

for pedestrians, but please leave room for others to pass you safely. Cyclists and horse riders should use properly designated routes or roads.
<https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/parks-and-countryside/public-rights-way/definitive-map-and-statement>

Boundary review

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England completed a review of electoral arrangements in Bracknell Forest last year and we await the confirmation of the changes by parliament later in the year. The boundary review has resulted in some changes to representation from the local elections in 2023 and more will be published on these changes as preparations are made for them to take effect. These changes affect the borough council and make some proposals for changes within the existing Warfield parish boundary.

We are expecting a community governance review to take place later this year by Bracknell Forest Council that will look at town and parish council boundaries. This will allow for changes to be made where existing boundaries are deemed outdated through development, neighbourhood settings or even logic!

We will promote the review when it is published.

Annual Parish Meeting

Arrangements for a virtual Annual Parish Meeting are being finalised. Full details and links to the meeting will be published on our website. The meeting is planned for Wednesday 28 April (7.45pm). The presentations will be available on our website after the meeting.

Local Plan

Bracknell Forest Council have published the pre-submission version of their new local plan. A consultation period is now underway and closes on

Tuesday 4 May. Full details of their proposals and how to comment can be found on the Bracknell Forest Council website.
<https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning/planning-policy/development-plan/draft-bracknell-forest-local-plan/background>

Photography Competition for 2022 Warfield Calendar

We are launching a photography competition with the winning entries to be presented in a 2022 Warfield Calendar. The competition is open to anyone who lives in Warfield. We are looking for pictures of Warfield through the seasons as we want to showcase the wonderful countryside, wildlife and features of our parish.



The closing date for entries is 3 September 2021 and any photograph taken between September 2020 and September 2021 can be entered.

13 winning entries will be selected and included in our 2022 calendar. For more information and how to enter please visit our website.

Thank You



The last twelve months have seen a tremendous effort by our community, for our community. Thank you to everyone who has played their part and kept us safe and well.

This is the final paper Wren. The first Wren delivered to households throughout Warfield was in October 1994, the current format has served us well since March 2003. We hope you will sign up for our new digital version bringing you news and updates every month from the beginning of May.

The Wren of Warfield



**Newsletter of Warfield Parish Council
April 2021 (issue 87)**

Parish Office: 7 County Lane, Warfield, RG42 3JP

Tel: 01344 457777

Open Monday - Friday 9.30am - 12.30pm

Email: info@warfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk

www.warfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk

Twitter: @WarfieldPC

Facebook: Warfield Parish Council

Digital Wren

From the beginning of May, we will be producing a monthly 'Digital Wren' which will be delivered directly to you by e-mail. This means we will be saying goodbye to the paper version. Moving to digital and monthly, will allow us to keep you updated with news and events more often and with the latest information. We would encourage all our residents to sign up either through our website or by scanning the QR code below. Your information will not be shared with any other parties and you will have the option to change your subscription at any time.



Welcome to 2021

With Spring in the air, hello and welcome back! We are sorry we have been away for so long through the pandemic. A lot has changed since the last issue of the Wren, so in this edition we will provide you updates on what has happened in the last twelve months and what is coming up.

New Councillors

We are pleased to welcome Max Finch, representing Quelm Ward, and Iain McCracken, representing Whitegrove Ward, to the parish council as councillors.

Profiles of all our councillors and how to contact them can be found on our website.

Budget and precept



The parish council has recently set its budget and precept requirement for 2021-22. The council's finances have been affected by the closure of our halls to regular and casual hiring during the past year, hence the outlook for the forthcoming year will remain a challenge. The council has saved money during the year to offset the impact and has set a tight budget for 2021 as we are aware of the challenges our residents face through the pandemic.

As a result, the council has set a precept of £221,808 for the year which is collected with the council tax. For a band D property, the amount is £43.04 for the year which represents a 2.2% increase over the previous year.

Grants 2021

The parish council provides grants of financial support to organisations and groups that provide support or activities to the residents of Warfield. The council has awarded £24,492 for the forthcoming year to 26 organisations. Organisations benefiting from funding include The Warfield Memorial Ground, Keep Mobile,

Bracknell CAB, Assisting Berkshire Children to Read and local guide and scout groups. Grant awards are paid in full in May and full details can be found on the council website. Applications for 2022 will open in September this year.

Events



We have had to curtail our events programme for 2021 as the country gradually moves out of lockdown following the pandemic. This has unfortunately led us to cancel our Vegetable Take & Grow event in

April, The Winkfield & Warfield Family Cycle Ride in June and our Summer of Fun event in July. We have done this in the interests of public and participant safety, but these events will hopefully return in 2022.

Planning is progressing with the annual Binfield, Warfield & Winkfield Arts Week for 2021 and events will take place across the northern parishes of Bracknell between the 24 – 31 October. More information on the events and how to book will be published later in the year.

We will also be lighting our Christmas tree at the beginning of December and we hope you will be able to join us for carol singing around the tree.

We also hope to rearrange events that were intended to mark our 125th anniversary. Look out for details of our thank you tea and tree planting later in the year.

Please look out for other pop-up events that may occur in the coming months. A good reason to sign up for our new digital Wren...

Hall Closure and Re-opening

The parish council runs the Brownlow Memorial Hall and the Whitegrove Community Centre. Activities have been severely impacted over the last twelve months as the centres were closed during

lockdown periods except for specific activities. The parish council has worked with essential users to ensure they could continue to deliver services permitted during these periods. This ensured the local pre-school at Whitegrove Community Centre remained open for children of keyworkers. Our halls will remain closed to most activities until at least mid-May and will reopen on the advice of professional bodies and health authorities. We hope to be able to accommodate family events and parties later in the summer. If you are interested in hiring either of our halls contact the Parish Office.

Testing station

Brownlow Hall has been on the frontline supporting the COVID efforts locally as a host, first as a mobile testing centre, and since February as a full-time testing centre run by Bracknell Forest Council and the NHS for keyworkers and others required to work away from their home. The centre is likely to remain open until June this year. For the latest information on opening times and how to book an appointment, please visit the Bracknell Forest Council website. The parish council does not provide bookings.
<https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/coronavirus-information-and-support/rapid-testing-covid-19>

Space for everyone

Being outside, on your own or in a bubble has kept many people going during the lockdown period. We have seen pavements, pathways, parks and local lanes busy with people walking, running or riding bicycles or horses. While it is great that everyone can enjoy the great outdoors, please can everyone do this responsibly. We have received many calls and comments complaining about usage of spaces and overcrowding in areas. Please follow Government advice on who you can meet, where and in what numbers. Pavements are