



WINKFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

THREE YEAR PLAN

2014 – 2017

INTRODUCTION

It is the role of Winkfield Parish Council (WPC) to provide a safe and sustainable environment for all of its parishioners. In order to implement strategies to meet this objective it is necessary to identify key parameters. For example, a safe environment has two elements: road safety and crime and disorder reduction. The environment covers the general well-being of the Parish in terms of services provided.

Road Safety is one of the main concerns of residents. The solution to many of these problems is only achievable with the co-operation and financial support of Bracknell Forest Council (BFC). Unfortunately, in times of severe financial constraint, some of the objectives of WPC will be difficult or even impossible to implement. Rather than include them in the Three-year Plan year after year with little chance of progressing them, they now appear as Appendix 1 to this Plan where they remain on the table for resolution if and when funds become available.

Crime and Disorder, including anti-social behaviour, is the subject of robust policies being implemented by BFC in partnership with the Thames Valley Police (TVP) and the Parish and Town Councils. The BFC Partnership can point to a considerable reduction in crime within the Borough. WPC will continue to input data to the Crime and Disorder Information Service (CADIS) managed by BFC.

WPC OBJECTIVES, STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

1. Road Safety

To continue to work with all local residents associations, groups and stakeholders to strive for resolutions to all issues of road safety including parking and speeding. To identify, and monitor, those areas of the Parish of most concern which have been well documented in previous editions of this rolling Three Year Plan. They now are included because BFC have advanced them to the planning stage for implementation in the near future:

They include:

ISSUE	STRATEGY	ACTION
<p>Maidens Green Crossroads – The installation of traffic lights at the junction of the A330/B3022 Bracknell Road</p>	<p>The long overdue installation of traffic signals, as well as improvements to sight lines on all four approaches to the junction is vital to improve safety at this busy and notorious junction with a bad accident record and, to reduce congestion by improving traffic flow at peak times. BFC is currently looking at this. However, this is a long protracted process which is, at present, blocked by the inability to</p>	<p>WPC has suggested to BFC that in the short term low cost speed cushions could be implemented on Winkfield Lane and Bracknell Road.</p>

	<p>secure land from some of the landowners.</p>	
<p>Braziers Lane Crossroads</p>	<p>Safety at this junction is exacerbated by the very narrow width of Braziers Lane at its junction with Forest Road and the very poor sight lines. WPC is pursuing whatever channels are available to improve road safety at this junction.</p> <p>Braziers Lane is on a bus route and appears on satellite navigation systems attracting heavy lorries along this quiet inadequate road. There have been instances where difficulties have occurred with buses on routes 152 and 153 trying to turn from Forest Road into Braziers Lane where the road width is at its narrowest. (Note – the buses operate in this direction only.)</p>	<p>Possible solutions include:</p> <p>Safety would be improved by the installation of traffic signals, particularly at peak times when there is considerable congestion. Part-time traffic lights are installed during Ascot Week and have proved very effective over a number of years;</p> <p>Re-route buses along Forest Road, Hatchet Lane, Lovel Road and Pigeonhouse Lane to re-join the route at Church Road, Winkfield;</p> <p>An outline traffic calming proposal, with the support of WPC, was submitted in 2010 to BFC Highways for consideration which would entail the introduction of speed calming cushions on Forest Road (but not sited outside residences) and Locks Ride.</p> <p>In addition a weight restriction for vehicles turning into Braziers Lane and moving the 30mph sign on the North Ascot side of Forest Road to just before the bend rather than where it is currently hidden by foliage during summer months;</p> <p>Enforcing restricted access for HGV currently in place within the Windsor area. This would require liaising with both BFC and Windsor and Maidenhead Councils. There are now signs at both ends of Braziers Lane indicating the road is unsuitable for HGVs;</p> <p>WPC will continue to campaign for a safe crossing area for pedestrians visiting Locks Ride Recreation Ground including foot traffic from Locks Ride Recreation Ground going towards Winkfield St Mary's School;</p> <p>Campaign for a 30-mph limit along the stretch of Forest Road from Braziers Lane to Hatchet Lane. (Note – BFC has advised that speed management on this stretch of road including the junction is on the list of issues to be addressed once capacity and funding is available. WPC will monitor this closely.</p>

<p>Martin’s Heron Roundabout –</p>	<p>Safety issues and peak-time traffic congestion continue to cause severe problems at this very busy road junction where several road safety and traffic management issues are of considerable concern. It is important to note that both TVP and BFC have records only of injury related traffic accidents. The many non-injury accidents are NOT recorded and this has resulted in BFC not appreciating the scale of the road safety problems in the parish. Hence WPC encourages residents to report non-injury related traffic incidents to the office in order that we can build up a record that we will review with BFC.</p>	<p>BFC has agreed to review the layout and are considering the installation of traffic signals in the next one to two years; a move WPC supports and will continue to monitor. In addition WPC believes that by amending the direction arrows obliging traffic emerging from New Forest Ride in the right-hand lane to turn right would go a long way to alleviating the problem.</p>
<p>Coral Reef Roundabout – The installation of peak time traffic lights.</p>	<p>Lane discipline at this roundabout is very poor. Peak time traffic lights are required in order to increase safety especially for traffic coming from New Forest Ride or Nine Mile Ride to access this heavily used roundabout. In order to enter the roundabout in peak hours from either New Forest Ride or Nine Mile Ride currently involves the motorist in taking a chance when he sees that there might be a slight pause in the flow of traffic on the A322 Bagshot Road. The manoeuvre can only be taken with considerable risk and represents what is probably one of the most dangerous road junctions in the Parish.</p>	<p>WPC believes that the only way to address both the safety and congestion issues is for the installation of traffic signals. BFC have advised that any major improvements to this roundabout will require major civil engineering works and are unlikely to be progressed unless significant developer contributions are received at some stage in the future. The road surface is in poor condition and needs rectification.</p>
<p>Winkfield Lane – Speeding.</p>	<p>TVP has confirmed a speeding problem on this road.</p>	<p>BFC has confirmed that a traffic calming scheme is included in the list of potential schemes to be considered when funds and capacity are available. WPC to continue to push for speed management.</p>

2. Public Transport

WPC will continue to monitor local public transport. Bus services operated by First – now renamed First Beeline Buses – continue to provide a good service on the commercially operated routes 191 Bracknell – Windsor/Slough and Green Line 701/702 Bracknell – London Victoria. In addition, Bracknell Forest Council provides financial support for routes 152 Bracknell – Winkfield via Quelm Park, 153 Bracknell – Warfield Tesco's and 162 Bracknell – Ascot. Routes 152 and 162 are operated by Courtney Buses and the 153 by First Beeline Buses Ltd. Thames Travel no longer operate any routes in the Bracknell area.

South West Trains probably operate the most reliable train service in the country. Their Waterloo to Reading service calls at Ascot, Martin's Heron and Bracknell stations. Journey time from Waterloo to Martin's Heron is approximately one hour. Whilst a reduction in time would be welcomed by residents of Winkfield, line capacity on the approaches to and from Waterloo make this very unlikely in the near future.

3. Environmental Issues

ISSUE	STRATEGY	ACTION
Drainage	Two main areas in the Parish – Braziers Lane Crossroads and Hatchet Lane – suffer severe drainage problems.	WPC has been working tirelessly for the past 18 months with BFC to improve the drainage in these areas. WPC is continuing to seek remedial action from BFC and other agencies to improve the drainage. Following many site visits by WPC and BFC numerous problems have been highlighted. WPC will continue to lobby for improvement.
Sewage	The Parish of Winkfield suffers from the surcharging of foul sewage in many areas particularly in the north of the Parish.	WPC is working closely with BFC to lobby Thames Water to address this totally unacceptable ongoing situation.
Litter	Increase exposure to the problem; arrange litter picks; raise awareness with the local schoolchildren; regularly liaise with BFC	Articles included in the Parish newsletter and website; WPC works closely with the Thames Valley Payback Team who help the Parish enormously with environmental work including litter picking; WPC regularly reports any excessive littering to BFC and feeds in to the BFC schedule of street cleaning on a regular basis;
Graffiti and Flytipping	WPC aims to encourage all local residents to report any incidents either directly to BFC or to us.	Any reported incidents dealt with immediately.
Dog Fouling	To reduce the amount of dog fouling which, unfortunately, continues across the Parish.	As BFC no longer employs a Dog Warden and only deals with vicious or stray/abandoned dogs, WPC has set aside a small amount of money to deal with persistent offenders.

Vandalism	WPC will encourage residents, using the established lines of communication, to use the Police non-emergency telephone number – 101 – to report all incidents.	WPC works closely with its Thames Valley Police Neighbourhood Teams to reduce incidents of vandalism.
Flyposting	Flyposting continues to blight the area.	WPC is continuously encouraging BFC to carry out enforcements particularly to re-offenders.
Green Map	WPC aims to create a 'Green Map' which will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define different areas such as Green Belt; settlements outside the Green Belt; settlements, conservation areas; footpaths and public rights of way; trees with Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs); woodland and area orders; veteran trees; etc • Identify gaps in protection • Highlight correct designations for footpaths, listed buildings, etc • List all WPC managed sites 	Due to time and budget constraints this project has been postponed but will be resurrected as soon as possible.
Climate Change	WPC will continue to review its Climate Change Policy.	WPC is keen to support many local recycling projects and incorporates recycling into many of the Arts Week workshops and activities and all Councillors and staff are keen to recycle wherever possible during the course of WPCs day to day activities. Consideration is given to all new projects to ensure the least impact on the environment.
Listed Buildings	To take action to protect buildings where WPC considers this appropriate.	
Allotments	WPC is very keen to continue and improve the provision of allotments to local residents.	WPC is continuously looking at ways of increasing the number of available plots. The current policy is to split returning full plots into two in order to reduce the number of people on the waiting list.
Illegal Felling of Trees	To work with BFC and local people to prevent any further illegal felling of trees.	

<p>Planning</p>	<p>WPC will continue to actively monitor all planning applications within the Parish ensuring that the views raised by residents are considered when WPC responds to consultations on planning applications. WPC supports the protection of the Green Belt.</p>	<p>WPC encourages residents to make their views known to their local BFC Ward Councillors and to WPC by letter, email or in person at meetings. WPC encourages residents to notify BFC of any breaches. WPC will report any breaches of planning law brought to its attention to BFC and encourage them to take assertive measures to enforce compliance. WPC Councillors and staff are encouraged to attend any suitable training available.</p>
<p>Neighbourhood Planning</p>		<p>WPC has considered this and continues to keep abreast of developments in legislation whilst keeping a close eye on other local neighbourhood plans. There is no pressure or compunction on Parish and Town Councils to opt for a Neighbourhood Plan - it is a matter for each local community to determine.</p> <p>The process is long and complex and we are told it is likely to take two to three years to put a plan together. The success of such a plan is wholly reliant on volunteers from within the community to form and work towards delivering such a plan. This group would need ideally to include some professionals with a variety of skills in strategic community planning.</p> <p>An alternative route could be to buy in the skills on a fixed contract, however this cost would need to be met. WPC will organise a presentation for community groups in the near future.</p> <p>A Neighbourhood Plan is not a means to stop future housing and development, in fact one principal objective is to increase the rate of growth of housing and economic development in England.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It sets out planning policies in relation to the development and use of land in a particular area. • Design Statements or Master Plans ie. allocating land for development ('mini-land / Site Allocations Plan') to development management type criteria. • It is a tool to bring forward sustainable development and growth - must provide for more development than proposed in the LPA's Plan.

4. Communications

To constantly strive to improve communications across the board. WPCs ultimate aim through engagement is to create a strong inclusive sense of community.

ISSUE	STRATEGY	ACTION
Communication with Residents	To continue to communicate with residents via The Parish Office; Parish Newsletter; Parish Website; Noticeboards; Annual Parish Meeting; Three Year Plan; Annual Report	WPC encourages residents to contact the Parish Office with any query and staff will do their best to advise/help/resolve any issues and if necessary put residents in touch with the appropriate agency. Parish Councillors are also keen to assist and the Clerk will be happy to put residents in touch with their Ward Parish Councillors. WPC has good communication links with local schools and builds on this constantly.
Participation in External Forums	WPC is keen to continue to participate in the following forums: Bracknell Forest Parish and Town Liaison Group; Bracknell Forest Partnership; regular meetings with the Director of Environment, Culture and Communities; BFC Clerks meetings with all Clerks of the six Bracknell Forest Parish and Town Councils; Resident Associations/Community Groups; Highways Maintenance Scrutiny Group	<p>The Bracknell Forest Parish and Town Liaison Group meets quarterly and is an excellent forum for two-way exchange of information ensuring WPC is up to date with the latest legislation and information affecting our residents.. WPC ALWAYS attends these meetings.</p> <p>The bi-annual meeting with the Director of Environment provides a very successful means of dealing with traffic and highways issues and this year great inroads have been made into dealing with long-standing local issues such as flooding and speeding.</p> <p>WPC is keen to be represented in local Resident Associations and Community Groups if invited as the links forged over the past few years are growing stronger and are hugely beneficial to all. WPC is keen to encourage the setting up of local Residents' Associations where these do not exist and other well-established successful Residents Associations are keen to assist in providing guidance and expertise. WPC will continue to encourage this via the newsletter and website.</p>
User Groups	WPC is keen to work with User Groups.	This year an Allotment User Group has been formed. Although in its' infancy it is hoped that this will prove to be a very successful partnership.

5. Local Health Provision

There is insufficient information in the public domain as to what changes are to be made to the provision of local healthcare services both at Heatherwood and in the wider area. WPC has responded to recent consultations and is keen to support good quality health services available to local residents. The Bracknell Urgent Care Centre at Brants Bridge opens in April 2014 and WPC will be monitoring its effect closely.

6. Management of WPC Facilities

WPC will continue to maintain the properties and open spaces it owns or has responsibility for, to the highest possible quality.

7. Parish Events

WPC continues to organise and manage various events throughout the year for the benefit of our residents.

EVENT	DETAIL	ACHIEVEMENTS
Allotment Evening	This is held in January and all allotment holders are invited.	This is a fun evening and awards are presented to the best plot holders. Allotment holders get to meet each other and build on communication, sharing information and thoughts.
Annual Parish Meeting	This is a meeting for residents but facilitated by the Parish Council. It is NOT a Parish Council meeting. There are some formal parts to the meeting but the majority of the meeting is for the residents and WPC is keen for local people to attend and participate.	Over the past couple of years WPC has tried to introduce items which will generate interest in the community. The feedback has been good but WPC aims to improve this year on year and welcomes suggestions from the community.
May Day Fair	Organised by the May Day Committee who are a group of local people. WPC facilitates the event at Carnation Hall.	This is always an extremely popular local event but unfortunately occasionally affected by adverse weather conditions.
Pride in our Parish Environment Week	This is a week-long project harnessing the volunteering skills of local people, the local press and obtaining sponsorship from local businesses. WPC aims to continue with this event every year if support can be found.	With a great deal of input from Cllr Parkin this project got underway in May 2013 although there was a disappointing lack of response from the community and our resident groups. However, with the use of Thames Valley Probation Services much was achieved across the week. The date for 2014 has been set for 1 st -8 th June.
Family Cycle Ride	Every June for the past 20 years WPC has organised a Family Cycle Ride.	In the past few years WPC has joined forces with Warfield Parish Council and the turnout is usually pretty amazing – 2013 saw approximately 200 riders take part – fantastic! The weather was good to us and everyone had a great time.

Family Fun Day	In conjunction with Binfield and Warfield Parish Councils and Bracknell Forest Council WPC supports and facilitates three days of fun for local families on local open areas/recreation grounds.	In the summer of 2013 these were held on 9 th , 16 th and 23 rd August. All three were very successful indeed with the largest turnout of over 1000 people at Westmoreland Park when the weather was beautiful. WPC will be taking part in this again for the summer of 2014.
Ascot Retirement Fair	This takes place every year at Ascot Racecourse and is growing in popularity year on year. There is a great deal of advice and support available at this event.	2013 was the first year WPC took part and it proved very successful with lots of interest in what the Parish does. WPC has already booked its' space at this year's event on 20 th August.
Arts Week	A week of art related activities, workshops and events with the aim of introducing local families to new activities and skills. WPC works tirelessly in partnership with Binfield and Warfield Parish Councils.	2013 was the NINTH year that this has been running. Each year improves on the previous and a great deal of interest is shown by local residents and their families. Staff and Councillors give an enormous amount of time to this project but the results are very rewarding.
Wreath Making Workshops	Paul Craven, our Head of Grounds Maintenance and Facilities, runs workshops in early December.	In December 2013 Paul ran four workshops which were all fully booked. The feedback is always extremely positive and valued by the community.
Footpath Walks	WPC aims to organise two/three footpaths each year. In addition the three Northern Parishes – Binfield, Warfield and Winkfield organised a joint Footpath Walk in 2013.	In 2013 we held a footpath walk in April and a 'Northern Parishes' (with Warfield and Binfield Parish Councils) footpath walk at the end of June. A 'Northern Parishes' walk has been arranged for 20 th July and WPC intends to hold an autumn footpath walk in September. Details of both walks will be published on the website.

8. Projects

a. 2014-2015:

- i. Repaint tennis courts at Ascot Jubilee Recreation Ground
- ii. Install self-filling water troughs at both allotment sites
- iii. Install two picnic benches at Allsmoor Field
- iv. Install a new gate at King George V Recreation Ground
- v. Replace the football goals and nets at Ascot Jubilee Recreation Ground
- vi. Scope the installation of sports netting at Locks Ride Recreation Ground
- vii. Replace the flooring at Ascot Jubilee Recreation Ground
- viii. Install tracking devices on WPC vehicles to increase security
- ix. Carry out ditch re-sculpting
- x. Carry out chipping
- xi. Replace windows at Carnation Hall
- xii. Replace windows at Parish Office
- xiii. Install an additional salt bin – site TBA.

b. Mid Term Projects/Aspirations *(These will be dependent on available funding.)*

- i. Replacement/upgrade of play equipment at King George V Recreation Ground
- ii. Improve public toilet facilities at Locks Ride Recreation Ground
- iii. Resurface Carnation Hall car park
- iv. Resurface Ascot Jubilee Recreation Ground car park

c. Long Term Projects/Aspirations

WPC to actively engage with Government and Local Authorities on Localism and Planning changes.

9. Financial Resourcing

WPC to nominate a 'Funding Champion' to rigorously investigate funding opportunities.

Appendix 1

ISSUE	STRATEGY	ACTION
20mph Speed Zones		WPC continues to encourage BFC to consider Area Speed Limits and to install 20mph speed limits outside ALL schools and to extend to all residential estates.
Brock Hill Speeding	The traffic levels and speeding issues on the Bracknell Road are increasing almost daily and will continue to do so with the forthcoming development in Warfield. A traffic calming scheme needs to be implemented.	Our BFC Ward Councillors, TVP and WPC are working together to agree the best solution. WPC will continue to seek progress through whatever channels open to them.
Traffic Lights	Two junctions on the London Road are of particular concern to WPC: London Road/Fernbank Road and London Road/Priory Road (Royal Foresters). WPC has raised its concerns with BFC.	WPC Councillors and staff have been monitoring the operation of these traffic lights. Both junctions have a right-turn filter light when approaching from Ascot. BFC have advised that the green filter is not necessarily activated every cycle – the filters are activated by a magnetic loop that detects the presence of right turning vehicles (that are waiting to turn) and adds a command to the light sequence. If the box is vacated at the last minute then the arrow may still appear. WPC has raised this issue with BFC and will continue to monitor.
Safety for Cyclists using the A329 London Road	Improve safety for cyclists.	Encourage cyclists to use the designated cycle track alongside the A329 London Road rather than riding on the very busy main road. WPC will continue to promote and lobby for more cycle lanes.
Fernbank Road	The present traffic-calming scheme installed over ten years ago is no longer appropriate for today's level of traffic. Furthermore, it is now highly dangerous in that the existing chicanes force traffic into the path of oncoming traffic	BFC have refused to review this dangerous road situation.
Level Road – A330	This road is not suitable for today's heavy traffic. The situation is exacerbated by the increasing use of satellite navigation systems that direct HGVs along Level Road	WPC will continue to push for diversion of traffic on to more suitable roads particularly bearing in mind the parking problems and to consider changing the classification to a B road to enable half-cushions to be installed at either end of the road. An alternative would be to divert traffic away from Level Road and Hatchet Lane and direct it via B3022 North Street, B383 Mounts Hill and A332 Windsor Road to re-join the A330 at its junction with the A332.

<p>Church Road/Pigeonhouse Lane, Winkfield – Speeding.</p>	<p>Speeding and safety of local residents accessing this road from their properties is an issue</p>	<p>WPC to continue to urge TVP to include this in their monitoring. Additionally: Encourage BFC to install a pedestrian crossing on Church Road, Winkfield between St Mary’s Church and the White Hart public house; Urge BFC to avoid frequent changes in speed limits within short distances.</p>
<p>Satellite Navigation Systems</p>	<p>BFC to be urged to monitor developments to restrict satellite navigation in rural/semi-rural areas</p>	<p>WPC will regularly review and request updates.</p>
<p>Unadopted Pedestrian Footpaths</p>	<p>There are many footpaths within the Parish that were not being maintained to a satisfactory standard</p>	<p>BFC has confirmed that the upkeep of these footpaths is their responsibility but are often reluctant to take any action. WPC to pursue.</p>
<p>Narrow Path on the north (Carnation Estate) side that leads from Forest Road to Winkfield Road</p>	<p>Residents have raised concerns that it is difficult and unsafe to cross the Forest Road at its junction with Carnation Drive. Parents/Guardians find it particularly difficult when taking/collection children to/from Winkfield St Mary’s School.</p>	<p>WPC raised this with BFC and an accessibility improvement scheme is currently being developed which will provide a footway extension to the west of Carnation Drive (on the southern side of Forest Road) linking to a newly provided bus stop for eastbound bus services. Improvements to the two existing traffic islands on Forest Road, on either side of the Carnation Drive junction, is also being explored to cater for pedestrians crossing to the continuous footway on the north side.</p>
<p>Speeding on Forest Road, New Road end.</p>	<p>Residents have complained that motorists are exceeding the speed limit along this stretch of Forest Road.</p>	<p>WPC has reported this to BFC and TVP who have carried out monitoring and advised that the site is not viable for on-going speed enforcement as no significant issues exist.</p>
<p>Recording non-injury road accidents/incidents</p>	<p>WPC is aware that many ‘small’ accidents and incidents occur are not recorded and therefore do not reflect the true situation at certain ‘black spots’ across the Parish.</p>	<p>WPC encourages residents to report any such accidents/incidents to the Parish Office so that fuller information can be gathered. WPC will share this information with BFC and push for appropriate action to be taken.</p>