

The Oakwood Centre, Headley Road, Woodley, Berkshire, RG5 4JZ www.woodley.gov.uk

To: Members of the Planning and Community Committee

Councillors D. Bragg; J. Cheng; M. Holmes; R. Horskins; C. Jewell; V. Lewis; J. Sartorel; P. Singh; B. Soane; J. Taylor

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the Planning and Community Committee will be held at the Oakwood Centre at 7:45 pm on Tuesday 23 May 2023, at which your attendance is requested.

The Town Council reserves the right to record and broadcast this meeting. Anybody attending the meeting will, by virtue, consent to having their image and audio recorded for this purpose.

Kevin Murray Deputy Town Clerk

AGENDA

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

To appoint the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Planning & Community Committee for the 2023/24 municipal year.

2. **APOLOGIES**

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To receive any declarations of interest from Members on agenda items.

4. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 25 APRIL 2023

To approve the minutes of the Planning and Community Committee meeting held on 25 April 2023 and for the Chairman to sign them as a true record. (These minutes were provided in the Full Council agenda of 16 May 2023)

5. **CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

To consider current planning applications and agree comments to be forwarded to the planning authority. *(Appendix 5)*

Page 5

6. **PLANNING DECISIONS**

To note information on decision notices received from the planning authority since the last meeting. *(Appendix 6)*

Page 7

7. PRIOR APPROVAL SUBMISSION

This type of application only requires consultation with adjoining neighbours of the site.

To note application 231050:

Location: 72 Antrim Road, Woodley, Wokingham, RG5 3NY

Proposal: Application for the prior approval of the erection of a single

storey rear extension, which would extend beyond the rear wall of the original house by 6.00m, for which the maximum height would be 3.00m and the height of the eaves 3.00m.

8. TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS

Applications for works to trees

This type of application does not require consultation.

To note application 280983:

Location: TPO 3/1951 W3: 23 Fawcett Crescent, Woodley,

Wokingham, RG5 3HX.

Proposal: T1, Ash - Form into multi knuckle pollard by forming pollard

knuckle at the appropriate branch unions. 50-100mm stubs

to be left to aid regrowth.

9. **PAVEMENT LICENCE – COFFEE #1**

To note the following application received by Wokingham Borough Council for a Pavement Licence, under section 2, Business and Planning Act 2020:

Business: Coffee #1

Address: 65 Crockhamwell Road, Woodley, RG5 3JP

Operating Times: Mon-Fri – 7am-6pm

Sat & Sun – 8am-6pm

Seating plan provided at **Appendix 9**.

Page 9

Comments on the proposal were required by 28 April, therefore prior to this meeting. As such, details of the consultation were circulated to the relevant Members of the Planning & Community Committee at that time, and comments requested. No comments were raised so no comments were provided to Wokingham Borough Council.

10. **COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH**

To note **Report No. PC 2/23** regarding the history and current position Page 10 regarding the Town Council's Community Speedwatch group.

11. EARLEY STATION FOOTBRIDGE

To note **Report No. PC 3/23** regarding the history and current position Page 12 regarding Wokingham Borough Councils project to consider the replacement, repair, or removal of Earley Station Footbridge.

12. **COMMUNITY ISSUES**

To discuss and consider any recent community issues noted by Members.

13. **HIGHWAYS ISSUES**

To discuss and consider any recent highway issues noted by Members.

14. **PUBLICATIONS/INFORMATION**

To note receipt of the following:

- Me2 Club Newsletter April 2023
- Connecting Communities in Berkshire May 2023

15. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

To consider suggestions for future agenda items.

16. **PUBLICITY/WEBSITE**

To consider suggestions for items to be publicised.

17. **ENFORCEMENT ISSUES**

- a) To note the enforcement notifications listed in *Appendix 17a*. Page 14
- b) To note the enforcement case closures listed in *Appendix 17b*. Page 15

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PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Application No.	Proposal
& Address	1 Toposai
223458 Sonning Golf Club, Duffield Road, Reading, RG4 6GJ	Outline planning permission for the proposed erection of up to 50 no. dwellings with public open space and revised access off Duffield Road, plus associated improvements to Sonning Golf Club including reconfigured and extended golf club car parking areas and relocation of the 18th green, addition of an extended practice putting green, new driving nets, new short game chipping area and conversion of the west wing of the existing clubhouse to accommodate a new golf simulator practice facility, including removal of external staircase and changes to fenestration. (All matters reserved except for access.) We [WBC] have received revised/additional plans for the above application. The revised details show: Amended proposal to reduce the number of dwellings to up to 50 units. Includes additional technical details.
230178 53 Reading Road, Woodley, RG5 3DA	Householder application for the proposed drop kerb for vehicle access on to paved drive.
230765 7 Mannock Way, Woodley, RG5 4XW	Full application for the proposed change of use of amenity land to residential garden including erection of new boundary wall, plus the erection of a single storey rear extension, insertion of rooflights to facilitate conversion of the loft to habitable accommodation and changes to fenestration. We (WBC) have received revised/additional plans for the above application. The revised details show: Revised plans received proposing a 1.8m high fence instead of a brick wall, which would be linear and set back 1m-3.5m from the pavement.
230780 29 Woodlands Avenue, Woodley, RG5 3HN 230852	Householder application for the proposed erection of a single storey rear extension following demolition of the existing conservatory, conversion of the loft to habitable accommodation, including new dormers, roof alterations and changes to fenestration. Householder application for the proposed single storey rear
45 Woodwaye, Woodley, RG5 3HB	extension plus changes to fenestration.
230896 100 Wheble Drive, Woodley, RG5 3DU	Householder application for the proposed erection of a single storey rear extension, following removal of the existing shed.
230905 24 Wroxham Road, Woodley, RG5 3AT 230911 132 Antrim Road, Woodley, RG5 3NZ	Householder application for the proposed erection of a single storey front extension, single storey rear extension, and amendments to the existing roof. Following demolition of existing conservatory. Householder application for the proposed erection of a single-storey, detached outbuilding in rear garden (Retrospective).
230912 132 Antrim Road, Woodley, RG5 3NZ	Householder application for the proposed erection of a single-storey, detached outbuilding in rear garden (Retrospective).

230953 39 Western Avenue, Woodley, RG5 3BJ	Application to vary condition 2 of planning consent 214058 for the proposed development of a single storey rear & side extensions including removal of pitched roof to the existing rear extension following demolition of the existing detached garage. Condition 2 refers to the approved details and the variation is to allow the infilling of the 'step' in the rear elevation and changes to fenestration.
231030 3 Copse Mead, Woodley, RG5 4RP	Application to vary condition 2 of planning consent 210140: Proposed erection of part single, part two storey front extension, erection of front canopy roof, insertion of 3no. front dormers, part single, part two storey rear extension, part garage conversion to create habitable accommodation, changes to fenestration & insertion of 5no. roof lights'. Condition 2 refers to approved plans 02-10, 03-10, 03-11 & 03-12 rcd. 18.01.21. The variation is to insert 1no. additional front window, 3no. additional rear rooflights, remove 3no. side windows, widen 1no. rear patio door & Juliet balconies, addition of 1no. side window, raise rear gables & enclose porch.
231031 33 Fawcett Crescent, Woodley, RG5 3HX	Householder application for the proposed erection of a first floor side extension and a single storey rear extension, following demolition of the existing outbuilding.
231032 33 Fawcett Crescent, Woodley, RG5 3HX	Householder application for the proposed erection of a single storey rear extension, following demolition of the existing outbuilding.
231074 84 Haddon Drive, Woodley, RG5 4LT	Householder application for the proposed erection of a replacement single-storey rear extension; 1st floor rear extension above existing ground floor extension; two -storey side extension. Following Demolition of existing conservatory
231075 21 Wilmington Close, Woodley, RG5 4LR	Householder application for the proposed replacement of existing garage door with 1no. window to facilitate garage conversion to create habitable space.
231101 2 Tiverton Close, Woodley, RG5 3BE	Householder application for the proposed erection of a single storey side extension to form garage, part single storey, part two storey rear extension, plus changes to fenestration and demolition of existing garage.
231141 61 Norton Road, Woodley, RG5 4AJ	Householder application for the proposed garage conversion with addition of a first floor side extension and internal works.

PLANNING DECISIONS

WITHDRAWN - NO DETERMINATION MADE BY WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Reference / Address	Proposal
NONE	

REFUSED – CONTRARY TO TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION

Reference / Address	Proposal
NONE	

REFUSED – ENDORSING TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION

Reference / Address	Proposal
NONE	

APPROVED – CONTRARY TO TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION

Reference / Address	Proposal
230089	Householder application for the proposed erection of a single
22 Kingfisher Drive,	storey rear extension, part single part two storey side extension,
Woodley, RG5 3LG	plus erection of front canopy, following demolition of existing side
	extension.

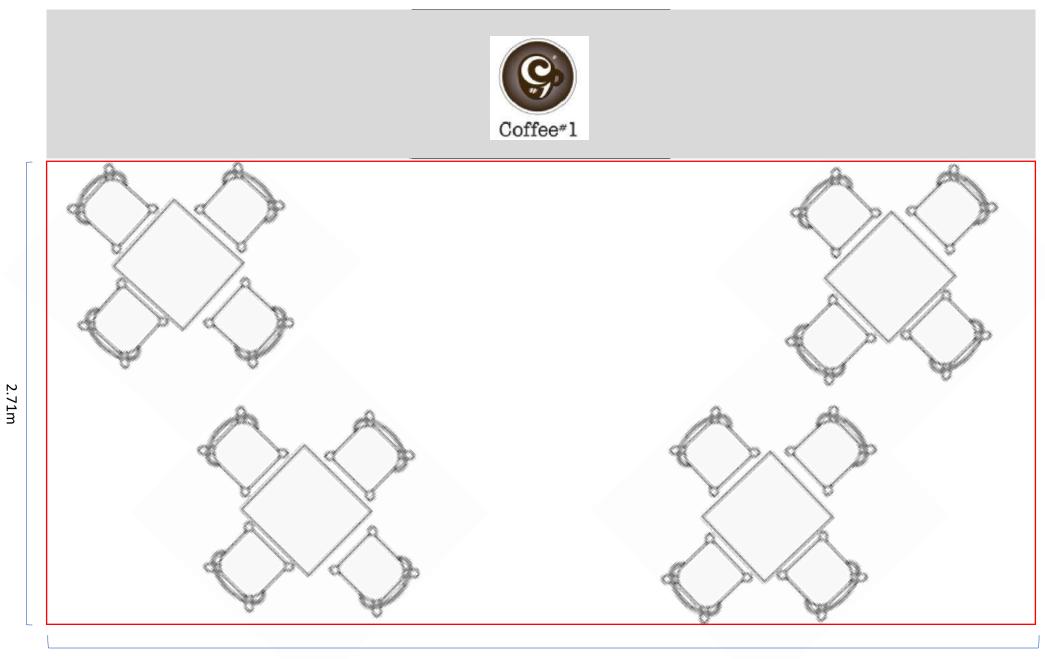
APPROVED - ENDORSING TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION

Reference / Address	Proposal
223566 59 Crockhamwell Road, Woodley, RG5 3JP	Full application for the proposed removal of the existing roof and the erection of two additional storeys to provide 9 no. dwellings, together with associated external alterations, changes to fenestration and the erection of refuse and cycle stores.
230226 12 Arundel Road, Woodley, RG5 4JL	Full application for the proposed subdivision of existing dwelling to create 1no. 2 bedroom dwelling and 1no. 3 bedroom dwelling.
230229 116 Colemansmoor Road, Woodley, RG5 4DN	Householder application for the proposed changes to fenestration including relocation of front door, and garage conversion to create habitable accommodation.
230408 6 Rivermead Road, Woodley, RG5 4DH	Householder application for the proposed single storey front extension.
230525 61 Malone Road, Woodley, RG5 3NL	Householder application for the proposed part single storey, part two storey side extension following demolition of existing garage and shower room, re-roofing of existing single storey rear extension following part demolition of existing single storey rear extension and changes to fenestration.
230623 10 Manners Road, Woodley, RG5 3EA	Householder application for the proposed erection of a single storey front/side extension.

APPROVED – ENDORSING TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION cont...

AFFROYED LINE	DORSING TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION CONT
230651 5 Copse Mead, Woodley, RG5 4RP	Householder application for the proposed erection of a two storey front extension, alterations to roof including the insertion of 4no. pitched roof dormers, 1no. flat roof dormer and 2no. Juliet balconies to extend existing first floor habitable accommodation, plus changes to fenestration and demolition of existing conservatory.
230659 79 Beechwood Avenue, Woodley, RG5 3DF	Householder application for the proposed garage conversion to create habitable space, first storey side extension and single storey front extension to create an open porch.
230679 28 Caldbeck Drive, Woodley, RG5 4LA	Householder application for the proposed erection of a detached outbuilding.
230694 48 Malone Road, Woodley, RG5 3NJ	Householder application for the proposed erection of a part single part two storey rear extension and conversion of the garage to habitable accommodation including raising of the existing garage roof, addition of a front porch canopy and a ground floor front bay window, plus changes to fenestration.
230714 149 Loddon Bridge Road, Woodley, RG5 4AG	Application for advertisement consent for installation of replacement signs to include 1x externally illuminated pictorial panel and gibbet to existing post, 2x amenity boards fitted below the pictorial, 2x welcome panels, 1x door plaque, 2x externally illuminated wall mounted amenity boards, 2x externally illuminated set of individual letters, 1x new panel to existing posts, 5x disclaimer signs, 1x CCTV sign and 1x sign written selfie wall.
230720 149 Loddon Bridge Road, Woodley, RG5 4AG	Full application for the proposed erection of a new detached covered Pergola. New entrance lobby with Universal Accessible (U/A) ramp and associated car parking space. Removal of existing awning and erection of posts and festoon lighting.
230739 49 Caldbeck Drive, Woodley, RG5 4JX	Householder application for the proposed erection of a two storey side extension and a single storey rear extension.
230764 199 Loddon Bridge Road, Woodley, RG5 4BP	Householder application for the erection of a detached timber outbuilding following demolition of the existing garage. (Retrospective)
230797 44 Nightingale Road, Woodley, RG5 3LU	(Part Retrospective) Householder application for the proposed erection of a detached rear single storey outbuilding.
230813 86 Crockhamwell Road, Woodley, RG5 3JZ	Householder application for the proposed replacement of flat roof with pitched roof over garage and front porch.

APPENDIX 9



5.06m

PEDESTRIANISED AREA



COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH GROUP - PROJECT SUMMARY

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OFFICER

Purpose of Report

To inform Members of the history and current position with regards to the Town Council's Community Speedwatch group.

Past History

In around 2017, the Town Council decided to join the Thames Valley Police Community Speedwatch scheme. The scheme enabled members of the community to take part in the monitoring of speeding in their area; volunteers, vetted by the police, would be insured by the police to take part in roadside data collecting activities, and would also be permitted to enter police stations to view speeding data and record information on speeding vehicles. Police would then use the data to write to owners of speeding vehicles to warn them of their speeding.

At the time, the Council purchased two main pieces of equipment (circa £5k), plus some ancillary equipment, to take part in the scheme:

- Data Logger Radar system which would be put out on lampposts and would record data on vehicle numbers & speeds
- Sentinal Camera An automated video camera which can be placed on lampposts and takes 10 second video clips of vehicles exceeding the configured speed threshold, enabling users to record the date, time and location of the video, and the vehicle speed, manufacturer, model and colour.

After a period of time, the collaboration with the police waned; volunteers were not given the access they originally thought they would and, following the death of Councillor McNaught, who had been instrumental in the setup and running of the group, the Council's Speedwatch activities drifted to a halt.

Recent History

In November 2021, the Council received communication from the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner, Matthew Barber, that a new Community Speedwatch initiative was being introduced. The new initiative, a partnership between an organisation called Community Speedwatch UK and a number of police forces across England, including Thames Valley Police, provided a web platform via which members of the public could register and set up their own community Speedwatch groups, purchase appropriate Speedwatch equipment, organise Speedwatch activities, and log information on speeding vehicles. Their respective police force would then be able to use that data to, again, write to drivers to warn them of their speeding.

Within the Thames Valley, the scheme had been piloted at the beginning of 2021, and in October it was rolled out to the Bracknell & Wokingham area. PC Turnham was named the officer in charge of Community Speedwatch for the area.

In March 2022, PC Turnham attended a meeting of the Planning & Community Committee and presented on the scheme. Following this, the Committee determined to setup a Council run Speedwatch group, with a desire to take the lead on organising Speedwatch activities in the Woodley area. It was agreed that Councillor Bragg would lead on the setup of the group.

Following discussions with PC Turnham, the Council were made aware that the police were no longer interested in the information provided by the Council's data logger, although it was noted that the Council could still use the logger to ascertain if there was a speeding problem in certain areas. However, PC Turnham did confirm that the Council's Sentinal Camera was still authorised to be used for the capture of images of speeding vehicles.

Current Position

During 2022, Councillor Bragg registered the Woodley Town Council Speedwatch Group with the Community Speedwatch UK and the Thames Valley police. Councillor Bragg has, as coordinator, also undertaken the necessary training and passed the necessary assessment to act as group co-ordinator.

In the summer, the Town Council arranged for eight Community Speedwatch signs to be installed on the highway at all entry points into the Woodley area. For Speedwatch activities to be enforceable, vehicles must have passed one of these signs. Whilst there is the option to place a free-standing sign within a specific distance of a camera during Speedwatch activities, the Committee determined that it would be preferable to place permanent signs at all entry points instead.

Two requests for volunteer support from the public were publicised; Councillor Bragg has a list of individuals who have shown interest.

In August 2022, Councillor Bragg was intending to arranging a meeting with interested individuals in order to make arrangements for them to undertake the relevant training, following which Speedwatch activities could commence. However, due to personal circumstances, no progress has been made since.

Attempts by Councillor Bragg to get the relevant software driver to allow access to the information stored on the Sentinal camera have been unsuccessful, so any video captured from the camera is currently unable to be extracted. Councillor Bragg is still reviewing this issue.

Speedwatch Groups must register locations with Thames Valley Police in order to be able to undertake Speedwatch activities there; these locations are specific sites, not broad areas of activities. Locations must be vetted by the police to ensure suitability; this includes ensuring the location has adequate escape routes off the highway for volunteers undertaking the activities. To date, the Council has not registered any locations.

It should be noted that, whilst the Council has set up a Speedwatch Group with a desire to organise activities within Woodley, any member of the public can set up a Speedwatch group, and any group can register a location for undertaking Speedwatch activities. The Council, nor any other group, has the right to exclusively cover an area. Thames Valley Police will approve groups and locations, and will simply ensure when approving a location that no other group has registered to monitor that location or close to it.

Anecdotally, Councillor Brag has stated that the placing of Community Speedwatch signs has reduced the number of complaints received about speeding in the area. However, he also believes there are still concerns regarding speeding in Sandford Park, Sandford Lane / Mohawk Way, and also on Church Road.

Councillor Bragg has indicated that he is happy to continue as the Council's Speedwatch coordinator.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members note the contents of the report.

EARLEY STATION FOOTBRIDGE – PROJECT SUMMARY

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OFFICER

Purpose of Report

To inform Members of the history and current position with regards to Wokingham Borough Council's project to consider the replacement, repair or removal of Earley Station Footbridge.

Initial Meeting

In September 2021, Wokingham Borough Council met with relevant stakeholders with regards to the worsening condition of Earley Station Footbridge.

They advised that the existing bridge was beginning to show major defects, with concrete coming away from the reinforcement, and severe signs of corrosion to the reinforcement. Due to this, WBC were programming inspections more frequently, at least twice a year, and netting had been placed under the bridge and above the A3290 to collect any materials coming away.

There was a concern that a future survey may consider the bridge to be dangerous which would force its closure. Although there was no indication of timeline, it was noted that this might be sooner rather than later.

A survey prior to the Covid-19 pandemic suggested around 300 people used the bridge each day, with around 40% coming from Woodley. People use the bridge to not only access the station, but also bus routes to Reading.

Initial Options

Several options for resolving the issue were initially presented by WBC, including various options for replacing the bridge, along with its potential repair, and possible removal.

At the time, the preferred option was to replace the bridge with a new structure. The proposal presented was for a 130metre long / 4 metres wide footbridge, guaranteed for 120 years, which would facilitate wheelchairs and cycles. The approximate cost was set at £7M, with the construction period being estimated at around 2 to 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ years.

Issues

The existing footbridge is not compliant with current requirements for disabled access as there are stairs at both ends and no disabled facilities.

The existing footbridge spans a major gas main operated by SSE; rules state that building works cannot take place over the gas main, with works leaving a clear space either side of the main (40 feet gap each side of the pipe, as well as above and below).

Without access to this footbridge, pedestrians and cyclists from Woodley would have to use a route via the Clivedale Road underpass. This would involve a one-mile walk, with the underpass having two steep ramps at the Earley Side which are deemed unsuitable for disabled access. The underpass is also considered to be less safe due to poor lighting, antisocial behaviour and rough sleeping.

Construction would likely require closures of the railway line and A3290.

The footbridge forms part of a bridleway; WBC have subsequently advised that the process for closing a bridleway is complex, costly, slow, and there is no quarantee of approval.

Progress

Since the initial meeting, three further formal meetings have taken place, as well as a site visit.

At a meeting with WBC officers on 23 Sept 2022, it was noted that the bridge had continued to deteriorate; corrosion was continuing to the base plates, and the ribs were becoming more exposed to the elements. Delamination risk to the A3290 and railway has resulted in additional protection being implemented on the bridge to prevent material falling onto the trains in addition to the A3290. Inspections are now being undertaken at quarterly intervals.

Network Rail have shown concern, but have refused to consider paying towards the replacement of the bridge. In October 2022, the Town Council wrote to Network Rail to encourage them to review their position in light of the likely closure of the footbridge if assistance with the replacement cost is not forthcoming.

To date, WBC have indicated that no formal decision has been taken as to whether to replace, repair or remove the bridge. However, WBC have stated that the cost and complexity involved with closing a bridleway suggest that closure is not a viable option. There are also unconfirmed reports that the cost of replacing the bridge, which has raised to £8M, might mean the project is unaffordable.

Members have discussed the matter in depth at various Planning & Community Committee meetings, and a variety of issues and concerns have been raised. To get a full picture of the discussions and considerations which had taken place, Members are directed to read the relevant items in the agendas / minutes, as highlighted below:

- Minutes Full Council 28 Sep 2021 Minute 46
- Agenda P&C Committee 30 Nov 2021 Appendix 9
- Minutes P&C Committee 30 Nov 2021 Minute 46
- Agenda P&C Committee 1 Feb 2022 Appendix 14: Site Visit Report
- Minutes P&C Committee 1 Feb 2022 Minute 85
- Agenda P&C Committee 29 Mar 2022 Appendix 7: WBC Meeting Report & buildability reports / plans
- Minutes P&C Committee 9 Aug 2022 Minute 69
- Minutes P&C Committee 6 Sep 2022 Minute 88
- Agenda P&C Committee 4 Oct 2022 Appendix 10: WBC Meeting Report
- Minutes P&C Committee 4 Oct 22 Minutes 104
- Agenda P&C Committee 1 Nov 2022 Appendix 17: Matt Rodda MP letter to Network Rail
- Minutes P&C Committee 1 Nov 2022 Minute 129
- Minutes P&C Committee 29 Nov 2022 Minute 149
- Minutes P&C Committee 3 Jan 2023 Minute 169

Wokingham Borough Council were last written to on 15 May 2023 for an update on any recent inspections.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members note the contents of the report.

APPENDIX 17a

ENFORCEMENT NOTIFICATIONS - 23 MAY 2023

246 Kingfisher Drive, Woodley, Wokingham, RG5 3LH Electric hydraulic vehicle lifting ramp installed withour planning permission

11 Addington Gardens, Woodley, Wokingham, RG5 3EW Balcony created without planning permission

ENFORCEMENT CLOSURES - 23 MAY 2023

181 Headley Road East, Woodley, Wokingham, RG5 4JG

6ft fence adjacent to the highway Not expedient

44 Nightingale Road, Woodley, Wokingham, RG5 3LU

Building in rear garden without planning permissions Application submitted

199 Loddon Bridge Road, Woodley, Wokingham, RG5 4BP

Large shed / outbuilding in rear garden without planning permission Application submitted

132 Antrim Road, Woodley, Wokingham, RG5 3NZ

Completed Outbuilding without planning permission Application submitted

27 Ravensbourne Drive, Woodley, Wokingham, RG5 4LH

Creation of a wall to the front of the property No breach

132 Antrim Road, Woodley, Wokingham, RG5 3NZ

Unauthorised Outbuilding and Works to TPO Application submitted

29 Halstead Close, Woodley, Wokingham, RG5 4LD

Large structure built in rear garden without planning permission & Structurally unsafe
Other (The Housing Officer has taken over the case, who intends to arrange for the structure to be dismantled and removed.)

65 Loddon Bridge Road, Woodley, Wokingham, RG5 4AR

Breach of condition re obscure glaze Voluntary compliance

44 Nightingale Road, Woodley, Wokingham, RG5 3LU

Report re tpo trees being removed

(WBC Enforcement have asked the planning officer (app ref: 230797) to address the issue of the trees (T1 and T2) via the outstanding application. The tree officer has commented and raised no objection to the application, subject to planting, which can be addressed via the imposition of a condition should the application be recommended for approval. If refused, a new enforcement case will be raised.)