

BARKHAM & ARBORFIELD GREE

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February/March 2021

Be bright this winter to help avoid becoming a victim of burglary.

Try to make your home look occupied by using timer switches on lights and radios.

Make sure your front door is illuminated by using dusk to dawn lighting that comes on automatically.

Consider purchasing and installing a video doorbell, house alarm or CCTV system.

Close and double lock all your doors and windows when going out or to bed.

Keep all valuables and keys out of sight and away from doors, windows and letterboxes. When not in use, keep electronic car keys in a security pouch to prevent them being scanned by thieves to open and steal your car.

If you have a key safe, ensure it is not visible to people passing by and anyone tampering with it would be clearly visible.

Don't advertise you are away from home on social media. Ask a trusted neighbour to keep an eye on your property or join a Neighbourhood or resident Watch Scheme.

Never leave garages or sheds unlocked, especially if they are connected to your property.

Register your valuables with www.immobilise.com.

For crime updates sign up to www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk.

Please contact us if you have any information relating to burglary in your neighbourhood or if you see anyone acting suspiciously. Report online at **www.thamesvalley.police.uk**, call us on **101** or in an emergency dial **999**.

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Leave a light on...

and burglars in the dark



- Close and lock all your doors and windows when going out or to bed
- Keep valuables out of sight
- Don't advertise you are away from home on social media
- Register your valuables with
 www.immobilise.com
- For crime updates sign up to www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk



www.thamesvalley.police.uk

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Contents



Free to all residents in Barkham and most of Arborfield Green.

Circulation: 1500.

Published by Barkham Parish Council.

Vol. 3 Number 3 - February/March 2021

Pam Stubbs (BPC Chairman), Mike Bundred (Editor) and Ellen Tims (Parish Clerk).

Village INFO and the Parish web site aim to keep residents informed of issues and opportunities affecting the area.

See web site for the Council's meetings (every month except August) at the Arborfield Green Community Centre.



www.barkham-parishcouncil.org.uk

Contact Ellen Tims, Barkham Parish Clerk, for details of advertising and frequency.

Tel: 0118 9762089

Arborfield Green Community Centre, Sheerlands Road, Arborfield, RG2 9ND.

Public Open Hours: Mon - Wed, 10am - 12pm

Office hours: Mon - Thurs, 10.00am - 2.00pm

Please note the office is currently closed due to the ongoing pandemic.

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Highlights



Barkham Solar Farm A project consultation is underway



Covid Community Champions



Wokingham Borough Council's aim to keep residents safe



Thames Valley Air Ambulance

Air Ambulance lands in Barkham



Ward Councillor Update An update from Cllr John Kaiser

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Sight loss does more than take away a person's sight, it can take away their self-confidence and independence and leave them isolated



Berkshire Vision supports hundreds of blind and partially sighted adults and children across the county, helping them to combat their isolation, supporting their independence, boosting their self-esteem and allowing them to live their lives to the full. through a wide range of services.

We have a team of Sight Loss Support Officers who are able to offer support and advice in a wide range of areas; from help with mobility to understanding benefit forms and accessing technology and gadgets that could help improve daily life. This can range from help to set up a new tablet to identifying solutions to help at work. We have an extensive programme of both remote and face to face social activities and adapted sports to bring people with sight loss together. Remote activities can be accessed from the comfort and safety of home, without the need for internet access. They include quizzes, history talks, chair exercise, yoga, and murder mysteries. Our sports range from gentle exercise through to tennis, golf and even dragon boating and rock climbing! We don't believe that there's anything people with sight loss can't achieve with the right support. Our popular social activities programme includes walks, picnics, theatre trips and days out.

> If you, or someone you know, would like more information visit our website: www.berkshirevision.org.uk or ring Richard, our Engagement Officer on: 0118 987 2803.

If you would like to get in touch regarding our Children's, Young People and Families activities please email Carol on: children@berkshirevision.org.uk

If you are interested in volunteering with us, we have lots of opportunities for both face to face and volunteering from home; please contact Gill on: **volunteering@berkshirevision.org.uk**





#ThinkBeforeYouDial WWW.THAMESVALLEY.POLICE.UK

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Report crime to the Police

All non-emergency crime reports and enquiries can be made online at:

www.thamesvalley.police.uk

or over the phone by calling 101

Some reports are best directed to your local authority:

- Fly-tipping
- Abandoned vehicles
- Nuisance noise
- Litter in public place

Details for your local authority can be found at:

www.gov.uk/find-local-council

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Think before you dial

When you find yourself in need of contacting the police, do you know the best way to get in touch? 999 should only be used in emergency situations; when a life is in danger or a crime is happening right now. To speak to the police about anything else, you should call 101 or contact us online.

Around 7,000 hours of our call handlers' time each year is spent dealing with issues that aren't police matters. Our most common misdirected calls can be found below along with who should be contacted:

Abandoned Vehicles

An abandoned vehicle is one that has not been moved or attended to in a long time. These can cause a nuisance or an eye sore to those living near it. Unless the vehicle appears to have been stolen or used in a crime, you should report them to your local council.

Nuisance Noise

Nuisance noise is any loud or persistent noise that causes you ongoing concern or affects your quality of life. Your local council should be your first contact for reporting nuisance noise as this is usually dealt with by their Environmental Health team. However, if the situation feels like it may get heated or violent as a result of the noise we will intervene.

Fly Tipping

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Fly tipping is the illegal dumping of large items of waste. It is a civil offence to fly tip and so reports should be made to your local council. Reports of fly tipping in progress, with the offenders on scene should be reported to the police on 101.

Broken Down Vehicles

Unless a vehicle has broken down in a dangerous position, for example in the middle of a lane on a busy road, you should contact a breakdown or recovery service.

Civil Advice

We can only answer questions and offer advice on issues that relate to criminal offences. Citizens Advice is dedicated to offering free advice and guidance on a range of issues such as obtaining civil orders, advice on housing and how to proceed with any civil disputes over payment, for example a poor quality refurbishment in your home.

Still not sure who to speak to? The independent website Ask the Police, is full of information about what to do and who to contact about a wide range of issues.

INFORMATION TEMPLATE Here's a reminder of important information to capture when reporting antisocial behaviou

TIME:	DATE:
LOCATION:	
	FENDER(S) – height, build, ethnicity, hair colour:
TYPE OF CLOTHING WOR	N BY THE OFFENDER(S) – colour, distinguishing features:
REGISTRATION NUMBER	- for any vehicles involved
BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF 1	HE INCIDENT



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YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM Shinfield, Swallowfield, Spencers Wood, Riseley, Arborfield and Barkham

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Inspector Alastair Lloyd



Sergeant Simon Botham



PC Richard Probert



PC Monika Taranczewska



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PCSO Karen Bird



PCSO Vicky Lendrum



PCSO Chris Scullin



PCSO Hannah Millington

Your neighbourhood policing team are working on issues identified by the local community and the police To contact them call: 101 This is a non-emergency number Alternatively, email them on: FieldsNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Neighbourhood Policing

Working in partnership to make our community safer





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Thames Valley Air Ambulance lands in Barkham

On Saturday 17 October 2020, a Barkham resident had the unfortunate opportunity but incredible privilege to witness at very close quarters an ambulance paramedic team working with their colleagues from Thames Valley Air Ambulance at the scene of a serious accident.

A roofing contractor had fallen about 10 feet from a roof on to a hard flagstone surface - he was drowsy, lving on his back and could not move. The ambulance arrived within minutes of the 999 call, one paramedic went immediately to the scene, the second prepared the stretcher and other equipment.

At the scene, after a brief assessment and a call to control, it was confirmed that back-up was required.

The Thames Valley Air Ambulance was launched from its base at RAF Benson in Oxfordshire some 12 minutes flying time away.

The helicopter was soon overhead and circled once looking for a suitable place to land. It put down in an adjacent field where direct access was over two stiles but very close to the scene. The crew comprised the pilot, a critical care doctor and a critical care paramedic.

Back at the scene it was evident that the patient was in pain, could move his arms and legs, was still immobile and was slipping in and out of consciousness.

More quiet discussions and a suggestion that it would be best to get the patient to the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford where they were better equipped for the type of injuries that may have been sustained.

Another call



The contractor's brother arrived – "Is he on medication? Any allergies? What was his general state of health?"

Meanwhile, the area around the patient was cleared and he was prepared to be moved onto the stretcher. This was in two pieces and was assembled under him as he was gently rolled with his head being firmly held. The stretcher was placed on a trolley but the uneven ground was causing discomfort so the stretcher was carried and the trolley separately taken to the ambulance.

John Radcliffe was confirmed.

As the medics began to prepare the patient for the journey, the pilot recce'd the landing area to decide how best to get the patient to the aircraft should he be flown out. The main entrance to the field was some distance away but a chained gate and a significant slope decided the pilot not to relocate the chopper. Any transfer would have to be over the stiles – there were sufficient people to do this safely.

Back at the ambulance the medics were continuing to work on the patient – the pilot conveyed his decision to his colleagues.

The medical team had changed into Covid personal protection suits to facilitate working in close confines of the ambulance.

Another decision – it would be a road transfer with an expected journey time of 1hour 3 minutes. By now, the patient was being intubated by the critical care paramedic.

Some two hours after the ambulance arrived it departed with the patient now in an induced coma and the four medics on board. The pilot completed his pre-flight checks and departed for RAF Benson where he was going to refuel and, to save blocking the helipad at the hospital, would wait to be called in to recover the airborne medical team.

Putting aside the obvious concerns about the health of the patient and any long-term prognosis, the overriding memory of those few hours was the incredible professionalism and competence of the combined teams. There was no drama – just a quiet determination to do their best. Everyone understood their role and knew what they had to do with little need for dialogue.

The Thames Valley Air Ambulance is a charity. They receive no funds from the Government or other sources such as the National Lottery. When you next have the opportunity to donate to this incredible and worthwhile charity – please do so generously at.

www.tvairambulance.org.uk/support-us/donate/

You never know who may be next to benefit from this amazing expertise and teamwork.

The patient has since made a good recovery.

NEWS



Barkham Bridge open to traffic

Barkham Bridge Nears Completion

Construction is well underway, with the new bridge due to be fully open in Spring 2021.

Works are progressing well with the significant Thames Water works now complete. The new bridge started facilitating two-way traffic on the 18th December 2020.

Work is now focusing on the old bridge which is being converted to a shared use path and completion of the new drainage runs. The Completion Date is currently early April 2021, however, majority of the works are on programme to be completed earlier, followed by landscaping and other minor items.

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Speed Watch Activities are Progressing

Although Community Speed Watch sessions are still not allowed by Thames Valley Police (TVP), due to COVID restrictions, this has not stopped us pushing ahead with other speed watch activities within Barkham.

Chris Heyliger and his team have been carrying out a speed watch trial on Barkham Road using a Speed Data Recorder (SDR) positioned on the lamp post outside Kalikose hairdressers. This unit borrowed from the supplier is being tested for accuracy alongside WBC's rubber strip technology. So far this has produced some excellent results. The first 14 days (as shown in the table below), recorded 79,615 vehicles travelling in both directions and around a quarter of these were Trucks and Vans. It was good to see that around 76% of all vehicles were travelling within the 30 mph speed limit with 19% travelling between 30 and 35 mph. 5% were travelling in excess of 35 mph with 49 vehicles exceeding 50 mph and one car travelling at 76 mph around 8 am on a Saturday morning. We cannot tell whether this was an emergency vehicle or a reckless driver!



Speed Indication Devise (SID) devise in operation

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Speed Range	Car	Small Lorry	Lorry	Two Wheels	Vans	Grand Total	Percentage
<=30mph	45,142	929	3,966	734	10,059	60,830	76.41%
31-35 mph	11,295	85	892	80	2,573	14,925	18.75%
36-50 mph	2,965	8	186	27	612	3,798	4.77%
51-60 mph	41		2	1	5	49	0.06%
>=60mph	13					13	0.02%
Grand Total	59,456	1,022	5,046	842	13,249	79,615	100.00%
Percentage	74.68%	1.28%	6.34%	1.06%	16.64%	100.00%	

Here are the recorded results from January 4-18, 2021

Our trial on Barkham Road will continue until about mid February and if successful, BPC will purchase the SDR unit at a discounted price offered to us by the supplier.

The intention going forward will be to rotate the SDR unit around several key locations within the parish.

The aim is to build up historic traffic profiles by location and how they change over a period of time.

This will also give us accurate and up to date information on the impact of both external influences (e.g. new developments at Arborfield Green and elsewhere) and the effect of any traffic calming measures trialled. This information can then be shared with WBC and the Police to support possible changes to speed limits and other measures.

As reported in our last update, WBC have been reviewing speed limits across the Borough as part of their 5 year review. The results from this review for all A & B roads based on Telematic data should soon be available. Telematic data is collected by monitoring in real time standard location signals transmitted from active mobile phones carried on moving vehicles in a way that completely protects individuals' identity. Once the hotspots are identified they will be further investigated using the SDR or become the focus of Speed Watch sessions. With this arsenal of facts, consideration can then be given to whether other forms of intervention (e.g., Vehicle Activated Signs- VAS) to slow the traffic might be required.



In another recent development, we expect by early March to have the Yellow 'Speed Watch Area' Gateway signs deployed in 5 locations at the boundaries of our parish to act as a further reminder to motorists to observe speed limits.

Volunteers still needed

As mentioned previously, we always need more Speed Watch volunteers, so if you are interested please contact **Ellen**, the parish clerk on **clerk@barkham-parishcouncil.org.uk** and Chris, as Speed Watch coordinator, will be more than happy to talk with you and answer any questions. It will not take up too much of your time!

An update from Barkham Ward Councillor - John Kaiser

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I would like to start this article by thanking all those carers and people in the community who have played a part in helping those who have suffered not just the effect of the virus itself but the problems which have accompanied it. This includes all the emergency workers in the health, police, fire & rescue and ambulance services, in addition to the teachers and staff in our schools and everybody who has stepped up to the plate including charities and made it possible for life to continue during these unspeakable times, so to all of you, Thank You to these heroes of the community and neighbours who have helped neighbours without whom the world would be a lot darker place.

We are continuing to face Coronavirus. Initially we hoped that it would be short term and then a solution would be found. This was not the case, to combat COVID-19 we have seen a vaccines developed in record time.

As a council we rode through the emergency, changing the way we worked, supporting all our residents, and ensuring that services ran as normal as far as possible. Whilst this was expensive financially it was eminently doable in the short term. I would like to thank all the residents who have treated this pandemic as a serious threat to both family and the financial wellbeing of many, and for their responsible attitude to social distancing, the wearing of masks and the other actions needed to prevent the spread of the disease this will no doubt slow the infections and with vaccines allow normal life to return as quickly as possible.

We are seeing a lot of residents who now are beginning to face an uncertain future due to job losses and business collapse and

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the council are working closely with the Citizens Advice in Wokingham who act as our front door for residents who have been affected by effects, direct and indirect, of the pandemic and who will point people who need help to organizations who can deliver assistance and advice, in some cases this will be the council as well as others who are in the charity sector, this can be a problem of a financial nature or around homelessness and mental health. I urge you to take advantage of this service if you have any issues with which you feel you need help.

The council has helped many with housing, council tax payments and grants, we have also committed to "no Children will go hungry in the Borough" A commitment which we will fulfil.

These are strange times for many as good businesses are failing and residents losing their jobs and income due to no fault of their own so please, if you find yourself in that situation do not be afraid to ask for help.

We have seen many acts of generosity people giving their time as well as financial contributions during these times and as I say working with the support organisations, we are committed to reducing the impact of this dreadful pandemic and to help people to get back to normal, whatever that will look like, as quickly as possible. There is light at the end of the tunnel, and it is no longer a train coming as vaccinations are being rolled out across the borough, if not eradicating the disease it will protect people and help normal life to resume.

As I say, all the time this has been going on the council has continued to deliver services to residents such as waste collection, planning, including enforcement of unauthorised development of all kinds, and to this end we have been fighting planning appeals and I am glad to say winning in most cases, most notably in protecting the countryside in our area.

The council has also cracked down on fly tippers, prosecuting wherever possible and it has had an effect even when more people are likely to see it on their walks and we will continue to keep up the pressure and will use all its powers to fine and where possible seize the vehicles of offenders if appropriate.

We now know that much of that which we did during the height of the crisis, we shall need to continue to do for some time. But we are faced with additional challenges of which the biggest, and most important, is the roll out of the vaccinations across the borough at the same time ensuring we continue to deliver all our essential services residents rely on.

To this end the council are committing to a further investment in our community to help the health care givers in our borough to administer the vaccine as quickly as possible to all residents in the borough.

This investment is only possible because of the well run and excellent control this Conservative administration has exerted over the council finances for many years.

An additional £1.2 m to be made available during this financial year.

This money will come from the council's general reserves built up over the years, despite being the lowest grant funded unitary council in the UK.

These funds will be made available not only to help health carers roll out the vaccination program but to support a boost to our anti fly tipping initiative, assisting pre-schools, keeping the homeless and rough sleepers off the streets, and supporting charities, whom along with pre-schools, are very much part of the important resident's support structure of our community.

We are also intending to support free schools' meals for the children who qualify during the school holidays throughout 2021 as part of our commitment to eradicating child hunger in the borough.

All this is to help get Wokingham borough back on its feet and repair the damage done during the past 10 months and ensure those things which have been on hold during the pandemic can start to fully function again as quickly as possible.

In my position as deputy leader and member for finance and housing in addition to my role as councillor for Barkham I am helping steer this programme of support through the council and as I have said many times during this pandemic *"council financial reserves are much like fire extinguishers and you use them in time of need"*, and I am sure nobody would disagree this is one those and thankfully few times.

This council will not be found wanting in these times when the borough residents need support.

Stay Safe.

John Kaiser

Ward councillor for Barkham Deputy Leader Executive Member for Finance and Housing Wokingham Borough Council

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PROPOSALS - JANUARY 2021

Creating a greener borough

In 2019 Wokingham Borough Council declared a Climate Emergency and adopted a vision for a net carbon zero borough by 2030. The aim of this was to help address climate change and create a greener future for Wokingham and its residents for years to come.

A major part of this vision includes reducing carbon dioxide emissions across the borough and supporting schemes to generate local renewable energy.

In order to meet this ambition the Council's action plan identifies a need to build four new solar farms in the borough.

Each of these new solar farms would create enough green energy to power around 5,000-8,000 homes and businesses, as well as saving around 6,325 tonnes of CO2 a year when compared to traditional fossil fuels.

Following a review of sites the Council has identified an area of farm land sitting between Barkham, Finchampstead and Arborfield for the first of these exciting new solar farms.

We're keen to hear what people think of the plans and have prepared this leaflet to summarise the proposals for the new solar farm.

www.wokingham.gov.uk

The proposed site

The identified site sits to the north and south of Barkham Ride and is made up of around 40 hectares of council owned farm land (High Barn Farm and part of Brook Farm).

This land would be used to install solar panels, some small equipment stores, and additional tree planting to help screen the panels from view.

At this stage the exact red line has not been set and will be established in the coming months through the planning process and conversations with the tenant farmer.

Key parts of the proposals

- Install solar panels on circa 40ha of farm land to the north and south of Barkham Ride.
- Extensive new tree and hedge planting and green buffer area to edges of site to reduce visual impact, especially for footways, neighbours and historic buildings
- Maintaining and improving public rights of way across the site
- · Protecting and improving biodiversity of the site



KEY INFORMATION

How does it work?

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Solar panels would be mounted on poles in the ground and angled to best capture the light. Even on dull days the panels will still be able to generate lots of power.

Energy collected from the panels will be put back into the national grid. This will help generate local green renewable energy as well potentially providing income to fund the scheme and other council services.

Will the site be noisy or create congestion?

Modern Solar panels operate very quietly so should there should be little noise impact on local residents.

Any installation can be carried out quickly and with minimum disruption due to the design of the panels. Once installed the panels also require very minimum maintenance so won't generate many new vehicle movements around the area.

What about the public right of way?

At the moment there is a footpath which runs through the upper part of the proposed site.

The Council will ensure that this public right of way remains and is also considering options for a possible new footpath to the south of the site.

Will it impact on local views?

The proposal is to install the solar panels set back from the edges of the field to create an enhanced visual buffer and reduce their impact on the surrounding area.

The panel themselves also have a relatively low profile with the top edge being just over two meters from the ground level. They would also be staggered to make the most of the natural levels on the site.

In addition to this a large part of this site is already obscured from view by existing hedges and trees. This natural screening would be maintained and improved with new planting to help improve the effect.

During the process the Council will also be working closely with immediate neighbours to discuss any concerns or ideas. This will be especially important where properties are residential or have particular historic or local context.

Improved bio-diversity

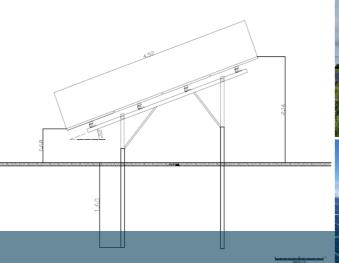
It's important that the solar farm also minimises any impact on local wildlife so careful consideration will be given to how this can be done.

Any landscape plan will aim to improve bio-diversity in the area with careful choice of planting and the potential to introduce other initiatives to encourage wildlife.

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KEY INFORMATION

Will there be any buildings on site?

In order to run the solar farm and link up with the national grid there will be a small number of cabins required on site to house electrical equipment.

These small cabins would likely be prefabricated single storey units and will be carefully located to minimise impact on the surrounding area and neighbours

Applying for planning consent

In the next few months the Council plans to submit a temporary planning application for this site.

The application will be for a 40 year period based on the usual lifespan for a solar farm of this type.

Using it for solar panels will not change its status, or make future development more likely. At the end of this time the panels and cabins would be removed and the land would revert back to farmland again.

The planning application will seek to address feedback from local residents and will be accompanied by a range of studies, technical documentation and plans based on any final design for the site.

Should planning consent be granted the Council hopes to have the new solar farm operational by 2022.

Having your say

Before the planning application is submitted in the coming months the Council would like to hear what people think about these proposals to generate clean renewable energy in the local area.

You can send us your feedback at CommercialProperty@wokingham.gov.uk

Comments should be submitted by Friday 26 February 2021 and will be used to help shape the final designs for the new solar farm.

You will also be able to submit your comments as part of the planning process once the planning application is submitted.

Keep up to date

Why not keep up-to-date with all the latest news by signing up for the Council's Connect enewsletters at



https://cutt.ly/sjlvtD6

Or scan the QR Code on your smart phone

www.wokingham.gov.uk

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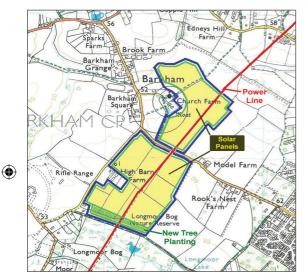
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Solar Farm Consultation -Barkham Parish Council Response

To help form their response Barkham Parish Council wants your views.

As you will see on pages 14-16 Wokingham Borough Council is running a consultation on a proposed Solar Farm, to be located wholly in Barkham.



Proposed Solar Farm Location

The identified site sits to the north and south of Barkham Ride and is made up of around 40 hectares of council owned farm land (High Barn Farm and part of Brook Farm), which is in the vicinity of Barkham Street, Barkham Ride and Commonfield Lane, very close to St James Parish church and the Village Hall.

This land would be used to install solar panels, some small equipment stores, and additional tree planting to help screen the panels from view.

The total agricultural land area proposed for the solar farm is 40 ha (99 acres) across High Barn Farm and part of Brook Farm.

To put this into perspective, the gross area of the site is equivalent to 57 full size football pitches and represents 6% of all Barkham Parish land. The energy generation potential of this site is over 20 MWh depending on the final layout. This solar farm will be more than twice the size of the one just approved in Arborfield and around 4 times the size of the existing solar farm site in Swallowfield.

Barkham Parish Council (BPC) believes this to be one of the most important land use projects affecting Barkham for many years.

Barkham Parish Council as part of its response will be taking into consideration; the visual impact of the Solar Farm, any effect on wildlife, any impact from construction and maintenance traffic, the location of the solar farm including its proximity to Barkham Church and a Scheduled Ancient Monument and how the proposals sit with the adopted Neighbourhood Plan for Barkham.

BPC needs to independently understand your views in order to achieve the best possible outcome for the Parish. To do this we are asking all residents and interested parties to submit comments to the Parish Council via **clerk@barkham-parishcouncil.org.uk***.

It is important that residents respond independently to WBC for the main consultation, as views shared with the Parish Council, will not be submitted to WBC and will only be used to form the BPC response. The Date for responses to WBC is Friday 26th February 2021.

*Information supplied will be aggregated and individual data will not be shared with third parties. Any comments made may be published, but without attribution.

Covid Community Information Champions - In it Together



Wokingham Borough Council's core aim is to keep residents safe.

The Covid-19 pandemic will continue to impact our community now and in the future, so we feel it's important to find new ways to keep residents up to date with the latest advice. That's why we've introduced our Covid Community Information Champions initiative.

What is a Covid Community Information Champion and can anyone sign up? Covid Community Information Champions are volunteers who will help to provide Wokingham Borough residents, including friends, family and other community members, with up-to-date and accurate information on Covid-19.

By ensuring that everyone in the Borough has the accurate information they need to safely go about their day-to-day life, we can truly strive to be in it together. We will ensure that we give our Champions the latest information about Covid-19 via regular email updates and you will help your family friends and other community members to make sense of this. We would also appreciate your feedback on what is and isn't working, so we can ensure it runs as smoothly as possible.

We're specifically inviting representatives from key groups to sign-up to become Champions, although the scheme is open to all. What will my role as a Covid Community Information Champion involve? You will be empowered to become a point of contact within your community (family, friends, neighbourhood, place of worship, community organisation etc) and will be able to pass on the key Covid-19 messages to your contacts.

All you will need to do is share the information we send you with your community - friends, family, colleagues or other contacts - in whichever way you want. As a champion, you may also receive information from your community and contacts and we ask that you pass that back to us via the online reporting methods available.

How will I receive the information I need to share with my friends, family, and community? Your welcome pack will be full of useful information on Covid-19, including social distancing rules, self-isolation guidance, the support available from Wokingham Borough Community Response, and more.

As a Covid Community Information Champion, you'll be signed up to receive a weekly e-bulletin with the latest key messages and insights from our Public Health team. You will also be sent links to social media assets that you will be able to use in any online community groups.

For more information go to: www.wokingham.gov.uk/health/public-health campaigns/coronavirus/

I've signed up, why don't you? **Mike Bundred**

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CALL 24/7 on 0118 977 1188 or 07956169265

www.cae-wokingham.co.uk

Village INFO

www.barkham-parishcouncil.org.uk has a host of information about police, Drs contacts, etc under local information and directory. A few of the contacts are reproduced here. Let Ellen Tims (Parish Clerk) know if you would like a local organisation, club etc, to be highlighted here in a future issue.

Barkham Parochial Charities providing help to those in need -Malcolm Clark via Parish Clerk

Barkham Pre School www.barkhampreschool.net

Barkham St James Church www.achurchnearyou.com

BVRA residents' association www.barkham.org.uk

Barkham Village Store 01189 799131. barkhamvillagestore@hotmail.co.uk **1st Wokingham Beaver, Cub and Scout Group** www.firstwokingham.org.uk

The Bull at Barkham www.thebullbarkham.com

The Coombes CE Primary School. www.thecoombes.com

Wokingham Job Support Centre www.wjsc.org.uk

Wokingham Citizens Advice Bureau www.citizensadvicewokingham.org.uk

Wokingham Cancer Care Trust www.wdcct.org

Shine WBC activities for the over 50s www.wokingham.gov.uk

Reach Wokingham www.reachwokingham.com

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