



We stand with

UKRAINE

**BARKHAM &
ARBORFIELD GREEN**

Village **INFO**

February/March 2022

COUNCILLOR VACANCIES



COME AND JOIN YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Contact our Parish Clerk Tel: 0118 976 2089 Email: clerk@barkham-parishcouncil.org.uk

Contents

Village INFO

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

Circulation: 1500.

Published by Barkham Parish Council.

Vol. 5 Number 6 – February/March 2022

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.

Design and layout by David Carr.

Printed in England by Solopress

Inclusion of editorial or advertising material in *Village* INFO does not imply any endorsement or support by Barkham Parish Council (BPC). The Council also accepts no responsibility for views expressed by contributors or for any omission or error in production.

All editorial content ©copyright 2021 BPC except where otherwise indicated. Not to be reproduced without permission.

Highlights



Barkham and Langley Common History

A short extract on the history of Barkham and Langley Common



Barkham Village Hall

Can you volunteer to help at Barkham Village Hall?



Planning

An update on the Local Plan Update consultation



Covid-19 Community Legacy Project

Share your experiences of living through the pandemic with WBC



Barkham Church

Barkham and Langley Common History

Barkham is an Anglo-Saxon word meaning Birch Tree Home. It is recorded in a charter of AD 952 as having been given by King Edred to his thane, Aelfwine, who passed it on to Abingdon Abbey.

In the 1240s, the manor was owned by a family who took their name from the place. They probably built the moat at Church Cottages to surround their manor house next to the church. However, in 1248, John de Barkham conspired with a certain John de Bendinges of Winchfield (Hampshire) to have a band of robbers attack two Brabant merchants in Alton Woods (also in Hampshire). They relieved them of 200 marks (£133-3s-4d). The two Johns were arrested soon afterwards and tried in Reading. John de Barkham managed to escape to Scotland, but he was still outlawed and Barkham Manor was confiscated by the King. The manor's income helped to pay for the rebuilding of Windsor Castle.

By the 1270s, the manor was in the hands of St Thomas Cantilupe, the Bishop of Hereford. He was Chancellor

of England and may have dropped in at Barkham on his journeys to see the King in London. His main home in the area, however, was in Earley and he soon sold Barkham to his valet, William Neville (of a different family from the Nevilles of Bisham and Billingbear). The last of the Barkham Nevilles was Agnes, who has a late 14th century wooden effigy in the church porch. She had either a saintly or witch-like reputation in the village, depending on who you spoke to. Having married Gilbert Bullock, Agnes brought the manor to this important Arborfield family, uniting the two manors for several centuries. It was during their ownership, in the 1350s, that Barkham appears to have become some sort of depot for the transportation of timber from Windsor Forest to Westminster Abbey, where it was used in the rebuilding of the choir roof. The Bullocks built themselves a late 15th century hall house, called Barkham Court, which remains at the core of Church



Agness Neville wooden effigy

Cottages. It may have been used as an overflow home for their large family based at Arborfield. The family name is also reflected in the name of the Bull pub.

The Bullocks were not the only prominent family in the medieval parish. The Kingsmills were a well-known local family who, after the Dissolution of the Monasteries, lived at Sydmonton Court in North Hampshire. However, their original home was Langley Pond Farm - sometimes erroneously called Langley Manor - at Langley Common. Barkham is also often quoted as being the home of the ancestors of President George Washington's mother, Mary Ball. There was certainly a well-to-do family of Ball living in Barkham from at least the late 15th century until well into the mid-17th century. The most famous member was William Ball, a well-known roundhead lawyer who wrote a number of political pamphlets. He was a relative of the Standens of Arborfield Hall. However, he was not the man who left for Virginia in 1650 and eventually became great grandfather of the famous Mary Ball. The Barkham man died in Holborn in 1647 with a family of at least seven. The eldest, William, eventually returned to Berkshire and settled in Bracknell.

There was at least a chapel in Barkham from the 1220s, although a formal parish church may not have been built until the 1310s. By 1689, however, repairs were required for "the wind and did beat in through" the roof and the bell-ringers were often "forced to let go the ropes and run out from under the steeple for fear of its falling". The old church was totally rebuilt in 1860-1 by John Berry Clacy, the man who laid out the Forbury Gardens in Reading. He was from an old Barkham family and chose to retain the elegant Louis XVI-style font in which his ancestors had been baptised for many years. The loss of the medieval building was much bemoaned by Peter Hempson Ditchfield, the historian, archaeologist and prolific writer, who was Rector of Barkham some 25 years later. However, Clacy's church is a beautiful example of early medieval rustic Gothic revival architecture.

Ditchfield is buried in the churchyard, near the southern nave wall, not far from his predecessor, David

Davies. Davies had been a well-known social reformer and slavery abolitionist in Regency times. A great advocate for a minimum wage, he had witnessed the mistreatment of slaves at close hand when in Barbados before arriving in Barkham to administer to the local population, 80% of whom were barely surviving on poor relief. The beautiful and famous churchyard cedar tree, under which Ditchfield and Davies were interred, had been planted by Davies' friend, the lady of the manor, Mrs Leveson-Gower, in 1788. Unfortunately, it succumbed to honey fungus disease in 1996.



The Bull at Barkham named after the Bullock Family

Historically, the village of Barkham was the ribbon development along Barkham Street from Barkham Square and the church up to the Bull Inn, Spark's Farm and Barkham Manor. Modern Barkham, around the post office, developed from a small hamlet on Coppid Hill called Dole's Barn in Wokingham parish. The name survives in Dole's Farm House and Doles Lane on whose corner it sits (and also at Dowles Green in Keep Hatch). The settlement started out around the roundabout at the bottom of Bearwood Road and developed northwards from the 1920s

This article was extracted from the book Mid-Berkshire Town and Village Histories (ISBN 978-1-905191-02-4) and reproduced with the kind permission of the author David Nash Ford.

The book can be purchased directly from David via his web site at www.nashfordpublishing.co.uk/publications/mid_berkshire_town_and_village_histories.html

Contribute to the Covid-19 Community Legacy Project



Photo showing hands of different ages and races clasped together in support

Wokingham Borough Council is launching a Covid-19 Community Legacy Project to capture life in the borough during the pandemic; and provide a platform for residents to share their experiences of living through the uncertainty since March 2020.

The pandemic has been a very stressful and traumatic time for the whole nation, particularly those who have lost loved ones. But the sense of community spirit has been strong, and some have been able to make positives out of a very dire period. For this reason, a new and movable community display is set to launch, celebrating the good things that have happened during the pandemic.

People who live, work and study in the borough are encouraged to get involved by contributing sentiments, images, and creative content to the display. The council is keen to hear how people stuck together while being apart, any new hobbies and skills learnt, how people got through, and any other anecdotes they wish to share.

Charles Margetts, executive member for health, wellbeing, and adult services, said: *“Over the past two years we have experienced some tough moments, but collectively we have got through it and the community has come together like never before. We’ve seen the commitment from the people who live, work, and do business here. For this reason, we want to shine the light on you. The Covid Community Legacy*

Project is about you; what you felt, did, learnt, created, and changed during the pandemic. Share your contributions with your fellow residents, friends and colleagues and let’s get a conversation started about how we got through it.”

Contributed materials including photos and statements can be emailed to CEM@wokingham.gov.uk with the subject line: Covid Community Legacy Project. Alternatively, physical contributions can be dropped off at the below library locations and left with reception staff. Contributions will be collated and placed on a movable display board. Once all contributions have been received, the project will be showcased across libraries and community centres on a two-week rotation. These include:

- **Wokingham Library**
- **Woodley Library**
- **Lower Earley**
- **Acorn Community Centre**

The display will also be uploaded onto the council’s website, publicised across social media, and archived for future use by researchers and those alike. Please submit items you are willing to volunteer, as the actual items will be used. Alternatively, you can photocopy or scan images, creative works and written notes and submit these too.

Prompt cards will also be available at all four locations for residents to fill out their sentiments and provide a relevant submission. These will then be added to the movable display. The Covid Community Legacy Project will go down in history, so the community is urged to submit materials and be a part of it.

Further information:

More from Charles Margetts on
Charles.Margetts@wokingham.gov.uk



QUEENS PLATINUM JUBILEE EVENT

**Barkham Parish Council and
Barkham Village Residents Association
are planning a Family Fun Day**

**On Saturday 4th June
to celebrate**

**The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee
at Barkham Village Hall**

(times to be confirmed)

Are you interested in volunteering
to help organise the day?

Are you interested in having a stall at the event?
If so, please contact Ellen Tims, clerk
to Barkham Parish Council at

**clerk@barkham-parishcouncil.org.uk
or 0118 976 2089 for more information**

Meet your councillor

Graeme Dexter



Graeme has a degree in chemistry from Durham University which is where he met his wife Amanda.

His career in the chemical industry began at the research bench and progressed

through production, sales and marketing. A three-year secondment to Taiwan allowed the couple to enjoy a very different culture and set the scene for Graeme's future career in international business development.

The dream job came when he was asked to negotiate the commercial and financial contracts in support of a new plant in Shanghai. Similar assignments followed in Singapore and Saudi Arabia. An especially enjoyable part of this work was sitting down to dinner somewhere with several different nationalities round the table all sharing ideas.

Graeme and his wife moved to Barkham in 2014 to fulfil a retirement goal of living in an older house more in the country and are now temporary custodians of a listed building on the edge of the village.



Mike Barker

Mike Barker has lived in Wokingham since 1988 and Barkham since 2001.

Mike's early career was undertaking research into optical communications at the originating Laboratories, since then he has held senior management roles in a number of global telecommunications companies both in the UK and abroad.

Mike managed to retire early, four years ago, allowing him more time to spend with family and perusing leisure interests, many of which are outdoor.

Mike Bundred

I grew up in South London and first became familiar with Wokingham when I worked at Axel Johnson in Molly Millars Lane back in 1976 after leaving university with a degree in Mechanical Engineering.

I followed this up working for Hewlett-Packard who were then located at Winnersh crossroads where Sainsbury's is now and then spent the following 34 years in the IT industry retiring in 2015.

During our time living in the Thames Valley, my wife Jean and I have lived in Woodley, Caversham, Finchampstead and for the last 33 years in Barkham where I first joined the Barkham Speed Awareness group and in 2020 was invited to join Barkham Parish Council as they were looking for another councillor.

We run a property investment business and own two Grade II listed properties in Wokingham so we are familiar with the needs of maintaining this type of building and preserving their character for future generations.



ABR Garage Doors



At ABR Garage Doors on Barkham Road, we have over 25 years supplying and fitting bespoke Hörmann GRP, timber and sectional manual and remote-controlled residential garage doors. We also have an excellent reputation providing and fitting regular canopy up-and-over garage doors, as well as completing garage door repairs.

As a local garage doors independent family firm we are proud to be known for our exceptional quality driven and reliable customer service. Our reviews say it all really – we put our customers first and provide exceptional and reliable service at a competitive price.

Check out our latest Wokingham reviews on The Little Green Book website at www.littlegreenbook.co.uk/profile/Wokingham/garage-doors/abr-garage-doors.

“Outstanding service and reliable in every regard. Gave great advice on the range of garage doors available and then the fitting and service were excellent. Would thoroughly recommend.”

Wokingham Customer

Along with supply and installations, we are also renowned for our skill with garage door repairs. We offer a comprehensive and specialist repair service, also offering emergency and same day repairs. Spare parts are readily available including handles, locks, cables and springs to enable us to offer a complete garage door repair service. We also undertake insurance work.

For customers looking for a garage door company with all the health & safety policies, training and liability insurance in place then please call us. Our experience is at your disposal. All work is fully guaranteed and carried out to the very highest professional standards.

If you are in the Barkham area, we would be pleased to discuss your requirements and help you with the process of choosing the best product for your needs.

Simply email info@abrdoors.co.uk

or call us on **01189 776321**, or on mobile **07836 564694**.

www.abrdoors.co.uk/garage-doors-wokingham/

Archaeology of Roman Berkshire 2022

Berkshire Archaeological Society Day School

Saturday 2nd April 2022
10am to 4:15pm

St Nicolas Church Hall,
Newbury RG14 5HG

In the event of a Covid surge
this event will be presented
on Zoom



View of the Highwood Roman temple

Programme Synopsis

Berkshire Romans Project
Highwood Roman temple
Roman Berkshire – recent highlights
Old Sarum to Alchester Roman road
Roman finds from the Portable Antiquities Scheme
Roman Landscape Characterisation and Prediction Project (RoLCAP)

Tickets £11 online at:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/berkshire-archaeological-society/t-rejnxj>

*Parking for the disabled is adjacent but plenty of space in local car parks.
Ten minutes from the station. Bring a packed lunch or eat at a range of local
restaurants and pubs.*

For more information see www.berksarch.co.uk



Berkshire
Archaeology



Barkham Village Hall Charity

Barkham Village Hall is a Charity and is a facility for use by the local community. It has two rooms, one large and one small, plus a well-equipped kitchen, and outside a patio and large grassed area, and large Car Park, for the use of the Hall users, so is suitable for wide variety of groups, meetings and functions.

In addition, it is available for private functions such as Children's Parties and Weddings.

The Village Hall is well used and the regular users are:

- Art Club • Band Practice • Bonsai • Brownies • Church Youth Club & Sunday School • Dog Training • Karate
- Ladies Group • Pilates • Pre-School • Rainbows
- U3A Group • Walking Group



Volunteers Needed

We urgently need Help from community minded Volunteers to join the Village Hall Management Committee who hold bi-monthly meetings.

Areas where Help Is needed:

- **Practical help with maintenance of the Hall, e.g., painting and other small projects.**
- **Management of one-off major projects e.g., Replacing Hall windows, new Patio area etc.**
- **Occasional emergency cleaning and tidying of Hall, Field area and Car Park.**

- **(We have professional cleaners twice a week, but some users are not as tidy as they should be).**
- **Care of the Kitchen and equipment, Stove, Fridge, Pans, Crockery, Cutlery etc.**

Please note that without more volunteers to help with the running of the Village Hall, it will not be there for you to use for your children's parties and social gatherings etc. It is a great asset to the village, to be used and enjoyed by all. We want to keep it so, with a small contribution of your time we can all benefit.

Please respond to: **Derek Oxbrough, Vice Chairman**
doxbrough@hotmail.com Tel: 01189760578



An update from Barkham Ward Councillor - John Kaiser



I became a councillor with a passion for protecting the vulnerable, enhancing wellbeing and increasing prosperity for all the borough residents especially

those in the ward of Barkham who kindly chose me to represent them.

I would like to think I have helped make some inroads into these aspirations, with very little in the way of homelessness and Wokingham being voted among the most prosperous council area in the UK, but we need to go much further. The council has delivered new secondary and primary schools and major road projects such as Barkham Bridge, Rooks Nest SANG and improvements at California Country Park and working with the parish councils and residents to resist unsustainable homes in our area such as the proposed 1000 homes at Barkham square, this and the plans to deliver clean energy from the solar farm which will be an important project, not only to deliver clean energy but income for the council to help provide services in years to come. I think that is an important point anything the council does with its assets is designed to generate social value and any money received goes back into services. The only shareholders the council has are you the residents and as such, we do not make profits in the same way that developers and other do from selling and developing land.

The Council has worked over many years to attain the highest standards of financial management, including a strong track record of delivery of significant savings of nearly £30m in real terms over the last 6 years.

That said, the financial future looks both extremely challenging and uncertain. The degree of uncertainty is at a level seldom, if ever, previously experienced by the Council.

The financial impact of the Adult Social care and NHS reform is potentially the councils greatest concern given its magnitude. Additional expenditure of tens of millions of pounds is anticipated when the impact of the reform is fully felt. Whilst the ongoing grant funding of this is unclear, the current levels of financial support suggested will fall well short of that needed by Wokingham and other authorities with a high proportion of self-funders, people paying for their own care, living in the borough.

A major review of local government funding in the context of a 'levelling up' agenda is expected to be announced for 2023/24 and this settlement is expected to cover several years. Wokingham will need to continue to make its case for a fair deal for its residents in the formulation of a new national funding system as it is currently perceived to require the lowest level of support per head of population out of all Unitary Authorities in the country. A further particular concern within a future funding settlement, is the continuation or otherwise of the New Homes Bonus introduced to incentivise the delivery of new housing. As a Council that has previously embraced this national agenda through the development of a Core Strategy and Strategic Development Locations, Wokingham has become dependent over the years on sizeable annual New Homes Bonus payments.

Inflationary pressures on expenditure have become both severe and unpredictable, primarily because of COVID-19 and Brexit. Although the impact of inflation has been carefully considered within the council's overall budget, they can only be best estimates at

the time given reasonable endeavours to contain cost, in the recognition that much of the impact will be outside of the direct control of the Council. Inflation of 5% plus will result in an increase of around £8m.

The increase in settlement from the government and our council tax increase of 1.99% and 1% for social care raise about £5m (£1.8 government funding and £3m for the council tax increase) leaves us with a £3m shortfall which calls for greater efficiencies much as we have done in the past as our commitment is not to cut services.

Wokingham has embarked on a responsible but ambitious Capital Programme over its recent past to enable the strategic delivery of housing, the regeneration of Wokingham Town and the development of much needed affordable housing. As such, it could have been significantly impacted by the rising costs and inflation, but we are confident we can continue to invest as investment such as the town centre is at the point that it pays its own costs and continues to buck the trend with new commercial leases being signed every week and the homes selling quickly and at excellent prices.

The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) budget area is highly regulated, which means the opportunity to address the growing demand led statutory pressures relating to education is limited. The deficit on DSG is estimated to be in the region of £13m by 31st March 23 and likely to increase significantly in future years. Options to mitigate the deficit are currently being developed and require additional capital investment to deliver on increased local provision. A fundamental review of this national issue of concern is required as it affects councils up and down the country some to a much greater degree than Wokingham.

The council's budget for 2022-25 is responsible and affordable, leaving a safe level of Balances. However, this is operating in an unprecedented landscape of uncertainty and risk. The Council's financial position will require continual review.

Even though we are the lowest grant funded unitary council in the UK which makes it difficult, we have shown exactly what we can achieve for our communities during this pandemic and still come in at budgeted levels 21/22. That said It is vital that we do the basics right to provide the capacity and financial flexibility which allows us to continue to invest in our community, building more social homes in response to the increase in homeless in the borough and the high level of rents and house prices in the private sector. This and other action helps to create a strong and more financially resilient council providing high levels of services for resident.

The council will always maintain robust control over its finances because the uncertainty over future government funding continues to justify prudent forecasting.

We are not a council in crisis, unlike many such as Slough with its Labour run council which has a shortfall of hundreds of millions of pounds which require it to sell off major assets with an income in line with that of Wokingham. CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) Financial Resilience Indicator showed Wokingham to be amongst the top 20, we still have high level of usable reserves and high levels of control over our spending and with a sustainable capital program for growth for the future. The Borough council went into this pandemic with excellent cash reserves due to years of excellent conservative cash management and we will no doubt come out of it still with reduced but adequate reserves That said, reserves are there to support the borough in time of need and hardship and I would suggest Covid has been one of those times if you look at the havoc wreaked by this pandemic not just in Wokingham or even the UK but worldwide and not just the economic damage but the personal sorrow and think about those who have died before their time and the families left facing uncertain times.

So yes, we have spent money but only money that we can afford and was necessary to ease the suffering and uncertainty of our residents delivering the services they rely on.

Finally, Wokingham is a great place to live and with that comes its problems as more and more people want to live in the borough and while land is available and landowners want to sell and developers know they can sell every house they build and the addition of government driven housing numbers coupled that with a presumption to approve planning application in the national planning framework rules, all goes to make it difficult for the council to balance the need for new homes with the ever changing landscape for existing residents.

The same time pressure on prices and rents means it is difficult for the next generation to acquire or rent homes in the borough as such the council has a responsibility to help residents and as such more homes with social rents are required which will have

to become an area the council will have to focus on and with the increase in the cost of material and labour making this hard to do and can only be done using council owned land.

The council will continue to deliver the high quality services the residents have come to expect and rely on but to do this the council must remain solvent.

As I have said on many occasions "a council which is broke is no good to anyone."

Thank you
John Kaiser

Councillor John Kaiser

Councillor for Barkham

Deputy leader

Executive Member for Finance and Housing

Wokingham Borough Council

Email: john.kaiser@wokingham.gov.uk

Telephone: 07714192352

One Blue Bag Challenge

Every week, households in Wokingham borough throw away over 570 tonnes of rubbish - but over 50% of this could be recycled - much of this, at home, through your kerbside recycling collections. Wokingham Borough Council is urging its residents to do more.

Food currently makes up almost a quarter of what goes into the average blue waste bag. It doesn't seem like much on its own, but there are more than 75,000 households in the borough so it all adds up - and costs the council over £500,000 a year to dispose of.

The average blue bag also contains 13 per cent paper, metal, cardboard and plastic while textiles make up five per cent and glass and garden waste each make up four per cent. Those materials could be recycled again and again or be used to create energy, but currently it's just being thrown away.

On food waste recycling alone, residents are doing a great job. More than 11,000 tonnes of food waste have been recycled since April 2019. That's enough to power all homes in the borough for almost a week.

The amount of food waste thrown away has dropped from 40 per cent before the food waste recycling collections were introduced to nearly 25% - but the council is urging its residents to do more, both for the environment and for council taxpayers.

Using the weekly food waste and recycling collection service will help save money as well as the environment. In fact, the council spends almost £4 million per year to dispose of the refuse collected in the blue bags when over half that amount could be recycled.

Executive member for environment Cllr Parry Bath said, "We are challenging our residents to the ONE BLUE BAG CHALLENGE. If we all only use one blue bag per week for each household, this would significantly

reduce the amount of rubbish we send to landfill or burn for energy. If you're already doing a great job reducing your waste, try challenging yourself to one bag every other week."



Recycling options

Recycling saves money, as it costs much less to recycle waste than it does to dispose of it. It also conserves precious resources by turning them into products and saves energy by making products out of recycled, rather than raw materials. It also reduces landfill. The food waste placed in food caddies can be processed and turned into fertiliser as well as capturing methane to turn into electricity.

Cllr Bath continued: "All improvements, no matter how small, will reduce the amount being disposed of and everyone has the power to make a big difference. Buy less, recycle more and feed your food caddy. We're in this together, let's all play our part."

Further information:

More from Cllr Parry Bath, executive member for environment and leisure, on parry.bath@wokingham.gov.uk.

New Chairperson

Required for Barkham Village Hall Charity

We hold bimonthly meetings and the position would require approximately 3 hours a week of general supervision of projects and other affairs



Contact: Derek Oxbrough
Doxbrough@hotmail.com
Tel: 01189760578

"Daft place to put a bollard."

We don't judge, we just fix it.



- Bumper Scuffs
- Dents
- Paintless Dent Removal
- Alloy Wheel Refurbishment
- Key Scratches
- Accident Damage
- Headlight Restoration
- Signwriting Removal
- Supagard Paint Protection

ALL OUR REPAIRS ARE:
• Completed Same Day
• Professional Quality
• Convenient
• Cost Effective
• Mobile



LIKE IT NEVER HAPPENED
CHRIS & LACEY ASHDOWN

Call us today on 07496 375043 for a FREE estimate on repairs to bumper scuffs, paint scratches, minor dents and alloy wheels. Find out more at chipsawaywokingham.co.uk or email chris.ashdown@chipsaway.co.uk

Planning - February 2022

Since the last edition, the Local Plan Update Revised Growth Strategy has been published and a public consultation held which closed on Mon 24 Jan 2022. Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) went to great lengths to urge people to respond to the consultation by distributing flyers to every household across the Borough. Despite this, we have heard that some residents were deterred from responding because of the need to sign on to access the questionnaire, difficulty in locating the copious supporting documentation and a 'here we go again' sentiment.

We understand that feedback from the consultation is not expected until later in the summer.

The centrepiece for the earlier consultation early in 2020 was the proposed garden settlement in Grazeley but redefinition of the zoning around AWE Burghfield meant this could not be achieved. The revised plan sets out how the new build housing required by 2037/38 will now be delivered by focusing on:

- **Continuing to build out the original four Strategic Development Locations (SDL) with some additional housing.**
- **Establishing a fifth SDL at Hall Farm, Arborfield – although provision has been made to build 4,500 dwellings at this location, only 2,200 are expected to be built by 2037/38.**
- **Developing a number of smaller sites.**

It is not possible to delve into all aspects of the revised plan in this short article but there are a couple of topics very relevant to Barkham that we can squeeze in.

Barkham has not come through this process unscathed but many locations opposed in the past such as Barkham Square, School Road and Edneys Hill have not been included in the updated plan. This is good news and reflects a degree of load sharing of new housing across the Borough.

At a time when some parishes are arguing to relocate housing allocations, it is worth commenting on recent articles in the local press that distort the load sharing picture when put into a Barkham context. These suggest that Barkham is receiving only 19 new dwellings under the revised strategy.

The original 2010 – 2026 Core Plan allocated 1,800 dwellings to Barkham as part of the Arborfield Garrison SDL with another 1,700 just over the parish boundaries. Since then, the following have been added:

- **The 19 dwellings referred to above.**
- **140 dwellings on Reading FC Training Ground now included in the Arborfield Garrison SDL for which outline planning permission has already been approved.**
- **270 dwellings at Rooks Nest Farm which, although attributed to Finchampstead, will actually lie in Barkham.**

These extra 429 new builds plus the original 1,800 give a total of 2,229 homes which represents a significant overall loading in the parish. The resulting increase in traffic will also add further to the congestion of the residential roads that feed into the area.



RFC Hogwood Park

This leads into the second topic because, regardless of how much time and money are spent in developing a local plan, it is completely wasted if the plan is not implemented or allowed to be executed as intended.



Some time ago we talked about the rolling 5 Year Land Supply (5YLS) test and it is worth recapping on the main points. Despite what the name implies, this is NOT a measure of the land available for development which is allocated by the Local Planning Authority via the Local Plan. In PRACTICE, it is a measure of whether houses are being built at the required constant annual rate which is largely controlled by the Developers throughout the planning cycle. If the housing market slows, then developers will inevitably slow the rate of build and, when this happens, planning inspectors can approve other sites for development that are not included in the Local Plan. This does not necessarily lead to an increase in the immediate supply of homes but does result in more land being made available for housing in the future.

This makes a mockery of any attempt to plan sensibly, especially with respect to developing the all-important infrastructure. Apart from ensuring the appropriate infrastructure is provided in the most cost-effective way, it takes time to deliver. This can impact the rate of build at the start of the project which is not allowed for by the current rules, even though the required

number of dwellings will be achieved in the end. Moreover, Wokingham has in recent years delivered more houses ahead of plan but, under the current rules, these will not be taken into account when the Local Plan Update comes into effect and the numbers are reset.

It was good to see in another – and more pleasing – press report that the WBC Executive has recently written to the Minister of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities drawing attention to the flaws of the current system and recommending that the 5YLS parameter be scrapped.

Bringing these two strands together – if there are further changes to the draft LPU then more houses may be allocated to Barkham and unless WBC has greater control of housing delivery then more houses could also come to Barkham by default.

If you have comments about anything written here then please e-mail to:
clerk@barkham-parishcouncil.org.uk



C.A.E. AUTOS
0118 977 1188

Family Run Local Garage

Honest and Reliable

ALL types of repair work

ALL makes and models

FREE Bulb/Wiper Fitting

Servicing, MOT work, etc

FREE COLLECTION AND DELIVERY from home or work*



@caeautos

CAE Ltd
Wokingham



@caewokingham

CALL 24/7 on 0118 977 1188 or 07956169265

www.cae-wokingham.co.uk

*within local area

Village INFO

www.barkham-parishcouncil.org.uk has a host of information about police, doctors 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.wdctt.org

Shine WBC activities for the over 50s

www.wokingham.gov.uk

Reach Wokingham

www.reachwokingham.com

Farley Hill Primary School

www.farleyhillprimary.co.uk

Barkham Parish Council

Become a Councillor

Barkham Parish Council is the closest tier of government to our community, and we have the responsibility of making decisions on behalf of the people of the Parish.

Often the first point of call for resident's queries and concerns, the Parish Council takes our duty to serve the people of Barkham seriously and we want to see our village flourish. Therefore, we encourage people to come forward to let us know what they want from us and suggest ways that we could do things better.

What matters to you matters to us, so whether that is about local planning issues, more recreational facilities for young people, better services for older people or traffic calming measures, we want you to tell us about it.

If you would like to join us as a councillor read on to find out more...

What it means to be a Parish Councillor

Parish Councillors have a real opportunity to make a positive and lasting difference in the lives of the people in their community. Whilst we work with Wokingham Borough Council, our unique position at the heart of the community means that we are better placed to understand the needs of residents and do something about it. After all councillors are just people that live in the village like you, with a passion to see Barkham thrive.

It's so important that we represent the interests of the whole community and getting to grips with the villages diverse groups is key to being a councillor. While we want councillors that can bring their own strengths

and ideas to the table, it is also about how they engage with their electors to ensure that every voice gets heard.

Forget any stereotypes you may hold about the sort of person that stands to be a councillor, we celebrate our diversity and make better decisions because of it. You don't need any special skills to be a councillor however having or being able to develop the following skills, knowledge and attributes will help you in the role:

- **Communication Skills**
- **Problem Solving**
- **Team working**
- **Organisational skills**
- **Ability to engage your local community**

We meet on the second Tuesday of the month at the Arborfield Green Community Centre from 7.30pm. Why not come along to see the Council in action. Our councillors are always happy to answer any questions and tell you what their experience of being a councillor is.



To find out more about joining Barkham Parish Council contact the Clerk on **0118 976 2089**, email clerk@barkham-parishcouncil.org.uk or call in at our office in the **Community Centre**, open between **09.30 to 14:00 Monday to Thursday** (except bank holidays).



THE BEST FOR...



A1 Car Spares

We have invested in the very latest second hand car processing capabilities. Not only do we de-pollute end-of-life-vehicles (ELVs), but we also offer you second hand car spares at amazing prices. If you are looking for second hand car spares that are rare, there is a good chance that we have them!



A1 Loo Hire

We not only provide facility hire but offer an unrivalled waste disposal service which has catered for many of the UK's major outdoor events. The A1 group has delivered total waste management solutions for over 15 years and has developed A1 Loo Hire to meet significant growth in line with increasing client requirements.



A1 Wet Waste

Wokingham Wet Waste is one of the countries leading Waste Management companies in the UK, embracing new technology and the very latest equipment available in order to deliver real added value to our clients.



A1 Metal Recycling

Investment in the very latest processing capabilities has seen Wokingham Metal Recycling acquire two SEDA Fixed Station De-pollution rigs. Top prices paid for your scrap metal, scrap cars and MoT failures. We also supply high quality scrap metal at great prices.

Contact us for more information or visit Highland Avenue, Wokingham

Tel: 0118 978 5143 www.a1groupuk.com

