



## Wokefield Parish Council

# Wokefield Parish Council News - Keeping You Informed

### New Digital Home for the Parish

Wokefield Parish Council is delighted to announce the launch of our brand-new website!

Following the sad passing of our previous supplier the new site is designed to be user-friendly, accessible, and a central hub for all parish-related information. You can now easily find meeting dates, minutes, local news, and details on how to contact your councillors.

**Our New Website Address:**

**[wokefieldparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://wokefieldparishcouncil.gov.uk)**

### Updated Email Addresses

As part of our commitment to improving communications, we have also updated our email addresses to align with the new website. Our main contact point is the Parish Clerk.

**[clerk@wokefieldparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@wokefieldparishcouncil.gov.uk)**

### URGENT - Parish Councillor Vacancies

Wokefield Parish Council currently has vacancies for 2 Parish Councillors.

This is a fantastic opportunity to directly contribute to the local community and make a real difference in the place you live. As a Councillor, you would be involved in:

- Setting the annual precept (parish budget).
- Commenting on planning applications.
- Managing parish assets and services.
- Representing the views of your neighbours.

If you are interested in applying or would like an informal chat about what the role involves, please contact the Parish Clerk via the new email address:  
[clerk@wokefieldparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@wokefieldparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
Or call Chris Faulkner (Parish Chairman) on 07739085442 for a chat.

### Charity Trustee Vacancy

Clarke Education Foundation (registered Charity 307308) is a local charity providing educational grants to local schools, youth organisations and residents of the parishes of Wokefield, Stratfield Mortimer and Mortimer West End. Grants are typically provided for further education, apprenticeships and educational initiatives not generally funded by the Local Education Authority. A major part of its work is to financially support university students who are resident in the 3 parishes throughout their 3 year course. Wokefield Parish has a vacancy to nominate a trustee to serve on it's governing board.

If you are interested in applying or would like an informal chat about what the role involves, please contact the Parish Clerk via the new email address:  
[clerk@wokefieldparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@wokefieldparishcouncil.gov.uk).

### Hedge and Verge Maintenance

Did you know that there are 9.25 miles of roads within Wokefield Parish? And that all except a few hundred yards of Reading Road Burghfield Common are lanes without pavements? What is more, where verges exist all are eligible to be mown regularly by West Berkshire Council. That's about 18 miles of verges.

A common issue raised with Parish Council parishioners is concern about hedgerows which are impinging on carriageways. The effects of this on busy roads are: to restrict sight lines, prevent West Berks from mowing verges, make it impossible for pedestrians to step off the road to avoid oncoming vehicles and forcing road users further into the carriageway than is ideal, risking collision with oncoming vehicles, especially HGVs and coaches

Please be aware that the responsibility for cutting hedges that border public highways often falls on the landowner, not the Parish Council or the County Council.



## Landowner Responsibilities

Under the Highways Act 1980, it is the responsibility of the landowner to ensure that hedges, trees, and shrubs do not obstruct the highway, footpath, or bridleway, or obscure road signs.

### Key Requirements:

- Hedges must be cut back to the boundary line, ensuring they do not encroach on public space.
- Cuttings should be removed promptly and not left on the roadside or verges.
- Cutting should be done safely, preferably outside the main bird nesting season (March to August).

We kindly ask all relevant landowners to check their boundaries and take appropriate action to ensure safety and clear passage for all road users and pedestrians. It may be wise to also check your insurance position regarding 3rd party injuries and damage caused by trees and branches. See our website for helpful advice. We have discussed this at great length at parish council meetings and feel there is an urgent need to re establish verges which can be mown by West Berkshire Council on a bi-annual basis. We would like to make road verges accessible for pedestrians where possible, improve surface water access to ditches and improve sightlines to improve safety. If your hedge or trees are overhanging the highway then you need to act. We need your help to achieve this. West Berkshire contractors can mow grass verges, they can't mow overgrown hedgerows.

## New Noticeboards and Volunteers Needed

The Parish Council has installed three new, modern noticeboards at key locations within Wokefield to improve communication of important notices, planning applications, and Council news. The boards have a council section and a community notices section for anyone to use.

The new noticeboards are located at:

- Goring Lane near the crossroads with Palmer's Lane & Goodboys Lane
- in Goring Lane near its junction with Reading Road Burghfield Common
- in Wokefield at the junction of New Road and Lockram Lane

## Noticeboard Monitors Required!

To ensure the new noticeboards are kept tidy, up-to-date, and display information clearly, we are looking for volunteers to act as **Noticeboard Monitors**.

This role involves:

- Visiting one or more regularly.

- Removing out-of-date or unauthorised material.
- Posting official notices provided by the Parish Clerk.

If you have a little spare time and would like to help keep our community informed, please contact us by emailing [clerk@wokefieldparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@wokefieldparishcouncil.gov.uk) or calling Chris Faulkner on 07739085442.

## Grazeley Green Accident Blackspot Petition - Reducing Speed Limit on Goring Lane

In the light of many accidents on Goring Lane on the bend at the Old Bell, at its crossroads with Goodboys and Palmers Lane and its junctions with James Lane and New Road, your Parish Council have tried numerous times down the years to get the speed limit on Goring Lane through Grazeley Green reduced to 40mph.

The last attempt at reduction via a petition raised by a parishioner foundered because it failed to gain the requisite 50 signatures. The baton was picked up by District Councillor Nick Carter who raised a new petition which has achieved > 50 signatures. WBC's reaction is awaited but it isn't too late to add your name at <https://forms.gle/kcecFaAEG73TAC3e9>.

## Report an Accident

Amongst the many reasons for not altering the various speed limits is the lack of accident data. From liaison with Thames Valley Police (TVP) via the local Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG), it transpires that not all accidents are reported to the police. This may have been the case with the recent 4 car accident at Goodboys Lane junction. No one was hurt so the police were not informed. However, even if no one is injured in an accident can still be reported to the police here

<https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/rs/road-safety/making-a-road-traffic-incident-report/>

## 9 Month Closure of Goring Lane

Despite the earlier item, speeding on Goring Lane is not going to be an issue for 9 months from 17<sup>th</sup> November due to Scottish & Southern Electricity Network's closing the road to install underground cables. If you weren't able to attend the briefing by the contractor Clancy Group at the CSA club & haven't seen Clancy's flyer, the following additional information will be of use/interest:

- This work is part of a larger project to connect a substation near Kirton's Farm with one near Bramley

and will require a 2m wide x 2m deep trench up the centre of the carriageway. Hence the need for the road closure

- Goring Lane from Goodboys Lane/ Palmers Lane crossroads to Reading Road Burghfield Common will be closed **as a through route** for the full 9 months.
- However, within this 9-month period **only shorter stretches will be fully blocked.**
- Clancy has promised to send a schedule of the stretches of road and approximate durations of closures. Check the **WOKEFIELD PARISH WEB SITE** for up to date information
- Residents will always be able to exit their properties & all normal services will be maintained e.g. refuse collection, emergency services, deliveries etc.
- The published diversion will be via Mere Oak Lane through Grazeley & Mortimer to Reading Road· Warning signs on minor roads will warn motorists of the closure. It has nothing to do with connecting to the grid the solar farms in or planned for the area. It will **not** result in removal of overhead powerlines. If you have any queries, contact [fleetandbramley@theclancygroup.co.uk](mailto:fleetandbramley@theclancygroup.co.uk)

## Report a Problem

Not happy with something in the area? West Berks Council's website provides a facility to notify them of a multitude of problems: from potholes to fly tipping; abandoned vehicles to a dead animal or potholes! For the full list visit <https://www.westberks.gov.uk/reportaproblem>.

## 3 Weekly Bin Collection

The Parish Council have had one or two complaints about the 3-weekly black bin collection. Have you any problems with the new collection schedule? Please write to your council care of the Parish Clerk at Wokefield Parish Clerk at:

[clerk@wokefieldparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@wokefieldparishcouncil.gov.uk)

We'll collate concerns and bring them to the attention of District councillors.

## Salt Bins

Salt has been added to the two salt bins in the parish. These yellow bins are at the junction of Goodboys Lane and Goring Lane and eastern end of Lockram Lane at the top of the hill leading down to the bridge over the Lockram Brook.

### Wokefield Parish Council

**Website:** [wokefieldparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://wokefieldparishcouncil.gov.uk)

**Email:** [clerk@wokefieldparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@wokefieldparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## Meetings

**Next Meeting:** The next Council meeting is scheduled for 19:00 on 11th May 2026 at the Burghfield Community Sports Association, James Lane, Burghfield, Reading, RG30 3RS. It will commence at 7pm with the open Annual Parish Meeting where the whole parish is invited to hear reports and make comments and observations, followed by the quarterly meeting at 7.30pm Details and the agenda will be posted on the website and new noticeboards shortly.

**Parish Clerk: Di Leighton**

**Chairman: Chris Faulkner**

**Vice Chairman: Jim Thompson**

**Councillor: TBA**

**Councillor: TBA**

**Postal address: Keepers Cottage, Goodboys Lane, Mortimer RG7 3AH**

## Facebook

You also keep up to date with events, road closures, safety info by joining us on Facebook at Wokefield Parish.