

Planning refusal - 26/8/20

I am so pleased that planning has being refused for steeds fields on coxwell rd. There is no thought for the wildlife. And losing our country side to building companies greed not to mention the owner of the land. One minute the council want to go green then they just allow houses to be built without any thought for wildlife. Name supplied.

VWHDC Councillors refuse planning permission Steeds Farm land- 22/8/20

Up to 125 houses. Details

on <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P18/V0259/O>

It's been refused on the grounds of

- Insufficient affordable housing
- Reduced s106 for infrastructure- Faringdon, Gt Coxwell, Health Centre

Planners and the developers say the site would not be viable if higher amounts need to be paid.

£470k is included in the legal agreement for changes to the Gt Coxwell junction (OCC are already holding £1.7m for this)

You can hear the debate on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TaYxmAoTXaw> from 18 minutes in

Really good to hear Vale councillors support objections from the local community.

It seems likely that the developers will appeal and the site will be developed at some stage.

New businesses in Faringdon- 15/8/20

Still going through planning

- 18 Market Place, the Jewellers that was <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P20/V1834/FUL#exactline>
The shop area to become a wine bar, the rest residential accommodation.
- 1 Cornmarket (formerly Toy Shop) to become a Greek restaurant
- Former Budgens site - planning permission for shops and accommodation in progress
- The Bargain Centre to become an Estate Agent

Important VWHDC Planning meeting - 14/8/20

There's an important one next Wednesday, 19th, about additional houses between Gt Coxwell and the new housing estate (Steeds farm side)

[A quick read of the Committee report](#) lists many objections- from Faringdon TC, Gt Coxwell Parish, Oxford CC plus others

It is pretty much unanimous objection.

Let's hope VWHDC Planning committee has courage. Of concern though is that there is currently no committee chair and neither of our District Councillors are on the Planning Committee

You can find links to Council meetings on <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTj2pCic8vzucpzlaSWE3UQ>

New OCF COVID-19 Small Grants now open- 13/8/20

Oxford Community Foundation are delighted to announce that a new round of small grants to support COVID-19 response and recovery is now open for applications. Grants between £250 and £2,000 are available to small, local organisations working to alleviate hardship caused by the pandemic, including educational disadvantage, homelessness, loneliness, digital exclusion and more.

Ongoing running costs can be covered; closes 9th September. [Find out more and apply](#)

Active Communities Strategy Survey - 12/6/20

The two district councils want to hear about the lockdown leisure experiences of residents as part of their Lockdown Lifestyle survey which is launching today. Questions include:

- What type of activity did you do before lockdown?
- What stopped you from being physically active during lockdown?
- What have you missed most about your usual physical activities since lockdown?
- Have you tried a new activity that you are likely to continue?
- Do you feel confident about returning to physical activities?

The results from this survey (anonymous) will help the councils to focus on activities that residents want to see in the districts, to help support those who have struggled over the last few months and to assist families and those who are vulnerable to take those first steps back into the community and keeping healthy.

The feedback will also contribute to the future plans for leisure activities in the districts as part of the councils Active

Communities Strategy.

The survey can be found via this [link](#) and closes on Tuesday 8 September 2020

Editor note:

I believe the findings from this survey will feed in to VWHDCS plan on how to spend the £5.9m s106 money from housing developments that was earmarked for a new Wantage Leisure Centre- now cancelled <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/news/2020/2020-03/proposed-new-leisure-centre-between-grove-and-wantage-formally-cancelled-due-lack->

Government Consultations about Planning system- 11/8/20

The government has published their White Paper that sets out how they would like to reform the planning system starting with a consultation document entitled 'Planning for the Future'. The consultation is now open for comments until 29 October.

[You can download the White Paper here.](#)

Another consultation now open is a call for evidence and views on a proposal to provide better transparency and competition between developers. It aims to provide better information publicly to assist new developers into the sector and to improve the data on land control and is open until 30 October.

[You can read the consultation paper here .](#)

A separate consultation has also opened on the elements of planning policy guidance which is looking at the current planning system. This consultation is open until 1 October.

[You can download the current planning system consultation paper here.](#)

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils will be considering the proposals and making comments by the deadlines. The councils are not intending to express a view on the government's proposals until we have engaged with our councillors and considered the consultation documents.

Faringdon Community Bus Timetable - 8/8/20

<https://www.faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk/new-faringdon-community-bus-timetable/>

They will return to normal service from 1 Sept.

The temporary timetable is pretty much the same but has no morning school pick ups and the service finishes at 11.15 rather than 12.15.

Survey re Temporary bus gates, Oxford City - 6/8/20

Oxford City Council and Oxfordshire County Council have shared updates on the temporary bus gates proposals for Oxford city centre, which aim to assist Oxford's recovery from the coronavirus pandemic.

The bus gates aim to create an environment which is safer for pedestrians and cyclists. This is to be achieved through ensuring quicker, more frequent buses on less congested roads. It will thus allow potentially reallocating road space to create an improved pedestrian and cycling environment.

[Read more](#)

[The survey deadline is 9/8/20](#)

White Horse Practice NHS Patient Survey ranking- 2/8/20

Link is at: <http://www.gp-patient.co.uk/report?w=1&practicecode=K84051>

NB: The survey was carried out in the period from Jan-March 2020, so is really based on prior to Covid, and more importantly makes comparison to our results in 2019 and 2018 more meaningful. The two years indicated carried similar questions to 2020, and were evaluated using the same statistical modelling (Survey: Ipsos Mori).

The results at the top are all very close indeed, but we have really benefited from a big across the board improvement, taking us from 86% positive feedback, to 95%.

The key details are as follow:

1. WHMP is ranked 15th for 2020 out of the 68 county Practices. A rise of 21 places on last year!
2. WHMP scored higher than the OCCG average in every question
3. WHMP scored higher than the national average in every question
4. WHMP scored overall 95% across all questions (17), with one at 100%. A rise of 9% from 86% positive last year to 95% for 2020

Town Council Meetings on youtube - 2/8/20

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQLRlqAOQ7KnWd3_LEoH2EA

Usually uploaded within a few days of the meeting

All U3A meetings are currently carried on Zoom.- 1/8/20

Details will be sent to all members in advance by e-mail.

Thursday 10th September 2020 at 230pm Speaker **Ian Keable** will talk about "**the Art of Trickery - How Magicians are seen in Paintings**". This Zoom talk by In Keable shows how magicians have appeared in art throughout the centuries, whether in paintings, satirical prints or cartoons. The 18th and 19th centuries saw a proliferation in

engravings and lithographs, showing the magicians both indoors and on the streets. Cartoonists and satirists delighted in linking politicians with skulduggery with images of them featuring the Three Card Trick, vanishing illusions or pulling a Rabbit out of a Hat. In addition, Ian, a magician, will perform some of the tricks depicted which should be very interesting.

Car park charges under review - 30/7/20

VWHDC are proposing significant changes (increases) to car park charges in order to reduce the annual £220k+ deficit.

I have scanned the document and am unable to find any mention of reducing costs. Expenditure is more than £700k pa. I would like to have seen a detailed breakdown.

Nor is there any mention of the impact of enforcement of onstreet parking (VWHDC have a project to take over enforcement from the police- as has been done in almost every part of England except ours)

You can read about it on <http://democratic.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/documents/s48418/Report.pdf>

You're invited to comment on the document and options to haveyoursay@southandvale.gov.uk.

Cycle Training sessions - 31/7/20

Farcycles has a mission to increase cycling in the community, so that everyone benefits. Individuals will be fitter. Our roads will be safer, less congested and polluted. Everyone will be healthier and happier.

We are offering cycling training to all ages.

We want all children in our community to be given the opportunity to learn to ride a bike

Book in via <https://farcycles.weebly.com/cycle-teaching.html>.

Faringdon cycling- on Radio Oxford- 31/7/20

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p08kmmzk> - starting at 1hr 37mins 40secs - Lyn Williamson being interviewed this morning on Radio Oxford about the Cycle Park, Couch-to-10K, ReCycles PopUp Shop - and other things cycling-related!

Donate your bike - 31/7/20

Do you have any bikes that you no longer want, or are in need of repair, that you are happy to donate to the shop?

If so - the ReCycles PopUp Shop would be incredibly grateful for your donation!

All proceeds raised will be used for maintenance/enhancement of the Cycle Park and to create safe cycling routes in Faringdon.

See <https://farcycles.weebly.com/recycles---popup-bike-shop.html>

S6 timetables - 27/7/20

[Faringdon to Swindon](#)

[Faringdon to Oxford](#)

History of Faringdon Newspapers- 26/7/20

On Faringdon History Society website

http://www.fdahs.org.uk/faringdon-newspapers/?fbclid=IwAR064qvc1jxj4VDvBf_oEs2-y1POQ1IKer_wGxThYJD6Mt5mxlpgovrNRSY

From Geoff at the Wheatsheaf - 22/7/20

Dear Sammi,

Thank you very much for your comments.

We have numerous measures in place to protect customers, staff and our community. Sorry if The Wheatsheaf was not suitable for you .

Friday and Saturday evenings like most pubs throughout the country, these are the most popular times and nights. As you will be aware in our town of Faringdon we have many large and extended families, we are very lucky to be a popular community pub and have many of these extended families that regularly use the pub, hence the reason they congregate together as it was and is on most Friday, Saturday & Sunday evenings. These people are in their family bubbles, I have personally known many of them for over 20 years.

The Bell Hotel has now opened and The Crown is opening this week which is great news as people then have more choice and possibly more space. The Red Lion is also open. I would also strongly recommend The Folly and The Swan Public House and Sudbury House Hotel Bar. We are very lucky in our town to have a great selection of Pubs/Hotels that are all different and I am sure you will find a local that suits you.

We are also blessed to have some wonderful pubs on the river with large gardens which as a town pub we do not have that luxury. The Swan at Radcot is wonderful as is The Clanfield Tavern.

Like all the local businesses in our town we are doing our very best under very challenging times, we are not complacent , we have a number of close family members who work in the NHS as Nurses, Doctors and Ambulance staff. I am 70 years of age my self and still work 7 days a week in The Wheatsheaf

We appreciate you support as a local business, but totally appreciate a visit to a Public House is a personal choice at this time. We are all experiencing tremendous pressures and sadly none of us can guarantee the future of our businesses or jobs for our staff at this time. The Pub and Hospitality Businesses have been particularly hard hit. We very much hope all our local businesses will survive and thrive in the future.

Many thanks and kind regards Geoff Robbins

River Thames 220km Challenge- 21/7/20

Lucy Herbert, Skipper of Rivertime Boat Trust and Amy Karlsson are planning a seven day 220 Kilometres charity canoe trip from Lechlade to Teddington to raise money for the Rivertime Boat Trust.

Every year, disabled and disadvantaged adults, children and young people, are given the opportunity to enjoy a cruise on the River Thames, aboard The Rivertime Boat Trust's fully accessible cruiser, 'Rivertime.'

[Read more](#)

Lechlade Radcot Northmoor on 24th July

ref Wheatsheaf - 19/7/20

Really pleased to see the pubs gradually reopening around Faringdon and the Business it has been missing hopefully will pick up.

Being a NHS nurse and new to the town, i am concerned though on my first visit to the Wheatsheaf last Saturday evening it was disappointing to note that in the courtyard there did not appear to be any social distance measures in place as it was very crowded mainly down the sides of the bar and in the courtyard, needless to say I could not risk going in there.

Hopefully this is part of a learning process for the Landlords to deal with and resolve soon and I will have the opportunity to drink in there soon.

Sammi

Survey re Future Plans Vale District Council - 19/7/20

What do you think the council should focus on next? Working with other organisations to help local businesses get back on their feet after lockdown? Helping people live healthier lives? Tackling the climate emergency? Or all three and more?

Vale of White Horse district councillors have put together a plan for the future of the district and they want you to let them know what you think of it.

The survey – launched today – is a chance to have your say on the priorities for the council in the next few years.

The survey will run until Thursday 13 August.

<https://survey.southandvale.gov.uk/s/Valecorporateplanfeedback/?m=12345abcde>

Newsletter from our MP David Johnston - 19/7/20

[Click to open 1 page document](#)

Message for U3a members - 19/7/20

It is with huge regret that we have cancelled the summer party in August, but we do hope to be able to run it next year. Instead we propose a Zoom meeting on Thursday 13th August for members only, starting at 2.30pm. The speaker is Danielle Mills telling us all about Medical Detection Dogs. This organisation trains dogs to detect the odour of human disease. It is at the forefront of research into the fight against cancer and other life-threatening diseases.

For further information please will members consult the website - <https://faringdondistrictu3a.com/> or phone Margaret Brown, the chairman on 01367 615385.

Town Council Meeting online - 15/7/20

7.15, tonight, 15/7/20

<https://www.faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk/an-online-meeting-of-the-full-council-to-be-held-on-wednesday-15th-july-2020-at-7-15pm/>

[This is the Faringdon Town Council Youtube channel](#)

The Wheatsheaf Freehouse, 5 London Street, Faringdon. SN7 7AE- 15/7/20

- We are OPEN
- Open 7 days a week Monday - Thursday 4 to late. Friday 3 to late Saturday & Sunday 12 midday to late
- We are not operating a booking system - Please pop in and see us when the time is right for YOU
- Take-Away Draft Beer & Cider still available in our 2 Pint Take-Home Cartons
- Measures in place to protect our customers, staff and community

For all businesses that have been forced to close, this has been an incredibly stressful and challenging time. We fully appreciate your great support and kindness from The Wheatsheaf Team. 'Good luck to all the local businesses that have re-opened or re-opening soon'.

Thank you Faringdon FOR YOUR SUPPORT ❤️ It's great to be OPEN

Puffin Crossing and Traffic calming, Sands Hill- 13/7/20

[Here is the notice- just about readable](#)

Park Road Closure- 12/7/20

Signs on Park Road say 24/7 - 28/7

I assume it's something to do with the Oriel Gardens housing development- but I don't know that

Can't find anything on Oxfordshire CC website

Anyone know?

Ed

Faringdon Information Centre Re-opens - 9/7/20

The Information Centre will be open from the Thursday the 9th of July.

To keep staff and customers safe we will be following a closed-door policy. Please ring the doorbell for assistance and wear a face covering when entering the centre.

We will only be able to accept contactless payment.

The Information Centre will be open mornings only from:

- Monday to Friday 9 am to 12:30 pm
- Saturday 9:30 am to 1 pm

For Town Council enquiries we still encourage residents to phone on 01367 204281

Faringdon Saturday Market - 9/7/20

1st August 2020 10 am to 1pm

Faringdon Market Place

To book a stall please contact Liz@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk

Faringdon Viral Kindness - 9/7/20

From Monday, the Government's advice for residents who are shielding was relaxed, meaning we are all able to spend time outdoors in a group of up to six people, including outside of our households while maintaining social distancing.

Anybody who is shielding and lives alone or is a single parent with children is also now able to create a 'support bubble' with one other household of any size, following the same rules that are already in place for the wider population.

From **1 August**, the shielding advice will relax further, allowing those shielding to do even more, such as visit shops and places of worship, provided they take particular care to maintain social distancing and minimise contact with others outside their household.

With these relaxation measures in place, Faringdon Viral Kindness will ramp down its operations over the coming weeks. Before this announcement, everyone who we have helped throughout June has been contacted and understands our position. Therefore, unless the Government impose further restrictions, FVK will close down operations on Monday 31 August 20.

Our volunteer group is so proud of what we've achieved over the last 19 weeks. We've handled well over 960 requests and continue to work with a smaller number of residents to ensure they have the ongoing support they will need in the coming months.

We will continue to supply further information on what long term support services they will be. But also do understand that should things change, we've got a bucket full of ready and willing volunteers should our need arise again.

Our call handlers are still operating 9am - 5pm 5 days a week if you have any questions or concerns.

Lucy Edwards

Old Town Hall repairs - 4/7/20

[Listed building consent](#). Consultation until 30/7/20 Decision 26/8/20

Sad News - 2/7/20

It is with much sadness that we need to announce the death of our lovely mum, Anita Thomas on 29 June 2020. She touched many lives and was a beautiful, kind soul. She will be sorely missed by all that knew her.

A private cremation on 16 July will be followed by a church memorial service when restrictions lift.

Read [Obituary](#)

Jane and Lucy

Tackling Climate Emergency to be at the forefront of VWHDC plans-2/7/20

The Vale of White Horse's Climate Emergency Advisory Committee is to discuss a number of proposals which may form part of the district council's long-term plans.

Later this year, Vale of White Horse District Council will publish a new Corporate Plan which will direct its work until 2024. The council's Cabinet is currently developing potential themes and illustrative projects for the plan. These will be considered by the [Climate Emergency Advisory Committee on Wednesday 1 July](#).

At its meeting, the climate committee will provide recommendations on the climate and environmental principles and illustrative projects for the new Corporate Plan. Cabinet will then consider these recommendations as it continues to develop the plan. Draft [Corporate Plan](#) and [Green Recovery from Covid](#)