



Shinfield
Parish Council

2023

NEWSLETTER



0118 988 8220



www.shinfieldparish.gov.uk



@shinfieldparish

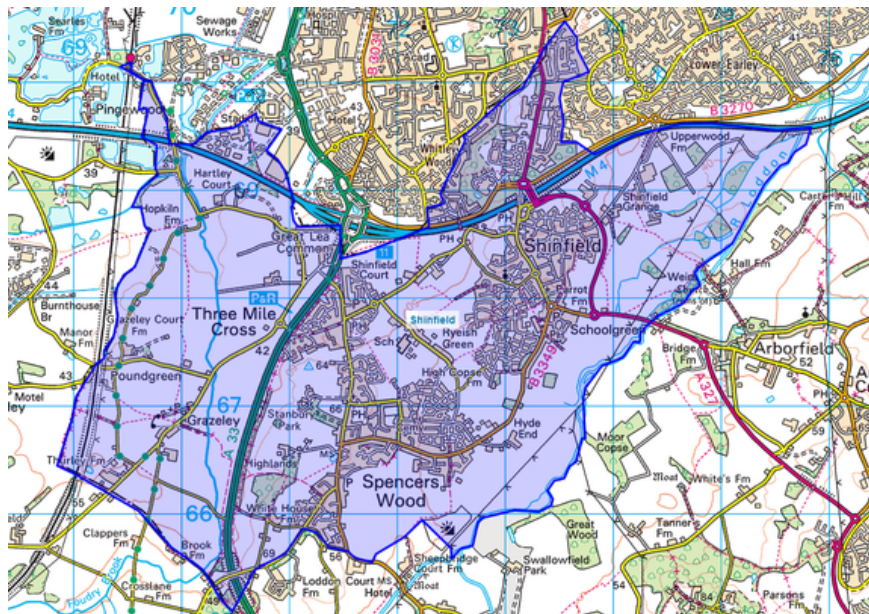


@shinfieldpc



Helping our Parish to SHINE

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL



Our Parish

The parish of Shinfield is just over 4,300 acres and includes the Ecotricity wind turbine, 1/3rd of the Tesco distribution warehouse and 1/3rd of the north bound platform at the recently opened Reading Green Park railway station.

Parish Councils (along with Town Councils) are the lowest tier of local government. Shinfield is one of 17 town and parish councils that lie within Wokingham Borough Council (WBC). WBC has decided to move to a system of 18 wards each with three ward councillors and this will happen at elections in May 2024. This will see some changes to the division of wards within Shinfield.

Another change will also be noticed at the next general election (due before January 2025) when the parish will no longer be in the Wokingham parliamentary constituency but will instead be part of a new Earley & Woodley seat. This will comprise Shinfield, Earley, Woodley and part of the former Reading East constituency. For more information on this please visit www.shinfieldparish.gov.uk

Welcome to Shinfield Parish!

Whether you have just moved in or lived here for a long time, we want to say a warm 'hello' from your Parish Council.

Often, we meet new residents when they come into collect waste bags but please do talk to us about what's on offer in the parish and check out our website which has lot's of useful information for you including each of our 6 communities listed on our homepage;

- Grazeley
- Ryeish Green
- Shinfield
- Shinfield North
- Spencers Wood
- Three Mile Cross

www.shinfieldparish.gov.uk



Our electric van pictured above that you may see around the Parish - we have 4 designated electric charging bays at the School Green Centre

WELCOME TO YOUR ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

UPDATE FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN



It has been another exciting year in Shinfield Parish with the opening of the Manor sports ground, the return of a full calendar of community events and the development of our SHINE programme.

It was great to provide financial support to the Spencers Wood Carnival, as we have done in previous years, and to see it back after a gap of four years. Well done to the organisers for such a great event. On our stand we had many conversations with residents about issues that were of concern to them and a couple of key points came out of those discussions.

1 – We spend your money – so how are we doing? Included in your council tax is an element called precept which comes to us as a parish council. We use that to cover the shortfall between the income we generate and the expenditure on our buildings, allotments and much more. The more conversations we have help us to identify what we are doing well and more importantly what we can do to improve.

2 – It often isn't us – but we can still help Many of the queries we receive relate to Wokingham Borough Council (WBC), the University of Reading or property developers. If it is down to us, then of course we will deal with the issue, but even if it isn't we can still help by pointing you in the right direction and/or giving you additional information to help resolve the matter.

Over the summer we were able to help get Wokingham Borough Council and residents concerned over school buses into the same room at council meetings to discuss the issues. Whilst the outcome wouldn't have pleased everyone it was better than originally envisaged.

We also had the Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley attend a Full Council meeting in September where we discussed issues such as anti-social behaviour, racing on the A33 and other traffic concerns.

Traffic calming has been a major project over the last few months and we are beginning to see some fruit with WBC introducing an extended 30mph speed limit zone, this is something we'd like extended further and we have formally requested improvements to road crossings in the parish.

As a parish council we do not have political parties. Everything we do is decided by councillors who live in the parish for the benefit of residents.

If you are interested in finding out more about what the parish council does and would like to be more involved in your community then please contact Bruce our Clerk or Sally our Deputy Clerk on 0118 988 8220.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Grimes'.

Andrew Grimes,
Chairman of Shinfield Parish Council

WHAT WE HAVE BEEN UP TO



School Green War Memorial cleaned and ready for Remembrance Sunday (12th November 2023)



A close up of part of the King Charles III Mosaic



Ready for Friday Funday



WBC's E-cargo bike reducing our number of vehicle journeys

SHINE

Helping Shinfield Villages Shine



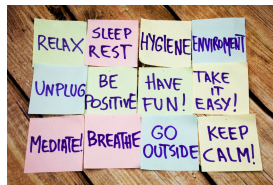
We have been giving a lot of thought to adding focus to what we do and have come up with SHINE.

Safer
Healthier
Interesting
Neighbourhoods
Engaging (everyone)

and more detail about what this entails is set out below.

We have been working on traffic calming measures for the last year (and no we do not want Arborfield style chicanes) and this is an example of **Safer**.

We are also encouraging WBC to improve some key road crossings which will make it easier to walk around the parish which is **Healthier**.



To make life more **Interesting** in the parish we have created an Arts, Culture & Events committee which has already implemented Friday Fundays at the School Green Centre and is busy planning for our first art exhibition in October 2024.

Neighbourhoods is recognising that we are one parish but made up of a number of different communities and in particular we want to strengthen the connections that residents north of the M4 and west of the A33 have with the rest of the parish.

Engaging Everyone means talking with and (more importantly) really listening to residents, local organisations and businesses. As mentioned in the Chairman's Update, often there is a role for the parish council in helping with a specific issue so please get in touch with us so we can do just that.

For more information visit www.shinfieldparish.gov.uk/Shine

ART IN 2024

Art Exhibition 2024

Art in 2024

In October 2024 we plan to launch our first ever Art Exhibition to be based in the School Green Centre during the October/November holiday period. While we are working out the exact details our provisional plan is to host some workshops between Saturday 26th October and Thursday 31st October. A preview will be held on Thursday 31st October. The exhibition is open to the public on Friday 1st to Sunday 3rd November.

Original Art

We are looking to showcase original works by anyone who is interested in exhibiting. If you would be interested in doing so then please let us know so we can gauge interest and also keep you informed about our plans.

Off the Wall

When we ran a survey to gauge initial interest we asked respondents who their favourite artist was and the range of responses (including many new to the Clerk) was such that it triggered the idea for "Off the Wall". If you have a favourite piece of art work hanging or on display in you home (originals or prints or copies) we would like to display them (off your wall and on to ours). This is a chance to showcase your particular favourite to an audience who may not have encountered them before.

Competitions

We will be running some competitions as part of the exhibition and these will include various age ranges for children. Competitions will be open to everyone but we hope to see many entries from our residents.

Workshops

There will be opportunities to come along and have a go before the exhibition opens.

Please sign up for our newsletter to keep in touch about our plans for the exhibition. You can use the QR code below or see more information on the back page.



WHAT'S ON



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

12TH NOVEMBER 2023

AT SCHOOL GREEN, SHINFIELD

10:15am Parade assemblies

10:45am Parade marches

10:50am Service starts at the War Memorial

After the service, refreshments will be provided at the School Green Centre - everyone welcome!

Visit www.shinfieldparish.gov.uk/remembrance-2023 for more information nearer the time

MADE IN SHINFIELD

WWW.SHINFIELDPARISH.GOV.UK/WHAT'S-ON

Join in our Festive Fun!



JOIN US AT SHINFIELD'S

Festive FAYRE

Friday 1st December 2023
3:30pm-8pm

Organised by Sophie & Robyn
Supported by Shinfield Parish Council



We're really jumping into Christmas this year with Festive Fayre and **Rockin Around the Christmas Tree** on Friday 1st December.

Starting at 3:30 pm – our Festive Fayre showcasing local businesses giving you an opportunity to find some new ideas for Christmas Gifts. There will also be an opportunity to visit the **Repair Café** to ensure your lights are ready for Christmas.

At 5.30 p.m. everyone is invited to join us around the Christmas Tree on the School Green to belt out a mix of Christmas favourites as well as some well know carols. There will be mince pies and (non-alcoholic) mulled wine. If it is raining we will get wet so please come dressed for the conditions!

The Festive Fayre will then continue until 8.00 p.m.

Pre-booking is not essential but it will help us get the mince pies order right!

Email info@shinfieldparish.gov.uk

FEATURING
Sponsored by Shinfield Parish Council



16TH SEPTEMBER 2023
12-9pm

Upcoming events

17 SEPT	Sunday, 10-1pm Repair Cafe, Lambs Lane Primary School
14 SEPT	Thursday, 7.30pm SAHGA, Allotment Meeting, Shinfield Infants School
16 SEPT	Saturday, 12-9pm Spencers Wood Carnival, Clare's Green Road, RG7 1DY
17 SEPT	Sunday, 10-1pm Farmers Market, Spencers Wood Village Hall
17 SEPT	Sunday, 10-1pm Repair Cafe, Lambs Lane Primary School
26 SEPT	Saturday, 12-2.30pm BBQ for refugees 'Choose Love', School Green
29 SEPT	Friday, 10-12pm MacMillan Coffee Morning, Gateway Café, St Marys Church

FOR MORE WHAT'S ON VISIT OUR WEBSITE




GOT AN UPCOMING PARISH EVENT? ADVERTISE THESE FOR Free WITH US



2023 PARISH TIMELINE

WHAT WE HAVE BEEN UP TO SO FAR

JAN

We held two consultations on Sports and Traffic, the response from these was invaluable and we took all comments on board. We submitted our findings to WBC and are awaiting an update.



FEB

This event was arranged to support Ukrainian refugees both here and back in the Ukraine – the money raised was donated to UNICEF's Ukraine Campaign.



APRIL

Turnout for our annual litter pick at Easter was amazing and the community collected over 16 bags of rubbish. Thank you to Shinfield Care home for supporting the event.



MAY

- To commemorate the King's Coronation we asked the community to send in photos to be included in the mosaic we were making. The response was excellent and the final result was displayed at the SGC over the coronation weekend.
- Local elections were held.



JUNE

- We officially opened the Manor Pavilion.
- To launch SHINE we held a QUIZ night with £250 going to the winning team.
- We created an Historical Parish Timeline which is displayed in SGC for all to view.
- The RAF memorial was restored and raised – Councillors attended the rededication ceremony.



2023 PARISH TIMELINE

JULY

- Friday Funday soft play events started.
- Shinfield Volunteer Group memorial plaque for the late Parish Councillor Edward Brown was installed on a kissing gate which he helped to replace in Spencers Wood.



AUG

- The multi-use games area at Spencers Wood Recreation Ground was officially signed off and opened.
- Friday Funday continued and was a huge success!



SEPT

- E-cargo bike delivered from My Journey Wokingham for us to trial.
- Picnic benches installed at Deardon Field.
- Spencers Wood carnival was very successful in bringing the community together.



OCT

- Restoration work was carried out at Deardon Orchard during a Volunteer Day.
- Friday Funday is back for October half-term.



For more information on these events visit
www.shinfieldparish.gov.uk/parish-events

SCHOOL GREEN CENTRE



SCHOOL GREEN CENTRE

The School Green Centre (SGC) is Shinfield Parish's Community Centre situated at School Green, Shinfield, RG2 9EH.

The SGC is the Parish Council's home and our office is situated on the first floor. The Customer Care Team at Reception are available 9am-5pm Monday-Saturday and 10am-4pm Sunday/Bank Holidays to assist you with any enquires and room bookings.

We have six rooms available for hire, all named after our communities. Our established regular hirers offer a wide range of activities. **See next page for more information.**

On-site we have a Wokingham Borough Council self-service micro-library, all the information you need to sign up and borrow books is available at the library kiosk. This is managed by Lower Earley Library Staff who can be contacted on 0118 931 2150.

The library is situated within Robyn's Nest Café, which serves hot drinks and food including smoothies, milkshakes and afternoon teas. They also cater for parties and events.

Visit www.robynsnest.co.uk for more information, menus and events.



SPENCERS WOOD PAVILION

The Spencers Wood Pavilion situated in Clare's Green Road, Spencers Wood is home to Chapel Lane Pre-school, our Youth Club and Shinfield Voluntary Car Service. We also have a large Community Room available for hire which is perfect for parties and classes with lots of onsite parking.



OUR REGULAR HIRERS

Regular Classes at the School Green Centre and Spencers Wood Pavilion		
Hirer	Activity	Day of session
School Green Centre		
Adult sessions		
Bumps and Beyond	Postnatal fitness class	Monday morning
Sally Podzemney	Pregnancy yoga	Tuesday evening
Angela O'Brien	Pilates* / Ballet**	Tuesday*, Wednesday*, Thursday* & Friday** morning
Shinfield History Group	Education	2nd Tuesday of each month
Zumba Gold Class - Emma Rogers	Zumba Gold Class	Wednesday morning
Pound Green Shinfield WI	Meeting	3rd Wednesday of each month
ELS Fitness	Fitness - Zumba	Wednesday evening
Activate Training and Sports Therapy	Pilates and Lattes	Wednesday evenings & Thursday morning
West Coast Swing Reading	Dance Class	Thursday evening
Titantium Pilates	Pilates	Thursday evening
Micka's Training	Fitness Class	Friday evening
Food for all UK	Community	Saturday evening
Shiamak London	Dance Class (Bollywood)	Sunday morning and afternoon
Age UK	Dementia Café	Monthly
Sing for your Self	Community	Thursday afternoon
Younger people		
Worker Bees	Activities	Monday morning
Starlet Dance	Dance	Monday evening
Baby Sense & Toddler Sense	Mother & baby	Tuesday morning
Flexx Gymnastics	Fitness	Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday afternoon
Art Club	Art	Wednesday afternoon
Diddi Dance	Dance	Thursday morning
Rangers	Girl Guides	Thursday evening
Bloom Toddler Classes	Mother & baby	Friday morning
Libby Putney Stricky Street	Dance	Friday afternoon(Term time only)
Shimak London	Dance Class (Bollywood)	Sunday morning (Term time only)
Moon Tuition	Education	Saturday & Sunday morning/afternoon
Kaizen Shotokan, Karate Academy	Karate	Saturday morning
S-Cube Shinfield	Education	Wednesday evening & Saturday morning
SLA First Class Learning	Education	Saturday afternoon
Tutu Olonko	Education	Sunday morning
Spencers Wood Pavilion		
Adult sessions		
Senior Citizens Coffee morning - Shinfield Volunteers Group	Community	Thursday morning
Spencers Wood History Group	Education	3rd Tuesday of the month
Younger people		
Dance Sensation	Dance	Tuesday & Thursday afternoon & evening
Youth Club	Community	Wednesday evening
Diddi Dance	Dance	Friday afternoon
For further details relating to these sessions please visit www.shinfieldparish.gov.uk		

WHAT WE HAVE BEEN UP TO



New picnic benches at Deardon Field

Eddie was a keen campaigner for footpath improvements and this plaque is on a kissing gate that was his initiative



Our new Parish Historical Timeline on display in School Green Centre

Manor Ground Pavilion



THE NEXT 12 MONTHS

We will continue to help and serve the residents of the Parish by...

Education

Working with WBC, including the lead for Education & Children's Services and key officers, to enable us to improve education provision in the parish. We have concerns that many of our children have no easy access to 6th form education and attend secondary schools outside the parish, in some cases causing transport problems. There is still some uncertainty over the provision of a second primary school in the Spencers Wood area.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

Working with our partners to help tackle anti-social behaviour in the parish and identify how we can provide more activities for young adults.

Sports Provision

Following the results of a public consultation, we are now planning the redevelopment of Millworth Lane Recreation Ground. We are hoping to introduce new sporting opportunities including basketball, netball, padel tennis, a pump track, climbing wall and a running track.

Traffic

Promoting traffic calming (not Arborfield style chicanes) and improving walking and cycling routes around the parish. For more information visit www.shinfieldparish.gov.uk/consultations/

School Green

Improving the visual appearance of School Green by replacing the current rotten wooden bollards and providing screening between the Green and the car park.

Community Activities

Developing community activities including establishing a community choir, running Friday Fundays during school holidays and curating an art exhibition in October 2024.

Working with local volunteer groups to help maintain our excellent network of footpath and cycle routes.

Running our grants application scheme in June 2024 (contact clerk@shinfieldparish.gov.uk for further information)



How well do you know us?

Q1 According to the 2021 Census what is the population of Shinfield Parish?

A – 15,600 B – 16,600 C – 17,600

Q2 How many allotment plots do Shinfield Parish Council offer?

A – 274 B – 293 C – 315

Q3 How many hours of room hire have there been at the School Green Centre in the last 12 months?

A – 9,534 B – 10,734 C – 11,238

Q4 Which of these is NOT planning a storage facility in the parish?

A – Natural History Museum B – British Museum
C – V&A Museum

Q5 The M4 now divides Shinfield North from the rest of the parish. When did our stretch of the M4 open?

A – 1971 B – 1973 C – 1975

Answers on back page

COUNCIL BUSINESS



Committees

Often people who haven't seen them think that parish council meetings are very much "Vicar of Dibley" but our Full Council meetings (and the supporting committee structure) are where the key decisions about the council's policies and plans are made.

All our meetings are open for anyone to attend and we always leave space on each agenda for questions from the public. A great case of where this works in action were the three meetings in July and August where we had over 50 members of the public at each meeting to raise concerns over school transport and to have an opportunity to hear directly from WBC's lead for Education and Children's Services.



Arts, Culture & Entertainment

To help develop the interesting element of our SHINE agenda, a new committee (ACE) has been created and it will help develop new initiatives in the parish.

If you have any ideas or thoughts for this committee then please get involved.

When and where are our meetings?

Most council meetings are held on a Wednesday evening (ACE meetings are on a Thursday evening).

You do not need to inform the Clerk if you wish to attend a meeting but you may find it useful to let him know in advance as this could allow him time to prepare an answer to your question and/or have supporting materials to hand.

Becoming a Councillor

Vacancies on the Parish Council occur occasionally and are advertised in our newsletters and on our notice boards.

If you are interested in becoming a councillor then please contact Bruce, Clerk to the Parish Council to arrange an informal discussion about what this entails.

Email clerk@shinfieldparish.gov.uk



Visit www.shinfieldparish.gov.uk/committee-meetings for a schedule of meetings, agendas, supporting papers and minutes

LOOKING AFTER YOUR MONEY



GRANTS ISSUED

This year the parish council has introduced a new method of receiving, considering and making grant applications to local charities and organisations.

In total 26 grants were received and we have been able to fund 15 in total.

We are very sorry to those that applied and were unsuccessful. This in no way implied that their application was not worthy just a recognition that in the current climate we did not have enough money to fund all the applications (this is also reflected in the fact that some of the grants were only partially funded).

The grants that were successful are follows;

- Shinfield Infant & Nursery School - £2000
- Shinfield Parish Volunteer Group - £450
- Spencers Wood Lunch Club - £400
- Berkshire Vision - £1,500
- Women's Institute - £600
- St Mary's Junior School - £2,000
- Readibus - £1,000
- Shinfield Brownies & Guides - £500
- Keep Mobile - £1,500
- Spencers Wood Lunch Club - £3,375
- Wokingham CAB - £1,250
- Link Visiting Scheme - £1,000
- Lambs Lane Primary School - £210
- ABC to Read - £700
- Job Support Centre - £200

In 2022/23 our Revenue Expenditure was as follows:

Staff	£257k (£199k in 2021/22)
Estates	£321k (£180k in 2021/22)
Other	£138k (£208k in 2021/22)
TOTAL	£716k (£587k in 2021/22)

The changes between years reflect the fact that the School Green Centre became fully operational (including staffing levels) in 2022/23 as well as the impact of higher rates of inflation especially for utilities.

This was funded in 2022/23 from:

Precept	£552k (£489k in 2021/22)
Rental Income	£150k (£49k in 2021/22)
Other Income	£8k (£7k in 2021/22)
General Reserve	£6k (£42k in 2021/22)
TOTAL	£716k (£587k in 2021/22)

The Precept is the parish council element of your overall Council Tax bill and is based on the number of housing units in the parish. This is set at the start of the year and is based on the difference between what we expect to earn and what we budget to spend.

The shortfall at the end of the financial year was covered by transferring £6k from our General Reserve.

During the financial year we also received £115k of Community Infrastructure Levy (contributions from developers) which will pay for capital projects. This amount can vary significantly between years as it depends on the status of individual developments.

To view our full annual accounts visit www.shinfieldparish.gov.uk/finance

YOUR ELECTRONIC Newsletter

News +++ Information +++ News +++ Information +++ News +++ Information +++ News

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS ALREADY SIGNED UP FOR MONTHLY ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTERS, BUT WE WOULD LIKE TO REACH ALL OUR COMMUNITY!

STAY INFORMED

OUR NEWSLETTERS HAVE COME A LONG WAY AND WE ARE RECEIVING VERY POSITIVE FEEDBACK. OUR NEWSLETTERS INCLUDE LOCAL NEWS, EVENTS, WHAT'S ON IN THE PARISH AND MORE....

THE FOCUS IS YOU

IF YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS ABOUT WHAT WE SHOULD INCLUDE, ARTICLES FOR INCLUSION OR NEWS TO SHARE WITH THE PARISH - PLEASE LET US KNOW

info@shinfieldparish.gov.uk

HOW TO SIGN UP

USE THE QR CODE
VISIT OUR WEBSITE
POP INTO THE SCHOOL GREEN CENTRE

www.shinfieldparish.gov.uk/newsletters



Answers

Q1 - C - The population in 2021 was 17,600 split Female 50.6% and Male 49.4%

Q2 - B - We operate 9 different allotment sites which offer a total of 293 allotments. You can sign up for our allotment waiting list via our website www.shinfieldparish.gov.uk/allotments

Q3 - B - The 6 rooms that are available for hire at the School Green Centre were in use for an average of 29.4 hours of booking per day. We are grateful to the 416 different hirers we've had in the last year and look forward to seeing them again and welcoming new hirers in the future. To book please contact 0118 988 8220

Q4 - C - V&A Museum. Both the British Museum (building) and Natural History Museum (planned) will have research and storage facilities at Thames Valley Science Park

Q5 - A - The stretch between Maidenhead and Swindon was opened in December 1971