Response to Wokingham Borough Council's draft Community Governance Review

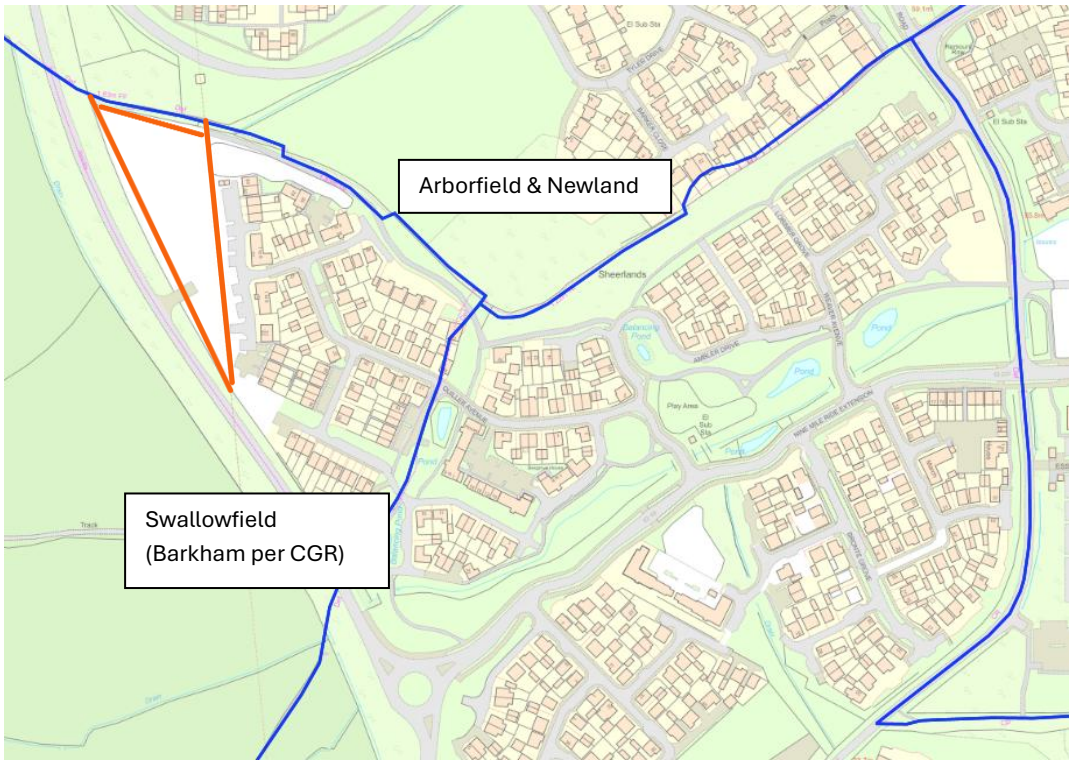
Arborfield & Newland Parish Council (A&NPC) acknowledge the proposed Parish boundary changes suggested by the WBC Community Governance review with the **exception** of the area known as the Swallowfield Triangle and its environs.

However, A&NPC propose a further common-sense change of boundary to include A&NPC owned land, adjacent to its current boundary, in Arborfield & Newland Parish. The proposal is thus:

1) To include within Arborfield & Newland Parish the land transferred to A&NPC ownership by Crest Nicholson known as Nightingale Fields allotments

Rationale

1) Area known as Nightingale Fields Allotments (marked in orange below)
    - The Nightingale Fields allotment site has been assigned to A&NPC by Crest Nicholson with the agreement of Wokingham Borough Council.
    - A&NPC therefore own and manage the site, so it is only right that it belongs within the boundary of Arborfield & Newland Parish, given that it is immediately next to this Parish's existing boundary and is one of this Parish's owned assets.



- We understand from the Barkham Parish Clerk that this is acceptable to Barkham Parish Council.

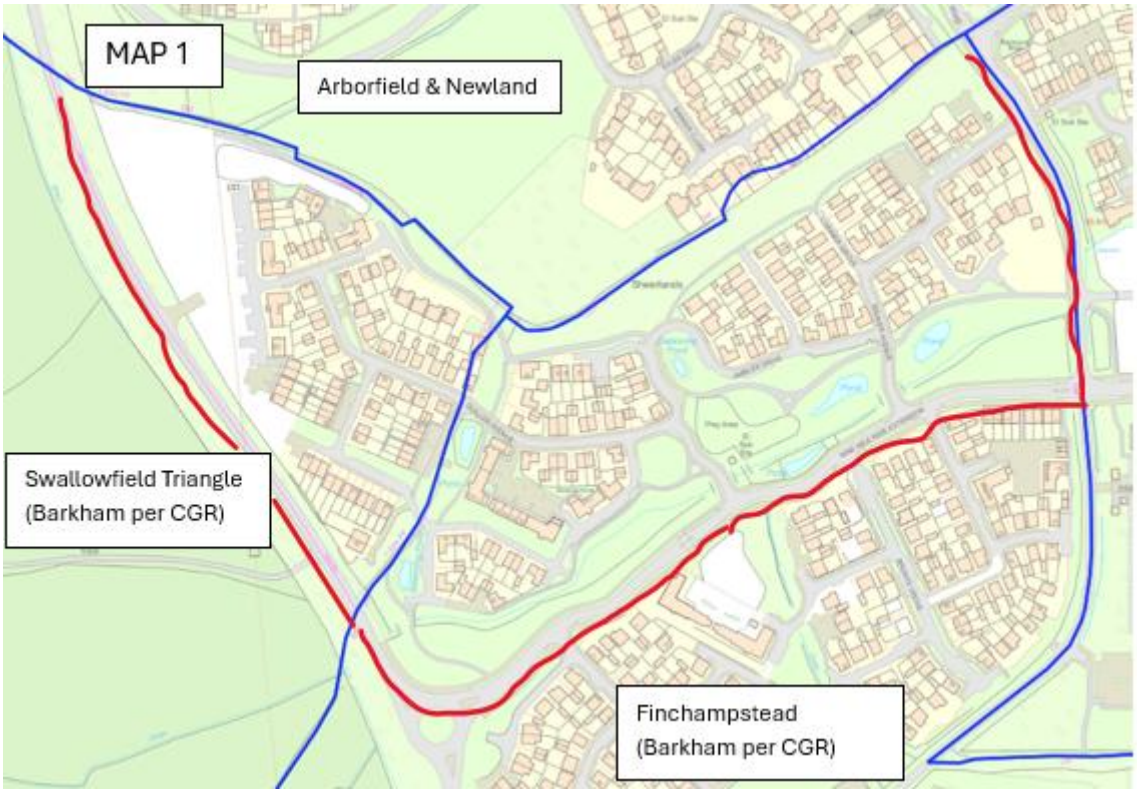
Other concerns regarding the Community Governance Review

A&NPC are concerned about the naming of areas of new development of the Arborfield Green SDL using the name Arborfield when that development is not located in Arborfield Parish. This is causing much confusion amongst residents – many of whom come to A&NPC for assistance with local matters and one of whom has requested to be on A&NPC despite his living in another Parish!
We are aware that the developer, Taylor Wimpey, is looking at calling the area around the new District Centre, Arborfield Heights. A&NPC wholeheartedly object to this name and any further use of the Arborfield name in areas outside the Arborfield & Newland Parish as it exacerbates the confusion that already exists in this area.

Other considerations by A&NPC

A&NPC have also considered the area north of Nine Mile Ride Extension and west of Sheerlands Road (see Map below). The rationale for this is as follows:

- Residents consider themselves as part of Arborfield – this has become evident in discussion with residents who have become plot holders on the Nightingale Fields allotments, owned by A&NPC. As a result, A&NPC surveyed residents through a mail drop. The response rate was very low but 100% in favour of being part of A&NPC.
- The area is separated from the Penrose Park/Tyler Drive portion of Arborfield solely by a footpath rather than by a road so Arborfield seems like a more natural affiliation rather than with Finchampstead/Barkham's new development on the opposite side of Nine Mile Ride Extension.
- A&NPC is serving many residents in this area already through the provision of the Nightingale Fields Allotment site, providing a sense of community cohesion between this section of development and Arborfield & Newland residents who live nearby.
- Precept contributions from these properties would help A&NPC to maintain and service the Nightingale Fields Allotment site more effectively and efficiently, targeting the use of the income for the benefit of the residents being served.
- Ward Councillor, Adrian Betteridge, considers this to be a good compromise given the amenities that A&NPC are providing for this area.



Proposed Arborfield & Newland Parish boundary

Existing Parish boundaries

Response approved by Arborfield & Newland Parish Council on 21 October 2025.