opera at Bearwood. Amazingly, within walking distance of most residents is an experience that is normally reserved for those who are prepared to travel to the west end of London.

Opera at Bearwood presents their new production, in English, of Tchaikowsky's much loved opera, **Eugene Onegin** on Thursday, 21st, Friday, 22nd and Saturday, 23rd July in the theatre at Bearwood College, Sindlesham. Commencing at 7.30pm but you may come a picnic in the grounds of the College beforehand from 5.30pm.

Tickets: £18 (Concessions, Thursday only £14). Booking form available on the website: www.operaatbearwood.org.uk or telephone the Box Office on: 0118 926 2394 or email: alan@operaatbearwood.org.uk to book tickets.

Bearwood Primary School

Bearwood Road, Sindlesham, Wokingham, Berkshire, RG41 5BB

Tel: 0118 9784628 Fax: 0118 9795003

Head Teacher: Mrs. Jane A. Barlow B.Ed.(Hons)

Email: admin@bearwood-pri.wokingham.sch.uk

www.bearwood-pri.wokingham.sch.uk

Remember that our children are our future



The Head Teacher and Staff of Bearwood Primary School were delighted to receive the official report of their recent Ofsted Inspection.

Ofsted have said that Bearwood 'is a good and rapidly improving school where pupils enjoy their education. The care, guidance and support pupils receive are outstanding.' The Head Teacher, Jane Barlow said "We are very proud to receive this report and would like to draw attention to the fact we gained outstanding in seven of the aspects. Once again, our children received an 'outstanding' for their behaviour."

It was recognised that the School's data analysis was outstanding and Ofsted stated that this confirmed the school's evidence that future attainment is on a firm upward trajectory.

The points for improvement have already been acted upon and plans drawn up. Ofsted recognised that all teaching is good, with many outstanding features, but have now raised the bar for all teaching to be outstanding and, as always, Bearwood staff are ready to meet the challenge.

The fight continues

WINNERSH FLOOD ACTION GROUP

Winnersh residents are working with the Loddon Valley Residents' Association (LVRA) to ensure flood risk is minimised by developments.

LVRA chairman Phiala Mehring has written to the Environment Agency outlining key areas to address before major developments go ahead, including improving surface water and sewage management, the need for a bund to protect Lower Earley and Earley and maintenance of proposed flood assets such as ditches, drains and culverts. Meanwhile, Wokingham Borough Council recently voted in favour of adopting LVRA's recommendation that outline planning permission should be extended to include drainage strategies, SUD plans, flood mitigation measures and flood compensation for all elements of a new development to ensure the flood risk isn't increased to existing properties and the new builds are not a flood risk.

Useful Contacts

Thames Valley Police

For urgent matters dial 999 - anything else dial 0845 8 505 505

Local police: Sgt Tim Woolford, PCs Alistair Marman & Nicky Hamblin

PCSOs: Nellie Williams and Gary Johnson

Crime stoppers 0800 555 111

Community Wardens

Emma Bacca Emma.bacca@wokingham.gov.uk

Susan McIntyre or phone 0118 9743798

Community Development

James Newman 0118 989 4280

Winnersh NAG (Neighbourhood Action Group)

Email: winnersh.nag@talktalk.net

Website: www.seeds.org.uk/winnersh.nag

Winnersh Community Partnership – Amrita Auch 0118 979 4482

Wokingham Borough Council

Website: www.wokingham.gov.uk

Phone: Wokingham Direct 0118 9746000

Sainsbury's shopping trolley hot line: 0800 316 1241

Council Meetings

Winnersh Parish Council

meetings are usually held on the second Tuesday of each month (except August), commencing at 7.45 pm in the John Grobler Room at the Winnersh Community Centre on Mole Road, Sindlesham.

Have you ever considered that you might enjoy being involved with organising the Fete? How about rigging the lights for the winter celebration OR do you have an idea of your own.

Get in touch.

WINNERSH COMMUNITY CENTRE

Big play area for kids age 3 to 15

Outdoor gym equipment - Extensive play grounds - Pavilion Café - Meeting rooms

Toddler activity classes – Football - Exercise classes - Taekwondo - Dance classes - ...



WINNERSH COMMUNITY CENTRE HALL offers:

- Recently decorated – brand new wooden floor
- Licensed bar
- Capacity for 190 people (150 seated)
- Kitchen facilities
- Professional catering available
- Car parking
- Facilities for disabled
- A pleasant greenfield setting

Why not hire our hall, bar or other rooms for your group, family or company event?

Contact the Council Office on 0118 9780244 for details and availability.

For smaller events or meetings the John Grobler room or Sindlesham room can be hired for as little as £10 per hour.

Be alert – Winnersh needs all the lerts it can get.

Keep your eyes open and report crime. The police have told us that over the past 12 months there have been a huge increase in metal (Lead & Copper) thefts from houses & commercial premises.

Where possible:

Put sensor security lights up.

Lock and secure all tools, ladders away.

Be aware of any unusual behaviour in your street

Report any suspicious activity to the police.

Report any thefts as soon as possible.

If you need to report a local crime call Crime Stoppers

