

### **Faringdon Twinning events this year** - 31/1/11

28th April - 1st May - Visitors from Le Mele to Faringdon to celebrate the Royal Wedding (informal weekend) - if you can host contact Jeanie 240374

2nd - 5th June - Group from Faringdon to visit Le Mele - contact Jeanie 240374 if you are interested in going by end February

July 23rd - 30th Youth Twinning exchange by group of Faringdon youths under the guidance of 2 youth leaders to visit Le Mele - contact Carolyn 240698

Teas and refreshments provided by Far Twin Assoc. at Craft Fair on May 21st and Nov 19th 2011 French Breakfast to coincide with French Breakfast March and September  
Jeanie Pugh

---

### **Re Six Nations Rugby** - 31/1/11

Try the Volunteer.  
Name Supplied

---

### **Re: Dementia** - 31/1/11

My family needed help last year. If its regarding the carer you can also contact Age Concern. We needed help and I eventually contact Ed Vaisey's office our local MP. I dont know what your circumstances are though...if you post your e mail address I can contact you  
Name Supplied

---

### **Shaping Faringdon open meeting** - 31/1/11

All residents of Faringdon and of the surrounding villages may like to attend the 'Shaping Faringdon' event on 17th February 6pm to 8pm in Sudbury House Hotel.

This is your chance to have a say on Faringdon's future. What should a successful market town look like?

What are the priorities for Faringdon over the next ten years and how do we achieve them?

RSVP to [Trudy.Godfrey@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:Trudy.Godfrey@southandvale.gov.uk)

---

### **Soll having real problems?????** - 31/1/11

[http://www.heraldseries.co.uk/news/hsdidcotnews/4139964.Question\\_mark\\_over\\_leisure\\_centre\\_s\\_future/](http://www.heraldseries.co.uk/news/hsdidcotnews/4139964.Question_mark_over_leisure_centre_s_future/)

Looks like Soll have run into difficulties with the leisure centres in Didcot. They don't run most of them and may pull out of Willowbrook in April.

Does anyone know if they are likely to pull out of Faringdon? IF so will we the tax payers have to pick the pieces?

Name Supplied

---

### **Thank you Raoul.** - 31/1/11

Regarding the phone scam and 'computer problems'. I was called on Friday late afternoon with exactly as the article said. I was suspicious so asked him to call back a bit later as I said that my husband dealt with my computer

and he could sort it out.

Needless to say we have not received another call! So beware and do not do as the caller instructs.

Sally Higgins

---

### **Wailing Siren Noise from Pioneer Road/Park Road** - 31/1/11

if anyone else can here the persistent very annoying siren that goes off early evening/early hours of the morning then please can you contact 'the noise police' @ Vale of the White Horse District Council

In order to pinpoint the premises this alarm is coming from they need more details of where and when - if it can be heard from different directions they may be able to pinpoint more accurately

Please note this is not a siren or an ambulance etc but a persistent loud 5-6 second pulse of high pitched wailing.

Name Supplied

---

### **Re posting on 29/1/11 about the Oaks team** - 31/1/11

Have you tried Specal - a charity based in Sheep Street, Burford who I've heard offer excellent advice and support for those with and affected by dementia and Alzheimers?

Hope you manage to get some advice and support from somewhere.

Tessa

---

### **A Circus in the Crown?** - 31/1/11

Does this refer to the ever rotating stream of landlords passing through the place? Or the management of the bedroom, courtyard and toilet refurbishment? Or possibly the variety of cats both big and small that have roamed the pub? Or the leasehold owners of the building?

We should be told.

Name Supplied

---

### **Six Nations Rugby** - 31/1/11

I am fairly new to the area, and was wondering where would be showing the 6 Nations rugby match on Friday night between Wales and England? I haven't yet had a chance to sample the pubs in the town, so if anyone could point me in the direction of a big screen I would be very grateful.

Cheers.

Name Supplied

---

### **Stolen milk and bread** - 31/1/11

We've had our milk and bread stolen a few times recently, as have several of our neighbours. Between 4am and 7am, the thieves are doing the rounds in our neighbourhood (the area near the tennis club) and making off with several pints of milk (at least 7 on one occasion). If anyone has any information, or also experiences theft, please report it to the police so we can catch them.

Name Supplied

---

### **Circus is now at the Bell** - 31/1/11

the Circus in Town gig for Friday 11th February has been moved from the Crown to the Bell

Sam Prince

---

### **Forests** - 31/1/11

I agree with Alan's comments about our forests. I am old enough to remember the howls of anguish as the

government owned forestry commission planted up our uplands and heaths with serried rows of conifers, often displacing our native broad leaf forests in the process. So now the wheel turns full circle. I do not believe the scaremongers who say our ancient oaks will be felled to meet commercial interests. Rather I look to two local private woodlands - Wytham Woods and Wychwood Forest where ancient trees have been preserved and woods and wildlife managed. True, public access is limited but that does seem to keep these sanctuaries free of litter and intrusion enabling the natural inhabitants to breed in peace. Similarly, the last remaining undeveloped Surrey heathland is to be found on the rifle ranges at Bisley and Pirbright, where we have been able to observe Purple Emperor butterflies enjoying the mature oaks in combination with muddy puddles.

In an ideal world I hope to see the likes of BBONT taking over the Forestry Commission forests aided by small scale sustainable privately owned woods. Yes some public access may be lost but our wildlife will benefit. It's not all bad - we should be glad to see the back of the conifers if someone is prepared to gradually replace them with the broad leaf and coppiced hazel much loved by nightingales. Green oak is far more valuable than soft pine and worth waiting for. In the meantime we can enjoy the growing woods. And always remember most people walk less than 100 yards from a car park.

Rachel

---

## Thank you Raoul.- 30/1/11

On Saturday, while trying to track a flight to South Africa, using various Flight Trackers, my screen flashed up a warning that I had been infected with a dangerous virus and I could download a removal tool for \$79.95. My computer became very unfriendly and almost useless. There were lots of frightening warnings so I calmly panicked (I think that's called an oxymoron for those readers obsessed with grammar). I contacted QuidneIT on 0845 467 5087 and described the symptoms.

I was told help would arrive first thing on Monday morning but I was also given some advice. It took me almost 2 hours to follow but my problem was solved.

So thank you Raoul.

You didn't earn anything but my thanks but I hope also some worthwhile publicity from a grateful customer.

HGM

---

## Oxfordshire being targeted by cold callers pretending to be from Microsoft or Windows phoning to fix a fake computer problem. - 30/1/11

The scam always starts the same way: the phone rings at someone's home, and the caller - usually with an Indian accent - asks for the householder, quoting their name and address before saying "I'm calling for Microsoft. We've had a report from your internet service provider of serious virus problems from your computer."

Dire forecasts are made that if the problem is not solved, the computer will become unusable.

The puzzled owner is then directed to their computer, and asked to open a program called "Windows Event Viewer". Its contents are, to the average user, worrying: they look like a long list of errors, some labelled "critical". "Yes, that's it," says the caller. "Now let me guide you through the steps to fixing it."

The computer owner is directed to a website and told to download a program that hands over remote control of the computer, and the caller "installs" various "fixes" for the problem. And then it's time to pay a fee: £185 for a "subscription" to the "preventative service".

The only catch: there was never anything wrong with the computer, the caller is not working for Microsoft or the internet service provider, and the owner has given a complete stranger access to every piece of data on their machine.

If you receive an unsolicited call from someone claiming to be from Microsoft Tech Support, hang up. Microsoft (Windows) do not make these kinds of calls.

More details on: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/jul/18/phone-scam-india-call-centres>

Raoul van Eindhoven Quidne IT Ltd.

<http://www.quidne-it.com>

---

## Forests - 30/1/11

The rush to plant up forests was due to war and the realisation that we had not the reserves needed for industry and technology of the time. Thus loads of conifer plantations were created. Unfortunately the Governments of the day failed to predict correctly. Industry and technology, including making war, changed. The timber in these woods is not of high quality as it was either fast growing or grew to fast leaving it weak in structure for many tasks. This is why quality pine comes from Scandinavia and Canada where it grows slower and is thus denser. So our forests, fiscally and environmentally, have been a bad investment.

What we should have done is plant a mixed woodland, cash cropped several stands of pines before allowing the hardwoods to take up their full canopies. So ignoring the leisure use these woods are white elephants and I am quite sure the Government well knows it. Interestingly there are private woods where management has been done commercially that produce valuable timber for the home market but there are just not enough of them. Much building green Oak is French, for instance, as they have a sustainable forests in their much larger land to population ratio. So the real argument is on access and leisure not on value as we would be best served long term for these forests to be altered into the hard woods/pine cash crop model. That takes investment which the Government cannot afford unless we send a load of useless layouts up to the plantations with axes, spades and saws for their hand outs.

That is not going to happen so sad to say the best thing for the country, economically, is to allow private investment. Will private investment grow only Chrimbo trees. I doubt it but timber is a long term investment ideal for the current economic crisis with property/land prices coming under pressure, inflation climbing and a bit of a economic crash. It is a safe haven for 'land banking'. What price the mature hardwood in 150 years with deforestation world wide at current rates?

Alan Hitchcock

---

## Re SOLL Leisure Center and VAT - 29/1/11

In the current economic climate, where students are going to have to pay high tuition fees and vital services such as health and education are being slashed, not to mention council staff and others losing their jobs, I think it is the least of most people's worries that someone might have to pay a bit more to use the sports hall.

In any case why should block booking be subsidised by local tax payers. Surely the point of the block booking is to ensure a fixed time slot, not to save money.

In any case, maybe the hall would be used by a wider public if SOLL didn't allow certain minority sports to have a monopoly over it in prime time such as Saturday mornings.

John Williams

---

## Oaks Team? - 29/1/11

A friend has mentioned to me that there used to be a 'group' called 'The Oak Team' in Faringdon, who were able to help with regards his Mother who had Alzheimers. If the group still exist, I would like to speak to them in connection with my Father.

Can you let me know if the group still exists? and if so, let me have a contact name and telephone number?

Many Thanks.

*Ed(GW) It used to be in the library building in Gloucester St, but I'm sure it no longer has a presence in Faringdon. I suggest you contact Age Concern 01235 849400 or Dementia web [www.dementiaweboxfordshire.org.uk](http://www.dementiaweboxfordshire.org.uk) - there is a helpline 01993 700061  
Hope that helps*

---

## Parking - 29/1/11

Has anyone ever read the banner attached to Budgens re free parking after 4pm. The bottom line says Southampton and Gloucester GREEN car parks.

As far as I am aware Gloucester Green carpark is in Oxford!

Jane Boulton

---

## Reference SOLL Leisure Center charging VAT - 28/1/11

I am not affected by this issue, but I would point out that charging VAT is not a discretionary action, but a legal requirement for most selling transactions. When a company sells products or services that are liable for VAT it is obliged to charge VAT on those products. The VAT free deals that we see advertised are actually price reductions - the seller reduces the price sufficiently for the total price (including VAT on the reduced price)

I think there are various possibilities in the case of SOLL.

1) they have realised that payments for advance booking are liable for VAT and are unwilling to absorb this extra cost into the price of the booking - hence the VAT price increase

2) the rules for VAT on this type of service might have changed so that they now have to charge VAT when they didn't before

3) they have been absorbing the VAT costs until now but can no longer do that.

If they are charging VAT, now or in the past then the VAT element does not go to them but to the wonderful Mr. Osborne. If they ARE charging VAT (rather than using VAT as a shield for an increase in price) then they are legally obliged to provide, on request, a VAT receipt, showing their VAT number.

At least that's how I understand VAT rules (but I'm neither a lawyer nor an accountant)  
Tony Tarry

---

## ungrammatical - 28/1/11

Given the ungrammatical rant about VAT on block bookings at SOLL I can see why you don't edit postings to this board any more.

Life would be too short to sort things like that out.

Name Supplied

---

## Faringdon Association of Residents - 28/01/11

The people who find out what's going on and make representations on your behalf.

Please come along to the open meeting for an update - Faringdon Supermarkets, Housing, Events. An opportunity to express your views or to find out what's happening!

**Monday 31 January 7.30pm Old Town Hall.**

Colin Desborough

---

## Save our Forests - 28/1/11

Hi Mike

As you say forests have been farmed by private ownerships (mostly the Crown) in the past for many centuries for commercial gains, but as the industries that relied so heavily upon the sources these forests supplied such as ship building, construction industry and all the many many other trades that have sadly died out since the industrial revolution these traditional woods that were so abundant within woodlands are now no longer commercially viable. Don't we run the risk that if the woodlands return to private ownership we may not only lose access but they are completely filled with Christmas trees as I'm sure they will more than likely be bought by large commercial companies intending to make a financial profit.

As we as a country become a nation of importers rather than exporters the need for such woodland disappears even further. If the forestry commission retain ownership don't we hang on to the slim chance of having a say in how they control the woodlands?

Mike Barker

---

## Extract from Waitrose letter re access - 28/01/11

*'In light of these concerns, Waitrose has considered whether an alternative access arrangement via Lechlade Road would be viable, however, Oxfordshire County Council as local Highway Authority has told Waitrose that they would not be able to support a traffic solution involving access via Lechlade Road for a number of reasons including environmental impact. In light of the above, Waitrose has had extensive internal and external discussions regarding the proposed access arrangements for a new store from Gloucester Street and has considered at length the impact that traffic generated by the store would have on the local road network. Waitrose has been advised by highway consultants Glanville that a traffic solution which involves making the western section of Gloucester Street two-way between the Gloucester Street car park access and the Lechlade Road roundabout, presents the best highway solution and should form part of the planning application.*

*In reaching this conclusion, Glanville has assessed a number of factors including junction capacity, impact upon on-street parking provision and access by delivery vehicles. Having looked at each of these issues in detail, it has been concluded that there is a benefit in offering customers leaving the site the opportunity to turn right and head back to Lechlade Road, rather than being forced to negotiate the town centre via the existing one-way system. This is particularly pertinent to delivery vehicles. Irrespective of whether the western section of Gloucester Street is made two-way or retained in its existing one-way arrangement, there is an unavoidable loss of on-street car parking. However, by making Gloucester Street two-way, this loss, which arises from making the existing single yellow line opposite the site access a double yellow line, is minimised. Retention of the one-way system results in further losses elsewhere in the town centre. '*

See the full text on <http://gloucesterstreet.org/>

They make no mention of Gravel Walk and the Coxwell St roundabout.  
My guess is that most traffic will come in that way as Lechlade are soon to have their own (out of town) supermarket

*"Retention of the one-way system results in further losses elsewhere in the town centre."* - I wonder what this means - specifically - more double yellow lines in the town centre/Marlborough St???

Name Supplied

---

## **Save our Forests** - 28/1/11

Whatever happened to the Community Forest idea floated in '99? I do not see any evidence of this?

It also seems to have gone un-noticed, that when forests were in private ownership, they were mainly deciduous, and apart from hunting, the products, and that is why they were managed, were used for ship and house building. When the Forestry Commission took over, they planted to much opprobrium, conifers, as that was the way to a quick buck and the English forest was more or less lost forever, except in a few areas like Wytham woods and the Whitchwood, er, privately owned.

The devil will be in the detail, not the hyperbole.

Mike Perks

---

## **SOLL facing financial difficulties???** - 28/1/11

<http://www.idaventry.com/local-news/daventry-leisure-management-firm-throws-in-the-towel>

It seems SOLL have had to pull out of running a leisure centre in Daventry due to financial difficulties. Could this be why they are having to charge VAT?

Name Supplied

---

## **Re Waitrose** - 28/01/11

So Waitrose are offering to buy parking permits for Gloucester Street residents to make up for the loss of parking their supermarket would cause - I hope I am not being too cynical but how long would it be before they decide that buying these permits is not really their problem - one year, two years???

Once the on-road parking spaces have gone, they'll be gone for ever

Name Supplied

---

### **Waitrose** - 28/01/11

Mr Perks Reference to you latest communications posted on TP concerning Waitrose planning I feel that i must voice my concerns as an avid campaigner for Together Winning Equal Rights for Pheasant's (T.W.E.R.P)that you please show that all available avenue's have been investigated to the fabrication of stated quill in accordance to the latest EU guidelines (Manufacture and safe usage of Quills 762 appendix 885)and that the removal of said tall feathers will be subsequently carried out overlooked by the necessary personnel stated by EU directive 165.  
Mike Barker

---

### **Save our Forests campaign**- 28/1/11

Over the holidays 50,000 more people joined the campaign against government plans to sell off our woodlands. That means that over 135,000 of us have now signed the Save Our Forests petition. Together we're making sure the forest sell off plans are noticed. The huge petition has encouraged experts to speak out and it's been on the news and in lots of newspapers.

But the government is still trying to sneak through new laws so they can sell all our forests. We need to stop them. A huge petition will force them to think again.  
Please help get past 150,000 signatures by forwarding this e-mail and asking your friends to sign as well:  
<http://www.38degrees.org.uk/save-our-forests>  
Ed(GW)

---

### **Tesco** - 28/01/11

Bring it on! !!!!  
Name Supplied

---

### **Is it time for change? Action Plan for Faringdon** - 28/1/11

I would like to invite you to a Public Open meeting in Faringdon on **Thursday 17th February from 6pm to 8pm**.

The purpose of this meeting is to:-

- \* Explore and identify the key economic constraints and other issues for Faringdon
- \* Identify what makes a market town successful
- \* Seek agreement about the priority issues facing the town focussing on: retailing, planning issues, infrastructure, public services, health, education, etc
- \* see what actions should be taken (and by whom) to achieve this Vision

There are many possible reasons for undertaking this including: the opportunity to influence the growth and development of Faringdon over the longer-term and many of the actions may be taken forward in the Action Plan for Faringdon in 2012/13.

This is an open meeting and all are welcome. The meeting will be facilitated by Matt Prosser (Strategic Director for Vale of White Horse District Council and South Oxfordshire District Council).

Please spread the invitation widely to all who live in Faringdon and in the surrounding villages who rely on Faringdon for retail, leisure and other services. Faringdon Arts Festival 2010

Please let me know if you will be able to attend by sending an e-mail to

[economic.development@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:economic.development@southandvale.gov.uk)

I look forward to seeing you there. Kind regards Trudy Godfrey Shared Economic Development Team Leader Direct line: 01235 540346 (Vale) Text phone users add 18001 before you dial Mobile: 07777 630810

---

### **Status of 'Waitrose' land?** - 27/01/11

Can anyone clarify the status of the land adjacent to the Gloucester Street car park where Waitrose are hoping to build a supermarket; can you really just cut down established woodland, and disrupt the wildlife habitat - I thought there were planning rules to protect woodland, wildlife and the geology of a site!  
Name Supplied

---

### **Waitrose** - 27/01/11

Something to get the juices flowing:

The latest communication from Waitrose is now on: <http://gloucesterstreet.org/>

I would suggest that a passing pheasant should be relieved of its tail feathers and the sharp, banned, penknife, be utilised to fashion a quill. I have to say that I personally do not favour the view expressed to me recently, to wit: "We don't need quality, we want cheap"

I have added punctuation to this remark. Sorry, it was probably elitist of me, but this Town is punching below its weight and in the words of my probably late English teacher -- COULD DO BETTER!  
Mike Perks

---

### **Tesco in Faringdon- why not?** - 27/01/11

I'm no lover of Tesco and very rarely use its shops.

However it seems to me that the only people who shop at Budgens are those who do not have private transport or just nip in for the odd item. Not many people do a week's shopping in that store. Most people I know travel to "other" superstores which are all cheaper.

Tesco in Faringdon, why not? good old fashioned competition is good.

Name Supplied

---

### **SOLL Leisure are to add VAT on Block Bookings for Hall Hire at Leisure Centre** - 27/1/11

For those of you who do not understand the system. Sports clubs book the Sports hall for 13 weeks blocks and pay up front for facility. For the privilege and peace of mind that you have space to do your sport. Since the centre has opened no VAT has been added to these bookings by any Company running our centre.

The committed supporters of our leisure centre who have had bookings for many years are now to be charged VAT on Bookings.

The Sports hall is continually dirty. Users on many occasions have to put up Badminton courts and set up their own equipment as staff are late turning up for change overs due the clock in the hall never works. Viewing Gallery is rarely cleaned and rubbish bins left full for many days.

MEMBERSHIP to the Centre for unlimited use that all classes swimming use of fitness room is £24.99 a month for 18 months.

In reality those that use the centre when it suits them get cheap use and those that have been for many years supported the centre are being penalised.

If the Sports hall had better marketing to get more users like the swim pool, Fitness room and classes then the Hall would be making a bit more money and committed users wouldn't be charged higher charges.

The sports hall was re varnished last year at thousands of pounds and 3 months down the line because it hasn't been looked after it needs doing again.

When will facilitators of our centre get it right across the board

Name Supplied

---

## Dear name supplied - 27/1/11

As a son of a teacher, Brother to a teacher and a teachers husband (not all the same teacher the webbed fingers are just natures joke) it has nothing to do with the education system it is just that some of us mere mortals are not blessed with these god like talents.

ED (HT) and Gen do you still offer this Elite correction service as can cost an absolute fortune in certain back street establishment's around Southampton docks.

Name Supplied

---

## Good News. The Circus will be coming to town. - 27/1/11

the next date is Friday 11th February @ The Bell. 8pm free entry. A chance to catch up with the New Movement.  
Sam Prince

---

## Tesco Planning Application - 26/01/11

Planning Application GFA/21203: Erection of foodstore with associated car parking, formation of new access to Park Road and landscaping

For: Tesco Store Limited

The Vale of White Horse District Council has advised that an appeal has been lodged by Tesco with The Planning Inspectorate against the District Council's refusal of planning permission for the above application. This appeal is to be heard at a public inquiry, date to be advised by The Planning Inspectorate.

Guidance given by The Planning Inspectorate indicates that if you did not write at application stage, or you did write and now have something new to say, you can send your comments in writing (3 copies) to:

The Planning Inspectorate  
Room 3/21 (Wing)  
Temple Quay House  
2 The square Temple Quay  
Bristol  
BS1 6PN

or by email to [teamp13@pins.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:teamp13@pins.gsi.gov.uk) Reference Number to be quoted in all correspondence:

**APP/V3120/A/10/2143419/NWF**

DEADLINE FOR COMMENTS: 23 FEBRUARY 2011.

Guidance to taking part in planning appeals proceeding by public hearing can be found on the planning portal [http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/uploads/pins/taking-part\\_planning-hearing.pdf](http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/uploads/pins/taking-part_planning-hearing.pdf)

Offices where planning documents may be inspected: Vale of White Horse District Council Abbey House  
ABINGDON Oxon OX14 3JE Mon-Fri 0900 - 1700

Tel: 01235 540347

Contact: David Rothery or Stacey Coster

Faringdon Town Council

---

## Novelty cake competition! for Thames Valley Air Ambulance - 26/01/11

Theme: Novel Cakes to fit on A4 sheet x no more than two tier

Please help me to collect for Thames Valley Air Ambulance. The Charity with NO Government or Lottery Funding.

I am trying to raise awareness of this very useful Air Ambulance service by organising local fun competition.

Email me [lynne.larkman@zoo.ox.ac.uk](mailto:lynne.larkman@zoo.ox.ac.uk) to offer help and then watch this space for further updates!

Lynne Larkman

---

## New or used bras for Thames Valley Air Ambulance - 26/01/11

Final collection Thursday 26th May - Please help me to collect for Thames Valley Air Ambulance. The Charity with NO Government or Lottery Funding.

These wonderful items can now be re-cycled and not put into landfill as in the past because of their complexity.

I am trying to raise awareness of this very useful Air Ambulance service by collecting new or used bras.

I can supply posters and collecting bags for individuals or clubs to help.

Please contact me , [lynne.larkman@zoo.ox.ac.uk](mailto:lynne.larkman@zoo.ox.ac.uk) to offer help and then watch this space for further updates! Can also arrange talks and demos if requested.

Mrs Lynne Larkman

---

## **Sovereign Vale Housing Association** - 26/01/11

There is a meeting of Sovereign Vale Housing Residents Association of Faringdon in the Bell tonight (Wed 26th Jan) at 7.00 pm.

All SV tenants welcome.

Karen Draper

---

## **Cameras/grammeras** - 26/01/11

Well, I've tried. Years ago when Gen and I used to correct the mistakes we got told off for being elitist.

Ed (HT)

---

## **Cameras** - 26/01/11

Perhaps you should have some on this page. Spot the mistakes. spelling, grammar, etc. I don't blame the individuals - it's the education system!

name supplied

---

## **Charity bags** . - 26/01/11

Just had the 4th bag delivered in 1 week? Ho many rags do these people think I have? Surely there has to be someone monitoring this even in these austere times. What with this and the "energy suppliers" 2, in 2 weeks wanting to check; its getting beyond a joke.

Pity these CCTV cameras dont pick up people driving around in untaxed cars and not wearing seatbelts!

Andy Gray

---

## **Cockerels...** - 26/01/11

..are not allowed in residential areas. They are no different than letting your dog bark in your garden incessantly. This was confirmed by Oxfordshire CC noise enforcement officer.

name supplied

---

## **CONGRATULATIONS!!!** - 26/01/11

Congratulations Mr Chapman you've done it again!

Finally the Crown is graced with a landlord and lady whom breathed life back into Faringdon with great

hospitality,good beer and music BUT once again our dear Mr Chapman you have butchered her down. Please i beg of you please abdicate your throne and hand your battered Crown to someone who wishes to invest in this town. This old cat can't have many lives left. Viva la REVOLUTION Down with the MORONS within the Chapman group

Mike Barker

---

### Camera,s - 26/01/11

Does anyone know what the camera,s all down park road are for???

name supplied

---

### Cameras - 25/01/11

Let me make a guess. Park Road...possible increase in traffic for supermarket entrance... survey?

name supplied

---

### Surfeit of Cameras...Big Brother is Here! - 25/01/11

Just wondering why at least 6 CCTV cameras have sprung up on and around Park Road. I can't go anywhere without being watched. Has a major crime spree started in Faringdon without me noticing? Has Big Brother taken over?

There I was thinking I lived in a pleasant rural town in Oxfordshire, having moved out of the big city where your every move is watched. Clearly I am mistaken. I cannot see why so many cameras can possibly be necessary. I've never seen an area of any town or city in this country have such a concentration of cameras. Can anyone shed any light on this? Now feeling very paranoid...

name supplied

---

### Go Active - 25/01/11

Go Active are looking to start up another Just Jog group in Faringdon. If you are interested in joining or for more information then please contact Ashley Chapman on 01235 547646 or email [ashley.chapman@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:ashley.chapman@whitehorsedc.gov.uk).

To see what other activities are available visit [www.getoxfordshireactive.org](http://www.getoxfordshireactive.org)

Ashley Chapman

---

### Room for Hire - 25/01/11

Yes, we have used the Jubilee Room in the Pump Rooms, its a lovely room, with a small kitchen, or what about the Old Town Hall, we used that for a lunch the day after a wedding again a good location. Ring the Town Council to book them. Hope this helps

Alison

---

### All change at the Crown. - 25/01/11

New people in. Music Out.

Having spoken to the new old people at the crown There is to be, or not to be any more music in the venue. As is Chapmans orders. Bingo there goes the only venue in town.

sam prince

---

## Noisy Cockerel - 25/01/11

I too hear a cockeral. That comes with living in an area adjacent to the country side. They are needed if you want to produce your own eggs and rear your own hens and cockerals for eggs and meat. I also hear the birds singing and the noise of the A420

nmae supplied

---

## Mysterious Siren - 25/01/11

There is a beeping noise from Rodgers which I understand is from their vehicles reversing.

nmae supplied

---

## Faringdon Postcard - 25/01/11

I'm putting together a new Faringdon postcard. I need a landscape shot of the church with a good view of the building and some colour in it - daffs would be great. If you have a photograph you think might be suitable please email it to [sally@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:sally@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk) Thank you

Sally Thurston

---

## Room to Hire - 25/01/11

<http://www.faringdon.org/lvenues.htm>  
<http://www.halshire.com/halls/view/732/jubilee-room-pump-house>

Mike Bell

---

## ROOM TO HIRE - 25/01/11

If your Christening is after April to newly refurbished Corn Exchange will be available. If not both the Jubilee Room in the Pump House and The Old Town Hall would make lovely venues for a Christening.  
For details please contact Town council bookings on 01367 242191

Sally Thurston

---

## ROOM TO HIRE - 25/01/11

Yes, we have used the Jubilee Room in the Pump Rooms, its a lovely room, with a small kitchen, or what about the Old Town Hall, we used that for a lunch the day after a wedding again a good location.

Ring the Town Council to book them.

Hope this helps

Alison

---

## Mysterious Siren! - 25/01/11

I have also previously posted about this problem of noise pollution! it is happening every night recently! and in the summer it go's of ALL THE TIME!!!! throughout the night!! i think it might be coming from one of the factorys / industrial sites on pionner road!some one replied to my previose post and said that it has been going on for years! it realy is anoying i am tempted to go and visit every site over there and make enquiries. but i am going to try and

contact the local authority environment health to see if they will investigate first!

name supplied

---

## **FARINGDON ASSOCIATION OF RESIDENTS** - 25/01/11

The people who find out what's going on and make representations on your behalf (as well as providing the flag on the Pump House that you think FTC provides). Please come along to the open meeting for an update - Faringdon Supermarkets, Housing, Events. An opportunity to express your views or to find out what's happening! Monday 31 January 7.30pm Old Town Hall.

Colin Desborough

---

## **Endangered Bird?** - 25/01/11

Look out cockerel - take cover!!! Not sure what they've got in store for you when your location is discovered!!!!!!

name supplied

---

## **Mysterious Siren** - 24/01/11

Can anybody tell me what that siren/alarm is that goes off, mainly in the evening but I have heard it in the morning, often 3 times a minute, in the Marines Drive/ Town End Road area? Is it the slabs jobbie place? & WHY?

Anthony

---

## **Black cat found** - 24/01/11

in Budgens car park this evening the 24/1/11. White paws with a white chin, sex not known. If you are missing a cat contact me via this site.

Jane, faringdon

---

## **Poetry winner** - 24/01/11

The Turner prize of the Poetry world? Often the ideal is for art to be beyond understanding as it has to be the preserve of the initiates. That is why it is fast approaching a set of religions. I believe in art and God but can live without the flim flam, dogma and spin off businesses thanks.

Alan Hitchcock

---

## **Room to Hire** - 24/01/11

Does anyone know where in Faringdon would be good to hire for a Christening party?

name supplied

---

## **Noisy Cockerel** - 24/01/11

We have been woken continuously for the last three weekends by a cockerel crowing. I believe it may reside in the garden of one of the houses on the Coxwell road( right hand side,going out of Faringdon).Does anyone know which house it may be, as its proving elusive to find out

name supplied

---

## **Wordsmith test** - 24/01/11

Squash=to suppress.Didn't realise you had to pass a Wordsmith in order to comment.

name supplied

---

## **Respect:** - 24/01/11

I had an interesting experience a couple of evenings ago. I was walking down Marlborough St and there was a group of youngsters outside of the fast food place. I thought I would have to go out into the road to get past them but as I approached one of them moved to let me by. One of his mates asked him "Why did you do that J\*\*\*?" He replied "It's respectful".

I said thankyou as I passed, and got a "You're welcome" as a response. They're not all monkeys.

Jane Boulton

---

## **Parking** - 22/11/01

The problem with parking is the same all over the country in towns with narrow roads and dwellings designed for an earlier era. The basic mistake of local authorities is never to recognise this and allow every possible area of land, Which may have been suitable for parking) to be used for infilling - making property developers rich. Had the VWH Distric Council had the foresight not to allow planning permission for every scrap of land around our old roads to be lucratively developed as housing, we might have had space for our cars.

People park on pavements not to cause inconvenience but because they have to put their vehicles somewhere when they return from work in the evenings, and they don't want their wing mirrors knocked off by passing cars who dont have enough room to squeeze through a double row of legally parked cars. It's understandable, but very annoying for those like me who live on such a road and often find cars parked on the pavement so close to my front door (once, I measured the distance, just eighteen inches away) as to make it difficult to get out comfortably with a shopping bag on my own, let alone with a pushchair or children, and it is, as you say, maddeningly inconsiderate.

It's too late now for the centre of Faringdon, so let's blame the motorists, fine them for trying to please everyone - it will work and they'll park in the road. Above all don't look any further to fundamental, shortsighted planning blunders, or expect your council to try and work out a solution.

name supplied

---

## **Parking on pavements.** - 22/01/11

It has taken me some time to establish who is responsible for enforcing parking regulations on the streets of Faringdon. It is the Police.

Why, because the VOWHDC do not subscribe to DPE.

What is DPE?

Operating DPE means that the council in question is responsible for enforcing the On Street Parking in that area.(And raking in the fines to reduce our taxes) If the council does not operate Decriminalised Parking Enforcement then it is the responsibility of the local police force to enforce On Street Parking in that area. Faringdon has a new Sargent, his name is Chris Ball, read what he is going to do about illegal parking in Faringdon on Page 3 of the January edition of The Faringdon Folly.

the Consultant

---

## **Parking on pavements** - 21/01/11

Please Please could drivers not park on pavements Please Please consider Prams, Partially Blind, those in wheelchairs. Parking on pavements outside folks home for long period of times so inconsiderate

Name Supplied

---

## **Mystery of the Missing Wheelie Bin** - 21/01/11

Following the re-cycling collection on Tuesday,our re-cycling wheelie disappeared.I rang the Vale of White Horse District Council who referred me to their contractors Verdant.(This is another point.The BBC for whom I work,would not be able to refer complaints to programme contractors.)Lady at Verdant said:"Oh yes,it does happen"! How can you lose a huge wheelie bin? They say it may take 10 working days to replace it

Bill Rennells

---

## **a big thank you...** - 20/01/11

to the very honest person who handed my partner's wallet in at budgens. Its nice to see that there are still honest people about.thanks again

deborah piercy

---

## **Calendars** - 10/01/11

If you still haven't got a calendar we have some real bargains in the TIC. Due to a printers error we have calendars with upside pictures and they are onsale for 50p! I'm sure Lord Berners would approve of this amusing error! It's not too late to make a date!

Sally Thurston

---

## **Spelling!** - 19/01/11

If you have ever herd a rumour being squashed then you need too get yourself down the library and cheque out the big dictionary book they have their. You will find the definition off loads off words in nit. Quash = an orangey and refreshing drink Squash = a game with a bouncy ball plaid by poor spellers

name supplied

---

## **Faringdon Library and Waitrose** - 18/01/11

. Now there's an idea, VOWHDC/ODC/Whoever sell the library to Waitrose for a wacking great fee (reinvested in Faringdon a condition)to make access to the new Waitrose store possible, then VOWHDC insist on a massive section 106 agreement to provide a new all singing and dancing library and meeting rooms etc(soundproofed for gigs), which could be an extra story on the Waitrose store, or a basement block under it, if a site becomes an issue, so parking, shoping, library and meeting room, all in one stop with FREE parking. Where has all the lateral thinking gone with our local and VOWHDC councillors? Faringdon in the 20th century, I am afraid not yet!!!

The Consultant

---

## **Faringdon youth centre** - 18/01/11

Just wondering how the Faringdon youth centre is going? Also if it is thriving. bbc news just said that the

government youth expenditure is going to be halved, will this affect the youth centre?  
Many thanks

name supplied

---

### **Library** - 18/01/11

Thank goodness the Library is staying in Faringdon. Have had an e-mail from Councillor Heathcoat and she has squashed the closing down rumour.

Library User

---

### **Water supply** - 18/01/11

can anyone tell me what is happening with our water supply's? We received a letter 2 weeks ago telling us that we would have an interrupted water supply on 6th January, -fine. We then received another letter yesterday advising us that work would be taking place between 29th January and April. I did call to ask for more information, (we have 3 young children - interrupted water is never a good idea!), and I was informed that they would merely be taking samples. I have this afternoon had to leave my tap running for almost 10 minutes to rid the water of it's "milky" appearance. Not too big a deal admittedly, but would like to know if we are to have problems in the coming months!

name supplied

---

### **Ryder-Cheshire Volunteers in Oxfordshire** 18/01/11

Ryder-Cheshire Volunteers in Oxfordshire are looking for volunteers in the Faringdon area to pair up with a physically disabled adult to share a mutual interest. We ask them to spare an hour or so weekly/fortnightly to spend time with them usually in their home & this will make a real difference to their lives. Expenses paid. We are always looking for new volunteers

Carol Johnson  
contact: carol.johnson@rcv.org.uk

---

### **Library** - 17/01/11

I am very pleased to advise readers of Talking Points that Faringdon > Library is not on the list of Oxfordshire libraries that will have their > funding withdrawn. Final decisions regarding funding of libraries and many > other Council services will be taken during February so we must wait until > then for more information. If anyone would care to pop into the library we > would be pleased to expand on the Councils' current plans for the County > library service.  
Regards

David Turner Faringdon Library Manager

---

### **Poetry winner** - 17/01/11

I'm sorry but....

I have read and re-read Cleve's Poem (14/1/11) and have to admit I cannot understand it. That isn't meant as a criticism it's just a fact I have to live with. Can any poster (excluding shophound who has given me up as a lost cause) explain it.?

The following is my type of poetry.

What is poetry ? No one knows ?. It isn't easy. As this 'poem' shows.  
"Wet paint" "Keep off" "This means you " Now you've touched it You know it's true

Grass is green, sky is blue. No colour in a drop of dew.  
Three Hundred Spartans in a heap. Their reward ? Eternal sleep.  
Mountains high. Valleys low. Who decided it was so ?  
Icarus said that he could fly. His dad said sadly "I knew he'd die".  
Parrots whistle. Pigeons call. My goldfish makes no sound at all.  
You, my reader, have wasted time. By reading this quite pointless rhyme.  
Babies gurgle.. Lovers sigh. Is this poetry.?  
Can pigs fly ??

Phyllis Stein

---

### **Library** - 17/01/11

I think that Faringdon Library is safe at the moment. More details can be found at <http://www.oxfordtimes.co.uk/news/8761338>. Authors call for U turn over library closures/

Mugshots

---

### **Library** - 17/01/11

If they do close our Library, then my wife and I will no longer vote for this or any other Conservative administration. Which is saying something as life long Tories. Our children use the library almost every week. I do wonder what our expensive council tax is actually spent on.

Mark Lunnon

---

### **Library** - 17/01/11

Relax Jane.  
According to The Oxford Mail dated 27th November 2010 these are the 20 Oxfordshire libraries at risk.

Summertown, Headington, Littlemore, Old Marston, Blackbird Leys, Neithrop in Banbury, Adderbury, Bampton, Benson, Berinsfield, Botley, Charlbury, Chinnor, Deddington, Grove, Kennington, North Leigh, Sonning Common, Stonesfield, Woodcote .

There is no reason to believe that Waitrose are suggesting that Faringdon Library should be closed and the building knocked down in order to improve access to the car park.

name supplied

---

### **Possible Library Closure** - 16/01/11

Have I got this right, are they really thinking of shutting our library? We have precious little facilities in Faringdon as it is, and yet we have one of the highest council tax rates in the county!!!! I am outraged!!!!

Jane Smith

---

### **Cats.** -16/1/11

I totally concur with the 'cat' post earlier. Since our dog died, we have been inundated with craters full of stinking cat poo all along our flower borders. There are more than ten cats in our immediate vicinity, and we seem to be a target for their vile excremental activities. Cat poo is a menace to children, and gardeners.  
We don't want to have another dog, or a cat, but we do want to be able to enjoy our garden with the scent of flowers in the summer rather than the stench of cat poo. WHY should we have to spend money on expensive cat

deterrents, (and I agree nothing much seems to work), when the owners just get away scot free letting their animals roam all day and night to foul other people's gardens?

name supplied

---

### **Cats.** -16/1/11

I love cat's - don't have any, so I can see the problem from both sides !. Best thing is to get a cat or a dog.....that stops neighbouring cats visiting !!. If that's not practical you could try soaking tea bags in jeyes fluid.....then placing them just under the soil. Cats hate jeyes and the tea bags turn into compost.

Val Sansford

---

### **Supermarkets** - 15/1/11

I'd heard that Waitrose are in discussion with VWHDC- ie it's at the preplanning stage still, but there is some activity  
Name Supplied

---

### **Supermarkets** - 15/1/11

I believe the end game is that waitrose are holding off because its £££ to put in a planning app just to have to refused. Tesco have obviously put in for an appeal, and until that is decided (and looking at the ruling from last year, I don't see how they can make any changes enough to change planners minds) no one is doing anything.  
Name Supplied

---

### **Successful Circus** - 15/1/11

After the hugely successful, vibrant, debut of the circus in town, on friday 14th January it has been decided to continue with it on as monthly basis.  
This will be at the Crown Inn, Faringdon. second friday of the Month, from 8pm.  
Next one is on Friday 11th Feb. Time to catch up with the New Movement.  
Sam Prince

---

### **Cats.** -15/1/11

My garden has been ruined by other people's cats. I have tried everything, from electronic cat-zappers (useless) to laying in wait and yelling at them, (works only if you can catch them) to laying down wire netting over the freshly dug ground (not enough netting) Around my area we seem to be inundated with the little buggers. They may make sweet pets, - and many owners are out all day so why bother - but they are ruining my flowerbeds, and I have the gut wrenching job of clearing up the cat s\*\*\*, which frankly makes me retch every time.

Is it OK to sling the stuff back into the gardens of those who have these pesky animals? If you have a dog you have to clean up after it but cat owners just shrug their shoulders and say well, you just have to put up with it. Trouble is, it isnt them who have to put up with it, its me, and others who don't have cats.  
Short of shooting them, any ideas?  
signed Sick-of-cat-s\*\*\*.

---

### **Supermarkets** - 15/1/11

I don't really care which Supermarket we end up with, as long as its a decent size. If we can't get all of our weekly shop there, then we will continue to go to Wantage, Stratton or Swindon.  
Name Supplied

---

## Supermarkets - 14/1/11

Im a bit confused about all this - presumably Tesco will continue to appeal until they wear down the council's resources. That seems to be their usual course of action. Waitrose, apparently are not making an application unless Tesco's appeal fails. Surely if Waitrose puts in an application, and it is successful, Tesco will have no interest in appealing (at least for the time being), since Faringdon and environs will not at present support two supermarkets, so why does Waitrose have to delay the process. I know I'm naive, but what is the game here?

Shophound

---

## Poetry winner from Faringdon - 14/1/11

The CELJ award was presented in Los Angeles January 8th at the Modern Languages Association Convention

**St. George's Day** by Cleveland W. Gibson

A stirring feeling grips me, there is a quickening of pace, I look to the East, to the West to see the splendour, the face of Mankind in unity and hope we all must trust, all linked by will, as the faintest breeze retreats like a ghostly dust. St George's heart ever beats through the land loud and clear. Harken! Listen to the drum; it captures our hope, our deepest dread, and fear. Take heed, in God's splendour, that which never fails to cheer, a rousing shout, when all may quake, because to stand firm, love the free and all of England's dream, hand in hand we walk, my friend. Hoist up, up high that freedom flag, for the love of the red and white, it is a symbol of our hero's blood, spilt for us on a field, against the dragon beast, where the grass will no longer grow.

<http://greysparrowpress.net/SPRINGPoetryGibson.aspx>

Cleve Gibson

---

## Re 10/1 post - 14/1/11

I am not connected with any supermarket or planning body, just a local resident. Hence the 'name supplied', I am happy to defend my views in a discussion face to face but not to be taken out of context on this site.

I made several personal suggestions to Waitrose after their public consultation and await to see their application in the next week or so.

Whether the enormous challenges of the Gloucester Street site can be overcome remain to be seen. I know there are many who believe the site is not viable whatever Waitrose propose and others who are unwilling to engage in any debate because they love Tesco irrespective of their planning proposal.

I don't know what will happen or whether Waitrose application will be a comprehensive effort or a cursory insult to our town.

What I do know is that whatever is decided this year will change Faringdon for the future.

An important local issue that will impact all of us in some way, discussed openly(ish) on faringdon.org

Cheers Talking Points,  
Yours pragmatically,  
Name supplied

---

## Name supplied - post of 10/1 - 13/1/11

You sound as if you might be a planner/developer/working for a supermarket- or in the know somehow??

How do you suggest the increased traffic along Gravel Walk, Gloucester St and possibly Marlborough St is resolved?

Do you consider the access( currently to the Gloucester St car park) wide enough for 2 way traffic and lorries, if not - what do you suggest?

I've yet to hear any real solutions to what I believe to be ( if common sense prevails) a show stopper re access  
Name Supplied

---

### Supermarket location - 11/1/11

I cannot speak from a knowledgeable point of view, as some others have, but Faringdon is 'an historic market town' and, from my point of view, if the site / traffic / parking issues could be resolved, a small-ish 'edge-of-centre' Waitrose would brighten and liven up the centre of Faringdon and be good for the town's image. From a shopper's point of view, why not have a Tesco's and a Waitrose - both. I'm sure there would be more than enough customers for each to make a profit because people in Faringdon and the surrounding villages would no longer feel the need to travel to Wantage / Witney / Swindon to shop. But I accept that we might not want all the extra traffic in the town.

I don't want to be critical but I think there is a problem with Budgens. Apologies to its staff, but the small Budgens in Bampton is better than the larger one in Faringdon. The freezers and fridges in Faringdon Budgens always appear to be in dire need of defrosting and seeing wet kitchen roll at the foot of the units, in order to mop up dripping water, is not reassuring. The cardboard packets of fish in the freezer are sometimes sopping wet. Is the food even safe to eat? The shop appears to need more investment. This may already have been said but it is a shame that the Budgens site cannot be taken over by a different supermarket.

Name Supplied

---

### New garden fence- 11/1/11

Des Higgs Builders is good, reliable and reasonably priced. Call on 01793 784143.  
Comes highly recommended in Faringdon, and my hubby so I should know!!  
Chris Higgs

---

### Re Supermarket location - 10/1/11

As a follow on to the last post, folk might find it useful to go to <http://www.gloucesterstreet.org/> for some more background.

Name Supplied

---

### New garden fence needed - 10/1/11

Please can someone recommend a reliable and reasonably cheap person to put up a garden fence?  
Thank you  
Name Supplied

---

### Supermarket location - 10/1/11

Park Road site and Gloucester Street site are not equally situated compared to the town centre. As such, they cannot be compared like with like.

The Vale commissioned independent surveyors J&K to consider the Tesco application with consideration of Gloucester Street site. Paragraphs 4.9 and 4.10 on Page 14 discuss some of this tedium and state: "This defines the Park Street site as out of centre"

<http://idocs.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/WAM/doc/Report-315755.pdf?extension=.pdf&id=315755&appid=1001&location=Volume2&contentType=text/html&pageCount=1>

The distinction between 'edge of centre' and 'out of centre' may appear to be jargon but it goes to the heart of

whether the proposed site will benefit or harm Faringdon in the long term.

Although this wordiness is based on unresolved arguments over the precise location and definition of the centre, it is clear that Park Road site is further away from and has poorer links than the Gloucester Street site to our town centre. In practical terms this means that linked visits will be lower from the Park Road and Faringdon will not get the potential benefits of supermarket investment, only the downsides.

Clothes and shoe shops may be a nice to have in Faringdon but past experience shows us that they have not fared well. This is not to say that the right offering, at the right price with friendly customer service couldn't work, but history (much like the topics on talking points) has a tendency to repeat itself.

There is a very important anecdote raised in comparison to Wantage: for years the Vale refused permission to build an out of centre supermarket for exactly these sequential rules of proximity to the town centre and encouraging linked visits. Finally the supermarkets came up with a genuine edge of centre proposal with free parking allowing linked visits to the town centre, this seems to be working well with new shops and businesses investing and only a few shops closing during the recession. However, lets be clear, the Sainsbury's offering in Wantage is a genuine edge of centre site with a pleasant, traffic free, shop lined route linking the free parking to Wantage market place. Is the Park Road site really linked in this way? No.

The Park Road site is too far for shoppers to consider leaving their cars and walk down an unattractive footpath to the town centre. It is poorly situated to link to the town and will not benefit the vibrancy or vitality of our town centre.

The topography, visibility, environmental impact etc of the Gloucester Street site will clearly be expensive for any supermarket to overcome and I hope Waitrose do offer a comprehensive proposal recognising these challenges. All supermarkets have very deep pockets and interested individuals, as well as Faringdon Town Council should be working with them to ensure they recognise and spend money to overcome these great challenges. It will be interesting to read the FTC public response to the Vale when they have considered Waitrose application, I hope the link will be shared on this site.

I hope FTC consider the planning merits of the Gloucester Street site, ie the proximity to the town centre and potential for linked visits while challenging Waitrose to dig deep and spend money on overcoming the site's challenges to benefit Faringdon for the long term.

Name Supplied

---

## Re Royal Mail Problems - 8/1/11

I too have had a very patchy service this week. I suspect that they are undermanned and so "fail" deliveries as its cheaper than paying overtime.

Public suffer, management gain

Ex postie

---

## Supermarket location - 8/1/11

There have been two very well thought through postings that deserve to be considered by everybody.

The first was a statement that a supermarket on Park Road would be a disaster for Faringdon. I fully understand the reasoning behind this, but it is not born out by facts. The research (mostly in Yorkshire) shows that an "edge of Town" supermarket can have a bad affect on a Town, but the opposite can result if the Town centre has a comprehensive non-food offer. Faringdon has an excellent offer with about 90 destination shops that should be able to respond positively to a supermarket in Park Road. There are obvious gaps in the offer - clothes and shoes are the first that come to mind. But it is entirely possible that retailers will look at the plans by Tesco and think "if they can make profit there - so can we". We could see an explosion of retailing in the Town centre.

Anecdotally this is born out by the experiance of Highworth, Wantage, Lydney and even Witney. Far more important to the location of the food offer is the quality and variety of the non-food offer in the Town centre.

The problems with the Waitrose location go beyond those concerning access and egress, they include the designation of the site within a conservation area and the topography of the site. We don't yet know what Waitrose

are going to suggest in order to overcome these problems, but it will have to be comprehensive.

The points made about the planning process are correct. The decision by the inspector will be entirely on planning grounds - mostly PPS4. However there is no reason why a petition should not be started. Remember, planning inspectors are humans and can be influenced.

Alan Hickmore

(As usual these are my views and do not necessarily reflect those of FTC)

---

## Royal Mail Problems - 8/1/11

i have had same problem but i do know a postie and have been informed that due to illnesses and a shortage of staff many of the posties are doing three or more rounds trying to get our mail out to us .so please do bare with them ,they are trying there hardest.hopfully it will sort its self out soon and be back to normal.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE.

Sandra

---

## Supermarket traffic - 8/1/11

If the access issues relating to the proposed development in the land adjacent to the Gloucester Stree car park could be adequately resolved, the location would be ideal; as it stands the the impact of the proposed supermarket in terms of an increase in traffic, would undoubtedly destroy the very heart of the town - increased footfall into the town v increased traffic - in my experience, a recipe for disaster!!

Name Supplied

---

## Royal Mail Problems - 7/1/11

Anyone else had problems with their post delivery this week ?

We had no delivery on Wednesday or Thursday then a huge delivery today, delivered mid afternoon.

Several of the letters had been posted well before Christmas by first class post.

What's going on ? The snow and Christmas delays are long gone.

Name Supplied

---

## Revisiting the impact of large foodstores on Market Towns and District Centres - 7/1/11

New high-quality, up-to-date research on the impacts of supermarket development on UK market towns and district centres has been long overdue.

### Executive Summary

This rigorously designed and executed University of Southampton 'before/after' study conducted in eight centres 2007-09 provides the missing research needed to move forward highly polarised debates on the nature of those impacts

- . Evidence from over 8000 consumers and 1000 traders surveyed finds that:
- . Supermarkets built on the edge of town centres encourage significantly fewer local residents to leave those towns for their main food shopping.
- . The new supermarkets are not just being used for 'one-stop' shopping. Via the mechanism of linked trips the existing town centres experience increased footfall and urban 'buzz', helping to maintain and enhance their vitality and viability.
- . The new supermarkets encourage a significant decrease in car usage and increase in walking on main food shopping trips amongst local residents.
- . A year after the opening of the new supermarkets two-thirds of consumers believed the new stores were beneficial to themselves, local residents and the town centre. Only 8% believed otherwise.
- . Feedback from traders was consistently positive about the new supermarkets' impact on local residents and the town centre. Contrary to popular opinion, traders also took a generally positive or neutral view on the impact on their own businesses

. Detailed study of changes in retail composition of the eight centres provides little support for widely held views linking supermarket development to the decimation of existing centres and their retail diversity.

[Read the full document](#)

I guess how much you believe it is whether you credit Southampton University with doing an objective job, or because the research was commissioned by Tesco it is biased.

Name Supplied

---

## **Faringdon is fabulous...** - 7/11/10

Thriving historic market town only 12 miles from Swindon? Beautiful historic buildings? Free parking at the town centre Waitrose? Two supermarkets within walking distance from each other? A small Costcutter out of the centre? Pay and display in the marketplace? Free 30 minute parking directly outside the shops? Fantastic cafés? Great restaurants and tea rooms? Destination shopping? Designer clothes? High street names? Independent boutiques? Gifts? Music? Pubs? And a friendly population of 8,000? Must be Marlborough...

Name Supplied

---

## **Supermarket on Park Road - dreadful location** - 7/1/11

The reasons why Park Road is a dreadful location for a supermarket are not my opinions. They are a description in layman's terms of the reasons given by the Vale planning officer for refusal of Tesco's application. Just as Gene asked for.

It is not a vote or a popularity contest, it is a planning application.

I can understand your concerns regarding proximity and links to the centre verses increased traffic but these are not equally valid planning arguments. Poor links to the town centre trumps modest traffic increase.

I do hope that more people come to shop in Faringdon and link trips between any supermarket and the town centre. However, no one will leave a boot full of defrosting food and walk from Park Road just to buy a joint of meat. And no one would leave the free Tesco car park to drive into town to pay their 50p in Gloucester street car park to go and buy a bunch of flowers.

However, if Gloucester Street car park was free (paid for by a supermarket) then both of these things may happen. You suggest that people only shop in the centre because it is there, it may surprise you to know that many people choose to shop in our town as it has some excellent shops selling a range of goods that cannot be bought elsewhere by knowledgeable shopkeepers with excellent service.

Cars are a fact of the time we live in, that there is traffic in a town centre should come as no surprise. If you want more people to come to the town centre then you should expect more traffic along with this. Just be thankful that the A420 is an excellent bypass for through traffic, compare that to the A417 bypass for Wantage. Think of the potential for Faringdon as a thriving market town if people could drive into the heart and park for free.

Name Supplied

---

## **Supermarkets** - 7/1/11

Hoorah! for common sense, it's seldom seen these days. There is only one place for a Supermarket and that is as stated Park Road. This town is changing and our town centre is not a shopping area. Little parking, congested Market area buses that can't get round without causing problems,(whose idea was that?) a slip road for deliveries and buses,which no one observes. Not really built for the modern shopper. So come on Faringdon ,time to move into the 21st century.

Sam Prince

---

## **Supermarkets** - 7/1/11

Let's face it, the proposed supermarkets are only going to be marginally bigger than the current Budgens. Whatever we get will be a reflection of what the big companies think we are worth. If we get a small tucked away low stocked store, then that is how we will be perceived by others and that will be our expected aspirations.

If we pushed for the biggest and most noticeable option available, we could be seen as a progressive town.

I vote we push for a store which has the potential for expansion in the future. Better still would be a proper size supermarket on the land for sale by the roundabout.

Name Supplied

---

## **This is a Community Message from Thames Valley Police.** - 7/1/11

### BURGLARY – FARINGDON

Between 0700 hours on Sunday 26th December and 0330 hours on Friday 7th January a property in Highworth Road, Faringdon was subject to a burglary. Offender or offenders unknown have gained entry and carried out a tidy search. Games consoles, DVD player, projector and TV's stolen. Please be extra vigilant and report any suspicious looking people or vehicles in the area or have any information relating to this message, please call the Police on 08458 505 505 and quote URN 102 of the 7th January.

Message ends.

---

## **Supermarket on Park Road - the best place** - 7/1/11

1 Park road is easy access to the A420- the route that most shoppers would take. The pedestrian access to the town centre could be improved - it could never be ideal I agree ( unless there's some demolition of houses), but it could be better than it is now

2 Other than Gloucester Street what other possible sites are there? The [VWHDC shopping in Faringdon leaflet](#) only mentions Park Road, Gloucester Street and Budgens

Gloucester street maybe closer to the town shops, but the additional traffic through the town and the impact on parking would be horrendous.

Just think about 2000 extra car journeys a day along Gravel walk, Gloucester Street and maybe Marlborough St.

Any site that is not on the A420 side of Faringdon would have the same problems- but I can't see where they could be

3 Employment land is important to Faringdon - but Park Road is no longer the best ( or the only) place. Before the bypass was built the industrial estate was tucked away along a no through road. Now it is the main route into Faringdon and destined to be surrounded by housing.. There are other places that could become employment land( VWHDC willing!!)

It is said that some 70/80% of people get their main food shopping outside Faringdon or on the internet. People from the villages currently drive elsewhere. Just maybe some of these people will shop at a new Faringdon supermarket (irrespective of the location) and use the time ( and money) saved to shop in Faringdon for other things. That will depend how good the shops are. We know the good ones - Pat Thomas the butcher is one - it's unlikely his loyal customers will be tempted by supermarket meat.

It seems to me that a supermarket on Gloucester Street will be even more of a threat to Budgens- those who walk into the town to shop, will easily walk to a Gloucester Street supermarket.

Let's face it- there is no ideal place near the existing shops ( as far as I can see). Our narrow roads and the necessary on street parking are not suitable for even more traffic.

I vote for Park Road

Name Supplied

---

## **Unclaimed lottery ticket** - 7/1/11

Ticket Bought. 18 Dec 2010

Lotto Jackpot of £956 813

IN Vale of White Horse, Oxfordshire. 9,21,35,38,46,49 Bonus Ball 40 ....  
Hunt them tickets out !!! IT COULD BE YOU !  
Name Supplied

---

## **Annual Town Meeting - Faringdon Town Council** - 6/1/11

Town Meeting to present the Council budget for 2011/12 to the residents.  
This will be on Monday 24th January at 7.30 in the Old Town Hall.  
Agenda will be available nearer the time  
June Rennie  
Town Clerk

---

## **This is a Community Message from Thames Valley Police** - 6/1/11

### **TWO BURGLARIES IN MARCHAM AND FIVE OTHERS ACROSS THE FARINGDON AREA**

On Wednesday 5th January 2011 there were two burglaries in Marcham.  
Between the hours of 06:30 and 18:00 an offender or offenders gained entry to a property in Kings Avenue, Marcham by smashing the glass in the rear door. A messy search of the whole house was carried out and jewellery has been stolen. URN 965 of 5th January 2011 refers.

Between the hours of 07:30 and 17:05 a property in Chancel Way, Marcham was subjected to a burglary. The offender or offenders have gained entry by forcing the kitchen window. Again a search of the property has taken place, and jewellery stolen. URN 896 of 5th January 2011 refers.  
Sometime during the late afternoon/early evening of Thursday 30th December 2010 five further burglaries occurred which the Police feel may possibly be linked across the Faringdon Sector. Each time the offender or offenders have gained entry at the rear of the property and electrical items and jewellery have been stolen. These further burglaries occurred in Blandy Avenue and Norwood Avenue in Southmoor, in Ferndale Street, Faringdon, High Street in Stanford in the Vale, and Farnham Road, Shellingford.

If you have any information relating to any of the above, or have seen any suspicious people or vehicles in the area, please contact the Police on 08458 505 505 and quote the appropriate URN number. If you have seen a light coloured Vauxhall Astra or Vauxhall Mervia acting suspiciously in these areas, please contact the Police. Thank you.

---

## **Why a supermarket on Park Road would be dreadful for Faringdon's future** - 6/1/11

The jargon explained...

1 Park Road site is well outside the town centre and very badly linked to Faringdon so will not encourage shoppers to visit both the supermarket and the centre. This will take trade away from Faringdon and kill the shops, life and vibrancy of the marketplace.

2 There are possible sites closer to the town centre that Tesco have failed to consider. One of these sites is off Gloucester Street car park but there are other sites that have been discarded as they may be more expensive for a Supermarket to consider.

3 The Park Road site has employed local people over the last few decades and will in the future. If you hadn't noticed, there is a recession on; just because units are currently empty does not mean their potential for future skilled employment should be scrapped

A few people seem confused about where the town centre is, the town centre is in the marketplace, it has been for about 800 years. Geographically our houses are not spread equally around this point due to the steep hill to the North of the town but this does not change the fact that the marketplace always has been and continues to be the centre of town.

Almost everyone who does a weekly supermarket shop will drive to wherever a supermarket is, therefore there is

no planning recommendation to position it in the geographical centre. The planning arguments above are all about supporting the existing centre and encouraging vibrancy of Faringdon Town for the future.

No supermarket is bidding for investment in Faringdon because they like the town or want to do something out of the goodness of their hearts for the people, they are bidding because there are profits to be made. This could be excellent as Faringdon may have improved roads, parking, footpaths and other investment as a result and lead to more people coming to our town to shop. But beware; any supermarket will invest the lowest amount of money they can, to get the permission needed to build their store.

As residents we should be concerned about what any supermarket in the wrong place means for our town's future and not just the next 12 months. Any change of this magnitude is irreversible and needs to be considered in more detail than just which brand you personally like buying at the moment.

Name Supplied

---

### Tesco application - 6/1/11

I think we knew those reasons already, but why didn't Waitrose put in there application. As usual were kept in the dark. Theres no point even wondering when our councillors dont communicate with us.

Theres one thing puzzles me about the budget info. (before) I dont understand why the waste estimate is mentioned. Is it that the council didnt allow anything for the waste to be collected from flats or assisted collections and you think they should have, or is it that the tender from the waste company didnt include it and it was deliberately left out, , or do you think waste shouldnt be collected from flats or people who need assistance?

Sorry I just dont get the [point, except that it's a mistake.

Name Supplied

---

### Why the Vale turned down Tesco.....perhaps? - 6/1/11

I have just read this story on the Oxford Times website

[http://www.oxfordtimes.co.uk/news/8767956.Council\\_car\\_parks\\_making\\_huge\\_losses/](http://www.oxfordtimes.co.uk/news/8767956.Council_car_parks_making_huge_losses/)

"TAXPAYERS are having to bail out loss-making council car parks because shoppers are using free supermarket car parks, critics say. "

So the Vale of White Horse would lose money if people were able to park for free in the proposed Tesco's.

They have a vested interest in keeping a supermarket with free parking out of Faringdon.

Katrina Campbell

---

### Tesco- reasons for refusal - 5/1/11

I thought it might be worth spreading the word about the reasons Tesco were refused - all a bit planning policy/jargon - but maybe someone would enlighten us?

perhaps our District Councillor who is on VWHDC planning committee?

I've heard of the Local Development framework and the Core Strategy- but I thought the latter had been suspended as the coalition government wants local people to be involved more. Surely this doesn't mean that all such applications will be put on hold until it's been finalised?

The decision [document](#) gives the reasons for refusing planning permission as:

*1 Out of centre location, poorly related to the town centre in terms of distance and the low quality of the pedestrian routes. Divert trade from the town centre, adverse impact on vitality and viability of the town centre. Contrary to policy S1 of the adopted local plan and policy EE16 of PPS4*

*2 Applicant has failed to properly undertake a sequential assessment of alternative sites in or on the edge of Faringdon town centre or investigate the use of more flexible retailing formats as required by policy EE15 of PPS4. All potential sites will be assessed as part of the Councils emerging core strategy and as such this application is thought to be premature in the context of the local development framework context*

*3 Development forms part of an established strategic industrial general industrial site which is protected from development which would lead to loss of existing business land and premises by policy F10 of the adopted local*

*plan. Development involves change of use of the application site to a retail use and therefore contrary to policy E10 and policy ECH2.1(h) of PPS4*

The committee document ( dated 28/10 - also on the above link gives more information)  
Gene Webb

---

### **VWHDC Budget** - 5/1/11

I'd like to have seen something about saving costs of office accommodation. David Buckle(Cheif Exec) has been heard to say that when all the staff reductions are done at both VWHDC and South Oxford Council, there will be about 450 in total and that each building is big enough to accommodate 450 staff).  
Ok this sort of saving cannot be made 'at a stroke' but I couldn't see it planned for the future.  
I understand too that it has been suggested that the councils merge totally, but elected members voted NOT to do this.

If you look at the document called [Growth bids](#) (page 2) you'll see that the waste contract is costing £280k pa more than predicted- most of this is for assisted collections and collection from flats.

Gene Webb

---

### **VWHDC Budget** - 5/1/11

I also have had a look at the spreadsheets on the council's website. However there are no explanations or further details on the items being cut or on the ones which were considered for cutting but which are being kept. How does the council seriously expect the public to make useful comments based on incomplete information?  
Like Patrick I also wondered why the strategic director post is being kept, while the council feels (for example) it can get rid of the IT security post. In an age of increasing cybercrime, I'd like to see the details of why they feel they can safely lose this post.  
Katrina Campbell

---

### **MacMillan Support (Faringdon and District Group)** - 5/1/11

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

To the people of Faringdon and the surrounding area for all your support in 2010.

We sent £14,000 to Macmillan in Oxfordshire during the year. This was a fantastic achievement entirely due to your amazing generosity. If anyone would like to verify this amount please do not hesitate to call Macmillan Oxfordshire on 01869-322279.

Thanks once again, Chris Moorhouse (Chairman)

---

### **Theatre revival- Jan 2009** - 5/1/11

While clearing out a few things after the Festive season I came across an interesting feature."Community theatre revival suggested" in short it states that the theatre has been mothballed for several years and is being looked at again as a possible solution towards the town's perennial venues problem. David Price, chairman of the council's Venues Committee, is leading the initiative to look at ways of reviving the building. Anyone wanting to get involved in the new development should contact the Town Council on 01367 240281.

This was on the front page of the FARINGDON FOLLY january 2009.

Sam Prince

---

### **VWHDC Budget consultation** - 4/1/11

Thanks to Alan Hickmore for his comments on these proposals. I agree that they are well worth a look.

I have some initial observations:

1) Employer Pensions cost rate at 14.5% is understandable but there seems to be no attempt bring this into line

with rates in the private sector (5 to 8 per cent in my experience). 2010/11 budget is £835,000. Surely the VOWH CC should be trying to change this over the next few years?  
Added to the above total is a further £600,000 "liability for deficit etc". Not sure what the "etc" is? More worryingly, I cannot see this contingency being removed in later years. How big a deficit has been accumulated and how long will it take to clear?

2) Why has the reduction of one Strategic Director been rejected? Possible savings £82,000pa.  
These are two items that I picked out on a first read through; there may well be worthwhile savings and genuine increases in costs.  
However, at this point, my general impression is that the VOWHDC needs to look more closely at the cost of running the council itself.  
Patrick Sharkey

---

## Congratulations - 4/1/11

Congratulations to "ORION" Faringdon based band for being finalists at the battle of the bands, (Clash of the Cotswolds) on Sunday 2nd January. great start to the New Year.  
They are appearing on Friday 14th January as part of the Circus, @ the Crown, Faringdon, from 9pm.  
A chance to catch up with the new movement.  
Sam Prince

---

## **\*\*NEW\*\* Ante Natal Class in Faringdon**

**Faringdon Family Centre, Sat 22nd January, 10.00-12.00**  
For both parents whose baby due in the next 4-8 weeks  
Free, donations to cover refreshments are welcome  
Run by an experienced midwife who can offer advice and answer your questions  
Please call Margaret Broadberry on 01367 242661 to register your interest  
Organised and sponsored by Faringdon Area Project Health Group

---

## Race to Infinity/BT.- 2/1/11

Congratulations go to Blewbury for being one of the chosen exchanges to get the upgrade.  
Colin

---

## Here we go again!. - 2/1/11

Looks like someone else has moved into the area of Canada Lane estate who thinks it's ok to let their dog poo and not bag and bin it.  
These people by their refusal to pick it up give respectable dog owners a bad name.  
Do us all a favour PICK IT UP AND BIN IT.  
Name Supplied

---

## Race to Infinity - the winners - 2/1/11

Congratulations!  
The following exchanges have won The Race to Infinity and will be next to get BT Infinity, the superfast broadband from BT.

- Baschurch, Shropshire
- Blewbury, Oxfordshire
- Caxton, Cambridgeshire
- Innerleithen, Scottish Borders
- Madingley, Cambridgeshire
- Whitchurch, Hampshire

The Consultant

---

## VWHDC Budget consultation - 1/1/11

I have just finished reading these documents (well worth a look) and am interested that under the section marked "growth bids" there is a bid for £20,000 for a retail consultant to help the Vale contest any appeal from Tesco in the event of their planning application being refused.

What is really interesting is that this bid was made before the application came before the development control committee at the Vale. So much for the democratic process!!

(As usual these are my views and not those of FTC).

Alan Hickmore

---

## Thanks from Boogie Me- 1/1/2011

Boogie Me would like thank the residents, friends and family in Faringdon who supported us at our New Year's Hootennanny last night at the Old Crown Coaching Inn.

The band had an amazing gig, the floor was packed, young and old and we were reminded once again how fabulous it is to play such an occasion in an wonderful venue, pay tribute to our musical heroes and spend time doing what we love best with our nearest and dearest.

Faringdon, thank you.

You made it for us this year. What a wonderful way to kick off 2011.

If anyone would like to be added to our mailing list to be advised of upcoming local gigs, please email us at [garthpool@btinternet.com](mailto:garthpool@btinternet.com)

We'll be back at the Crown on 29th April 2011 (Friday) for a Right Royal Boogie following the Royal Wedding. See you there...

Warmest regards for 2011 Boogie Me x

---

### **Distances to proposed Waitrose and Tesco's** - 28/2/11

Having looked at the scale photo someone provided a link to earlier on this board, it is true that Waitrose is about 1000 feet from the market square whereas as Tesco's would be about 2,000 feet. However as there are 5,280 in a mile it means that Tesco's would be less than half a mile from the square and even closer to the shops in Marlborough Street, so it is really out-of-town??????  
Name Supplied

---

### **Waitrose...again and again**- 27/2/11

The world has moved on I'm afraid - lorries have got bigger and traffic generally faster and there was a reason that the by pass was built me thinks - possibly to preserve the fabric of the town and ensure the safety of its inhabitants; I am all for harking back to the good old days but these certainly were not as far as Faringdon was concerned. Anyone reading the traffic survey will realise that there are to be a significant number of deliveries and indeed car journeys to and from the proposed site, and I am convinced that they have the potential to do a great deal of damage to the structure of buildings.  
No one is being ridiculous and suggesting that buildings will crumble but as it is the house that I live in on Gloucester Street has been subject to some earth movement in recent years and this is a situation which is unlikely to improve with the increase in traffic!!!

As for accidents in the past I can assure you there are far too many witnessed close shaves to be complacent - Elm side has recently suffered some damage, numerous cars have crashed exiting the top of car park entrance and as to the potential danger to life and limb, just ask one of the road crossing team!!!  
Name Supplied

---

### **Waitrose...again.**- 26/2/11

This panic over the road changes, I can remember when Bromsgrove was two-way, Gravel Walk was one-way etc. Before the bypass every lorry, bus and car came along Gloucester Street, through the traffic lights in the Market Square and up London Street. Gloucester Street houses didn't crumble then with all those lorries (and there were a lot) so I don't understand the problem now with the expected number of Waitrose ones. The infants school and the Elms school were in existence but many more big lorries and buses had to drive past them. Far more children walked to school and I'm glad to say I can remember no accidents.

Illegally park cars are the main danger in this town now causing pedestrians and drivers to manoeuvre around them - this includes outside all of the schools at dropping off and picking up time.

I'm sure it's quite possible for parents to ensure their children walk sensibly and safely to school, during which time I understand supermarket deliveries aren't expected.  
Name Supplied

---

### **Re Vandalism** - 25/2/11

Haha no Bystander I do not mean that but your comment did make me chuckle I am referring to the illicit drug use, before the finger is pointed at me please note I do not partake in this I just happen to monitor the goings on around faringdon  
technical advisor for the faringdon youth forum

---

### **re\_ Waitrose comments dated 20/02/11.**- 25/2/11

If a two-way system is to be reinstated on Gloucester street, does this not actually defeat the whole object of bringing

more trade to the pre-existing shops within the town centre?

PPS4 is in accordance with the old plans, whereas the new plans are yet to be ratified. If the old plans were to remain in place, no town centre would be permitted to grow, regardless of how much the town has grown. This would clearly be disastrous.

It is assumed that the plans for the proposed site are to only remove part of the footpath at the front of the library. When in fact, if you were to study the plans properly, is to remove the entire footpath along the side of the library when in fact this is the pick up point, it is absolutely apparent that the plans are misleading and need to be rectified.

Can I presume that you live further along Gloucester street, that the two-way street plans do not affect you directly? If I presume correctly, then I eagerly await your continued support for the proposed Waitrose site, when your house is either falling down or completely valueless.... And I hasten to add, I do not reside in Gloucester street, so absolutely am not speaking from a personal or biased opinion. My only argument is that the proposed site for Waitrose is that the entrance to this site is perilous and in my opinion, should not and can not be allowed to go ahead. Safety has not been considered enough. This site is not an appropriate site for a supermarket and therefor should not be used for this purpose. I am however a mum, who regularly uses this route to and from both schools, which does not seem to have been taken into account on this forum, only the juniors. So from a safety aspect, the plans are both ludicrous and absurd and it is to my belief, that as a member of the public, who attended the VWHDC (well published) meeting of 15/02/11, the proposed removal of the footpath/waiting area for parents/siblings be removed, and i feel the school governors have been misled into believing they will gain more footpath, when in actual fact, they stand to lose the entire thing. So the suggestion is parents wait at the front of the library.... if this is the case, how do the children get to this point safely, especially without the guidance from an appropriate adult to assist them.

If like me, had bothered to look at the notice board outside FTC offices or attended the meeting, you would also be aware of these facts.

I would also ask if you are the same person that posted other comments stating that it should not be about the brand above the door... If I presume correctly and you are the same person, I put it to you that you are indeed in favour of one of the brands, ie, Waitrose. This actually contradicts what you have said.

re- the comment, "so most if not all of those in attendance of the FTC meeting are wrong. Get a life, what planet are you on?" is petty and clearly aimed at a specific person.

I would therefor suggest, whatever your personal grievance, that you find an appropriate place to air them and not use this site or hide behind issues that clearly have no bearing on such matters and address them accordingly.

My final point is that the date for the VWHDC plannings and highways meeting was available for public viewing on the notice board outside the VWHDC offices in Gloucester street as well as Faringdon.org and the Faringdon town council website. As a mother who works full time, I myself find time to look at such issues and attend such meetings. I suggest you do the same instead of assuming and accusing in future.  
Karen Draper

---

## Re Vandalism - 24/2/11

"This spot is known by a few for the illegal goings on that happen up there. And these people aren't youths as they park up in there cars"

Great Scott!! surely you can't mean...dogging? (Those of a delicate disposition please DO NOT Google this term) Surely not. I know that the world is in turmoil - but that, and so close to the hub of our small metropolis. No wonder there's a photography competition planned. No ordinary town indeed.

Bystander

---

## Tesco route to town- 24/2/11

I'm sure the walk into Faringdon could be made much more pleasant by Tesco. I think FTC, when they agreed the Tesco application, asked that improvements would be made to the Hobble path (Park Road to Southampton St) No doubt this will be improved sometime anyway- once the owner of the adjacent industrial land applies for and has been given planning permission for housing.

It shouldn't be just about proximity, the full impact on the whole town should be considered  
Name Supplied

---

## Re Vandalism - 24/2/11

In response to the vandalism to the seating the positioning of the youth centre has nothing to do with this small spell of anti social behavior, i understand your talking about the bench near there which is already rotting away and bows every time i sit on it.

If you also didn't know that spot up there has been nick named the viewy, possibly as you can see the whole of faringdon, like folly view park will always be known as tuckers pond and cost cutters, the spar.

This spot is known by a few for the illegal goings on that happen up there. And these people aren't youths as they park up in there cars

When there is problem, don't jump straight to the youths first, find out the facts!  
Technical advisor of Faringdon Youth Centre forum

---

## Waitrose and Tesco- 24/2/11

The fact is that the Gloucester Street site (A) is significantly closer to the town centre (B), than the Park Road site (C). Note the scale in the bottom left. <http://i76.servimg.com/u/f76/16/16/49/11/superm10.jpg>  
Waitrose site is about half the distance of Tesco location to our town centre.  
Name Supplied

---

## Waitrose and Tesco- 24/2/11

The difference between an 'Edge of Centre' Waitrose and an 'Out of Centre' Tesco is vast in planning terms. The difference in location of the two sites is not 80meters; the town centre does not start at the fishing shop or Majo any more than it starts at dentist or the library.

The difference in links to the town centre may as well be a million miles, East of Park Road is a line of industrial units, a petrol station and a kebab van. The Park Road site is linked by a disused footpath covered in graffiti, dog mess and litter around the back of a warehouse, tennis courts and houses or by walking down the main road. While from the exit from Gloucester Street car park from the pedestrian link to Gloucester Street you can already see the Nut Tree, Corn Exchange, Opticians, Pubs etc etc

As has already been stated by almost every poster on this site; Gloucester Street is bustling with activity, a site for congregations at church, the library and the school both in the week and at weekend events. It sounds like the right place to build a free, town centre car park.  
Name Supplied

---

## Waitrose and Tesco- 24/2/11

I agree, to have Tesco's in Park Road and Waitrose where Budgens is would be great.  
My previous message about the walking route from Park Road to the centre, I was thinking of the awful path over the old railway lines that comes out in Southampton Street.  
This was mentioned as the route originally but it's so unsuitable.  
Name Supplied

---

## Two-Way Gloucester Street plan is not available.- 24/2/11

The plan on the first page of <http://www.gloucesterstreet.org/> is not available in the Vale online documents. There are admittedly dozens of very large documents so it is possible that I missed it. If anyone can post a link and page reference to a high res picture of the two-way Gloucester Street plan drawn by Glanville then this would be much appreciated. What evening is the council office open? Do they have this two-way Glanville plan diagram?

It is not correct to state there are no parking restrictions on Gloucester Street, there is a large yellow zig zag outside

the school which means no waiting at any time, even for dropping off children. You may have missed it as there are normally cars parked all over it.

It is also not normal to park on the pavement.

Name Supplied

---

### **Waitrose.**- 24/2/11

'all this to save an extra walking distance of 80m!!'.

Ahhh - but what a difference to walk the clean and pretty route from Waitrose and be right in the town centre, than along the grotty route provided from Park Road. I certainly wouldn't bother and will continue to shop out of town, which means I drive through the centre anyway !. I really can't imagine people from out of Faringdon will bother either as Tesco's site is basically an industrial area and appears so remote and has no obvious connection to the centre.

Name supplied

---

### **JDS to the Nut Tree**- 24/2/11

It took me 5.5 minutes to walk from the JDS doorway to the Nut Tree. Along Park Road, past Bromsgrove cottages, over Arthur's Hill and down Marlborough St

At a guessed speed of 2 miles (3.2km) to 2.5 miles(4 km) per hour that's 266 or 366 m. If you take the Fishing Tackle shop or Majo as the start of the shops it takes about 1.5 minutes less

Is that a long way from the Town Centre?

My ideal world is a big Tesco on Park Road, and a Waitrose ( and free parking) where Budgens is ( for they surely won't survive if Waitrose is in town).

Triple whammy

Gene Webb

---

### **FTC- no secrecy**- 24/2/11

I find it strange that somebody who does not put his name to a comment can then accuse FTC of being secretive. In fact the plans have been on display in the TIC since they were received and have been viewed by a large number of townspeople. Please stop this secrecy nonsense. There is no basis for it.

The reasons why the FTC planning & highways committee could not support this application are well founded.

The access road is 4.5m wide at one point. This is planned to accept in excess of 10,500 car movements a week and 16 delivery movements a day. When a delivery lorry leaves the site there will be severe congestion. Worse, this narrow road is crossed by about 250 children and their parents twice every weekday. The sight lines make this an extremely hazardous crossing given the amount of traffic planned.

Parking in Gloucester Street will have to be restricted to a far greater extent than shown in the application. The road is not wide enough to take the volume of heavy vehicles planned if the current parking continues - even if 6 spaces are provided in the car park. Who is to receive these 6 places?

The buildings in Gloucester Street were built in an era when the provision of foundations as we now know them were not used, it is a real danger to inflict heavy traffic on them.

The loss of part of the conservation area is significant. While I agree that this particular area is not attractive nor is it accessible to the public, the loss of it will drive a wedge into the conservation area policy that will be exploited by developers in Faringdon and as far afield as Wantage and Abingdon.

I would suggest that anybody considering this application actually walks the site access at the time when children are going to or coming from school. You might be as shocked as I was.

Faringdon needs a national supermarket desperately but this site is not the one - all this to save an extra walking distance of 80m!!

Alan Hickmore

(As usual these are my views and do not necessarily reflect those of FTC)

---

### **Re Traffic Facts- Waitrose- 17/2/11** - 24/2/11

Waitrose monitored the traffic flows in the town, and it is Waitrose that interpreted these figures for their planning documents.

Let's guess- would they have understated these or overstated them in order to get the application accepted?

I sincerely hope that VWHDC and Oxfordshire Highways think about this, and if at all in doubt ask for an independent analysis

Name Supplied

---

### **Re: Waitrose planning application.**- 24/2/11

The Waitrose plans are available for the public to view in the Community and Tourist Information Centre at the FTC Office. They have provided a table and chair and are happy for you to stay as long as you like during opening hours! They were extremely patient and helpful when I viewed them.

I'm not sure of the legalities of these matters but as the plans do not belong to FTC I wouldn't think they are allowed to post them on the internet. However, they are available on the district council site.

Personally I would love a Waitrose to pop into and, if we are to believe all we hear, push up house prices but I can see that this would be a horrible place to situate a supermarket both for people who live on Gloucester Street and for the families taking children to school.

Name Supplied

---

### **Re: Waitrose planning application.**- 23/2/11

The details are published on VWHDC Public Access planning portal on their website.

<http://idocs.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/WAM/showCaseFile.do?action=show&appName=planning&appNumber=11/00146/FUL>

Name Supplied

---

### **Yellow lines in Gloucester St**- 23/2/11

Just to clarify - there are now no single yellow lines or waiting restrictions other than the double yellows. The highway plans are now out of date - the loss of car parking spaces would be significant given the pressures on residential parking.

Furthermore the concern is for the articulated lorries who would access the site and indeed the construction and earth moving traffic - safe for pedestrians and the children, I don't think so!!!!

Name Supplied

---

### **re. 'Why have FTC not shared these plans online or posted on Talking Points'**.- 23/2/11

All the documents were available to view at the Council Offices from early Feb (as mentioned on Talking Points). Nothing secret about that !. I went along - plenty to see, all nice big maps. Far too many to post on here.....the VHWDC site has them also.

If it's the residents of Gloucester Street who are posting some of these comments then a quick walk to the Council Offices was all it needed.....as they are also in Gloucester Street !.

Not sure if they are still available to view but they were when I popped in on Saturday.

Name Supplied

---

### **Waitrose** - 23/2/11

The plan views of the proposed two-way section of Gloucester street and the layout of the Waitrose site entrance on [www.GloucesterStreet.org](http://www.GloucesterStreet.org) make interesting reading. It is a pity they are low res. Why have FTC not shared these plans online or posted on Talking Points as requested on 17/02/11? Are they trying to keep it secret?

The diagrams show the highways proposal is to keep parking on both sides of Gloucester street, to cut a parking bay

into the double width pavement outside the library and enforce the 'no waiting at any time' restriction outside the school. It looks like about 6 legal resident parking spaces will be lost but the current illegal parking on the yellow zigzags and on the pavement will also be affected.

The scheme seems to be designed so that traffic can leave the site and turn right, back out to Gravel Walk, and not increase traffic in the town centre. Apart from hopefully pedestrian traffic, through linked visits.

There is some pavement widening down the site access road, a new pedestrian crossing on the North pavement on Gloucester Street, fewer parked cars lining the streets and an enforced 'no waiting' zone outside the school. If anything, these plans go some way to improve safety for children outside the school and library.

I cannot see any evidence that some more traffic will damage the structure of buildings that have stood for 200 years. Or that the noise of traffic visiting the supermarket will be any greater at the weekend than existing traffic driving down Gloucester Street. If anything, the two way section will likely reduce average traffic speeds.

In this light the FTC objections seem confusing except for the suggestion of a link to Lechlade Road, A417.  
Name Supplied

---

## **Mayors Concert 2nd April - 23/2/11**

Not certain, but the January Town Mayors Ball tickets were available from the Community & Tourist Information Centre in the Corn Exchange. I'm sure they'll be able to help.  
Name Supplied

---

## **Facebook - what happened to the Tesco campaign? - 23/2/11**

A bit late now I guess ( deadline for comments today)  
Name Supplied

---

## **FTC Planning meeting minutes - 23/2/11**

Draft Minutes yet to be approved by Planning & Highways Committee at its next scheduled meeting due to take place on 8 March 2011:

[http://www.faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk/files/resourcesmodule/@random49088be871b63/1298369787\\_Mins\\_15\\_2\\_11.pdf](http://www.faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk/files/resourcesmodule/@random49088be871b63/1298369787_Mins_15_2_11.pdf)

28/11 Planning Applications were considered and decisions taken, as follows:

GFA/21479 Erection of a new retail store (Use Class A1), access/egress arrangements, customer car park, service yard, highway improvements, landscaping and other associated works and improvements. Land at Rear of Faringdon Junior School and adjoining Gloucester Street Car Park, Gloucester Street, Faringdon

For: Waitrose Ltd & the Trustees of the Faringdon House Estate

At this stage of the meeting, those members of the public who wished to comment on this application were invited to speak. They raised their concerns with the access proposed to and from the site bearing in mind the closeness of the school, the width of the road, the problems that would arise with car parking, the volume of traffic that would occur and the disruption to the traffic flow in the town centre. There was also concern regarding the damage that could occur to the structure of houses due to the increased traffic. Although there was no objection to a supermarket coming to Faringdon, the general feeling was that this was not the right location due to the above concerns. It was NOTED from the plans that some of the land in Town Park would be used for widening of the pavement. As this land was licenced to the Town Council from OCC it was AGREED that it should be clarified as to who was the consenting authority.

Subsequent to further discussion, a decision was made as follows:

OBJECT on the following basis:

(a) ACCESS/EGRESS

(i) The proposed access to and egress from the proposed site is dangerous for use by traffic; Waitrose should be asked to look again at this and to reconsider access/egress to/from Lechlade Road through the grounds of Faringdon House;

(ii) Due to the volume of traffic which would be created, the current access/egress is dangerous for school children/parents/carers attending both schools in the area and for people visiting the library;

- (b) The volume of traffic created would cause disruption to the town centre;
- (c) The site is in a conservation area;
- (d) Making Gloucester Street two-way and sufficiently wide for PSVs/HGVs to pass would require all parking along this portion of Gloucester Street to be banned. This would cause considerable inconvenience for the residents of Gloucester Street;
- (e) The volume of traffic created will cause damage to the structure of the houses;
- (f) There will be noise disruption to Gloucester Street residents at weekends.

It was AGREED that authority be delegated to the Chairman to speak on behalf of the Town Council at the meeting of the VWHDC Development and Control Committee when the Waitrose application would be considered. If he was unavailable on the date, Cllr Dr Wise was delegated authority to take his place  
[www.GloucesterStreet.org](http://www.GloucesterStreet.org)

---

### **Waitrose - Lechlade road entrance** - 23/2/11

I too cannot understand why the entrance to the Waitrose site could not be in the Lechlade Road. (but then I've no knowledge of the finer points of road planning) It does seem a sensible option and a junction there with a small roundabout would present far less disruption and inconvenience than the presently proposed entrance in Gloucester Street.

Does anyone know why this could not be an possibility?

Shophound

---

### **Archery** - 22/1/11

<http://www.clubbz.com/club/4476/nr-faringdon/buscot-park-archers-faringdon-oxfordshire>

Name Supplied

---

### **Mayors Concert 2nd April** - 23/2/11

Where can one get tickets for this event?

Name Supplied

---

### **New Faringdon map** - 23/2/11

A new Faringdon street map, including the new housing estates, is available FREE from Faringdon Community and Tourist Information Centre  
Sally Thurston

---

### **Local steward for traffic engineering matters** - 23/2/11

The Town Council's Planning & Highways Committee was pleased to welcome Laura Hutchins, Oxfordshire County Council Highways Area Steward to its meeting held on 15 February 2011. Laura outlined details of the OCC Area Stewards scheme. In brief, the Area Stewards will manage an integrated team including customer facing staff and operational teams for their area. The areas are based on District Council boundaries. The Area Steward's team also has the support of technical staff and a dedicated design team.

The OCC traffic team work in parallel with the Area Steward's team on all traffic engineering matters such as signs and lines and requests for traffic calming. For further information on the Area Stewards scheme, please contact Oxfordshire County Council at 01865 815700.

Laura advised that Highways and Transport will be involved in various maintenance activities throughout the Vale of the White Horse. These works include:

Cutting grips to allow water to flow from the highway; gritting the roads and clearing snow as required; repairing potholes and other safety defects; patching areas of particular damage; preparing identified roads for resurfacing.

For any queries regarding all highways works, including potholes, flooding, dropped kerbs, vegetation and damaged or missing road signs, please contact:

Highways Enquiries on 0845 3101111

Email: [highwayenquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:highwayenquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

If you would like to discuss non-urgent requests for improving your area, please ask for the Local Highways

Representative named below:

Keith Key, Faringdon Area

---

### **Milk Thieves** - 23/2/11

Who are they??????????????

How many others have had there milk stolen?

Name Supplied

---

### **Field for archery** - 22/1/11

Does anyone have a field in or around Faringdon that they wouldn't mind me using to practice archery in? Since moving up to the area from Devon my other half and I have been unable to practice.

Thankyou to anyone who can help.

Sam

---

### **Gloucester Street is not suitable for lorries.** - 22/2/11.

Lorries delivering thousands of tonnes of construction materials, access for earth moving equipment and egress for removing significant waste during construction at the site will disrupt, endanger and damage Gloucester Street. This construction traffic will put those using the local facilities at risk as well as restricting access to the existing Gloucester Street car park. It would be far safer, more sensible and better controlled if this traffic could access from the Lechlade Road, A417. There is an existing track that runs from the corner of the development site to well within the 30mph limit, opposite the allotment entrance. A junction here would have good visibility in both directions and not pass close to any housing.

<http://i76.servimg.com/u/i76/16/16/49/11/faring10.jpg>

This Lechlade road link could then be used as an alternative exit for shoppers not wishing to drive through the town centre. At the very least it should be used for lorry deliveries of stock, access for the local home delivery vans and removal of recycling. This would eliminate the most dangerous, heavy traffic from Gloucester Street and from passing the school, vets, library, houses etc to maintain our safe local road.

Local car traffic is all part of living in a thriving town centre but to route lorries down a narrow road against the bus route, recycling trucks and farm traffic is a poor plan which could simply be eliminated by moving the problem to where it doesn't affect other residents.

Andrew Robertson

---

### **Skatepark in Folly Park** - 22/11/10

I completely agree that the proposed location of the skatepark is crazy. A great deal of investment is going into the cricket pavilion currently under construction. Without any supervision, it will be a matter of weeks before this facility is vandalised by the bored youth of Faringdon. So another facility will be ruined.

It would be much better to keep the two facilities apart and put the new skatepark in a more accessible location or at the Youth Centre. Why have two important youth facilities at opposite ends of the town.

If funds are available for the skatepark, make sure it is built in the best location, and this is not where it is proposed.

Name Supplied

---

### **Vandalism** - 22/1/11

The kids in the Youth Club are those who are NOT bored.OK - vandalism is bad and stupid - but so is handing out blame without knowing the facts.

Name Supplied

---

## Focus to buy Youth building?- 21/2/11

Could it be explained how Focus on Faringdon can consider purchasing the Youth Centre building when they are having difficulty repaying a £1,500 loan from Faringdon Chamber of Commerce?

Name Supplied

---

## Waitrose in Gloucester St- 20/2/11

www.GloucesterStreet.org has hosted the diagrams of both the access to the Gloucester Street supermarket site as well as the 2-way proposal by the Highways Contractors. If you wish to take a closer look at the Waitrose proposals, so that you can build constructive comments based on facts, then please visit our site. If you would like a clearer pdf of the two plans, let us know via the contact form and we will email a copy to you.

Contact details for the Vale councilors, VWHDC planning officer and our MP are also listed, we encourage you to put your comments to them directly.

Many Thanks,  
[www.GloucesterStreet.org](http://www.GloucesterStreet.org)

---

## Vandalism - 20/1/11

The cause is those darned monkeys that congregate in the town square and budgens car park. They communicate by sounds such as 'uh' and 'eh'. They talk like a short hand text message. T's become d's etc. Words and sentences are shortened as to preserve oxygen. They wear caps and hoodies as sunlight is harmful.

Please approach these with caution.

Name Supplied

---

## Wrecked seating - 20/1/11

Thanks to the morons who have wrecked the seat at the viewing area on the Highworth road. Why do these cretins do it?. Boredom I suppose. I dont suppose the close proximity to the yoof club has anything to do with it. Whatever GROW UP and let us tax payers enjoy the facilities provided for us in our beautiful countryside.

Name Supplied

---

## Waitrose- 20/2/11

What is the Chamber of Commerce's view about Waitrose?

Name Supplied

---

## Skatepark in Folly Park - 20/2/11

I had no idea the skatepark was being sited by the new cricket club.

It's rather close to the busy A420, but away from most residents, apart from Nursery View I guess. Surely it will need supervising (can't guarantee the PCSO's will be available all the time) and as a dog walker I'm pretty certain I'm not going to be able to deter anti-social behaviour from a group of youths as Trudy suggested !. I'm less likely to even head in that direction !.

What do the cricket club think ?. Will it disrupt quiet sunny afternoon matches ?.

Will the skateboarders have their own facilities ?. If not - where are the nearest loos ?.

Is there no way the Youth Centre area can be used ?.

Name Supplied

---

## Bored with Supermarkets. - 20/2/11

First, supermarkets did exist in the 60s and 70s and in Faringdon there was Carters. Then people had to shop every day and women didnt go out to work. Most people are at work every day now so they have to take their car when they do a large weekly shop, it isnt that they are lazy.

Second, The traffic problems associated with the Waitrose application have been exaggerated. There is no point going on about it if you have to be ignorant. The whole thing is getting boring.  
John

---

## **Thankyou** - 20/2/11

Many thanks to all those who have supported, taken part in and worked for the success of the Mayor's Charities. So far £4,330 has been raised for Faringdon 1st Responders and Macmillan Nurses.

There will also be a concert on 2 April by The Cotswold Voices and soloists in All Saints Church. Meanwhile the Charity Dinner on Thursday 17 March is in aid of the Faringdon Youth Centre. The guest speaker is Rory Bremner. Tickets are flying! - but if you can't come to the dinner please consider giving a donation - the young people need our help to retain the Centre. Cheques or cash welcome at 30, London Street and the Nut Tree - cheques payable to 'Mrs M.J. Barker. The Mayor's Charities'.  
Trusting to your generosity - thank you.  
Margaret Barker

---

## **Waitrose Application** - 20/2/11

Everyone is entitled to their opinion, but only those opinions with basis in planning guidelines are justification to oppose an application. For example, the price of goods in Waitrose is a fair opinion but it is not justifiable grounds for opposing Gloucester Street application.  
Name Supplied

---

## **Faringdon Folly - stewards for open days**- 20/2/11

The building work in the tower is complete and we're now getting the tower ready to open for the season. The first opening is Sunday 3rd April, then every first Sunday til October and Bank holidays. The precise dates are on [www.faringdonfolly.org.uk](http://www.faringdonfolly.org.uk)

If you're interested in spending a little time as a steward we would be very grateful - the more volunteers we have, the more times we can open

Opening times are 11.00-1700, and we split this into 3\*2 hour shifts. For each of these at least 1 person is needed upstairs and 1 downstairs.  
Even if you can only commit to help once, that would be good- though there is nothing stopping you doing more.

The inside of the tower looks super now, and because the roof doesn't leak it is much more comfortable. A significant number of people come to climb the tower from quite a distance away and it's quite good fun chatting to them. Please email [genewebb@rocketmail.com](mailto:genewebb@rocketmail.com) if you can help  
Thanks v much

---

## **Re: The skatepark in Folly Park** - 20/2/11

The proposed location is a terrible choice.  
The skatepark will be vandalised within weeks just like the one Stanford in the Vale, which inspite of Trudi's erroneous and ill researched statements, HAS NOT been looked after and is covered in graffiti.  
Name Supplied

---

## **Waitrose** - 20/2/11

"The provisions of PPS4 are not the only considerations in planning", however, they are very important and it remains a mystery why they were not applied when considering Park Road until the application went before VWHDC where it was unanimously thrown out.

Gloucester Street application meets PPS4 requirements but brings secondary concerns of access, resident parking and traffic. Like most people I would welcome hundreds of new visitors to our Town Centre if they linked their supermarket visits to our fantastic marketplace; shops, cafes, pubs, restaurants and events.

If this means increased traffic past my house then this is all part of living in a thriving town centre.  
Name Supplied

---

### **Waitrose location** - 20/2/11

So most if not all those people who attended the FTC meeting re Waitrose application are wrong.  
Get a life, what planet are you on? The suggested site is ridiculous, and so are their prices.  
Name Supplied

---

### **Waitrose Application** - 19/2/11

Whilst all of the 30 or so members of the public attending the FTC meeting are reported to have been against the Waitrose application, this does not reflect the views of the entire town population which FTC represents. Waitrose would be good for the town, not least of all by location close to other retail trades and as such would enhance the viability and appeal of the town centre. The suggestion that the whole townscape is vulnerable and that there would be a complete disruption of our road system might be considered spurious.  
Name Supplied

---

### **Faringdon & District Rotary Club supported the following during 2009/10** - 19/2/11

Helen House Hospice for children, Maggie's Cancer Care Centre Oxford, Sobel House Hospice, Rotary Youth Leadership Award (Outward Bound course for local youth encouraging personal development, Rotary Young Chef competition Faringdon district, 1st Faringdon Scout Group, Faringdon Christmas 'Lights-On', Pennyhooks Project for young people - Shrivenham, Root & Branch - Watchfield, St Faiths Shellingford, St Andrews Shrivenham, Salvation Army,	Clanfield Primary School, St Lawrence School Lechlade, Longcot School, Shrivenham School, Senior Citizens' Party - Faringdon & District, ShelterBoxes - Sumatra earthquake & Samoa tsunami, ShelterBoxes - Haiti, AquaBox Gold x 25 - Haiti, Keswick Flood Appeal, Sponsored Row for charity - Gavin Hopkins, Micro Credit - Malawi, PCC All Saints - Botswana, Water Aid (members' weekly collection), Voluntary Service Overseas – Bangladesh, Rotary 'Polio-Plus' - campaign to eradicate Polio world-wide,
--	--

Thank you to everyone who helped make this possible by supporting our various fund-raising events and our Christmas collection with Thomas the Tank Engine & Father Christmas.  
Mike Bell

---

### **Community Litter-Pick.** - 19/2/11

Come and help Faringdon Rotary with a community litter pick in Faringdon on Saturday 12 March. We will meet in Gloucester House Dental Practice private car park at 1.30pm. Instructions, kit & bags will be provided. Please register your interest with Peter Walker preferably by email [peterwalker7@btconnect.com](mailto:peterwalker7@btconnect.com) or tel: 01367 244616

---

### **FTC "Mystery"** - 19/2/11

There is no "mystery". All our meetings are held in public and publicly advertised. This particular meeting was also

posted on this site.

The provisions of PPS4 are not the only considerations in planning. The normal considerations of access and egress, disruption to the lives of neighbours, noise disruption, the maintenance of conservation areas etc. still apply.

My comments about the origins of the Waitrose application are my own. They are backed by fact and my own experience of the application.

FTC has never "promoted" the Tesco application. FTC "did not object" to the application and added 8 caveats to their submission. Advising people how to take part in a significant area of our democratic processes (the planning appeal system) is something of which I am proud, I am surprised that anybody would object to such activity.

(As usual these are my own views and do not necessarily reflect those of FTC).  
Alan Hickmore

---

### **Tesco Appeal - deadline 23/2/11 for comments** - 19/2/11

If you want to be part of the appeal process you need to make your comments before 23/2.  
email [teamp13@pins.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:teamp13@pins.gsi.gov.uk) Reference Number to be quoted in all correspondence:  
**APP/V3120/A/10/2143419/NWF** and the address: Tesco Stores Ltd., 19-25 Park Road, SN77BP Faringdon

DEADLINE FOR COMMENTS: 23 FEBRUARY 2011.

Guidance to taking part in planning appeals proceeding by public hearing can be found on the planning portal  
[http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/uploads/pins/taking-part\\_planning-hearing.pdf](http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/uploads/pins/taking-part_planning-hearing.pdf)

Ed(GW)

---

### **Deadline for Community grants** - 18/2/11

The Vale's area committees and Executive will be meeting on 6 April to determine community grant applications. Applications for these meetings must be submitted by 2 March. The awarding of grants is subject to the Council approving a budget for community grants for 2011/12 at its meeting on 23 February. Organisations interested in making an application should visit the council's website at: [http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/community\\_support\\_and\\_advice/Community\\_grants/default.asp](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/community_support_and_advice/Community_grants/default.asp) where further information and a link to an online application form are available. Alternatively telephone the grants team on 01491 823614.

Toby Warren Community Partnerships Manager  
Corporate Strategy South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils  
Tel: 01235 547695 (Vale) Tel: 01491 823316 (South)  
Text phone users add 18001 before you dial Mobile: 07717 779171  
Email: [toby.warren@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:toby.warren@southandvale.gov.uk)  
Visit us at [www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk)  
or [www.southoxon.gov.uk](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk)

---

### **Waitrose planning app** - 18/2/11

Alan, You wrote about the Gloucester Street supermarket application: "Unfortunately this project was devised by the district council planners so has a very good chance of being nodded through by the VWHDC. The date of the development control meeting at which this will be "considered" is not yet known."

Are you actually stating that you know the VWHDC have already made their minds up? And that they will go against the guidelines of Planning Policies and the arguments in public objection letters when coming to their decision?

This is quite a claim.  
Name Supplied

---

### **Re: The proposed skatepark in Folly Park** - 18/11/10

Thank you Trudy but I'm not convinced that this location has been fully researched.  
I understand that many locations have been tried and the committee is working very hard to see the project through but that is not a reason to locate it in an unsuitable, far from perfect and frankly, unsafe place.  
I am 100% behind a skate park and agree our youngsters need constructive things to do but the proposed location is very worrying in so many areas - mainly it is too isolated to be safe.  
I sincerely hope I'm proved wrong and it turns out to be a facility that can be enjoyed by all.  
Name Supplied

---

## **Funding for small volunteer led community groups who provide support and friendship to the elderly - 18/2/11**

Oxfordshire Community Foundation have asked if we could forward this email on to you:-  
"We are contacting you to see if you can help us to make grants to support the elderly from our Surviving Winter Fund. We are keen to ensure that everyone with a possible interest is aware that we are now making grants from the Fund.  
Some of you might have read recently about our Surviving Winter Appeal which is enabling individuals to donate their Winter Fuel Allowance for someone who might need it more.

Since 1995, the OCF has been a champion for local people, helping local people and we are delighted that our Surviving Winter Appeal has inspired, influenced and enabled so many people to think local and give local. Whilst the snow and freezing temperatures of the coldest December on record might now be a fading memory, many elderly people are still faced with the challenges of surviving winter which can leave them feeling isolated, vulnerable and lonely as they struggle to get out and about. The priority now is for OCF to distribute the appeal funds raised as a matter of urgency to small volunteer- led and community groups who provide support and friendship to the elderly, ensuring the money raised does make a difference.

If you are a group who would like to apply then we will be making available a number of small grants and further details will be available via our website [www.oxfordshire.org](http://www.oxfordshire.org) or by calling 01865 798666.  
We are keen to ensure all grants are awarded within the shortest possible timeframe and therefore, request that all applications are submitted by the 28th February.  
We look forward to hearing from you and about the great work that you are doing to support the elderly in Oxfordshire."

---

## **Re Council leader calls for reduction in number of councillors - 18/2/11**

Do turkeys really vote for Christmas sometimes - they just might if it's in 4 years time.  
Pity it can't be achieved sooner- so that fewer front line services are axed  
£260k over 5 years is significant, and I guess this doesn't include overhead cost of accommodation, staff time ++  
Name Supplied

---

## **Re: The proposed skatepark in Folly Park - 18/2/11**

A skatepark in Faringdon has been a long held aspiration in the town for many years.

We have outline planning permission for the skatepark in Folly Park and the volunteer SK8 committee are currently working very hard to make the project become a reality. SK8 are working with young people in Faringdon as well as the town PCSO who is fully supportive of the project and attends committee meetings.

Planning permission for a similar project next to the youth centre was sought some time ago, however it was rejected following concerns raised by local residents.

The location in Folly Park is perfect because it is some way from any houses in Faringdon and is adjacent to the A420 and easily accessible by foot from the top of Stanford Road.

As we are sure you will appreciate, studies have shown that areas such as skateparks provide young people with something constructive to do which can lead to a decrease in anti-social behaviour. Skateparks are typically open unsupervised areas that allow young people the freedom to practice their tricks and hang out with others who have a similar interest. In other skateparks in the Vale skaters have also been very respectful of the facility and its surroundings.

The Faringdon skatepark is set to be sited next to the relocated cricket club in an area used frequently by dog walkers and so should help further deter any potential anti-social behaviour issues. We also think the fact that the skatepark will be in an unlit field and will be very exposed to the elements will also help prevent any issues as it is unlikely to be used after dark.

The SK8 committee are working closely with the PCSO to minimise the likelihood of anti-social behaviour.

We would be very interested from any resident who would be willing to help with the project.  
Trudy Godfrey

---

## All Change at the Bell. - 18/2/11

From Monday 21st February the managers will be leaving. The good news is that the music continues. so Friday 25th Feb is blues @ The Bell. blues open mic sessions hosted by "Blind dog Blues".  
Come along join in or not. Glass of wine, Excellent pint of 6x in the club atmosphere of the restaurant. Free entry, open from 8pm.  
Perhaps the Jam Club Jazz sessions will return?  
Sam Prince

---

## Re: FTC Mystery.- 18/2/11

Jane, it's a mystery to work out quite what's going on with FTC as sometimes members use talking points to publicise topics in advance (such as whipping up excitement for Tesco support in advance of the Planning Inspectorate appeal, see post on 8/01/11 by Alan Hickmore) but then are deathly silent on others (such as advertising a public meeting in which you will discuss the formal position of the FTC in response to Waitrose' planning application)

It is confusing that FTC consider PPS4 for guidance but chose not to apply it in the case of the Park Road site. FTC publically supported Tesco's application and actively encouraged others to put forward their supporting comments. However, the Park Road site clearly did not meet the guidance of PPS4 as evidenced by unanimous rejection by the Vale for three strong Planning Policy reasons.

Now you say FTC have taken the view that they publically oppose Gloucester Street development even though this site overcomes all three reasons for rejection given to development on the Park Road site. It seems to me that you are arguing pro-Tesco and anti-Waitrose, whereas in fact the distinction should be made between the different locations proposed rather than the brand name above the door.

Perhaps you can now see why some things are mysterious to the layperson? Maybe at least, you will share a link to the minutes once they are published so that we can try to understand the reasoning behind the FTC position.

Name Supplied

ED(GW) See **Town Council Planning meeting 15th Feb, 7.15** - 11/2/11 and

[http://faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk/files/resourcesmodule/@random4d53d68cd6f78/1297340091\\_System\\_Dates\\_2010\\_2011.pdf](http://faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk/files/resourcesmodule/@random4d53d68cd6f78/1297340091_System_Dates_2010_2011.pdf) and

[http://faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk/files/resourcesmodule/@random49219233ea731/1297340848\\_ag\\_15\\_2\\_11.pdf](http://faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk/files/resourcesmodule/@random49219233ea731/1297340848_ag_15_2_11.pdf)

---

## Waitrose application- 18/2/11

I note that one of the bloggers has suggested that the FTC meeting to discuss this application was somehow held in secret. This is completely untrue. The meeting was advertised in its usual place on the council notice board and, I think, on this site.

About 30 members of the public attended and put their points of view for nearly an hour. They were all against the application.

The planning & highways committee object to the application on the grounds of:

poor and dangerous access and egress for the 10-12000 car movements per week and 16 daily lorry movements through a road only 4.5 m wide that is crossed by up to 200 children and their parents twice a day.  
the loss of a site within the conservation zone.

This could be the thin edge of a wedge that could see our whole townscape vulnerable. the complete disruption of our road system that will cause damage to the viability of the town centre. It is a great pity that this application has failed

to find a sensible solution to the problems it will cause. Faringdon needs a national chain supermarket - but this one should be a non-starter.

Unfortunately this project was devised by the district council planners so has a very good chance of being nodded through by the VWHDC. The date of the development control meeting at which this will be "considered" is not yet known.

Separately the Tesco appeal will be heard in June. The Jubilee room in the Pump Rooms has been booked for a week.

(As usual, these are my views and do not necessarily reflect those of FTC).

Alan Hickmore

---

## **Council leader calls for reduction in number of councillors** - 18/2/11

The Leader of Vale of White Horse District Council, Tony De Vere, is calling for a reduction in the number of councillors sitting on the council from the current 51 to around 34.

Cllr De Vere will make the proposal at the council meeting on the 23 February 2011. If agreed, the council will formally ask the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to undertake a review of its electoral arrangements.

Given the time involved in carrying out a review, it will not be possible to implement any changes until 2015.

[Full press release](#)

---

## **Re: FTC Mystery.**- 18/2/11

Why does the poster feel there is a mystery? Members of the public are welcome at all the Town Council meetings. The details are always posted on the Town Council notice board several days before the meeting. We only wish more people were interested enough in our town to attend and/or stand for council themselves.

In fact there were more members of the public than usual at that meeting and there was an interesting and lively discussion. The vote by the planning committee was a unanimous NO to Waitrose.

As the meeting was held on Tuesday evening it is unlikely that the Deputy Town Clerk who took the minutes, has had time to type them and post them yet.

Jane Boulton FTC

---

## **Walking to the shops**- 18/2/11

If people think it's a long way to walk from Park Road to the town centre then consider this. As a family, we lived in Westland Road during the 60s and 70s. My grandmother walked daily to the town centre with her shopping trolley to the shops, my mother walked to and from work, coming home for lunch each day and I and all my school mates walked to and from school.

That's a total of eight single journeys which would all be made by modern day people in cars! It shows how lazy we have all become, not to mention dependent on supermarket convenience.

Not a single ready meal was ever consumed as no supermarkets existed at that time.

Name Supplied

---

## **Tesco Public Enquiry**- 17/2/11

I learned at the Shaping Faringdon meeting this evening that it was hoped that the Enquiry would be early May. Due to the lack of availability of the appropriate lawyer it has been put back until June. It is intended that it will take place in Faringdon

Ed(GW)

---

## **Supermarkets**- 17/2/11

With a Tesco in Park Road I could imagine Budgens surviving selling good quality and local products, but with a Waitrose within walking distance I can only see Budgens turning into a pound shop and eventually being forced to close.

Charlie

---

## Re Traffic Assessment - Waitrose Planning Application- 17/2/11

It may, perhaps, be useful if the FTC host the contents of this Traffic Assessment CD in addition to their interpretation of it.

The assessor, Mike Wise, appears to be very interested in typos or errors in road naming but only offers us a single paragraph of interpretation stating that cars park on both sides of Gloucester Street.

As a Gloucester Street resident I am concerned about losing my parking space but I am not entirely convinced that this is a good justification for opposing a multi million pound development in Faringdon town centre. This smacks of NIMBYism and hardly makes for a balanced debate.

Perhaps we can consider all the facts before we jump to conclusion?

Name Supplied

---

## Traffic Assessment - Waitrose Planning Application- 17/2/11

Glanville Traffic Assessment CDs.

These CDs accompanied the Planning Application from Waitrose. Town Councillor Dr M Wise has drawn up a paper showing the breakdown of the data contained on these CDs and this paper can be accessed on the Town Council website

<http://www.faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk/index.php?action=view&id=434&module=resourcesmodule&src=%40random4d5d47b1c3088>

Faringdon Town Council

---

## Distance to walk to shops- 17/2/11

I find it odd that the planners consider the Park Road site which Tesco would like to use as far from the town centre. When I go shopping in Swindon town centre I usually have to walk a similar distance from their car parks to reach some of the shops.

OK the centre of Swindon is bigger but why is Faringdon's centre being set in stone like this? Just because that's how it was in past?

As for an increase of 50% in traffic using the town centre - it can barely cope with the traffic there is now so God help us if we get that much more.

Name Supplied

---

## Re Drugs in Faringdon. - 17/11/10

I find it ironic that someone with such a clear lack of education and a slender grasp on the english language should make a statement such as "If u taught ur children properly then there would'nt be any problems".....and in regards to your statement that there are no drugs in Faringdon; you are either very naive, or so high on drugs that it has effected your judgement

Name Supplied

---

## Siren goes off again on Park Road - 17/2/11

Last night at 7.00 pm the siren went off again. I live in Park Road near to the industrial Estate and at first thought that it was from Faringdon Engineering however last night I went out side my front door and it sounded as if it was coming from the Southern Electric Sub-station area or over by Old Sawmills Road way. I was going to go out and investigate more, however after sounding twice it stopped.

I also find this it extremely annoying as it is really loud for us as it is so near. If I find out who/ what the culprit is then I will post it on here straight away.

Name Supplied

---

## FTC mystery - 17/2/11

According to the FTC website there was a Faringdon Town Council planning meeting in the calendar for 15th February. No minutes have yet been published.

What was the FTC position regarding Waitrose?  
Was anyone from the public actually there or was it a secret handshake behind closed doors thing?  
I anticipate that as FTC supported the Tesco application with no objections (only caveats) the same is true of Waitrose?  
What are the caveats they are recommending?  
Name Supplied

---

### **Same traffic as for Budgens-** 17/2/11

Please do remember that the proposed new Waitrose and Tesco stores as well as the potential Budgens extension are all roughly the same size. Therefore the amount of traffic and delivery vehicles will be roughly the same for all these developments.

The only difference is the location. You can argue about minor details or look at the broader picture.

Location is key because PPS4 planning guidelines recommend new developments should be close to the existing town centre to bring benefits of linked trips. This obviously brings conflict with increased traffic to a town centre, a balance needs to be found.

Park Road site was unanimously rejected on the grounds that it is dreadfully positioned for linking to our town centre. Gloucester Street site passes this location criteria but brings with it potential problems with increased traffic. You need to weigh up whether extra vehicles on Gloucester Street causes a bigger problem than the potential benefits to the town through a new central development. Or whether the benefits outweigh the downsides.

The traffic on Gloucester Street is expected to be 25 - 50% increase if Waitrose is built, depending on the time and day. On all other streets the percentage increase will be significantly lower.

Name Supplied

---

### **Re: 5000 extra car journeys.-** 17/2/11

When did they put up the barriers to stop non-Faringdon residents from entering the town from the hinterland and even further afield. Much as I would love us to declare UDI, I don't think it's happened yet.

Name Supplied

---

### **Traffic Facts- Waitrose-** 17/2/11

Thought I'd try and find out what Waitrose really say about traffic in their application (all are cut and pasted from the planning documents):

10.64

*Peak Hour Arrivals Departures*

*Two-Way*

*Friday AM (08:00 to 09:00) 117*

*Friday PM (17:00 to 18:00) 254*

*Saturday (11:00 to 12:00) 293*

10.65 *It is therefore considered that the proposed Waitrose store will reduce the need for many of these food shopping trips to destinations outside of Faringdon and that the majority of the trips to the Proposed Development will come from within the town itself as well as surrounding villages.*

10.66 *The proposed trip distribution has been applied to the traffic model for the development:*

- *New: 15%;*
- *Transferred (redistributed), comprising: - Primary (single purpose): 40%;*
- *Non-Primary (multi purpose): 45%; (comprising Pass-by: 10%; and Diverted: 35%).*

10.67 *Based on the above, only 15% of the traffic generated will be new to the local road network while the remainder will transfer from existing routes to visit the Proposed Development.*

*It is therefore considered that this would be a minor adverse effect on the local road network.*

10.68 *The likely assignment of traffic has been assessed by establishing the population distribution of the surrounding villages to Faringdon within a two and four mile radius.*

On this basis, the following distribution assignment has been used:

- A417 Lechlade Road: 16%;
  - A4095 Church Street: 8%;
  - London Street: 13%;
  - A417 Park Road: 37%;
  - B4019 Coxwell Street: 26%.
- (Marlborough St not mentioned)

I think these figures are for a 2012 . They predict a 5% growth by 2017 (not clear if that includes the additional housing that is planned (500 houses??))

If you want to check this out look at the documents on

[http://planning.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/publicaccess/tdc/DcApplication/application\\_detailview.aspx?caseno=LFVQQBY0G300](http://planning.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/publicaccess/tdc/DcApplication/application_detailview.aspx?caseno=LFVQQBY0G300)

I guess the bottom line is if you believe Waitrose statements about:  
the 2-4 mile catchment  
15% of new journeys  
the number of service deliveries

Would they under or over estimate to get the application through?

Has anyone heard of a supermarket that gets smaller as time passes?  
ED(GW)

---

## 8 deliveries = 16 lorry/van movements - 17/2/11

Taken from Environmental Statement - Transport and Access

*10.73 Based on similar Waitrose stores elsewhere, the number of full size articulated lorries delivering to the store would average three each day, with perhaps two on Sundays. Deliveries would be spread throughout the day, with two likely to arrive before 09:00 hours.*

*In addition, there would be five deliveries made by vans and small rigid lorries that would increase the total number of deliveries a day to eight.*

*There would also be refuse collection lorries, estimated at two or three each week.*

As far as I can see these would be entering the delivery yard at the back of the store along the same route as customer cars.

This is what Waitrose have in the application. Anyone like to guess whether this is an under or an over estimate?

Name Supplied

---

## Traffic through Faringdon - 16/2/11

I can't see that a Waitrose near Gloucester Street car park would improve the amount of parking for those visiting the town centre, rather quite the opposite!

Let those who wish to do the weekly shopping park out of the way in a new car park up Park Road and leave spaces in the town centre for others.

I for one would find Waitrose too expensive for the weekly shop and would continue to make the journey out of town as many others probably would too. This obsession with Waitrose is obviously from those privileged enough to be able to afford their prices. As for saying that mothers with young children should learn more discipline and manners!

Name Supplied

---

## Once again the siren goes off on Park Road - 16/2/11

I am getting really tired of this.

So this time I went to the vale website and filled in a complaints form:

[http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/environmental\\_health/noise/detailpage4-652.asp](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/environmental_health/noise/detailpage4-652.asp)

Regards,

Willes Close Resident

---

## Drugs in Faringdon. - 16/11/10

I am a Sk8r and no there r no DRUGS in Faringdon. If u taught ur children properly then there would'nt be any problems.  
Just Say No  
Zammo

---

## Supermarket pros and cons- 15/2/11

Both supermarkets offer 'Value' and 'Finest' ranges, though the perception is that Tesco is cheap and Waitrose is expensive

Tesco Pro	Tesco Con	Waitrose Pro	Waitrose Con
Supermarket traffic does not have to drive through the town Walking shoppers will still use in town food and non food shops In walking distance of large residential areas No woodland destroyed Helps tidy up Park Road	Considered too far for shoppers to walk from Tesco in to town Increased traffic past houses on Park Road Uses some land designated for industrial employment	Slightly closer to existing town shops Possible increased custom for non food shops Waitrose perceived as more ethical than Tesco Doesn't use designated industrial employment land	5000 extra car journeys( over Fri/Sat) and 16 deliveries per day, plus refuse 2 or 3 times per week through the access road and the town Contention- children, cars, delivery vehicles using same narrow access road Walking shoppers may choose Waitrose food resulting in lost business for existing food stores Woodland destroyed Lost on street parking for Gloucester St residents

Comments on Tesco for the appeal by 23rd Feb email to [teamp13@pins.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:teamp13@pins.gsi.gov.uk) Reference Number to be quoted in all correspondence: **APP/V3120/A/10/2143419/NWF**

and the site address: Tesco Stores Ltd,19-25 Park Road, SN77BP Faringdon

and for Waitrose (11/00146/FUL) by 10th March

[http://planning.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/publicaccess/tdc/DcApplication/application\\_detailview.aspx?caseno=LFVVQBY0G300](http://planning.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/publicaccess/tdc/DcApplication/application_detailview.aspx?caseno=LFVVQBY0G300)

Name Supplied

---

## Skate Park - 16/2/11

I would like to appeal to the Skate Park committee to think very carefully before they continue with the plans to site the skate park in such an isolated place. I applaud anyone getting up and 'doing' something to provide facilities for their children. However,I think the Skate committee could be mostly made up of Mums with younger children. They need to understand that there are drugs in the town as well as increasing anti-social behaviour problem. Giving the 'minority' somewhere isolated and unsupervised to hang out is a big mistake. Please please please put the skate park where it can be supervised so the 'majority' can enjoy it. Youth Centre springs to mind - who are struggling for funds why not join forces and give our youth somewhere SAFE to go!!!

Name Supplied

---

## Deadline for comments - Waitrose application. 11/00146/FUL- 15/2/11

Deadline is 10th March 2011.

Decision is scheduled for 24th May

Form can be found on:

[http://planning.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/publicaccess/tdc/DcApplication/application\\_detailview.aspx?caseno=LFVVQBY0G300](http://planning.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/publicaccess/tdc/DcApplication/application_detailview.aspx?caseno=LFVVQBY0G300)

---

## Traffic through Faringdon - 15/2/11

I've lived here since the late 60s and I can't remember a single frontage on London Street (where I live) collapsing. The traffic was very heavy, and I do have photographs showing two large goods vehicles travelling in opposite directions jammed together in the narrow part of the street, but I hardly think that the volume of traffic which will use Gloucester Street should Waitrose come to town will approach that sort of congestion.

Although I have a certain amount of sympathy with those who fear for the safety of children leaving the junior school, having walked to the library at school closing time I must say there is a great deal of improvement possible there. Mothers with hefty pushchairs and dogs, children hogging the pavement with scooters, and walking and running several abreast with no thought for anyone but themselves are in abundant evidence.

I know that doesn't apply to all but a bit more awareness of other road/pavement users, discipline and good manners and a bit less sense of 'entitlement' rather than clamouring for everything to be arranged for their convenience, would actually keep the children safer.

As the previous poster says, Waitrose in Gloucester Street would be of far more benefit to the town in general than Tesco on Park Road.

Bystander

---

### **Faringdon Town centre is fantastic.** - 15/2/11

Good afternoon,

We have numerous groups arranging excellent, well attended, events in town; music, arts, drama, plays, festivals, crafts, markets, gigs, stalls etc. something for everyone. The people who put in their time and effort into this know that our fabulous town can have so much to offer. Surely an additional 140 free car park spaces on Gloucester Street would encourage visitors to our town for these events and more.

Ask yourselves, if you were visiting the Corn Exchange or the Junior school for an event, would you park on Gloucester Street or out of town on Park Road? If you travel to festive Faringdon or the fireworks where would you choose to park? What about if you're coming to eat in a restaurant and can't park in the marketplace? Parking has to be in the town centre for people to visit and spend money there.

More visitors will of course mean more traffic but those people who bought terraced houses fronting onto the streets in the town centre can hardly complain that sometimes it's noisy, busy or bustling or sometimes it's difficult to park outside their doors. They should have thought about that before they moved into the centre of our little town. As for children getting knocked down, lets hope that never happens but as has been pointed out, the only traffic in town is from actual visitors, residents, workers and shoppers. Everyone else uses the A420 by-pass. The 'horrendous jams' last all of 2 minutes when the 66 bus comes through providing a vital link to Oxford and Swindon, or maybe 3 minutes when our recycling is being collected.

Hardly a congested metropolis, merely something for parochial whiners to complain about.

Like most people in Faringdon, I think a town centre Waitrose with a fresh fish counter, decent fresh vegetables, ready meals, good service and high quality is just what this town needs. The partnership employment offers a career rather than a Saturday job and will bring more spending power into the centre. Waitrose shoppers will likely value the other things our fabulous town has to offer and come and explore.

There are about three people repeatedly posting that "There is only one place and that is Park Road" but apart from slightly increased traffic I can see no further argument. We live in the 21st century, cars were invented over a hundred years ago, it is hardly surprising that people wish to use them in this day and age.

If you support Park Road development then you clearly have never had an enjoyable time in our town centre. If you support any of the events happening in our town centre and wish to live in a busy little market town then you clearly need to support Waitrose on Gloucester Street.

J Hayden (Mrs)

---

### **Budgens** - 15/2/11

There's frequently quite a bit of criticism of Budgens supermarket on these pages. Yesterday I was surprised to see

meat displayed on the same refrigerator section as fresh vegetables.

Correct me if I'm wrong but surely the risk of contamination from this is against beloved HSE regulations?

Name Supplied

---

### **Traffic through Faringdon** - 15/2/11

With all this talk of the traffic in the town, how many newbies to Faringdon realise that the A420 used to run through the town. ([See photos of Bypass opening in '79](#)). The traffic was so heavy that house frontages collapsed from vibration down London Street. When new sewers were laid in '62 a bailey bridge was used to allow work to proceed underneath the traffic!

It was impossible to converse with anyone on the pavement because of the noise. Anti-bypass protesters used the argument that Faringdon would be 'bypassed forever' and that shops would be harmed by directing passing traffic away from the town. Does any of this sound familiar? Fancy doing the weekly shop dodging HGVs squeezing through Corn Market?

Name Supplied

---

### **Park Road- best place for a supermarket** - 15/2/11

I'm glad to see that the majority of comments concerning the proposed Waitrose supermarket on the Gloucester Green site point out the obvious issue of the congested access neighbouring the school. This is probably the most congested part of the town and the access is totally inadequate for HGV deliveries, not even to mention the road safety issues during school drop off and pick up times. Hopefully planners will see sense and not end up with the guilt of injury or death of a child. (An elderly relative of mine was killed by an HGV in this part of the town in the 70s.)

The obvious place for a supermarket is off Park Road where there are plenty of semi-derelict industrial units to be demolished to make way for much needed parking. This would tidy up a rather run down part of the town and cause no traffic problems at all. Why do we all have to wait so long for an adequate supermarket and have to make the weekly run to Wantage or Swindon to do the shopping?

Name Supplied

---

### **Shaping Faringdon open meeting** - 14/2/11

All residents of Faringdon and of the surrounding villages may like to attend the 'Shaping Faringdon' event on 17th February 6pm to 8pm in Sudbury House Hotel.

This is your chance to have a say on Faringdon's future. What should a successful market town look like?

What are the priorities for Faringdon over the next ten years and how do we achieve them?

RSVP to [Trudy.Godfrey@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:Trudy.Godfrey@southandvale.gov.uk)

---

### **Snow machine** - 14/2/11

Snow Machine is owned by the Faringdon Retail Group and I suggest you contact Denise Palmer at Presentation Gifts. Hope this helps

Jane Haynes

---

### **Tesco Appeal - deadline 23/2/11 for comments**- 14/2/11

Not sure who posted the item with the above heading, but I thought that on such an important issue an error should be reported and put right. Tescos have Appealed, but it is important to make it clear that they are not pursuing the matter via hearing but via a formal public inquiry which is scheduled to last an estimated 5 days. The rules and procedures are completely different from a hearing.

The inquiry will not be conducted in a manner which resembles a cosy chit chat but will be via barristers cross examining witnesses.

See [http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/uploads/pins/taking-part\\_planning-inquiry.pdf](http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/uploads/pins/taking-part_planning-inquiry.pdf)

The bit about making comments to the inspectorate by 23rd February is however correct. Hope this is helpful.  
Devil's Advocate

---

## Ridiculous Suggestions R Us ! - 14/2/11

Many years ago it was suggested that a cable car from the top of the Folly Tower to the Market Place would be a Tourist Attraction. Needless to say this ridiculous suggestion was assumed to be, and indeed was, a joke. Later a plan for the reorganisation of the Town Centre was produced. and initially this ridiculous plan was also assumed to be a joke. Unfortunately, it wasn't, hence the chaos we now have to endure. The latest ridiculous suggestion is to route traffic including HGVs down a very narrow road leading to what Budgens describe as the Gloucester Green Car Park, Twice a day for a large part of the year the narrow footpath adjoining this bottleneck is crowded with children, and mums (and a few dads) with prams. An accident waiting to happen ? Hopefully this ridiculous suggestion is also a joke but as such it is well past its sell by date. The obvious place for a much needed supermarket is Park Road... Seeeeeemple !  
Name Supplied

---

## Very Funny - 14/2/11

<http://shopatmustardseed.blogspot.com/>

---

## Snow machine - 13/2/11

I was wondering if anyone knew who owns the snow machine used every year at the Christmas Fair. We would dearly lovely to borrow/hire it for our daughter's birthday party as she loves playing underneath it every Christmas!

If anyone can point me in the right direction, I would really appreciate it.  
Please email me at [charley.hampshire@gmail.com](mailto:charley.hampshire@gmail.com)  
Kind thanks

---

## Forward Planning - 13/2/11

A railway terminal on the main line - near here - has already been suggested for the area, bring it on I say, but it wont happen in my lifetime I dont suppose. I heard that too many influential village dwellers didn't want the area opened up to the masses.

As for a conference centre next to the A420, this was applied for a year or two ago, by a well known local businessman but I dont know whether the outline planning application was passed or not  
Bystander

---

## Cricket ground - 13/2/11

Is it correct that the development of the new cricket ground has been delayed....again?  
I understand that the grand opening has been delayed.  
Does this story have any substance, if so can anyone shed any light on the subject?

Name Supplied

---

## Rail Terminal - 13/2/11

You may mock the idea of a rail terminal, but this was mentioned a couple of years ago. It was suggested to run a track adjacent to the a420, linking the local business's to oxford and swindon ie inport and export to and from the far east and asia. Now with the ressesion im not too sure how the idea has developed. And yes i also heard that the land behind the esso garage was to be suggested as a site for a conference centre? Watch this space, it may not happen but...  
Name Supplied

---

## Calling all Photographers

2011 is the tenth anniversary of the highly successful "fotoFARINGDON2000" millennium project and to

commemorate the event, there will be an open photographic competition and exhibition in November this year.

You don't need a special or expensive camera, just an eye for the unusual, special, and quirky things that characterise the theme of the exhibition - **Faringdon "No Ordinary Town"**

There will be prizes for the best adult and junior entries, and twelve photographs from the competition will be chosen for the Tourist Office calendar

There are no discrete categories. People, places, events, architecture and that unusual angle, are all welcome, and the only stipulation is that the subject must be within the parish boundaries of Great Faringdon, so please be aware, and save those special pictures!

Further details will be available later in the year.

fotoFARINGDON group

---

## Imaginative planning - 11/2/11

International Airport, Conference Venue a International Rail Terminal - now here's some imaginative planning! Shame our archaic planning system and those planners/council reps who know what's best for us, don't share your vision!!!  
Name Supplied

---

## Stray cat - 12/2/11

We live at the far top left corner of the Folly park view estate and have aquired a stray cat! Its a very fluffy, very friendly tortoise shell. Looks like it may have been missing a little while as slightly matted fur, but we think it must come from a loving family as very tolerant of young children and highly affectionate.

If this sounds like your pet, please email us at [emn2111@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:emn2111@yahoo.co.uk)

Emma Riddle

---

## Tesco Appeal - deadline 23/2/11 for comments- 12/2/11

If you want to be part of the appeal process you need to make your cpmments before 23/2.

email [teamp13@pins.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:teamp13@pins.gsi.gov.uk) Reference Number to be quoted in all correspondence:

**APP/V3120/A/10/2143419/NWF** and the address: Tesco Stores Ltd., 19-25 Park Road, SN77BP Faringdon

DEADLINE FOR COMMENTS: 23 FEBRUARY 2011.

Guidance to taking part in planning appeals proceeding by public hearing can be found on the planning portal [http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/uploads/pins/taking-part\\_planning-hearing.pdf](http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/uploads/pins/taking-part_planning-hearing.pdf)

*Extract from appeal guidance: What happens at the hearing?*

*Hearings are usually held in LPA offices, village halls or community centres and normally last about half a day.*

*Hearings are open to members of the public.*

*The Inspector will open the hearing by explaining what the appeal is about. He or she will then go through some routine points, including asking who wants to speak.*

*The Inspector will usually give a summary of the appellant's and the LPA's cases, and say which topics will be discussed at the hearing. The Inspector leads the discussion. Hearings give everyone concerned the chance to give their views. Although hearings are informal, they must be orderly so that everyone involved can have a fair hearing.*

*The appellant will usually give his or her views on a topic first, followed by the LPA, and then anyone else who wants to comment.*

*If you make comments, or have any questions, you must put them through the Inspector.*

*When everyone who wants to speak has done so, in most cases, the Inspector will suggest that the hearing is continued on the site of the proposed development. Most hearings end after any discussion at the appeal site.*

*After the hearing the Inspector writes the decision.*

---

## Supermarkets - 11/2/11 - 11/2/11

How about the supermarket is sited on the A420 behind the Esso petrol station.

I believe that site is being reserved for the International Airport - being next to sites reserved for the International

Conference Venue and the International Rail Terminal.  
Charlie

---

## **Town Council Planning meeting 15th Feb, 7.15** - 11/2/11

Some interesting plans for discussion:  
Waitrose development  
Skate Park  
Disabled lift at the Pump House  
Ed(GW)

---

## **Hens etc.** - 11/2/11

A sign of the times. Growing up in Lechlade Road we had Geese at the bottom of the garden. You think Cocks are noisy! Brusher Hunt next door had chickens and golden pheasants amongst others. I think Mr James had chickens too. Quite a few of the old terrace houses still had livestock and the owners worked the garden and an allotment to supplement low paid jobs happily taken as part of a quiet sustainable lifestyle.

Move forward 40 years and these houses are now relatively desirable residences for commuting folk and the old template of birds and beasts at the bottom of the garden really does not fit well. Nor does working for very little and supplementing life with further work on the land owned, borrowed or rented. Its simpler to claim the dole and demand Waitrose or Tesco turn up instead.

I offer no judgement. It is a fact of life that country ways have declined as have countrymen. One of the pleasures of living in a country town is, or was, the time served knowledge these people had but often you had to earn the right to benefit from it by yielding some slack to the way they live their lives. Are we any better off rushing about in ever decreasing circles looking busy? There is a balance to be struck and a cost to pay for convenience. You want a supermarket on the doorstep, then expect inconvenience.

I would prefer some chickens.  
Alan Hitchcock

---

## **Supermarkets** - 11/2/11

How about the supermarket is sited on the A420 behind the Esso petrol station.  
Name Supplied

---

## **Supermarkets** - 11/2/11

Can we persuade John Lewis to open a shop on the School instead. He has an awefully good chain of them elsewhere you know.  
Alan Hitchcock

---

## **Edge of town Coop at Lechlade** - 11/2/11

Clearly Councils have different policies about edge of town supermarkets.

Permission for a new Coop on the old petrol station site in Lechlade has been given  
([http://www.cotswold.gov.uk/nqcontent.cfm?a\\_id=2297&tt=cotswold&step=2&myID=10/01372/FUL&tab=docs](http://www.cotswold.gov.uk/nqcontent.cfm?a_id=2297&tt=cotswold&step=2&myID=10/01372/FUL&tab=docs))  
Ed(GW)

---

## **Supermarkets Ref: 10/2/11 posting** - 11/2/11

Supermarkets Ref: 10/2/11 posting.  
Don't be silly, Who ever would want to live in a house next to the A420 ?? .  
Name Supplied

---

## **To the tune of 'Sing a song of sixpence';** - 11/2/11

Write a post on Talking Points,  
A formulated lie,  
Twenty four fat cockerels,  
Cooked up in a Pye,

And when the post went public,  
The people were amused,  
Except the nurse whose daytime snooze,  
Was previously abused.

Faringdon Town Council,  
With inefficient wisdom,  
Supported Tesco 'gainst the Vale,  
Against the planning system.

Now noises made in Faringdon,  
By those on their soapbox,  
Just meaningless and posturing,  
By several strutting cocks.

Smidgeon the pigeon  
Deepest apologies to former resident poets of Faringdon House.

---

### **Cockerels** - 11/2/11

There have been cockrels in a garden very near to me for quite some time now. They have never bothered my family or my neighbours. I think I would much rather have them than the noise, pollution and vandalism of other towns. But hey thats just me! Jacqui

---

### **Supermarkets** - 10/2/11

Heres an idea, flawed I am afraid.  
Why not bulldoze the School, put up Waitrose and put the houses out by the A420.  
Wheres the problem in that.  
John Lewis

---

### **Waitrose, "Please join a committee"** - 10/2/11.

Don't we have enough of these ineffectual groups? They achieve nothing, just a focus on jaw ache - You have to get off Your backside and DO something.  
write a letter/email to the Department concerned, setting out your concerns in a clear and logical way.  
Contact Your MP or District Councilor and do likewise.  
You can get contacts from: <http://gloucesterstreet.org/>  
Who knows it might even inform you what the new yellow signs in Gloucester Street are about.  
Mike Perks

---

### **Waitrose- school entrance** - 10/2/11

To name supplied,  
Please join a committee to help with the planning of a new super market! At last someone with some common sense!  
Personally I walk my children to school, so a car park is not a problem for me, both schools also provide bike racks, so again a good idea but not important, but a sheltered waiting area where children can observe adults using face to face methods of communication is a brilliant idea!!  
Too many of them think texts, emails, skype etc are the only way to talk now!! What a brilliant idea to help keep the art of conversation alive!

I do think another entrance might be a good idea though. As this narrow road, which has a blind crossing from one

direction, is mainly used by PARENTS, (yes I have seen Dads there too), collecting from school, surely they may be in a good position to assess any problems.  
Chatter Box

---

### **Cockerels** - 10/2/11

Jacqui,  
Faringdon is a Town. Keeping cockerels in a residential area is anti-social and unacceptable. Funny how their coops are always at the end of their owners gardens, not underneath their bedroom windows.  
Living in the country??- How about if your neighbour got a pack of fox hounds and let them bark early in the morning, waking you up. Sure you wouldn't be impressed.  
Mark

---

### **Waitrose** - 10/2/11

About the suggestion that Waitrose might pay for a new entrance to the school for parents: that is not in the application so is not going to happen if they get planning permission.

Also people need to remember the school is not just used as a school so the problem is \*not\* restricted to school days. Like most schools, the Junior school gets revenue by renting out its buildings to other organizations, when they are not using them themselves.

For examples: the Baptist church meet there every Sunday, the amateur dramatics society use for their plays including the recent pantomime, and I am sure there are other users too.  
Name Supplied

---

### **Last word on the cockerels** - 10/2/11

Sorry - about all of it - the disturbed neighbours, the cockerel owners - and, particularly, the cockerels.  
Bill Rennells

---

### **Supermarket** - 10/2/11

Is the chance of a supermarket behind the junior school such a huge problem ?. People seem to think that shoppers will all be rushing there in cars between 8.30am-9.00am and between 3.00pm-3.30pm.  
Surely these two half hour slots aren't prime shopping times !.  
Add to that school holidays and weekends.....plenty of shopping opportunities.  
Name Supplied

---

### **Supermarket** - 10/2/11

Tesco in Abingdon sells Krispy Kreme doughnuts.  
Surely that's enough to warrant the necessary permission from the council? Or maybe they're not aware of it.  
Toby Lerone

---

### **Supermarket** - 9/2/11

Parents outside the school.  
What if Waitrose paid for an access gate at the rear of the school with free parking, bike racks and a shelter for gossiping mothers?  
Name Supplied

---

### **Cockerels** - 9/2/11

I think it's sad that with all the problems going on in the world, we are complaining about cockrels. That's what comes of living in the country don't you think?  
Jacqui

---

## **Supermarket** - 9/2/11

I was at the library today when the mothers/parents had just met their children from school. Quite a throng on Gloucester St by the library, where the pavement is wide, and another just as big outside the Town Park. Picture this with a stream of cars coming in and going out of the car park when(IF) Waitrose is there. Surely not a good idea?  
Name Supplied

---

## **Cockerels - no more** - 9/2/11

I feel I ought to let everyone know the conclusion of the cockerel discussion.

Having been unable to find homes, it was necessary to take the only other option available to us. They went down to Pat Thomas butchers and will be Sunday lunch for our family and friends.

It seems sad, but, I know that my cockerels had the best possible conditions during their lives. Better that they were with us, even though noisy for a short time than not with us at all.  
Name Supplied

---

## **Siren/Alarm** - 9/2/11

I see that other Faringdon resident's are now taking an interest in where this noise nuisance of the loud high pitch siren is coming from! hopefully people are reporting this to the the noise police of the vale council, and hopefully this will get sorted out before spring/ summer so we can all get a decent nights sleep.

you can report noise nusance to the vale of white horse council by phone 01925 520202 by filling in an online form: [http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/Environmental\\_health/Noise/DetailPage4-652.asp](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/Environmental_health/Noise/DetailPage4-652.asp)  
Name Supplied

---

## **Bus pass renewal** - 9/2/11

I've just been told by VWHDC that bus passes that expire in March 2011 will be renewed automatically  
Name Supplied

---

## **Siren/Alarm** - 9/2/11

Siren / Alarm is definately from the Park Road Industrial estate. It has been constantly annoying us for months. We can hear it nearly every night from Willes Close.  
Name Supplied

---

## **Dog Mess** - 9/2/11

I completely agree that the real answer is for all dog owners to be responsible for their dogs. Unfortunately there are a small minority that are not.

The environmental health officer I referred to advises that people do not approach somebody allowing their dog to foul, but let his department know the place and time and he will take action. As he rightly said, dogs are animals of habit and usually go for walks at the same time and on the same route so he can usually find them. The fine is a fixed penalty of £50 or up to £1,000 in court.

One small point. The dog walkers in the Berners Way end of Pitts Park are very good at picking up - they also pick up a large part of the human rubbish as well.

Apparently the VWHDC got rid of its dog wardens two years ago. They now use an outside contractor based in Birmingham who has 5 operatives covering Birmingham, Oxfordshire, Beds, etc. etc.  
Alan Hickmore

---

## **Supermarket** - 9/2/11

To even think of having any supermarket at the rear of Gloucester street is just plain madness.  
I wonder if our wonderful council members have ever been stuck behind the refuse collectors when they are in action in that street. It all beggars belief.  
Park road seems good to me. If not put it on the A420. I'm not bothered which supermarket comes to Faringdon but for Pete's sake get the location right.  
Name Supplied

---

## **Supermarket** - 9/2/11

In response to Sam's constructive conversation and informed debate regarding supermarket applications in town.  
In the style of the fantastic Dick Whittington c/o Faringdon Dramatic Society;  
"OOOH NOOOO, it isn't!"  
Sir Caustic

---

## **2 Supermarkets, better post office** - 9/2/11

All this talk about Supermarkets and Tesco and Waitrose. Why not both. And while we are at it, how about a decent Post Office. The old one wasn't perfect, but it was a damn site better than the present one which is very awkward to use if you have a pushchair.  
Tried navigating around the shop anyone?  
So, decent supermarkets, and a better Post Office please.  
Oh, and sort out the traffic problems as well.  
Aldiman

---

## **Waitrose planning application** - 7/2/11

Now can be looked at on paper (lots of it) in the Faringdon Council offices  
Ed(GW)

---

## **Whatson and Talking Health** - 8/2/11

Do you keep an eye on our Whatson [www.faringdon.org/nvwhatson.htm](http://www.faringdon.org/nvwhatson.htm)

More and more people let me know of events in and around the town. Others I get from the Yellow pages Whats On. At the moment there is lots of music, cycling, Valentines events, Nordic walking, Quizes.  
This is where you'll find details of meetings involved in town issues - eg Supermarket, housing development.

Keep an eye on [Talking Health pages](#) too. Hope fully they will help keep you aware of services available. Added recently: Information about cancer screening, and the number for a dementia helpline  
ED(GW)

---

## **Supermarkets** - 7/2/11

It seems that the conversation about supermarkets like so many other discussions end up by going round and round. There is only one place and that is PARK ROAD. Or no supermarket.  
Sam Prince

---

## **Priority systems** - 8/2/11

While it is true that the lack of visibility in the priority system near the market square does cause problems, there is also the problem of driver behaviour. On more occasions than I care to count, I have been in the priority system approaching the market square and the driver coming the other way (who could see my car) thinks "Ooh! I have priority! That means I can drive into the narrow bit too!". I have no idea where such drivers think I could go - maybe they expect me to vapourize my car? Given this stupidity, I can't see that it will work any better in the road past the library.

Also unless the layout of the road into the car park is altered there is already a need for cars to give way to each

other a bit so it will not just affect the times when lorries are involved, as it is difficult to turn into the exit road from the car park if a car is driving in.

Name Supplied

---

### Noisy Claxon - 8/2/11

That claxon/siren that has been mentioned recently on this site previously, went off repeatedly from 10pm till 10.30pm last night.

I live in Stanford Road and it did seem to be coming from Park Road industrial area. I will phone the noise police this morning and see what they say.

Mel Lane

---

### Dog Mess - 8/2/11

The trouble with dog mess is that in order to fine someone, you have to actually catch them in the act, and get their name and address before you can do anything. My guess is that most folks who allow their dog to do this make sure no-one is around to see them; they go out early in the morning or at other times when no-one is there.

If you live near a dog mess area, the only thing is to wait for them, take a photo, then you have the evidence.

I always clean up after my dog. I just wish there was something I could do about other people's pet cats who make pilgrimages to my garden for the same purpose. Perhaps I could take my dog round to theirs to have his daily dump

Dog Owner

---

### Report Dog Mess - 8/2/11

Alan, I am delighted that Verdant will clear up the mess but why should local tax payers pick up the tab for this. The solution is to train dog owners to clean up after their pets and if they dont, apply the appropriate fine.

So, a simple question - has anyone EVER been fined for allowing their dog to foul pavements or other public areas and, if not, what is the local dog warden (if that is the title) actually doing?

Steve Wright

---

### Cockerels - 8/2/11

Thanks for the sarcasm Mr Rennells.

Lets hope that if you have the misfortune to end up in the JR, its not my very tired wife trying to look after you.

Name Supplied

---

### Illegal Parking (including pavements)

So, "Faringdon has a new Sargent (sic), his name is Chris Ball, read what he is going to do about illegal parking in Faringdon on Page 3 of the January edition of The Faringdon Folly."

Does this include the decrepit van parked on double yellow lines for the last 3 weeks causing inconvenience to my elderly neighbour trying to turn into her drive and restricting drivers vision on a busy, dangerous junction?

Ditto to the chaotic situation in London Street and on Coxwell Road to name but two.

Do I have to call Chris Ball directly about each incident?

Who is kidding who when they talk about "action"?

Frustrated Observer

---

### Waitrose access - 7/2/11

It isnt really as bad as all that, surely? The Cornmarket/Marketplace fiasco is so because vehicles approaching from either end cannot see what is approaching from the other. Also, large vehicles such as buses and heavy vehicles use Cornmarket all the time. This would simply not be the case with the Waitrose access. As I understand it the proposed priority system would only really need to be used when goods vehicles are accessing the depot, not continuously - (unless of course a bus station is in the offing ha ha).

Since the road to the municipal car park is already two way and can easily be used by vehicles passing one another

why should this generate any more road rage than before?

A mountain out of a molehill.

name supplied

---

## **A Supermarket in Faringdon centre- reality check** - 7/2/11

There is no ideal location for a supermarket on the Radcot Road/Lechlade Road side of the town- any location that side of town involves unacceptable( I think) levels of traffic from A420 coming through the town. Even if Faringdon Estates sold access from either of these roads this would not solve the problem. For this new access to be any benefit ( for other than Gloucester St residents) there would need to be a link from the A420 as well- where would that go- from the Oxford side- through farmland?- to say nothing of the huge cost.

The right place for a supermarket is on the A420 side of town, so that significantly more traffic does NOT have to drive through the town. On this side of town it will be nearer residential areas anyway. OK so not so close to the existing shops as the Waitrose location, and non food businesses are concerned about lack of footfall. But what about existing food businesses - a supermarket that is close to the town centre will be very nearby competition for the butcher, baker cheese shop etc. People who walk into town to shop now will easily be able to choose Waitrose rather than the other food shops so town centre food shops are at risk whichever option gets permission. I still believe that if the non food shops are good enough, they will get business. Some people do non food shopping like a hobby or outing, they will drive and park to browse and buy in good shops. ( eg Burford, Cirencester) Free parking in the town centre would help this though.

The geography of the town means there is no ideal location that satisfies all the councils General criteria- unless we demolish some buildings. The only possibility to achieve a more central supermarket that does not increase in-town traffic significantly is to demolish houses behind Budgens- but even then traffic would need to get from Park Road, along Bromsgrove and(maybe) over the flyover. That wouldn't work either unless more properties further along Park Road were demolished and a link road built from there

So it's compromises all round.  
I vote for the Park Road location as the least detrimental to most people.  
Name Supplied

---

## **Priority System, the solution to the Waitrose traffic problem.** - 7/2/11

This has to be a joke, just imagine the car rage that will result, we will need full time Police in Faringdon (maybe a good idea) to control it, then there will be those who insist in parking on the pavement when the Waitrose car park is full.  
Come on Waitrose, get real.

You really need to buy another way in and make entry and exit one way.

How about a way in/out through the grounds of Faringdon House as they are the ones who will profit from the sale of this piece of land or is it a not in my backyard scenario?  
The Consultant

---

## **Cockerels at dawn** - 7/2/11

The lovely posting from the owner of the cockerels warmed my heart. But of course they should be for the pot. No room for old-fashioned ideas about living in country areas and expecting not to hear country sounds. And what about those owls we hear from the region of The Folly. Who do they belong to? Is it possible to eat owls? Ideas for recipes welcomed.  
And the rooks? Well we all know about rook pies.

Lets get rid of all these sounds that are not really urban. Faringdon is a town for heaven's sake.  
Bill Rennells

---

## Cockerels at dawn - 7/2/11

Thanks for the feedback about your cockerels, it is good that you let us know that you realise that the noise needs sorting urgently.

With my wife working shifts at the JR, being woken early or kept awake after a 13 hour night shift is not funny. As well as myself being awoken, our three year old stands at his bedroom window shouting cock a doodle do in reply which was funny at first but is now getting quite tiresome.

I do hope this matter is treated with extreme urgency, as we don't really want to again involve the council noise abatement officer( another saga)... I wouldn't dream of disturbing my neighbours. I wish others could be more considerate.

Name Supplied

---

## re the Waitrose planning permission request - 7/2/11

I can remember someone on this board saying to me "surely they will have thought of the access problem" when discussing the narrow point of the road past the library.

If the "solution" is a priority system, some needs their head examining - after all (sarcasm on) it is so successful on the approach to the market square isn't it

Katrina Campbell

---

## Cockerels at dawn - 5/2/11

Dear Residents of Coxwell road and surrounds.

The Cockerels are the result of a lovely experiment my family and I carried out last spring. We have had chickens for sometime and one of our hens became broody. We bought some eggs from a local free range egg producer and after 21 days of sitting, Betty hatched 5 fluffy yellow chicks. Unfortunately 3 of the 5 were cockerels. I am sure you will appreciate that with 3 children it has been difficult to have the discussions around the future of these beautiful birds. We have approached farmers and other people with chickens in more remote locations with a view to finding homes, but have had no luck. It may be that we conclude the birds are for the pot, but be assured we are trying to sort out the situation.

Name Supplied

---

## Waitrose planning application for a supermarket off Gloucester Street has been submitted to the VWHDC - 4/2/11

All documents can be found in this folder:

<http://idocs.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/WAM/showCaseFile.do?action=show&appName=planning&appNumber=11/00146/FUL>

Contact details of who you can make comments to can be found on [www.gloucesterstreet.org](http://www.gloucesterstreet.org)

Comments and links to particular documents in the folder with key page numbers and paragraphs will be posted there shortly.

Over 50 residents attended an energetic discussion forum held in December 2010 in the Old Town Hall hosted by [gloucesterstreet.org](http://gloucesterstreet.org). This session generated ideas of how to overcome potential problems of the site and dozens of local residents sent their own views directly to Waitrose after the meeting. Waitrose responded with a letter to local residents acknowledging these concerns and considering the possible solutions suggested.

Now the documentation is public, anyone can read and comment on Waitrose' application should they wish.

Name Supplied

*Ed(GW) I've had a quick look, but some of the docs are unreadable ( does anyone else find that?) I can see the road layout - it looks to me as if Gloucester Street is still wholly 1 way so that lorries can pull out wide to get into the access road). The access road has a priority system, so at it's narrow point is only i way at a time.*

You can submit comments on:

[http://planning.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/publicaccess/tdc/DcApplication/application\\_detailview.aspx?caseno=LFVVQBY0G300](http://planning.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/publicaccess/tdc/DcApplication/application_detailview.aspx?caseno=LFVVQBY0G300)

---

## **Pennyhooks Farm on BBCs Countryfile** - 3/2/11

BBC I player [http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b00yc523/Countryfile\\_30\\_01\\_2011](http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b00yc523/Countryfile_30_01_2011)

14.20 mins - 18mins

Ed(GW)

---

## **Blues at The Bell.** - 3/2/11

M.A.D.D. opens up it's blues sessions on Friday 25th february with Blind Dog Blues hosting. If you into the blues please come along, if you actually like playing or singing come and have a performance slot. Madd at Faringdon

---

## **Report Dog Mess** - 3/2/11

I've just returned from an interesting meeting that included a presentation from a VWHDC environmental health officer. The subject was dog mess.

Apparently part of the contract with Verdant is that they will clean up dog mess on pavements within 48 hours of it being reported.

The number to call is :03000 610 610.

Please give the exact location of the "dump". It was not clear what happens if Verdant fail to keep to the contract - but let's deal with that if and when it happens.

Alan Hickmore

---

## **SOLL** - 2/2/11

They may have a great relationship with the Vale (I'll take your anonymous word for it) but they have lost contracts with South Oxfordshire and Daventry. In the case of Daventry at least, this was due to financial difficulties.

I suspect this is why they are coming down hard on things like the VAT on block bookings.

I just hope that it is not a sign of further trouble ahead.

John Williams

---

## **Silent Phone Calls - New Rules** - 2/2/11

Companies responsible for silent calls could now be punished by a fine of up to £2m under new rules. Ofcom.

New rules to deter companies who operate a system that can make silent phone calls, that is, no one is there when you answer the phone, have come into effect, it is usually a technology issue and can happen several times a day and go on for weeks.

I got over 30 calls last month from an 0800 number, no one there when I answered the phone and the line always engaged when I phoned back on the 0800 (Free) number.

From a google search I am pretty sure it was an insurance broker with the same name as a chess piece.

The fine can now be up to TWO MILLION POUNDS for breaking this rule(previously biggest fine was Barclays at £50,000), so help stamp out this nuisance by reporting any silent calls you get.

Trouble is Ofcom do not respond to individual complaints, but if enough people complain about a number they may investigate it, especially if they are running short of cash to pay their staff wages. (Government Cut Backs).

More details and a form to report numbers are here:

<http://consumers.ofcom.org.uk/tell-us/telecoms/privacy/silent-call/>.

The Consultant.

---

## **Tesco Appeal details** - 2/2/11

Papers dated 18/1/11 one of the 'appeal correspondence'.can be found on VWHDC planning system, 10/00867/FUL or GFA/21203 under associated documents.

The key documents I think are [Tesco%20Appeal%20Correspondence-331608.pdf](#) and [the economic statement](#)(mostly about employment land) - I've attached here for easy access.

There doesn't appear to be any new info, Tesco seem to be refuting the planning law on which the refusal decision was made.

Perhaps more info will be available before the appeal date.  
Couldn't find a date yet either. The economic docs on the planning system are unreadable on my PC- maybe VWHDC will correct this  
ED(GW)

---

## **Bus to Burford, on Thursdays** - 2/2/11

0950 1150 1620 from Faringdon  
From Burford 0908 1038 1408  
It takes 40 minutes- going through lots of villages  
<http://www.rhbuses.com/113fulbrookfaringdon.htm>

Ed(GW)

---

## **SOLL Leisure to add VAT?** - 1/2/11

That will be hard as VAT is exempt on Sports hall hire. If you have been getting a VAT discount, well done to you. Sounds like their Tax man has found out about the added discount.  
Accountant.

---

## **SOLL Leisure.** - 1/2/11

SOLL Leisure continue to have a great relationship with the Vale. As you can see by the link of Two years ago, it must have been paper talk.  
Name Supplied

---

## **Re Six Nations Rugby** - 1/2/11

The Red Lion is the pub that Faringdon Rugby Club use; they supply the food after each home game and act as their club house. As the 6 Nations is on the BBC they will be showing all the games in this years competition.  
Name Supplied

---

## **Phone- Scam.**- 1/2/11

One of my work colleagues who lives in Harwell village also received one of these bogus calls on Friday evening purporting to be from microsoft. He just said "no thanks and hung up".  
Mark Lunnon

---

### **Stop digging** - 31/3/11

"When you're in a hole, stop digging. Denis Healey"  
... and if you need a spade for it, you could try Davis DIY for one!  
Fiona Merrick

---

### **"Feed-in Tariffs"**. - 31/3/11

I was interested to read the article on FITS by Sjoerd, it seems this is the latest drum being beaten by the green activists. I am not against anyone saving on their utility bill, and if it helps the planet all well and good, but please do your homework before you part with your hard earned money.  
Points to consider : The average installation on a 3/4 property will generate around 2Kwh per day giving about a 3% return on a 10/15k installation, this without taking into consideration the interest payments or loss of return on savings.

The tariffs are there for 25 years, but how many people stay in a property for 25 years? Do you think a roof full of solar panels are likely to encourage prospective buyers?

Solar PV is relatively new and there are many people who would like to sell you an installation, beware they are not doing it to line your pockets.  
Name supplied

---

### **Non collection of charity bags** - 31/3/11

If I go to the trouble of filling one of the charity bags, which seem to arrive on my doormat on a practically daily basis. Then I expect the "said" charity to come and pick it up!!  
To any "Charity Bag Collectors" who may read this, you will find one on my doorstep, it is now quadruple bagged with RNLI, Action for Children, British Red Cross, and Breast Cancer making up the layers.  
I will keep re-bagging my parcel and I await with interest to see which charity actually decides to pick up my rain soaked, sun bleached clothes!  
Disgruntled

---

### **Speed Cameras-Who cares?** - 30/3/11

I know this will sound terribly smug, but who cares if it helps save one accident.  
I too have heard that speed cameras are being switched on in Oxfordshire and a few years ago I would have been concerned about it.  
I confess to being a very late joiner to recognising the benefits and authority of speed limits following driver training and joining the local Rospa Advanced drivers and Riders group (still to take the test).

Following speed limits has loads of benefits that are worth thinking about.  
Fuel and wearing parts such as tyres and brakes last longer.  
Driving is much more relaxing and enjoyable.  
With improved driving skills that involve increased planning and observation journey time increase is minimal (Aberdeen took about 20 minutes longer).  
Collision risk is reduced  
Pedestrians crossing the A420 are safer.  
Risk of points on licence is reduced.  
To me the most important one is this: you cannot expect your children to drive slower and better than you. The accident rates among young people are terrible. Give them a better chance by giving a better example.  
When buying a new car think MPG not MPH

End of smug rant  
Steve Bunce

---

## Faringdon & District Cricket Club New Cricket Ground Opening - 30/3/11

With Very Special Guests  
Sir Vivian Richards & Rodney Hogg

Here's your chance to see the great Sir Vivian Richards on his last UK speaking tour. Not only will you get to meet King Viv and listen to great stories from his stellar career, you'll also have the opportunity to roll in the aisle's as ashes legend Rodney Hogg entertains like no other. The evening is being held in an executive marquee on the new cricket ground and is sure to be the premier event in Faringdon for 2011. We really hope that you can join us for this landmark event.

Evening Includes:

Drinks reception  
3 Course Dinner  
After dinner speech from guest speakers  
Sporting Memorabilia auction  
Question and answer with speakers  
Opportunity to meet and chat to Viv over a drink later

17th September 2011. Tickets £70.00

Please contact either:

Sherrie Hume:

07776 236 432

([sherriehume60@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sherriehume60@hotmail.co.uk))

or

Lynn Little:

07778 118 642

([lynn@lynnlittle.co.uk](mailto:lynn@lynnlittle.co.uk))

---

## Our Town - 30/3/11

Dear "Name Supplied", FTC have been fighting for free parking for a long time. It is not in their remit and is the decision of our Lords and Masters in the District Council.

If you don't like the Town Council you have, you are welcome to stand yourself, forms can be collected from the Town Council Offices in the Corn Exchange. They need to be in the District Council offices by noon on Monday, 4th April. It would be wonderful if enough people stood to force an election. Town Councillors are totally voluntary and are residents of Faringdon (bar one) so have the best interests of the town at heart even though they don't all agree on what these are.

There is a Town Meeting in the Pump House on Wednesday, 6th April @ 7.30 pm. All residents of the town are welcome to come and have their say. The Town Council really need to know what the town wants. Come and ask the questions, find out what is going on. What the town is suffering from is a lot of rhetoric accompanied with apathy when it comes to actually getting involved in what is really happening.

This is my own point of view and not that of FTC.  
Jane Boulton FTC

---

## Our Town - 30/3/11

If you want to change the Town Council, don't just whine, stand for office!  
Name Supplied

---

## "Feed-in Tariffs". - 30/3/11

Thanks for explaining the beneFiTs  
Name supplied

---

### **Cotswold Voices Concert** - 30/3/11- 30/3/11

The Mayor of Faringdon, Cllr Mrs Margaret Barker is holding an evening at All Saints Church in Faringdon on Saturday, 2 April (this Saturday) at 7.30 pm.  
The Cotswold Voices are singing (all different types of music) - everyone says they are brilliant!  
All proceeds are going to Macmillan Cancer Support (Faringdon Group) and the Faringdon First Responders.  
Tickets are £7.00 pp inc a glass of wine. It should be a lovely evening and we think it is great of the Mayor to support our cause. If you would like tickets, pls let me know. Otherwise you can pay at the door.  
Chris Moorhouse

---

### **Our Town**- 30/3/11

It doesn't seem to matter how often or how clearly the good citizens of Faringdon are told which council is responsible for what - they STILL imagine that the Town Council administers the car parks. If you think that the town councillors should stand down, then why don't you bother to find out what their responsibilities actually are, and put yourself up as a candidate the next time there is an election?

Let me guess - you'd rather stay in the background and moan, because that's a damn sight easier than making the effort to do something yourself.

Bystander

---

### **National news & press has been reporting the changes announced last week to the "Feed-in Tariffs".** - 30/3/11

These FiTs is what you get for all the KWHrs generated by your solar PV panels - and they are VERY generous. They are also guaranteed for 25 years; and to rise in line with inflation.

What's important is that the changes to the FiTs announced last week ONLY apply to larger installations (larger than 50KW peak) . They DON'T apply to the typical installations on houses (usually 2-5 KW peak ) . FiTs for the domestic installation remain at approx 45p / KWhr - and as long as your new PV installation goes live before April 2012 . - This very high rate represents approx 8-10% return on your capital outlay.

If you're thinking about solar PV - and are looking for advice from neighbours (as opposed to salespeople) - there are now plenty of reference sites in & around Faringdon. By all means - give me a call - on 01367-241707 , and I can either help you directly, or put you in touch with someone who's had it done.  
Sjoerd 01367-241707

---

### **Faringdon.org forms** - 30/3/11

We've had some difficulty with our forms recently ( having migrated to a new server) The simplest way to get things going again seemed to be to use email addresses- so this is what we've done.

Now when you click on add entry/ send us comments/send an event or the like you should see [contact us addresses.htm](#). On this page you choose the sort of item you want to send.  
Where it says *contact us* you should open an email to: [enquiries@faringdon-online.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@faringdon-online.co.uk)

Hope this works OK for all of you- just email me if you have problems.  
No prizes for finding any I've missed- there will undoubtedly be some!  
Thanks  
Gene

---

### **Speed cameras in Oxfordshire** - 30/3/11

I've just heard on the radio that the speed cameras are to be switched back on.  
No idea when/why- does anybody?  
Name Supplied

---

### **Our Town** - 30/3/11

I believe that the loss of our DIY shop will have real knock on effect on other shops and the number of people visiting the town. I believe people visiting the DIY also visit other shops too, and the thought of not being able to get all that you want in one visit to a town will just send them and I to another town, I am already looking at my options to obtain my DIY in the future.

I really don't think our Town Council have our best interests at heart, they have had a reputation of being a bad Council for a long time. Why they can't actually do something constructive for the town is beyond belief, maybe one thing that the town really needs right now is FREE parking for visitors to the shops, the town centre would benefit from a maximum stay of say 1hr, and the main town centre car park behind Budgens should be the same. Any loss of revenue for the car park should be paid for by the Town Council. maybe we should just spend the annual Christmas lights budget on this instead. As without any shops there won't be any people around to look at them. THE TOWN NEEDS ACTION NOW !!! If you're not up to the job then do us all a favour and step down NOW.  
Name Supplied

---

### **Cotswold Voices Concert** - 30/3/11

This Saturday, Tickets £7 from the Nut Tree.  
Mayors charity event in aid of First Responders and Macmillan nurses

---

### **Bus passes from 0900**- 30/3/11

From 1st April you can use your bus pass from 0900  
Gene Webb

---

### **Spilt Milk** - 30/3/11

There's no use crying over it...  
Sir Caustic

---

### **Stolen Milk** - 29/3/11

Please, can the person who has taken it upon themselves to steal milk from Brunel House every Monday stop. We are now going through the process of discussing CCTV, which is a shame for a small town and having to waste the time of our local police.  
Be grown up, go buy your own. We are all small businesses and can't afford to supply you with milk.  
Name Supplied

---

### **Faringdon facilities**:- 28/3/11

Where would you propose we put this nice new Town Hall? And what would we do with the then superfluous Corn Exchange which is effectively our current Town Hall on which we are spending many thousands of pounds.  
As to a pizzeria, they've come and gone, perhaps the new owners of "Rat's Castle" have that in mind. Basically if you want one why don't YOU open one.  
These are my personal observations.  
Jane Boulton(FTC)

---

### **Faringdon Radio**- [www.faringdonradio.com](http://www.faringdonradio.com) - 28/3/11

The current interview has information about Sk8, Mustard Seed, music from local musicians, coming events too  
All good stuff, Sean  
Gene Webb

---

## Re Problem with our forms- Talking points form working - 28/3/11

The Talking Points form is working again now. It looks a bit different- make sure you indicate whether you want 'name supplied' or your name shown.

You don't currently get a submission successful message - but we will get it.

For other contacts- guestbook, classified, Whatson, general contact- email [genewebb@rocketmail.com](mailto:genewebb@rocketmail.com)  
Gene Webb

---

## Davis DIY interview on radio- 28/3/11

If you'd like an insight into why we have had to make the difficult decision to close Davis, you can listen to an interview with Adam on Faringdon Community Radio. Just go to [www.faringdonradio.com](http://www.faringdonradio.com), download the show broadcast on March 27th and start listening from about eleven minutes.

Thanks.

Helen Blackwell

---

## Faringdon Museum - what progress? - 27/2/11

Mike Bell

---

## Problem with our forms - 27/3/11

Sorry everyone- we realise our forms aren't working at the moment.

If you want to send anything for the website email to [genewebb@rocketmail.com](mailto:genewebb@rocketmail.com)

Gene Webb

---

## Local shops: - 27/3/11

There's lots of talk about the local shops. If you want a humorous take on one local shop (and feel you have a well-developed sense of the surreal) - then I suggest you subscribe to the Mustard Seed blog. There's usually a new message once a week. Just go to <http://shopatmustardseed.blogspot.com> and sign up

A great way to lift you out of your depression about the local shopping!

Name Supplied

---

## "Name supplied" wants a Tennis Club in Faringdon. - 27/3/11

A quick rub on the Big Society magic lamp and out pops the BFG (Big Faringdon Genie) . Shade your eyes. There's a flash of purple....

Now - if you put "tennis faringdon" (or anything remotely similar) into Google the [www.faringdонтennis.org.uk](http://www.faringdонтennis.org.uk) comes up at the top. A very friendly Club with social & competitive tennis for all ages & abilities.

We moved to our current location on Southampton St in 1926. New Members always welcome ; come along to give it a go.

The new summer season starts THIS TUESDAY ( 29th March) - see website for dates, times etc .

Sjoerd

---

## This is a Community Message from Thames Valley Police. - 27/3/11

### CENSUS SAFETY TIPS

The 2011 Census is coming on Sunday 27 March.

If people don't complete their forms by 6 April, the Census team will visit to offer help.

Please be aware of the following advice:

- Census staff will carry an ID card
- they will not ask for your bank or credit card details
- you won't be asked to leave your completed form on the doorstep
- you can arrange a visit by calling the helpline number of the form
- Census staff will only visit residents who have not returned their forms

- don't let the caller in your house
  - if you're not sure of the callers identity, keep the door closed and call the Census helpline (0300 0201 101)
- For more information visit [www.census.gov.uk](http://www.census.gov.uk) or call 0300 0201 101.  
Message Ends.
- 

### **Faringdon facilities:-** 26/3/11

It's pretty clear that traditional retailers are going to struggle in a town like Faringdon - it's just a fact of life in modern times. As mentioned by Pathetic Person, the population of the town is increasing with people who work and shop outside of the town. What people do in the town however is enjoy their recreation. Faringdon should, instead of trying to compete with shops, provide adequate recreational facilities. These are sadly lacking, particularly those suitable for younger people.

It is not the case that in these times people go out regularly to drink to enjoy their leisure time, hence the pubs are largely empty. A town full of pubs also belongs to the past and hence they are closing too. It is clear that people enjoy more healthy activities these days, which is evident in the large number of people using the leisure centre.

I think from a personal perspective alone that three things would be of benefit to the town:

- 1) A decent pizzeria, selling pizzas and pasta dishes at a reasonable cost, which would be a suitable venue for families and young people to enjoy an evening out.
- 2) A tennis club, which could perhaps be funded by making it a condition of a successful planning application for a supermarket that such a provision be funded.
- 3) A decent town hall. Lechlade has a beautiful one which was funded with lottery money and by the gravel companies.

Any further ideas would be of interest. Perhaps if there were sufficient interest in any of these then a group could be formed to take these forward?

Name Supplied

---

### **Local shopping** - 25/3/11

There's lots of talk about the local shops. If you want a humorous take on one local shop (and feel you have a well-developed sense of the surreal) - then I suggest you subscribe to the Mustard Seed blog. There's usually a new message once a week. Just go to <http://shopatmustardseed.blogspot.com> and sign up. A great way to lift you out of your depression about the local shopping!  
Sjoerd Vogt

---

### **Waitrose highways application, an independent assessment:** - 23/3/11

MVA Consultancy have carried out an independent appraisal of Waitrose proposed traffic assessment, you can read their executive summary on [www.gloucesterstreet.org](http://www.gloucesterstreet.org) If you wish to put your personal comments regarding the supermarket application to the VWHDC councillors who will be making the decision then please see the 'who to contact' page on the residents website.

The window for public responses regarding Waitrose application has formally closed but the Vale will still accept any comments up to the decision date. Waitrose Gloucester Street supermarket application is likely to be considered and decided at the end of May or in June. The date for the decision meeting will be set by the district councillors in their first meeting on 18th May after the election.

[www.gloucesterstreet.org](http://www.gloucesterstreet.org)

---

### **Tough in retail-** 23/3/11

I have been reading these comments for a few days now and am so cross i now have to add my own thoughts. I have fifteen years experience i retail management and so hope i won't be disregarded.

First of all, retail is one of the toughest ways to make money, your costs are high - stock is expensive, rates are high, and u can never be sure what is going to be coming in at a certain time. You can't possibly lump all the shops together either, saying 'the town centre' as though it is all under one management. In a small town sadly there will always be some thriving and some not regardless of how attractive they are inside. I was in a larger town in Wiltshire yesterday and I counted three independents closing. This brings me to my next point, we are in a very serious recession. U can lead a horse to water but u can't make it drink, in that I mean u can have the most well run and great looking shop but it does not necessarily mean that u will make enough money to survive in these difficult times. I know for a fact from a couple of other shopkeepers in town that they are seriously struggling, and places u might be surprised at too.

In Davis's case, as an outsider looking it is clear they have tried systematically to reduce their costs over the last few years, and they did actually repaint and refit it a few years ago and it was a real improvement. Unfortunately the recession hit and the closure of half was a shrewd move, this is exactly what Cariad Bridge have done, and several other places, including a couple in Lechlade I know. As for ordering in stock, well I know that if the money is not there to buy as much stock then u simply have to cut back. And they do not have the buying power of some of the bigger DIY places. Having said that, if u actually looked they were considerably cheaper on some products. And sadly u will not get the same level of service in Swindon, but then sadly I think the golden years have gone for small market towns.

It's a sad fact, but there it is. It is not our God-given right to have certain shops, and if owners cannot make a business viable after clearly trying everything, then u cannot expect them to continue just so we don't have to drive further afield. I personally would like to see Waitrose here to life the town again.

Name Supplied

---

### **Davis DIY- sad** - 23/3/11

It is sad to see that Davis DIY is to close. Today, as I drove by, I noticed the window carrying notices saying 'Clearance Sale' and 'Bargains' - closure seems imminent.

I've been resident in the town for 35 years and have patronised the shop during all that time. The current owner made a brave attempt to change the look of the shop when he bought the business and it had a more modern feel while still retaining its appeal - the variety of stock remained extensive and, if you couldn't find what you wanted, 'ordering in' was not a problem. But the greatest strength of the business was the staff who would advise on how to do a job and suggest an alternative (and always practical) way of achieving what you were seeking (often better than the approach you'd thought to try).

Despite the relatively recent downsizing the shop still retained its character - good stock and helpful staff.

I am sorry to see the business fold and feel sad for the staff (one of whom has been there since I first used the shop). It is true that B&Q, Focus, Wickes, Homebase etc. all carry a bigger range, but would any of them lend you a large wrench to cure a leaking toilet cistern or an Acro prop to support a lintel, as Davis' has done for me? I think not.

I don't have an answer as to how the business might have survived, but I do support the owner's comment on this site a week or so ago that there needs to be 'something' to bring people to the town - a decent supermarket might be part of that 'something'.

I wish the staff all the best for the future and thank them for their cheerful help over the years.

Dr Peter Smith

---

### **Stalls available Indoor Market 19th April** - 23/3/11

We are planning an indoor market on Tuesday 19th April 6 to 8.30pm, as part of the celebration events following the reopening of the Corn Exchange in early April. There will be a variety of stalls. We have two stalls vacant if you are interested in being a stall holder please contact Sally Thurston on 01367 242191 or email

[sally@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:sally@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk)

---

### **Town Council Elections Thursday 5th May 2011** - 22/3/11

It is over 20 years since the Town Council has had a contested election. For this to happen, at least 15 candidates must put their names forward for the 14 seats available. How many times have you thought about serving on the

Town Council?

So, what does the Town Council do? Well, we operate three venues - the Corn Exchange, the Pump House and the Old Town Hall - and are responsible for their maintenance. We maintain two parks, two play areas, All Saints Churchyard, and own another piece of land which we are hoping to convert for use as allotments to supplement our existing allotments at Lechlade Road. We are also responsible for the Christmas lights. During the past two or three years, the Council has been heavily involved as consultees on various planning documents, including future retail provision in the town. The Planning & Highways Committee has successfully negotiated money to improve facilities in the town on the back of new developments now being built. We operate the Tourist Information Centre and will soon take over the employment of the Youth Worker, to ensure the continued success of the Faringdon Youth Centre following the withdrawal of funds by Oxfordshire County Council. We give grants throughout the year to other organisations which helps them to obtain other sources of grant funding, which is vital in these difficult economic times.

Faringdon is a lovely market town. If you would like to play your part in making sure it remains a lovely market town, this is what you need to do. You will need a nomination form (available from VWHDC / Town Council Office) and a proposer and seconder for your nomination. This must be returned to VWHDC by noon on Monday 4th April so the window of opportunity is very small.

June Rennie  
Faringdon Town Clerk

**Annual Town Meeting**  
**Jubilee Room (Pump House) on Wednesday 6th April.**

There will be also be a 'hustings' meeting in the **Corn Exchange on the evening of 26th April** which candidates for both Town Council and District Council elections will be invited to attend. This will give members of the public the opportunity to ask questions of the candidates. It is anticipated that this will follow the BBC Question Time format, although this might change depending on how many candidates there are. Obviously, if the Town Council have less than 14 nominations, no election will take place (hopefully this will be the first time in at least 24 years that we will have a properly contested election).

---

## Get active - 22/3/11

GO Active are setting up some more activities in Faringdon. Just Jog group for beginners starts on Thursday 5th May, 7-8pm for 10 sessions. £2 per week.

Ultimate Dodgeball begins on Tuesday 10th May, 6-7pm for 6 sessions. £1 per week.

Social Rounders starts on Thursday 9th June, 6-7pm for 10 weeks.

No Charge. (No groups week beginning 30th May).

For more information please contact Ashley Chapman on 01235 547646 or email [ashley.chapman@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:ashley.chapman@whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

---

## Hypocritical- 21/3/11

I live in faringdon and have done for many a year. Im going to sound hypocritical here. While davis diy was a 'nice' shop to have it was overpriced. Yes, ideal for screws and nut and bolts but for anything bigger it just was econmoically viable. I could drive to swindon, get my diy bits and drive home for less than the overpriced products in davis diy. It wasnt the most of organised of shops, sometimes you couldnt help but trip and stumble- hate to think what it was like for the visually impaired? On a plus side the staff out the back were very helpful and often said "dont worry about the pennies" which i appreciated.

As i said am being hypocritical, but i think ive kind of summed up the general concensus.

Is it a shame its gone? YES! But will i miss it? NO

Name Supplied

---

## Spaniel found - 21/03/11

Like a previous poster, I am sorry to use this site but feel someone should know. If you have lost a black/white spaniel dog in the Folly area, please get in touch with Elms Vets on Gloucester Street (242416).

If you need to get hold of me, please contact the website administrator.

---

## Improve the town and shops- 21/3/11

I don't think there is time for sympathy my comments are harsh but fair and intended to spur some positive action. Its a shame that the town centre is on a tipping point not just the DIY shop - off licence closed, shoe shop closed, diy shop closed, pubs empty, whats next more tea and sympathy and this time next year we will be left with 1 supermarket on the bypass.

The only way to help those out of work is to suggest ways to improve the town and help the those left to improve and survive and create the atmosphere to drive job creation. Yet all we get are 2 More replies with sympathy but no substance, no positive ideas, you would rather winge about criticism and give in to amazon than think about solutions. Thats my definition of pathetic although its my title I won it first.

If everyone sais nothing and accepts local service that can't compete with the town down the road, or beat the on-line experience then its a diservice to the businesses left. Faringdon is a town on the edge of the cotswolds, Thames down the road, white horse up the hill and folly on the skyline, 18th century inns, civil war history, music venues (if the miseries didn't moan about the noise having bought town centre houses) - lots to be positive about - how do we sell that, not sure that we do do we, I would like to see some of our taxes going on advertising the town to support businesses externally?

I think to create more retail jobs to help those losing their jobs right now before its to late, the shops need to pull together polish their appearence - can the council help? I wouldn't mind my taxes going on a lick of paint and a window cleaner for the town centre shops, look at opening times that suit customer lifestyles. I think you have to look at late night opening and sunday trading to catch those who work/live out of town - it will take time to catch on and all need to do it together, the council needs to sort out free parking for the first 2 hours at all car parks, floral displays for the summer. The B&B's need to work with the shops, we have a set of 10 mile walks out of faringdon, cycle routes, history whatever but together the town needs to make itself a special shopping/holiday experience to bring in day trippers from swindon maybe Oxford on the weekend, weekend market perhaps? - Win some of the cotswold tourism market.

I wish I could give them a job but my company is not recruiting or replacing those that leave for that matter and is laying off 300+ in the UK this year and I have no garuntees. That's not a shop its a towns worth, thats a shame but we are not giving in, we are absolutly looking critically at how we serve our customers, how we can change to win more business and we are working ever harder with less people doing more work because we have to or fail. Faringdons shops have to do the same.

In the end look at the facts new houses being built suggests population increase, new industry site by the 420 empty, joinery place shuts down, shops shutting down. Times have changed increasing population but they don't work in Faringdon (like me) so they are not around to spend in the shops and pubs, and when they are the shops are shut.

Local population no longer shops where they live or does it online. Either accept it and give in with more rounds of sympathy or change your customers and do something to bring people in to the town. That's everyones responsibility. I have no misconceptions about how hard that might be but its all I can think of, anyone else with ideas to beat my pathetic comments or will it be more sympathy without solutions.  
Pathetic person

---

## Advice for Pathetic Person- 21/3/11

When you're in a hole, stop digging.  
Denis Healey

---

## Re: Davis DIY - 21/03/11

It's not a problem unique to Faringdon that shops such as Davis DIY are closing down. These days if people want a higher cost item, such as a new cordless drill, they look on the internet and buy it on-line at what they know is the best price available. In a couple of days it's delivered to the door with no need to drive anywhere or try to park. What remains for shops like Davis is to stock those little items like screws or nails that aren't worth shopping for on-line. Not much profit in them, hence they go under. Everything seems to be going this way with people buying even major items such as cars on-line. Nothing anyone can do other than buy a new laptop from Amazon!

Name Supplied

---

**Re: Davis DIY** - 21/03/11

There has been a lot of criticism about Davis closing, which is a great shame. Of all the comments, no one seems to have thought about the dedicated staff and owners who will be losing their jobs and income. As previously mentioned in these comments we are in a recession and there are not a lot of jobs out there for them to go to. Perhaps these people who have made these critical comments would be kind enough to help them find new jobs rather than slating the shop and owners.

CW

---

**Re: Davis DIY** - 21/03/11

It's not a problem unique to Faringdon that shops such as Davis DIY are closing down. These days if people want a higher cost item, such as a new cordless drill, they look on the internet and buy it on-line at what they know is the best price available. In a couple of days it's delivered to the door with no need to drive anywhere or try to park. What remains for shops like Davis is to stock those little items like screws or nails that aren't worth shopping for on-line. Not much profit in them, hence they go under. Everything seems to be going this way with people buying even major items such as cars on-line. Nothing anyone can do other than buy a new laptop from Amazon!

name supplied

---

**Re: Davis DIY** - 21/03/11

You keep missing the point, my examples are real and happened to me, I know they sell rakes and U bends but they allowed stock to run out? I can't manage their stock for them. I can only assume based on my experience that the same happened to others... the more it happens the more you try somewhere else first...

I think you make a good point that the town didn't support them, which tells me that shops in town need to be that bit better than they have been in the past to bring people in from outside. I was willing to travel from Faringdon to Challow to support a similar small shop that delivered the things I needed. People are mobile these days there is no need to wait for an order to be placed, so did the big sign work? No it seems.

Regards the cook shop my point is that I think the cook shop is special and if advertised right can bring people in from outside Faringdon, something a bit different like the Xmas shop in Lechlade or even the piano shop, people travel to it hopefully. If it can do that other shops will benefit. If we get enough shops like that we might get a thriving town back in a nice area which can promote tourism, and help save the pubs - were losing those as well (don't get me started there). If you move things that don't fit from the DIY shop to the cook shop it will lose its identity and struggle to bring in those people from outside Faringdon that its going to need to survive. I want it to do well. I could never understand how the cook shop was run well

(I thought) and looks really good, but there was a huge contrast walking next door. I am not interested in blame personally I am more concerned about a failing town that needs to change to compete, times have changed shops obviously (as you say) can't rely on the locals anymore. A few caring words on a Saturday won't pay the bills, making Faringdon a place that people from surrounding towns might want to visit on a weekend night.

We have some good shops and we need to build on that but I don't think Faringdon can continue thinking locals are enough to sustain them. We need to sort out the parking, look at opening times when people are around to spend, improve services to tourists. Apart from defending business practices of a shop that's closing down. Do you have any good suggestions that would turn the town around.

I am sticking my neck out and saying what I think would help the town (not saying I am 100% right by any means) but I think it better than just saying a few nice words of comfort. Now its your turn - what would you change to improve the towns success?

pathetic person

---

**Re: Davis DIY** - 20/03/11

I just want to point out a few things to the 'pathetic person' - Davis do sell rakes because I've bought one, they sell umbrellas as I saw them there the other week. They used to be in the plumb store and are now in the shop. If they don't have something you need right there, then there is a ruddy great sign saying 'we are willing to order in.' what more do you want? And the guy who owns it is so nice he'd probably deliver to your door if you asked him.

It's clear that the owners have invested in the town, and the town have not helped them - they had to rent out half of it to cut on costs in order to give it a last chance about 18 months ago. It cannot have been an easy job trying to work out what to keep and what not to. And it's not worked because of people like you being ridiculously picky. Oh, and I'm assuming the plastic buckets are not there to entice people, loads of people use tub trugs for gardening/storage/kids' toys. If they were in the shop you'd fall over them, if they didn't have them you'd complain they didn't have them and you're complaining because they're outside, so they can't win. And if they try to keep some good lines in the cook shop (which is owned by exactly the same people) then who can blame them??

The cook shop will go too. I was in the shop on Saturday and the majority of people were very complimentary and caring, and they will no doubt continue to patronise the cook shop, even if the current owners dare to put some hardware in there. Heaven forbid.

GLR

---

### **Dirty Digging** - 20/03/11

Does anybody know what the obviously illegal digging is that is going on beside the A420 at Great Coxwell? The work started after 4.30 on Friday afternoon (after Highways Office closes) and there are no signs or traffic controls anywhere to be seen. Health and Safety? Surely if we all started doing our building works like this we could save the Local Authority a fortune as they would not have to be involved!

name supplied

---

### **Skatepark** - 20/03/11

The cricket club aren't trying to stop the skatepark as far as I know. I'm in favour of the cricket club and a skate park.....I just don't see how the two can work successfully so close to each other (cricket club matches could suffer). By all means have a skatepark on the same piece of land if that's the only place available but surely it's a big enough area not to have them side by side.

name supplied

---

### **Re: Davis DIY** - 20/03/11

I'm not going to rent the shop I'm afraid although I am half tempted, I don't need a career change. I also don't live in the woods I live in a house in need of lots of DIY. I would shop for my DIY locally if someone else took it on, and I do hate the shops shutting down in town, I think it's very sad, I want other shop keepers to take note so they don't close.

In many cases I am sure it's the economy and that's life but in Davis's case I am angry because I don't think they helped themselves. I agree it's in the hands of the public which shops open and which close but the choice the public makes is based on service, image, stock choice, availability, ease of use, access, price etc etc which is all influenced by the shop keeper. Some of the shops in town have some odd opening times it has to be said which must cost them a fortune, they need to be open when people are there to spend. A lot of people travel for work these days and that won't change until we attract more industry to the town, like you say I personally only have between 9-3 on 1 day a week to buy locally and some weekends I go away... I can't take my holidays to support local shops.

It's not all about money either it's also about convenience, I start a job in the morning, need that extra tool etc and go to Davis's, they are closed for lunch (happened lots of times) I have a car, I don't have to wait, I drive to the next town and spend my money there. Times have changed I work long hours and eat at my desk because times are hard, I have no sympathy - they could have staggered lunch breaks. Lunch breaks didn't shut them down but they didn't help did they... I think your comment adds to my point. Davis's tried to do what you say it tried to stock everything and failed... kitchen ware competed with the shop next door, wood competed with a better selection at TP - I tried to put up 5 shelves they didn't have them but they did have 1 of every length and every width, only useful if you want 1 shelf. I had no choice but to buy from Challow who held a smaller more useful range? my point was that it tried to fit

everything in a small shop when it should have specialised...

Its not feeble its common sense and its not ooh dear trip hazards its ooh dear the place was a mess and it was putting off the cutomers, their loss and ours to now.

The plastic buckets didn't block the pavement they made the place look like a 50p shop not a good old fashioned small town DIY shop providing unprecedented personal service that you might pay that bit extra for and save on a trip to swindon. I noticed today they have been moved into the doorway of the cook shop - what does selling plastic buckets have to do with selling kitchen gadgets. Plastic buckets are not something that attracts passers by lets face it. Just don't spoil the cook shop by trying to fit the stock from davis's in there as well... please... I use the cook shop to...

I can't agree more that local people should support local shops, but in the case of davis's I tried to suport it but they made it difficult. Its a shame it lost its way. Ill miss it, big loss.

pathetic person

---

### Re: Davis DIY - 20/03/11

One of the charms of this site is that the Eds don't impose any form of censorship ( as far as I'm aware.) Any Tom, Dick or Fred ( and their female equivalents) can submit any rubbish and the Eds seem to smile tolerantly and print it presumably in the hope that the writers will eventually grow up and maybe write something worth reading ! Yesterday's Daily Mail reported that a large number of three year olds had access to a computer and it is my belief that the poster of the item blaming the demise of DavisDIY on their trading methods was one of them. Unless of course the Eds had slipped up (perish the thought) and printed an article intended for April 1st.

name supplied

---

### Re: Davis DIY - 19/03/11

Hear, hear to that last post - show us how it's done, then!

What a pathetic person you must be - Just listen to yourself - ooh dear," trip hazards", ooh dear, "plastic buckets blocking the pavements" How feeble can you get?

Shop keepers have to make a living, they don't all live in benders in the woods, so if there aren't enough customers, and they can't pay their staff? they go under. They just havent the space and resources to stock every single item that might be required, this year, next year, sometime, never.

No amount of lunchtime opening would have saved Davis's. There just wasn't enough local custom. End of.

name supplied

---

### Re: Davis DIY - 19/03/11

The person who so heavily criticises Davis DIY today might consider renting the property, staffing it, stocking it with his or her favourite items and wait for the hoards of Faringdon shoppers to walk through the door. Go on: show us how it's done!

name supplied

---

### Re: Davis DIY - 19/03/11

I'm slightly concerned that people feel that the closure of Davis DIY has more to do with the fact that they are closed at lunch, and not that the country (Faringdon being no exception) is in a recession. Davis is open, apart from Budgens, for more hours than any other shop in town.

They close at 5pm on a Saturday, not 3pm like the rest of town seem to, and are open at 8.30am. Also, people are really watching what they spend - if you have no money in the morning or afternoon, then you don't have money during lunch time. Secondly, we are all guilty of going to Swindon instead of going locally - if you've gone to homebase and spent 60 quid, forgotten a brush and bought one there for a fiver, then you're part of the reason they're closing.

I for one am very sad, they're a great shop. It's in the hands of the public which shops stay open and which close, and for no other reason.

GLR

---

## **New planning laws coming in!** - 19/03/11

I heard this morning on the radio that the government are going to change the planning regs so that it will be possible to turn commercial property into housing without getting planning permission. So if our wise and benevolent leaders at the Vale get their way and Tesco's lose their planning appeal for the supermarket on Park Road, this will be probably developed as housing. Maybe not the outcome our political overlords were aiming for when they budgetted £30,000 to fight the appeal I expect.

name supplied

---

## **Davis DIY** - 19/03/11

Someone should take over davis DIY and run it like a proper shop. I'm not surprised its closing and other shop keepers should take note, (sort out your condensation Majo puts me off everytime I walk past, like your shop otherwise). I used davis's alot and I think there is still demand, but I started to use the DIY shop in challow in the end, it has what you need and its organised.

It all went down hill when they got rid of the DIY and replaced it with cheap bathroom gear with an excessive markup taking out all the tools, no clear direction on what to sell. It became disorganised and dangerous to walk around in there, trip hazards everywhere, stock used to fall on you. The window displays became the back of the dirty shelving, the pavement blocked by plastic baskets? how did that attract anyone, shop keepers joked that they couldn't find anything anymore either!!

we customers were trying to tell you to sort it out not making jokes. It went from having a bit of everything you might need to lots of nothing: a garden section but couldn't sell me a rake, a plumbing section but no 90 degree bend unless I wanted a complete U bend kit, I simply went to travis perkins. Why did it continue to sell kitchen items with a cook shop next door thats run so much better. What a waste it makes me angry how someone could ruin what was once my favorite shop.

name supplied

---

## **Skatepark** - 19/03/11

I couldn't agree more with all of the people who are in favour of a skatepark being built in Faringdon. I am so glad to see so many entries in favour of the skatepark. SK8 have been fund-raising tirelessly for twenty years (!) to get a skatepark in Faringdon. They finally have enough money to build one. Please don't let the cricket club jeopardise a skate park. Let your thoughts be known to the Vale's planning officer - Martin Deans. If the cricket club get their way, there might not ever be a skate park in Faringdon. Let us act now, and not let that happen.

name supplied

---

## **Davis DIY** - 18/13/11

It is sad to see Davis DIY close.  
But.. Yes there is a but.

Talking to people in town, they all have the same comment...  
Would they have survived if they would have stayed open during lunch time, especially on a Saturday.

I agree, as I live and work in Faringdon and only have time during my lunch to pop in to Town to pickup what I need and that is the time when Davis DIY is closed.

name supplied

---

## CTIC MARCH FEATURED ARTIST-CHRISTINE HAWKINS. - 18/03/11

Don't miss the wonderful life drawings on display this month in Faringdon Community and Tourist Information Centre. They are the work of local artist Christine Hawkins. They will be in the centre, situated in the reception of the Town Council Office at the rear of the Corn Exchange, until 31st March.

Sally Thurston

---

## Skatepark - 18/03/11

I am just a little concerned when I read posts from individuals who claim they are representative of the concerns of Faringdon Townsfolk e.g. 'Overwhelming public opinion seems to be against the proposed position' - that is simply not the case; the project has a great deal of public support clearly!!

name supplied

---

## Skatepark - 18/03/11

The facts of the proposed skatepark are as follows:- The site adjoining the new cricket pavilion has an outline planning consent in place for a skatepark. That consent provided permission for a skatepark of 22m by 7m or a site area of 153sq.m. SK8 have now made an application to increase the size of the proposed skatepark to 450 sq.m - almost three times the original proposed size. Obviously, this is materially different to the original plans and the huge increase in size does give massive concerns for cricketers, residents and other interested parties over whether a facility of this size is appropriate in this location. The frustration with all of this is that a solution could be worked out for the benefit of all parties. Why build this enlarged skatepark here? Why not move it to a more appropriate location in Faringdon, so it does not interfere with cricketers and put it in a location that is equally good for skaters. Further into Folly Park - past the rugby pitch towards Faringdon? On the FCC field? At the Youth Centre? Why does it HAVE to be next to a new and admired cricket facility. I have not seen one comment on here suggesting that the skatepark project should be cancelled. No-one has suggested that the youth of Faringdon should not have this facility. Just various requests to reconsider the location. Surely the Town Council can suggest an alternative site for the benefit of all! Why don't we make our precious town facilities as good as they can be, rather than go for the option that hugely disatisfies one group of people and will generate long term frictions going forward. Why don't people listed to each other !!

name supplied

---

## Cat, deceased, found - 18/03/11

I'm very sorry to have to report that a ginger and white cat has met his/her maker overnight on Folly Hill. Please accept my apologies for sharing this news through such an impersonal medium. I hope this doesn't seem insensitive, but I know what a worry pets can be and I would want to know sooner rather than later. If you would like to lay their body to rest, he/she is in the line of trees on the right-hand path as you go up the hill. My sincere condolences to the owners.

name supplied

---

## Skatepark - 17/03/11

The skatepark has been a dream for many young people and parents in the town for far too long. In many trips to deliver skates to Bampton I have never seen any trouble. Sometimes there have been bigger and scary looking people there who have been more than willing to share the space with younger less confident ones.

In any society there are people that do good and bad things. We hear the bad news about damage to bus shelters but often there is good news such as fund raising and other helpful things our young people do.

If the comments made about skaters had been made about a racial group then I think some of them could have led to prosecutions. Faringdon will be a better place if we give young people our encouragement rather than condemnation. Let's all work together for a better Faringdon.

Steve Bunce

---

### Skatepark - 17/03/11

This is a cricket club in Kent who had a skate ramp installed by their pitch, and as a result suffered significant vandalism to their facilities. When the ramp was closed for safety reasons the vandalism stopped. Please read the article and consider what would happen if the skatepark is built were it proposed.

<http://www.thisiskent.co.uk/news/Future-Edenbridge-Cricket-Club-threat/article-948646-detail/article.html>

Name supplied

---

### Skatepark - 17/03/11

I would just like to point out that faringdon has many groups like u3a,whist,bingo etc all aimed at over 65's.with many activities going on every week for this age range.but very little going on for teenagers in the town.The youth club is only on 2 nights a week for a few hours.I think it is very unfair to assume that all teens are up to no good when generally they are just hanging about with little to do.I work for the town council and i am the person who picks up the litter in the parks and under the town hall, so i do come into contact with the groups that hang about.I think that a skate park would be ideal to give them something else to do.But whenever a skate park is mentioned no one wants it anywhere in faringdon!So teenagers are to be seen and not heard!I think the balance is unfair in our town and i am hoping a skate park is built as promised!(this is my personal view)

lesley owers

---

### Skatepark - 17/03/11

I'm shocked to hear the lack of regard that SK8 are showing towards the concerns that the Faringdon public are showing towards the proposed skatepark position. They don't seem to care about the repercussions of the skatepark being positioned where it is proposed, and seem unable to address any of the concerns being posted. Overwhelming public opinion seems to be against the proposed position, but as long as they get what they want they don't seem to care about anyone else.

name supplied

---

### Skatepark - 17/03/11

If one is to observe the other skateparks in the area they are predominantly located on edge of towns. They are also usually joined onto sporting facilities of some kind, be it football or rugby or cricket. Often they are without toilet facilities near by, yet they do not seem to pose any problems... In actual fact, the closest toilets to the proposed site are at the Esso Garage, only a quick (skate) away!

In terms of the batmen's eyeline, how about one of those large white screens that are frequently at the side of cricket pitches to create a clear field of vision?

name supplied

---

### Skatepark - 16/03/11

I don't think the comments regarding the skatepark have anything to do with trust in young people or how responsible the parents and young people who have been involved in the SK8 project are. I think they must be wonderful people giving up time and energy to benefit others.

The comments against the skatepark are about keeping the majority of our young people, who wouldn't dream of anti-social behaviour, safe. Situating the skatepark in such an isolated and unsupervised location jeopardises their safety.

name supplied

---

### Skatepark - 16/03/11

I am shocked by the apparent lack of trust some local people have in our young people. A huge amount of work has gone into the planning of this skate park by a great number of very responsible parents and young people and various sites have been discussed ad nauseam! Young people who value the facility will use and be proud of it, and I daresay the vandals who destroy bus shelters, the Folly sculpture etc will have a go at anything including the cricket pavillion too. The answer to all this is not to abandon the project surely but for all of us to take an interest in what goes on in our neighbour hood and take public responsibility when we witness unacceptable behaviour - this to my mind is what a 'bit society' should be all about; and as for skateboarders representing a serious distraction for local cricketers - is this the official position of the Faringdon Cricket Club - I'm sure a sensible resolution could be achieved about use of the park on match days!!!!!!

name supplied

---

### **House Wanted for short term rent** - 16/03/11

I'm wondering if anyone can help. My sisters and their children are due to visit Faringdon this April and I am looking for a large house - in or near to the town - that they can rent. There will be two couples and four children (aged between 8 and 10), so a 3/4 bedroom house would be required. The dates are Sunday 24th to Wednesday 27th April. If you have a house you would be happy to let or know someone who does please contact me on 07779 313 902. Thanks,

Lizzie

---

### **Skatepark** - 16/03/11

I was interested to read the comments about the Skatepark in Bampton. I have a very different experience. I was at the Oasis in Swindon recently and they have a skatepark close by. I was amazed to witness the kids climbing onto the roof of the adjoining building and throwing items down on passers by. All at 3 in the afternoon! This type of behaviour happens all over the country and will inevitably happen at Faringdon. Kids will be kids and it is naïve to suggest there will be no anti-social behaviour at this facility, tucked away in an isolated position at the very far reaches of the town. Who is expected to control the facility - cricketers, dog walkers? No-one will be there most of the time. You can bet it won't be the Police, who can't even stop people parking on double yellow lines in Faringdon. Kids in Faringdon should have a skatepark, but it should be sited further into town - either at the Youth Centre or at a more accessible location where kids can be monitored to ensure it is used for the purpose of skating. It should definitely be sited away from a brand new community facility, which will inevitably be trashed if this crazy plan continues.

name supplied

---

### **Town Council - what has it done?** - 14/03/11

Sorry (no doubt amongst others) I forgot to mention the planning & highways committee has also provided the bus shelters (jointly funded with OCC) and grit bins (OCC fills them). More of these are planned this year.

Alan hickmore

---

### **Faringdon Radio** - 14/03/11

A new community internet radio station for the Faringdon area - first show is Faringdon Local (new show every two weeks) and features interviews with organisers and one of the bands, 'Brickwork Lizzards' from last months Big Gig.

Interview and update on the new cricket club.

The Elvis Experience - interview.

Interview and update with Faringdon Twinning Association

Please have a listen and let us know what you think

<http://www.faringdonradio.com>

Sean Hodgson

---

### **Davis DIY** - 14/03/11

Very sad to hear of the plans to close Davis DIY on London Street. As a true mass-merchandise retailer with an excellent level of customer service, this type of store is very important to a town centre such as Faringdon, and its loss will adversely affect local residents and businesses alike. I wish Adam and his team all the best for the future,

Matt @ Majo Furniture

---

## Skatepark - 14/03/11

The skatepark is due to be positioned directly in the cricket batsmans eyeline creative a massive and dangerous distraction. Therefore cricket will not be able to be played while the skatepark is in use. If the skatepark is built in the proposed position the whole facility will be useless.

John

---

## Town Council - what has it done? - 14/03/11

An interesting debate. So - what has it done and why is it necessary (sorry this could be quite long).

The Town Council provides those local services that the District and County do not (or will not) provide. For example:

### **Premises:**

FTC owns the Corn Exchange and provides a facility for individual use and for organisations who need a "village hall" facility. FTC is currently refurbishing the building to make it one that we can all be proud of.

The Pump Rooms provide a meeting facility that is one of the best in Oxfordshire. Currently a lift is being provided that will open the building up to everybody. The old bar area is being converted to a patio and the development of the theatre area is being discussed.

The Old Town Hall - in the ownership of the War Memorial Trust (a sub section of FTC) has as its primary aim the maintenance of the war memorial but also provides a meeting and exhibition room that was refurbished and saved in 2000. It is much used and appreciated particularly during the memorial exhibition which is run by FTC and the British Legion.

### **Recreation and open spaces.**

FTC owns or operates the small play park in Tuckers Park, the Town park (behind the library) and Oakwood park. All these need maintaining and improving and this is a major part of the plans for this coming year.

**Allotments.** FTC operates about 35 allotments. There is a real demand for more and FTC is trying to provide these through the development of some land which we own.

FTC is also the Trustee body for Tucker Park.

### **Planning**

FTC is a "statutory consultee" on all planning matters. Our voice tries to recognise the concerns of the town whilst remaining within the constraints of planning law.

FTC has produced (after significant and important input from organisations and individuals) a strategy document which tries to show how the town could develop up to 2026. This will become very important when the "localism bill" becomes law later this year.

Planning also talks with potential developers about their plans and tries to put the Town's view.

Planning is always a contentious issue and not everybody will agree with the committee's view, but we try to remain objective and stay within the planning laws.

### **General FTC activity:**

The council provides grants to organisations that benefit the town. For example over the years:

#### **Festive Faringdon**

(Up to last year) Faringdon festival The community bus (through advertising)

First responders The children's centre

SK8 In the past FTC paid 30% of the costs of producing the original Healthcheck In conjunction with VWHDC and the Countryside agency).

Etc. there are many others.

The other councils have been off loading many of their activities in recent years:

The TIC is now operated and funded by FTC

The youth officer will no longer be funded by OCC and the FTC has taken on this responsibility.

FTC is also involved in other joint ventures within the Town:

Christmas lights - the council pays for the erection, replacements and other costs of the lights. The retailers group and Rotary join us in this.

### **Joint Economic Forum:**

JEFF is a jointly funded venture with the District Council and includes a number of Town organisations. It was responsible for negotiating the original (European) funding for the community bus, the family centre and the cyber

bus. Recently it has negotiated a further £60,000 of funding for other groups that will benefit the town.

**Traffic advisory group.**

This is a joint committee of FTC, VWHDC, OCC and town organisations that looks at and deals with traffic issues in Faringdon.

FTC also has members on the Community Bus committee and Faringdon United Charities.

This is not a comprehensive list of what FTC does, but I do think that there is enough there to encourage townspeople to apply for election to join the council. If you want to make a difference there is an election in May. It costs nothing to apply and (if elected) you will find being an FTC councillor is hard (unpaid) work, but can be very rewarding.

(as usual these are my views and not necessarily those of FTC)

Alan hickmore

---

## Town Council - what has it done? - 12/03/11

In all fairness, and you said it yourself, the District and County councils are responsible for most of the decisions which affect the town. The town council can do nothing about the punitive business rates, parking, and luring shops to our less than attractive retail environment. It cannot force local people to shop locally either. It has very little power and the fact that the town population has grown has diminished the 'satisfaction element' of the town councillors' job rather than increased it. They get the flak when things go wrong because the public, on the whole, do not know which responsibilities go with which tier of local government and the town council is the handy one to blame.

I agree that the Friends of the Folly do a great job but the members have the freedom to devise and implement their own ideas instead of just being able to 'comment' on someone else's, and they also have the satisfaction of seeing their schemes put into practice and getting the credit for so doing.

In times gone by the town and parish councils had greater autonomy but their power has been eroded over the years. Before you wish them away ask yourself who will really come forward with enthusiasm to look after the street lighting, and the boring day-to-day admin of the council venues? I bet it wouldn't be your choice and it certainly wouldn't be mine. Volunteers like to cherry-pick their pastimes, and council duties aren't half so much fun as looking after the Folly Tower.

Name supplied

---

## Town Council - what has it done? - 12/03/11

Since the last true election for the Faringdon Town Council, ie when more than the required 14 candidates stood for election, we have seen a massive increase in population accompanied by a decrease in Town trade. Why? We have lost 2, now shortly to be 3 iron mongers. 2 butchers have gone. The off license, dedicated post office, green grocer, wet fish shop, bicycle shop, saddlers', 3 clothes shops, country wear shop, a shoe shop, carpet shop and haberdashers.

We have gained a cheese shop, piano shop, bridal and evening wear, pharmacy, mobility, video, pet shop, take away food and 2 charity shops. Many units have undergone changes of ownership.

My question is what exactly has Faringdon Town Council done to protect and improve the retail environment in the Town center? The "improved" Market Square with reduced parking? Support for a small Tesco away from the town center to save those who live near it visiting the town center at all? Frankly most of the Town Council business is decided by bigger bodies like the Vale and Oxfordshire District Councils, and we might as well dispense with the Town Council and leave it to our "Big Society" to take on the truly local activities. But since a town of 6,000 residents is unable to field enough candidates for a Town Council election, what chance the "Big Society"? The Friends of The Folly are but one example of what can be done, let's do more of the same.

Another Rachel

---

## The town centre - Not - 12/03/12

I wandered into Faringdon on Saturday morning; I fancied a coffee in the spring sunshine, buying the papers and pottering about. However, when I got to Park Road, all I found were some unsightly industrial units, a petrol station and an untidy street. I could still buy my paper and a coffee but it was hardly the market town centre I was looking for.

Sir Caustic

---

## **The Big Society** - 12/03/11

Hear hear! to that. Big Society is merely a slick and deceitful little slogan. Libraries cannot be run by amateurs, however well meaning, and youth centres don't maintain themselves. I note the phrase "we're all in this together" seems to have lost its credibility; presumably because it is becoming increasingly obvious that the only people who are in it together are (for example) the low paid, the long term sick, the less well off youth, and those who actually have to rely on those public services which are facing the severest cutbacks, as opposed to those who are wealthy enough to be able to 'go private' for all their needs, and that, I guess includes all our members of government. So that's all right then.

What a short memory we all have. Not so very long ago some of us were gleefully applauding a sentence coined by another well known political name of the same persuasion. - Remember "There's no such thing as society".?

Bystander (without the 'The') .

---

## **The Big Society** - 12/03/11

So we can now all take part in Cameron's Big Society by bidding for the endless pot of gold (actually £600,000) that Oxfordshire County Council is tantalisingly offering to community groups, including libraries and youth centres. How many community groups will be pitched against each other to get a small slice of the action? Interesting to note that most of the threatened libraries have said they will not bid for any of this money feeling that libraries should be on a properly funded footing and not dependent on the luck of the draw. This BS is a convenient cover for a big political shift in society to reduce public services, spending and jobs.

The Bystander

---

## **Waitrose Snobbery !** - 12/03/11

My neighbour says a Tesco store is far too much down market.  
She drives a 4 x 4 so needs a pleasant place to park it.  
She says she shops in Waitrose for the staff are smartly dressed  
and customers' Designer Jeans are always neatly pressed.  
But last weekend she dropped her bag, her food was on the floor.  
and being a friendly neighbour I helped her to her door.  
But as I filled her Waitrose bag with milk and bread and butter  
I couldn't help but notice that...  
she'd bought it at Costcutter

name supplied

---

## **Skatepark** - 12/03/11

The skatepark in Bampton is next to the car park on the edge of the cricket/sports ground, quite a long way out beyond the edge of the village and whenever I have been there it seems to work very well. Kids get quite obsessed with skateboarding partly perhaps because it requires hours and hours of dedicated practice to get any good at and in itself has nothing whatsoever to do with e.g. smoking, alcohol, drugs or any other form of anti social behaviour.

name supplied

---

## **Waitrose** - 11/03/11

do not have any plans to remove the pavement linking Gloucester Street and the car park past the library entrance. The pavement exists on the plans and is actually going to be widened next to the little grassy patch. It will be about 1.6m wide at the corner of the library and about 2.5m wide after that.  
To widen the access road for two way traffic they plan to move the pavement, stone wall and railings back a bit and lose a strip down the edge of the park. Seems quite a reasonable balance to me.

name supplied

---

**No circus.** - 11/03/11

It may be that the corn exchange reopens on the 2nd of April, but as I stated M.a.d.D. are BANNED from hiring any council venues. NO HELP THERE THEN.

Sam Prince

---

**To rachel** - 11/03/11

Can I suggest you go back and look at the site when the Junior School children are actually going in or out of the school? The entrance you mention is in fact only used by Year 6 (i.e. the oldest) children and visitors. The rest of the school use the entrance through the Town Park, which is behind the library. To reach this the children have to use the footpath alongside the access route to the proposed new Waitrose. Maybe the school could all use the other entrance but it is very narrow. I assume the school know best which entrances work best for them.

name supplied

---

**Rats Castle** - 11/03/11

Does anyone know what is happening to the Rats Castle. I heard it has been sold, let hope they make it back into a restaurant.

name supplied

---

**no circus**

The corn exchange opens on the 2nd of april

name supplied

---

**Wairose** - 11/03/11

I walked round there yesterday and I cant see what all the fuss is about. There is ample room on the wide pavement in Gloucester street and the children's school entrance is not next to the library entrance or the access road, it is quite a way further up the road. There should be no reason to congregate by the access road at all. Why is there a need for the children to leave the school and come through the little park at all?.

As for the footpath impinging on the grassy bit , so what? no-one will actually miss a grassy bit.

Yes, there is wildlife in the spinney and it can be seen quite often squatting down, drinking from cans and smoking, (weather permitting) to mention just a few of it's engaging habits but it isnt an endangered species and anyone who is really keen to observe it can find any amount of habitats around town if they look .

The site appears ideal for a Waitrose and the store will be an asset to the town. Bring it on!

Rachel

---

**To Sir Caustic.**

Perhaps I should have said,no suitable venue.

The circus in Town is a youth project organised by M.A.D.D. It enables people between the ages of 14-22 years young to gain experience in areas such as performance, production, lighting,sound,and staging. We used to,when M.A.D.D.ran the bar at The Corn Exchange, as a fund raiser to support this kind of venture. Use that venue, at that time it was titled open mic sessions.When the corn Exchange finally closed at the end of Dec 2010 we moved it to The Crown Hotel. The first and last Circus in town at that venue was a huge success and everyone concerned thought the venue was perfect,unfortunatly there was a change in management and all events were cancelled. I was informed this was due to residents complaints. I then had to search for another suitable venue,

The Bell Hotel kindly agreed to "Give it a try" It turned out to be not suitable. To go back to the council venues. the pump Rooms have no licence. The corn exchange,when refurbished will be to expensive. Also M.A.D.D. are Banned from hiring any Council Venues.

I hope this helps with your inquiry. If you have any others please get in touch.

Sam Prince

---

### **The Town Centre.** - 10/03/11

No, it is not somewhere along Park Road, halfway to Stamford in The Vale, or whatever you would like it to be, it IS the Market Square.

Sorry -----

name supplied

---

### **Waitrose Access.** - 10/03/11

To all the experts, please read the plans, the footpath is to be moved, yes, it will impinge on the grassy bit. But please get it right and stop peddling nonsense?

name supplied

---

### **Skatepark.** - 10/03/11

I don't think any of the comments on here about the SK8 project are suggesting that the youth of Faringdon should not have a skatepark.

People are merely questioning the suitability of the location immediately adjacent to a new cricket pavilion and pitch, at the furthest outreach of the town centre.

The new cricket pavilion looks fantastic and is a real asset to the town. The people of Faringdon can indeed come and watch a gentle game of cricket on a Saturday / Sunday afternoon and enjoy the peace and sunshine. Why does the skatepark have to be immediately adjacent.

Why can't it be further down the field towards Faringdon, away from cricket and the pavilion.

Why can't it be to the rear of the Youth Centre, bringing together all the youth facilities of the town. It is just a grown up debate that is required here. Don't just plough on with this project in this location if it is not the very best location that it can be - for skateboarders, cricketers and all the people of Faringdon.

name supplied

---

### **No Circus.** - 10/03/11

Sam, I have no idea which erratically capitalised circus you are on about but there are plenty of great venues in Faringdon

From small back rooms in pubs, bars, church halls, the old town hall, pump rooms, local clubs and of course the soon to be refurbished corn exchange.

To erect a Big Top perhaps the cricket or rugby club may oblige a field?

The tourist information office on Gloucester Street can probably help you.

Sir Caustic

---

### **No Circus** - 10/03/11

NO mOre CirCUS IN ToWN. No VENUE.

sam prince

---

## **Faringdon Skate Park Project:** - 10/03/11

1. Folly Park location chosen as a result of prolonged investigation, and was carefully researched. The folly park development is designed as a community project for all to enjoy; are the youth of Faringdon not considered part of the community?
2. It is a proven fact that youth facilities such as skate parks reduce anti-social behaviour by providing young people with energetic activities. As previously mentioned, the police have been part of the planning project.
3. To generalise Faringdon's youth as vandals is rather discriminatory. Could the two facilities not be mutually beneficial? I envisage parents playing or watching a game of cricket on a Sunday afternoon while their kids are happy enjoying the skate park.
4. The youth of Faringdon are in need of the support of local residents to lobby for their interests. If you are one of many who support this and would like to get involved please visit the Faringdon skate park project (SK8) on Facebook.

name supplied

---

## **Faringdon Community and Tourist Information Centre** - 10/03/11

Faringdon Tourist and Information Centre will be closed on Saturday 12th March due to refurbishment works in the entrance hall. We will be open as usual on Monday 14th March. Sorry for any inconvenience caused.

Sally Thurston

---

## **WHERE IS THE TOWN CENTRE?** - 10/03/11

Time and again I read in here that Tesco would be too far from the town Centre or Waitrose would be in the town centre. This is all errant nonsense, take a map of the town as it now is with the Bloor Homes Developments etc, and draw a line North to South and another East to West, the actual Centre of Faringdon is along Park Road very close to the old and now redundant JDS building. Didn't someone want to build a supermarket there?

Of course the majority of retail shops are in the Market Square, London Street, area though I note with sadness that the best retail store in the town bar none (Davis DIY) is closing. However this is not the Town Centre. Incidentally a perusal of the main areas of population in Faringdon as opposed to retail will show most residents live to the South of the town in easy reach of the proposed Tesco development and the excellent Costcutter stores.

name supplied

---

## **The Waitrose Effect?** - 10/03/11

This article appeared in the local media in Leeds.

"Leeds feels the Waitrose effect"

A new supermarket is coming to Leeds - and it could revive the fortunes of a previously overlooked suburb. Rod McPhee finds out how a food retailer can have such an impact.

It's not quite up there with the opening of Harvey Nichols, but the arrival of an upmarket food retailer in Leeds has certainly got people talking. Residents of Meanwood have high hopes of the store which opens its doors on September 30 - because they hope they are about to experience the economic "Waitrose effect".

Dr Sally Uren of Forum for the Future, a national organisation promoting sustainable business practice, carried out a study looking at this phenomenon and sounded suitably impressed.

"Waitrose is very keen that their new stores deliver real and lasting benefits for the consumer, the local community, the environment and local businesses." she concluded. "In many parts of the UK a new Waitrose store has boosted local business and communities."

Other store openings have offered evidence that this is more than a theory, both in terms of business investment and property prices. For example, when a branch opened in Great Malvern in the West Midlands, a report published by

the Civic Regeneration Trust showed that empty retail units subsequently dropped by 54 per cent. And it's a similar story with the housing market. Paul Jarman is director of country residential agencies for FPD Savill. "Waitrose is an economic indicator of the underlying strength of property prices," he says. 'If a Waitrose moves into an area, it is likely that the house prices will rise faster there than elsewhere.'

The full article can be found at:

[http://www.yorkshireeveningpost.co.uk/news/latest-news/leeds\\_feels\\_the\\_waitrose\\_effect\\_1\\_2252813](http://www.yorkshireeveningpost.co.uk/news/latest-news/leeds_feels_the_waitrose_effect_1_2252813)

Mel Lane

---

### **To Sam, the Archer** - 10/03/11

To Sam, the archer: can you please get in touch regarding a field for archery? I'm looking for a similar arrangement and have a few ideas in mind.

Grant

---

### **A Blobby Dream** - 10/03/11

Came across an amusing story in the Advertiser. I wonder if these places actually exist, or is it all just a blobby dream?

Sam Prince

---

### **Access to Waitrose** - 8/3/11

Nobody has suggested that Gloucester Street is only 4.5m wide, it is the access to the carpark that is that width.

The plans propose to remove the continuous pavement going down the side of the library (where the entrance is) to the "little grassy park" which is our Town Park. Removing this pavement means there is nowhere for pedestrians to safely walk either to the school entrance or to get into the library.

The Town Park is not owned by either Faringdon House, Waitrose or the VWHDC, but by Oxford County Council and held under license by Faringdon Town Council. No negotiations have been entered into by the planners to take away any of this park, in fact the VWHDC are erroneously under the impression that they own it.  
Name Supplied

---

### **Budgens:Carters** - 8/3/11

My understanding is that when Carters were looking for a buyer, the big supermarkets had a policy of having to be able to offer free parking.

The Vale could/would not oblige.

Name Supplied

*ED(GW) Faringdon car parks currently make a loss ( according to how VWHDC does their costings) Perhaps one of our District Councilors would comment*

---

### **Comment on Waitrose** - 7/3/11

I cannot agree with the previous post on Tesco shortcomings - I sometimes shop there and have have found the staff helpful, the store clean and so on, and find it when I go there perfectly acceptable.

There is however a great deal of competition now between the larger supermarkets and Waitrose stock cheaper 'basic' ranges and offers, as well as their range of better quality goods than Tesco.

The Gloucester Street entrance plans are not the best at present and the building process would cause disruption - but once built, a Waitrose on the proposed site would bed down very well and enhance the town centre, rather than the opposite. As for the scaremongering predictions of buildings falling down and property becoming valueless - they are frankly ridiculous. Waitrose in the vicinity tends to raise the value of property, not the other way around.

Despite some very pleasant and enticing shops, for some time Faringdon town centre has been becoming increasingly down market, grubby and unappealing. The demise of Davis is yet another sad event which will make Faringdon less attractive. Waitrose is perceived as up market and will raise the profile of the town, attracting more of the village population. More retail outlets are likely to follow. Tesco is seen as being ruthless, unethical and aggressive and is unlikely to have the same enhancing effect.

Incidentally - why make the thoughtless assumption that those with cars need not consider petrol usage? Surely it's only those with cars (not all millionaires I can assure you) who DO need to consider it!

Shophound

---

## Davis DIY - 7/3/11

I just read here on Faringdon Talking points the news of Davis DIY are going to close their business permanently. Obviously this is sad news to me and to most locals the same I'm certain.

I would like to say in this open forum my gratitude and great appreciation to the staff at Davis DIY for having provided me always with excellent service and advice. As well on some occasions without extra cost to me having had great conversations with a good sense of humour added will not be forgotten.

All my best to everyone at Davis DIY,  
Kimmo

---

## Access to Waitrose - 7/3/11

A great cover article in the Folly about Waitrose; with a photo of the 66 bus nicely illustrating the challenges of Gloucester Street access.

The article photo shows there is currently no way you can fit a bus, oncoming traffic and two rows of parked cars on Gloucester Street as it is. Waitrose' solution is to add a parking bay into the pavement in front of the library and increase the width of the road to 5.75m, enough for two cars? With additional space each side to maintain most parking. This does rely on enforcement of the existing 'school keep clear' zig zags and removal of some of the illegal pavement parking.

Gloucester Street will be 5.75m wide outside the library (two way section of road), the narrowest point, and 6m wide at the roundabout edge (two way section). At no point will any two way section be as narrow as 4.5m.

[http://i66.servimg.com/u/f66/16/16/49/11/two\\_wa10.jpg](http://i66.servimg.com/u/f66/16/16/49/11/two_wa10.jpg)

The slip road to the car park will be 4.5m wide at the narrowest (one way) point, the edge of the road is 1.6m from the corner of the library. This access road and the library are separated by the pavement. It is a 'give way to oncoming vehicles' section, just like the short stretch of road outside Rob the Cheese in the town centre. There should not be any two way traffic on this section at the same time, however we know there are some terribly impatient drivers who are incapable of understanding a staggered junction or what 'give way' means.

[http://i66.servimg.com/u/f66/16/16/49/11/site\\_a10.jpg](http://i66.servimg.com/u/f66/16/16/49/11/site_a10.jpg)

There is a continuous pavement from Gloucester Street to the little grassy park and to the proposed supermarket. This pavement is only 1.6m at the pinch point by the library at it's narrowest but widens to just over 2.5m, level with the park and is protected by the existing railing which is repositioned. Some loss of a strip of the park and a repositioning of the stone wall will happen to make this possible.

It seems to me that this access is fine for cars and for people given the limitations of the old buildings.

It will require that children and adults 'stop, look and listen' when crossing; particularly between parked cars and that drivers slow down to a speed appropriate for a narrow residential street with a school, library etc.

My only concern is for lorries; I think they should use the Lechlade road. The Folly article suggested that a weak bridge had ruled this access out. Anyone know any more details? To my knowledge there aren't any weak bridges to go over between Aunties Emporium and the allotment turning?

Name Supplied

---

### **Davis DIY** - 7/3/11

Its a real shame that Davis Home centre is closing. They are the main and often the only reason I walk into Faringdon town centre. I have used them more than a dozen times in the last year, spending around £3-400 in total. I was in there only two weeks ago, getting some good advice from Nick. Now I will have to drive to Wantage or Swindon to get my bits n pieces. Yes they were not the cheapest, but with the ever increasing cost of fuel,the extra cost outweighed driving elsewhere.

Sadly, you only know a good thing when its gone. I wish them all the best, from a happy customer.

Mark

---

### **Budgens:Carters** - 7/3/11

I've just heard that there is a clause in the legal stuff when Carters sold the shop that a large supermarket chain could not buy/use the premises. Apparently Waitrose asked about the property ( some time in the past)

What a shame

Can it be true? Can it be changed?

Name Supplied

---

### **Davis DIY** - 6/3/11

I am also sad that Adam has decide to close but hopefully this will show that whichever supermarket comes to faringdon is not the cause of small market towns losing local shops,

Its us as shoppers who cause local shops to close by not using them. But shop owners must also wake upto shoppers demands EG not closing at peak times like dinnertime ETC.

Ian and faringdon motoparts is classic example of working with the customers needs at the downfall of working living and breathing his shop ,as being a shop owner is a 24hr 7 days a week job.

The sad thing is we will lose this shop and lans commitment to faringdon and his customers other independant shops should take note of his desire and drive .

Kind regards a shopper

---

### **Davis DIY** - 6/3/11

Saddened to read the post from Adam that Davis's is to shut up shop - I too will miss it. 99 times of of 100 I could get what I wanted there, however small, and it will be a sad day for Faringdon when the shutters go up. I have lost my butcher, now I'm to lose my ironmonger. Who next? I have lived here for over 10 years and I love our quirky little town, but during that time Faringdon has been slowly dying on its feet, and it saddens me. I do all I can to support local businesses, but we now desperately need a shot in the arm by having Waitrose in the town. It will bring people into Faringdon, to spend money. Faringdon needs to change if it is to survive and from then start to thrive. To stand in the way of change will be Faringdon's ultimate Folly.

Name Supplied

---

### **Comment on Waitrose** - 6/3/11

I worry!!

A supermarket in Faringdon should be more about the location and the impact on the commercial,residential and historic parts of the town - not which retailer it happens to be.

Having said that, my gut feel is that more people will be better served by Tesco ( with's it's value and finest ranges) Those without a car, or on low incomes will benefit greatly. Those with cars, and who need not consider petrol usage, can still drive to the nearest Waitrose if they want to.

The nearest Tesco is in Swindon, Waitrose and Sainsbury are in Wantage. Maybe a Tesco in Faringdon would draw more people in

Name Supplied

---

## Comment on Waitrose - 6/3/11

Just read the recent Folly and the letters section. Now I see that apparently Waitrose lies about the expected traffic and their prices !. I wonder why then they are regularly voted as the top supermarket ?. The letter says that it would only give us a high-quality top up store. Have these people ever been inside a Waitrose ?. They stock exactly the same as every other supermarket and their prices on every day items are always competitive with pricematching which most supermarkets do. They just happen to be known for a range of high-end items too which others don't, and I don't see a problem if that's what people want. It's called choice. The reason people park on double yellow lines near Budgens is that they probably object to paying to use the car parks. The Waitrose car park would be free and would, I expect, allow customers two hours or so free parking so that people could quickly go into the town centre, which as we know is a very short walk away.

I would never consider walking from the Tesco site into the town centre as I feel it's isolated from the town itself and I very much doubt anybody else would. They might drive to the centre but then we end up with the parking problems again because people don't like to pay a parking fee.

I don't see why there would be conflict between the free Waitrose parking and the paid-for parking nearby, it works perfectly well in Marlborough where Waitrose is in the main high street. They have free parking and the paid-for parking is very nearby.

Personally I don't like Tesco's, the last one I went in a year ago, Swindon, was dirty and noisy, with piles of cheap junk food everywhere obviously aimed at the young. The staff were mainly surly and uninterested. I know all supermarkets are after the same goal but Tesco's are a greedy company who stamp on everybody and kill small towns. It's well known.

The access to the proposed Waitrose isn't good and I understand completely why residents are so concerned. Whatever happens however, my family will continue to drive out of town if Tesco's is our only choice.

Name Supplied

---

## Another Nail in Faringdon's Coffin - 6/3/11.

I'm sure I am not the only one who will be saddened to hear that Adam feels he must close Davis Home Centre.

I will miss the large range of items which the DIY superstores won't stock unless they can be sure of selling hundreds of units.

I will miss the carpark which is usually full even when the shop is not.

Most of all I will miss the advice from the friendly staff, particularly Nick.

He has always been able to give me instant answers to most of my household problems

And most of the time he has been right

HGM

---

## Davis Home Centre - 6/3/11

Hardly unexpected news due to the fact that Faringdon as a town for shopping is rubbish. Lechlade, Highworth and the small town of Wantage are better served for main food shops than Faringdon is.

I do hope that when the Tesco appeal is heard that some sort of compromise can be reached to enable a decent chance to have a better supermarket. What with the ever increasing cost of fuel, it would pay to shop in town rather than going to Swindon or Wantage.

Come on Town Council, County councillors; give us a Supermarket.

---

## Comment on Waitrose - 5/3/11

I have been to the page you link to to make my comment but I cannot find any way to do it. Even you say it is simple. Please can you explain how to do it..

Name supplied

ED(GW) Click on

<http://idocs.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/WAM/showCaseFile.do?action=show&appName=planning&appNumber=11/00146/F>  
UL

You should see a page about the app. Click on submit comments button at top of page

*If you're a resident the next screen will ask for your house number and postcode ( in the format xxx space yyy), select your address, then your name, after which you can write your comment*

---

## **Davis Home Centre is Closing** - 6/3/11

Sadly, after nearly two years of struggling due to the ongoing economic problems, reduction in footfall into Faringdon and the pressure of the out-of-town DIY superstores we have had to make the decision to close Davis Home Centre.

A few factors have really affected us since buying the shop in 2006. One is that that the Bargain Centre is run by the family of Baker Brothers cash and carry of Witney, (their cost price is far lower than mine and I cannot compete with that!) Secondly, we desperately need a good supermarket as an anchor shop in the town, Faringdon as a shopping centre is dying. Please don't let this carry on, Faringdon is a good town, it has a lot going for it. Here is an idea, what about letting both Tesco (with a decent and usable path from the store into the centre) and Waitrose come to town, then Faringdon really would take off!

Too Many Cooks will be staying and expanding its range with lines such as light bulbs, HG cleaning and other cleaning products, flasks, kettles/toasters/irons etc, to make a more home and cookware shop. If this is not viable, it will go as well.

One phrase from customers that will stick with me is "I have looked all around Swindon, and look, it's for sale here"! Try your local town first then go to Swindon, you will save money and time.

We would like to thank all our loyal customers for their support, and hope you will still use Too Many Cooks.  
Thanks,  
Adam Blackwell  
Davis Home Centre

---

## **This is a Community Message from Thames Valley Police.** - 5/3/11

### **BURGLARY IN FARINGDON**

Between 0950 hours on Friday 25th February and 0930 hours on Saturday 26th February a property in Pye Street, Faringdon was subject to a burglary. Offender or offenders have gained entry by forcing the rear window. Money taken. If you have seen any suspicious looking people or vehicles in the area or have any information relating to this message, please call the Police on 08458 505 505 and quote URN 456 of the 26th February.

---

## **Wicker basket wanted** - 5/3/11

Does anyone out there have a wicker basket that i could have, to put together a hamper, i would be very greatful as im trying to raise money to buy a bingo machine for the african childrens fund.also any unwanted goodies to go in it would be a big help.please tel Debbie on 07772611136 if you can help  
Debbie Piercy

---

## **Comment on Waitrose**- 5/3/11

I would urge all residents who have an opinion about the proposed Waitrose development off Gloucester Street to make their voice heard to the planners who will shortly be weighing up this application; the process is a very easy one and you can make your comments on-line by going to

<http://idocs.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/WAM/showCaseFile.do?action=show&appName=planning&appNumber=11/00146/FUL>

Last date is 10th March 2011

---

## **Access road to waitrose site**- 3/3/11

I should point out that the figure of 4.5m wide for the access road to Waitrose is a measure of the narrowest point of that access route, so at that point the road could not be wider even if there was no pavement at all. This pinchpoint is caused by the corner of the library and the buildings on the other side. So to use this width vehicles would have to brush the corner of the library. Anyone like to take a bet how long it would be till the library took a direct hit?

Maybe this sort of image could be taken in faringdon in the near future: <http://swns.com/waitrose-christmas-delivery->

[supermarket-lorry-crashes-into-farmhouse-211233.html](http://supermarket-lorry-crashes-into-farmhouse-211233.html)

Name Supplied

---

## Health and Social care services in and around Faringdon - 5/3/11

Have a look at [nvtalkinghealth.htm](http://nvtalkinghealth.htm) to find out about preventive health checks, setting up a teabook group and a more local gynae clinic.

Join the [South Central Ambulance service members group](#) to have a say on ambulance services for Faringdon ED(GW)

---

## Facts from our man of planning:- 3/3/11

The figures I have quoted are those provided by Waitrose in their planning application. The distances from the town centre are the distances quoted in the Waitrose application and the Tesco application.

Vehicle movements in the Waitrose application need some work. They say that a similar average for existing shops are 5,500 movements by cars in the two busiest days. It is reasonable (and probably an underestimate) to double this figure for a whole week. This also ties in with the anticipated turnover for the store of £15m in 2015.

Please read the application!!

Alan Hickmore

(as usual these are my comments not necessarily those of FTC)

---

## Comment on Waitrose planning application.- 23/2/11

The details are published on VWHDC Public Access planning portal on their website.

<http://idocs.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/WAM/showCaseFile.do?action=show&appName=planning&appNumber=11/00146/FUL>

Last date is 10th March 2011

Name Supplied

---

## re FTC 'Facts' from our man of planning:- 3/3/11

It's the access road that is to be widened to 4.5 m wide

Waitrose said at their exhibition that they expect 1500 customers per day

3 articulated lorry deliveries( 3 journeys in, 3 out), est 6 smaller vehicles per day plus 2or 3 refuse lorries per week from Waitrose planning documents- (they may not always be full)

80m difference from town centre based on figures in both planning apps. Not clear from where they measure.

Not 'our man from planning'

Incidentally, I have been told that in Wallingford's new supermarket there are many more deliveries than originally estimated in the planning application. Supermarkets now have little or no storage space, when they run out of something they arrange to have it delivered.

---

## Contacts for Verdant - 3/3/11

For issues re emptying dog bins( Mondays), street cleaning, dog mess on the pavements - in fact all street cleaning issues contact:

[admin.vale@verdant-group.co.uk](mailto:admin.vale@verdant-group.co.uk), or 03000 610610 (local rate)

---

## Park Road needs to be swept - 3/3/11

I hope Bloor homes send a mechanised road sweeper up and down Park Road - the road is muddy/dusty (dependent on weather; has the appearance of a set from a wild west film!!!)

Name Supplied

---

## FTC 'Facts' from our man of planning:- 3/3/11

Gloucester Street is 4.5m wide, is it?

10,500 people will go to Waitrose each week, that's every single person in Faringdon and every surrounding village including children, driving there individually.

16 lorries are required each day, that's 2,240tonnes a week of goods sold (20tonne lorries?)

So on average each customer buys over 200kg of shopping? Erm, that's quite a lot for every man, woman and child. Really?

Park Road is 80meters further from the town centre than Gloucester Street.

We know that the '80m' claim is untrue whichever route you take. Just look at a map.

I'm not sure I believe many of our town councils 'facts'.

(As usual these are interesting comments and not just made up on the spot)

Name Supplied

---

### Top tip. - 3/3/11

Leaders of coalition parties: if your policy is to cut local and national budgets left, right and centre then why not have a 'big idea' which is essentially getting unqualified enthusiasts to volunteer for free.

Sir Caustic

---

### New Cricket Pavilion - 4/3/11

Good to see that the building of the new pavilion has started.

See[http://planning.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/publicaccess/tdc/DcApplication/application\\_detailview.aspx?caseno=L5LGLNBY0A000\(10/01326/REM\)](http://planning.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/publicaccess/tdc/DcApplication/application_detailview.aspx?caseno=L5LGLNBY0A000(10/01326/REM)) for details

Name Supplied

---

### Street clutter - 3/3/11

Sounds like a golden opportunity to join the Big Society and do it yourself

Bystander

---

### Tesco link to the Market Place - 3/3/11

I am a little confused. Is the "grotty path" that is being mentioned the alleyway of the old railway lines? If so, then I can't see this path being used. People would have to turn away from town to use this path and add more distance to their journey instead of passing a nursery, refurbished public house selling locally brewed ales, our community's family centre, and more besides!

From a walkers point of view, the start of this path is probably the same distance from the door of the Redlake building as Majo furniture is in the opposite direction.

Apologies if I have the wrong path.

Name Supplied

---

### India Calling !!!! - 3/3/11

Got the scam call from an Indian call centre again this morning saying my computer had reported to Microsoft that it had a problem. If you are having problems with your computer and have not had this call before it is very easy to get caught out, do take care.

The Consultant.

---

### Planning notices pinned to poles, walls etc - 3/3/11

Thought I'd find out who is responsible for taking down this street clutter

VWHDC said 'We have no procedure for taking down out-of-date site notices, but the planning officers do tend to take them down as and when they see them whilst on site visits. Otherwise, applicants or the parish/town council can take them down.'

ie No one

Name Supplied

---

## **Giant Jumble Sale on 9th April** - 3/3/11

Corn Exchange, Faringdon

Wanted: Books, Toys, DVDs, bric a brac, good clothes etc.

Tombola and raffle prizes

In aid of Parkinsons and Multiple Sclerosis with 10% going to Helen and Douglas House in memory of Di Thomas.

Enq: 01367 241753 or 01367 240130

---

## **Tesco link to the Market Place** - 2/3/11

Someone mentioned the path along the side of Redlake's buildings which links Park Road with Southampton Street and the tennis courts. The comment was along the lines of 'I wouldn't use that grotty old path'.

Wasn't this on the Tesco plans to be upgraded and done up? It wouldn't be grotty then, and it would probably be more open than it is now, therefore it would be a shorter route into the centre of Faringdon if we had a Tesco.  
Faringdon Resident

---

### **Union Flag on Folly Tower** - 30/4/11

The flag around the Folly tower is indeed a great effort and those who placed it should be congratulated for their efforts. A most thoughtful gesture.

For the record, the Union Flag has a correct way up. In the half of the flag nearest the flagpole, the wider diagonal white stripe must be above the red diagonal stripe.  
If hung horizontally or vertically without flag pole, the broad white diagonal should be uppermost in the top-left corner.  
Name Supplied

---

### **VWHDC Residents Panel** - 30/4/11

If you want to tell VWHDC what you think of the services provided sign up for the residents panel on [http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/news\\_views/consultation/detailpage-8119.asp](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/news_views/consultation/detailpage-8119.asp)  
I signed up a while ago and received the first online consultation yesterday. You can give you views on the refuse collection service, VWHDC and South Oxford moving to 1 building and the Vale newspaper- it only takes a few minutes.

It's a quick and easy way to let VWHDC what we think in Faringdon  
Name Supplied

---

### **Price Match**- 30/4/11

I don't go usually go around looking at prices, but this morning, I just happened to see, because I was buying it, Sunpride tomato juice: in Waitrose 66p, in Budgens £1. 20.

Name Supplied

---

### **Tea Party- a huge thankyou** - 30/4/11

It was lovely to see so many people enjoy themselves at the Tea Party for the Royal Wedding in the Corn Exchange. An idea remains just that without the help, support and generosity of all who contributed and they all deserve a mention: >

Firstly for donating food, drinks, decorations, plates etc and cash (in no particular order) Costcutter, Budgens, Deacons, McColl's Newsagents, The Volunteer, Presentation Gifts, Too Many Cooks/Davis DIY, The Nut Tree, Pat Thomas Butchers, The Coffee Shop, Marriotts, Orafric Jewellers, Sweet Paradise, The Retailers Group, Thanks a Bunch and Sandwich Phillers. The Town Council for giving free use of the Corn Exchange. Thanks also to Jenny and Margot (sorry I don't know your surnames) for donating cakes and to Mike & Rachael Perks for tea bags. >

On the day, the volunteers who made it all happen were brilliant and huge thanks to Dee, Dawn, Jess, Sophie, Amanda, Tim and David. To Phil Baker for live music during the last hour. I am also hugely grateful to the attendees who stayed to help with the clear up, much appreciated. >

To everyone who attended and made the afternoon a success, again huge thanks. Many people left a cash donation which totalled over £130.00 at the end of the party, which was very kind. This money has been given to Macmillan Nurses and Christine Moorhouse was over the moon, so thank you on her behalf.

If I have left anybody off the list, I do most sincerely apologise. It was lovely to see such a community spirit and people having very simple fun. >

Sue Lund  
Cariad Bride

---

### **It's the thought that counts** - 30/4/11

The union flag is upside down if the narrow white diagonal at the top is adjacent to the flag pole. There was no pole. If there had been it could have been on the RHS  
And any way who cares.? It was a great effort !  
Name Supplied

---

### **Union Flag round the Folly** - 29/4/11

Well done to those who decorated Folly Tower with our union flag. Great to see.  
It was however upside-down which is generally recognised as a distress signal.  
Name Supplied

---

### **Royal wedding tea party at the Corn Exchange**- 29/4/11

Just a quick note to say many thanks to all of the contributors to the Royal Wedding Tea Party held at the Corn Exchange today.  
My family and I had a great time, especially my 5 year old daughter and 18 month old son, who had a great, yet tiring (Hooray!) experience.  
We have recently moved into Faringdon from the frozen north and it touched us that there are so many people in the town who are willing to host and attend such an event.  
Best wishes to you all and thanks again!  
Tim, Fiona, Isabella and Harry Jacklin

---

### **Let them eat cake.....**- 29/4/11

....and we did at the Corn Exchange and sandwiches, and biscuits, and tea and coffee, it was just marvellous.  
A very big thank you to all who organised and ran this event, to thank you all by name would read like a litany!  
Also how gratifying to see so many Faringdonians of all ages enjoying themselves a truly happy occasion that was a perfect follow up to a Royal happy occasion.  
Well done to all involved.  
Nick O'Keefe

---

### **Tea Party for the Royal wedding**- 29/4/11

I have just come back from a lovely afternoon at the corn exchange. It was lovely to experience such a sense of community from Faringdon and my children loved it!  
Sue, Dawn and their various volunteers (hoping they were volunteers and not enlisted!) did a fantastic job and everyone had a great time.

The retailers of Faringdon did themselves proud and I understand that there was a good amount of money raised for charity.  
I just wanted to publically thank them for making such an effort and to say that we had a really lovely time.  
Sherrie

---

### **Huge Union Flag round the Folly** - 29/4/11

I  
hope  
you  
saw  
it- just  
in  
case  
here  
is a  
picture



Thanks to Ian Smith for lending it to Friends of the Folly

---

### **Community Spirit- 29/4/11**

Well done to everyone who arranged the community tea party in the corn exchange today. It was marvelous, and all my family thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Fantastic to see such a show of community spirit.

Emma Riddle

---

### **Tea Party for the Royal wedding- 29/4/11**

We've just got back from the Royal Wedding Tea Party at the Corn Exchange and would like express our appreciation.

It was a first class effort. We can think of few other places where the retailers would put up cash for such a party - and to see the Mayor helping to clear up the tables symbolised the Town Council support.

Great community spirit.

Bill and Angela Rennells

---

### **Tea Party for the Royal wedding- 29/4/11**

Tea Party for the Royal Wedding is a great success. Well done all those who organised it, gave so much food for the party and those who are serving - all ages. Well done and thank you.

Julie Farmer

---

## Scouts on the move - 29/4/11

I've just heard that Oxfordshire County Council have told the Scouts that they must demolish their hut next to the school in Canada Lane by the end of August. It seems the school needs the space as a playground.

I I'm not sure whether they are trying to raise money to build a new hut somewhere or whether they'll do what the brownies and guides do- which is hire one of the existing halls in town.

Name Supplied

---

## Faringdon History - the mail 28/4/11

It is thought that the first Faringdon post office was where the Portwell cellar bar is now, in the late 1880's. There was a semaphore pole outside, which presumably indicated when the post had arrived.

I vaguely remember being told that Faringdon was FIRST with something to do with the post at this time, but I can't remember what it was.

First use of stamps maybe? First to signal mail had arrived?

Can anyone help?

Local historian

---

## Hustings Meeting - 28/4/11

I have to echo Gene Webbs and others comments on the recent hustings meeting and praise Sjoerd Vogt for doing an excellent job chairing the meeting and (usually) keeping the candidates to time. The existing Town Councillors all spoke with knowledge and passion about the town and their respective roles in it. As one candidate didn't attend or send his apologies I for one have easily made up my mind as to which 14 to vote for! Still it seems a pity that all of us have to pay £4000 for election expenses to elect 14 town councillors out of 15 applicants one of whom seems to be a non runner at the start.

The elections for the Vale (where sadly) the real decisions are made was a far more dismal affair with only the existing town councillors who are seeking election to both bodies showing any real spirit or seeming enthusiasm for the job. The new incumbent seekers seemed to have been ill prepared and unable to offer a simple answer to a simple question 'What have you done for Faringdon thus far'? Even those who have in the past served on the VWHDC seemed ill at ease at answering this question perhaps they were more used to hiding their talents under a bushel.

Name supplied

---

## Come into the Tourist Information Centre before the Royal Wedding and buy something patriotic with the Union Flag on! - 28/4/11

We have flags (large ones at only 99p, smaller ones only 50p) as well as mugs and pencils with the flag on, as well as fun items like egg cups and pens with London Buses on, money boxes in the shape of a traditional telephone box or Great British Post Box!!

Take a look at your local Tourist Information Centre for gifts. You'd be surprised what we've got.

Opening hours – Monday to Friday 9am to 2pm, Saturday 9.30am to 1pm

NB – Office closed on Friday 29th May – we have a wedding to watch on TV!!

---

## Who is Robert Purdie? - 28/4/11

I too was at the Council Elections meeting and am dismayed that the 15th candidate for the Town Council could not be spotted anywhere, and no explanation or apology given for his absense.

Bearing in mind we, as a town, are having to spend approximately 4k to run this election as we have just one candidate over the number required of 14 to form the town council, you would have thought that common decency would have prevailed and he would have turned up and justify his nomination!

Answers on a postcard...

Name supplied

---

## **This is a Community Message from Thames Valley Police.** - 28/4/11

### **BURGLARY IN GREAT COXWELL**

Between Monday 25th April and Tuesday 26th April a property in Great Coxwell, Faringdon was subject to a burglary. Offender or offenders have forced rear ground floor window with an instrument. If you have seen any suspicious looking people or vehicles in the area or have any information relating to this message, please call the Police on 08458 505 505 and quote URN807 of the 26th April.  
Message ends.

---

## **Sing a song of Sixpence at the Folly** - 27/4/11

Most people know the nursery rhyme, but fewer know that it was written to ridicule Henry James Pye, once the owner of Faringdon House and said to have planted the Scots Pine in the late 18th century. It was written about him because he is said to have been the worst poet laureate ever.

140 children from Faringdon schools have helped us remember this by weaving a pie from hazel and willow, with willow weaver, Ruth Parsons, from Quenington. The pie is 3 metres wide and about 60 cm high, with a slice cut out. The willow, as it grows, will form a 'pastry' crust and living camomile will be planted as the pie topping. But what of the black birds, where are they? - They've escaped high into the trees, around the pie and the rest of the woodland - 22 of them. Two have chosen to live in the tower!  
Now the leaves are on the trees you'll have to look really hard for them, but they are there. These striking and wonderful black birds have been made by John Ward, from Coln St Aldwyns

### **Folly Woodland**

**4th May 16.30**

**Everyone welcome.**

**If you want to join in bring a trowel and a bottle of water (to water in your plant)**[www.faringdonfolly.org.uk](http://www.faringdonfolly.org.uk)

Gene Webb

---

## **Hustings meeting, Corn Exchange** - 26/4/11

Sadly not many local people turned up for this meeting- perhaps about 20.  
6 candidates for the District Council were there- either Labour party or Conservative. The 3 Libdems ( all from Wantage) were invited but responded that 'they are only paper candidates' - I think that means they are not serious candidates and don't want to be elected.  
13 of the 15 Town Council candidates were there. One sent apologies as she is in hospital and sent a written report. Robert Purdie was not there.

Each candidate gave a 2 minute speech about why they wanted to be elected and many mentioned the committees and organisations that they belonged to.

Questions from the floor were submitted before the meeting, from which 5 were chosen by Sjoerd Vogt(as chair)

Each candidate could choose 2 to answer. ( as time was limited)

Questions to candidates mostly focussed on:

What they had done for Faringdon as councillors, and for new candidates what they wanted to do- I was disappointed, on the whole, with the responses, especially from the first time candidates- it seemed to me they hadn't given it much thought

All were asked whether they would put the needs of Faringdon over and above their political party- most said yes, with caveats. Some were more convincing than others.

One question was about supporting the Gloucester St supermarket application - Town councillors appeared to me to be very honest about this- some favouring it but all with reservations because of the location issues (access, traffic, conservation)

Each town council candidate was asked what particular skill or talent they brought to their role- these ranged from adaptability, empathy, passion, experience, VAT knowledge.

A strong message from the Town council was the fact that decisions about Faringdon are made by VWHDC. They hoped that the Locality Bill, if it is passed, would change this. This could enable Faringdon - Town council and other local organisations to create it's own development plan (housing, industrial, green space+++)  
It is very evident that both Town and District councillors spend a great deal of time attending meetings. While this amount of activity is admirable, it doesn't represent to me their achievements. It seems that District councillors spend considerable time, in addition, doing 'case work'- helping people with housing issues, bin collection problems and the like.  
Currently just 1 District councillor is also a Town Councillor.

What struck me most of all was that all of the Town Councillors were eloquent about their interest and care for Faringdon. This was not quite so evident from the District Councillors(in my view).  
I'm glad I went to the meeting. With no affiliation to any political party it has confirmed my view that I will vote for the individuals who best understand Faringdon issues and will work to make it an even better place to live.

Each of the Town Council candidates at the meeting confirmed their commitment to Faringdon. This is important as there are only 15 candidates, for 14 positions. While it will be good to have an election, if someone drops out soon after it, the expense (e £4k) and effort will have been wasted.

Others who were there, please do add your views, or any important points I have omitted  
Gene Webb

PS In case you don't know, Faringdon Town Councillors do not get paid for their work. VWHDC councillors have an annual allowance. I can't find out what these are on the VWHDC website but my guess it is something like £2k pa as a basic, and possibly upto £8k pa for a committee chairman. It is much more if you're a cabinet member or leader of the council. In other councils I've seen £18k and £27k

---

## **Tesco Appeal meeting in Faringdon** - 26/4/11

VWHDC said they could not find a suitable location for this meeting to be Faringdon, so arranged to have it in Abingdon. Presumably the officers and our elected members thought this was OK, even though it is clearly a meeting of importance for Faringdon.

Fortunately Faringdon Town Council(FTC) have come to the rescue and found suitable space at Sudbury House. I understand it was through the determination of Alan Hickmore and Hilary Sherman that the meeting is now to be here, as it should always have been.  
For VWHDC to agree to this, FTC have had to fund the cost of the venue.

The meeting starts on 1st June, and will end on or before 7th June.

Thankyou and well done Alan and Hilary  
Gene Webb

---

## **Accident at the Leisure Centre** - 26/4/11

I understand there was a serious accident at the Leisure Centre on Saturday caused by members of the roller skating club blatantly ignoring safety notices about a wet floor. Can I hope that the management of the Leisure center reconsider whether they should still allow this group to use the Centre if they behave in such a stupid and dangerous manner? This time they only hurt themselves but next time it might well be other users they hurt.  
Susan Smith

---

## **Hustings meeting, Corn Exchange tonight Tuesday 26th April at 7.00 p.m** - 26/4/11

All of the District and Town Council candidates have been invited to this meeting and we are hoping to have representatives from both the YES and NO campaign for the referendum.  
Sjoerd Vogt will chair the hustings, and the format will be as follows:

On arrival, electors will be invited to submit questions to either the District or Town Council candidates. Sjoerd and I will choose 5 questions for each Council and these will be given to the candidates.  
We will start with the District Council, each candidate will be given 2 minutes to give a presentation and they will be allowed to choose 2 questions from the 5 they wish to answer. In the same way as the Question Time format, other

members of public will be able to add their comments to the question being discussed.

The same format will apply then to the Town Council candidates. Obviously time will be extremely tight, but I'm sure Sjoerd will ensure that everyone has the opportunity to have their say without 'hogging' the floor.

At the end of all this, tea and coffee will be served and candidates will hopefully stay to speak to electors individually and informally.

**You must submit questions by 6.45 p.m. (the hall will be open from 6.30). There will be forms available for this at the front entrance.**

FTC Town Clerk

---

## **Faringdon Radio** - 26/4/11

New 'Faringdon Local' show now available to download.

All previous shows are still available to download including our first special on The Faringdon Brewery.

[www.faringdonradio.com](http://www.faringdonradio.com)

---

## **Faringdon's History Room** - 25/4/11

### **Historical and Archaeological Society, Faringdon and District**

The History Room is open when the library is open. Ask library staff for access.

There is a full index in the library

Archaeological records	Microfiche reader
Deeds	Parish registers
Family History Aids	Personal memories
Field walking records and finds	Photographs
Geological specimens	Reference Books
Graveyard memorials	School records
Local buildings	Society records
Local history- Faringdon, Villages	WW1/WW2 information
Local Newspapers	
Maps and Plans	

---

## **Community Tea Party - 29th April** - 24/4/11

Everybody is welcome to a Community Tea Party on Friday 29th April to celebrate the Royal Wedding of Kate and William.

Entry to the event is free, includes entertainment, food and will be held at the Corn Exchange between 2pm and 5pm.

For more details please call 01367 243526.

Sue Lund

---

## **Faringdon Flashmob** - 24/3/11

Wonderful atmosphere in Budgens yesterday when Faringdon Singers and many other local people sang the Hallelujah chorus, flashmob style.

Soon to be on youtube- I'll post the link here when it's available

All proceeds to Macmillan Cancer Care

Gene Webb

---

## **Budgens improvements**- 23/4/11

Budgens has plans and permission to extend and improve - Yes they have permission to reduce the ground floor

sales area to put in a lift to the first floor cafe, but I don't see how this will provide us with a extended or improved supermarket.  
Charlie

---

### **Waitrose access** - 23/4/11

Some one said about the Waitrose application 'I know there are problems with the access but surely these could be worked on'

What are the possibilities and why haven't Waitrose included them in their plans?

An access from Lechlade road may improve the traffic for Gloucester St, but not for Gravel Walk and possibly the town centre and Marlborough St

The access road could be widened if property near the entrance is demolished

Neither of these are in the planning application

I can't think of anything else that could help- can anyone else?

There is no perfect place for a supermarket in the centre or on the edge/very near the town centre- so there must be compromises.

Is the best compromise one where there are around 2000 additional journeys every day plus delivery vehicles through the town? Is this desirable for Faringdon 'old town'?

Name Supplied

---

### **Re The Waitrose Effect** - 23/4/11

Thank you, name supplied. I have read all the comments and I understand - maybe more than most - what powers and responsibilities the different tiers of local government have. I am well aware that the Town Council have no powers re. planning decisions, however they can, and do (and I believe AH has said this before on this site) make *representation*sto the District Council on behalf of the town, which they hope will influence the planning authority. It is my understanding, perhaps wrongly? that the Town Council oppose the Waitrose application.

Bystander

---

### **29th April 2011 @ 8pm.** - 22/4/11

The Old Crown Free entry.

Come and join Faringdon's very own rhythm and blues band in celebration of all things British on the Royal Wedding Day!

Mel Lane

---

### **Re The Waitrose Effect:It could happen here. If only!** - 22/4/11

. If only I don't know how many time it has been said but - The Town Council has no power to decide which supermarket comes to Faringdon, that is solely the responsibility of the District Council.

I had thought that Bystander would have read all the previous postings especially those from Alan Hickmore who has on several occasions explained the situation.

Name Supplied

---

### **Tesco Bristol** - 22/4/1

1 am sure you will be getting several messages but I wonder if the faringdon populous will take note of what happened in bristol last night <http://neurobonkers.com/?p=2509>

Name Supplied

---

### **Faringdon - No Ordinary Town Photographic competition** - 22/4/11

See <http://faringdon.org/photocomp.htm> for details and how to enter.

---

### **The Waitrose Effect:It could happen here. If only!** - 22/4/11

See today's Times Newspaper, an article about "the Waitrose effect".

*'...Since Waitrose opened in Meanwood, north Leeds, last September, local businesses report a 25 per cent increase in footfall. It's the same story in Kenilworth, Warwickshire, where at least ten new shops and food outlets, including an independent bookshop, Costa Coffee and a Loch Fyne restaurant, have opened following Waitrose's arrival in 2008. And, of course, all this contributes to a general uplift in an area, which estate agents report directly influences the desirability of local property.*

*"As soon as they [Waitrose] go in, there is a huge effect," ... "There is something about Waitrose, it's a very aspirational brand..."*

*"...Buyers ask: 'How far's the walk to Waitrose?' They don't ask that about Sainsbury's." ...'*

They don't ask that about Tesco either. I sincerely hope that our town council don't succeed in consigning Faringdon to a further slide down market with an 'inverted snob' attitude towards anything [mistakenly] perceived as 'posh'.

Bystander

---

## **A better supermarket** - 21/4/11

Faringdon does not so much need a second supermarket as a better supermarket. Budgens has plans and permission to extend and improve which could create a desirable town centre supermarket, if people could overcome their prejudices about the name "Budgens". They should be given a chance and, if they don't make it work, the site could perhaps be bought by one of the more familiar names to provide the same service. Half the battle for Faringdon is persuading people to use the shops we have and if they remain convinced that big chains are always cheaper they will rush like lemmings to the bright lights regardless.

If it is really considered necessary for Faringdon to have a second supermarket it must be one that will draw new people into town. A medium sized Tesco out of the centre will not do that, though doubtless it will be handy for those living nearby to top up in. Waitrose on the other hand is associated with Quality, ethics and value (which does not mean expensive) and might just tempt people into town to shop and then, having parked their cars close to the centre, take refreshments in the Market Place and explore. It also will not remove any "employment" land so has the potential to offer a greater increase in local employment than the proposed Tesco.

I know there are problems with the access but surely these could be worked on. It's manic enough at dropping off times with badly parked cars in the access road and others not anticipating the presence of other road users exiting the car park. I keep well away at such times! Much could be remedied with a dedicated drop off zone in the new car park. I am not surprised that the Southampton University report finding the beneficial effects of new supermarkets - Tesco was one of the sponsors of the study. Don't let Faringdon be just "cheap and nasty". We still have some great little shops and attractive buildings to work with and support.

A N Other Daringonian

---

## **This is a Community Message from Thames Valley Police sent on behalf of the District Council.** - 21/4/11

### **WARNING - COUNCIL TAX SCAM**

Local residents are being warned to be vigilant after a number of people were targeted by a council tax scam. Residents have reported receiving calls from people, claiming to be from the South Oxfordshire District Council, saying that they can arrange an immediate refund on their council tax if the resident provides their bank details. The district council does not, and would not, make these telephone calls nor would staff ask for bank or credit card details by telephone to process a refund.

This call is a scam. Never give your bank details out over the phone to someone for a refund of council tax.

What to do if you are unsure:

\* If anyone receives such a call they should refuse to disclose information and contact the council as soon as possible on 0345 302 2315. Staff will confirm whether any refund is outstanding and if so arrange a refund in the normal manner

\* The council takes many payments securely by telephone every day from residents, but does not process refunds over the phone.

If you have passed your bank or credit card details to anyone recently regarding a council tax refund, please contact your bank branch or card company immediately.

Message Ends.

---

## What happened to the Easter Bingo? - 21/4/11

What happened to the Easter Bingo that was supposed to be on in the Corn Exchange on Wednesday? Turned up there at the right time and all the lights out and doors locked?

What happened?

Name Supplied

---

## Fax Services in Faringdon - 21/4/11

Just to let you know Sarah there is also a virtual PA/admin service in Faringdon. we can help with faxing please call me on (01367) 246003.

We can also help with any admin secretarial services you may need.

Julie Farmer

---

## Hustings meeting, Corn Exchange on Tuesday 26th April at 7.00 p.m -

14/4/11

All of the District and Town Council candidates have been invited to this meeting and we are hoping to have representatives from both the YES and NO campaign for the referendum.

Sjoerd Vogt will chair the hustings, and the format will be as follows:

On arrival, electors will be invited to submit questions to either the District or Town Council candidates. Sjoerd and I will choose 5 questions for each Council and these will be given to the candidates.

We will start with the District Council, each candidate will be given 2 minutes to give a presentation and they will be allowed to choose 2 questions from the 5 they wish to answer. In the same way as the Question Time format, other members of public will be able to add their comments to the question being discussed.

The same format will apply then to the Town Council candidates. Obviously time will be extremely tight, but I'm sure Sjoerd will ensure that everyone has the opportunity to have their say without 'hogging' the floor.

At the end of all this, tea and coffee will be served and candidates will hopefully stay to speak to electors individually and informally.

FTC Town Clerk

---

## Re Edge of centre supermarket - 20/4/11

Thanks for the link to the map.

As the 'town centre' is on the edge of the town, doesn't it make sense to have a supermarket nearer to where a greater number of people live, and can easily walk to?

Faringdon as a town has lost several shops in the last few years and I don't think the hostellers are doing that well either so folk aren't exactly flocking into the town centre to spend their hard earned cash (in spite of free parking after 4pm).

And excuse me for asking, but isn't it up to businesses to attract customers? I'm sure there are one or two marketing experts in Faringdon who could suggest ways of doing that.

Sheila

---

## Edge of centre supermarket - 20/4/11

I read with interest the academic research cited re edge of centre supermarkets. The bottom line is edge of centre supermarket or not, there is nothing to attract shoppers into Faringdon that they couldn't find in an edge of centre like Waitrose including gifts, flowers and a deli etc. Retailers like Rob the Cheese and Budgens have indicated that their business is likely to fold with the coming of a retailer like Waitrose.

The problem with statistical research is that it fails to take into account the unique circumstances which prevail in any planning decision and there is much about the current edge of centre application that causes great concern.

Sadly Faringdon is dead on its feet and there would be little or nothing to attract potential shoppers into its centre - sadly time ran out for Davis and it looks likely that we could lose Rob and indeed Budgens if that planning application is agreed!!

Name Supplied

---

## Edge of centre supermarket - 20/4/11

Thanks to David Cryer for reposting this interesting survey.  
For anyone who is unsure about the location of the supermarket bids, below is a map.  
Park Road site is more than twice the distance from our town centre than the Gloucester Street site.  
Park road is OUT of centre. Gloucester Street is EDGE of centre.  
<http://i26.servimg.com/u/f26/16/16/49/11/superm10.jpg>

Approving an out of centre supermarket would be a disaster for Faringdon's future.  
Approving an edge of centre supermarket?  
The debate rumbles on..  
Name Supplied

---

## Royal Wedding Tea Party - 20/4/11

There will be a Tea Party at the Corn Exchange on Friday 29 April from 2.00pm to 5.00pm to celebrate the Royal Wedding.  
All the food and entertainment is being kindly donated by local businesses.  
We hope that lots of you will be able to come along and enjoy a good old fashioned community event. Entry is free.  
If anybody would like to offer a donation, would like to help or perform on the day or would like more information, please feel free to contact me on 01367 243526.  
I understand that there will be visitors from our French twin town who are really looking forward to a good old knees up so let's show them what we can do!  
Posters will be appearing around the town within the next couple of days as a reminder.  
Sue Lund  
Cariad Bride

---

## Sing a song of Sixpence at the Folly, Easter Monday - 19/4/11

The Folly tower is open on Easter Monday from 11.00-17.00

Most people know the nursery rhyme, but fewer know that it was written to ridicule Henry James Pye, once the owner of Faringdon House and said to have planted the Scots Pine in the late 18th century. It was written about him because he is said to have been the worst poet laureate ever.

Friends of the Folly have created '24 blackbirds baked in a pie' in the form of a willow and hazel pie.  
Come and see the pie and hunt for the blackbirds.  
They've escaped high into the trees, around the pie and the rest of the woodland - 22 of them. Two have chosen to live in the tower!  
Now the leaves are on the trees you'll have to look really hard for them, but they are there.  
Gene Webb

---

## Edge of centre supermarket - 18/4/11

With the continued debate on the impact that an edge-of-centre supermarket would have on Faringdon town centre, it is worth remembering that Faringdon is one of the last market towns in the UK without a major supermarket presence. So what do we know about what has happened elsewhere in the country? There has been a lot of anecdotal evidence, but until recently little in the way of hard facts. A recent study by a team at Southampton University (Impact of Large Foodstores on Market Towns) took evidence from 8000 consumers and 1000 traders. The reports main findings are:

*Supermarkets built on the edge of town centres encourage significantly fewer local residents to leave those towns for their main food shopping.*

*The new supermarkets are not just being used for 'one-stop' shopping. Via the mechanism of linked trips, the existing town centres experience increased footfall, helping to enhance their vitality and viability.*

*The new supermarkets encourage a significant decrease in car usage and increase in walking on main food shopping trips amongst local residents.*

*A year after the opening of the new supermarkets, two-thirds of consumers believed the new stores were beneficial to local residents and the town centre. Only 8% believed otherwise.*

*Feedback from traders was consistently positive about the new supermarkets' impact on the town centre. Contrary to popular opinion, traders also took a positive view on the impact on their own businesses.*

*Detailed study of changes in retail composition of the local town centres provides little support for widely held views linking supermarket development to the decimation of existing centres and their retail diversity.*

It will be interesting to see whether the debate locally is influenced by academic studies such as this - I suspect the philosophy of 'never let the facts get in the way of a good story' will continue to rule!

David Cryer

---

## **Faringdon Radio Special** - 19/4/11

We now have our first special show on Faringdon Radio - a 35 minute show looking at The Faringdon Brewery at the Swan pub.

All our other shows are still also available to download at [www.faringdonradio.com](http://www.faringdonradio.com)

Sean Hodgson

---

## **Public Meeting to hear about GP consortium in Oxfordshire** - 19/4/11

25th May 2011

7pm to 9pm at the Roysee Room, Abingdon Guildhall (Parking is free after 4pm).

What does this mean for you and your family?

Hear about it. Question it!

We know what the press have been saying but this is your opportunity to hear what your local GP's think about the changes

'County GP to lead shake-up of NHS'...

'County doctors to front new scheme'...

'Sweeping changes to local NHS Services'...

'Ministers listening to NHS concerns'...

So what does this mean for you and your family? Come and get the answers to your questions.

Oxfordshires GP Commissioning Lead and Local GPs will be there to explain and answer your questions

---

## **90 destination retail units** - 17/4/11

You'll be surprised at what you can buy in Faringdon. Visit [www.finditinfaringdon.co.uk](http://www.finditinfaringdon.co.uk) .

David Reynolds

---

## **Fax Services in Faringdon** - 17/4/11

Responding also to Sarah Tynan's request for fax services:

"Online FAXing" has now mostly superceded the traditional fax machine. See for example <http://savedelete.com/10-best-free-online-fax-services.html> .

As long as you can scan (or photograph with your smartphone perhaps) your document - then you can send it to any fax number. Nowadays, there's probably no physical fax machine at the receiving end either. Sending/receiving online faxes can be completely free of charge if you don't require high volume.

Sjoerd

---

## **Tesco Appeal meeting location** - 17/4/11

If there is a shortage of available accommodation in Faringdon for this Public Meeting why not erect one of the modern type of super marquees on the hard standing (lorry park) area of the Tesco site, or even in the grounds of Faringdon House who will benefit financially if the Waitrose site gets the go ahead?

Surely its not beyond the capability of the VOWHDC to organise this, then on second thoughts !!!!!!!!!!!!! I doubt they could find their way from Abingdon to Faringdon.

The Consultant.

---

## 90 destination retail units - 17/4/11

Alan Hickmore advises "there being over 90 destination retail units in the Town." Could he list them for me as I am struggling to find them.

Regards,  
A Passer By.

---

## Does Faringdon really need another supermarket? - 17/4/11

I have never been convinced that Faringdon actually needs another supermarket. OK, so a large percentage of people currently drive 15 minutes out of town to do a supermarket shop and the supermarket shareholders profit. Why is it that if these people drive into Faringdon and do the same shop on Park Road or Gloucester Street this is in some way good for Faringdon when the same supermarket shareholders profit?

The main benefit to Faringdon is if some of the people who would be retained also visit the centre and spend some extra money elsewhere; shops, gifts, cafés, pubs, restaurants, services, socialising, browsing, enlivening etc...The only proposed site this could possibly happen from is Gloucester Street as no one will really walk over double the distance from Park Road now matter how much money is spent on improving the footpath.

Expecting other retailers will invest in Faringdon town centre following an out of centre development on Park Road is unbelievable, unless you are suggesting an out of town retail park? A ludicrous idea as Faringdon is way too small to sustainably support two centres. The reason the Sainsbury's in Wantage has attracted other retailers is because it is well linked to the town centre with a pedestrianised, shop lined link. Waitrose is positioned similarly.

Tesco as a brand is a 'one stop shop' selling everything from clothes, books, home wares, electronic goods etc, this would affect almost every business in our town centre. Waitrose is not the same, it is the food and drink arm of John Lewis and does not compete outside this remit in the same way.

The only other small benefits a supermarket may bring is free town centre parking. Only the Gloucester Street site is close enough to the centre for visitors to possibly use their car park for a visit. And some part time jobs. Employment is something everyone would welcome but not at the expense of existing light industrial units on Park Road or at the expense of current town centre businesses, who make and spend profits locally, closing down. However, lets not get carried away; either supermarket will only employ 10s of full time equivalent positions not hundreds, most will be low wages and only one of the potential employers pays out an annual profit linked bonus.

I am just not convinced that in the near future people will bother traipsing round overly bright aisles listening to piped adverts on a Saturday morning when they can do something far more enjoyable and have deliveries to their door whenever they want.

In any case there is agreed planning permission for Budgens to extend fairly significantly on their current site. A viable town centre supermarket with permission to extend = a very valuable asset. Free parking already exists in both car parks for those spending over a fiver in town.

So, in conclusion. Does Faringdon really need an additional supermarket? Probably not.

If Faringdon is going to get a supermarket then where is the best place for it? As close to the town centre as possible for the fringe benefits of increased footfall and useful free parking, something that Park Road site could never offer due to the out of centre location.

Any argument of snobbery, inverted snobbery, class 'war', living on benefits or cost vs. value has nothing to do with planning applications and tends to stir up some fairly offensive, ill informed views, as we have seen.

Name Supplied

---

## Tesco appeal- meeting location - 16/4/11

If you believe that the appeal meeting should take place in Faringdon and not Abingdon as is currently planned, email the planning inspector on [TeamP13@pins.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:TeamP13@pins.gsi.gov.uk)

and the current VWHDC councillors

[roger\\_e\\_cox@hotmail.com](mailto:roger_e_cox@hotmail.com)

[amthomson5491@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:amthomson5491@yahoo.co.uk)

[mail@matthewbarber.co.uk](mailto:mail@matthewbarber.co.uk)

Name Supplied

---

## **A "Faringfordian" - 16/4/11**

This post is interesting as it completely misses the point. About 18 months ago the VWHDC published a (revised) report that demonstrated that Faringdon needed another supermarket. About 75% of the weekly food shopping spend is leaving Faringdon for the benefit of Wantage, Swindon and even Abingdon. This is not an acceptable situation for a Town that wants to keep its position as a supplier to the Town and its hinterland. The situation for non-food is even worse. About 85% of non-food shopping leaves the Town. This is despite there being over 90 destination retail units in the Town.

In practise we need a national chain supermarket in order to not only attract buyers but also to attract other non-food retailers. There is very strong evidence that this happens.

The relative merits of the Tesco/Waitrose cases are of less importance than the fact that we should get one of them. My own view is that the Waitrose application is flawed and will have a dreadful affect on the safety of children, on the conservation zone policy, the policy on the maintenance of parks, and the flow of traffic in the Town (there are 27 planning policies that it probably contravenes). But this is planning speak. The truth is that we need another main food retailer.

The original VWHDC plan was to expand Budgens by knocking down the old post office, the Red Lion and a row of houses. This was abandoned when they realised that the Red Lion and the old post office are listed buildings (and perhaps the occupants of the houses do not want to have them knocked down). It was at that stage that the site that Waitrose are applying for came into the equation.

What Faringdon needs is a new supermarket and a comprehensive marketing strategy in order to attract non-food retailers to the Town in the wake of whichever food retailer comes here.

As a side issue the location of the Tesco inquiry is not yet fixed in stone. There is a possibility that it will be in the Sudbury House Hotel - the FTC is working hard to try and ensure that it is held in Faringdon.

Alan Hickmore

These are my views and do not necessarily reflect those of FTC)

---

## **Convenience to shoppers of the Tesco/Waitrose sites - 16/4/11**

. Nobody seems to consider which site is the most convenient for the majority of shoppers, the focus seems to be on keeping other shop owners in Faringdon town centre in business and which supermarket company you are loyal to.

Forgetting which company is involved for the moment, can anyone shed any light on the convenience for shoppers argument, which surely is a key issue if it is going to get the trade and not increase the traffic.

Don't follow this line of thought? Well how many people live between a line drawn parallel with the A420 and the centre of the Tesco site? Then draw a line parallel with this through the Waitrose site, how many people live in between? Now how many people live between the line through the Waitrose site and the Faringdon town boundary in the Lechlade direction? Split the number between both sites evenly and add to the other two numbers, which site is the most convenient for the majority of people and should result in the 'greener' choice!!!

The Consultant.

---

## **Helpers and Supporters for the Faringdon Festival required - 16/4/11**

We will be running the Faringdon Festival this year on a Daringonian Shoestring. (You may need to check out what one of those is - but it's not very much!)

Put your name forward to Jane Haynes 01367 246137 or e-mail [jane.haynes@bordengate.com](mailto:jane.haynes@bordengate.com) if you can help in any way

---

## **Another supermarket needed? - 15/4/11**

The question of “should Faringdon have another supermarket” seems rather to have been lost in a series of personal preferences.

We have the Tesco league who believe that Tesco are the cheapest. Take care here, any retail outlet will charge the highest price they can in the area they operate. Only by doing this will they make their shareholders a profit. Do not expect a Tesco in Faringdon to sell goods at the same price as the Tesco in Swindon. The proposed Tesco will offer the same square footage as already exists in the Town and will compete, from an out of town location, on every level but it will not be big enough to offer much more than we already have available.

We have the Anti Tesco league who do not like the apparent morals (or lack there-of) displayed by Tesco.

We have the Waitrose enthusiasts who recognise that value for money is often better than cheap: and then we have the anti-Waitrose mob who think that Waitrose is for the rich and the posh. (Note: not all rich people are posh and not all posh people are rich!)

We have the Budgens support group – who believe that Musgrave together with the current franchise owner have already made huge improvements and should be given the opportunity to get on with their proposed development.

The question we should be asking ourselves is “do we who live in Faringdon want a viable and credible shopping town centre or don’t we give a damn?”

If the answer is yes, we want a viable and credible shopping option, then we need to promote any and all development to ensure the success of the Town Centre. Of the options currently available, this means that the Gloucester Street Option is the best bet. If the answer is “no, we don’t give a damn”, then it really doesn’t matter where the new supermarket is placed.

There is a long term option to develop the area off Southampton Street – but there are very few who have the imagination to see how this would work.

So, rather than judging the future of our town on the potential futures price of baked beans or the availability of caviar, could we ask everybody to think, instead, of the longer term benefits (and deficiencies) of the various alternative plans proposed so far as “The Town” is concerned.

One of the considerations discussed is that of employment. The suggestion of hundreds of new jobs is, at best fanciful. The jobs created by either new store will be comparatively low paid part time jobs. Senior staff and management from both will (at least initially) commute into the town. Waitrose though do have a better record of paying tax in the UK (which helps towards the deficits created by the banking fiasco) and their profits are divided amongst their staff to spend locally rather than being whisked off to international coffers.

Another consideration is access. Access to Gloucester Street might be difficult. We should, perhaps, refrain from passing comment until the detailed plans are available.

Competition is a good thing and helps create a market. Unfair competition should be frowned upon. The issue of parking raises its turbulent head once again! This is something those in high places in Abingdon will have to get their collective heads around. The right solution is critical – but the Vale’s current political persuasion prevents them from taking the action that has proved successful in other areas in Oxfordshire. There are, of course, elections due shortly so you could alter this.

The Oxford Mail carries an article:

[http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/8975401.Class\\_war\\_Waitrose\\_too\\_posh\\_for\\_our\\_town/](http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/8975401.Class_war_Waitrose_too_posh_for_our_town/). The article generates some negative response. But neither the opinions stated in the article nor the responses seem to respond to the question: “do we who live in Faringdon want a viable and credible shopping town centre or don’t we give a damn?”

Regards,

A Daringfonian.

---

## **Fax Services in Faringdon** - 15/4/11

In reply to Sarah Tynan’s request for a fax service, Marriotts in the Market Place provide a fax, colour photocopying and laminating services and always with a smile.

Andrew Brown

---

## **FTC election** - 15/4/11

Well at last we have an election, sort of.

It would have been so much better if there had been more than the minimum 15 candidates, then there would have been real choice. As it is, only one candidate will fail to be elected, unless, for sake of argument, only 5 names get voted for?

Could we then have the possibility of a new council with only genuinely elected councillors? Dreaming again ---

Name Supplied

*ED(GW) I've heard that the election will cost the Town Council (us) £4000. If just 1 councillor steps down after the election, it will have been a pointless exercise.*

*Good to see some new names though.*

---

## Manifesto- online? - 15/4/11

Does anyone know where on the internet I might find the manifestos for our council area?

I found: Conservative: <http://www.valevision.com/> Faringdon not mentioned once though some of the objectives could include us

Labour: can't find one

Libdem: can't find one

Name Supplied

---

## Our Corn Exchange - 14/4/11

The Corn Exchange looks really good. I've not tried the loos yet, but I've heard they are super. Beautiful floor too. It should get many more bookings now it has been refurbished.

I'm a bit puzzled about the big box/cupboard taking space at the stage end. I've been told it's for furniture, but isn't there big storage next to the bar?

I can see the Glos St windows have been double glazed, but not I think the opposite side( on the left as you go in) I couldn't tell about the big window overlooking Gloucester Mews because the curtains were closed.

Is there more to do?

I don't understand the thinking in putting glass doors at the side entrance. What is the benefit of these?

Will an FT councillor explain?

Name Supplied

---

## Hustings meeting, Corn Exchange on Tuesday 26th April at 7.00 p.m -

14/4/11

All of the District and Town Council candidates have been invited to this meeting and we are hoping to have representatives from both the YES and NO campaign for the referendum.

Sjoerd Vogt will chair the hustings, and the format will be as follows:

On arrival, electors will be invited to submit questions to either the District or Town Council candidates. Sjoerd and I will choose 5 questions for each Council and these will be given to the candidates.

We will start with the District Council, each candidate will be given 2 minutes to give a presentation and they will be allowed to choose 2 questions from the 5 they wish to answer. In the same way as the Question Time format, other members of public will be able to add their comments to the question being discussed.

The same format will apply then to the Town Council candidates. Obviously time will be extremely tight, but I'm sure Sjoerd will ensure that everyone has the opportunity to have their say without 'hogging' the floor.

At the end of all this, tea and coffee will be served and candidates will hopefully stay to speak to electors individually and informally.

FTC Town Clerk

---

## Elections in May - 14/4/11

Think about your vote in May for your District Councillor.

Lib Dems currently run the Vale District Council and they are opposed to any form of free parking in their car parks.

Tories run South Oxfordshire and West Oxfordshire District Councils and they have managed to offer some form of free parking in their car parks.

If Tories run the Vale District Council, would they be able to offer some form of free car parking? Please ask and if you know anyone in Wantage or Abingdon, please get them to ask as well.....  
An Ex-Labour voter

---

## **Tesco Appeal, case 2143419** - 15/4/11

I asked for some detail and pointed out that the chosen location excludes those in Faringdon who do not drive. They said:

*The Local Inquiry is due to start on 1st June 2011 at 10:00am and is scheduled to last for 5 days. If you would like to speak, please attend the start of the Inquiry and make sure you let the Inspector know that you wish to do so. The Inspector's name is Christina Downes.*

*The Inspector will let everyone know how the Inquiry is going to run, and when all parties involved will be able to speak. If lots of interested parties attend and they all want to speak, they may be asked by the Inspector to choose a spokesperson to speak on their behalf rather than duplicate evidence being presented.*

*The Local Planning Authority are responsible for securing a venue that is available for the duration of the event. They search for a venue that is available on the days that we have set for the Inquiry. In this case, the Guildhall, Abbey House, Abingdon is the venue that the Planning Authority have managed to secure. I am sorry that you feel the chosen Inquiry venue is not acceptable, however as you will appreciate we cannot always have a venue that suits everyone.*

*I hope I have answered your questions, however please email me if you have any further queries.*

Hannah Dickinson

[TeamP13@pins.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:TeamP13@pins.gsi.gov.uk)

ED(GW)

---

## **Tesco Appeal date, case 2143419** - 15/4/11

1st June, 10.00am, Guildhall, Abbey House, Abingdon

Inspector is C J Downes

There is no mention of how long it will take

There is a statement that 'they want all enquiries to be held in buildings that provide proper facilities for people with disabilities. We have asked the local planning authority to pay particular attention to their needs.'  
Perhaps that's why it's in Abingdon, though I'd have thought the Corn Exchange would have been OK - maybe it's not available that day/that week.

[Case \(2143419\) details on the Planning portal](#) From this site you can submit comments- I can't see a date deadline, though there is a proofs of evidence date of 4th May  
Gene Webb

---

## **Activities in the Vale** - 14/11/11

Rounders, Golf, Dodgeball, Nordic Walking +++++

[More activities and time and location details](#)

Visit us at: [www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

[www.getoxfordshireactive.org](http://www.getoxfordshireactive.org)

---

## **Fax Services in Faringdon** - 12/4/11

If anyone knows of somewhere I can send a fax from in Faringdon please let me know by responding to this post.

Happy to pay for the privilege.

Thank you.

Sarah Tynan, Harding Close, Faringdon

---

## **Bus pass information** - 12/4/11

Further to the earlier posting, note that bus passes may now be used on the Faringdon Community Bus from 9:00am rather than 9:30 under the previous arrangement.  
Steve Wright, FCB

---

## Local poet winner - 11/4/11

Faringdon Town gets publicity through my writing.  
Can you help by your reading and passing on.  
For instance I've had eight poems in the Evening Advertiser. Read Poets' Corner. Also...

I had an e-mail today Sat 9th April 11. I'm an award winner.  
Take a look at the following link: <http://gelatisscoop.blogspot.com/2011/04/digital-short-saturday-yes-i-know-it-is.html>  
Cleveland W. Gibson  
52 Things: Prose winner.  
[www.celj.org](http://www.celj.org) (poem winner)

---

## Bus pass information - 11/4/11

Concessionary bus passes Oxfordshire County Council has taken over responsibility (from district and city councils) for concessionary bus fares for elderly and disabled people.  
To reassure people who may be worried about this change, OCC has produced a briefing document for organisations working with these groups to explain their new role in issuing bus passes.  
Visit <http://www.oxnet.org.uk/concessionary-bus-pass-information> for more information.  
Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action  
The Old Court House Floyds Row, St Aldates Oxford, OXF OX1 1SS

---

## New 'Faringdon Local show' - 10/4/11

For Sunday 10th April now available on Faringdon Radio. [www.faringdonradio.com](http://www.faringdonradio.com)

---

## Pigs - 10/4/11

Berkshire pigs are said to be "Britain's oldest pig breed", originally bred in the Faringdon and Wantage regions of the English county of Berkshire (now Oxfordshire). They apparently became popular after being 'discovered' by Cromwell's troops while they were stationed at Reading during the English Civil War. Today's animals descend from the herd maintained by the House of Windsor 300 years ago  
Faringdon fact finder

---

## Town Meeting Wed 6th - 8/4/11

Just a few notes from the meeting on Wednesday.  
The Corn Exchange refurbishment was finished on time and within budget

The old bar at the rear of the Pump House is to be demolished, and some work done to the small theatre- both with 106 monies from Bloor Homes

Permission has been given to turn the land behind Willes Close into allotments. Money is needed to prepare the site and install a water supply. It seems that Tesco have agreed to give vehicle access to the plot (if they get planning permission for a supermarket).  
It's thought that this would reduce the current FTC waiting allotment list of 50 to zero.

I've asked for electronic copies of the reports that were available at the meeting, but it seems they were provided to FTC in paper form. They give much more information.  
So if any of:  
Faringdon United Charities, Faringdon Community College, Recreation and Open Spaces, Tucker's Park Trust, War Memorial Trust and Faringdon Twinning Association would like to send me electronic copies, I will make them available on this site.

I assume the Town Council (electronic) reports from Finance, Venues, Recreation and Open spaces, Planning and Highways and the District and County councillor reports will appear on the FTC website in due course.  
I think the Town Clerk has plenty of paper copies- or at least will for a while.

Gene Webb

[Faringdon United Charities report](#)

---

## May elections - 7/4/11

District Councillors: [http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ElectionWard&NAME=Faringdon And The Coxwells](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ElectionWard&NAME=Faringdon%20And%20The%20Coxwells)

9 candidates including 2 of the current 3. More detail on Page 17 on the District wards pdf on

[http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/About\\_your\\_Council/Elections\\_electoral\\_registration/Elections\\_in\\_the\\_Vale.asp](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/About_your_Council/Elections_electoral_registration/Elections_in_the_Vale.asp)

Faringdon Town Council:

[http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ElectionParish&NAME=Great Faringdon](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ElectionParish&NAME=Great%20Faringdon)

15 candidates. 14 places: Page 36 of Parishes pdf on

[http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/About\\_your\\_Council/Elections\\_electoral\\_registration/Elections\\_in\\_the\\_Vale.asp](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/About_your_Council/Elections_electoral_registration/Elections_in_the_Vale.asp)

---

## Rouge Traders - 6/4/11

So we'll know because they're red, dressed in red or what?

Name supplied

---

## Thames Valley Police- Neighbourhood updates for the Vale of the White Horse - 6/4/11

The link will take you to your neighbourhood pages on the Thames Valley Police website, where you will be able to open and view the latest update for your area and obtain further information about your Neighbourhood Policing Teams.

<http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/yournh-tvp-pol-area-n165> Faringdon / Buscot /Coleshill

---

## Re charity bags - 6/4/11

Have had 4 bags from Age UK delivered in 2 days now. Had 3 yesterday alone. As per a previous poster, don't "doorstep drop" as the charity gets almost nothing in return, instead take any unwanted goods to the shop. Much better for everybody that way then.

All these bags are handy for household use though.

Anyways, must dash; have a bin to climb in. Hope I don't get stuck again!

Colin

---

## Missing Cat - 6/4/11

Has anybody seen our pure white male cat. Went missing from Town End Road area of Faringdon on Weds/Thurs 30th March 2011.

Answers to the name of Baa-Baa and has distinctive eyes, one blue, one amber. He is neutered, hence our concern.

Please email us with any information: [sherylchambers@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sherylchambers@yahoo.co.uk)

Many thanks

---

## Rouge Traders - 6/4/11

According to the latest Thames Valley Police report for Faringdon East rouge traders continue to affect the community. It says "Rouge traders can be builders, gardeners, or tarmacers (sic)" .

So if you see any of these red-faced characters you know what to do, they are apparently very easy to spot.

The Spotted Clown

---

## Town Meeting, tonight 7.30pm, Pump House - 6/4/11

---

### Faringdon Internet Users be-aware - 5/4/11

HGM,

Don't worry your computer will not burst in to flames...

It is a shame that the article was published on the BBC news website on April 1st, 2011.

The article is genuine.

In recent weeks that here has been a several malware infiltrations on well know websites.

See these articles:

March 22, 2011: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-12819330>

March 29, 2011: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-12891182>

March 30, 2011: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-12904585>

In most cases the malware, if installed on your computer, presents itself as a virus scanner and will tell you it can fix the viruses found (which are not there) if you provide them with your credit card details. DO NOT PASS THEM YOUR CREDIT CARD DETAILS EVER.

So what can you about it to minimize the risk:

1. Make sure your virus scanner software is up to date and make a note of the Name of the Virus Scanner (Avast, Norton 360, McAfee, AVG, Kaspersky, etc.)

2. If you do not have a virus scanner, there are several free virus scanners available you can install:

1. Avast Free Virus Scanner: <http://www.avast.com/en-gb/free-antivirus-download>

2. AVG Free Virus Scanner: <http://free.avg.com/gb-en/download-free-antivirus>

3. Do NOT click on any advertisement banners on websites.

4. If presented with a window that tells you that you have viruses and the window does not come from your Virus Scanner on your computer (as you noted down in step 1).

3. DO NOT CLICK ON ANY BUTTONS IN THE WINDOW as this will trigger the install of the malicious software..

4. But click X on the top right corner of your internet browser, this will close your Internet Browser.

5. Next I suggest you restart your computer to make sure.

If you do have concerns, you can contact us via email ([support@computersupport4u.com](mailto:support@computersupport4u.com)) or call 0845 467 5087

Regards,

Raoul van Eijndhoven

Quidne IT Ltd.

[www.quidne-it.com](http://www.quidne-it.com)

---

### New version of Health leaflet- available soon - 5/4/11

The leaflet gives details of many different health and social services in and around Faringdon.

It will soon be available in paper fom in the Health centre, the library, pharmacy+++ . In thre meant time you can see it ( or download it ) on <http://faringdon.org/nvtalkinghealth.htm>

FAP Health Group

---

### Community Bus Trip Witney - 5/4/11

There is a Community Bus Trip to Witney Thursday 14th April at 1.30pm. Tickets are available from Faringdon Community and Tourist Information Centre and are £5.

There is also an 'extra' trip to Lechlade Garden Centre on Wednesday 20th April at 1.30pm Tickets are available from Faringdon Community and Tourist Information Centre and are £4.

01367 242191

[www.faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk)

---

### This is a Community Message from Thames Valley Police. - 5/4/11

HAVE YOUR SAY MEETINGS

The following Have Your Say Meetings are being held in your Neighbourhood:

Saturday 30th April at Great Coxwell, knocking door to door, between 10:00hrs and 11:00hrs.

Saturday 30th April in Budgens Car Park, Faringdon, between 13:00hrs and 14:00hrs.

Please come along, this is your opportunity to speak with your Neighbourhood Officers to discuss any local issues of concern you may have.

If you are unable to attend but wish to speak with your Neighbourhood Officers, please call 08458 505 505.

---

### **Re Planning law- a puzzle** - 4/4/11

I would like to echo the views of 'Bystander' and the other comment posted in agreement: Waitrose would be the best option for Faringdon and I very much hope that the planning application will be successful. It is probably the only chance Faringdon will have, for many years to come, to regenerate its town centre, and avoid it becoming a 'dead' zone.

By all means, let's have a Tesco on Park Road as well but, on its own, it would do nothing for the town centre. I'd also like to thank David Cryer for explaining the charity bag collection situation.

Name Supplied

---

### **Faringdon Art Society Website** - 4/4/11

The Faringdon Art Society website has been relaunched with a new design and updated artists' galleries:

<http://www.faringdonartsociety.org.uk>.

You can now 'Like' the society on facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Faringdon-Art-Society/197942136904883>) or follow them on twitter (<http://twitter.com/faringdonartsoc>).

If you want to join in person there are weekly art drop-ins for members and non-members, monthly coach trips to national events and annual members exhibitions.

Details of all this and more on the website.

All welcome!

Tivon Rivers

---

### **Faringdon Internet Users be-aware** - 4/4/11

Following Raoul's warning I checked the Cyber Attack article and was duly frightened.

But

It was published on April Fools Day and it didn't tell me what, if anything, I should do about it !

So please Raoul tell me. Was it a genuine warning and will my computer burst into flames if I do nothing ?

HGM

---

### **Re New people at the Bell** - 4/4/11

"restraint out the back" – presumably to hold back any punctuation that may be trying escape?

Simon Stafford

---

### **Re Planning law- a puzzle** - 4/4/11

I completely agree with the comments of 'Bystander'. The development of a Waitrose WITHIN FARINGDON TOWN CENTRE should have a very positive effect on the town with increased trade going to existing and (hopefully) future retail businesses. The development of a Tesco on Park Road will have completely the opposite effect – the few shoppers who come to Faringdon will park at Tesco, do their shopping and leave without visiting the town centre. Do we really want to live in a town with boarded up shops, poor quality fast food outlets and deserted streets? The closure of Davis DIY is a further wake-up call.

I really hope the Waitrose application gets approval. A new Waitrose will bring some life back to this once thriving market town and will hopefully give it the much needed 'buzz' once again.

This is a wonderful opportunity for Faringdon.

Name supplied

---

### **Re Non collection of charity bags** - 31/3/11

I am writing in response to 'Disgruntled', who is complaining that charities don't collect the filled charity bags left outside. Disgruntled is making a big assumption, which turns out to be incorrect – in the vast majority of cases, the

'said charities' actually have nothing to do with the distribution or collection of these bags. This is a very common misconception. The bag distribution is invariably done by a 'commercial collector', who gives a tiny percentage of the bags true value to the named charity. In return for getting some money (no matter how little) from this source, the charity in question is happy to have their named blazoned all over the bag. The name of the commercial collector will be there somewhere – in very small print – but the amount the charity receives from the collection is far from transparent. Occasionally, these bags are distributed by totally fictitious charities - whose names & logos are very similar to real charities - to give credibility to the bogus collectors. The Charity Retail Association (of which I am Chairman), recently put out the following Press Release:

The international price for second hand clothing is at an all time high. This has led to an increasing number of commercial companies collecting directly from house to house. The lack of transparency misleads the public and undermines public trust and confidence in charity collections.

David Cryer, Chairman of the Association, said: *"Typically, a merchant will collect house to house, using collection sacks bearing a charity's name and branding, for which the charity receives a royalty payment, usually a fixed sum by weight. This can be as little as 3% of the price the merchant can get for sorted clothing on international markets. That's not a good return by any measure. The commercial operator can realise a profit of up to 68% – and this is not made clear on the collection materials used."*

*Many charity shops have seen a marked falling-off in donations, as a direct result of such commercial collections, bogus collections, theft of stock and the recession.*

Mr Cryer added:

*"Unwanted goods – clothing, books, DVDs, bric a brac and so on - sold through a charity shop will raise ten or twenty times as much for charity as a charity would get from a commercial partnership. That's a huge difference. Transparency is crucial in order to retain the public's confidence that we are doing all we can for charity. Partnership collections only raise a fraction of the amount a charity shop can get, and we urge the public to make sure their kind donations of goods go to charity shops rather than anywhere else. The Charity Retail Association's strapline is "Making the most of your donations", and that's exactly what charity shops do"*

So what should Disgruntled do? Either take the unwanted stock to a local charity shop, or call a charity directly to organise a collection. My own charity, Helen & Douglas House, offer such a collection service (call 01235 764490), as do a number of others.

The message for everyone is: read the small print before filling in a charity bag – better still, give your stock directly to a local charity shop.

David Cryer 73 Tuckers Rd., Faringdon  
Head of Retail, Helen & Douglas House  
Chairman, Charity Retail Association

---

## Faringdon Internet Users be-aware - 4/4/11

Please have a look at this article on the BBC News website: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-12933053>

Raoul van Eijndhoven

Quidne IT Ltd.

[www.quidne-it.com](http://www.quidne-it.com)

---

## Scratch Hallelujah - 4/4/11

Rehearsal at Roman Catholic Church, 7pm 5/4/11 12/4/11 19/4/11( with Faringdon singers)

Practise tracks on [http://www.cyberbass.com/Major\\_Works/Handel\\_GF/Handel\\_Messiah.htm](http://www.cyberbass.com/Major_Works/Handel_GF/Handel_Messiah.htm) (They really help)

Score on <http://www.free-scores.com/download-sheet-music.php?pdf=36> Just choose and print the part you want to sing.

Everyone and anyone welcome- whether you think you can sing or not

Gene Webb

---

## Re Planning law- a puzzle - 3/4/11

One of the the difficulties with attaching much weight to the opinions of local people is that the local people who are most likely to be vociferous in their objections are those who have vested interests, ie those who reside or have

investment properties in the immediate vicinity of the contested planning application. That is not to say they have no legitimate grounds for objection, but that however logical it is, or pretends to be, it is inevitably biased and therefore unreliable.

Secondly, those who are in agreement with the proposed plans are not at all so likely to make their views known as the objectors.

It is the duty, and the obligation of councillors to make decisions which are in the long term interests of the whole town, not just in the narrow interests of the present close residents or property owners, whose tenure, when compared to the long term life of the town, is temporary.

When the Tesco application was first mooted I was in favour, on the grounds that any modern convenient supermarket would be an asset. When the Waitrose application was proposed however and I went along to the site to have a look, it was immediately obvious how much more convenient that would be and better for the life of the town centre and the existing retail situation, even if it was [exaggeratedly] alarming for the immediate residents and property owners.

The drawbacks to the Gloucester street site can, and should be addressed, but a number of the objections are clearly tenuous, and there for the sake of 'making an objection' rather than realistic.

It is clear that the retail situation in Faringdon is in a very bad state. Tesco will do nothing to remedy that, and is more likely to hasten the disappearance of what remains of local trade. Either supermarket will be looking to attract shoppers from local villages and the surrounding area, in addition to the immediate residents. Waitrose is more likely to do that, and their proposed site has the great advantage that its free car park will be near enough to the existing town centre to encourage visitors and shoppers in, rather than to make it convenient to turn round and leave again, as the siting of a supermarket in Park road will do.

Bystander

---

### **Budgens objection to Waitrose** - 3/4/11

It seems a bit much for Budgens to complain about the access problems with the proposed Waitrose given that Budgens regularly cone off parking spaces for their deliveries and reverse their delivery lorries up a one way road.  
Charlie Harman

---

### **What Museum** - 3/4/11

In response to the queries about a museum, you may be interested in the History Room opened by the Mayor, Margaret Barker last summer. It is above the Library and open as Library hours, and there is an index in the Library and in the room.

There is a wealth of material on local history - artefacts, reference books, parish registers, maps and plans, past copies of local papers, and many other records, and eventually there will be photographs. These have been collected by members of Faringdon Historical Society over many years, and are now very pleased to be able to make them available for the public to use.

It is a pleasant room to use, equipped with a table and chairs, and a microfiche reader.  
Please see the yellow flyers in the Library and the Tourist office for more details.  
Kay Fox

---

### **Tesco++ objection to Waitrose** - 3/4/11

Have a read of <http://idocs.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/WAM/doc/Correspondence-344494.pdf?extension=.pdf&id=344494&appid=1001&location=Volume2&contentType=text/html&pageCount=1>  
Tesco's assessment of the Waitrose traffic survey.  
and  
<http://idocs.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/WAM/doc/Correspondence-344493.pdf?extension=.pdf&id=344493&appid=1001&location=Volume2&contentType=text/html&pageCount=1>  
Tesco's letter of objection covering environmental and planning issues.

<http://idocs.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/WAM/doc/Public%20Comment-342358.pdf?extension=.pdf&id=342358&appid=1001&location=Volume2&contentType=application/pdf&pageCount=4>  
and the impact on the library, from someone in Oxfordshire County Council

<http://idocs.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/WAM/doc/Public%20Comment-344448.pdf?extension=.pdf&id=344448&appid=1001&location=Volume2&contentType=application/pdf&pageCount=5>  
3  
on behalf of Budgens

---

## Planning law- a puzzle - 3/4/11

Vwhdc( and other councils) invite comments from the general public about any planning application. I know they have a rigorous process for evaluating the technical aspects of an application. (eg Tesco refused: Location is on industrial, not retail land and it is deemed to be too far from town centre).

For any application, but particularly a major change to a town/area, there are many 'softer issues' that should be taken into account - usually from local people, who's lives, property and quality of life will be affected by the development on a day to day basis.

According to Roger Cox, one of our VWHDC councillors our councillors are '*not allowed to express opinion either for or against an application, and must remain neutral to ensure fairness to all.... I listen to all the evidence and join in the general discussion*'

I assume that they gain the views of local people by reading the comments submitted

(<http://idocs.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/WAM/showCaseFile.do?action=show&appName=planning&appNumber=11/00146/FUL>) and informal conversation with local people.

How much better it would have been if our 3 VWHDC councillors invited comment from local residents, perhaps at an open meeting- I thought that was a councillor's remit - to represent our views.

Whichever supermarket is built it is a major change and will have a radical affect on Faringdon and local people, it can't be left to anecdotal opinions or a technical checklist.

I'm still unsure whether local opinions are taken seriously in the planning process. I guess it's tricky (you can't please all of the people all of the time) but if an application is technically acceptable, I wonder whether weight of local opinion could result in refusal of permission.

Having said all that it might not matter what our current councillors views are. The VWHDC planning website indicates that the planning meeting for Waitrose will be on 18th May- after the District Council elections. Perhaps we'll have a whole new set of councillors by then!!

Gene Webb

---

## Cotswold Voices Concert - 3/4/11

I had a prior engagement. I don't know why you think other Town Councillors should be there, it wasn't a Town Council event even though, personally, I try wherever possible to support events like this.

I have a family and a life outside the council. I don't know why I have to justify myself.

Jane Boulton FTC.

---

## Cotswold Voices Concert - 3/4/11

As team leader of the Faringdon Community Responders, I would like to add my very sincere thanks to everyone involved in the wonderful concert at All Saints Church yesterday evening. The event was another sell-out in the series of fundraising events organised by our wonderful Town Mayor in support of Macmillan Cancer, the Youth Centre, and ourselves. Already, Macmillan Cancer Support and ourselves have benefitted by more than £2000 each from the previous sponsored walk and Mayor's Dinner.

Last night, Margaret proudly told me that the funds raised from last month's dinner with Rory Bremner raised enough money to fund the new Youth Worker for a considerable time. We cannot thank Margaret and her partner Wally enough for the efforts they've put into these events which all resulted in significant success and support.

I understand that this is the first time that a Faringdon Mayor has ever personally organised fundraising events for chosen charities throughout their year of office. Let's hope that the new mayor will continue with this highly renowned success so that other charities can benefit in the same way that we have.

Godfrey Smith.

---

## Splendid concert at All Saints - 3/4/11

Another success for Cotswold Voices, the local choir directed by Joe Moore. The concert in All Saints last evening was wonderful.

The choir sang their whole repertoire( Abba, Take that, West Side story++) and was supported by 2 young singers, Abi and Maddy, Sjoerd (being a wonderful Jake Thackray) and Pam Walsh telling a tale about a Yorkshiremans's interpretation of The Messiah(very funny).

It was a concert in aid of (our wonderful) First Responders and Macmillan Cancer Care, and organised by Margaret Barker, our town Mayor.

Gene Webb

---

## "Feed-in Tariffs". -2/4/11

I would like to concur with the comments made by Steve Perry, as his experience seems to match my own. I had a 2.7KWh PV array installed in early June last year. Since then it has generated 1767 KWh, which in cash terms equates to £756.17. With still around 10 (sunny?) weeks to go before the first anniversary of the system I would expect to see these values rise to something close to 2300KWh with a final cash return of around £980. I will also have the benefit of not having had to pay for the electricity generated from the PVs that I used, this is particularly useful for me as both my wife and I work from home, and this would amount to a further £260 of savings. When added together I should be getting a return of around 9.5%, which I think is pretty good when compared to any other investment these days!

I also agree with Steve's comments about adding value to your property. I am sure that a prospective buyer would be happy to hear that the house they are interested in buying will actually generate cash for them and may in fact make their house close to being energy cost neutral.

I would agree that you should do your homework before making the decision to go ahead with an installation, but if you speak to those that have gone through the experience, and get recommendations of good quality Solar PV companies, then I am sure you will be satisfied with the result.

Andy Brown

---

## "Feed-in Tariffs". -2/4/11

In response to "name supplied" ; we've had our solar PV for 12 months; the total cost was £9800 for a 1.92KW peak system; so far we've had two payments into our bank account totalling £950 (we've generated nearly 2000 KWHrs - average of ) .

This is tax free - and will increase in line with inflation every year. We also saved approx £300 on our electricity bill. Total "income" in the past 12 months was therefore £1250. This represents a whopping 13% return on our capital investment. But maybe it was a good year . That's why my original msg on the 30th April stated a more sluggish 8-10% return as the expected "norm" .

But as "name supplied" is suggesting - I'm also sure there are cowboys who overcharge on systems; hence my offer of neighbourly advice - should you want it .

Sjoerd 241707

---

## What Museum - 2/4/11

Sadly it doesn't exist although appears to have been a project since 1995.

Go to: <http://www.faringdon.org/llcharities.htm> and scroll to Faringdon Museum.

Name Supplied

---

## What Museum - 1/4/11

As an archaeologist who lives in Faringdon, this is the first I've heard of a local museum. I would be interested to know more information.

If you have anything to tell me about it, then please contact me through this website.

Name supplied

---

## "Feed-in Tariffs". -1/4/11

I write in response to the recent letter (name supplied) written after an earlier letter from Sjoerd . I am not sure where some of the figures quoted come from but they are at variance with my experience. An average price for a solar PV system is around £5K per kilowatt peak., According to government figures a typical 2KW peak installation will generate 1800KWh in a year worth about £850, a return of 8.5%, somewhat better than the quoted 3%.

In the six weeks since we had our system commissioned our lowest daily output is 2KWh and that was on a day which was completely overcast all day. Our maximum is over 20 units and the average is over 10 and that's in winter. I accept that March was quite a sunny month but even so these figures make the quoted figure of 2KWh per day look incredibly conservative - either that or the writer is expecting a very dull summer!

Logically, how could the authorities hope to encourage early adoption of solar PV if the rate of return was only 3%. Please remember also that the 8.5% quoted above is tax-free, will rise with inflation and does not take account of the cost saving on your electricity bills as you use your own power.

At this stage we can't know what the effect of a solar PV installation will be on house prices but simple economics says that an asset which generates a guaranteed and rising income stream must be worth more than one without it. As for aesthetics, a regular arrangement of panels on the roof is not the eyesore that some people might think and it's all in a very good cause - saving the planet.

Steve Perry

---

## New people at the Bell - 1/4/11

There are new people in the bell there is a new menu and now doing tapas tables and chairs outside the front. we are doing kids menus carvery on a Sunday 12 till 2 might have to book for carvery good beer and tea +coffee and cake will be homemade cake. restraint out the back good for party's weddings etc. so come on in have fun it is mothers day on Sunday treat your mother to a carvery.

Simon Tovey

---

## Big Society grants from Oxfordshire County Council - 1/4/11

The county council has set up a £600,000 fund to which communities can make bids for start-up funding for service provision they may wish to undertake in their local area.

This can include but does not have to be restricted to taking on responsibility for libraries and youth facilities that the county council regrettably has to propose to cease funding as a result of severe cuts in grant funding.

[http://portal.oxfordshire.gov.uk/content/public/oxfordshirepartnership/newsletter/OPnewsletter\\_March11.htm#item3](http://portal.oxfordshire.gov.uk/content/public/oxfordshirepartnership/newsletter/OPnewsletter_March11.htm#item3)

---

### **Tesco Appeal** - 30/5/11

The appeal meeting starts on Wednesday 1st at Sudbury House, 1000.  
I think if you want to speak you have to be there at the beginning, when they will be setting the timetable  
Gene Webb

---

### **Ginger cat** - 29/5/11

If anyone in the Coxwell St area has lost a ginger cat with a red collar, please contact me at 20 Coxwell St.  
Jane Boulton

---

### **Army penpals** - 29/5/11

Don't know if anybody is interested but I have recently seen this website which sets up links similar to a penpal network, with squaddies serving away from home. It means that we can send parcels to make their time easier and to offer them our support.

Anyone interested, please give this website a look.

We have our details after registering last night, and are already thinking up ideas for our parcels.

[www.adoptasquaddie.co.uk](http://www.adoptasquaddie.co.uk)

Thank you for reading this post, I hope some of you can help.

Sherrie

---

### **Face Painter found part 2** - 27/5/11

Thanks to Alex Myers for responding.

As stated, one has been found via a mums website and very reasonable. Couldnt believe the prices the some were hoping to get. Best part of £100 for a couple of hours work.

Anyway, ta.

Colin

---

### **Photographic Competition** - 26/5/11

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the photographic competition - Faringdon - No Ordinary Town will not now take place.

Photo Group

---

### **Faringdon Radio** - 26/5/11

The new show (22nd May) on Faringdon Radio is now out (forgot to tell everyone).

This show features interview about the Faringdon Thursday Memorial Cup and the Farmers market.

Music from: Lucilu Mammoth and the Drum Little Fish

[www.faringdonradio.com](http://www.faringdonradio.com)

Sean Hodgson

---

### **Chorus Singing in Swindon, 10th June**- 26/5/11

Partners Theatre Company are inviting all singers (and would be singers) to come and join in the recording of the chorus on our fund-raising single. Mp3 and lyrics sent in advance.

Rehearsal, recording and filming on stage at the Wyvern Theatre, Friday 10 June, 9.45-1pm.

Info: Kath 01608 811293, Helen 01793 520318 [reachinclusive3@btconnect.com](mailto:reachinclusive3@btconnect.com)

Charity No: 1116680Co. Ltd. by Guarantee 5421272

---

### Photos for the 2012 calendar wanted - 26/5/11

It is the lovely time of year when I start putting together the 2012 Faringdon Calendar. If you have any photographs you think may be suitable please send them to [sally@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:sally@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk) Photographs preferably need to be landscape and of Faringdon or the surrounding countryside. Any photographers used get a credit and a free calendar. I can't wait to see this year's entries!

Thank you

Sally Thurston

Faringdon TIC

[sally@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:sally@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk)

---

### Face Painter - 26/5/11

Smiley Faces face painting, local and experienced and very good! Can be contacted via their Facebook page or on 07776 271791  
Alex Myers

---

### Face Painter found - 26/5/11

One has now been found. No response at all from the request made on this site. Lady advertising on "Gumtree" on the Oxford site was hoping to charge £78 PLUS travelling time from Oxford! Shocking.

Lady from Carterton has now been found who will charge £25-30 all in. Better.

Colin

---

### Face Painter wanted - 25/5/11

Been let down with a facepainting artist for a child's birthday party. Does anybody know of a local artist who can do 20-30 children?

Please leave details on site. Party will be at the Corn Exchange.

Name supplied.

---

### Temp Bus stops - 24/5/11

I'm being a pedant but how does a bus turn right from Coxwell Road into Park Road? They have no communal junction. It is, of course, possible to turn right from Coxwell Street into Station road.

Name Supplied

---

### Voice perform again in Faringdon – a major new collaboration - 24/5/11

The concert will be held at **The Blessed Hugh Catholic church in Marlborough Street** and tickets at £10 (£8 concessions).

The young a cappella trio, "Voice" return to Faringdon.

The programme will include a new work composed by Marcus Davidson entitled "The Ziggurat Builders". This is a collaboration between Voice, Khyam Allami, a successful young 'Ud player, and cellist Tara Franks.

"The Ziggurat Builders" is an English translation of a poem by the Iraqi Assyrian poet Sargon Boulus. The music draws on the unique sounds of Voice and Khyam Allami and brings together performing traditions from east and west. This composition is the first time that the combination of three voices, cello and 'Ud has been explored.

Voice have performed to great acclaim in Faringdon previously, singing in All Saints Church as part of the 2007 Faringdon Arts Festival and, in February this year for their Festival of Candlemas programme, again at All Saints. Their music spans a diverse range from the medieval chant of Hildegard of Bingen, through to European and American folk, and up to twenty-first century compositions.

Khyam Allami is an exciting new artist who has performed in Europe, the Middle East and the UK including WOMAD and the BBC Proms in 2010. This is a great opportunity for us to hear him in Faringdon. Information on Khyam's work is at: <http://www.khyamallami.com/site/>

The concert in June will be held at The Blessed Hugh Catholic church in Marlborough Street and tickets at £10 (£8 concessions) are now available from the Faringdon Tourist Information Centre and from The Nut Tree in the Market Place. This is sure to be a very popular event and you would be wise to book early.

To see and hear more about Voice, visit their website, <http://www.voicetrio.co.uk>

Further information from: Julia Burn email: [julia@theburns.name](mailto:julia@theburns.name) and Steve Wright email: [stevewright@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:stevewright@tiscali.co.uk)

---

### **Temp Bus stops - update**- 23/5/11

I have contacted both Oxfordshire County Council and Stagecoach and received email replies to say they have sorted out the problem with the temporary bus stop and this should now be being served by the 66 bus as planned.

It seems that bus drivers were told not to linger in Gloucester Street so as not to cause congestion and they thought this meant to avoid it all together.

I just hope that the Vale of White Horse planners become aware of it as it shows how capable Gloucester Street is of taking heavy traffic doesn't it?  
Katrina Campbell

---

### **Temp Bus stops** - 23/5/11

If you are going to catch a 66 using the temporary bus stop in Gloucester - be warned! The 66s are turning straight from Coxwell Road into Park Road (or the reverse) and are missing out this stop altogether.  
If it hadn't have been for a friendly 67 driver (from a totally different company) telling us about this, the small crowd of passengers this morning would have missed our bus.  
Not happy.  
Katrina Campbell

---

### **The Caldicot Welsh Male Voice Choir with Guest Soloist 4th June** - 22/5/11

All Saints Church, Faringdon. Adult: £12. Concessions: £10. Tickets limited so book early!  
Refreshments available in the interval.  
Proceeds to Maggie's Cancer Support Charity (Oxford) & other Rotary-supported charities  
Tickets available from: Barclays Bank, Market Place, Faringdon The Bell Hotel, Faringdon 01367 240534 Tourist Information Centre, Faringdon & District Rotary members Nigel Lee, Fernham 01367 82 1076  
Email: [nigelandally@talktalk.net](mailto:nigelandally@talktalk.net) or [info@faringdonrotaryclub.org](mailto:info@faringdonrotaryclub.org)

---

### **King and Queen- good food** - 20/5/11

Jane and I had a really nice meal at the King and Queen at Longcot yesterday evening. Nice friendly welcome from the new landlady. The food and beer was excellent quality and good value for money.  
Well worth a visit.  
Gof Smith

---

### **Corn Exchange completion?**- 20/5/11

Does anyone know when the Corn Exchange refurbishment will be finished?"  
Name Supplied

---

### **Road Closure in the Market Place** - 20/5/11

I believe it is to finish the gas works that were started last year. See FTC Planning and Highways Minutes 19/04/11.

Jane Boulton (FTC)

---

## VWHDC Council elects new Chairman and Leader - 20/5/11

The Vale of White Horse District Council last night (18.05.11) elected Councillor Alison Thomson, Cllr for Faringdon and the Coxwells, as its new Chairman and Councillor Sue Marchant, Cllr for Grove, as Vice Chairman.

Cllr Thomson has served on the council since 1999 and takes over from Beth Fleming.

The new chairman's chosen charities for the year are Help for Heroes and South and Vale Carers.

Councillor Thompson said: "I am delighted to step into the role of Chairman for Vale of White Horse District Council and really look forward to the year ahead. It will be a big change from being a councillor just in Faringdon and the Coxwells."

Council also elected a new leader, Councillor Matthew Barber, who represents the Hanneys Ward, and has been the Conservative leader since 2009.

Cllr Barber said: "This is a significant change for the council and I am delighted to be taking up the role as leader. We have already started to put our ambitious plans in place and will give a new direction to the Vale of White Horse, working with local people and businesses to strengthen our economy and our communities."

A new cabinet was also elected to replace the old executive. The new cabinet is:

Matthew Barber  
Conservative Cllr for Hanneys Ward  
Leader, Corporate Strategy, Finance

Roger Cox  
Conservative Cllr for Faringdon and the Coxwells Ward  
Planning & Housing

Yvonne Constance  
Conservative Cllr for Craven Ward  
Legal & Democratic, Customer Services

Reg Waite  
Conservative Cllr for Harwell Ward  
Commercial Services Elaine Ware Conservative Cllr for Shrivenham Ward  
Economy & Leisure

---

## Buscot Fun run - 18/5/11

Enter for the Buscot Park Fun Run online at: <http://www.faringdonrotaryclub.co.uk/page14.htm>

---

## Dead flowers - 18/5/11

Definitely a sign of the times Sheila.

Back in 1685 there would have been dead bodies hanging outside the site of 'Thanks a Bunch' clearly marked JJ was here...

Name supplied

---

## Road Closure in the Market Place - 18/5/11

Re earlier posting Oxon County Council website

<http://voyager.oxfordshire.gov.uk/networkdetail.aspx?t=incident&r=651488013&x=428873&y=195565&s=Moderate&format=xhtml> now give this information:

Description Stagecoach and RH Transport services will use a temporary stop located on Gloucester Street Location The Faringdon Community Bus will now stop at The Bell rather than at The Crown

[View on map](#)

Severity Moderate Incident date\time 23/05/11 00:00  
Anticipated end date\time 28/05/11 00:00  
Diversion route None

But still no clues as to why. It comes under the category of 'incident' rather than 'roadworks' if that means anything?  
Nigel

---

## Town Council elections results - 18/5/11

It may be that these things naturally get lost in the mists of time but it still remains a mystery to me what the voter turn out and the number of spoilt ballot papers were in the Faringdon Town Council election? These would be an indicator of support in an election that has not been held for a long time The link supplied was detailed by each candidate but gave no indication as to overall percentage turn out or number of spoilt papers. Do the FTC publish this information? It is possible I have missed it but have tried in vain to find it on their website...  
Name Supplied

---

## Dead flowers - 18/5/11

Are the hanging baskets of dead plants outside the Crown a sign of the times?  
Sheila

---

## re Good Double glazing wanted - 18/5/11

We used Nicky Ponting and have recommended him to several friends and acquaintances as we were very pleased with the work and the people who did the work. After 2 previous dodgy experiences (not in Faringdon), they restored our faith in the double glazing industry.  
E-mail [nick@nickpontingwindows.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:nick@nickpontingwindows.wanadoo.co.uk), website **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**, phone 01367 718009, mobile 07747 782113, address – Poverty Cottage, The Walls, Stanford in the Vale, SN7 8LP  
Name Supplied

---

## re Good Double glazing wanted - 18/5/11

Thank you very much for the info and recommendations. I'll check them out.  
Name supplied

---

## re Good Double glazing wanted - 18/5/11

We used Nick ponting of Stanford in the Vale ( 01367-718009 or 07747-782113) for our most recent double glazing. Very good workmanship,polite and clean and tidy. He has a website for more details.  
Regards Mark

---

## Waitrose application deferred - 18/5/11

The application was due to be considered on 25th May. It has been put back- presumably because VWHDC has lots of new(conservative) councillors that need to get up to speed.  
[http://planning.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/publicaccess/tdc/DcApplication/application\\_detailview.aspx?caseno=LFVVQQB Y0G300](http://planning.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/publicaccess/tdc/DcApplication/application_detailview.aspx?caseno=LFVVQQB Y0G300) has not been updated yet  
Gene Webb

---

## Road Closure in the Market Place - 17/5/11

Does anyone know why?  
I've looked on the County website- can't find anything.  
I assume it mean buses will not go into the Market Place during this period  
Gene Webb

---

## Blue plaque for the Crown - 16/5/11

Further to the note on Talking Points, it is quite likely that Judge Jeffries passed through Faringdon probably in 1685 when he led a series of trials called "The Bloody Assizes" which started at Winchester that year in the aftermath of the Battle of Sedgemoor which ended the Monmouth Rebellion.

Jeffreys returned to London after the Assizes to report to King James. He rewarded him by making him Lord Chancellor (at an age of only 40), 'For the many eminent and faithful services to the Crown'. Jeffreys became known as "the hanging judge"

After the Glorious Revolution Jeffreys was incarcerated in the Tower of London where he died in 1689, the cause of death probably due to his chronic medical history of kidney and bladder stones leading to an acute infection, kidney failure and possibly toxemia.

There's quite a bit on the internet about him but he wasn't a very nice man by all accounts.

Mel Lane

---

### **re Good Double glazing wanted** - 16/5/11

Countryside Conservatories in Highworth fitted our uPVC windows earlier this year and were excellent. They may not be the very cheapest, but their prices were reasonable and the quality of work (and how tidy they were) were top notch. They also fitted our conservatory for us last year, and were fantastic.

I have heard that the I. V. Florists in Shrivenham also own a double glazing firm - which has been recommend to us by others. I think they're pretty cheap.

Hope this helps  
Name supplied

---

### **Good Double glazing wanted** - 15/5/11

Can anyone recommend a decent double glazing company? Preferably one that hasn't been interrogated by Anne Robinson or chased up the road by Matt Albright or Dominic Littlewood... The internet reviews, or to be more specific, horror stories, regarding the work of most national UK glazing companies, are not very encouraging.

Name supplied

---

### **Blue plaque for the Crown** - 15/5/11

I am trying to get a blue plaque for the Old Crown re the Hanging Judge - Judge Jeffries who held his court in the Old Crown.

I understand the executions took place outside what is now Thanks a Bunch. I have been unable to find what date he held this court and why he was in Faringdon.

I'd be very grateful for information.  
Margaret Barker

---

### **Buscot Fun run** - 15/5/11

Faringdon & District Rotary Club date for Buscot Park Fun Run this year is Sunday 3 July,  
Mike Bell

---

### **Community Message from Thames Valley Police.-** 14/5/11

#### **BURGLARY IN FARINGDON**

Between Tuesday 10th May and Wednesday 11th May a property in Church Street, Faringdon was subject to a burglary. Offender or offenders have forced ground floor window. If you have seen any suspicious looking people or vehicles in the area or have any information relating to this message, please call the Police on 08458 505 505 and quote URN 280 of the 11th May.

Message ends.

---

## Is there a Buscot Fun run this year? - 13/5/11

Anyone know if they are doing the Buscot fun run this year?  
Kirsty Philips

---

## Loud music - 13/5/11

Whilst I cannot condone the exercising of dogs on the school fields the previous poster raises a valuable point regarding those people engaged in loud and entertaining activities. People opening their windows during hot weather is disgraceful and any form of noise, at even a reasonable hour, in our town is completely unacceptable.

The other day my silent, lonely BBQ was interrupted by the distant strains of "Two fat ladies.... Eighty Eight!" coming from the Corn Exchange. It is events like these that bring nothing but trouble to our town and spoil the peace and quiet for all of us.

I for one shall be starting a crusade of complaint to get this sort of thing banned.  
P.I. John

---

## Rehearsal Room/Hall Hire - 13/5/11

Does anyone know of a rehearsal room/hall for hire in Faringdon that my band could use for three hours once a week?

We are also looking for a new singer, we play blues/rock covers & original material so some lyric writing would be required.

<http://www.youtube.com/user/cjh8047>

If interested please e-mail me at [cjh8047@gofast.co.uk](mailto:cjh8047@gofast.co.uk)

Chris Harbert

---

## Ballroom music - 12/5/11

Its what all the kids listen to nowadays.  
Name Supplied

---

## Loud music - 11/5/11

Recently when walking my dog in the playing fields near the Community College I have heard really loud music coming from the leisure centre sports hall.

It's really awful old-fashioned ballroom dance-type music but played so loud you can hear it at the other end of the fields.

Has the Leisure Centre started ballroom lessons for the hard-of-hearing? I can't imagine why else anyone would need to play this music so loud you can hear it outside the building. I am surprized no one has raised this with environmental health.

Rachel Gibbons

---

## Willow wanted - 11/5/11

Does anybody know where I could get hold of some long willow tree branches, for a childrens project I am doing?  
Please e mail me on [steve.leeche@oxfordarch.co.uk](mailto:steve.leeche@oxfordarch.co.uk)

---

## Town Council elections results - 10/5/11

Dear Ed,

The previous poster, (as I write this) asked for the breakdown results for the Town Council election. The response given, only indicates the votes cast for a candidate, not the number of returned ballot papers or the number of spoilt papers. As these are always recorded, where can that data be obtained?

Mike Perks

---

## **This is a Community Message from Thames Valley Police. - 11/5/11**

### GOOD NEWS

On Thursday 5th May an Agricultural Compound in Abingdon was subject to theft of plant. High value plant had been stolen. Quick thinking employees stopped the offenders and the Police were called. Karl Barrett D.O.B 02/07/1986 of No Fixed Abode and Michael Joyce D.O.B 27/02/1990 of Redbridge Hollow were charged and remanded to Oxford Magistrates Court on Friday 6th May.

On Friday 6th May at Oxford Magistrates Court Karl Barrett was sentenced to 5 months imprisonment and Michael Joyce is bailed to Oxford Magistrates for the 5th August with conditions.

---

## **Town Council elections results - 10/5/11**

Thanks to Al Cane for enlightening us all on the FTC election. A very close fought election with only 3 votes in it. I do hope no one drops out or it will have been rather a waste of time.

Does anyone know the percentage turnout and the number of ballot papers spoilt in protest? It does look like almost 10,000 people voted which sounds like a very good turnout to me.

I can find nothing more about the results on the FTC website, perhaps someone can post a link if I have missed them  
Name Supplied

ED(GW) see <http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ElectionResultsParish&NAME=GreatFaringdon>

---

## **Faringdon Folly- Radio Oxford- 10th May- 10/5/11**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/oxford/programmes/schedules/2011/05/10>

If you want to just hear the bits about the Folly and Faringdon, fast forward to:

51 mins

1hr 24 mins

1hr 49 mins

2hrs 34 mins

2hrs 49 mins

---

## **Faringdon Radio - 10/5/11**

The latest Faringdon Radio show is now available to download - hear about the Pink Pigeons Trust, The circus in Town (not a real circus) and Gene from Faringdon.org..and 3 wonderful new songs

Sean [www.faringdonradio.com](http://www.faringdonradio.com)

If any one or a club/organisation wants to contribute to the show please get in touch with us.

Sean Hodgman

---

## **Town Council elections results - 10/5/11**

For those who hadn't yet found out the results of last week's town council elections they were: elected Roger Cox 1187 (12.35%), Margaret Barker 768 (7.99%), Alan Hickmore 768 (7.99%), Steve Leniec 714 (7.43%) Jack Smith 686 (7.14%), Mike Wise 663 ( 6.9%), Julie Farmer 660 (6.87%), Tony White 634 (6.6%), David Price 573 (5.96%), Jane Boulton 566 (5.89%), David Keeble 554 (5.76%), Nick O'Keeffe 484 (5.04%), Karen Draper 466 (4.85%), and Andrew Marsden 446 (4.64%) and very narrowly not elected was Robert Purdie 443 (4.61%).

Al Cane

---

## **Pavements are for people...- 9/5/11**

...but not in London Street!



---

## Faringdon Folly- Radio Oxford- 10th May - 9/5/11

People from Faringdon talking about the Folly on the Phil Gayle program 0700-1000

---

## Chorus Singing - 8/5/11

Partners Theatre Company are inviting all singers (and would be singers) to come and join in the recording of the chorus on our fund-raising single. Mp3 and lyrics sent in advance.

Rehearsal, recording and filming on stage at the Wyvern Theatre, Friday 10 June, 9.45-1pm.

Info: Kath 01608 811293, Helen 01793 520318 [reachinclusive3@btconnect.com](mailto:reachinclusive3@btconnect.com)

Charity No: 1116680Co. Ltd. by Guarantee 5421272

Reach have decided that the world, well Swindon anyway! is ready for a specially composed single, recorded at the Wyvern Theatre, led by our disabled theatre company 'Partners'. We would love to be joined by loads of local choirs. The recording will take place on the 10th June during the morning and we really are aiming to fill the auditorium and stage area with people and with song.

When we have completed the recording the single will then be ready for sale to the public and the launch date will coincide with The Big Arts Day at Lydiard Park on the 9th July, when we will perform the single again, joined we hope, by many of those who will have taken part in the recording. We will appear on the main performance stage, during the afternoon.

Reach hope that you can join us and feel part of what we hope will be a real community event, one that will be truly inclusive involving a broad range of local organisations, many minority groups as well as interested individuals. If you think that your choir would be available on this date and you would like to hear the music and receive a copy of the music please let me know.

---

## Names Supplied- 8/7/11

Years ago, on this site, there was a contributor nicknamed the 'Folly Cat' Here is as good a justification as any for remaining anonymous.

Paws for thought:  
"On anonymity"

Miaou! – I am the Folly Cat  
and appositely named, at that  
by HGM (or AKA);  
anonymous, I slip away.

'Name supplied' but not revealed

I wear my false face like a shield,  
fending off the angry slights  
that anonymity ignites.  
For in this town, I've varied roles  
in furtherance of many goals.  
I might be neighbour, child or spouse  
in bungalow, or flat, or house.  
Professional, or artisan;  
hermaphrodite, or woman, man.  
But, truth to tell, though rage be vent  
I merely relish argument.  
No disguised agenda, me  
who pens my case in secrecy.

So, just recall when next you write  
with scorn, and irony and spite –  
*'He who writes and runs away  
Will live to write another day'*

name supplied

---

## **Union Flag on Folly Tower** - 7/5/11

Thank you for your kind comments regarding the 24x12ft and a 12x6ft union flags. They needed an airing, having been in a trunk for nearly 25 years!  
Thanks to Tony Tarry and Ed., helping.

Luckily the large flag just fitted between the two water chutes, around the tower. We were very aware of how to display the flag. Depending on which way it was viewed, the broad white band was at the top! (In absolute fairness, when positioning it, we hung it with the broad white band, to OUR top left)! ---- Well, we might get it "right"? another time.

To stop any criticism we should have hung it vertically. --- But that would, most probably, be against another cardinal rule! ---- I rest my case!

Irrespective, they did look good, didn't they.  
Regards, Ian Smith, Grove Lodge.

---

## **Re Shopping sorted**- 7/5/11

Of course it was tongue in cheek...Faringdon is dying...any fool can see that, with the demise of Davis Home Centre it will soon be dead. trying to hang on to a long forgotten past way of life wont bring Faringdon back to life, it has to be dragged kicking and screaming into the present, whether right of wrong, the car dictates where we go, and where we shop, free, easy parking without having to remember your number plate will always win, when it was up for sale, was the land behind Davis's ever considered for a free car park?....the road could have been made one way to ease traffic problems,and it would have made up for the destruction and loss of parking caused by the ridiculous "improvements" that was forced upon us several years ago.

Even the bus and coach drivers loathe coming into the town centre now because of that "tongue in cheek" bit of planning.

I personally think with the way things are going, less and less people will use the pay and display car parks during the daytime anyway, nothing for them to come here for, so eventually they will become free as it will no longer to be cost effective to patrol them, then, you might see people coming back, but by then, it will probably be to late.  
James Horton.

---

## **Re Shopping sorted**- 7/5/11

Jane, who "we", what "listed buildings", which problem?  
Name Supplied

---

## Shoddy Standards - 7/5/11

Whilst a few take pride in the appearance of their premises, some business premises around the market square area are letting the others down. It takes little effort to tidy displays, clean windows, wash off dirt and sweep the pavement; a little more effort to attend to flaking paintwork and apply a fresh lick of paint.

Could the town council and Chamber of Commerce set an expected standard and chase up those who do not meet it?

Name Supplied

---

## Faringdon Attractions and shopping - 7/5/11

Imagine:

a comprehensive shopping complex in Park Road blending sympathetically with the town's attractive parkland, with retail unit priority given to existing town traders.

That the Park Road area is designated for industrial development should not be a concern once the establishment of Tesco sets the precedent.

Imagine then: the town market square as a living museum and tourist attraction.

Name Supplied

---

## re wanting water at the folly - 7/5/11

i here budgens have plenty of water to give to all needed as there guttering collapsed today  
name supplied

---

## Re Shopping sorted - 6/5/11

I do realise this was tongue in cheek. If we could pull down listed buildings we wouldn't have a problem. Have you looked at Sudbury House?

Jane Boulton.

---

## Corn Exchange - 6/5/11

Like many other Faringdonians I had my first viewing of the newly refurbished Corn Exchange when I headed down to vote yesterday. I was extremely surprised and disappointed to see that various paperwork relating to the elections had been pinned to the brand new plaster work with drawing pins (in all four corners) and that other signs had been stuck to the lovely new paint-work with long strips of sellotape which is bound to rip the new paint off the wood almost as soon as it has been put there. Is it not everyone's responsibility to look after this building and try to keep it looking presentable? Would anyone do this in their house if they'd just paid vast amounts of money to have it redecorated?! Just pure lack of thought and common sense from those responsible.

Sorry, but just felt compelled to say something and this seemed to be the most sensible place to say it!

On another issue, I think the reason that many people choose to remain anonymous on this site is that there are some truly vitriolic people out there who wouldn't hesitate to hound someone about the opinions they express. Not everyone wants this sort of confrontation in their everyday lives...it's not cowardice, it's just a right to lead a peaceful existence in my honest opinion!

Name Supplied

---

## Election Results for Faringdon and The Coxwells - 6/5/11

### Elected

Roger Cox Conservative 1389

Alison Thomson Conservative 1386

Mohinder Singh Kainth Conservative 1174

### **Not Elected**

Alan Hickmore Labour 716

Stephen Peter Leniec Labour 680

Jack Smith Labour 615

Jean Kent Liberal Democrats 263

John Hudson Liberal Democrats 245

Peter Kent Liberal Democrats 203

[http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/about\\_your\\_council/elections\\_electoral\\_registration/elections\\_in\\_the\\_vale.asp](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/about_your_council/elections_electoral_registration/elections_in_the_vale.asp)

The conservatives are now the majority party in the Vale

---

### **Shopping sorted** - 5/5/11

I have been reading all the posts for several months now about who wants what shop, and where they want it to be placed, all very emotive stuff, some interesting, some boring, some even making sense, however I have come up with the perfect solution to everyone's problem, now this is a bit radicle, but bare with me and lets take a little walk outside the box, it's ok, I'll hold your hand.....right..Sudbury House Hotel is up for sale.....how about getting one of the interested parties involved to buy it.....knock it down....and build a nice supermarket in it's place...there would be a huge free car park, out of towners could shop, then wander down to the town, the remaining Hotels would find bookings improve, the free bus could pick up and drop off there, car owners could drive to it without having to face placard waving residents.....in fact I can't see a down side.....can you?.....righty ho!...must dash..I have the rest of the Country to sort out.....Mr Cameron...a word.....

James Horton.

---

### **Desperate for water!!!** - 4/5/11

Not me- the new turf at the Folly and the camomile that was planted today.

Maybe it will rain later in the week, maybe it will miss us again- so just in case I'm asking eveyone who goes to the Folly to take as much water as they can and water first the camomile in the pie, and pour any spare over the very brown turf.

THANKYOU  
Gene Webb

---

### **Faringdon Flashmob Hallelujah the video- on youtube** - 3/5/11

See <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v9LrS4d46wk> .

Many thanks to Gary Bates for putting together the video; to Dave Porter for the audio; and to everyone else who helped make it happen. It was fun!

If you enjoy the video, please donate to Macmillan Cancer Support by going to : <http://is.gd/flashmobbudgens> .

---

### **Why so many Name Supplied** - 3/5/11

Most of us prefer the anonymity of "Name Supplied " and the reason isn't lack of courage. Just old fashioned British modesty.

Name Supplied

---

### **Re Name Supplied** - 3/5/11

I mostly publish my name when I reply, but as a Town Councillor (at least until Thursday) I have been pulled up as sometimes people think a posting from a Town Councillor constitutes the opinion of the whole TC when it doesn't. I don't know why other people post incognito, but sometimes I do to be able to put my own point of view across without the wrong impression.

Jane Boulton (FTC)

---

### **Planting camomile on the Pie at the Folly- 4th May** - 3/5/11

16.30 Everyone welcome.

If you want to join in bring a trowel and a bottle of water (to water in your plant)

Please bring as much water as you can - it's desperately dry up there

Gene Webb

[www.faringdonfolly.org.uk](http://www.faringdonfolly.org.uk)

---

## Why so many Name Supplied - 2/5/11

Why do so many of your correspondents lack the courage of their convictions by withholding their identity?

It seems such a cowardly thing to do and it reduces the value of their statements.

Geoffrey and Carolyn Williams

---

## Town Council Elections - 2/5/11

A shortened version of my thumbnail 'sketch' of the Town Council hustings.

The full version will appear in the Folly newspaper which is available from Tuesday.

This is just about the candidates for the town council election on Thursday 5 May.

15 candidates, 14 votes

So of the 13, eleven were already councillors and were standing again, and there were a few new faces. In reverse alphabetical order they sat and gave their two minute speeches, rigidly timed by the chairman.

Former Mayor Mike Wise was on first saying he was passionate about Faringdon, (a phrase we'd hear a few times tonight), then there was newcomer Tony White, a landscape gardener and standing for Labour, who wanted to put something back into the town. Next up was prospective district and town councillor Jack Smith, the youngest on the stage, another Labour Party man, who felt that he had a fresh pair of eyes. Next along was David Price, chair of the Venues Committee, who had overseen the refurbishment of the Corn Exchange and talked about improving other civic facilities and pulling down the old social club. He also wanted 20mph speed limits around the schools.

Detective Nick O'Keeffe, already a councillor, was interested in the as yet unpublished Localism Bill and how local councils could have more say over their locality. Andrew Marsden had been a councillor for four years and is known as the VAT and customs man, this being his area of expertise on the council.

Then there was Steve Leniec, the man from Eaton Hastings, proud of his agricultural trade union credentials and Labour connections. He had been chairman of the finance committee for a few years and had been instrumental in taking decisions for the town to take over the Corn Exchange, the Tourist Information Centre and the proposed employment of possibly Oxfordshire's only youth worker. Also standing for the district. David Keeble was next in the firing line, not afraid to stand his ground or voice his opinion, he had been a councillor governor at the Junior School for a couple of years and has lived in the town for 20. He has no desire to see the town grow any bigger. Then the loud presence of Alan Hickmore, a councillor for many years and the man with most to say. He reeled off a long list of what he had done, what he belonged to and how he was a defender of Faringdon from the heathen hordes from Abingdon. Probably his most noteworthy role is his chairmanship of the Planning Committee, there's not much that gets past him. Also standing for the district under Labour colours.

Moving along to Julie Farmer, who has been a councillor for two years or so, formerly helped run the Arts Festival and is involved with the Area Partnership. Already a district councillor for the Tories and standing again is Roger Cox, who stresses his experience on many committees, and sees himself as a link between town and Vale. Chairman of Governors of the Infant School and a member of the Traffic Advisory Group, amongst other things.

Only three more to go, firstly councillor Jane Boulton who cares about the play areas and the provision of allotments, Councillor and retiring mayor Margaret Barker, who swears allegiance to Faringdon, professes independence and promotes her green credentials. One of her planks is more local housing for local people.

Because she was unable to attend for reasons given a statement by the final candidate Karen Draper was read out by Jane Boulton. She attended Tollington School, has brought up children as a single parent, and is chair of the Sovereign Vale Housing Association. No word from the final candidate Mr Purdie as he was not present.

Al Cane

---

## Hustings Meeting - 2/5/11

Robert Purdie was not present because of illness in France His message arrived too late for the meeting.  
Name Supplied

---

## Faringdon Flashmob - 2/5/11

Gary Bates posted in Choral flash mob S England.

Here it is ! <http://www.facebook.com/video/video.php?v=10150232995684468&oid=170270416339579&comments>  
Its still not as polished as i would have liked but my PC refuses to run the aspect ratio conversion so some of the pics are a bit squished. Apologies also to David Stevens. Your lovely HD video has been mangled to get it to edit into a project with mobile phone quality cameras.

Hope you like it

Gary

*ED(GW) Easter Saturday 23rd in Budgens*

---

## Oxfordshire Artweeks Exhibitions - 2/5/11

Details of local Artweeks activities over the next couple of weeks involving members of the Faringdon Art Society can be found here: <http://www.faringdonartsociety.org.uk/exhibitions.html#artweeks>.

Come and meet the artists and watch them at work. Also this month in the White Horse Bookshop there is an exhibition by Shelagh Baxter and in the Portwell Angel an exhibition by June Adams.

Please drop in and support these local artists.

Tivon Rivers

---

## FREE Ante Natal Class in Faringdon 14th May - 1/5/11

Faringdon Family Centre, 10.00-12.00

For both parents

Free, but donations to cover refreshments are welcome

Run by an experienced midwife who can offer advice and answer your questions

Please call Margaret Broadberry on 01367 242661 or Family Centre 01367 242432 to register your interest

Organised and sponsored by Faringdon Area Project Health Group

---

### **Wryly Smiley misses the point** - 30/6/11

I certainly believe that young people should be given the opportunity to organise and run events, but allowing them to 'organise and run events' isn't the issue, is it? I also believe that they should be taught consideration for the surrounding residents, rather than be encouraged in the sense of entitlement they seem to have regarding the decibel level they create. Loud doesn't necessarily equal good, it just equals loud. Any baby can bang a drum loudly. Lowering the volume wouldn't detract from the skill involved, and it might even better expose the level of musicianship. It sounds like that's not what your young people are after, though.

As for democracy – I reckon your version would turn out to be the same variety as "nine out of ten cats prefer [well known cat food]" - but I absolutely concur with you, Steve Wright and others re. the Corn Exchange. Of course 'the question put forward' on this forum won't be answered, because it hasn't actually been put forward at all. Why don't you send a communication with some properly constructed, detailed and written questions to the appropriate council body. Copy it, date it, and send it recorded delivery to all interested parties, including our MP. That way it has to be answered, and if the answer isn't satisfactory, pursue it.

Wryly Smiley

---

### **This is a Community Message from Thames Valley Police.** - 30/6/11

#### INFORMATION APPEAL

Offender(s) stole £1 coins that were marked with a white dot, following a theft from a property in the Market Place, Faringdon on 14th June, 2011. If you see or handle a £1 coin marked with a white dot, please contact the police on 08458 505 505. Alternatively if you have information but wish to remain anonymous, please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Message Ends.

---

### **.Wryly Smiley misses the point** - 30/6/11

This is a democracy: If the majority in a democracy want something then that "something" has the tacit approval of the majority. Everybody in Faringdon is entitled to an opinion. If the majority of people in Faringdon believe that giving the younger members of our society an opportunity to organise and run a musical event is a good thing, they should be entitled to say so – wherever they live in the Town.

In a town in France, a local law has been passed that prohibits the mowing of lawns on a Sunday. The law was passed with the consensus of all residents: not just three!

Name supplied

---

### **Police at the festival**- 30/6/11

A little masterstroke by the police! and yes, they can be so noisy, rushing about in their cars with the old blues'n'twos going. Let's just see what they have to say about THAT.

Look forward to it all anyway, and hope the Sun Has Got His Hat On.

Wryly Smiley

---

### **Thames Valley Police meeting** - 30/6/11

I thought that the announcement of the police meeting was sudden and as yourself didn't realize that it was in the program.

But on that night of the 25th when the police arrived and checked the license for the event they stated "that they had no idea that the event was taking place, seeing as the police are notified at the same time as the application is put in

for the licence perhaps they really don't know what's going on? The question put forward about the corn Exchange will probably not be answered.  
Sam Prince

---

### **Football Club** - 30/6/11

Unfortunately, having been in touch with the Under 10s contact there has not been enough interest from boys my sons age for them to have a team this year.  
Such a shame  
Emira

---

### **Re Community Message from Thames Valley Police** - 29/6/11

I'm pleased to note that Neighbourhood Officers are joining Faringdon Festival with an event in the Market Place. I didn't see it in the programme.

Several bands, including Uke Box Jury and The Quiet Men will be performing on stage at the same time as the meeting. There's singing in All Saints'; poetry in the Swan; a 'Theatre Laboratory'; a celebration of King James' Bible; art, photography and graphic design exhibitions; pianos to play and general fun to be had.  
Free. Of course some of it may be a bit noisy ...  
Sheila

---

### **Outdoor music event at the Portwell Angel**-29/6/11

That last post has to be one of the most wierdly illogical I've ever read on this forum, and that's saying something! So if I live a mile away from the venue, "or anywhere in Faringdon", in a nice snug double glazed house, and DIDNT hear anything, I should record the fact on Focus website and that would be taken as support for the event? Alternatively, I stayed at home, within earshot and was disturbed, but wasn't aware that a relative or guests attended, so...what? Not allowed to complain? how does that work, exactly?  
Clearly there was cause for complaint of some sort or another - otherwise why so many complainants? Also, I note that you refer to 'perpetrators'.

I merely write in fascination at a particularly nonsensical attempt at justification. This isnt a comment on the gig, I live too far away, and in a snug, double glazed house, to be bothered. The only sound I can hear is that of scraping barrels.

Wryly Smiley

---

### **Football Club** - 29/6/11

Emira, I'm sorry you've been given the impression that there is no football for your son. We have a fantastic Football Club at Tuckers Park that caters for all ages, has several teams and wins awards. Your son will be welcomed and very well looked after.

There is also a Scout group in Faringdon and this is the download to join [http://www.st-hughs.co.uk/assets/1st\\_faringdon\\_register\\_of\\_interest.pdf](http://www.st-hughs.co.uk/assets/1st_faringdon_register_of_interest.pdf)  
I hope this helps and welcome to our town.  
Jane  
FTC councillor

---

### **Hate and Ignorance**-29/6/11

Ah yes, the replies I've been expecting.  
In hindsight, i am prepared to admit that my statement that I "have spent years loathing a majority of people in this town" was perhaps too strong. I was incredibly angry at the time of writing and, as Name Supplied pointed out, forgot my own principles. Of course I do not loath a majority of people, but at the time of writing it certainly felt like the masses of Faringdon were rising up to destroy another possible venue. Something which seems to happen far too often.

As for being self centred, I have never demanded that people stop what they're doing just because I feel it is disturbing my life for a few hours. I am also far from ignorant where unwanted commotion is concerned. Where I live, the sometimes noisy exploits of others becomes a way of life. I learned at an early age to deal with it and these intrusions would often continue for much longer than the average timespan of a gig.

Oh, and the "wastrels who could've been somebody" refers to no-one in particular. I was merely trying to illustrate the juxtaposition of images that make up a town, and that each characteristic must have its opposite.

Now i won't post again as I refuse to be drawn into a long and tedious internet debate. If anyone wants to talk to me about my views, opinions, the events of 25/06/11 or even my character you can find me in either the Portwell Wine Bar or the Portwell Celler on most fridays, saturdays and sundays.

Nial Prince

---

### Noise-29/6/11

We dont choose to live in the town centre, the rent is cheaper thats all. If you can perhaps pay me the extra it would cost to live in a nice suburban house i will stop complaining. Also ive been in Faringdon for a few years now and the house shaking noise has only began in the last 2 years. But im sure you are correct- i must move.  
Name Supplied

---

### Football Club - 29/6/11

Emira

Faringdon Town football club does have an uder-10 team according to their website:

<http://www.faringdowntownfc.com/youth-teams/>

Hope this helps

Name Supplied

---

### Outdoor Music Event at Portwell Angel 25/06/11 -29/6/11

If like many other residents of the Market Square, Church Street, London Street and Swan Lane (or anywhere in Faringdon) you were not disturbed by the above event, please visit [www.focusonfaringdon.co.uk](http://www.focusonfaringdon.co.uk) and say so. Stop and take a look at the Faringdon Festival programme when you're there.

Anyone who didn't see the license for the event is welcome to inspect the document @

<http://www.focusonuk.co.uk/documents/eventLicense.pdf>

Personally, I think the youngsters who performed and those that ran the stage did an excellent job. I cannot help but wonder if the objectors would have been so pernicious had the event been a rendition of "Carmen". Perhaps we'll arrange a gig to test the water.

The event obviously caused some unexpected rifts:

One complainant may or may not know that their son was at the gig

One complainant seemed oblivious to the fact that their guests were at the gig

One complainant was unpleasantly abusive to the barman in the Portwell Celler – who was not responsible in any way for the event. That person did not seek out the perpetrators and speak to them: a shame and an opportunity for harmony lost.

Welcome to Faringdon!

Name Supplied

---

### This is a Community Message from Thames Valley Police. - 29/6/11

HAVE YOUR SAY MEETING

A Have Your Say meeting is being held Sunday 10th July, at Faringdon Market place, between 11:00 and 14:00hrs Please come along, this is your opportunity to speak with your Neighbourhood Officers to discuss any local issues of concern you may have.

If you are unable to attend but wish to speak with your Neighbourhood Officers, please call 08458 505 505.

Message Ends.

---

## New to Faringdon - 29/6/11

My family and I are moving to Faringdon on the 2nd August and we are keen to become involved in the Community. I have a couple of questions regarding youth activities.

I have a 9 year old son who is keen to join cubs, I have tried the contact details on the Whats on page, however the email address appears to be incorrect, can anyone help?

My son is also an avid footballer and will be moving into the under 10s team this season, I understand there is not a youth football team in Faringdon which is a great shame, are there any other teams that anyone knows of that local boys play in that I could sign him up to?

Many thanks for taking the time to read this

Best wishes  
Emira Shepherd

---

## Town Centre Music-29/6/11

Ever considered that some town centre residents might have lived there since before LOUD music events took place?

Name supplied

---

## New Vale of White Horse website- 29/6/11

I went to the part of the site you suggested - there is a list of councilors, dates of up-coming meetings etc but no minutes or other such records. I would expect to be able to see such records and financial plans etc but I really can't find them. If they are there perhaps someone could post a direct links to them??

As an aside I see the group overseeing the Faringdon Leisure Centre is not listed - has it been disbanded? There used to be a committee with members from the school, the council and Soll Leisure. If this has been disbanded how do the council keep an eye on what is happening there now and how do users such as the school contribute to the running of the centre?

Name Supplied

---

## Re Noise complaint-28/6/11

I can't help but find it ironic that people would choose to live in a TOWN CENTRE and then complain about the noise. Isn't this the thriving hub of the town which we're trying to save by denying Tesco planning permission? Its a bit like buying a house next to an airport and then complaining that the planes make too much noise. I'm starting to think some people just aren't happy unless they have something to moan about.

Emma Riddle

---

## New Vale of White Horse website- 28/6/11

I have just had a look at this. It certainly looks very pretty and is an improvement on the old site on those grounds. BUT why can't I find council minutes, financial statements etc on the website?

Other councils make this information freely available but as far as I can see the Vale are keeping this well under wraps.

Name Supplied

*ED(GW) You need to look under Services and Advice. ( or use search)See <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/local-democracy>*

*Great planning application search - you can choose to see all the applications for (Great) Faringdon,) See <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/find-application/planning-application-register>*

*For a particular house use the My area search from Home page*

---

## Re Noise complainants-28/6/11

To All the people who have complained about sat nights gig M.A.D.d. in the yard. PLEASE GET YOUR FACTS CORRECT before making yourselves look foolish.

Sam Prince

---

## Re Noise complainants-28/6/11

Actually, mr/ms name supplied.I. Hilary Janet Prince-Braunton and personal licence holder applied for and was granted a licence until 11.30 on Saturday night.

We did not exceed the licence and we had no problems with our audience's behaviour. I am terribly sorry if 11.15 is a little late for you but our age-range of early teens to pensioners enjoyed themselves.

The Portwell Angel did not break any licencing rules.

Look forward to seeing you at the Faringdon Festival (8th to 10th July)

---

## Corn Exchange Sound Proofing-28/6/11

Steve Wright raises a brilliant question regarding the sound proofing of the Corn Exchange. Has the £16,000 that FTC spent on sound proofing worked? Do we now have a beautiful old venue in the heart of town we can be proud of for gigs, wedding receptions, parties, discos? As well as the cake stalls, craft events and art shows etc...

P.I.John

---

## Outdoor Music Events-28/6/11

Do people really take an active stance against live music in the town? Not at all. There are however people who quite reasonably take a stance against the kind of loud and intrusive music which insinuates itself into their homes whether they want it or not. It is of course quite right to say that such music is composed and learned, and may well be enjoyable to a number of aficionados, but as such it isn't necessarily or enjoyable for all. Just like a weed is a plant in an inappropriate place, music is 'noise' when it isn't appreciated. The difference between that sort of creative activity and that of, say an art society, or a writing group, is that the two latter do not oblige those who aren't interested in it, to take part, or to see, or hear it.

My guess is that there are quite a few residents who live close to the town centre venues and who thoroughly dislike insistent, relentless, loud modern music from which there is no escape, but who wouldn't dream of officially complaining as it is a futile and demoralising process. As for talking to the organisers – I think it's been tried before, and the organisers' attitudes have ranged from indifferent to bordering on bullying.

Clearly, Nial, you don't practise what you preach. Live and let live implies that you are willing to allow folks who do not share your interests to lead undisturbed lives. Your attitude, self centred and inconsiderate as it is, only serves to undermine your own argument. Oh, yes, and just who are these "wastrels who could have been somebody"? You write of hate and ignorance. I suggest you look in the mirror.

Name Supplied

---

## Re Noise complainants-28/6/11

In response to Bah Humbug, no I don't quite get it. I don't understand why your first port of call would be a formal complaint to the Vale council in Abingdon. I don't understand why you don't just go and speak to the people concerned, if you live opposite the Portwell Angel then these people are your neighbours; I presume you know them, meet them in the street, say hello? Go and chat to them or phone them up if you think face to face is too confrontational. Possibly even a private email rather than a public message?

I don't understand why you think "people should be able to make what ever 'noise' they wish" or be inconsiderate of others. I suggested that a live music community event on a Friday night in a town centre is perfectly reasonable, not a nuisance and should not be grounds for a formal complaint being the first port of call.

The event was advertised on this very website in advance, in Focus on Faringdon and on posters in the Portwell Angel, you obviously read this site and I presume you might walk past the Portwell from your own house. Contacting the Vale to tell them to remove local venue licenses sounds exactly like a threat to me. Not every event in our town is

going to be to everyone's taste but that is no reason to try and shut them down one by one. > >

What is the point of living in a town centre with no community spirit?  
P.I. John

---

## **Council launches new look website**- 28/6/11

Vale of White Horse District Council has just launched a new look website [www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk) this month, to help customers access online services and information quickly and easily at the touch of a button. The council's new website is the culmination of a six month project to enhance the site's look, navigation and overall user experience.

As well as including all the best features from the old site, the new site has a fresh looking, much less cluttered homepage, with a brand new navigation structure to help customers reach the service or information they are looking for. The site also includes an improved access to view planning applications.

The project has significantly improved the accessibility of the site, including new features such as Browsealoud, which allows people to listen to website content rather than read it.

From the outset of the project, the council was keen to go with an open source content management system to keep costs as low as possible. This means that the council is not tied into a particular supplier or subject to any expensive system licensing costs.

Matthew Barber, Council Leader, said: "We hope our customers will feel the benefit of our new site, which should make it much easier for them to access our services round the clock at their own convenience."

---

## **Re Noise complainants**-27/6/11

All this brings us back to the thorny old question of music at The Corn Exchange. The council has refurbished the Corn Exchange very well but has installed some double glazing which, a) does not cover all windows and b) doesn't seal the ones that are covered. Therefore, sound insulation is no different to before. So, do we have a usable music venue or not - and if not, why was council money spent on the alleged "noise reduction"?

Steve Wright

---

## **Hate and loathing**-27/6/11.

Nial, You refer to hate and ignorance and say also that you have spent years loathing a majority of people in this town.

That is an insult and not music to the ears!  
Mike Bell

---

## **Re Noise complainants**-27/6/11.

re Noise complainants PIJohn, you don't get the concept do you?, if people were sitting comfortably on their sofas, they would not need to write a complaint to the council. A few points in response to your comments. So glad humans are so diverse and as such have a varied taste in music, and the law. I think people should be able to make what ever 'noise' they wish, that they need not consider the wishes of others, should be able to ignore the licenses granted and do exactly as they want. Equally, I believe that all honest people SHOULD contact the authorities when an individual or organisation has flaunted the law. That is correct thing to do. People who hear unwanted music for an hour or two may think it a tad boring, try listening to the same stuff all evening, knowing it will happen again next week.

I don't think that one person alone talking to active establishment operating past its licensed hours late in the evening is a very pleasant experience, as it could lead to confrontation.

So please contact the council and tell them to enforce the law or remove the licences. It is all about choice and freedom. NOT threats.

Bah Humbug.

---

## **Noise complainants**-27/6/11.

All Faringdon residents should consider very carefully before lodging online noise complaints to Abingdon from the

comfort of their sofa. Our small town tries very hard to host events which are musical, theatrical, community based and some work better than others. However, not all of these are to everyone's taste; just because you do not like one particular event or can hear others creating noise are not strong grounds for jumping straight in to making a formal complaint. However, complaints from a few individuals seem to have the power to close down widely loved venues and events. What is the point of living in the centre of a town with no community spirit? It is not as if Faringdon used to be a silent, sleepy backwater and has suddenly become a hive of vibrant activity, some may say the complete opposite...

I live in the town centre and frequently overhear music, traffic, outdoor events and neighbours but this is all part and parcel of living in a bustling little higgledy piggledy old town. I do not consider live music or outdoor events on a weekend evening to be unreasonable, disturbing or a nuisance, even if I do not like the musical style or the participants.

If noise is disturbing, frequent and unreasonable then why not speak with the event organiser or those responsible for the venue. I am sure most of them will be reasonable and sympathetic as they are generally local business people with an interest in serving their customers and community. Filling in online forms without community engagement engenders little sympathy from those neighbours who find themselves with no venue to hold a party, gig, fundraiser, wedding reception or community event.

P.I.John

---

## Re Outdoor Music Event at Portwell Angel 25/06/11 - 26/6/11

I don't usually pay attention to the Faringdon website (it bores me to be honest) but a friend of mine pointed me towards an article concerning an event that I feel like weighing in.

The event at the Portwell angel (25/6/11) was a roaring success. It showed that there are people in Faringdon who will support live music of all kinds and for once I was proud to be a part of this town. The comment that someone (not even brave enough to post their own name) made about the event reminded me why I have spent years loathing a majority of people in this town.

The people I refer to are the ones who do not go to an event, but sit at home concocting a reason to complain about the "noise" that has disrupted a very small portion of their daily lives. It saddens me immensely to see this attitude. It depresses me even further to think that this is a common view in Faringdon.

To refer to music as "noise" is a huge insult. People have written and learned this "noise". There are people who love music and dedicate their lives to it. There are people who go out of their way to come and support live music. Their are people who arrive at a venue, be it pub, club, street corner or even an old back yard, without knowing that a show will comence and stay there all night. These are the kinds of people I love and wish to see more of in Faringdon

Unfortunately there are people who take an active stance against live music in Faringdon. People who make it their business to destroy the enjoyment of others and who wish to see an end to live music in this town. To these people i say "Live and let live". Do not take it upon yourselves to comment on what people do in Faringdon. A town is about its people. The good and the bad. The ugly and beautiful. The people who succeed and the wastrels who could've been somebody. Let the people live.

Do not bulldoze this town with the power of hate and ignorance.

Let this town breathe.

Nial Prince  
(resident and supporter of live shows)

---

## Outdoor Music Event at Portwell Angel 25/06/11 - 26/6/11

If like many other residents of the Market Square, Church Street, London Street and Swan Lane area you were disturbed by the above event, please lodge a "Noise Nuisance" report at [http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/ccm/support/formcall.jsp?F=REPORTIT&P=SOVA\\_TAG=VALE](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/ccm/support/formcall.jsp?F=REPORTIT&P=SOVA_TAG=VALE)

Did anyone receive or see a licence variance notice for these premises? There were certainly none sent out to surrounding residences that I know of, which should have been applicable in this case.

Apparently the licence has been granted until 23:30 for a number of weekends in the coming months. If they go past the 23:30 then lodge another complaint about exceeding time limits and licence conditions.  
Name Supplied

---

### **"Voice" concert** - 26/6/11

Thanks to "Bystander" for your appreciative comments. Julia Burn & I are delighted that so many people enjoyed the concert and we will try to do something along similar lines again. We were able to send a profit of £130 to Christian Aid which made the financial side worthwhile. The artists also said that they enjoyed playing in Faringdon - great to get out of London to an appreciative audience!

Our thanks also go to Father Leslie Adams at The Blessed Hugh for letting us use his church for our event.

If you would like to go on our mailing list for future promotions, please let me have your email address at [stevewright@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:stevewright@tiscali.co.uk)  
Steve Wright

---

### **Sponsored cycle ride Lands End to John O'Groats** - 26/6/11

Dates 10th - 24th July 2011

I am making this trip because I enjoy a challenge and it is a tough one particularly since I only started cycling about a year ago. More importantly though I am doing it to raise funds for the RNLI. When living in mid Wales I was an active member of the Aberdyfi Rowing Club. Whenever we were out rowing in Cardigan Bay or even across the Irish Sea it was comforting to know that if we got into trouble the local lifeboat crew would be around to get us out of it.

Even though this service is largely provided by volunteers it costs over £300,000 a day to run. Each year they save the lives of more than 300 people and in addition last year the lifeguards patrolling beaches assisted over 18000 others. Both myself and the RNLI would be very grateful for any support you are able to give.

Donations may be made on line by going to [www.justgiving.com/nigel-scott7](http://www.justgiving.com/nigel-scott7) and following instructions.  
It is very simple.  
Many thanks for your support  
Nigel Scott

---

### **Careful shopper?** - 26/6/11

Just bought a pack of McVities Chocolate Digestives for £2.37? Not a very careful shopper then.  
Name Supplied

---

### **Budgens' Tuna price** - 24/6/11

Budgens do seem very expensive - just bought a pack of McVities Chocolate Digestives for £2.37, just looked at the price Waitrose are charging which is £1.54 or 2 packs for £2 - this speaks for itself!  
Careful Shopper

---

### **Thursday Bus to Burford** - 23/6/11

Took the bus to Burford today- great trip through Clanfield, Black Bourton, Carterton, Shilton. It only took 40 minutes. The timetable is on <http://www.rhbuses.com/113fulbrookfaringdon.htm> Look out for the Sch and N/Sch columns. Sch= during term time, and N/Sch = school holidays including half term.  
I guess these are set to coincide with school hols around Burford.  
Gene Webb

---

### **Blackbird spotting at the Folly** - 21/6/11

Just like to say a big well done to all involved with the 24 ( 22 + 2) Blackbirds , and all the improvements around the folly.

Had a good 1/2 hour bird spotting the other day.  
Jo and Andy Boston

---

### **"Voice" concert** - 19/6/11

What a marvellous concert last evening from "Voice". Their new item, The Ziggurat Builders, written for them by Marcus Davidson was truly exciting and it was a privilege to hear this initial performance in Faringdon.

Bystander

---

### **Budgens' Tuna price?** - 18/6/11

These past few days I noticed Budgen's lowest regular priced can of Tuna £1.79 compared to Sainsbury's lowest regular price can of Tuna .59p.  
Kimmo Kaarlela

---

### **Re Handbrake Hill** - 18/6/11

You should not rely on just your handbrake when parking on a hill.  
Bring the car to a stop. Put your handbrake on keeping your foot on the foot brake. Put car into neutral and gently remove your foot from the foot brake, keeping your hand on the hand brake.  
If the car is stationary depress the clutch and put the car in to either a forward gear if you have driven into the space or reverse if you have reversed into a space.  
If you are parking along side a curb make sure you turn you wheels into the curb, as well as the above .This will prevent the car rolling too.  
Do Not Forget - When returning to your car put your foot on the foot brake gear into neutral then start your car.  
This is in the Highway Code and as recommended by RoSPA Advanced Drivers & Riders  
Name supplied

---

### **Voice perform again -18th June - Catholic Church** - 18/6/11

Tickets at £10 (£8 concessions) are now available from the Faringdon Tourist Information Centre and from The Nut Tree in the Market Place.

The young a cappella trio, "Voice" return to Faringdon . The programme will include a new work composed by Marcus Davidson entitled "The Ziggurat Builders". This is a collaboration between Voice, Khyam Allami, a successful young 'Ud player, and cellist Tara Franks.

"The Ziggurat Builders" is an English translation of a poem by the Iraqi Assyrian poet Sargon Boulus.  
The music draws on the unique sounds of Voice and Khyam Allami and brings together performing traditions from east and west. This composition is the first time that the combination of three voices, cello and 'Ud has been explored.

Voice have performed to great acclaim in Faringdon previously, singing in All Saints Church as part of the 2007 Faringdon Arts Festival and, in February this year for their Festival of Candlemas programme, again at All Saints. Their music spans a diverse range from the medieval chant of Hildegard of Bingen, through to European and American folk, and up to twenty-first century compositions. Khyam Allami is an exciting new artist who has performed in Europe, the Middle East and the UK including WOMAD and the BBC Proms in 2010.

This is a great opportunity for us to hear him in Faringdon. Information on Khyam's work is at:  
<http://www.khyamallami.com/site/>

To see and hear more about Voice, visit their website, <http://www.voicetrio.co.uk>

Further information from: Julia Burn email: [julia@theburns.name](mailto:julia@theburns.name) and Steve Wright email: [steviewright@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:steviewright@tiscali.co.uk)

---

### **Faringdon Festival Programme in July** - 18/6/11

You can see details of the programme on [nvwhatson.htm](http://nvwhatson.htm)

---

### **Recycle on the go in the Vale!** - 18/6/11

New on-street recycling bins are being installed in town centres in the Vale to help people recycle on the go. The new bins, which will enable people to recycle cans, paper, plastic and glass items, have been installed in Faringdon this week and will be coming to Abingdon and Wantage later this summer. The bins each have three compartments – two for recycling and one for litter – and aim to make it as easy as possible for people to recycle while out and about.

They have been funded by the Vale of White Horse District Council and Oxfordshire Waste Partnership.

The council's waste contractors Verdant have been working with each town council to decide the best locations for the new bins. Once installed, Verdant will be responsible for emptying the bins as part of their street cleaning programme.

Cllr Reg Waite, Cabinet Member for waste services, said: "Residents in the Vale are already going to huge efforts to recycle so much of their waste at home as the district's excellent recycling rate shows. We also want to make it as easy as possible for people to recycle while they are out and about in our town centres. I'm sure these bins will prove popular and will help further reduce the amount of rubbish the district sends to landfill."

Since the start of the year the district council has also been encouraging people holding voluntary litter picks to separate the litter they collect so as much as possible is recycled. So far 383 bags of rubbish have been collected by litter pickers including 179 bags that can be recycled. People are being urged to use the new recycling bins carefully and to put their rubbish or recycling in the right compartment.

Recycling and education officers from Verdant will be holding an event at **Faringdon Community College on Tuesday 21 June** – during national recycle week - to help promote the town's new recycling bins.

The recycling roadshow at the college will feature an inflatable goal donated by the Every Can Counts campaign, which aims to enable and encourage more people to recycle the drinks cans they use outside the home.

Students will be challenged to kick a football through a can to win recycling goodies. There will also be a competition to guess the number of cans in a bale of crushed cans to win music vouchers.

---

## **Faringdon Radio** - 18/6/11

The new 'Faringdon Local' from Faringdon Radio is now out (for some reason it does take a while to download - but it is there).

This show features an interview with Pete Rowe from Dacoit Studios and more information about the forthcoming Faringdon Festival.

Music from bands that will be playing at the Festival : The Dacoits, Mammoth and the Drum and Adam Lipinski.

[www.faringdonradio.com](http://www.faringdonradio.com)

Thank you Sean

---

## **Thames Valley Police message** - 18/6/11

Police would like to update you with information about a recent series of crimes where two females have been targeting shops and businesses.

Two females have been distracting staff at businesses and shops locally by confusing the staff with money and change - the females were in Shrivenham today Thursday 16th June at about 2.30 pm and drove away in a blue Audi A4 part index S931

They were also in Wantage and Childrey on the afternoon of Tuesday 14th June at around 2.30 to 3pm. They are described as two females with very tanned skin, both are of large build and spoke English with strong accents, they both wore long multi coloured skirts and one wore a headscarf.

One of the females had several gold teeth. If you have any information about this message please phone the police on 08458 505 505 and quote URN 803 of the 16th June .

However if you suspect a crime is in progress always phone 999.

---

## **Tesco Appeal notes from Town Council** - 18/6/11

In relation to the TESCO appeal against refusal by the District Council for planning permission to building a store on Park Road, Town Council is being asked from time to time what actually happened at the Public Inquiry held in Faringdon at the beginning of June.

The following link to the town council website which will enable access to some notes which have been drawn up by

Cllr Alan Hickmore who had attended the Public Hearing on behalf of the Town Council.  
<http://www.faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk/index.php?section=73>

---

## **Dance Workshops in August from Cre8ive Steps** - 16/6/11

Summer Holiday Dance Workshops  
Tues 9th Aug 1.30-2.30 Dance Mania (ages 4-6)  
3-5 Street Dance (ages 7-11)

Wed 10th Aug 1.30-3.30 Freestyle Dance (ages 7-11)  
3.45-5.45 Street Dance (12+)

Thurs 11th Aug 1.30-3.30 Musical Theatre (ages 7-11)

Thurs 25th Aug 1.30-2.30 Dance Mania (ages 4-6)  
3-5 Choreography Workshop (ages 7+)

Tues 30th Aug 1.30-3.30 Street Dance (ages 7-11)

All workshops are held at Faringdon Leisure Centre Dance Mania £5 All other workshops £10

---

## **Handbrake Hill** - 15/6/11

Yet another car rolls down the hill at the Market Place, this time nearly taking out the porch at the Old Crown. Will they erect a prominent sign warning drivers they are parking on an incline and really need to use their handbrakes? I suggest renaming it Handbrake Hill to make the point.  
B.Rake

---

## **Re Postal service in Faringdon** - 14/6/11

Possibly the routes taken by the Posties may have changed? London St deliveries now before 10 am rather than 1-2 pm as it has been for the past few years.... some winners, some losers I guess!  
Name supplied

---

## **Eddie Williams and Faringdon Folly on Radio Oxford** - 13/5/11

Listen again to yesterdays programme. Scroll forward to about 1 hour 40 mins if you don't want to listen to it all  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/oxford/programmes/schedules/2011/06/13>

Gene Webb

---

## **Dogs and leads** - 12/6/11

Perhaps the Americans should worry about reducing gun related crime rather than ensuring that their dogs are walked on a leash!!  
Name Supplied

---

## **Dogs and leads** - 12/6/11

I have recently noticed an increase in the number of dogs being walked by their owners on public paths and estates without being on a lead. I find this completely unacceptable and as a dog owner myself I cannot understand their irresponsible choice!  
Their are plenty of safe areas that you can let your dogs off to run.  
In the united states it is an offence to walk your dogs without a lead and I think it should be the same here  
Name Supplied

---

## **Wallet found.** - 11/6/11

Wallet found near the Swan pub, Faringdon on Friday night, contains ID. Will hand to the Police Station on Monday if not claimed before.. Tel.07943 257611  
Name supplied

---

### **Fun Run 3rd July cancelled** - 11/6/11

Regretably it has been necessary to postpone the Fun Run that was scheduled for Sunday 3rd July. The new date will be announced in due course.  
If you are aware of friends neighbours, family etc intending to participate we would much appreciate your making them aware of this postponement.  
Faringdon & District Rotary Club

---

### **Watch found at Rats Castle** - 11/6/11

During refurbishment of the Rats Castle the new owners found a watch inscribed on the back to Alfred Robinshaw. We would like to return to the owner please can someone respond to Faringdon.org to claim it.  
Rats Castle Team  
PS opening very soon!!!  
*ED(GW) Email [enquiries@faringdon-online.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@faringdon-online.co.uk) and I'll forward it to the new owners*

---

### **Postal service in Faringdon** - 11/6/11

Has anybody noticed that in the last few days the Postal Delivery service has got worse? Used to get the post by about 0930 until a few weeks ago. Now its after 1100 and sometimes as late as 1330!  
What has happened? Have we got less people doing the job, a culture change or is it just poor management.  
Colin

---

### **Faringdon Radio** - 11/6/11

The current episode of 'Faringdon Local' is now available to download from Faringdon radio. In this episode there is:  
\* Interview with Mariana Raho the director of 'The Odd Couple' for Faringdon Drama Society  
\* Interview with Julia Burn - talking about 'Voice' and their forthcoming concert in town (Sat 18th June)

Music from:

- \* The Man with the Stereo Hands
- \* SoulSmith
- \* Voice

[www.faringdonradio.com](http://www.faringdonradio.com)

Sean Hodgson

---

### **Cranfield Appeal** - 11/6/11

Cranfield have appealed against the refusal of planning permission for 3 houses on the Sudbury House land.

Reasons:

Houses prominent in elevated location

Entrance through stone wall- important, prominent heritage- harms character of area, would not preserve or enhance the conservation area.

Contrary to VWHDC policy: H10,HE1, DC1, PPS5

In grounds of Grade II listed building and access through curtilage listed stone wall, will not preserve setting of the listed building

Contrary to Local Plan policies HE4 and HE5 and PS5

---

### **Tesco Appeal** - 10/6/11

Thankyou for clear concise notes of the proceedings - most interesting for those of us not in a position to attend

Bystander

---

## Oxfordshire County Council Transport Plan extract - 10/6/11

[Local transport plan Summary document](#) p48/49

Faringdon is a market town in the Vale of White Horse with a population of approximately 6,000. It is situated 19 miles southwest of Oxford and 13 miles northeast of Swindon. The A420 (which is mainly single carriageway with limited stretches of dual carriageway) is situated to the south and east of Faringdon and provides good links to other towns.

**The road network in the town centre is narrow and can easily become congested with on-street parking and/or the presence of large vehicles.**

There are poor footways and cycling connections linking the residential areas of the town to key facilities and amenities. There are a number of footways that are narrow and would benefit from light repair. The Regional Cycle Route 40 runs through the south of the town but is not well publicised. **Strategy**

Traffic management - consider traffic calming measures to reduce speeds; investigate improvements to Park Road roundabout; review the signage within Cornmarket to aid movement for all modes. Public transport - improve manoeuvrability for buses in the town centre; work with bus operators to improve the existing Swindon-Oxford bus services and services to other surrounding areas.

**Cycling and Walking** - improve wayfinding by creating formal walking routes to key facilities; develop a high quality cycle network; publicise and promote walking and cycling routes (e.g. Regional Cycle Route 40); improve connections to the rights of way network.

---

## Sequential Test- 10/6/11

The Sequential Test is explained in the guidance document in paragraph 2.44. It is important to Faringdon as it clearly highlights the difference in planning terms between Gloucester Street and Park Road sites;

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/147399.pdf>

Apply the Sequential Approach to Site Selection

2.44 A sequential approach should be applied in selecting appropriate sites for allocation within the centres where identified need is to be met. All options in the centre (including, where necessary, the extension of the centre) should be thoroughly assessed before less central sites are considered for development for main town centre uses.

The sequential approach requires that locations are considered in the following order:

\* first, locations in appropriate existing centres where suitable sites or buildings for conversion are, or are likely to become, available within the development plan document period, taking account of an appropriate scale of development in relation to the role and function of the centre; and then

\* edge-of-centre locations, with preference given to sites that are or will be well-connected to the centre; and then

\* out-of-centre sites, with preference given to sites which are or will be well served by a choice of means of transport and which are close to the centre and have a high likelihood of forming links with the centre.

<http://i26.servimg.com/u/f26/16/16/49/11/superm10.jpg>

PI John

---

## Tesco Appeal Notes - 10/6/11

Thanks Gene, nice summary. What did you learn that you didn't already know? Did anything new or exciting happen? All I can see is the same old arguments that while Waitrose is closer to the town centre it will increase local traffic and has poor access. While Tesco is sequentially further from the centre, close to the A420 but will not attract shoppers into Faringdon centre.

PI John

*ED(GW) I learned that:*

*The woodland to be destroyed is not scrub/self seeded*

*VWHDC appear to have done a sequential assessment alongside the Waitrose application - not as an objective assessment. Their consultation leaflet was viewed as 'partial'*

*The absence of an up-to-date Local Development Plan/Core Strategy is key (I think)*

*Park Road site is 2-3 minutes walk further away  
VWHDC Conservatives have free parking in Market Towns in their manifesto  
VWHDC have changed the use of land from industrial to housing(Bloor), but say it is not possible to change from industrial to retail  
The sequential test is about proximity, but also suitability  
No one can quantify the benefits to retail in the town centre of a nearby supermarket- variable shopping habits, attractiveness of shops, as well as distance.  
Waitrose are amending their plans  
The planning legislation is imprecise- there is much room for judgement  
Can't predict outcome*

---

## **Tesco Appeal Notes** - 10/6/11

[Here are my notes of the meeting](#) - I attended most of it, but sadly not the Traffic/Access road bit.

Waitrose are submitting amended plans - see

[http://planning.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/publicaccess/tdc/DcApplication/application\\_detailview.aspx?caseno=LFVVQBY0G300](http://planning.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/publicaccess/tdc/DcApplication/application_detailview.aspx?caseno=LFVVQBY0G300)

Ref: 11/00146/FUL

The deadline for comments is 22/6/11

I understand the results of the Tesco appeal will be posted on the Planning Inspectorate website( ref: 2143419 )

<http://www.pcs.planningportal.gov.uk/pcsportal/CaseSearchResults.asp>

Gene Webb

---

## **Tesco Appeal** - 9/6/11

Now that the Tesco 'public' enquiry has finished could any of the few people who gave up so much of their own time to attend, give the many a clue as to what happened? Ideally a link to an independent write up or an executive summary would be great. If not; rumour, opinion and personal interpretation will suffice...

PI John

---

## **Bus to Burford- use it or lose it??** - 9/6/11

Yesterday my wife and I went to Burford on the newly launched RH 113 bus service. Leaving at 9.50 it gave us a few hours in Burford before catching the bus back at 1408. Its a lovely journey and takes in Carterton on the way so you could, if you wish, travel just to there and enjoy a thrumming looking market day. The bus had very few takers and it occurred to us Faringdon might lose the service because too few people know about it.

Such a pity that would be...

Bill Rennells

---

## **Brighton Marathon 2012**

On behalf of Hope and Aid Direct (a charity which takes humanitarian aid to Kosovo twice a year), I have acquired five places for the excellently reviewed Brighton Marathon. It will be held on Sunday 15 April 2012.

<http://brightonmarathon.co.uk/>

<http://www.hopeandaiddirect.org.uk/>

If you fancy a challenge and the opportunity to raise some funds for a good cause, please do get in touch.

For more information please contact me Sarah Oliver [mail@saraholiver.freemove.co.uk](mailto:saraholiver.freemove.co.uk)

---

## **Library Staffing** - 7/6/11

Now, now, name supplied, that just isn't fair. People who write press releases for local authorities, and indeed all 'official' bodies, go on very expensive courses to learn how to write. These courses are funded by us, the taxpayers. The people concerned learn very significant usages of English language, and specifically how to use language to deceive, rather than to inform. (Although it isn't expressed as such) Thus the word 'significant' is used to denote something that sounds good, even though we aren't told exactly what that 'good' may be. None the less, 'significant' sounds as though it is going to be rather positive, instead of 'reduced' which may be more informative, but which

could be interpreted as negative, and no-one wants the electorate to perceive the plans as negative, now, do they? A stronger example is the phrase 'collateral damage'. In old money, 'dead civilians'.

All this weasel wording has come about as a result of the clamour for public consultation and participation. In order to get us, the saps who pay the pipers, to agree to all sorts of spending or non spending that we wouldn't otherwise condone, those in power have to work harder and harder to persuade us that negative is positive. All these very costly surveys and consultations are carefully worded to steer us to acceptance of otherwise unpalatable decisions. Why bother? The end result wouldn't be different. Personally I'd prefer honesty, at least then we'd know what we were getting, and the money saved could go towards something we actually need. That really could be described as significant.

Another name supplied.

---

### **Sponsored bike ride** - 7/6/11

Anyone interested in sponsoring Neil Gerring's 75mile bike ride in aid of the Anthony Nolan Trust can do so and find full details at [www.anthonynolanevents.org.uk/neilgerring](http://www.anthonynolanevents.org.uk/neilgerring)

Email: [mgerring@btinternet.com](mailto:mgerring@btinternet.com)

Thankyou

---

### **Missing Cat** - 7/6/11

If anyone is missing a Birman cat in the Berner's Way / Tuckers Road area, I believe a cat was attacked by a Rottweiler late Friday night.

The cat was later seen to be removed by a man who placed it in the boot of a car.

Name Supplied

---

### **Library Staffing** - 6/6/11

I have just looked at the press release - and I see some very ambiguous wording. So what does the phrase 'significant levels of staffing' actually mean? Is the staffing of Faringdon Library to be reduced, is it to be increased, or is it to maintained at the present level? I daresay we can all have a guess. Perhaps the present staffing is not significant enough, or perhaps it is more significant than necessary, who knows?

I wonder who writes this crap. Personally I think that it is about time that those at county hall employed a press release writer with a significant knowledge of English usage. Perhaps the writer should have made more use of their library, while he/she still had the chance.

Name supplied

---

### **Tesco Appeal** - 5/6/11

Perhaps the strength of feeling in the town is not so great as you imagine. People love to have their say, and can do so quite vociferously without leaving their armchairs on an internet forum such as this, but the truth is that strong feelings are short lived and as people get used to an idea, their preoccupations turn to something else. Who can blame them? The notion that transient individual opinion - varied, biased and fickle as it often is - could (or should) seriously influence decisions that have long term consequences is a nonsense.

As for seeing a version of the proceedings on this page, it will be very interesting, but would it be possible to have factual reporting rather than opinion or interpretation please?

Bystander

---

### **Tesco Appeal** - 5/6/11

I am trying very hard to be there but I run two businesses and have other calls on my time (so I'm not a stay at home mother, retired or unemployed). I completely understand Gene's point of view. Because of what is being discussed and the way it is being discussed there is no way of expressing to anyone who is not there what is going on in a

precis'd version.

I will put a point of view forward (mine only) after the appeal.

There are two days left - next Tuesday and Wednesday starting at 9.30, the Town Council fought very hard to ensure that this appeal was heard in Faringdon rather than Abingdon where the District Council wanted it held. Personally, I have found it very disappointing, given the strength of feeling in the town, that so few people have turned up, especially as I know that two of the most vociferous were available to do so.

And no, Gene is not subject to any gagging order, it is just very difficult to explain what is going on unless you see/hear it for yourself.  
Jane Boulton

---

## Library Plans and Consultation - 5/6/11

Extract from press release

'In addition the county council would like to provide significant levels of staffing to a further five libraries - with a small element of volunteering planned. These libraries are Chinnor, Faringdon, Grove, Wheatley and Woodstock.'

See the full press release on <http://www.faringdon.org/nvpressrelease.htm>  
See <http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraryserviceconsultation>

---

## Face painting artist- no show - 5/6/11

After going to all that trouble to find an artist who charged a reasonable fee, No Show!! Didn't even bother to ring, text or email the reason why she didn't turn up.  
Shant be recommending a certain lady from Carterton I am afraid.  
Colin

---

## Thank you - 5/6/11

thank you to the kind person who left my daughter's coat on a gatepost on the footpath between Nursery View and Folly Park. It took me a week to find the coat, but find it I did!  
Rebecca

---

## Folly Watch - 4/5/11

Regular walkers round the Folly woodland will have noticed that a good deal of work has taken place - information boards, seating, willow sculpture, planting.

I'd like to ask anyone who walks there to be the ' eyes and ears' for Friends of the Folly.  
If you see anything that shouldn't be, please call 01367 242222 or email [follywatch@faringdonfolly.org.uk](mailto:follywatch@faringdonfolly.org.uk)

Thanks so much  
The more people who keep an eye, the better the Folly will be for everyone  
Gene Webb

---

## Tesco Appeal - 4/6/11

It would seem that ED(GW) is unsure about being able to comment on the Sudbury House Hearing.  
Many of us rely on her interpretation of the comments made.  
Could it be that she is subject to a gagging order ?  
Name supplied

*ED(GW)- not gagged- just being cautious- it's a very formal meeting- barristers/witnesses/cross examination- I don't know the proper protocol!*

---

## Tesco Appeal - 3/6/11

I read here, on 20/5/11, about councillors from Faringdon being on the new VWHDC cabinet. This has got me thinking:

If Faringdon Town Council has previously expressed (to VWHDC) approval or disapproval of planning applications from Tesco and/or Waitrose, and if the district council has, previously, agreed or disagreed with the view of the town council, what could this change in the VWHDC cabinet mean for the outcome of the respective planning applications from the two supermarkets?

Also, VWHDC was due to consider the Waitrose application on 25 May but this was postponed due to the new cabinet needing to get 'up to speed' (see talking points 18/05/11). The Tesco appeal meeting (just a week or so later) has not been postponed. Is there any significance to this - beyond the, perhaps reasonable, approach of dealing with the Tesco Appeal before considering another application?

And then I read here (01/06/11) that: 'The Tesco appeal seems to be directly linked to the Waitrose application as far as I can make out and there will be some discussion of the Waitrose site in terms of the 'sequential' planning criteria.' What does that mean?

Just wondered. Has anyone any more information or opinions?  
Name Supplied

*ED(GW) I've been at the Tesco appeal meeting for most of the time- but am unsure whether I'm allowed to report anything while it is happening. However you can find out what the sequential test is about by looking at [http://www.nrf.org/PDF/nrftopic08\\_sequential.pdf](http://www.nrf.org/PDF/nrftopic08_sequential.pdf)*

---

## **This is a Community Message from Thames Valley Police.** - 3/6/11

Specials Recruitment Event

WANT TO BE A SPECIAL? Find out about being a Volunteer Police Officer on Monday 6 June, between 18:00hrs – 21:00hrs, at Thames Valley Police Headquarters, Oxford Road, Kidlington, OX5 2NX

<https://applyonline.thamesvalley.police.uk/jobs/volunteerpolicofficer>

Volunteers Week 1- 7 June 2011 Volunteers Week runs from 1-7 June with events happening all across the country.

If you would like to become a volunteer contact, the Police Volunteer Support Central Team on 01865 846250 or email [voluntersupportteam@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:voluntersupportteam@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)

Message Ends.

---

## **Tesco Appeal** - 3/6/11

The appeal resumes on Tuesday at 09.30

Gene Webb

---

## **Tesco Appeal** - 3/6/11

I do appreciate the difficulties that some folk will have in making the meeting but the President indicated that she welcomes the written views of local people and will read them out at some point in procedures - I would imagine that you could deliver your contributions to one of the town councillors or directly to staff at Sudbury House for passing to the President.

Name supplied

---

## **Supermarket P.I.John** - 3/6/11

I, like many others in Faringdon, do my major shopping once a month in (in my case) Swindon. I still use Pat Thomas, Rob the Cheese, Lilians (Stafford bakery) and many other shops in the town. No supermarket will give the quality of goods and service that our small retailers provide. If anyone thinks they get (for instance) good quality meat from a supermarket, they are living in another universe. I will use the new supermarket, whichever one it is, to buy the cheap and cheerful commodities, but will still use the better quality shops for better quality goods, as I do now.

A new supermarket has a chance of giving our quality retailers a greater share of the retail market.

I talked to a senior manager of Sainsbury's a few years ago and his comment was "I wouldn't buy any meat from a

chain supermarket, I'd go for a proper butcher every time".  
JaneBoulton

---

### **Re: P.I.John** - 2/6/11

The 'unemployed, stay at home parents ... the retired and people who want to take holiday' may not be representative of society as a whole, but are those that shop in Faringdon during weekdays and could therefore be considered 'the majority'.  
Sheila

---

### **This is a Community Message from Thames Valley Police.** - 2/6/11

NEIGHBOURHOOD AND HOME WATCH WEEK - 18TH to 26TH JUNE 2011

As part of the Neighbourhood and Home Watch Week we would like to request the help of all Co-ordinators to promote and raise the profile of NHW.  
Please ask family, friends or work colleagues living in the South Oxfordshire or Vale of White Horse area if they can make a difference to their community by setting up a NHW scheme, making it a safer place to live. The more eyes and ears we have in the community the more chance we have of protecting our property and catching criminals.

For an information pack on starting a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme please contact Carol Rudd the Regional NHW Administrator at Thames Valley Police on (01235) 556937 or Email: [carol.rudd@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:carol.rudd@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)

---

### **Faringdon Supermarkets** - 2/6/11

Whatever the outcome of the Waitrose and Tesco appeals in Faringdon, its good to hear that Carterton is hoping to get a Morrisons to join the Co-op there. Both stores right in the town centre, loads of free parking and both next to all the other shops, cafes etc.

I was there this morning, a small town centre alive and thriving. No out of town centre shops for them.  
Name Supplied

---

### **Tesco Appeal** - 2/6/11

The Tesco appeal is linked to the Waitrose application (A) but there needs to be little protracted discussion in terms of the sequential planning criteria.

See <http://i26.servimg.com/u/f26/16/16/49/11/superm10.jpg>

The Tesco site (C) is over twice the distance from our town centre (B) and if any out of centre supermarket is built it will irreversibly harm our 800 year old town, shops, buildings, vibrancy and vitality.

P.I.John

---

### **Tesco Appeal** - 2/6/11

It strikes me that holding a 'public' informal chat during working hours only does not mean "everyone is welcome to speak" or that there is "no problem dipping in and out to hear the goings on". What it means is that only the views of the unemployed, stay at home parents who choose to take their children to a meeting, the retired and people who want to take holiday so that they can go will be heard.

This is not a cross section of Faringdon but a sector of society not representative of the whole.

P.I.John

*ED(GW) Had not FTC worked very hard to change the location it would have been held in Abingdon. It is to last 6 days*

---

### **Dog spotted** - 1/6/11

Whilst walking on wicklesham farm, I saw a young looking, medium jack russel terrier type dog, white with brown patches near Charney Kennels. It seemed very timid and had a tail docked to the virtually nothing.  
It ran towards the hunt kennels before I lost sight of it.

Hope he/she found its way home !

Cheryl

---

**Tesco Appeal** - 1/6/11

I would like to reassure anyone who wishes to attend the public hearing at Sudbury House that you will find it to be an informal session - there is no problem dipping in and out to hear the goings on!!

I'm sure there will be more to follow on this subject but the hearing will last 6 days and everyone is welcome to speak providing they register their interest with the president who is very approachable.

The Tesco appeal seems to be directly linked to the Waitrose application as far as I can make out and there will be some discussion of the Waitrose site in terms of the 'sequential' planning criteria.

Name supplied

---

### **Job Wanted** - 30/07/11

What great initiative from a young 14 year old. I do hope that this admirable approach will result in the positive response it so well deserves.

Name Supplied

---

### **Diamond Jubilee Woodland Opportunity** - 30/07/11

I noticed on the BBC website this morning that The Woodland Trust are looking for sites for sixty 'Diamond Woods' to be planted in celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee (one huge five hundred acre wood and fifty-nine smaller sixty acre woods). This could be a lovely project for Faringdon but I'm not sure whether any groups are already aware of it or have plans to apply? Figured this might be a good place to flag it up and at least gauge interest!

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-14327232>

Any thoughts?

Anna

---

### **Re Ragwort**- 29/7/11

To the person who sends me an anonymous note every year asking me to control the ragwort in the field next to the Esso garage: I don't own that field, nor do I have any control over it and haven't done so for several years. If you're going to send anonymous notes round Faringdon, get your facts straight. We always take a no tolerance approach to ragwort at Wicklesham and aim to pull any plants we find.

Tom Allen-Stevens Wicklesham Farm

---

### **Job Wanted** - 29/07/11

I am looking to find a job for over the summer to earn some money. I am 14 years old, reliable and hard working. No job to small. If you have anything please post back thankyou.

name supplied

---

### **Faringdon Festival Meeting** - 28/07/11

There will be another Faringdon Festival 2012 meeting on Wednesday 3rd August at 7.30pm in the Old Crown Coaching Inn. If you would like to volunteer to help organise events for the festival or have some ideas for next year, please come along. If you would like more information about it, please contact Daniel Pullen on 01367 246137 or email [daniel.pullen@bgi.uk.com](mailto:daniel.pullen@bgi.uk.com)

---

### **Listed Buildings** - 27/07/11

Following on from HT's post regarding the listing information and Images of England, you may wish to know of a relatively new website by English Heritage; [www.englishheritagearchives.org.uk](http://www.englishheritagearchives.org.uk). You can search online descriptions of over one million historical photographs and documents in the National Monuments Record; English Heritage's archive. ... You may not even know that such an archive exists. It is in Swindon, next to the STEAM museum/Outlet Village, and is open to the public Tuesday-Friday between 9.30am – 5pm. Ideal for those wishing to research local history!

There is a huge selection of aerial and historical photography, it is advisable to phone in advance (01793 414600) to see what can be viewed as some material is held in cold storage and cannot be accessed same day.

Louise (comments are my own, even though I am lucky enough to work in mentioned public archive!)

Have you, or someone you know, been involved in a restoration project? If so, you could be eligible for a Heritage Angel Award, a new scheme backed by Andrew Lloyd Webber to celebrate the people who save our heritage. Please visit or forward the link <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/caring/heritage-at-risk/English-Heritage-Angel-Awards/> for more information.

---

### **Tree Surgeon Wanted** - 27/07/11

A responsible and well established Tree Surgeon is Ben Gristwood 01367 241329 or 07802 701620.  
name supplied

---

### **Tree Surgeon Wanted** - 27/07/11

S&S Tree Care did a good job on my neighbour's trees. Get a free quote: 07799045204.  
Sheila

---

### **Tree Surgeon Wanted** - 26/07/11

In response to Mark about tree work, visit [www.gardensandlawns.co.uk](http://www.gardensandlawns.co.uk) for more information or call 075454244937 for a quote.  
Kimberley Warner

---

### **Red Kites** - 27/7/11

Yes – I've seen a parrot Colin. A friend of mine had a lovely oak one. I've never seen a parrot bird though – is it very rare?  
Gof Smith

---

### **Tree Surgeon Wanted** - 26/07/11

Hi, can anyone recommend a reasonably priced tree surgeon who can shorten some large Laylandii for me.

Regards Mark

---

### **Really Useful Shop** - 26/07/11

Now that Davis DIY is no more and there is no where else to buy garden products , ie bug killers and sprays; perhaps the Really Useful Shop could take a leaf out the the Carterton's shop stock and actually have some stock of sprays in? Went there today to get some spray on bug killer and none. Space on the shelf for it but none. Small things matter in a struggling town that this is.

Colin

---

### **Folly for hire** - 25/7/11

I am a Friend of the Folly, and had a private drinks party at the top of the Folly, last night. Needless to say we had a wonderful sunset! Everyone was completely taken aback and was delighted to do something so different. Besides entertaining my guests, I was trying to push what a great feature we have here in Faringdon.

The Folly can be hired for such a reasonable amount and is the quirkiest spot ----- not quite the Post Office Tower, but it's on our doorstep!

Contact any Friend of the Folly or see <http://www.faringdonfolly.org.uk/> or email enquiries from the site.

Alternately phone Ed. Williams on 0845 475 8386 (local call)

It's there ready waiting and it's ours!! ----- Can't guarantee sunset!

Ian Smith

---

### **Red Kites** - 25/7/11

Red kites have been in the area for years. The most I have seen is 5 thermalling over my house, this year.----- But added to that a couple of buzzards joined them!!

Seems incredible, I could hardly believe what I saw.

I am a glider pilot so always look out for thermal activity.

Has anyone seen a parrot? I saw one flying up the hill past my place, about six weeks ago. They are in their flocks in the Blackwall tunnel area, when I was there about 8 years ago.

Ian Smith

---

### **Re Ragwort**- 22/7/11

I used a local company to spray my ragwort in my paddock and they also done a wasp nest for me ,there web site is [oxfordshirepestandfalconry](http://oxfordshirepestandfalconry)

Paul Townsend

---

### **The Boys of RAF Station Shellingford(1955-1956) are having a reunin in the USA in September 2011** - 25/7/11

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT RAYMOND O' CONNOR. EMAIL: [raycathoc@msn.com](mailto:raycathoc@msn.com)

I was at RAF Station Shelling ford from march 1955 to closing in December 1956. Loved it!

Was in Faringdon last month.

Raymond S. O' Connor email: [raycathoc@msn.com](mailto:raycathoc@msn.com)Arizona, USA

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RAF\\_Shellingford](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RAF_Shellingford)

---

### **Red Kites** - 24/7/11

Has anyone else noticed the beautiful red kites circling over Faringdon recently?

Jill Dean

---

### **20th Sponsored Seadog saunter** - 23/7/11

SATURDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 2011 Between 12 NOON - 3PM

The Committee of the Faringdon and District RNLi invite all keen dog walkers to join with us. Enjoy a pleasant walk along the banks of the River Thames from TROUT INN - TADPOLE BRIDGE (Nr Buckland) The route is gentle and flat and is suitable for all ages and abilities of dogs and owners

Cups presented for the highest sponsorship and the most number of laps completed Please do come and support us - and tell your friends too

Do something special and help save lives from the sea RSVP Denis Pope 110 Marines Drive, Faringdon OXON SN7 7UG ( 01367 241943 )

Over the years that this event has taken place the Seadog Saunter has raised over £40k towards the Lifeboats. The event has been exclusively responsible for raising the funds to place an inshore lifeboat D608 HELEN AND IN TYTLER on station at Sunderland during 2004, since which time she has assisted in the saving of 56 lives.

Saving lives for the RNLi is a continuous focus and so are ours in order to support our brave crews of men and women. Although so far from the sea there will still be occasions when we may need their help.

---

### **Re Ragwort**- 22/7/11

How much faith should you put in a web site that does not give the name of the person who published it or any details about the source or accuracy of it's contents on it's home page.

This is what another contributor posted on this site:

Read the following website for a more reasoned view: <http://www.ragwortfacts.com/>

At least with the DEFRA web site we know who they are and what they are, all be it they may not always be right.

What is now the new cricket pitch featured on national BBC television a few years ago because it was a mass of yellow ragwort, a bit like the poppies one year on the field below the Folly, I think a lot of gardens in Faringdon still suffer from seeds blown from this field when it was a mass of ragwort.

I am pleased when citizens remove ragwort to stop it spreading, I just hope they use protective gloves as I believe it is toxic to humans.

The Consultant.

---

## Faringdon NCT needs you. - 21/7/11

We desperately need new volunteers to help plan and organise our next Nearly New Sale or there won't be another one.

If you can help please come to our emergency meeting (details given below).

Where: Old Town Hall, Faringdon

When: Wed 27th July 2011 @ 8pm

Hope to see some of you there.

---

## Re Ragwort- 21/7/11

Read the following website for a more reasoned view: <http://www.ragwortfacts.com/>  
DEFRA PUBLICATION as linked to by 'local resident'

'Common Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*) is a *specified weed* under the Weeds Act 1959. It contains toxins, which can have debilitating or fatal consequences if eaten by horses and other grazing animals'

'Ragwort MAY need to be controlled when its presence and the likelihood of it spreading to neighbouring land poses a risk to horses and other grazing animals or land used for the production of forage'

(my emphasis).

Name supplied.

---

## Macmillan Cancer Group- Faringdon and District Group - 20/7/11

We would very much like to thank the people of Faringdon and District who supported us at our Centenary Dinner/Dance at Sudbury House on Friday, 8 July, 2011. The evening was a great success and our clear profit from the event was a magnificent £1,250.90 for Macmillan in Oxfordshire. (Tel: 01869-322279)

We would like to thank all the people who donated such wonderful raffle prizes and to all the people who bought tickets and joined in to make the evening so memorable. Our thanks also go to the Staff of Sudbury House and "Lord Berners" for their support!

Once again our thanks go out to our great local people who so generously support us.

Christine Moorhouse (Chairman)

---

## Ragwort thankyou- 20/7/11

Whoever it is who has been pulling Ragwort at the Folly- THANKYOU very much.

I've done some more today- still loads on the walks up to the Folly though, and I suspect some of the little devils haven't come into flower yet, so are difficult to spot.

Anyone who wants to have a go- thankyou in advance- but do wear gloves - it's poisonous.

I'm trying to find out if the Council has somewhere to dispose of it- ideally it needs to be wlted then burned- not facilities I can provide!

Gene Webb

---

## Ragwort - 20/7/11

There is masses of ragwort ( yellow flowers) around at the moment- a poisonous weed that is spreading rapidly across Britain. It kills cattle and horses if they eat it.  
The only way to limit this is to pull it up from the roots (wearing gloves) and burning it.  
All land owners- councils, farmers, are required by law to pull it up- this includes private gardens.

I wonder who owns the land between the Health Centre and the Business Building - it's full of it and needs to be removed before it goes to seed.

[More info](#)

Local resident

---

## **Faringdon Festival comments**- 20/7/11

May I suggest that those people who are too shy to add their names to comments about the Festival and/or are forced to leave town, close their business please email [daniel.pullen@bgi.uk.com](mailto:daniel.pullen@bgi.uk.com) so that their concerns and suggestions can be presented at the meeting tonight?  
It would be good to hear from those who had a thoroughly good time and made a profit too.

Or is that too much to ask?  
Sheila

---

## **Save the Children** - 20/7/11

In response to the East Africa appeal, the small Faringdon branch of Save the Children has raised £1641 in two weeks. This was achieved by a coffee morning and garden tours at the Scott Browns', the Summer term's donations from 2 U3A French classes, a very successful stall at the Festival selling pies and cakes, and 2 days' "bucket-rattling" at Sainsbury's where £1026 was collected.  
Many thanks to all concerned.  
Carolyn Williams

---

## **Faringdon Festival**- 20/7/11

There have been many comments about the Festival- some positive, some less so. I'm not sure how beneficial it is for Faringdon, but I do know it takes many many volunteer hours to put it together.  
I'm sure some local businesses get some extra business because of it- eating and drinking establishments mostly I suspect, but also printing programmes- and maybe others.

More importantly, it's a stage for local performers.  
I think originally it was hoped that all Market Square retailers would get more business, but I'm not sure if this materialised, as many now stay closed.  
Perhaps it's time to have the loud music and drinking/eating elsewhere- a field and a marquee maybe.  
Name Supplied

---

## **The Corn Exchange refurbishment** - 20/7/11

Yet another query on this forum. When will anyone realise that posting their questions on here is pointless if they actually want answers from official bodies. May I therefore repeat something which appeared a few weeks ago in response to the very same query?

"Of course 'the question put forward' on this forum won't be answered, because it hasn't actually been put forward at all. Why don't you send a communication with some properly constructed, detailed and written questions to the appropriate council body. Copy it, date it, and send it recorded delivery to all interested parties, including our MP. That way it has to be answered, and if the answer isn't satisfactory, pursue it".

If you try that, Ray and others, you might get an explanation. You could also try looking at the appropriate council minutes and documents. They should all be in the public domain.

Name Supplied

---

## **Faringdon Festival**- 19/7/11

If the the festival organizers are going to sit down and chat among themselves to say how successful they have been, they may like to ponder how many local residents have to leave the area and their homes as they cannot stand the continual high level and persistent noise. These good people who do not wish to put up with the thoughtless and relentless racket, so they leave, so as not to make a fuss.

As we are 'British' in the sad old fashioned way, we try not to make a fuss, we rely on people being decent and not overstepping the mark. When other people do fall below expectations of decency, we assume you will do better next year, the year after, etc. Eventually we will learn that enough is enough and need to stop the festival by legal paths. Please, reduce the volume or move the noise, how about art in town and noise somewhere else.

I know this means the Portwell gets less trade, but the shops can open as normal and do SOME trade instead of closing, but how about thinking of the town, not yourselves.

-And NO I will not be attending your meeting, because I am a wimp, and YESI will be out numbered in the same way that travelers can set up camp on a village green and dominate the locals.

A growing group of irate quiet people.

---

## **Faringdon Festival Debrief and Faringdon Festival 2012**- 19/7/11

There will be a meeting on Wednesday 20th July to discuss how this year's festival went, what we can do to improve it and to start planning for next year's festival. The meeting will take place in the Portwell Angel at 7.30pm.

Those who want to offer constructive feedback or would like to help with setting up the festival next year please come along.

If you want more information regarding the meeting, please contact Daniel Pullen on 01356 246137 or email [daniel.pullen@bgi.uk.com](mailto:daniel.pullen@bgi.uk.com)

---

## **Secondary Glazing** - 18/7/11

Hi I'm wondering if anyone from the Town Council can come here and explain how they've managed to bungle the secondary glazing in the Corn Exchange so successfully? Not only is it not sealed but it doesn't even cover the windows properly. As far as I can see it ends one foot below the windows, rendering it useless as sound or heat insulation.

Thanks Ray

---

## **Re Small Tesco**- 18/7/11

I suppose it depends on what you class as a "small" supermarket. It is not a Tesco Extra, on the other hand it's not a Metro either.

As far as I can see, it is a fairly large (larger than Budgens) supermarket, that the local council have tried to restrict to mainly food and general household goods that won't seriously compete with our specialist shops.

Name Supplied

---

## **Our Faringdon Our Future**- 18/7/11

The meeting that I suggested to get ideas on how we can influence the non-food offer in our Town will be held on Monday 25th. July in the Old Town Hall at 7.00pm.

This is a working party set up by the FTC Planning & Highways Committee but everybody is welcome and are invited to make any suggestions that they think will benefit the Town.

I hope that we will be able, as a group, to start the process of making our Town the shopping centre for the South and West of the Vale again.

Look forward to seeing you there.

Alan Hickmore

---

## **Current 'Faringdon Local' on Faringdon Radio Episode 10 - Sunday 17th July 2011** - 17/7/11

In this show:

Interviews with: Ian Clarkson from University of the Third Age.  
Bruce Kent, Pia Sondergeld, Phil Chesterton from the Faringdon Peace fete

Music from:

Luci-lu Les  
Clochards  
The Brickwork Lizards

Sean Hodgson

---

## **Tesco** - 17/7/11

So "whoopie", a small Tesco store is coming to Park Road which we are told will revitalise the town centre. I trust we will have a survey one year on to measure the benefits this has brought to the town by surveying the flocks of new shoppers visiting the town centre.

Shouldn't take long  
Cassandra

---

## **Market Place and buses** - 17/7/11

Surely the answer is to remove all the kerbs and delineate the road with a different coloured surface. This has been shown to slow traffic as drivers feel they are driving on a pedestrian pavement and would clarify the "buses only" past the Crown. Strategic areas could be delineated by removable bollards so come the next Faringdon Festival or market there are no kerbs to unbalance things, and the Mummers and Morris would have more space to perform.

Cassandra

---

## **Faringdon Festival** - 17/7/11

Before this year's event becomes a distant memory may I suggest the organising committee invites the public along to its post event appraisal meeting to offer constructive feedback.

David Reynolds

---

## **Faringdon Market Place** - 17/7/11

When the market place was refurbished the design chosen was not the one favoured by the town. But it went ahead. The biggest change was increasing the size of the apron round the Old Town Hall. This was disliked because it reduced parking. Since then the 66 buses have increased in length and now every day there are occasions when they (and the cars, lorries etc. that meet them) cannot drive normally round the market place and jams occur. This week at the Planning and Highways meeting and again at the JEFF meeting I told of my concern that this is a bad situation - which the bus drivers might think is something they could do without. I live on London Street and until a few years ago the buses drove up this street. Then the drivers objected because of the difficulties caused by parked cars and the buses were re-routed up Marlborough Street. I would sympathise if they came to the conclusion that the market place is too difficult to negotiate and would no longer come into it but we should have to use instead the bus stop on Park Road opposite the Fire Station.

To reduce the apron round the OTH would be drastic and expensive - but I believe it would be worthwhile and what the town originally wanted. At the moment traffic passing through the market place is a spectator sport - and hell for bus and lorry drivers and motorists.

There is a suggestion - not mine - on Faringdon.org that as the bus stop on Park Road is so close to the town centre that that is the one we should use. I suspect - hope - that this is just a tongue - in cheek comment on the claims that Tesco will only be a short walk from the town centre.

But I am serious about the buses. My request that this should be discussed I am putting on the appropriate agendas. These views are mine and not those of the Town Council but they will be recorded in the Minutes of those meetings.  
Margaret Barker

---

## **Listed buildings in Faringdon** - 17/7/11

The "Images of England" site also gives this information, together with photos of all the buildings.

<http://www.imagesofengland.org.uk/>

HT

ED(GW) Search on Great Faringdon or register for the advanced search. or click on <http://www.imagesofengland.org.uk/QuickResults/Default.aspx?q=great%20faringdon>

---

## **Rats Bistro opens Friday 22nd July** - 16/7/11

See sample menus and the wine list on the [Rats Castle website](#)

Open Tuesday to Saturday from 6pm.

Private dining available for groups

Experienced chef, previously at the Three Crowns, Brinkworth for many years.

Ed(GW)

---

## **Main Town Bus Stop** - 16/7/11

As Park Road is to be such an easy walk to and from the Market Place, this would be a good opportunity to move the bus stop to that location.

Name Supplied

---

## **Listed buildings in Faringdon** - 15/7/11

I've only just found a site that provides info for all listed buildings. I've copied the relevant info for Faringdon. See our [history](#) section - link is on the left under the menu.

English Heritage also provide this information, but it's less easy to find for Faringdon <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/caring/listing/>

ED(GW)

---

## **Waitrose**- 15/7/11

I have just spoken to the Waitrose team: their planning application is scheduled for August 17th.

Personally, I do not understand why Alan Hickmore thinks that a small Tesco in Park Rd will attract the interest of those who drive from Faringdon to Witney, Wantage or Swindon for their main weekly shopping. Nor do I understand why he thinks that those who do drive to Tesco will walk into the town. Good luck though: wouldn't it be good if he was right?

And, if he is thinking about helping all the shops/businesses in Faringdon, I hope he doesn't forget that Budgens is one of them. I wonder what his plans are to help them.

Name supplied

---

## **Cost of Planning appeal**- 15/7/11

The appeal against the refusal of planning permission by Tesco has been successful.

I have attended both the VWHDC planning committee meeting where the original decision was made, and the tribunal hearings where the decision was overturned. I have also read all the papers from both the Tesco and Waitrose applications.

To be honest, the original decision was never going to stand up to the scrutiny of an independent tribunal. The reasons for refusal were :

- 1) The application had not properly considered another "sequential" site that was closer to the Town centre. This was the crucial issue. The VWHDC, when it suggested to Waitrose that they should apply for the site (behind the library) seem to have forgotten that they are constrained by planning law which insists that a site needs to be available, sustainable and suitable. The tribunal found that it was not, by demonstrating that it contravened the VWHDC's own policies on conservation areas. Surely the officers at VWHDC knew this.

2) The application was premature, By this they meant that it should wait for publication of the Core Strategy of the LDF. We have all been waiting for this for years, and it has been delayed again while the new administration reviews it - again. This objection was so poor that the VWHDC dropped it within a few minutes of the tribunal opening.

3) That the site was to be built on land designated for industrial employment. There was legitimacy in this, but they forgot that they have reduced the number of potential industrial sites dramatically because the demand is questionable. Anyway there is a super site at Wicklesham quarry which would meet our industrial needs for years.

The decision to refuse the application was therefore questionable at least.

The VWHDC budgetted £30,000 to pay for the appeal (even before it was lodged). I very much doubt whether the costs were kept anywhere near this budget. The Town Clerk was asked at last night's council meeting to find out from the Vale what the actual costs were. She has been asked to use the Freedom of Information Act to get the information if necessary. When the information is available it will be made public.

This is our money that has been thrown away on a decision that was at least questionable in the first place.

Frankly this whole episode is a disgrace and those responsible should be held to account.

(As usual these are my own views and do not necessarily reflect those of FDC).

Alan Hickmore

---

## **Retailing** - 15/7/11

Tesco is coming. That is a fact and our Town needs to forget the debate on whether and which and begin the process of using there coming to our advantage. By this I mean the advantage of us all - retailers and townspeople alike. There are huge opportunities opening up:

The Town will benefit from the approximately £1,500,000 of extra wages that will come into the Town.

Some (or hopefully most) of the leakage (about 75%) of the food shopping that has been leaving the Town, will stay here.

Other retailers will look at Faringdon as a Town in which they should invest. If Tesco think they can make money here, then a number of others will start to think the same.

We need to put together a well thought through strategy that will improve both the quantity and diversity of the non-food offer in the Town centre so that the dire predictions made by some are proved wrong and our Town centre can thrive to the benefit of us all.

The FTC Planning & Highways committee has started on this road by financing the double page advertisement in What's On earlier this year and by starting a conversation with a company that specialises in town centre regeneration. A group of retailers has also set up a very good website that shows the benefits of shopping in Faringdon.

These are only the start of a process that needs to involve the whole Town. For this reason I will be reconvening the Our Faringdon Our Future working party as soon as possible. I hope to bring together the retailers, the chamber of commerce, district and town councillors and - very importantly - members of our community. The objective will be to put together a comprehensive plan for the Town Centre shopping offer. We need some "out of the box" thinking.

I will publish the date and time of the meeting on this blog. Everybody will be welcome and no ideas will be too outlandish.

If you want to come please just turn up on the night or contact the deputy town clerk at the council office. Watch this space for the date, time, and venue.

Alan Hickmore

*ED(GW) Looks as if VWHDC are aiming to help Faringdon too!! See [nvpressrelease.htm](http://nvpressrelease.htm)*

---

## **A suggestion for Faringdon businesses** - 15/7/11

Wantage businesses encouraged to support loyalty scheme (VWHDC press release)  
on [nypressrelease.htm](http://nypressrelease.htm)

Independent businesses in Wantage are being encouraged to get behind a new scheme designed to bring more trade to the town.

So far 22 independent businesses in Wantage have agreed to join forces to promote local shopping and loyalty in the town by signing up to be part of the new Wantage Loyalty Card scheme, and it is hoped many others will follow.  
ED(GW)

---

### **Tesco design**- 15/7/11

Tesco design If anybody wants to see the real agreed design for the new Tesco store, it is available at the Town Council office. I was at a new Tesco in Berwick last week which is of very similar design.

I was very impressed with the design of this "eco friendly" store - which is very unusual for me no matter who the operator is.

Alan Hickmore

*Ed(GW) and there will be a line of trees between the store and car park and Park road*

---

### **Faringdon for tourists**- 14/7/11

I came to Faringdon on a visit to a friend last Summer and thought the town was charming. My friend had only just moved from Blunsdon, and was proud to show me his new flat in the old school. Sadly he wasn't to enjoy the town for very long and passed away early this year.

However, Faringdon appealed to me, in spite of Budgens, and I would love to come again now and then when visiting Oxford, but I am like most "tourists" in that I rely on public transport. The bus is not very good, though, and hardly suitable for the day-tripper. The day I came, it didn't appear at the Bus Station for over TWO HOURS, although my friend saw the bus arrive at his end, at the market square, every hour as advertised. I feel some bus-drivers may turn straight back from the railway station at Oxford, thinking nobody would know if they skipped the last stop. Well, that's my only explanation. The day I left Faringdon for London, the bus decided to leave from the Fire Station, which I didn't know the location of, so I followed two panicking local ladies in the mad dash to catch it. The look on their faces when they worked out where the bus was! They sprinted at about 30pmh when they realised the bus wasn't coming to Market Square. A nightmare with my case, bags and painful new shoes... I'd been to the junk-shop in Bamforth and was heavily-laden with books and old records.

Still, I'll be back! Hope you get your Waitrose in the end.

Alex McKenna, South Woodford

*ED(GW) Buses are every half an hour to and from Oxford now*

---

### **Tesco frenzy**- 14/7/11

I have been following the Tesco vs Waitrose debate with interest for some time. Although I have an opinion as to which I would prefer to see in Faringdon, as I no longer live in the area, it is not really appropriate for me to voice it here, as it has no impact on me. There are some interesting 'signatures' to the petition Victoria Cox is pushing – especially #27, which is a 'Vicky Cox' who seems very pro Tesco. Is it really that easy to use a 'made up name' on the petition – also the fact that a great many people wish to remain anonymous – how does that give it any validity?

Also interestingly, the photograph of the 'concrete monstrosity' Victoria has offered us to support her argument appears to be a Polish branch of Tesco, and of a Superstore rather than a Supermarket at that. With their High St and Out Of Town dominance in this country, you would have thought a more local (or even just a UK) photograph could have been found – or would that not have been emotive enough?

Richard King

---

### **Plan for the Market Square needed**- 14/7/11

With Tesco's appeal upheld, now is the time for Faringdon Town Council and the Chamber of Commerce to very seriously consider and come up with a plan for the market square area.

At least one Town Councillor favoured the Park Road site and surely her deliberations in reaching this conclusion were based on the very best interests of the town as a whole and particularly its existing retailers. Now is the time and without delay, to consider the positives and move on. If this means that some businesses have to adapt to

survive then so be it.

Faringdon, located on the edge of the Cotswolds has a great history and civil war heritage which should be inviting visitors and tourists. There is great potential but only once it's shoddy unkempt appearance is rectified and its hotels offer accommodation and hospitality worthy of a tourist attraction. A marketing plan to emphasise the benefits and promote this town is years overdue. It's about time The Town Council, Chamber and existing businesses were challenged to make this a reality.

Mike Bell

---

### **Rats Bistro opens Friday 22nd July** - 14/7/11

May we wish good luck to the new owners and proprietors at the Rats Bistro.

Feeding the regrowth of Faringdon in more ways than one.

With the housing and supermarket developments coming in to town, Faringdon can show it isn't just a lot of noise, it can be a place for quality businesses to come and grow.

Jo and Andy Boston

---

### **Waitrose**- 14/7/11

You do not have to pay for the petition - there is a donation option which of course can be ignored. Tesco had bought the land by Park rd years ago thus there wasn't even an option for Waitrose to build there.

Name Supplied

---

### **Waitrose**- 14/7/11

At the appeal meeting it was said that Waitrose would not pursue their application if Tesco won the appeal. But who knows, this may have been a ploy. However it is hard to see how VWHDC can approve the application when the Planning Inspector has found such deficiencies with the proposed Waitrose site.

I too hope they will come to Faringdon - but I think it will have to be on another site.

Gene Webb

---

### **We want a Waitrose**- 14/7/11

I signed into this "petition" to put my point of view. Petitions should have a chance of voting against as well as for. There is only the choice of voting for Waitrose. I have left a comment and if this is counted as a "for" then the petition is seriously flawed.

The appeal was NOT a Tesco V Waitrose competition, it was based on the site proposal. Had Waitrose put in a planning proposal for the Park Road site I would have voted for it and against Tesco on the Gloucester St site as a non-starter.

In fact I would have voted for Lidl, Aldi, Asda, Morrisons, Sainsbury's or Booths for Park Road.

What is even more out of order is that when you get to the end of her "petition" you are inflicted with a site insisting that you pay for having voted with no option to pay \$0.

I think the \$ sign might signify that this is a scam, so don't touch it with a barge pole.

Jane Boulton

This is a personal view, not that of the Town Council

---

### **Faringdon needs Waitrose**- 14/7/11

I'm not sure a petition at this late stage will win the day Victoria - Tesco has it in the bag; there are many people who really live in Faringdon who are looking forward to the arrival of Tesco; to echo the words of another contributor, a decision has been made - live with it!!

Perhaps as a footnote to all this, Budgens will close and perhaps Waitrose or even Marks and Spencer might care to move in - now that would be good news!!!

Name supplied

---

## Re Improvements to Park Road - 14/7/11

How could an unsightly, concrete monstrosity of a Tesco improve Park Road? Is that a joke? I couldn't disagree more, just look at this photo... [http://www.sustainable-build.com/Portals/sustainable-build/news%20articles/Tesco\\_mielec.jpg](http://www.sustainable-build.com/Portals/sustainable-build/news%20articles/Tesco_mielec.jpg)

Doesn't really look like something a small market town can carry off.  
Victoria Cox

---

## Tesco- 14/7/11

I can pretty much guarantee that at least %85 shop out of faringdon, and yes it will bring jobs, which in turn people to faringdon, not just tesco, look elsewhere, witney, abingdon etc, all busy in town as well as out of town, you just need to grow up, get over it and we'll see you in tesco when it opens buying your shopping smiling at the cheaper prices!!!!  
RYAN enevoldsen

---

## Faringdon needs Waitrose- 14/7/11

Very disappointed to hear Tesco's appeal was successful as I hate everything about it. I haven't shopped there for years following a terrible experience with rotten chicken and a couldn't care less customer service response. Waitrose is what this town needs to help it back on its feet and begin to thrive. Tesco will just kill it off without a care in the world.

Profits above all, no social conscience. A bad day for Faringdon. If anyone from Waitrose is reading this, please don't walk away! I have signed the petition!

Name Supplied

---

## Rats Bistro opens Friday 22nd July - 13/7/11

Phone 01367 240578 for a reservation

More details soon

---

## MISSING CAT -13/7/11

'Fergus' last seen around home on Wednesday 29th June

Mainly silver / grey with white chest, socks and belly, nose half grey / half white; neutered and chipped

Please contact: The Mortons, The Old Bull, 27 London Street, Faringdon Tel: 07788 105899 or local vets

---

## Improvements to Park Road - 13/7/11

The building of a Tesco store will undoubtedly improve the look of Park Road.

Plans for improvements of other commercial buildings on Park Road have already been approved.

(10/02269/FUL .

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=10/02269/FUL>)

This can only be a good thing for the town. Let's hope other Park Road businesses follow suit

Name Supplied

---

## We want a Waitrose- 13/7/11

I have created a petition to illustrate how the people who actually live in Faringdon want a Waitrose. Tesco will only kill the small town of Faringdon, put shops out of business and create a ghost town. Don't let this happen and vote Waitrose!!

Click on the link below to vote: <http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/waitrose-for-faringdon/>

Victoria Cox

---

## Re RIP- 13/7/11

Dear Pink P.I.John

as a real life P I (private investigator) and a member of the Town Council, may I point out that myself and ALL those serving on the Town Council WERE elected and are accountable. Granted I may not speak for you, pity really that you didn't stand for election yourself, so I guess you have to live with what you have a council elected by the voters of Faringdon.

In my experience and by actually attending meetings and listening to people I don't believe "The efforts of the many have been shouted down by the voices of the few", in fact quite the opposite.

I also don't believe this was the case at the Planning Appeal where there was no shouting only rational arguments for and against the appeal.

The appeal was upheld, live with it..

Kind Regards Nick O'Keeffe

---

## **The Crown** - 13/7/11

New managers again from next Monday

Will it ever be successful?

Name Supplied

---

## **A Faringdon wish list**- 13/7/11

Budgens differentiate themselves- eg more upmarket, home delivery- or they sell to a Tesco competitor

Free parking in the town

Some of the 70/80% of people who currently buy their food out of the town buy locally(Tesco) and do other shopping in the town

Small Retailers and accommodation providers get together to market the town and improve their offerings

Some one buys the Crown and the Bell and turns them into excellent eating places and accommodation ( the new Euro millionaire??)

Faringdon Estates give the woodland to the town ( assuming Waitrose do not pursue their application)

The District council modify the Market Square so that buses/big vehicles no longer cause jams.

Name Supplied

---

## **Our little town**- 13/7/11

I have always said that Faringdon is a perfect little microcosm of Britain, life in general and the universe, and this week I'm certainly being proved right. Tesco-isation, jungle drums, tribal warfare. So whatever next?

Could it be that we have in our midst our very own little Rupert Murdoch? Creating outrage by buying up businesses, creating a media empire, using his impressive organ to disseminate his advertising and promote his businesses at the expense of others, not to mention cosyng up to the movers and shakers for the furtherence of his own end? No, hush my mouth, surely not; but hmmm...you never know. Just to be on the safe side, perhaps we should be wary if we see a flame haired protege.

Name Supplied

---

## **Re Faringdon RIP**- 13/7/11

Whose fault is that then? Hardly Tesco or Waitrose. No, its the Town, Vale and County Council who have strangled this town. Shopping is so much better in Wantage or certainly now Witney.

Anyway, jobs to come to the town, more competition and you never know the town centre MAY improve as the folks there realise there are people around with money to spend.

Pity it's taken so long and we have so many officials elected or not who HAVENT put the needs of the Town first.

Colin

---

## **Faringdon Festival**- 13/7/11

Pianos in the open air for the Arts Week = Seems like a good idea

Pianos out of tune able to be played at night = Maybe less good

Pianos played by public at 2.30 AM when residents need to work the next day = A bit stupid

Pianos not cleared away after the event = Ignorant

Pianos still there looking a mess 3 days after the event = The level of ability of the organisation ability of the event.

Very angry and fed up

---

### **Tesco's - not creeping any more-** 13/7/11

At last, Tesco's is coming. This will mean that I don't have to drive out of town to do my family shopping. It also means that those who can't drive out of town will have a place to shop where convenience and costs are appropriate. It also means an increased footfall in the town centre for smaller niche businesses to take advantage of. It also means that 130 jobs will be created. It also means that an eyesore industrial site will be useful once more. It also means that Faringdon shoppers will have a choice of grocery shops. It also means the development of an ugly footpath. It also means that Waitrose lorries won't be knocking over and buildings or children.

Instead of regressively blinkering themselves to some kind of separate, self-interested, idealistic reality (where 100% of the town's population can exist on infrequent and expensive Farmers' Markets or accept rotting fruit and veg' and from a dirty overpriced Budgens shop), people need to deal with a starker reality where a growing town needs more resources than it currently has - including shopping facilities. For those still against Tesco's, don't go there. Crucially though, those people can no longer lobby against what the rest of us wanted - which is a choice for all.

This is a good day for the town because everybody now has a choice rather than a monopoly of grocery supply - whether or not you shop in, or agree with, Tesco's.

regards,  
Laissez Faire

---

### **Tesco's - A victory for common sense-** 13/7/11

Well done Tesco's for winning your appeal, good-bye Waitrose for a stupid plan to site your store in a conservation area and where residents and school children were not considered important enough. Also good-bye to the £30,000 of our money Vale Of White Horse District Council wasted fighting this appeal against the wishes of the Town Council and the majority of the townspeople and rate payers of Faringdon.

A victory for common sense and power to the people!

Kind Regards  
Nick O'Keeffe & Stella Kenrick

---

### **Faringdon RIP** - 13/7/11

Thanks Faringdon Festival, at least we went out with a bang. Faringdon town; 1218 - 2011. R.I.P

Tesco will slowly and painfully kill off the fantastic shops in our little town and inhibit any future investment in historic buildings, businesses or any other ventures opening in the town centre. No free two hour parking can save you now. The efforts of the many have been shouted down by the voices of the few.

FTC will be remembered for falling for the Tesco propaganda and supporting their short term gain while signing away the future of our town. You are unelected, unaccountable and do not speak for me.

It was great while it lasted.  
Pink P.I.John

---

### **Tesco** - 13/7/11

Good news at last.  
Now when can we see some movement on the demolition and the erection of the store.  
Colin

---

### **Faringdon Festival-** 13/7/11

The festival was brilliant! A great mix of music types and something for everyone. It brings life and soul into the town and I admire the people who put time and effort into making it happen. We enjoyed it as a family - both watching it and some of the family (not me!) performing. Why do people have to be so negative? It makes my blood boil. This is a fabulous community event. I hope that some local businesses do benefit from it financially - good for them for having the drive and commitment to make it a success. There was no obligation to spend anything if you didn't want

to - bring a picnic and your own beers! If you chose to live in a town centre there will be noise. As for the "stewarding/barriers/ toilets" comments - I am perfectly capable of making sure my own child is safe as well as not urinating in the street!!

Well down Nick, Sheila and all. You have my support and admiration.  
Mitch

---

## **Faringdon Festival-** 12/7/11

Just a quick well done to Nick Elwell and everyone who organised the festival this year; it was the best one so far. The town come together as a community - kids and adults alike. It was great to see several local businesses such as The Snooty Mehmman, the Viceroy, The Red Lion, The Bell, The Coffee Shop, the Crown and the Portwell Angel enjoying such a surge in trade. I'm sure it was welcomed by their owners.

Nick - would it be possible to calculate the level of increased trade in the town so people can see the financial benefits compared to a normal weekend?

For those of you complaining - it's one weekend out of 52 so why not live and let live? I live in London Street and could hear the noise from my house; it wasn't that difficult to deal with.  
Cheers Ray

---

## **Big Thanks To Invasion Radio-** 12/7/11

I couldn't make it down to the Faringdon Festival at the weekend, was flat on my back with a nasty flu virus. So imagine how pleased I was that I could still see and hear some of the acts, thanks to the live internet streaming that the lads from Invasion Radio had set up. Their temporary studio was able to cut live to the sound on the main stage and the madd stage as they were broadcasting over the weekend.

A brilliant idea and a great job done Invasion Radio, you made a sick man very happy. I felt like I was there, even though I was a mile away drinking Lemsip in bed with the laptop next to me.  
Neil

---

## **Tesco Wins the Appeal** - 12/7/11

See

<http://www.pcs.planningportal.gov.uk/pcsportal/fscdav/READONLY?OBJ=COO.2036.300.12.3287491&NAME=/2143419%20decision.pdf>

Name Supplied

---

## **creeping tesco=isation** - 12/7/11

it makes me laugh, all the shop owners who don't want a Tesco,because they don't want to lose business to them, yet they are quite happy to sell items in there shops, that other traders sell, sweet shop sells plants, the motorists shop sells plants TVs,s gas fires fire surrounds,etc there all at it, i did not think you could do that, i think if you went door to door and asked if people wanted a Tesco it would be a overwhelming yes,  
name supplied

---

## **Who organised the event-** 12/7/11

It seems that the owner (driving force) of Focus on Faringdon, and hence the free Advertiser, organised the Arts Festival for the good of the owners of the Portwell Angel Bar.

It seems a shame that other businesses need to close (and presumably lose money) in order that an event can be organised which mainly benefits only one town centre business.

How much of our local rates bill will go - directly or indirectly - on the subsidy for this event?

We need a local chairman or independant organiser of the Chamber of Commerce to investigate whether this use of our rates is fair.

Name Supplied

---

## Noise- 12/7/11

You are not the only one who was disenchanted by the music weekend, as a resident of the Market Place proximity for nearly 20 years, I am quiet used to the occasional 'sound pollution' which emanates due to the hard reflective serfaces of the stone and tarmac.

However, the now regular noise from Portwell and the like, added to the music (not much art) weekend, meant I was forced from my home to get away from the hours of monotonous thumping. Please have consideration for the long term residence.

I think you will find that the gentleman, who owns Bordangate Insurance ( now maybe BGi ), also owns the Portwell and the Pub, he may also own and run the ADVERTISER magazine, which he uses to publicise his businesses and presumably the music weekend (did he organise that as well ) which benefits his bars and pocket. Thus no need to advertise elsewhere in the town.

Bar Humbug

---

## Faringdon Festival criticism-12/7/11

Should the volunteers and organisers of the Festival also have to look after other people's children? Monitor local businesses? Undertake toilet-training?

The handful of people who gave their time to put on this event (enjoyed by 1000+ people) also have full-time jobs. Naturally, a few things get overlooked and sometimes things do not work out as planned (or promised - for example, the required number of barriers were not delivered).

I am sure they welcome CONSTRUCTIVE criticism but would be happier still if those offering it volunteered to assist before and during and after the event.

Sheila

---

## Faringdon Festival- noise -12/7/11

I made an amazing discover the other day! Apparently if you don't like where you live (for instance say you live in a town centre and they hold a festival every year in July and it's a little bit noisy) you can actually move. That's right! You read me right people. I've heard that there are these people called Estate Agents and they can help you with all the necessary arrangements. I think though they may advise that you don't move into any town centre as I think the noise may prove too much for you.

Congratulations to the Arts Festival peeps! Really good festival (nice to see less folk this year ;-) ) . . . thankyou!

Signed: WasDisgruntledLastYearButNotThisYear

---

## Festival five fun run-12/7/11

Faringdon hosted its first festival fun run on Sunday. I would like to thank the runners for taking part in the first, hope everyone enjoyed them selves. I would like to give a big thank you to the scouts who provided the marshals for the event along with much appreciated assistance in preparing the route.

Thanks to the Faringdon festival organisers for there assistance in advertising the event and providing the opportunity. Next year I hope to make the event bigger and better, keep an eye out for the Faringdon 5 web site for registration information.

Kirsty Phillips

---

## Faringdon Festival- 12/7/11

The Town Council don't run the Faringdon Festival and usually only advertise their own events. I can only assume that the organisers chose not to advertise their event in the "Folly" and "What's On" because advertising has to be paid for and they run their own newspaper "Focus on Faringdon".

Name Supplied

---

## **Faringdon Festival- excellent-** 12/7/11

Such a lovely atmosphere, it really does make one proud to live here. The music was great - it appeared to be more varied than in previous years. Considering the lack of both financial and other support from certain areas the organisers did us proud - well done!

Name supplied

---

## **Faringdon Festival- noise** - 11/7/11

I may be the only one, but did anyone notice the cacophony of distorted noise on Friday and Saturday night in the Market Place. When some was played a little more quietly it seemed quiet good.. The highlight was when some bright spark had the idea to have noise coming from TWO stages at the same time. Luckily nobody seems to have noticed, maybe they were all too deafened. Why not put the event into Faringdon House Garden and have all the culture in the same place. Then maybe the shops could have some customers.

Deaf Resident

---

## **Faringdon Festival** - 11/7/11

Am I the only naysayer?

Maybe it was nice to see some of the art over the Art Week, but please, why the music SO loud, and why the cheep! beer. Faringdon can be such a lovely town, why do we need to drag it down so low to this gutter level of noise and detritus.

Can we not promote the noble good side of society, how about raising the level not seeing how low it can get.

Name Supplied

---

## **Faringdon Festival** - 11/7/11

A good time was had by most people, which is the main thing. However, as residents of the town centre, two things concerned us and quite a few visitors i.e. that there was food and drink and no portaloos, and nobody seemed to check that the public toilets were open for the duration of the Festival - they weren't - thus causing the area around them to be turned into a cesspit; there were no stewards to be seen, no barriers across the bottom of the pavement near Lloyds, no diversion of traffic coming up and down London Street, and a very dangerous situation for young children, several of whom narrowly missed being knocked over. We know the organisers hate criticism but feel sure they want to know what went wrong at an otherwise good event, so it doesn't happen again.

We are also curious to know why so many shops were shut on Saturday when there's supposed to be an effort to promote the town centre. Was this due to worries about lack of security?

Geoffrey and Carolyn Williams

---

## **Fabulous Festival** - 11/7/11

In my humble opinion, this weekend has to have been the best one yet. Hats off to all those that gave their time, money and effort to have made it so. Bring on next year!

Best Regards, Mike Perks

---

## **Faringdon Folly/Whats on** - 11/7/11

With regards to the posting that asks why the Faringdon Festival was not mentioned in the above publications then I feel I must explain, If you look at the Back page of the Faringdon Folly on the Leisure page then it has got few lines regarding the dates etc, which the Editor took time to find out for himself. With regards to the What's On paper the event wasn't advertised in the paper due to the fact that no information was submitted by the organisers, therefore no notice of events went in.

We are always happy at the Faringdon Newspapers to publish any events that are non profit making in the paper free of charge as long as it is submitted by the deadline.

General Manager of Faringdon Newspapers.

Laura Stayt Advertising Manager Faringdon Newspapers Ltd Tel: 01367 242560 or 07800 608522

---

## **Re Midwife Service in Faringdon-** 11/7/11

There is a limited midwife service in Faringdon. I have just spoken to someone in the Faringdon Family Centre (01367 242432) who told me that one visits the Family Centre's First Babies' Group. For more information call the Family Centre.  
Fiona Merrick, Faringdon Community and Tourist Information Centre

---

### **Midwife Service** - 11/7/11

I was somewhat alarmed to read that there is no midwife service in Faringdon! Simply because I have an appointment to see the midwife tomorrow at Faringdon Health Centre! I am not doubting the validity of the comments, but can I ask for the source if this information? I will be particularly cross if I turn up tomorrow only to be sent to Wantage. Is this a new arrangement?  
Name supplied

---

---

### **Thankyou from the Scouts** - 11/7/11

The fundraising team from 1st Faringdon Scouts would like to thank everybody who supported our stall at the fabulous Faringdon Festival yesterday. We raised £133.47 for the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.  
Miss Zara Wright was the lucky winner of the jar of marshmallows with the closest guess: she guessed 95 and there were 93 inside.  
If anyone would like more information about joining the group - as a member, leader or helper, please contact Faith Carpenter on 01367 241237.  
Thank you!  
Faith Carpenter

---

### **Fabulous Festival** - 11/7/11

Well done to everyone involved in organising and performing in this years festival. It was another amazing show and we cant wait for next years!  
The Riddle family

---

### **Faringdon Festival** - 11/7/11

Another brilliant Faringdon festival! Well done Sheila Donavon, Sam, Nial and Hilary Prince, all at the Portwell bar and other establishments to numerous to mention. Excellent job done by all the guys on the stage crew.  
A big thank you to everyone involved who worked so hard to make it all happen!  
You make the small Market Town of Faringdon a great place to live. Looking forward to next year already.  
Name Supplied

---

### **Faringdon Festival** - 11/7/11

Better than ever. Great art in OTH. Varied music to suit all . Lots of stalls. A real buzz. Just good to be in Faringdon  
Margaret Barker

---

### **Faringdon Festival** - 11/7/11

Lovely atmosphere, good weather, loved Boogie Me, so sorry I missed the poets but unavoidable!  
HT

---

### **Weird Walks around Faringdon** - 9/7/11

Go for a walk around Faringdon with the good Lord Berners, as portrayed by local raconteur Peter Wentworth. Hear his stories as you go, and who knows what magic may occur?  
Walk designed for adults, starting at the Old Town Hall at 6.30pm.  
Under 16s to be accompanied by an adult.

Friday 15th July,

Saturday 16th July  
Friday 5th August,  
Saturday 6th August  
Friday 26th August,  
Saturday 27th August Bank Holiday  
Monday 29th August  
Tickets £5 at the Tourist Information Centre, Corn Exchange, Corn Market, Faringdon. 01367 242191

---

## Great Faringdon - 9/7/11

Wow, the weather just about held for the festival last night. Great to see plenty people out and about enjoying themselves. A brilliant set from Charlie Baxter and only £2.50 for a pint of some great local ales and ciders. Good choice of food and friendly people. Isn't Faringdon great.  
P.I. John

---

## The Folly Newspaper and The Whats On - 8/7/11

Can someone explain why neither of these productions mention the Faringdon Festival this week-end. Even the Town Council Web Site (see Special Events) says nothing?  
Name supplied...

---

## "CREEPING TESCO-ISATION" - 18/7/11

Interesting and very relevant. <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2012429/Trolley-wars-How-market-town-Hadleigh-saw-Tesco.html>  
Name Supplied

---

## The Sensible Folly available now - 8/7/11

A quirky short story for all ages written specially for the Friends of the Folly, by Paul Cornell, novelist and writer of three Doctor Who episodes.  
Illustrated by Hil Taylor  
You can buy one for £2.50 from Faringdon Tourist Information and the White Horse Bookshop.

Paul will be in the Portwell Bar ( with some books to sell) from 12-1pm on Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th to chat about the story and sign your copy.  
All proceeds are for the Faringdon Folly  
Gene Webb

---

## Face Painting - 6/7/11

I could do it, where, when, how much?  
Name Supplied

---

## Summer deal at Faringdon Leisure Centre - 5/7/11

Faringdon Leisure Centre has a great Summer Offer at the moment. You get 6 weeks unlimited membership for just £40.  
The membership includes unlimited use of the gym, swimming, exercise classes, free crèche and much more. Just pop up the leisure centre and ask for the duty manager.  
Name Supplied

---

## The new 'Faringdon Local' show on Faringdon Radio - 4/7/11

Episode 9 is now available on [www.faringdonradio.com](http://www.faringdonradio.com)  
In this show: Interviews with:  
Dave and Margo - Faringdon Fundraisers

Matt and Ned - Invasion Radio

Music from:

\* Wire Jesus

\* Hail! The Planes

\* The Blowbacks

[www.faringdonradio.com](http://www.faringdonradio.com)

---

## **Stalls for the Faringdon Festival** - 4/7/11

We still have some stall space available for the Festival on Saturday and Sunday.

If you are interested in setting up a stall, please phone 01367 246137 or email [daniel.pullen@bqi.uk.com](mailto:daniel.pullen@bqi.uk.com)

---

## **Volunteers Needed for Faringdon Festival** - 4/7/11

Need anybody who is over 18 years of age and has a mobile phone to just do 3 hours of marshalling on any of the days of the Faringdon Festival.

The festival times are 6pm – 11pm Friday 8th,

10am – 11pm Saturday 9th and

10am – 6pm Sunday 10th.

If you are interested, please phone 01367 246137 or email [daniel.pullen@bqi.uk.com](mailto:daniel.pullen@bqi.uk.com)

Daniel Pullen Walenn

---

## **Faringdon festival five fun run**- 4/7/11

5km fun run this Sunday mostly on country tracks

Start and Finish at Market place

Registration 9.00am Start 9.30am

Prizes for best fancy dress

Adults £3 children £1.50 under sixteens must be accompanied by Adult. Forms available in portwell angel.

Fancy some light relief from arts festival why not take part in faringdon first festival five fun run

Kirsty

---

## **Relay for Life** - 2/7/11

Next weekend, a group of Faringdon children and their friends and family are taking part in The Relay for Life at Witney Rugby Ground. This is a 24 hour event and will include a Ceremony of Hope after dark. It is the first event for Cancer Research UK that the children have been involved in and they are very excited at being able to do something positive.

We start at noon on Saturday so if anybody would like to come down and cheer us on, please do. There will be other activities going on for you all to enjoy and it would be nice for the children to get your support.

If not, and you would care to sponsor us instead, please visit our just giving site on

[www.donatetomyrelay.org/FaringdonFollies](http://www.donatetomyrelay.org/FaringdonFollies) or call Sherrie on 07516350311 for more information.

Thank you from Jade, Callum, Joshua, Emily, and Thomas x

---

## **Go Away ... .. but come in first!** - 2/7/11

In the Faringdon Community and Tourist Information Centre we stock a selection of holiday brochures for the UK.

Come in and see where you can go away to this summer! If we don't have a brochure for the area you want to go to, we can order it and get it sent directly to your door.

We also have leaflets on most of the theme parks around, plus one or two you might not have heard of! Come into Faringdon Community and Tourist Information Centre in the Corn Exchange (entrance off Gloucester Street, opposite Regent Mews), and see what we've got.

Opening hours are Monday to Friday – 9am to 2pm, Saturday – 9.30am to 1pm.

Fiona Merrick  
Information Assistant

---

## **Faringdon Leisure Centre Gym.** - 1/7/11

I am looking at joining the gym at the leisure centre and was wondering if anyone can recommend it.  
Thank you.  
Matthew Berry

---

### **Thankyou Mike** - 31/8/11

As a long time reader of, and contributor to, TPs I have used 38 pseudonyms and was running out of ideas  
So thank you, Mike, for your flattering comments  
and my new identity  
Thatman.

---

### **Pure Me to close** - 31/8/11

Just had an email saying that Pure Me is closing down – what a complete shame. This is a lovely asset to the town, and will be missed. This is an extract from the email “With the recent news that Waitrose have decided to pull out of their application for planning permission in Faringdon and an increasing number of our suppliers restricting on line sales from independent shops - so as not to impact their own direct sales to the public - I have sadly taken the decision to close pure me. “

I know this shop wasn't incredibly useful to everyone – so please no follow up of “well it was too expensive” or “who needs organic”, but perhaps just a thoughtful response to another lovely shop closing down, and one that had a great county wide reputation.  
Siobhan Vinall

---

### **Chinese Takeaway** - 30/8/11

Yes, it is a small pedantic, petty point! Much better the charming poem to welcome a new town resident.  
Well done that person.  
Mike Bell

---

### **Chinese Takeaway** - 29/8/11

I know it's a small pedantic point but you have moved to a town not a village.  
Jane Boulton

---

### **The new 'Faringdon Local' show on Faringdon Radio** - 29/8/11

The new show is now on line (even though the website looks is a bit bugged the links work).  
Interviews with Paul Cornell novelist/scriptwriter and Gof Smith Faringdon First responders.  
Music: Little Fish, Anton Barbeau, David Reynolds [www.faringdonradio.com](http://www.faringdonradio.com)  
Sean Hodgson

---

### **Chinese Takeaway** - 29/8/11

Welcome to the Name Supplied. The hungry Chinese lover.  
Your comments may have landed you in a "spot o' bover"  
But don't let that upset you as it wasn't your intention  
to upset anybody but I thought that I would mention  
while reading them some posters may well have worn a frown  
For our sleepy little village aspires to be a Town.

Name Supplied

---

### **Chinese Takeaway** - 28/8/11

I have recently moved to Faringdon within the last few days and have found it so far a lovely place to live. I absolutely love chinese takeaway and have only spotted one around the village centre . I was wondering if anyone can recommend a good chinese takeaway in the area, willing to drive as far as Swindon for a very good one.

Thanks

name supplied

*ED(GW) There are 2 Chinese takeaways in the town. 1 in London St , the other Marlborough St (which I was told recently is very good)*

---

### **Lord Berners' Bizarre Magical Walk**- 27/8/11

I did the walk on Friday. It was really entertaining. Lord Berners showed us things about Faringdon, I never new were and for all to see, but never noticed. Very lively and really enjoyable.

Thanx Peter. ---- and toughly recommend.

Ian Smith.

---

### **Bring Back Hanging ? Obviously not !** - 27/8/11

I have just signed the e-petition to bring back hanging for certain murders. The thought of an innocent person being convicted (not unknown in the past) is frightening so I suggest that once a murderer is undoubtedly proved guilty he/she should be given the option of being kept locked up for 10 or 20 years before the sentence is carried out. Unfortunately in order for this petition to be discussed in Parliament (where the bleeding hearts will no doubt reject it ) it must get an average of almost 280 signatures /day and so far only about 100/day share my views.

I feel a little bit surprised and guilty that my "Blood Thirsty" viewpoint is shared by so few.

A. Pierrepoint Esq

---

### **Lop eared rabbit found** - 27/8/11

Whilst walking my dog this evening I found a lop eared rabbit by Stanford Road at the top of the new cricket pitch. We have rescued it, has anyone lost this lovely rabbit?

Please ring either 07714898686 or 07786673550 if your rabbit has escaped!!

Sharon

---

### **Missing Kitten** - 26/8/11

hello, i have seen the add for the missing cat. i do believe this may be my cat, her name is missy and she is microchipped. i live just round he corner and she does come back occassionally but i did think she may be being fed by others.

please get back to me thanks

kelly

---

### **Job Vacancies at Rats Castle** - 25/8/11

Waiting staff (must be over 18)and willing to work Friday and Saturday evenings.

Assistant chef to work with the head chef Tuesday - Saturday from September £7.00 per hour.

Contact Jane 01367 240578

---

### **Lord Berners' Bizarre Magical Walk- Sat 27th, Mon 29th** - 25/8/11

Go for a walk around Faringdon with the good Lord Berners, as portrayed by local raconteur Peter Wentworth. Hear his stories as you go, and who knows what magic may occur?

Walk designed for adults, starting at the Old Town Hall at 6.30pm.

Under 16s to be accompanied by an adult

Tickets £5 ( to include a Pink Pigeon badge) at the Tourist Information Centre, Corn Exchange, Corn Market, Faringdon. 01367 242191

---

### **Missing Kitten** - 26/8/11

5 month old White, black & ginger kitten who is very slender . She was last seen in the Berners way / folly park view area on 11/8 . Any info is greatly appreciated  
Please contact Andrea if you've seen her.  
01367 244430  
07917202526

---

## **One Day Intensive Scriptwriting Course** - 24/8/11

There are two places left on Shaun McCarthy's one day intensive scriptwriting course, which will be on Saturday 10th September in Faringdon. For more details see

<http://www.artist.nildram.co.uk/scriptwriting/daycourse.htm>

If you are interested please contact [drama@faringdon-online.co.uk](mailto:drama@faringdon-online.co.uk) asap

---

## **British Legion** - 24/8/11

The Faringdon branch now has it's own website. [www.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/faringdon](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/faringdon)

---

## **Charity bags** - 23/8/11

Just like 'Name Supplied' I also put these unwanted bags in my bin but I fill them first with all the non recyclable rubbish and use them as bin liners. I don't want them but if someone is giving me free bin liners, who am I to refuse?  
ps I do give my unwanted items to the local charity shops.  
Kind Regards Nick O'Keeffe

---

## **Thankyou** - 23/8/11

Thanks to the kind person who put my dog's lost tag through the letter box last night. Very thoughtful (and saved me a couple of quid as I hadn't got round to ordering a new one yet).  
Andrea

---

## **Tired of Tyres** - 23/8/11

I am tired of tyres! Must we tread and re-tread? It's wearing thin.  
Name Supplied

---

## **Tyres yet again**- 22/8/11

Lets face it local tyre sellers like every other local supplier just cant compete with national suppliers on cost.It's alright to shop locally if you can afford it. Most people like to keep motoring costs as low as possible so go to the major players for a good deal.Same with petrol while shopping in a large town, fill up cheaper.Why not?  
Competition is good in my book I always shop around for the best deal and save money at the same time.  
Online shopping is the best way to save money and get a good deal at the present time.Check it out.  
Name supplied

---

## **Tyres yet again!!**- 22/8/11

In answer to Richard King, i have used second to none many times in the past, i was only commenting that maybe to keep up with competition they may like to realise they are one of the most expensive around. I also shop in Faringdon centre, and regularly use the nut tree, although i will admit, i will shop elsewhere if i find the same item cheaper.....in the current climate im sure many others would do the same. As for the 'she does drive a peugeot ' comment, i drive my car as it has low emissions, is cheap to run, and easy to maintain. I do this so i can afford to run a car, bring up a child, and work to keep myself, not relying on others to do the job for me. Im sure there are a few tax payers in this country who would appreciate this! I did get tyres in the end, for £109 fully fitted for two tyres, the man who did it was lovely, and obviously knew his job and he offered me advice which i appreciated. I certainly would recommend the company to anyone for this reason, and particularly to the elderly who may be living on a state pension and possibly

can't afford £71 for one very small tyre.  
Alison Attwood

---

## Re Pump house - 22/8/11

The old Community Centre building is being demolished.  
Jane Boulton

---

## Tyres yet again- 21/8/11

In response to Alison Attwood's comments re 'cheap' internet tyres, she seems to have it in for Second-2-None. Did she go back to see them and explain the better price she had been offered?

I live in Devon now, but have used them in the past – finding their standard of work excellent, as well as their friendly and helpful approach. In terms of prices on tyres, sometimes they have even been cheaper than the 'big boys'. Where they have been more expensive, I have even 'haggled' with them – but even when they couldn't quite beat the price, I would still stick with them. On visits back up to Faringdon, I've even gone in to get good deals from them!

What you get by going to a 'tyre fitting place' (large or small) instead of a 'webspace' is EXPERTISE. You can get advice on the best tyres for your car (which will, for example, give the best handling depending on your driving style/needs). They can advise on how comfort and road noise can vary from one tyre to another, as well as wear rates – cheap/budget/economy tyres aren't always the best value – they often wear more quickly and may not handle/brake as efficiently in the wet (which could turn out to be VERY expensive). If you only need a couple of tyres, they can match new tyres to your existing ones to ensure there is no compromise to your cars ability.

Alison seems to be advocating using on-line or major retailers only. If Second-2-None ceased trading, who would provide that local service? Where would the 'older' population go (or others without the online 'nous' or internet access)? Who would provide the service to the local car dealers/garages?

Is Alison also advocating buying everything else over the net and avoiding all shops in Faringdon – I should imagine 'Nut Tree' products may well be cheaper on Amazon? With supermarkets offering a delivery service, why ever go to Budgens any more? Want a Burger – pop over to Watchfield McDonalds, must be better value than anywhere in Faringdon!

With all the recent 'correspondence' about Tesco/Waitrose and the talk of the need to support (or lose) local businesses, Alison is not really doing much to help. If Second-2-None closes, will she be just as happy with the 20-30 mile round trip to Swindon etc. to get her cheaper tyres fitted?

Mind you, she does drive a Peugeot.....  
Richard King

---

## Litter pickers - 20/8/11

I must say i was extremely proud to see 2 yes 2 litter pickers in faringdon the other day. 1 at either end of the town!  
Well done!  
Name supplied

---

## Charity bags - 20/8/11

We should be asked if we want these bags. I have a sign up clearly stating 'NO JUNK MAIL' Okay it may not be junk mail in the regular sense, but it goes straight in my bin so in my opinion it is.  
My clothing goes to the clothe bank once i have had a good use from them  
Name supplied

---

## Pump house - 20/8/11

Does anyone know what is happening out the back of the old pump house by the stage area? I saw some builders there the other day.  
Name supplied

---

## Tyres again - 18/8/11

didn't use black circles in the end, got it cheaper via e tyres. when i came to you(second to none) i was ONLY offered the £71 tyres! as i bought a smaller car, i thought it would be cheaper to run, i felt £71 was a lot per tyre, oh and e tyres do pay rates, insurance etc, check via google, all you need is there.

i can understand why many would go to swindon, oxford, wantage etc for cheaper as those prices can be beaten, no brainer really!

Alison Attwood

---

## Strictly Gershwin outing, Saturday 7th January 2012 - 18/8/11

2.30 matinee

Leave Market sq at 10.30 (TBC)

£80 for seat in the stalls and coach

Contact Margot 244853 ( Faringdon Fund Raiser)

All proceeds to local charity

---

## MacMillan campaign - 18/8/11

Macmillan have started a campaign for 24 hour end of life care to be provided at home.

If you would like to sign it, pls go into... [macmillan.org.uk/247communitynursing](http://macmillan.org.uk/247communitynursing)

It would be great to get as many people as possible to sign the petition.

Chris Moorhouse

---

## Price of tyres - 17/8/11

A lesson in buying tyres on the internet

Internet based companies like Black Circles - Black and Round etc do not stock, supply or deliver tyres direct to you the customer. They do not pay rent, business rates or insurance. They trade on the basis of promised purchase volume to tyre wholesalers and a fitting fee of £11.00 to £15.00 depending on size to the fitting branch From small computer based offices. Delivery is normally taken care of by TNT or similar companys

Now!

Let's follow the track of a single purchased tyre from an Internet based company,

1) tyre purchased today before 3.00pm Collected from wholesaler via TNT by 5.00pm ( Insurance covered by TNT ) ( Wholesaler providing something like 25,000 sq ft unit to enable adequate storage ) ( Paying something like £40,000 per year Rates )

2) Tyre delivered tomorrow to fitting branch ( Insurance responsibility now passed on along with storage costs to fitting branch )

3) Customers vehicle arrives for fitting of tyre, ( Yourself, your Car, and your Tyre is now the responsibility of the fitting branch. ( If yourself, or your vehicle is hurt or damaged in anyway at all guess who's NOT responsible in any way at all? )

4) Payment, ( The fitting branch who have insured yourself and your vehicle, whilst storing and fitting your tyre before paying disposal costs of your old tyre, and having put their money up front to purchase wheel balance weights and tyre valves, let alone the major expense of the machinery and staff costs will wait approx 30 days to receive their £11.00 to £15.00 payment.

Defective Goods / Warranty ( GOOD LUCK J )

Price comparison – 155/65/14 Bridgestone £70.50 inc vat ( Second-2-none ) Black Circles £57.68 inc vat – Budget tyre £45.00 ( Black Circles ) Nothing available at £40.00 inc vat

Thank you for listening

Bob Second-2-None

---

## History of Rats Castle building - 17/8/11

This lovely building has been beautifully restored. Built as a drapers shop in the mid 19th century, it has been a restaurant for the past 30/40 years.

[Choose the link on the History section and read about the shop, the owners and the Grade II listing, plus a photograph\(1890s\) from the Jim Brown Collection](#)

Gene Webb

---

## Missing Kitten - 17/8/11

My neighbour has recently lost her kitten. We're on the new estate that backs onto Berners way, but hers was a white and tortoise shell. If anyone finds it, could they email at [emn2111@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:emn2111@yahoo.co.uk).

Please check your sheds and garages as shes only little but incredibly curious unfortunately!

Many thanks Emma

---

## Kitten Found - 16/8/11

We have found a black and white kitten in the Tuckers Road / Berners Way area on Wednesday (16th) evening. We think it is a female...not completely sure!...maybe about 6 months old...again, not sure.

Please contact via this website if you think it might be yours.

Name Supplied

---

## Travel writer visits the Folly - 15/8/11

Read Sean MacLachlan's account on: <http://www.gadling.com/2011/08/15/hiking-in-oxfordshire-follies-and-fields-near-faringdon/>

---

## Charity Bags - 16/8/11

Two received today, dont know who from as put them straight i the bin. How do I stop this waste and constant "begging". I call it harassment or am I just a sad old fart!

Colin

---

## Price of tyres - 116/8/11

i went to second to none for 2 tyres, my car is a peugeot 107 and they are 155/65 R14, they wanted £71 each, fitted, my other half looked on tesco tyres, (black circles.com) and found them £80 for a pair, so please shop around, i'll make sure my partner goes elsewhere for his golf at the end of the month, e tyres are also very good, and all come to your home or workplace!

alison attwood

---

## Our Faringdon Our Future - 14/8/11

[Here is a draft record of an exploratory meeting](#) held to consider the trading future of Faringdon. This is an FTC working party, chaired by Andrew Marsden, made up of councillors and residents.

The next meeting is due to take place on Monday, 22 August at 7.00 pm in the Old Town Hall when anyone interested is welcome to attend

---

## A more prominent road sign needed in the town.- 14/8/11

I feel that Faringdon should have a more prominent road sign to stop cars travelling up the street next to the Crown Inn. Nobody seems to take any notice of the sign which is there, albeit leaning on a pole.

I saw a lady in a car the other day trying to pass one of the buses as it was about to leave, she seemed quite indignant that she couldn't get by.

Also many people who use that road seem to travel at quite a fast speed, maybe knowing they shouldn't be there in the first place, so need to get out of the way quickly.

Name Supplied

---

## Thankyou- to whom it may concern - 14/8/11

I would just like to say thank you to whoever is responsible for re-sighting and fixing the seat at the viewing point on Highworth road.

I spend many a happy half hour or so during the summer months taking in the view and fresh air whiling away a pleasant time at that place.

thank you once again.

Name Supplied

---

## Faringdon Folly on Witney TV, August 2011 - 15/8/11

[www.witneytv.co.uk/videos/the-faringdon-folly](http://www.witneytv.co.uk/videos/the-faringdon-folly)

---

## Tesco/Waitrose/shops- 14/8/11

"...a parade of small shops with residential flats over the top and a small community building (eg museum),..." does Faringdon 'desperately' need any of these?

With a number of empty town centre shops already, several community buildings available for use [Corn Exchange, Old Town Hall, Pump House, Catholic & Congregational Church Halls, Friends' Meeting House etc], I don't think so. It certainly doesn't need a museum. There would be neither enough interesting artefacts to put in it, enough willing volunteers to staff it, enough money to maintain it, nor enough visitors to sustain it. Anyone with any interest in the history of Faringdon can read about it in various publications and on this site.

If there's anything Faringdon 'desperately' needs it is something to be done about the ghastly, ill conceived Market Place refurbishment, including its resultant chaotic parking situation on double yellow lines in London Street; and some attention to detail in cleaning and smartening up the town centre. Unfortunately, one hope on our horizon - Waitrose - now seems to have been dashed.

Bystander

---

## Faringdon Radio - 14/7/11

The new Faringdon Local show is now available.

I've made it easier to listen - just click 'listen now' on the website.

Interviews with Eddie Williams Faringdon Folly and info about the open air production of 'Much ado about nothing' in Shrivenham 2nd Sept.

Music - Mammoth and the Drum, Mike Finley, Echo Boomer

[www.faringdonradio.com](http://www.faringdonradio.com)

Sean Hodgson

---

## Shops- 14/8/11

I was one of the 2 Town Councillors who voted for Waitrose in the second round. I also had voted for Tesco. I did not do this lightly because I am sorry to increase Budgen's problems. Simon has made many improvements but the shop is neither price- friendly (like Tesco ) nor up-market (like Waitrose) - it is a mixture of too high prices ( eg tuna tins) and some specialist top quality items ( eg preserves.). It therefore has not got a clientele to whom it especially appeals. Budgens cannot be all things to all people. Now that we know we won't have a Waitrose but will have a Tesco maybe Budgens could find its own place. Its great advantage is its free delivery service.

The new District Council's promise to provide free parking will help it to compete with Tesco's free parking. I am also very concerned that the OTHER shops in Faringdon prosper and are not damaged by Tesco. The Vale offers now some free parking. This is vital. The local specialist shops need to advertise their specialities. To be honest, these are few - but I doubt if Tesco can offer the specialities of Manna or Sadlers. And Deacons, Nut Tree, Presentations etc are outside their sphere.

My serious desire is that Faringdon has a prosperous shopping centre - to be of value to the shoppers and the retailers. AND to the town.

These are my views - I am not representing the Town Council.

My allegiance is totally to the town.

Margaret Barker

---

### **Tesco/Waitrose**- 13/8/11

I will reiterate, it was NOT about Tesco or Waitrose, it was about the appropriateness or not of the site. Putting a supermarket of any label on the Gloucester St site was a non-starter. It might, however, be suitable for Faringdon Houses' original idea which was a parade of small shops with residential flats over the top and a small community building (eg museum), which Faringdon desperately needs.

I don't like Tesco either, but they had already bought the Park Lane site. Had Waitrose had the foresight to buy it I would have supported them instead. In fact I would have supported (and still will support) any supermarket which wants to come to Faringdon and increase the footfall to our shops as long as the site is appropriate. As the main retail centre is in a conservation area and mostly listed buildings it is almost impossible to see where anyone could put one.

The Dove Court site would have been good. But our District Council decided we were better off with overpriced OAP flats. The Budgens site would be good - if the houses behind were demolished and free carparking (at least for the first 2 hrs) was introduced. Of course the residents might not be too happy!

How about pulling down our underused Police Station and Telephone Exchange?  
Any other ideas?

The opinions in this post are my own and not those of the Town Council.

Jane Boulton (FTC)

---

### **Tesco v Budgens**- 13/8/11

Thank you for your comment 'I hope Budgens goes bust' – admittedly taken out of context.

There are staff in Budgens who rely on the shop for their income, and the fact that it is in the town means travelling does not need to be factored in, and there are people in the town who rely on the fact that it is where it is for the ease of reaching it to shop in.

Without going over all the arguments from before about Budgens regarding stock, staff attitude, etc., there are staff and management there, without exception, who will do their utmost to help customers.

Budgens, and Carters before it, has almost become a rite of passage for some of the youngsters in the town, for whom it is a useful first job to have, as they learn how to serve and deal with people from all areas and in all moods!

Budgens offers part time work for mums and allows them to be able to earn money at weekends and in the evenings while their children are still in school. There aren't many jobs that offer that, especially if you can't drive.

So, Name Supplied, there are a lot of people who are disappointed that Tesco won their appeal, but where did the people of the town go when the roads were blocked by snow and ice recently and even Asda, Tesco and Sainsbury's couldn't get their home shopping vans through? At that time the management tried their hardest, and succeeded, in getting extra supplies of the basics like milk and bread into the shop for the extra people who would be coming in.

There are two sides to every story and opinion. And yes, I DO work in Budgens, and I AM staying anonymous, because, as Bystander said I don't wish to "give rise to a barrage of intemperate ranting and possibly worse, reprisals".

Thank you.  
Name Supplied

---

### **Waitrose**- 13/8/11

Yes it's a pity that Waitrose could not find a suitable site- the Gloucester St location is great as it's near the town shops, but totally unsuitable as far as access and traffic is concerned- to say nothing of the conservation area and the Town Park. Seems to me that VWHDC were wrong to encourage a supermarket in this location- planning law was not interpreted correctly.

Hopefully Mr Budgens is listening- there does seem to be a desire for a Waitrose or Waitrose- like store in the Faringdon. An excellent food store where Budgens is ( or Threshers??) would add another reason for people to come to shop in Faringdon. It's a pity Budgens have had a 'wait and see' policy- seems to me much valuable time, where customer loyalty could have developed, has been lost.

Time for Budgens to act decisively I feel  
Faringdonian

---

## **Planning appeal GFA/7366/33 Sudbury House land-** 13/8/11

The appeal will take place in Abingdon on 6th September, 10am  
Permission to build houses on the Sudbury House site, Stanford Road side, was refused by VWHDC

---

## **Tesco/Waitrose-** 13/8/11

I would like to echo the remarks of the previous poster with regard to the Waitrose withdrawal of its application. It depresses me too that another opportunity to improve the fortunes of this run-down little town has been missed.

Bystander

---

## **Tesco/Waitrose-** 12/8/11

I have been following this and was disappointed to hear that Tesco have won their appeal. I object to this company and its methods. There are many reasons for this but the patronising tv adverts alone are enough to make my teeth ache.

Having now read here that Waitrose have withdrawn their application, I am feeling depressed about the future of the town. Faringdon will still need a better supermarket in the town centre. There is a traffic congestion and parking problem. The site was maybe not right and I'm not sure how that could be resolved but, without the 'Waitrose' effect, or another decent supermarket, the town centre will continue its decline towards becoming stagnant, a white elephant zone.

I believe the VWHDC, in its previous administration, was in favour of the Waitrose planning application and understood that it was an appropriate choice for Faringdon. All over the country, you will find Waitrose stores in premium locations in historic towns. The economy of these towns then goes from strength to strength as a result of the 'Waitrose effect'. Everyone, including those who do not shop there, benefits from this. The same cannot be said for Tesco.

I don't believe this is a class issue as some have tried to make out. That was a big mistake. Waitrose is generally more expensive because the food quality is better too. I understand that people may feel they cannot afford to shop there for this reason and agree that people should have a choice. But there is also the future of the town and its wider economy to be considered. You can always order from Tesco online (or Waitrose or Sainsbury's or whichever supermarket) but the best option for enlivening and regenerating the town centre would have been a Waitrose.

An unattractive Tesco building will be in keeping with an outskirts-of-town ugly industrial estate. It may provide a lower-cost alternative to Budgens for shoppers. I accept that it seems there were not sufficiently valid grounds for rejecting the original planning application, and that some people in the town, who are in Tesco's 'demographic', will be pleased by the news.

But, Tesco is not the right supermarket for Faringdon. Tesco is about as 'suited' to Faringdon as the current Budgens is. And situating a supermarket out of the town centre is still not ideal. I think the VWHDC understood this when they initially rejected the application. I know it is all supposed to be objective and strictly down to planning law, but there seems to be some subjectivity in this... FTC has let us down.

I had hoped that Waitrose would continue to pursue its application, that the planning issues with the site could be resolved. Now I can only hope that Budgens goes bust and Waitrose buys them out and redevelops the site. But, having not received the support of the town, Waitrose has probably written off Faringdon now. What a shame. As someone else has said, an M&S food shop would also bring more shoppers and business into the town centre. It needs a premium supermarket. I hope Tesco's plans will not now rule out the possibility of something better for the town centre because that is what the town centre and the town, as a whole, still needs, to boost its economy and profile.

Name Supplied

---

### **“Names Supplied”** – 12/08/2011

Why is it that when people who write to this forum don't wish to use their real names they are accused of 'hiding'? In a small town like this many people have their own personal views which may conflict with those of their neighbours, friends, or acquaintances, or have complaints about nuisance which they quite reasonably feel will give rise to a barrage of intemperate ranting and possibly, worse reprisals - maybe from perpetrators who are personally known to them - which they don't wish to be exposed to.

Most comments expressed on this forum are the result of genuinely held views. There is no reason at all why people have to give their real names for publication. It makes the views and comments no less valid that they are publicly anonymous, and the fact that people are able to express those views without revealing their identity is more likely to encourage impersonal debate.

On other internet forums contributors are positively encouraged to use nicknames for continuity, perhaps we should do that here.

Bystander

---

### **Re Lost cat** - 9/8/11

There is a poster in the window of the Red Lion of a cat that is missing. Not sure if it is the same cat but it may be worth having a look.

Name Supplied

---

### **Job Wanted** - 12/8/11

Just wanting to let those who asked know that I am the 14 year old who earlier asked for a job. Unfortunately I still do not have a job. I had sent emails to lots of local business and sadly only one replied back to me. They told me that at this current point in time they did not have anything to offer me. I am still looking for a job and as I quote from my last post, I am 14 years old, reliable and hard working. No job too small.

If you have anything please post back thankyou.

Name Supplied

---

### **Message to Too Many Cooks** - 12/8/11

I didn't know that you had some of the old Davis's lines in stock. Shall have a look in when I need something thn. Hopefully you DONT close for lunch like Davis's used to.

As for the Really Useless Shop. No response. Speaks volumes doesn't it.

Colin

---

### **Waitrose application withdrawn**- 12/8/11

I know it was inevitable that Waitrose would withdraw their application after Tesco had won their appeal, but I'm disappointed that all we will have is the choice between Tesco and Budgens and sadly I for one will still be doing my weekly shopping in Witney.

Name supplied

---

### **Waitrose application withdrawn**- 12/8/11

According to the VWHDC planning application website

[http://planning.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/publicaccess/tdc/DcApplication/application\\_searchresults.aspx?useSearchSessionSQL=true](http://planning.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/publicaccess/tdc/DcApplication/application_searchresults.aspx?useSearchSessionSQL=true) the application has been withdrawn.

Nick O'Keefe

---

### **Tesco Town** - 11/8/11

Dear name supplied

Are you the same "name supplied" who started this debate or not? Why take the plunge say who you really are, instead of hiding? The point I was making is that many people were arguing the Waitrose proposal was better because the site was edge-of-centre whereas as Tesco's was out-of-town. The article actually says that edge-of-centre supermarkets do as much damage as out-of-town ones so on those grounds there would seem to be little to choose between the two proposals.

Katrina Campbell

---

## Sponsors wanted for the 2011 Great Western Hospital abseil Challenge, 17th Sept - 11/8/11

All money will go into the GWH Charitable Fund used to purchase equipment on wards and other aspects of patient services.

Contact Anne Dowell, 01367 241753

*ED(GW) Wow- how intrepid is she - and by no means a youngster. Impressive!*

---

## Waitrose 11/00146/FUL- 11/8/11

I've just looked at the Agenda for the VWHDC Planning meeting on 17th August. It doesn't look as if the Waitrose application is being discussed- it's not on the Agenda. Of course it could come under the 'private' bit- where the public and the press are excluded.

Nothing about it on:

[http://planning.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/publicaccess/tdc/DcApplication/application\\_detailview.aspx?caseno=LFVVQBY0G300](http://planning.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/publicaccess/tdc/DcApplication/application_detailview.aspx?caseno=LFVVQBY0G300)

Has anyone heard what is happening?

Gene Webb

---

## Job Wanted - 11/8/11

I am new to Faringdon (just moved here a week ago) I currently work in Oxford City, I would like to find a role closer to home, due to children, school, work/life pressures etc...! At present I am a Practice Manager of a GP Surgery, but can turn my hand to all office duties/management.

Could anyone please advise where the best place is to look for jobs in the immediate area, and also bear me in mind if anything comes up!

Many thanks in advance

Emira Shepherd

---

## Tesco Town - 10/8/11

Thanks to Katrina for a lovely example of selective editing/reporting. The article cited by the original poster relates to the impact of the 'Big Four' on towns - ie Tesco, Sainsbury, Asda and Morrisons. So, no, you cannot conclude anything regarding Waitrose and Faringdon from that article.

Name supplied

---

## Message to Colin - 10/8/11

A message to Colin who drove to Carterton to find bug sprays etc - please do come into Too Many Cooks as we still carry most of Davis' most popular lines, sprays included. Can I just take this opportunity to say that Too Many Cooks has bulbs, lighting tubes, HG and other cleaning products, brooms, mops, brushes, batteries, bin bags, flasks, adhesives, some silicons, vacuum bags, gas canisters, screws and tacks, some electrical components (plugs/sockets etc.) kettles, toasters and irons, descalers as well as the usual cookware and we still can order everything that we used to sell in the main shop.

Pass on the word and please come in to us before you drive out of town!!!

Adam Blackwell.

---

## Cyber Suffrage - 10/8/11

Democracy is one person one vote and an email address is an individual entity. Not limiting this means you could put in 500 votes from the same address and this is definitely not democracy. A second email address is easy to set up and would give you one vote each. Depending on your email software, you could even route any incoming email for the second address to your existing address so that you don't have to monitor it .....

Retired IT Guy

---

## Job Wanted - 10/8/11

I wonder: did the young 14 year old who showed such initiative get a job?  
Name Supplied

---

## Re Lost cat - 9/8/11

If you haven't already done this, I suggest you take the cat to a vet to see if it has been "chipped". I don't think they will charge you and you might find the real owner.  
Steve Wright

---

## Lost cat - 9/8/11

Has anyone lost a black cat with four white paws and white stripe down face, in the Pye Street/Goodlake Avenue area. Looks like it's about 1 year old, very friendly, but thin !loves dogs!  
Has adopted my parents! If you think it might be yours or you know anything about it please reply on this site.  
Name Supplied

---

## Listed Buildings - 9/8/11

: <http://list.english-heritage.org.uk/>

This is English Heritage's website for Listed Buildings. (Images of England only shows buildings Listed before 2000 and must not be used for checking the current status of a Listed Building)  
Name Supplied

---

## Tesco Town - 9/8/11

Dear name supplied,  
The article you supplied the link to says "Once planning permission has been granted and another supermarket goes up, the inevitable happens: local traders suffer, and many go out of business - whether the supermarket is out of town or, in line with modern trends, closer to the centre."  
So according to the author it would make little difference if Faringdon were to become "Waitrose Town" instead - either way the smaller businesses would struggle.  
In any case no one "voted for" Tesco's - there was no referendum only a planning enquiry.  
Katrina Campbell

---

## Cyber Suffrage - 9/8/11

I registered a vote on an E-Petition .It was a quick and easy process. But when my wife tried to register her vote she couldn't as she uses the same email address.  
I mentioned this to our local MP and his reply was "Have you tried a second email address "  
It seems we have entered an age of Cyber Suffrage i.e. "ONE E-MAIL ONE VOTE"  
What happened to Democracy ?  
HGM

---

## Market Place Flower Troughs - 09/08/2011

The hanging baskets around town are very pretty, where they are watered, but the flower troughs in the Market Place look very sad and neglected. Might it be possible – if there is no-one to look after them – to remove the dead plants? Maybe the nearby shops/businesses might spare a minute or so when necessary to water them, providing they are planted up again.

They create a very poor impression, and the Market Place compares badly with Wantage, Highworth and other small towns where it looks as though some effort has been made.

Name supplied

---

## **Tesco Town** - 8/8/11

This article was in the Guardian on Saturday.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/aug/05/john-harris-fight-against-supermarkets>

Have a look at it online. The article provides food for thought. Well done all those that have voted for/want Tesco Town.

Name Supplied

---

## **Plumbers' Labour Rates** - 06/08/11

Thanks for the info, but what I really wanted to know was what sort of charge to expect for a repair. Like if they spend four hours and use a length of pipe and a couple of washers and some nuts and bolts which cost 20 pounds lets say. how much should I be reasonably be paying for the four hours labour. Not including the call out charge. I just want to know how they make up their bills.

Name supplied

---

## **Grants available**- 5/8/11

**Community groups in Abingdon**, and also the west and southeast areas of the Vale of White Horse can apply for up to £5,000 from the district council from Monday 1 August.

Money is available to support projects that promote healthier communities, help unify the community, increase opportunities for young people, improve transport, provide better housing, create green spaces and the expand leisure facilities.

### **Sports clubs encouraged to apply for Inspired Facilities funding**

Sports clubs in the Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire looking to extend or modernise their facilities are being encouraged to apply for funding.

£50million of Inspired Facilities funding, provided by the Lottery Plus Partnership, is available over the next three years, with money allocated equally over five rounds.

Applications for the first £10million start this August. The next two rounds will take place in 2012/13, with the final two in 2013/14, so there will be plenty of opportunities for clubs to apply.

See <http://faringdon.org/nvpressrelease.htm> for more details

---

## **The new 'Faringdon Local' show on Faringdon Radio** - 3/8/11

Faringdon Local' for Sunday 31st July is now out - In this show interviews with: -  
Peter Wentworth - Lord Berners' Impersonator & Bizzare magical walks of Faringdon  
Jane Wolsley - manager of Rats Castle

Music from: - Nick Ruck - Trevor Williams [www.faringdonradio.com](http://www.faringdonradio.com)

Despite what the opening page of the podcast shows ignore the 'sign in' part and go straight to RAW FEED to listen to the shows.

Sean

---

## **Plumbers' Labour Rates** - 03/08/11

Get them to quote (not estimate) you for the whole job you need doing, not an hourly rate, which may seem reasonable but will escalate if a half-day job mysteriously becomes a week-long one. Also make sure you have in writing that any additional work won't be done unless you sign off further costs. This is sensible advice for anyone employing anyone to do work on their house (and not due to bad experiences, I'm pleased to say).

Any honest trader/craftsman will be happy to agree to these terms.

Name supplied

---

## **Back to netball continues in Faringdon** - 3/8/11

Back to Netball provides a gentle introduction to the sport.

Sessions are coach led and cover basic skill development and court play. The emphasis of these sessions is on learning new skills and having fun playing Netball with friends.

Tuesdays 6.30-7.30pm from 13 September 2011 Sports Hall, Faringdon Community College, Faringdon (please note these sessions will be indoors during the autumn/winter) £3 a session.

For further details please contact Anna on 01235 540377 or [anna.capel-davies@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:anna.capel-davies@whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

---

## **This is a Community Message from Thames Valley Police.** - 2/8/11

BURGLARY – Faringdon On Sunday 31st July, between 11:00hrs and 14:30hrs, a property in London Street, Faringdon, was burgled.

Offender(s) gained entry by forcing a rear window. Property stolen included 2 safes, cash and a laptop computer.

If you have seen any suspicious looking people or vehicles in the area or have any information relating to this message, please call the police on 08458 505 505 and state you are responding to a Ringmaster message.

Alternatively if you have information but wish to remain anonymous, please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Message Ends.

---

## **5am Alarm** - 02/08/11

Does anyone know what the alarm is that goes off around 5am and then keeps repeating every few minutes. I sounds as it is coming from Park Road area.

name supplied

---

## **Plumbers' Labour Rates** - 02/08/11

Can anyone tell me what is the normal hourly rate for a plumber's labour, (not including charges for materials) ?

name supplied

---

## **Job Wanted** - 30/07/11

What great initiative from a young 14 year old. I do hope that this admirable approach will result in the positive response it so well deserves.

Name Supplied

---

### **'Wanted' - for the Youth Centre** - 28/9/11

My name is Mike Hume and I'm a youth worker at Faringdon Youth Centre. We are about to re-launch the centre and are in need of some new things.

Faringdon Youth Centre is in need of some new kit in preparation for the re-launch of the centre. We would like an Xbox 360 wireless controller and Wii wireless controller both in relatively new condition. We are also looking for some pool cues again in good condition. The young people of Faringdon would greatly appreciate these items. Please contact Mike Hume on [mike.faringdonyouthcentre@gmail.com](mailto:mike.faringdonyouthcentre@gmail.com)  
Thank you very much  
Mike Hume

### **" Writers'group** - 28/9/2011

In response to the question 'is there a writers group in Faringdon?' I'm happy to say there is! The White Horse Writers Guild is a relatively new endeavour, formed to provide mutual support and encouragement to writers in the area. Though the group has leanings towards sci-fi and fantasy, it is not a genre specific group. We're all keen students of the art and craft of writing.

Though not a professionally affiliated group we are actively seeking publication and extend an open invite to anyone who would like to join us. The group can be found via: [www.facebook.com/whitehorsetwriters](http://www.facebook.com/whitehorsetwriters) Our blog is at: [www.whitehorsetwriters.blogspot.com](http://www.whitehorsetwriters.blogspot.com)  
Or contact us Via email: [whitehorsetwriters@gmail.com](mailto:whitehorsetwriters@gmail.com)

### **Young cat- lost or free loading** - 28/9/11

A young white cat with black splodges has started hanging around my garden in Highworth Road. It keeps sneaking in my house to eat my cats' food. I am not sure if he is lost or just looking for free food. He is very friendly and seems in good condition so he has not been living rough or at least not for long. Has someone lost a cat that matches this description or does he live nearby?

If he's your cat please let me know so I can return him or at least I'll know not to let him eat at my house.  
Katrina Campbell

### **New Parent and Toddler Dance and Movement group**

A new class for children aged 2 - 5.  
Fun movement games and dance routines to music. Giving your child the chance to learn basic coordination skills, express themselves and have fun in a safe environment.  
Classes are run by a fully qualified, insured and CRB checked dance teacher.  
Every Wednesday 10am - 10.45am at Faringdon Leisure Centre.  
For more information or to book a place call on 01367 241755 or just turn up and give it a go.

### **MacMillan Cancer Support Faringdon and District Group** - 28/7/11

Thankyou so very, very much to the people of Faringdon and the surrounding area who so generously supported our coffee morning on Saturday 24th September in the Corn Exchange.

We raised the magnificent sum of £1127.72 for Macmillan Cancer Support in Oxfordshire.

We would like to thank all the people who gave raffle prizes, made cakes, gave plants, made jams, gave books and bought their teas/coffees and cakes.

We would also like to thank all the people who gave such generous donations, one of £100 and several of £10 and £5.

We are truly grateful to you all

Chris Moorhouse

Chairman

---

### Calling all Singers - 27/9/11

FARINGDON SINGERS invite you to COME AND SING MOZART'S REQUIEM AND VIVALDI'S GLORIA. With Terence Carter (conductor) and Roy Woodhams (organ).

Saturday October 15th at All Saints Church, Faringdon, with morning rehearsal from 10.00 and evening concert at 7.00. £10 including music hire. £5 audience ticket for evening concert.

For more information or to book your place please contact Joan Prichard: 01865-390191, [joan@shallows.home.co.uk](mailto:joan@shallows.home.co.uk) or download a registration form from the website: [www.faringdonsingers.org.uk](http://www.faringdonsingers.org.uk)  
Proceeds in aid of All Saints Church, Faringdon, and the Royal School of Church Music.

---

### Singawaystress - 27/9/11

I'm am going to lead a "learn a song for Macmillan Care" this Friday 30th Sept, 11 am in Barclay's Bank, Faringdon. Come along and exercise your tonsils and raise funds for Macmillan at the same time. Coffee and cake will be available to purchase to help swell the coffers.

No notes or music reading required, just your voice and enthusiasm....so come out of the closet all you budding X-factor contestants. Ten minutes of your time for a Big Society Cause.

Do send this or mention to friends who may be interested. thanks see some of you there.

Nina

---

### 15 minute club - Is this to be no more???? - 26/9/11

Name supplied

---

### Land required for donkeys - 24/9/11

I assume the donkeys used for this very worthwhile cause will be looked after, well fed, not overworked and guaranteed a comfortable old age. I'm sure that any request for help to the Vale or Town Councillors will get a very sympathetic response enabling them to live out their lives in comfort ! Whoops ! The last paragraph refers to the Donkeys of course, not the Councillors.

Name Supplied

---

### Land required for donkeys - 23/9/11

Over the past 30 years we have used our donkeys for Riding for Disabled adult driving and also for working with youngsters with special needs . We are intending to move to Faringdon in the near future and would like to hear from anyone who can help by renting us one to two acres of land.

Many thanks. Please reply to [pjsca@gmail.com](mailto:pjsca@gmail.com)

*ED(GW) Good Luck. Please tell us when it's happening- sounds fun*

---

### Scruffy Faringdon - 23/09/2011

Hi Bystander.

Even making an official complaint doesn't get you anywhere. The council say it's Verdant responsibility for street cleaning and complaining to them gets no response, as I have tried before. If enough people on here complain then maybe our collective voices will be heard.

Regards Mark

ED(GW) Hear hear- let's all do it. I gather that Verdant have been taken over by Biffa. Contact details are: [admin.vale@biffa.co.uk](mailto:admin.vale@biffa.co.uk) Tel: 03000 610610. I've been told that town bins and dog bins are emptied on Wednesdays.

## My predicament - 23/9/11

Have any TP. readers fallen for any of the scams which appear on my computer at regular intervals ?

Of course not ! We are all far too intelligent.

However this website has readers in far-flung parts of the country and those readers may not be as street wise as we are so this is my warning to them.

### My Nigerian Inheritance

I do like my computer and I surf the Internet.

I get a lot of E-mails from folk I've never met..

A charming girl called Olga would like to come and stay..

But my wife said straight away.

"That'll be the day !".

But now I'm quite excited and I'm not sure what to do..

I've been left a fortune by a man I never knew .

I did go to Nigeria fifty years ago.

so I may have met this chap in downtown old Kano..

I know I must have met him because his lawyer said.

he's left me lots of money now that he is dead..

But there seems to be a problem, or so I have been told.

as the fortune he has left me is in Krugerrands and Gold..

The lawyer says he'll send it to me in a week or two.

but I must insure it and here's what I must do..

The lawyer will arrange things and what he thinks is best.

is I just send ten thousand pounds and he will do the rest..

I stay awake just thinking what a lucky man I am.

But my wife is cynical.

**She says that it's a scam !**

THATMAN

## New show on Faringdon Radio - 23/9/11/11

The next show of Faringdon Local on Faringdon Radio (sponsored by [www.mammothandthedrum.com](http://www.mammothandthedrum.com)) is now out.

In this show interviews with:

Joe Moore - talking about the Cotswold voices

Steve Mundy about Solar panelled electricity

Music from: Amy's Ghost

Joe Moore - The Yearning

Nudybronque

[www.faringdonradio.com](http://www.faringdonradio.com)

## WANTED! for Cinderella - 22/9/11

Fairies, ugly sisters, courtiers, frogs, etc., for Faringdon Dramatic Society's production of Cinderella.

If you are interested in acting or working backstage join us at Faringdon United Church Read-through on Monday

10th October at 7.30pm Auditions on Thursday 13th October from 7pm

Anyone from Year 5/6 upwards welcome.

For more information contact Debbie Lock on 01367 242507 or [www.faringdondramatic.org.uk](http://www.faringdondramatic.org.uk)

## Macmillan Coffee morning - 22/9/11

You are invited to the Macmillan Cancer Support Big Coffee Morning on Sat 24th Sept. Corn Exchange

Faringdon.Cakes, Preserves, Card stall, Books, Neal's Yards products, Quirky Bags and Bunting.

The Apple Quilters from Kinaston Baquize will be show casing some of their work.Raffle with prizes donated by

Homeland gardens machines, Costcutters supermarket and many more private donations  
We are celebrating 100yrs of Macmillan support please come and join us.  
Committee Member. Ann Strowger

### Scruffy Faringdon – 21/09/2011

If you actually want answers from the town council, district council, or indeed, any \*\*\*\*\* council with regard to their responsibilities, then you really should write to them. This forum is not a post box for the local authority, and no-one on any council will reply to an unofficial complaint posted on here. I agree entirely with you about the town centre looking neglected, especially re. our empty and derelict-looking flower containers when compared with the colourful and well tended displays in other nearby towns.

Bystander

### Rats Castle - 21/9/11

Went to Rats Castle to experience the supper menu. I had the most amazing bowl of pasta with a glass of Pinot Grigio for £10 absolutely superb value for money and makes a nice change not to have turn the oven on! I would recommend this to anyone.

Jean

### Darts teams in Faringdon - 21/9/11

I would like to find out if there are any darts teams in Faringdon that are looking for players? Before moving to the area, I played darts in the Abingdon league for a few years, and would like to continue playing in a local pub team. Cheers, Ian.

### Give a £ for Uganda - 21/9/11

Next month a group of students from the sixth form at Faringdon Community College will be travelling to Uganda to visit their partner school, Kazo Hill College. They have been supporting Kazo Hill for nearly a decade now and every year they visit to run some activities and also to hand over a big fat cheque, which goes towards building projects, books and equipment for the school. Uganda is the 27th poorest country and education is vital to help the kids there have a brighter future, so the money is really appreciated.

As well as running lots of fundraising activities in school, every 6th former going on the trip has been challenged to raise £100 themselves to add to the fund. My daughter Katie has built a website, [www.giveapoundforuganda.co.uk](http://www.giveapoundforuganda.co.uk) where, in exchange for a pound (or more if you wish!) you can have your business name, logo and some blurb on the front page of the site, as well as a backlink to your own website. Alternatively, you can promote anything you want - local organisation, charity, sports club, whatever - all for just £1!

If you have a pound going spare and fancy helping out a school in Uganda, please visit [www.giveapoundforuganda.co.uk](http://www.giveapoundforuganda.co.uk) - and thanks from Katie in advance  
Smiley Alison

### Re Rats Castle - 20/9/11

Any reviews of the RATS CASTLE since its reincarnation? Silence is golden, or is it?  
The Consultant.

ED(GW) See <http://www.thefoodplace.co.uk/restaurants/the-rats-castle-in-faringdon-34154/> and <https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Rats-Castle-Bistro/179074268834552> to leave comments

### Re Why is Faringdon so scruffy - 20/9/11

Really disappointed that only two people decided to comment on faringdon looking so scruffy, (thanks mark and thatman – love the poem!!, come on you faringdonians where is your pride!?? I am not a local (not been here really long enough, only 20 years!) but PLEASE can someone from the council/ town council, vale of white horse council ?

any b----- council!! let me know and i am sure lots of people, what are we paying for when we send our hard earned money to the vale for our council taxes.?? Why do we not have some money put aside to keep our town clean!! I just don't get it, sorry to sound naive you council people but what are you doing with our money!! Yes I understand we have to pay for policing, education, street lighting blah di blah, but please are you blind??? Look at the town, our lovely town looks so unloved, do any of you live here?? I don't want to sound like a grumpy old lady (not old!!- still working!!) just need someone to take a long hard look and do something!! No wonder we didn't get waitrose!!  
Eve

---

### Events - 20/9/11

I wish more event organisers would use the What's On page on this site to post their forthcoming events. Also, if cancelled events could be signalled or removed from the latter - I don't think there has been a 15 Minute Club at The Red Lion for at least a couple of months.

Sheila

---

### Writers'group - 20/9/2011

For future reference, consider the Oxford University Department of Continuing Education courses if you haven't done so already. I know that this term the relevant writing courses are already full, but these courses offer high quality tuition and guidance from genuine professional writers and experienced tutors and they are not affiliated to any commercial organisations.

HT

---

### Writers'group/poetry group - 17/9/2011

Alison

There isn't a group in Faringdon. Yet there ought to be considering the U3A, etc have an interest in reading books, plus we've had poetry contests on line. However. If anybody wants to write anything there are plenty of sites which will use up all your precious time. I can suggest one website though. It is free to join. Secure. Real Names used. And with real people. The site is [www.zoetrope.com](http://www.zoetrope.com) and is superior to all the others. You mention a novel. It is possible to post a complete novel or chapters one at a time for feedback. The capacity is massive and expert advice always there from its members. Any time of the day.

I'd suggest you join. On there is another person struggling to write their novel. Not easy. Sometimes it's not fun either.

So go ahead and join . Then me for further YEO infor and thing that might help.

Best Cleveland W. Gibson

Award winner [www.celj](http://www.celj)

Author, writer, poet.

---

### Live music at the Crown - 17/09/2011

that is correct the rock night is scheduled for Friday 23rd Sept. it is part of the M.A.D.D. music sessions @ The Crown.

See The Advertiser for Dates.

Sam Prince

---

### Community Message from Thames Valley Police. - 17/9/11

Thames Valley Police is inviting the public to have their say as part of a review of front counter services across the Force. We would like to invite people to take part in the consultation process by completing the electronic survey (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/policestationopeningsurvey>) or contacting us by email ([counterserviceschangeproject@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:counterserviceschangeproject@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk))

Full details regarding the rationale behind the review can be found on [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk)

Message Ends.

---

### Thankyou from the Scouts - 17/9/11

Thank you to all who bought tickets, paid admission, came, sang along with, danced, bought hotdogs and donated money at the Scouting with Boogie Me gig in the Old Crown in Faringdon.  
Thanks also to Boogie Me, DJ Citizen Cane and to Lisa and Steve at the Old Crown.  
The final figure we will be banking is £810.02! Brilliant fun and brilliant gig.  
From Faith Carpenter, Fiona Merrick, and Beverley Sharps 1st Faringdon Scouts Fundraising Team

### **Library Service Consultation** - 16/09/2011

Have your say on the future of our library service! Forms are available in the library or at Faringdon Community and Tourist Information Centre Forms must be submitted to Oxfordshire County Council by 30/9/2011

Sally Thurston Faringdon TIC

### **The Faringdon Calendar** - 16/09/2011

The Faringdon calendar 2012 is now in stock at Faringdon Community and Tourist Information centre priced £7.50  
The calendar contains beautiful views of our wonderful town and surrounding countryside.

Sally Thurston Faringdon TIC

### **Dog Walking** - 15/09/2011

Hi Welcome - always nice to have a new friendly face on the dog-walking circuit. The most popular places are Folly Hill (as the previous poster said) and also the field just past the allotments between Canada Lane and Highworth Road (someone can probably tell us what its name is). Either place is great providing your dog is sociable, if not they might be a bit hard work for her! There are loads of dogs in Faringdon and we even have a coffee shop that lets in well-behaved dogs (and their owners) and an excellent Dog Hotel on London St. Hope you all enjoy it here.

Andrea (and Bailey)

### **Dog Walking** - 15/09/2011

lots of lovely places and I'm sure when you get here you find lots more. Folly hill lots of dog owners walk their dogs there great for socialisation, Humpty Hill near Orchard Hill housing estate. A lovely long walk down past Charney Kennels and also Bradbury Clump, you will have to drive there well you can walk but you can then walk for hours. Hope that helps and if you see a wired haired fox terrier on a lead thats me:)

Denise

### **Dog Walking** - 15/09/2011

I take my young son for walks and my neighbours walk their dog at Badbury clump, just off the Highworth road. It's a National Trust area. There is also the folly. Just please remember to pick up any mess your dog may leave please. In good weather the views from both places are very nice.

Regards Mark

### **Dog Walking** - 15/09/2011

Welcome Pete and Donna. Welcome Roxy too.  
I'm sure you'll enjoy Faringdon but here's my point of view.  
When you live in Faringdon you're never far away from a car free area where your dog can play.  
But when you've finished playing and are departing from the scene I hope there won't be any sign that your dog has been.

THATMAN

### Live music at the Crown - 14/09/2011

I've heard a rumour that The Crown are having a live music Rock Night on 23rd September 2011. Is that correct?

Mike

### Dog Walking - 14/09/2011

Hello, My wife, myself and my very playful boxer dog Roxy are hopefully moving to Faringdon within the next 6 months. Having visited a few times we love the place however we were wondering if anyone could point us in the right direction for an area where we can take Roxy for a walk/run. Would love to find her somewhere to play off the lead which was also safe from cars etc Many thanks for reading and we look forward to meeting you all soon. Kind regards

Pete, Donna & Roxy

### Lost Monkey - 14/09/2011

...Well not a real one but a very precious one to a 2 year old. Lost on Park Road on Wednesday 14th September between Second 2 None and Old Station Nursery. We'd be eternally grateful to see him reunited and make a sad little boy very happy again! Thank you

Debbie Pickford

### Faringdon Radio - 13/09/2011

(sponsored by Mammoth and the Drum [www.mammothandthedrum.com](http://www.mammothandthedrum.com))

A new show of Faringdon Local is now out - in fact it was out on Sunday i just forgot to tell everyone...although looking at the stats quite a few have already found it. In this show: Erik Cornish - Financial Healer Ann Strowger & Linda Barber - Macmillan Cancer Support Music from: E4 Echo; The Black Hats, The Graceful Slicks

**Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**

Sean

### Is there a local writers'group? - 13/19/2011

I've got a novel or two in my head and am hoping to get them on paper in the coming months. Does anyone know of a writers group locally? There seem to be groups in Abingdon and Oxford but one in Faringdon or nearby would be much better!

Best wishes, Alison

### Theft! - 13/09/2011

How gutting that some pathetic person has stolen the beautiful roses from our front garden, actually bringing a knife or secators to achieve this feat. They were there for all to enjoy and were looked after with love and care.

Geoffrey & Carolyn

### Rugbytots - 10/9/11

Rugbytots is now on every Sat morning at Faringdon Leisure centre

Rugbytots is the first of its kind; a specifically designed play programme using the multiple skills of Rugby to create a fun and enjoyable environment whilst developing basic core motor skills

Places are limited so please go to the website for more information and to book a space [www.rugbytots.co.uk](http://www.rugbytots.co.uk)

## **Newbury Show tickets are on sale now in Faringdon Community and Tourist Information Centre**

Adults £14 Concessions £12 Child £6.

There are also several places on the Faringdon Community Bus trip to Witney on September 15th Tickets are available at the info centre priced at £5

Sally Thurston

The Corn Exchange Cornmarket Faringdon SN7 7JA 01367 242191 [www.faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk)

## **Faringdon Art Society Exhibitions - 10/9/11**

This month in our rotating exhibitions we have some excellent work by Helen Pakeman (<http://bit.ly/obr83G>) in the Portwell Angel and by Seija Wentworth (<http://bit.ly/p3EKh7>) in the White Horse Bookshop.

Please drop in to support these local artists.

Tivon Rivers

## **Peter Wentworth's Bizarre Walk, 16th and 17th September- 7/9/11**

This is splendid - brilliant magic, witty commentary, great fun - and at the end , almost frightening! Don't miss it ! Only Faringdon could host this.

We may have problems but we are a very special town.

Margaret Barker

## **Lost blanket/comforter - 8/9/11**

Hello I am hoping someone can help.

My 2yr old has lost her favourite blankie (child's comforter). We were in Faringdon town centre on Wednesday 7th between 3.30 and 4. It is a small very off white soft child's blanket. It is very well loved (a bit mucky, stained etc) we have retraced our steps 3 times and can not find it anywhere.

We were parked in budgens carpark and walked along Southampton St (Barclay's) if you have seen it or picked it up, please let me know. We have checked with TI and will check with the police station tomorrow.

Thank you

Alice Teasdale

## **1 'F' or 2 - 8/9/11**

Re. Mr. O'Keefe's comment may I reiterate that we are not the same person, he spells his name with one F and mine is spelt with 2 F's. It has been and no doubt will continue to be a source of constant mis-spelling not only in this forum but on almost every official form I have received. These have to be returned and are amended with a letter of apology addressed to Mr. O'Keefe !!!!

The use of the 2 F's is the traditional Irish spelling of our surname. The Gaelic spelling is O Caoimh, and other variants include: O'Keefe, Keefe, Keeffe, Keefer, Keiffe.

Stella's name is usually misspelt as Kendrick !

Kind Regards Nick O'Keefe & Stella Kenrick

## **Mobile Tyre fitter - 8/9/11**

My name is Paul, i have lived in Faringdon for 30 years.

Three years ago i set up my own business called ALL TYRES PLUS (mobile tyre fitting service).

I advertise in local shops and have a lot of local loyal customers who are happy to recommend me (thank you all).

As a small family run business i am able to compete with most major tyre retailers.

For example the cost of a 155/65/14 (budget tyre) would be £39.58p fully inclusive price (local area ) 08/09/2011.

I can supply and fit all leading brands of tyre as well as economy brands at your home or work ( local area only) at no extra charge.

Feel free to call me, a quote is free.

Mobile: 07723548863

---

---

## **Last chance this year for Lord Berners' Bizarre Magical Walk, 16th and 17th September** - 7/9/11

Last chance this season - enjoy the fun:

Go for a walk around Faringdon with the good Lord Berners, as portrayed by local raconteur Peter Wentworth. Hear his stories as you go, and who knows what magic may occur?

Walk designed for adults, starting at the Old Town Hall at 6.30pm.

Under 16s to be accompanied by an adult

Tickets £5 ( to include a Pink Pigeon badge) at the Tourist Information Centre, Corn Exchange, Corn Market, Faringdon. 01367 242191

---

## **Not Mr O'Keefe** - 6/9/11

I would like to point out that, with a slightly unusual surname, I am not the Mr O'Keefe of the town council.  
Mr O'Keefe (T)

---

## **New shops in Faringdon** - 7/9/11

A party shop in Coxwell St where the hairdressers used to be  
Old Fish shop in the cornmarket - I think is to become a hairdresser  
Gene Webb

---

## **Pure Me** - 6/9/11

Sue, if you read my previous comments you will see that I said "Any shop closing is a matter for concern to the town". As to, and here I quote your comment, "The sad fact is, however, that each time a retaliatory comment is made one by one of our councillors, it simply demonstrates their basic lack of understanding of commercial interest relating to retail," I answer you thus; as a very successful retailer in another town (Stow-On-The-Wold) I do fully understand the principles of retailing. This is not only shown by my balance sheets but by the comments our customers leave both on line and in our visitors book. Stella and I run a second hand and antiquarian book shop which we opened 3 years ago in the teeth of a recession, at the time of opening there were two other such shops in Stow, they are now both closed. This is not as a result of our trading but of their failure to understand retailing in the 21st Century, incidentally we don't sell on line only face to face in our shop.

Before anyone asks why Stow and not Faringdon, here are a few reasons: Stow-On-The-Wold attracts 150,000 visitors (or potential customers) a year, parking is free in the Market Square for 2 hours, Tesco moved to the outskirts of town a few years ago (with all the attendant hand wringing that Faringdon showed) and has made Stow a magnet for shoppers from outside villages, it also has no objection to shoppers using it's free car park while they walk into town to shop at the many interesting and attractive specialty shops in the town centre (including ours).

As to your points re. weeding, floral displays etc. I totally agree with you, and yes the Town Council does lobby the Vale & County for such improvements.

However I make no apologies for "condemning a retailer for their opinion" when that opinion is based on a theoretical idea that didn't come to pass. The reality is that Pure Me isn't closing because Waitrose decided not to continue with their flawed planning application but because not enough customers purchased enough goods to make it a viable trading concern. These facts, however unpalatable they may be to some, are nonetheless facts and if you want to make a success at retailing, you need to fully research your potential market, your competition, and your potential customer needs and wants; you then need to offer a product package that meets those needs.

I know that your shop has done this and like mine is a successful and vibrant business but don't shoot the messenger when they point out that not all business's are a success and try to attribute the reasons for failure to some nebulous idea that in reality was never going to happen.

My comments in this and my previous posting were my own and not necessarily those of the Town Council, I was and am writing as both a retailer and consumer only.

Kind Regards

Nick O'Keefe & Stella Kenrick

---

## **Pure Me** - 6/9/11

---

The only likely response we are likely to see on here from our Town Councillors is 'If you don't like what we are doing as a Town Council, then you are welcome to stand as a Town Councillor yourself'. This is the standard, helpful reply they level at any criticism of their 'work'.

I have been appalled at the responses from individual Councillors on this forum over the past few weeks. Firstly, Ms Boulton's mean spirited and rude response to our new resident's mistake in calling Faringdon a village. If that is as constructive as she can be, then there is really no hope.

And now Mr O'Keefe's response on the closure of Pure Me. Surely, the owner of Pure Me is the best judge of what might have been good for her business. The arrival of Waitrose would have been great for Faringdon and in my opinion (and the opinion of many others), the economic benefits and footfall it would have generated to our struggling, shabby town centre would have more than compensated for extra traffic on Gloucester Street. I just can't believe that our Town Council chose to object to the proposals.

Oh well – it's history now! Tesco is coming to Park Road. We just need to accept it. Let's just watch further retail businesses close and let our Councillors put their efforts into giving other new residents the great Faringdon welcome!!

Name Supplied

---

### Pure Me - 5/9/11

Reading the comments relating to the closure of Pure Me, I was saddened to read the comment of Mr O'Keefe, one of our town councillors. The closure of this shop means that the owner has lost her livelihood and the girls who worked there have lost their jobs. I can perfectly understand Miranda's comment regarding Waitrose. The sad fact is, however, that each time a retaliatory comment is made one by one of our councillors, it simply demonstrates their basic lack of understanding of commercial interest relating to retail. Like us or not, retailers are the 'face' of any town. Nothing makes a town look more unappealing than streets full of empty shops. We have been very fortunate compared to Abingdon and Wantage in that the number of empty shops in Faringdon have been relatively few. I do, however, fear that without a concerted campaign to attract shoppers to our specialist shops, the closure of Pure Me will just be the tip of the iceberg as our shopping centre is eventually moved to the 'geographic' centre of Faringdon which is apparently Park Road (one of Mr O'Keefe's hobby horses).

Isn't it time that our councillors, instead of leaping onto Talking Points to argue that we are a town not a village or to condemn a retailer for their opinion, actually gave a little thought to the impression they are making to the world both inside and outside Faringdon. Why don't the Town Council lobby the VWHDC regarding the lack of weeding. Why didn't the Town Council make any effort to organise something for the Community for the Royal Wedding? Why don't we have floral displays like other towns? Come to think of it, why do we seldom see any of our Town Councillors shopping in Faringdon? The Localism Bill means that more power is now being handed to our Town Council. We can only hope that future decisions and opinions are made and expressed with slightly less defensive and emotional knee jerk reactions than the more vociferous councillors currently display and that they take the time to fully understand the dynamics which make up a balanced society.

Sue Lund Cariad Bride

---

### Pure Me closing - 5/9/11

Lack of a Waitrose was presumably not the primary reason for the closure. However, having a high quality, up-market supermarket close to the old town centre would have undoubtedly attracted the kind of customers, from the surrounding villages, who now shop not in Faringdon, but in Witney Wantage, or Abingdon; and who are more likely than the present local town population to encourage and patronise Pure Me, and shops like it. Were Waitrose a possibility, it may have been worth while hanging on in the hope that the town's fortunes would be revived.

Tesco will not achieve this, we shall simply have more of the same, - for the foreseeable future – but a bit farther out of the town centre than formerly.

Bystander

---

### Re Why is Faringdon so scruffy - 5/9/11

I totally agree Eve. If a place looks like a tip, then some people will treat it like a tip. It does start at the top with the council.

I cannot remember the last time I saw a road sweeper, either on foot or a vehicle. This summer, the weeds growing in the gutters and cracks in the pavements in my road have reached knee high at times. This is despite me removing some when time permits.

I know that money is tight but it doesn't cost much to go round spraying the weeds, and in the long term it will save money as the weed roots left unchecked will cause more damage to the roads and pavements. In fact if the council gave me the stuff, I would do my road every year myself. It is a disgrace, and complaining to verdant who run the "street cleaning" services for the council will get you nowhere as I found out. I still have the email complaint number, which four months later has not been acted upon.

As for pot holes, don't get me started.

Regards Mark

---

## Re Chinese Takeaway - 5/9/11

Hello and welcome to Faringdon – I hope that you will be very happy living here.

Both the Chinese takeaways here are good but if you don't mind driving (about five miles towards Witney) then Mark's Kitchen at Bampton is worth the trip.

Tina

---

## Thisman from Thatman - 4/9/11

Our little town is scruffy and no-one can deny it.

I can't supply an answer. I wouldn't even try it.

There isn't any civic pride for sorry to relate  
we've let the slobs take over and now it is too late  
to educate the teenagers who think that it is cool  
to leave a trail of rubbish as they saunter off to school.

I know it isn't mainly kids who think that it's OK  
to drop their filthy ciggies outside the pubs all day.

Why don't the traders in the town respect their bit of street ?

Can it be so difficult to keep it clean and neat ?

I'm sure there is an answer explaining what to do

Unfortunately. Thisman..

**I haven't got a clue**

Thatman

---

## Why is Faringdon so scruffy - 4/9/11

I wonder: does Thatman have any ideas?

Thisman

---

## Why is Faringdon so scruffy - 2/9/11

I have lived in Faringdon for over 20 years and seen the ups and downs of the town, but at the moment Faringdon looks so neglected, especially in the square, People harp on about the lack of tourists but please just look around you!! There are weeds everywhere, especially around the church walls. I have looked at Wantage, Fairford, Shrivenham and funnily they seem to have pride in their towns and flowers are lovingly planted around their town! Why can their councils look after their towns and for some reason we are at the bottom of the pile.?

Don't get me wrong, I love Faringdon, but I feel so sad that it looks so neglected.

Can someone from the council tell me why?? Am I on my own here or have other residents noticed!!

Eve from Faringdon

ED(GW) If you email [waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk) they will take action

---

## Pure Me closure - 3/9/11

Dear Siobhan, ok no too expensive or organic comments from me, but just who on earth does the Pure Me owner

think she is kidding dragging Waitrose into her argument for closure? The simple reason a business ceases to trade is lack of customers. This shop was open long before the Waitrose fiasco first reared it's ugly head. Any shop closing is a matter for concern to the town but lets be realistic if you cannot attract enough customers to spend enough money in your store, you will starve! Or close as is the case here.

Kind Regards Nick O'Keeffe & Stella Kenrick

---

### **Re Chinese Takeaway** - 2/9/11

All I was looking for when I posted here was some friendly advice, the question I asked had nothing to do with the size of Faringdon and seeing as I have just moved here I was unaware of the bother I could have caused by referring to Faringdon as a village. I thought the people here would be helpful and friendly and so far they have been lovely but you seemed to have proved this wrong with your very warm welcome Jane Boulton so thank you for that.

Thank you to the person that posted the cheery poem about Faringdon , it was great !

Name supplied

---

### **This is a Community Message from Thames Valley Police.** - 2/9/11

Burglaries – Faringdon and Shrivenham

On Friday 2nd September, between 02:00 and 07:00hrs, two properties in Park Road, Faringdon, were burgled.

Offender(s) gained entry via insecure front windows, property stolen included a wallet, phone and Ipad.

There was another burglary on 23rd August in Palmer Road, where entry was gained via an insecure front door and a laptop and blackberry were stolen.

Overnight between 1st and 2nd September a property in Stainswick Lane, Shrivenham, was burgled. Entry was gained via an insecure window and a handbag and silver items were stolen.

Please be extra vigilant and remember to secure all doors and windows at night and when going out. If you have seen any suspicious looking people or vehicles in the area or have any information relating to this message, please call the police on 08458 505 505 and state you are responding to a Ringmaster message.

Alternatively if you have information but wish to remain anonymous, please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Message Ends.

---

### **Parking** - 2/9/11

Counted 10 cars parked in London Street today. No wonder it can take a while getting to the Market Place! And if you do go down the London Street overnight, you will find at least 1 sometimes 2 cars parked there ALL NIGHT.

Could have sworn that double yellows meant NO Parking.

Swan Lane at the moment is also operating in a cavalier fashion as to the parking regulations as well. Where are the Wardens!!!!

Colin and published. Nothing to hide.

---

## IMPORTANT CHANGES TO FEED-IN TARIFFS - Monday 30th October

There was an announcement in Government this morning about proposed changes to the FITs .

They have announced that a consultation has been launched on Phase I and will run until 23 December 2011. Although the consultation is set to run until 23rd December it looks highly likely that they will be hitting any installation not completed before 12 December by the lower tariffs.

The proposals are subject to an eight-week consultation period. If implemented, they would introduce a new tariff for schemes up to 4kW in size of 21.0p/kWh – down from the current 43.3p/kWh. Reduced rates are also proposed for schemes between 4kW and 250kW, to ensure that those schemes receive a consistent rate of return.

Under the proposals, the new tariffs would apply to all new solar PV installations with an eligibility date on or after 12 December 2011. Such installations would receive the current tariff before moving to the lower tariffs on 1 April 2012. Consumers who already receive a FIT will see their existing payments unchanged, and those with an eligibility date on or before 11 December 2011 will receive the current rate.

You can find more details here:

<http://www.decc.gov.uk/publications/basket.aspx?file&filepath=11%2fmeeting-energy-demand%2frenewable-energy%2f3373-solar-pv-consumer-guide.pdf&minwidth=true#basket>

You may be considering solar PV - or you may know of friends/neighbours who are considering it and have already done a bit of homework - or got quotes.

It would be a real shame for you/them if you're not fully aware of the new deadlines as outlined above.

You may THINK that they have got until April. It now turns out that you probably haven't .

Sjoerd

---

### Tip Closure - 31/10/11

A cardboard box is not sufficient when you need to get rid of rubble, ceramic tiles, electrical goods or a mattress. These are all items I have taken to Stanford in the last month. At least there are plenty of laybys for future use!.  
Mark

---

### Double Yellow lines - what are they for? - 31/10/11

I agree with the comments about the double yellow lines in Faringdon, I haven't lived in the area long but have never lived anywhere before where the road laws are so blatantly disregarded. Generally people here seem to consider themselves law abiding but think nothing of continually parking on double yellow lines or the pavements putting lives at risk and causing traffic disruption. I can only assume there are a number of very lazy people living locally that have no regard for others, I hope it doesn't take a serious injury or loss of life before the Council or Police do something about it.  
Name Supplied

---

### Crimestoppers warning - Postal Scam 31/10/11

Crimestoppers has recently received a number of enquiries regarding a chain email warning people about a postal scam that could leave you £315 out of pocket.

Follow the link for more information: <http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org/fraud/types-of-fraud/common-scams/postal-scam-email-from-parcel-delivery-service-65455465>

Name Supplied

---

### Tip Closure - 29/10/11

Putting out your large recycling cardboard on the pavement sounds fine, unless it's raining, and/or, like us, you usually have a row of cars parked on the pavement 18 - 24 inches from your front door

name supplied

---

### Transport to Witney - 29/10/11

Depends what time you need to go there and back, but (a) take the 66 from Faringdon to Botley, get off at Minns Industrial estate, (bottom end of Botley Road) then take the S1 to Witney.

OR (b) you can get the 66 to Kingston Bagpuize and then the RH Transport X15 to Witney. The buses stop at Market Place Witney but not sure about the hospital

The journeys take a - about an hour fifteen mins, and b - about an hour

The timetables are on the internet, just do a search for the routes - Stagecoach 66, Stagecoach S1, RH Transport X15

Name supplied

---

### Faringdon to Witney by bus - 28/10/11

Does anybody have an idea of how I can get to Witney hospital from Faringdon by public transport on a regular basis ?

Thank you

Name supplied

---

### Solar energy plans for leisure centres in the Vale.

Two leisure centres in the Vale of White Horse could benefit from a large new investment in solar energy under new proposals to be considered by the district council later this year.

The White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre in Abingdon and Faringdon Leisure Centre have been earmarked as the two best sites for the technology.

Installation of solar photovoltaic (Solar PV) panels at public sites would provide an overall reduction in energy bills, but the council would also benefit from financial returns in the form of government subsidies for renewable energy.

The government scheme pays 43 pence for every unit of solar electricity (kWh) generated plus an additional 3 pence per kWh for any surplus energy created, which is fed back into the national grid. These payments are guaranteed for 25 years and will increase in line with inflation.

The opportunity to join the current government tariff ends in March 2012 and a replacement scheme is expected to be less generous, so the council are keen to benefit from the higher rates by implementing the plans as soon as practicable.

Matthew Barber, Leader of the Vale of White Horse District Council, said: "This promises to be an exciting

investment for The Vale; not only does it make sound financial sense through the energy savings and from the government tariff, but it also reinforces the council's commitment to driving down energy costs for the long term."

The council is set to invest £289,000 into the scheme from its capital contingency budgets.

---

## Halloween at the Folly Tower 31st October - 27/10/11

18.00-20.00 , Adults £2, Under 16s 50p, Under 11s free

Climb the Folly Tower at night.

It will be Spooky! Spooky lights, spooky people, weird things The scary character Jigsaw will be there to greet you! For more information visit [www.faringdonfolly.co.uk](http://www.faringdonfolly.co.uk), email [enquiries@faringdonfolly.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@faringdonfolly.org.uk) or call 0845 475 8386.

Bring a torch

Adults £2, Under 16s 50p, Under 11s free

---

## Martyn Joseph is performing in Faringdon - 27/10/11

.....on his upcoming UK tour having just returned from yet another successful Canadian tour.

This is his first visit to the town, and the only one in Oxfordshire.

[www.martynjoseph.net](http://www.martynjoseph.net)

**November 24th 8pm. Corn Exchange. Tickets £15.00 available from Faringdon Community & Tourist Info,** Gloucester Street or <http://www.imageacoustic.com>

If you haven't seen him before here's a snippet to give you some idea of the man and his music :

'In a year that marks 31 years in the business, Martyn proves that there's nothing predictable about his gigs – only that they can make you laugh, cry, get you thinking, leave you reeling.

An acoustic artist with an electrifying spontaneity, this colossally gifted and gracious Welshman has five Top 50 hits to his name (including Dolphins Make Me Cry and Please Sir) and has been in demand on both sides of the Atlantic for over two decades.

Touring both solo and with the likes of Ani DiFranco, Art Garfunkel and Jools Holland he has won fans everywhere with his uncanny melting pot of material which ranges from rock to blues, jazz, Americana and even, "funk folk"!

A mean guitar player with a powerful voice, Bob Harris has praised the "outstanding lyrical intelligence" of his songs while he was voted Best Male Artist in the BBC Welsh Music Awards. Shades of Springsteen, John Mayer and Bruce Cockburn there may be - but Joseph is unique and no two shows are ever the same.

He has an enviable high level connectivity with his audience whether it's an arts centre in his native Wales or a 5,000 strong crowd at the Royal Albert Hall.

"Britain's best kept secret.....a challenging songwriter and compelling and courageous live performer – MOJO

"He is one of our most intelligent writers. He gets better and better like the finest of wines" - Bob Harris,

BBC Radio 2 "Songs of social commentary as much as love, with a rootsy sensibility" – Time Out

"A depth, resonance and emotional punch which belies comparison" – Q

"One of the most charismatic and electrifying performers in Britain today" –Tom Robinson, BBC 6

---

## Stanford Tip Closure - 27/10/11

I'm told ( a suggestion only) that the reason for the closure is that now we have wheelie bins, there is not so much need for the recycling site. I cannot see the logic in that. Before wheelie bins we were able to put out our recycling items in boxes. There are a significant number of people who must use bags for their rubbish collections, These are small, and inadequate for any large or awkward items, and perilously flimsy for glass. Large cardboard boxes will not fit in without tearing the bags and before anyone helpfully suggests that we hack them up and flatten them – it has been tried on occasions by me, to no avail. Garden refuse is another problem. Some of us have nowhere to make a compost heap, and I for one do not wish to have to collect my garden rubbish into council bags/bins and pay for them to take it. I prefer the convenience of putting the rubbish into my own large garden refuse containers and taking it away myself at my own expense.

The nearest tips at present apart from Stanford are at Drayton and Redbridge. Once again it seems that people who live here in Faringdon and environs are going to be disadvantaged. When I go to the tip I would say that is very well used, I have never seen it when there has been no-one else there but me, and frequently there are long queues waiting.

Whoever made the decision to close this facility no doubt will be congratulating themselves on saving us a penny a month each on our council tax. Quite frankly, when I have to pay out ten to twenty pounds or so for petrol to a visit a distant tip, it will be occurring to me that a better, nearer place to deposit my rubbish will be in front of the half empty, under used, splendid council offices that we are currently funding.

Bystander

*ED(GW) VWHDC site says 'Please remember any extra recycling can be put out for collection next to your bin in either clear or opaque sacks, carrier bags or cardboard boxes. Covers the big cardboard boxes.*

---

### **Stanford Tip Closure** - 26/10/11

Don't worry there will be a better service! You just leave your old TV , Washing machine etc. in the nearest lay-by and the local council will call and collect it.

Name supplied

---

### **Stanford Tip Closure** - 26/10/11

Stanford road tip closure, oh yes what a great idea,NOT. What is wrong with these people? whether or not it's 2014 if it closes where do we take our recycling then?

Progress Nah

Madness yep.

Name supplied.

---

### **Faringdon Local new show out on Faringdon Radio**- 26/10/11

In this show:

- Faringdon Youth Centre FAZE
- Faringdon Shoe Box christmas appeal

Music from:

- The Original Rabbit Foot Spasm Band
- The Fixed - Johnny Lightning & The Bastard Rats
- The Black Hats

[www.faringdonradio.com](http://www.faringdonradio.com)

---

### **Hope and Aid Direct and the Brighton Marathon** - 26/10/11

Thank you so, so much for your generous donations of support to Hope & Aid Direct. Our winter convoy went extremely well; and it has been really good to see how your contributions have helped hundreds of families once again.

If anyone would like to take part in Brighton Marathon for Hope & Aid Direct on April 15 2012, please let me know as soon as possible (by 31 Oct).

Sarah Oliver

[mail@saraholiver.freemove.co.uk](mailto:mail@saraholiver.freemove.co.uk)

---

## **Community Message from Thames Valley Police.** - 25/10/11

Burglary – Hawthorn Road, Faringdon

Between 15th and 25th October, a property in Hawthorn Road, Faringdon, was burgled. Offender(s) gained entry via a rear window and stole jewellery.

If you have seen any suspicious looking people or vehicles in the area or have any information relating to this message, please call the police on 08458 505 505 and state you are responding to a Ringmaster message. Alternatively if you have information but wish to remain anonymous, please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

---

## **Thames Valley goes live with 101** - 25/10/11

Thames Valley Police is due to go live with 101, the new national single non-emergency number on 14 November 2011, which will replace the 0845 8 505 505 number. Both numbers will run side by side until the end of March, but if demand for the 0845 8 505 505 number drops it may be discontinued earlier.

Calls to 101 (from both landlines and mobile networks) cost 15 pence per call, no matter what time of day the call is made, or the duration of the call.

Everyone calling the police for non-emergency matters will now know exactly how much a call will cost them, and can be assured of equal access whether they are on a pay-as-you-go mobile or a home landline.

The routing will be based on the same system as 999 calls. If a caller is using a landline the routing will be based on the caller's postcode and the call will be directed to the same area's force. If a caller is using a mobile, the call will route using the mast that the phone is transmitting from.

If a call is made to 101 within a force area that has not yet 'gone live', the caller will hear a recorded message telling them to redial using the relevant non emergency number.

---

## **Have your say on housing plans** - 22/10/11

People are being urged to comment on district council plans to help bring forward new housing for the Vale.

The council is seeking feedback from members of the public, land owners and other interested parties on an interim housing policy which it has produced to help resolve catch up a deficit in its annual housing requirements.

The Interim Housing Supply Policy (IHSP) sets out to relax some of the current Vale Local Plan policies, to enable some housing development within and next to towns and villages. This will be a carefully managed approach. The policy has specific conditions which developers will have to meet to ensure that sites coming forward are sustainable, deliverable and that the level of growth proposed is proportionate for the location.

Once adopted by the council the IHSP will operate until 1,000 homes are delivered, or until the adoption of the Vale's core strategy, which will set out how the district will grow and develop over the next 15 years. Consultation on the draft plan runs until 4pm on Friday 25 November.

Cabinet member for planning Cllr Roger Cox said: "We've identified that there's a problem with our housing supply and we are trying to proactively do something about it to bring forward some much-needed housing. But while the provision of homes is a key objective of this council, we are keen to balance that against the need to protect our towns and villages. This interim policy is the best way we feel we can do this, while we finalise where major housing growth will be planned for in the emerging core strategy. I urge all parties to get involved with the consultation and take advantage of this opportunity to have a say on our plans."

The Vale's proactive approach is a result of a Government requirement that councils maintain a supply of deliverable housing sites sufficient to meet their house building targets for the next five years. Due primarily to the slow progress on large Vale housing sites caused by the recession the council is now in a position where it does not have a deliverable five year housing land supply. The IHSP should help to restore this balance.

During the consultation site proposals can be submitted for a screening opinion. Those judged suitable will be invited to submit a planning application once the final IHSP is formally adopted, hopefully in January or February next year.

More information, and details of how to comment on the plan, see [www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/spds](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/spds)

*ED(GW) If there is anyone out there who understands the paper and what it means for Faringdon, please do say. I lost the will to live when I tried reading it*

---

### **Stanford Tip Closure** - 21/10/11

Bystander's dire warning about closing the Stanford tip had me reaching for my 'Chain myself to railings' kit. But first I checked the details and seeing that it will not be until December 2014 I may delay my protest for a while. Power to the People!  
Anna Kist

---

### **Tesco 'consultation'** - 21/10/11

Lucky you - and such coincidence that you should have been 'selected' off the streets more than once for such well paid sessions! Doesn't sound like the market research that I know. Very mysterious...I expect there's some truth in what you say about the Faringdon experience though in some way or other. But – the point - do you really think that Tesco, with its army of demographic researchers, it's marketing department, it's merchandising resources etc. are really going to rely on ten people plucked from the street to make a decision on what they will stock? They may need the 'genuine words' of a few locals to incorporate into promoting their choice of merchandise, ("nine cats out of ten prefer...", remember?) but to genuinely consult on what to sell? Get a grip.

Name Supplied

---

### **Tesco 'consultation'** - 21/10/11

Tesco Consultation - 21/10/11

Yawn. Who cares whether Tesco did a consultation exercise or not, or how. Tesco is coming. It'll stock what is best for IT. End of.

What is of much greater import is that the Stanford tip is going to close.

Bystander

---

### **Tesco 'consultation'** - 21/10/11

The agency that recruited members of the public off the street for so called 'consultation' over Tesco's future ranges, used a lady to carry out this task. She was stationed with a clipboard outside of the main entrance to Budgens and I have now learnt that actually two separate sessions were held at Sudbury House Hotel. At each session about 10 members of the public attended and all were paid cash in hand.

Name supplied

---

### **Appeal dismissed - houses on Sudbury House land** - 20/10/11

[Read the inspectors report](#) - main objections are to do with adverse impact on the conservation area

---

## Tesco and 106 - 20/10/11

Here are details of our three district councillors. This is information on the Vale of White Horse District Council website and is in the public domain. Why not send them an email asking *politely* why - as Faringdon's elected representatives - they sought no concessions from Tesco vis a vis 106 agreements? It's the only way you'll get answers.

Councillor Roger Cox:

<http://whitehorsedc.moderngov.co.uk/mgUserInfo.aspx?UID=115>

Councillor Mohindor Kainth

<http://whitehorsedc.moderngov.co.uk/mgUserInfo.aspx?UID=860>

Councillor Alison Thompson

<http://whitehorsedc.moderngov.co.uk/mgUserInfo.aspx?UID=160>

Name supplied

---

## Tesco 'consultation' - 20/10/11

I was told( from a credible source) that the people ( differnt ages, gender, stage of life) were taken to Sudbury House to be asked the questions.

I have been paid £40 for similar sessions in the past.

Name Supplied

---

## Double Yellow lines, what are they for? - 20/10/11

How come London Street with its double yellow lines each side has up to 4 cars parked overnight from the Corner of Swan Lane to the Market Place? Where are the Police/PCSO/ Wardens? It is the same in Swan Lane. Double yellows and cars parked all day? Why? Does no one care? Is that why the town is dying?

Colin

---

## Tesco 'consultation' - 19/10/11

On second thoughts - if the 'consultation' was a PR exercise, that would make more sense. Tesco have no need to consult anyone in order to decide what non food items they will stock, they already know. Why would Faringdon be markedly different to any other small market town which they descend on? The only reason to have such a consultation is for show, or because they are required by law to do so.

Name supplied

---

## Lost parrot - 19/10/11

The happy news is the parrot is back at home, it was found sat in a bush just outside Faringdon Leisure Centre by some of our oldest son's friends, I would just like to Thank them all so much for helping with his safe return  
Ruth

---

## Too Many Cooks Closing - 19/10/11

I understand that Adam has decided to close Too Many Cooks where a few products from the Home Centre still remained

This morning I needed a tap washer so more in hope than expectation I asked if the box containing dozens of tap washers which I remembered from 'the good old days' was still available....and it was !

Job done...time taken 30 minutes ! Cost 0.0p including VAT !

In future a quick walk into town will be replaced by a car ride to a DIY store. My wife will decide to come along for the ride, which means, as we will be passing anyway, we'll just get a couple of items from Sainsbury's which I will be assured will only take 5 minutes (fat chance)

I don't know how much it will cost or how long it will take but it will be a lot more than 30 minutes and 0.0p.

I'll probably put up with the dripping tap.

Adam, You will be missed.

Thanks for your past efforts !

HGM

---

## Basil the cat- missing - 19/10/11

Black 17 year old male cat named Basil missing from Stanford Road/Ferndale Street. Basil is very frail and very thin and doesn't tend to wander far but hasn't been seen now for 24 hours. It may be that he has met his maker outside our garden but we would still very much like to know.

We're very worried and would appreciate if anyone could call me on 07836 208800 if they see him.

Many thanks

Mel Lane

---

## Tesco 'consultation' - 19/10/11

As a former market research interviewer I doubt very much whether what you were told, if what you say is accurate, had much truth in it. No-one gets paid £40 for answering a few questions. Generally speaking the interviewees get nothing. Also 'ten people off the streets' (which sounds as though they were randomly chosen) for such a survey is laughably unlikely. I am no great fan of Tesco, but I think you can give them credit for having a rather more sophisticated and well organised market research strategy than that. Perhaps you shouldn't believe everything you are told.

While we are on the subject of what we have been told, though, how about this?

When a new supermarket comes to town (a town like Faringdon, say) supermarket employees are sent to survey the local retailers in advance to see what the supermarket's local independent rivals sell. Items which do not constitute the supermarket's usual lines but which could reasonably be sold by it - additional food lines for instance - are then stocked at an advantageous price, until the small retailers close for lack of business. The supermarket then discontinues the additional lines and goes back to its usual stock. Personally I have no idea whether this is true in every case, but that came from a (non local) national supermarket manager with ten years of experience in the trade, and he didn't mean just Tesco.

Oh well, that's business I suppose!

Name Supplied

---

## Tesco 'consultation' - 19/10/11

I was told the other day that a marketing organisation selected 10 people 'off the streets' of Faringdon for a survey on behalf of Tesco.

I believe the people were asked what non food items they would like Tesco to sell in the Faringdon store

I understand each was paid £40 for their time

I hope this isn't the extent of Tesco's consultation.

Name Supplied

---

## Father Christmas with Thomas the Tank Engine- 19/10/11

Thursday 1st Dec Watchfield  
Friday 2nd Dec Watchfield  
Saturday 3rd Dec Faringdon Lights On  
Monday 5th Dec Shrivenham  
Tuesday 6th Dec Shrivenham  
Wed 7th Dec Faringdon Pines, Orchard Hill, Westland Rd  
Thursday 8th Dec Stanford  
Friday 9th Dec Stanford, Shellingford  
Saturday 10th Dec Faringdon Health Centre, Bloor Est, Sandshill  
Monday 12th Dec Southmoor,  
Tuesday 13th Dec Soutmoor, Kingston Bagpuize,  
Wed 14th Dec Faringdon Marlborough Gardens, Folly View etc  
Friday 16th Dec Clanfield  
Saturday 17th Dec Faringdon Stanford road, Tuckers Rd etc  
Monday 19th Dec Uffington, Fernham, Little Coxwell  
Tuesday 20th Dec Great Coxwell, Colshill Drive, Fernham Gate

Starting times will at around 5.30pm on weekdays and 4.30pm on Saturdays  
Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to meet them both.  
Faringdon Rotary

---

## Sadlers and Party Magic - 17/10/11

I want to champion two Faringdon Businesses that worked their magic to create a fantastic and memorable 50th birthday for my husband. Simone, and Luke, from Party Magic on Coxwell Street couldn't have been more helpful and ordered in special 50th balloons, banners and all manner of other stuff. Simone delivered the balloons to the party venue, Sadlers in the Market Place, prior to our arrival and created a great setting with our hosts Paul and Sietske. The venue of Sadlers was just wonderful and Sietska was the perfect host, greeting our guests with a glass of bubbly and showing them through to the lounge area. We were then called through to the restaurant area where we were given, quite simply, a banquet. The food was excellent and plentiful and the desserts were described by our guests as "simply sublime, and devine" – difficult to find words to describe perfection. Paul and Sietska must be congratulated on their excellent food and unforgettable hospitality. I cannot recommend these two businesses highly enough and hope other people will read this and support them.  
Marian

---

## Lost parrot - 16/10/11

Has anyone seen an African Grey parrot lost last night, Sunday 16th October from Folly View Road area ? Please ring Kevin on 07973191122, we would really like his safe return.  
Thank you

---

## “Volunteering for the Vale” free lunch- 16/10/11

There are hundreds of 'volunteers who have given up considerable time and effort to help individuals, groups, clubs and projects in the district.'

Cllr Thomson, said: "The Chairman's Community Awards Lunch is a fantastic opportunity for us to show our appreciation to those volunteers who make a significant contribution to life in the Vale, and who, in many cases, make life that much easier for other people."

The celebration is expected to be attended by more than 100 people, including 37 of the 44 nominees. '

It is great the 37 people are to be recognised for their contributions - but who are the other 63 having 'a free lunch'  
'Name Supplied'

---

### Section 106 and Tesco- 15/10/11

I appreciate your point of view but disagree. I, along with many other shoppers, will do what we have been doing for years. We'll buy our weekly shop in a supermarket (I regard Budgens as an expensive convenience store) and our other shopping in the town. Personally, I would not buy my Sunday joint in a supermarket, I have to admit to going to Highworth for it tho (embarrassed face). I will still buy my bread in Lilians, my pressies and cards in the Nut Tree, my cheese in Rob the Cheese tho the best pasties are from the Esso garage.

I will appreciate not having to spend money to take myself and two friends to Asda (separately, as we can't put all our shopping in the boot in one trip). What Tesco will do is not only keep people like me and my friends in the town but add an extra footfall, even if small at first.

It would help if our shopkeepers were open when we have occasions on rather than saying "we need a day off". Take a day off when there's no-one around, not when we have people wanting to spend money! Or have I got that wrong as well.  
Name Supplied

---

### Section 106 and Tesco- 15/10/11

The fact is Bystander, that whichever way you look at it, our public servants let us down. Perhaps one or more of them might feel that they owe us an explanation.  
ThisMan

---

### Section 106 and Tesco- 15/10/11

It is indeed a great pity that we shall not benefit more from Tesco's future appearance in Faringdon. But it is easy to criticise in hindsight.

We all refer to the Vale Council as if 'it' in some abstract sense makes decisions or - in this instance - failed to ask for concessions from Tesco. However, we have three district councillors who were well aware of the town council's recommendations and whose duty it is, and was, to act and do their best in the interests of Faringdon. Why should we blame 'The Vale Council' in its entirety for the omission if our district councillors personally did not intervene and make the necessary representations when the time was appropriate?

. Perhaps they did; perhaps they vociferously put their point of view on behalf of Faringdon and were ignored or voted down, but my guess is that they were just negligent and probably ignorant of the procedure.

On a more general note, I will have to agree to disagree with the previous poster on the suitability of the Gloucester Street site. It was not ideal, but there was nothing that could not have been overcome with some determination, and it was close enough to the centre to ensure a viable link. Any supermarket on that site would have been more beneficial in the longer term to Faringdon town centre and its future than any supermarket in Park Road. It was, though, surely an accident of timing rather than anything else which determined the outcome of the planning decisions, and we must simply put up with it.

Once Tesco is established and has seen off its main competitor (ie Budgens) it will be the end of the town centre as we know it. Which of us with hand on heart can say we make the effort to walk to the town centre solely to visit the flower shop, the cheese shop, or the paper shop for example? Most of us only visit the town centre retailers when we have a bit of shopping to do at the supermarket. No amount of pretty walkways or free shuttle buses will make a jot of difference to the fact that we shall be able to do most (if not all) of our shopping in Tesco's much of the time, and most of us can, and will, get there and back without having to go near the town centre. How many of the remaining retailers will survive that?

Bystander

---

## Re Burglaries - 14/10/11

It would not be a good idea to have no lights on, curtains not drawn, no car on the drive and lay a trap.  
ThisMan

---

## Re Burglaries - 14/10/11

I think you would find that the Judges and Magistrates would listen if they were getting continuous complaints from the Police Chief Constables and public, instead of carrying on with the pathetic so called "Justice" system we have now. And yes it is patronising and insulting to put leaflets through peoples door because they have the temerity to go out without heaven forbid leaving a light on. We should all be able to leave our properties unlocked, let alone having lights on.

What next, the police stopping women in the street who have a short skirt on and advising them to go home and change in case they get attacked and raped!.

Don't put the emphasis on the victim but turn it all on the perpetrator.

Mark

---

## Have you had Photovoltaic panels installed? - 14/10/11

I'm updating my list of those householders who have solar PV panels installed . If you already have panels on your roof (or other structure) and you don't mind being on a list, could you drop me an email (or phone) with your contact details?

And - if you know of neighbours or friends in Faringdon who have panels, could you let them know that I'd like to add them to the list also?

Many thanks! Sjoerd Vogt

[sjoerd@vogt.org.uk](mailto:sjoerd@vogt.org.uk) 01367-241707

---

## Section 106 and Tesco- 14/10/11

As one who serves on the Planning & Highways Committee for the Town Council I can comment that the facts as stated in the previous posting are sadly broadly correct. The FTC submitted a 'shopping list' to Tesco at the initial Planning Application stage. Many of these are as already mentioned. Certainly when the Planning Appeals Officer asked for any further comments nothing was asked for by the Vale.

My thoughts are that this failure to bring significant benefits to the town can only be due to one of 3 reasons:

Spite- By the VWHDC having had to pay £40,000 of our money in having to fight this appeal.

Incompetence- By the VOWHDC not realising what could and should have been asked for, and for which the FTC had fought and asked for.

Arrogance.- By the VWHDC thinking the appeal would be lost and not bothering to make the request.

We are all the losers by this and whether you are pro or anti Tesco's a golden opportunity to benefit the town in other ways (not just the provision of a Supermarket) has been squandered by the Vale.

As to whether Tesco's are open to a benevolent gesture remains to be seen, in view of the fact they had to pay a much higher legal bill than the Vale ratepayers because of VWHDC favouring another Supermarket in a totally unsuitable location, one could hardly blame them if they don't, but who knows Christmas is coming , goodwill to all men etc. maybe they will be magnanimous in victory, I certainly hope so.

These are my own personal views only, no doubt other Town Councillors and who knows even a Councillor from the Vale may wish to comment.

Kind Regards

Nick O'Keefe

---

## Problems emailing Talking Points - 14/10/11

A few people have indicated that clicking the Talking Points links on the send us your comments page doesn't generate an email that is sent successfully([http://faringdon.org/contact\\_us\\_addresses.htm](http://faringdon.org/contact_us_addresses.htm)). We're pretty certain it's to do with the way your email provider expects to see multiple email addresses. If you have a problem just email [enquiries@faringdon-online.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@faringdon-online.co.uk)

Thanks very much

Ed(GW)

The email addresses for Talking pints are

[tp1@faringdon-online.co.uk](mailto:tp1@faringdon-online.co.uk) and

[tp2@faringdon-online.co.uk](mailto:tp2@faringdon-online.co.uk)

---

## No ££ for Faringdon from Tesco - 14/10/11

.... and we pay their wages !

ThisMan

---

## No ££ for Faringdon from Tesco - 14/10/11

I've just discovered that VWHDC have not negotiated any (S106) gains for Faringdon with Tesco.

A VWHDC spokesman said ' it was because when permission is granted by a planning inspector (rather than by the council) there is no legal mechanism for a S106 agreement to be put in place.'

Someone else ( knowledgeable in planning law) said ' The time for Section 106 benefits to be secured was at the inquiry when the Inspector asked the question - if none were requested by VWHDC it is a missed opportunity and by the time the decision is issued too late!! '

When asked why a draft 106 agreement wasn't put in place during the application development process (as it was with Bloor Homes), VWHDC said ' I understand there were initial discussions with Tesco, but these were not progressed to a draft agreement as the recommendation was for refusal. If the Planning Committee had decided to grant permission instead then an S106 agreement would have been negotiated in full before permission was granted.'

That sounds to me as if VWHDC had made their minds up before going to committee to discuss and determine the application.

When FTC agreed the Tesco application ( as a consultee, not a decision maker), the conditions they included were:

- contribution to the arts
- relocation of industrial land to Wicklesham quarry
- upgrade of pedestrian access to and from Teco and town centre
- bus service to be provided to/from Tesco and the town centre and outlying villages
- access to allotments space behind Tesco and provision of a water supply
- free car parking in the town centre

It's highly likely, had VWHDC progressed the S106 to draft stage, that other benefits would have been identified- maybe contributions to the Youth Club, the Scouts++

So unless Tesco are feeling generous an opportunity for Faringdon has been lost.

Maybe there is someone out there, experienced in planning, who can comment/make some suggestions.

Gene Webb

---

## Re Burglaries - 13/10/11

Mark says the police should asked magistrates and judges to impose stiffer sentences.It doesn't work like that Mark. The police have no influence on the beaks.They are trying to help us and keep us posted.  
To accuse them of being patronising is unfair.  
Name Supplied

---

### **That Flag** - 13/10/11

Does the tatty remnant of rag currently adorning the Pump House, represent the state of the Union or simple neglect. I trust it will be remedied before November.  
Mike Perks.

---

### **Celebrations to mark "Volunteering for the Vale"** - 13/10/11

I must protest at the news that a selection of our volunteers are to be executed following the awarding of certificates, I know the Vale are trying to save money but surely this is going too far....."reception with certificate presentations taking place about 1.45pm and a group shot shortly afterwards."  
Kind Regards Nick O'Keeffe & Stella Kenrick

---

### **Celebrations to mark "Volunteering for the Vale"** - 12/10/11

Residents from the Vale of White Horse who give up their time to help others and their community will be recognised at a special lunch in Abingdon this Saturday (15.10.11).

The 2011 Community Awards Lunch "Volunteering for the Vale", hosted by Cllr Alison Thomson, Chairman of the Vale of White Horse District Council, will recognise those volunteers who have given up considerable time and effort to help individuals, groups, clubs and projects in the district.  
Cllr Thomson, said: "The Chairman's Community Awards Lunch is a fantastic opportunity for us to show our appreciation to those volunteers who make a significant contribution to life in the Vale, and who, in many cases, make life that much easier for other people."

The celebration is expected to be attended by more than 100 people, including 37 of the 44 nominees.  
It will be held in the Guildhall, Abingdon, between 12noon and 3pm and will include a hot lunch followed by a certificate presentation.

Individual photo opportunities will be available throughout the reception with certificate presentations taking place about 1.45pm and a group shot shortly afterwards.  
The event will be held at: 12noon – 3pm Saturday 15 October, Abbey Hall, Abingdon Guildhall, Abbey Close, Abingdon, OX14 3JE

---

### **Garden fencing wanted** - 12/10/11

Hi. Can anyone recommend a reasonably priced local Fencing contractor for replacing some panels and posts on my neighbours fence which has blown down.  
Regards Mark

---

### **New shops in Faringdon- correction** - 11/10/11

Pure Me will be a clothes shop for women and children opening probably by the beginning of November.  
There is a notice in the window about a farm shop- but it is advertising a shop elsewhere  
Name Supplied

---

## New shops in Faringdon - 12/10/11

Threshers- an internet cafe  
GG Butchers - a butcher  
Pure Me- a farm shop  
Old Fish shop- a hairdresser  
Turners Tackle and Bait- a hairdresser

Budgens are to refurbish, but reduce space by 1 third. Closure of the delicatessen has been mentioned  
There is already a Party Magic in the Coxwell St hairdresser building

But perhaps you know different- or more?  
ED(GW)

---

## Missing - child's pair of glasses- 11/10/11

My daughter lost her glasses whilst playing outside with her friends this afternoon. They are pale pink with Little Miss Sunshine emblems on each arm of the glasses. Lost in and around Town End/Marines Drive area.  
Please get in touch if you come across them. She put them into her pocket and they most likely slipped out somewhere!  
Sheryl

---

## Deckchairs wanted - 11/10/11

I am looking to borrow 1 or 2 seaside type deckchairs for a wedding reception in November. They will be for a display so will be well looked after.  
Will collect. [chris\\_higgs@live.com](mailto:chris_higgs@live.com)

---

## History Archive Room - 11/10/11

The History Society have made all their research findings and reference books available to everyone.  
Just visit the library and ask for the key to the room

There is an index in the library, but you can now look at it on this website.  
Click on [History Room archive index](#)  
Ed(GW)

---

## ReThames Valley Police.- 10/10/11

If the burglars when caught and sentenced, were locked up for long periods then we wouldn't need patronising e-mails from the Police.

Why don't they ask the Judges and Magistrates to protect the community instead of being the offenders friend.  
Personally you should be able to leave your lights off, house unlocked and the crown jewels on your dining table.  
Maybe we should bring in certain aspects of Sharia Law. You don't see many one handed burglars.  
Mark

---

## This is a Community Message from Thames Valley Police.- 10/10/11

### KEEP SAFE AS THE DARKER NIGHTS DRAW IN

Thames Valley Police is working in partnership with Local Authorities to keep you safe as the darker nights draw in.

People across the Thames Valley can pick up security advice from one of the Thames Valley Police twitter sites, watch a video on youtube <http://tinyurl.com/6fstsw> about the importance of not leaving their house in the dark, or receive a letter from their neighbourhood team informing residents about patrols in their area. Neighbourhood teams will also be patrolling in burglary hot spot areas and leaving calling cards at people's homes if they come across a house in darkness to ensure the occupants receive some crime prevention tips. If no light is on in your home, curtains are not drawn, and no car is in the drive, it's an obvious sign to an opportunist burglar that no-one is in. At this time of the year more than any other it pays to secure your home. There are a number of simple and free ways to do this, all of which will help reduce the chance of your home becoming the next target. Visit a local retailer to pick up a 24 hour segment timer for under £5. The timer can be used with a lamp, radio or TV to give the impression that someone's home. Remember to use an energy efficient light bulb Register your valuables on [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com) its free and takes just a few minutes and if your valuables are stolen, will allow you to tell the police, your insurer, and the second-hand trade to assist in recovering your property and catch the thief Keep valuables out of sight Lock your doors and windows, if you have a UPVC door make sure you have double locked it You can also follow us on Twitter @ThamesVP alternatively you can give us a 'like' on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/thamesvp>

---

### Trivial Post - 8/10/11

#### Wicked past life

I never claim I'm perfect, but, and this is rather sad  
I don't think anyone could say I'm really bad.  
So why am I complaining about my lot in life?  
I just feel that I'm getting too much aggravating strife  
Now here are some examples that I feel are not quite fair  
You may think they are trivial, but, they make me want to swear.

My pond was full of gold fish but one sad day I found  
A heron had devoured some and the rest of them had drowned  
. 10,000 happy visitors strolling by the sea  
a passing seagull splattered one .Why did it choose me ?  
I texted a slightly obscene joke to a friend of mine.  
But accidentally hit the key which published it online.  
On holiday I bought a cake, laced with LSD.  
A policeman said I must have known so he arrested me.  
Did I cause the Wall Street Crash? Resulting in World Panic.  
Or did I launch the iceberg which scuppered the Titanic ?  
Whatever my transgression was it's too late to avoid it  
I can but hope, that in my past, I thoroughly enjoyed it  
THATMAN

### Faringdon Local new show out on Faringdon Radio - 8/10/2011

In this show there is:

Carolynne Taylor - Faringdon Dramatic Societies new production of Neil Simons 'London Suite'  
Simone Mini - Talking about her new Faringdon business Party Magic'

Music: Joe Moore

The Alfonz

Lady Bear

[www.faringdonradio.com](http://www.faringdonradio.com)

---

### Sharing a council office - 8/10/11

If the council didn't want us ratepayers to make our views known, then they shouldn't ask us. Why should we pay for their wasteful offices. If it is going to save us money, then why don't they do it. Why ask if they aren't going to do anything, and if nothing happens, why doesn't anyone explain instead of just saying it isn't in our interest. Whose interest is it in then to stay in two lots of offices?

A.N.Other

---

## Sharing a council office - 8/10/11

I thought that VWHDC had already decided that local offices are not needed - Wantage and Faringdon were closed sometime ago without consultation. The message was that the services were available online

I have heard it said that the number of employees in both South Oxford Council (Wallingford) and VWHDC had halved in recent months..

Accommodation costs are often the next biggest spend after employee costs in a Council. The costs of this accommodation is spread proportionately over services, so when a council says a service costs £'000, it includes a share of accommodation and other overheads. Clearly the fewer the services there are to take their share, the bigger a sum has to be budgetted by a service, making it more expensive and maybe not cost effective. It's a downward spiral of cost effectiveness.

Hopefully VWHDC have a plan to reduce the costs of accommodation - not something that can be done at a stroke, but there should at least be a plan/timescales.

My guess is that the people who voted for keeping the Abingdon office were employees, Abingdon residents and elected councillors. I suspect South Oxfordshire councillors would want their building to be retained and similarly VWHDC councillors would want the Abingdon one.

Turkeys don't vote for Christmas

I completed the survey some time ago- but I don't think there was anything about the potential savings, the value of the building, which building ( Wallingford or Abingdon), or the potential reduction in front line service costs- so views were sought without having the full facts.

Hopefully both councils have researched all of this and do know the financial implications- in the meantime services are being cut

Grumpy old Cynic

---

## Sharing a council office - 06/10/11

"So the majority think it's a good idea, but it's still not going to happen..." Quite often a majority think something is a good idea, but quite often the majority give a simple answer to a simple question and haven't considered the pros and cons in any depth, and can't be bothered to consider the long term implications or think past the obvious (ie saving a bit of money in the short term) It isn't always a good idea to 'go with the flow'.

So who are these objectors, then? Perhaps you should enlighten us instead of hinting, because I certainly can't guess.

Bystander

---

## Bin bags - 6/10/11

Has anyone had a new supply of green/pink/compostible bags from the council this year? Still got most of pink ones but green ones getting low and compostible ones ran out months ago. The service ran from 4 Oct and we got a year's supply, I believe. Do I need to get on the blower to the council about my/everyone's missing bags? Maybe we're supposed to supply our own after the first year....

None supplied

ED(GW) VWHDC say 'these are being delivered out to the vale of white horse area at the moment and has been for around a week. Unfortunately we are not given a time frame or day. If you have run out of green sacks please leave out clear or white swing bin liners, supermarket carrier bags or cardboard boxes. If you run out of pink sacks you will need to advise us so we can arrange an alternative collection.

---

## Survey on VWHDC services- an opportunity to give your views on street cleansing- 6/10/11

[www.plus4.co.uk/valesurvey](http://www.plus4.co.uk/valesurvey)

Please click on the link above to complete the latest residents' panel survey.

In this edition we would like your views on **waste and recycling, parking enforcement, community safety**, sport and leisure and the council in general.

Your views are really important and help us to make improvements to your council services.

To keep you updated you can access a newsletter with the results from the most recent survey on

[http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Vale\\_newsletter\\_autumn2011\\_colour.pdf](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Vale_newsletter_autumn2011_colour.pdf) - this includes what you told us in the last survey and what we are doing in response.

ED(GW) The newsletter says

'Visiting council offices

We asked for your views about the principle of Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire's district councils sharing an office.

Whilst 72 per cent of you supported the principle of moving to one office to save money, 56 per cent felt it was important to keep a council presence in Abingdon.

Councillors considered what you told us and felt that at the moment it is not in the best interest of residents in both districts to share a council office.

However, this will be reviewed in future and we continue to work on projects to improve the way you access council services, wherever you live.'

Full report on <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Spring%202011%20Vale%20panel%20report.pdf>

So the majority think it a good idea, but it is still not going to happen. I wonder who the objectors were!!! I think I can guess.

---

## re RSPCA cats - 5/10/11

Please don't worry, I've contacted the Wilts branch of the RSPCA, the cats won't be put to sleep on Friday – the RSPCA will never put a healthy animal to sleep. The named cats have temporary accommodation but the RSPCA are desperate for permanent homes for them and of course donations towards the care of all the animals.

Name Supplied

---

## Illogical Ornithological Behaviour - 4/10/11

Until recently my garden has been a haven for birds (feathered variety).

High hedges provided shelter and berries. My pond offered drinking and bathing facilities and I provided food. A supply of bricks and a fairly good aim made it clear to neighbourhood cats that they were not welcome.

However for the past few weeks the birds have been avoiding me

Even the heron no longer drops in to scare my fish.

As a youth I dreaded the day when I would be told about "THE BIRDS AND THE BEES" but my parents avoided the subject so in that respect my education was never completed.

So can anyone enlighten me ?

Have the birds disappeared from Faringdon fearing the arrival of WICKED TESCO'S or is it just my garden that has received adverse comments from "Our Feathered Friends Tripadvisor ?

Quintin OD

---

## Jane Rimmer's Coffee Morning for Macmillan - 4/10/11

I would like to thank all the people who attended my Coffee Morning at home on 30 September. It was a lovely sunny day and we raised a fantastic £396.00 for Macmillan in Oxfordshire.  
I would especially like to thank all the people who gave raffle prizes, bought raffle tickets and supported in other ways. It was a great day!  
Thank you so very much.  
Jane

---

## RSPCA cats needing home by Friday- free - 4/10/11

There are a number of cats that need a home before Friday or they will be put down because of lack of space; Prince, Jasmine, Tippy, Roo, Ravioli & Nancy; <http://www.rspcanorthwilts.org.uk/adoptions.php?cid=3> -  
Name Supplied

---

## Sing Faringdon starts again Tues 1st Nov - 2/10/10

An informal group for everyone who likes to sing, just for fun - no auditions, no need to have a 'good' voice, mostly unison songs.  
We sing well known modern and traditional songs- Beatles, Simon and Garfunkel, musicals +++

Starting Tuesday Nov 1st, for 6 weeks.  
To be held in the Roman Catholic Church, Marlborough St from 7pm - 8pm. £2 per session.  
New singers welcome. Please contact me for the song sheets.

All proceeds given to local charities.  
[genewebb@rocketmail.com](mailto:genewebb@rocketmail.com)  
01367 242222

---

## Re Missing Kitten - 2/10/11

In reply to Kelly who posted on 26/08/11 that the missing kitten we found in Tuckers Road may be hers.  
Sorry, but the kitten did not have a chip. It was checked at the vets.  
Name Supplied

---

## Young cat- lost or free loading - 2/10/11

Dear Katrina,  
Our garden is very near Highworth Rd and we have a young black and white cat with two splodges on her face (one on her nose) - she hasn't been home a lot recently or eating much food - does she sound like your visitor?  
She does seem to have made friends with a young black cat in the area.  
If so, please be assured she is not lost, is much loved and cared for, and much missed by her family. Please do not feed her, and we'd be grateful if you could not allow her in your house.  
Many thanks, Name Supplied

---

## Oven cleaning service - 01/10/11

Can anyone suggest a reliable oven cleaning service? Dont bother recommending Ovenu (Swindon) I have been let down by them with no explanation or apology.

Name Supplied

---

**Peal of Bells - All Saints**- 1/10/11

Tuesday 4th October between 1000am and 1pm.  
5000 changes will be rung without any repeats  
Impressive!!

---

## **Too Much Information** - 30/11/11

Shakespeare believed, or at least had a character say, that "Brevity is the soul of wit " but he omitted to mention messages on TPs. Obviously information about a survey to help shape the 2012/2013 budget makes riveting reading but must such announcements be double spaced ? I resent having to scroll down in order not to miss equally fascinating information about Zumba dancing for the over sixties or lost cats.  
Gerry Atrick.

---

## **Press releases from VWHDC and OCC** - 30/11/11

Have a look at [nvpressrelease.htm](http://nvpressrelease.htm).

VWHDC are promoting shopping in Faringdon and Oxfordshire County Council launching a 'tell us once' service Ed(GW)

---

## **Help shape the 2012/13 budget** - 30/11/11

Residents in the Vale of White Horse are being encouraged to take part in a survey to help shape the 2012/13 budget.

Between Wednesday 30 November and Wednesday 11 January people will be able to take part in a survey asking their opinion on a variety of topics relating to next year's Vale of White Horse District Council budget.

Residents will have the chance to have their say on what services they think the council should prioritise, how the council should operate with significantly reduced and constantly changing levels of funding, and whether council tax should continue to be frozen.

Those responding to the survey will be asked to consider the council's role in supporting the arts, working with young people, providing public toilets, making grants to benefit the community and giving business rate relief.

As part of the consultation the Vale will also be carrying out a workshop with members of the council's Residents' Panel, which will allow issues to be discussed more in depth, with closer consideration of the costs involved.

Once the consultation period has ended the Vale's cabinet will consider all responses prior to publishing its draft budget proposal in February which will then be considered by council on 22 February.

Cllr Matthew Barber, Leader and cabinet member for finance, said: "Our financial position is a lot stronger than it has been for the past few years, however with the reduction of the amount of funding coming from the government and the ever changing economic situation it is very important that we continue to be robust in how we manage our spending.

"While we have to ensure our finances are secure we also have to make sure that we are delivering the best services we can provide in ways that our residents want. Therefore we would like as many people as possible to let us know what they think should be the priorities of our next budget and how they think we should develop our services so they provide better value for money."

To find out more about the 2012/13 budget, and to take part in the survey please visit

[www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/haveyoursay](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/haveyoursay).

If you would like a paper copy of the survey please contact the Vale's consultation officer on 01235 547614

---

## **World Aids Day ribbons** - 28/11/11

World Aids Day is on Thursday 1 December  
Red ribbons are available in the Mustard Seed from the afternoon of Wed 30 November.  
Name Supplied

---

## **Faringdon Fire Station Christmas Fayre and Santa's Grotto.**

Cake Stall, Refreshments, Tombola, Raffle, White Elephant and many more stalls.  
Come and see Santa. From 2pm till 5pm on Saturday 10th December 2011.  
We are raising money for the Fire Fighters Charity.

---

## **Thisman from Thatman** 27/11/11

Afghanistan, the NHS and our ailing economy  
Occupy my thoughts to the exclusion of  
a tilting Christmas Tree.

Thatman

---

## **Not only Parking.....** - 24/11/11

Working with people who live in Swindon and who are now travelling through Faringdon while the bridge at Lechlade is repaired its interesting to hear their comments about parking.

They think the people who park the way they do especially on Coxwell Road/Coxwell Street and around the Market Place shambles must be inbreds as it is fairly obvious that they have no sense at all. Having travelled through many villages and towns, they find coming through Faringdon quite a challenge. Come on people clue up and park where you are supposed to. That does not mean double or single yellows, near junctions, pavements, and opposite other cars on narrow roads. Just where are the parking enforcement troops this town needs?  
Colin

---

## **Re new changing facilities at Faringdon Leisure Centre** - 27/11/11

Councillor Ware says: ' Having investigated it transpires that there was a problem regarding the floor tiles. I understand that this has now been resolved and that the leisure centre with its new facilities can be enjoyed by all who use it.'

---

## **The Christmas Tree** - 26/11/11

Cassandra, I think the Christmas tree is upright but might appear to lean when viewed from Deacons against the old town hall which slopes inwards at the top. When viewed from The Bell it might appear to lean due to the slope of the ground.

What does Thatman think about it?

Thisman

---

## **A missed chance** - 26/11/11

I note with some dissatisfaction that I missed an pecuniary opportunity on Wednesday the 23rd of November. To  
with the chance of better in the United Church, Coxwell Street

However, I can at least relax in the knowledge that this may benefit the potential salvation of my soul, bearing in mind the words of St Mathew chapter 21, verses 12 and 13.  
St. Michael

---

## Funding website for Wantage Air Traing Corps - 26/11/11

We have a new fund raising website for Wantage Air Cadets: <http://www.spendandraise.com/WantageAirCadets>

When you have a moment, please follow the above link (or paste it into your browser) and have look at the website.

If you want to make a purchase over the internet, please visit this website first, and look for the retailer you wish to buy from. If they are listed, follow the link to their website and when you make your purchase a percentage of the order value will be credited to the Wantage Air Cadets SpendandRaise account. You do not pay any more, the money comes from the retailer.

SpendandRaise has been around for many years and many organizations have signed up to raise funds.

Some of the retailers listed include: ASDA, Sainsbury's, B&Q, Screwfix, Amazon.

When you visit the website you will see that £11.10 has already been raised over the last few days.

If you register on the website then the commission that is raised through your purchases will be listed against your user name. If you do not register then the funds will be shown against 'anonymous'.  
Please give it a go and forward this email to family, friends and colleagues .

---

## The Christmas Tree - 25/11/11

Firstly I must say what a splendid tree we have in the Market Place this year. But surely a tree should be erect. not leaning at an angle I estimate to be at least 10 degrees off true. Is the tree in the same state of inebriation as other nocturnal Market Place dwellers? If the tree fails to sober up, I fear there will be a cry of "Timber!!" ere too long when the winter winds arrive.  
Cassandra

---

## Fabulous Fungi at the Folly - 25/11/11

I've never noticed them before- but this year they are many and varied.

[Have a look on the Folly website.](#) ( in the Wildlife and woodland section of [www.faringdonfolly.org.uk](http://www.faringdonfolly.org.uk))

if there is anyone out there who knows about fungi, it would be really good to know the names  
Thanks- hopefully  
Gene Webb

---

## "The Warehouse" in the Cornmarket - 25/11/11

Currently with mostly Christmas goods on offer.  
The range of non Christmas goods will widen after Christmas. There are already screws, fixings, polythene and foil containers, cards  
Name Supplied

---

## Humour and mischief 24/11/11

Thatman, I always look forward to your contributions which bring humour and mischief to Talking Points. Of course, there will always be sad curmudgeons consistently whinging about the situations they face. They need their release too and often it's other peoples' fault you see.

Lang may yer lum reek!

Thisman

---

## Second to None - 24/11/11

I visited Second to None garage in Faringdon with a problem with my car early on Wednesday 23rd November. I am a mobile nurse and needed to get it sorted quickly as I was on my way to a patient requiring treatment. The staff were absolutely brilliant and looked at the car immediately for me, they sorted the problem out quickly and I was on my way within 15 minutes.

I wanted to thank them for their fantastic attitude and for being so helpful. I will definitely be taking my car there in future.

Jo Plush.

---

## Not only Parking..... - 24/11/11

Faringdon is becoming an absolute nightmare for illegal parking. Whether it's parking on double-yellow lines, opposite junctions, on corners of road turnings etc. As already mentioned in previous posting, a Traffic Warden will more than pay for themselves. Assuming a fine would be in the region of £30, the best part of £100 would be made daily in Stanford Road alone.

Parking issues are not only confined to the Town centre. Many residential areas, such as Tuckers Road have fallen to the 'laziness epidemic'. All these properties have allocated parking or garages. However, there are a high percentage of residents that are just too bone-idle to use their allocated parking and walk the small distance to their homes. They just have to park outside their front door! No wonder we are becoming an obese nation. There is total disregard for the neighbours who may want to wash or vacuum their vehicles, or who may have visitors. So long as they have all (sometimes 3 or 4) their vehicles parked on the road. There is even an instance where one car has just been left there for the best part of a year and never been moved. Surely, in this case, it would be less selfish to park it in the allocated parking. There are occasions where it would be nigh on impossible for the Emergency Services to do their work too.

You need only look on Google Earth to see how much parking is available and realise how lazy and selfish people are!

Name Supplied

---

## Waste collection calendars - 24/11/11

Residents across the Vale of White Horse will be delivered their new waste collection calendars in the next couple of weeks.

While there are no changes to standard collection days, the calendar serves as a handy 'quick look' guide as to which weeks their recycling will be collected, and which weeks are dedicated to rubbish.

The calendar runs until March 2013 and includes the changes that will take place to accommodate all of the bank holidays up to and including Christmas and New Year at the end of 2012.

Customers of the council's garden waste collection service are reminded that over Christmas this year, the brown bin collections will not take place. This is so these crews can concentrate on collecting the extra household waste created over the festive period when there's very little garden waste. There will be an extra brown bin collection in the spring next year for these customers; a busier time for gardeners.

Residents in the Vale of White Horse can sign up to a free text message service to inform them when to put their

bins out if collections change due to bank holidays or bad weather.

To register, they should send a message with the word waste and their collection day (for example waste Monday) to 07797 870371.

If for some reason, any residents don't receive a copy of the calendar, it can be downloaded from the council's website at <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk> or by phone the Vale's waste partner Biffa on 03000 610610. The next calendar will be included in the booklet delivered with council tax bills in March 2013.

---

## Nil Desperandum - 23/11/11

I hope that Newby and anyone else prepared to submit comments to this website is not discouraged by nit-picking criticisms such as mine.

It has been said, more than once, that no-one in authority takes any notice of any opinions expressed here. That may be true.. But, again, maybe it isn't !

So please keep the comments coming...and if you can introduce a bit of humour it would make a welcome addition to an informative but sometimes slightly boring website

So apropos absolutely nothing

### **The Owl and the PussyCat ...and their sad ending**

The Owl and the PussyCat did go to sea but.... alas and alack...

this is the unpublished story of why they never came back.

The Owl and the PussyCat did go to sea but not in a Pea Green ship.

They'd eaten their honey but saved all their money to go on a luxury trip

The Owl didn't care much for sailing but PussyCat said " do not panic"

You've no need to fear for I've booked us, my dear, on a splendid new ship

**THE TITANIC**

**THATMAN**

---

## Lost ipod - 23/11/11

Found on Gravel Walk 23 Nov, an iPod, owner please collect from 36 Gravel Walk.

Name Supplied

---

## Faringdon and World War II - new information on this site - 22/11/11

Following the wonderful U3a talk Bill King gave about Faringdon in the war and the secret army at Coleshill, I've put some information together.

Did you know that:

- under the threat of invasion, Faringdon was on a strategic defence line?
- the Secret Army ( or Auxiliars) started in Faringdon?
- Marines drive and Canada Lane are named for the troops that were based here?

Find out by going to <http://www.faringdon.org/hyhistory1.htm>- under 'W'

I remember my mother saying that a bomb landed somewhere nearby- but not much else about the war that she talked about.

Have you or your relatives any memories?

If so do tell us all about it. We could include the stories on <http://www.faringdon.org/nvmemories.htm>

Gene Webb

---

## Reply to Thatman - 22/11/11

I for one intend not to throw my highway code out of the window!

In your comment regarding my untrue and unkind comments, I wasn't in fact referring to the people of Faringdon specifically but how life is particularly hectic and everyone wants convenience.

I think you will also find that this is my first comment regarding this and have yet to mention the lack of policing of the situation, but in agreement with others when it comes to welcoming this.  
Newby

---

## Reminder about free Christmas parking - 22/11/11

People in the Vale of White Horse will be able to take advantage of the traditional free parking day again this Christmas. Drivers in the Vale of White Horse will be able to park for free in district council car parks in Abingdon, Wantage and Faringdon all day on Saturday 3 December.

The annual free parking tradition is provided by the district council in December to encourage people to shop locally for their Christmas presents, helping to boost the local town centre economy in the process.

For this day only people can park for free and do not have to display a ticket.  
VWHDC

---

## Sk8 theft - 22/11/11

I have just been informed that a 1.5 tonne digger was stolen from the skate park site last night. This will have a negative effect on moral and potentially the schedule as they will now have to source a hire vehicle and deal with insurance etc...

If anyone has any information please contact the police with crime reference MC3948445-11.

I am unbelievably disappointed and angry at the news. What sad times we live in.

Any help would be most gratefully received!!!

Name Supplied

---

## TP Traffic and parking - 22/11/11

The problems with traffic and parking are not necessarily to do with everyone being in a rush, but in the town centre they are to a large extent a legacy of the ill conceived "improvements" some years ago. The narrowing of the carriageway in Cornmarket and the reduction in parking available in the square have both, in addition to the inevitable rise in traffic volume, contributed to the frustrating state of affairs which we now see. The signage around Cornmarket is particularly confusing as although there are priority signs, the sight line from the Gloucester St end of the Cornmarket is insufficiently clear to allow foresight; also if you are entering Cornmarket from the Gloucester street end and intend to turn left towards the church, it is not always possible to predict the movements of unseen traffic at the other end of the 'narrows' and in the Market Place, hence the familiar snarl ups around the lower end of London St/Cornmarket. The chevron signs at the junction of Church Street and Radcot Road is a further example of confusing and unnecessary signage, (why on earth put large black and white chevron signs - *at a T junction?*) and the parking situation at the lower end of Church Street (where parked cars jut out onto the carriageway) is another result of design myopia.

If you point these facts out to anyone in authority eg a county councillor, don't expect anything to happen. Yes, you will get a polite, if condescending (!) reply, even a promise to look into it, but your complaint or enquiry will eventually be met with bland assurances that there is no problem and as usual bureaucracy and dogma will win every time over common sense. Heaven forbid that anyone will take responsibility and do something.  
Complacency rules.

Name supplied

---

## Reply to newby - 22/11/11

It is not kind, nor true, to say that everyone in Faringdon is in a rush. You have already pointed out that whoever is supposed to monitor traffic problems certainly isn't !

Also, shame on you, don't throw your Highway Code out of the window. We already generate enough rubbish as it is and don't need help from a comparative newcomer.

Thatman

---

## Musical Acts required for 2012 event - 22/11/11

If you're a local group or solo artist interested in playing at a new large charity, family event in Faringdon over a weekend next summer we'd be interested to hear from you.

All styles considered; covers or original. Youth or maturity no barrier! You will need to have enough material to play 30-45 minutes.

Please contact us with links to websites/sample music etc. [info@15minuteclub.co.uk](mailto:info@15minuteclub.co.uk)

David Reynolds

---

## Not only Parking..... - 21/11/11

I have only been in the Faringdon area for the past 2 years but I can already say I have never known a town like it! There seems to be a total disregard for not only the parking but road signage. The amount of times I have seen cars shoot up the bus stop area of the Market square ignoring the ever so obvious sign that it's bus only. This also goes for the one way section. Just this morning I was level with the bargain shop when a truly ignorant woman ignored the 'GIVE WAY' sign, drove at me and then gestured at me to reverse!

It seems that everyone is forever in a rush that highway code goes out the window!

From a newby with respect for the town!

---

## Tea Dances at Wantage- 21/11/11

The monthly tea dances are organised by the Vale of White Horse District Council and are open to anyone to attend.

They take place on the second Friday of each month at Wantage Civic Hall between 2pm and 4.30pm.

Tickets are £2.50 in advance (£3 on the door) with complimentary tea and biscuits provided.

---

## Martyn Joseph Concert this Thursday - 21/11/11

Just a reminder that as part of his current UK tour, Martyn will be performing at the Corn Exchange this Thursday 24th. Tickets £15.00. Start 8pm.....doors 7.15pm.

Details contact Faringdon Community & Tourist Info on 242191. For info on Martyn [www.martynjoseph.net](http://www.martynjoseph.net)

---

## Stolen Angel - 21/11/11

A white resin angel was stolen from our sons grave( in the Coach Lane cemetery)

The angel is in the sitting position, holding a small bird it is about 8 inches high and is marked on the base with the following PG 41 SN77AN

Stolen in October, it is of no real monetary value but very upsetting for all concerned.

Name Supplied

---

## Re new changing facilities at Faringdon Leisure Centre 21/11/11

I went to the gym on Friday at lunchtime, thinking how nice it would be to be able to get changed without hoardes of school girls screeching in my ear and was told that the new facilities weren't ready and wouldn't be for some time. When I mentioned the posting on the web ('The new changing facilities will be open from Wednesday 16 November. '), I was looked at as if I was mad.

So, either there's been some delay and SOLL have decided not to publicise this (ie only good news makes it onto the Faringdon website) or they need to do some training of their front-desk staff!

Anyone else tried to use the new facilities, with or without success?

Name supplied

---

## Faringdon Radio - Special - 21/11/11

New Faringdon Local is now out featuring  
Dominique Ventura Life-style coach,  
Alison Moore The Porridge Club: Music Martyn Joseph (playing at the Corn Exchange 24th) ,  
The Loves (The Crown 25th) ,  
Ben Phillips (The Crown 26th).

Our second special an audio tour of the Bullpen Art centre in Stanford in the Vale, is still available to download.

We are still looking for writers to help us produce a book reading programme.

Sean

[www.faringdonradio.com](http://www.faringdonradio.com)

---

## Vandalism - 20/11/11

In the last few days I have been disgusted with the actions of some, and uplifted by the actions of others. As some of you will have heard a memorial plaque had been removed from Tuckers Park. It had been placed in memory of a Faringdon Resident some years ago, and his family are still known and respected in our community.

Many of us were outraged at hearing this, and within 24 hours of word getting round, an offer was made by a generous and lovely local man to replace it.

It may seem very trivial to some people, but this serves as an example to us all that the community does count for something still. We are still lucky enough to live in a community were people care about the feelings of others. Bad things happen, and I wish they didn't, but hopefully the family and friends will take comfort in the fact that there are people out there that care.

A Lucky Faringdonian

---

## Pest Control- 20/11/11

Mike Perks - pest control - did a great job when we had a wasps' nest in the wall - and I'd highly recommend him.  
Wally Wright

---

## Pest Control- 20/11/11

There's at least one listed for Faringdon Wasp phobic. Google is your friend, if Able. You didn't doubt Rachel did you?

ThisMan

---

## Pest Control- 20/11/11

The Faringdon website shows a Faringdon local pest control company: Greenwood Pest Management on

01367 241120.  
Steve Wright

---

### Re That flag - 19/11/11

I gather that the delay in replacing the flag was extended through the need to bring in a pest controller from Swindon who was not available for several days, to remove the wasp nest, rather than a Faringdon based company who was. Another example of FTC's attitude to supporting local business? Perhaps Nick O'Keeffe would explain the reasoning.  
Rachel Kenward

---

### Planters in Town Centre - 19/11/11

How good to see the flowers round the Portwell pump and in the planters outside the Portwell Angel  
I hope the nearby businesses keep an eye/help to maintain them  
Local resident

---

### Zumba Classes- 19/11/11

If any Zumba instructors are interested in hiring a venue for daytime classes then consider the Corn Exchange in Faringdon.  
We offer very reasonable rates and are walking distance from the infants school and junior school – ideal for parents who have just dropped children off.....or just before they pick them up !.  
Contact Val on 01367 242191 or email [val@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:val@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk)

---

### Westmill Sustainable Energy Trust

Invitation to 26th November meeting to introduce the work of Westmill Sustainable Energy Trust and also the Solar Park share offer,  
Guided tour of the Solar Park and Wind Farm, 2.00pm – 3.00pm  
Presentations at Watchfield Village Hall, 3.30pm-4.30pm  
[More information](#)

---

### Zumba - 18/11/11

In response to the person asking about Zumba classes there will be a Zumba class starting at Faringdon Leisure Centre in the New year. This will run at 10am – 10:45am.  
Creche will be available during this class for any mums or dads wishing to take part in the class.  
Steve Gilbert  
Health & Fitness Manager  
SOLL Leisure  
More People More Active More Often visit <http://www.soll-leisure.co.uk>

---

### Zumba - 18/11/11

There is a morning Zumba class at Southmoor Village hall on Thursdays, 9.15am at £3.50 per session. There are only 4 weeks left until it stops though are looking at starting again in the new year.  
Alternatively, If there is enough interest in starting a Daytime Class in Faringdon then I can set something up.  
If you want more information please ring 01235 547646.  
Thanks Ashley Chapman Co Active

---

## Spork, sprooter, sprake - 18/11/11

Beautiful garden tools- great Christmas presents- and available to see and buy in Faringdon  
<http://www.sporkgardentools.com/shop>

---

## Solar PV Unfair?- 18/11/11

I have a lot of sympathy for "name supplied" when he/she points out that many people installing solar panels are just doing it "to make a quick profit" - rather than for eco reasons.

But then as an environmental campaigner, I think - does it really matter what the reason is? As long as people ARE reducing their carbon footprint, and in many cases also taking more individual responsibility for their energy consumption, then the scheme can be seen as successful . We then have to make sure that all can benefit from free sunlight - rather than just the privileged few - or those with roughly south-facing roofs.

A point of clarification on how much it costs the rest of us. The daily mail ran a campaign on green energy taxes earlier in the year, but then had to retract many of their original assertions after they turned out to be inaccurate or misleading. The so-called green taxes pay for ALL subsidies on renewables, as well as research into renewables - and are part of our overall commitment to the EU Renewable Energy Directive ( 15% from renewables by 2020) . Ofgem figures put the average green energy tax per household at £80 ( = 9%) . This breaks down as follows ( see for example <http://www.carbonbrief.org/blog/2011/06/peiser-gwpf-mail-energy-prices> ) : Carbon Emissions Reduction Target CERT £48 ; Community Energy Saving Programme CESP £3 ; Renewables Obligation RO £16 ; FiTs negligible ; Emissions Trading Scheme ETS £13 .

So - if it's any reassurance to those who haven't got the right kind of roof, your contributions to other peoples' solar panels are described as "negligible" - according to Ofgem. Knowing the size of the FiT pot, and with 26 million households in the UK, I can also do a back-of-envelope calculation myself that gives me less than 0.1% of the typical energy bill going to FiTs.

The Government has promised us green loans - where energy-saving measures tied to the property automatically qualify for essentially interest-free loans (or call them benefit-sharing schemes with your lender) . This will be one way in which those without the necessary capital can still benefit.

The new solar PV farm at Watchfield will shortly be launching its share offer. This allows anyone (whatever your roof aspect) to buy into solar PV . A representative from the Westmill Solar COOP will be at the meeting in the Corn Exchange on Tuesday with more details.

Do come along if this sounds of interest.

Sjoerd

---

## Feed in tariffs/Solar PV - 17/11/11

Of course the scheme isnt fair, but when has any government had to worry about fairness? The predominant motivation of government members isn't altruism, it is to stay in power. To do this they must introduce schemes and legislation which benefit and pander to those who are most likely to vote them back in next time. Members of government are a) so cocooned in their vast personal wealth that they have no understanding of or sympathy with what it means to be underprivileged or vulnerable, and b) even if they had they would hardly be likely to benefit the poorer members of society over the middle class who make up the majority of their supporters.

Bystander

---

## Faringdon Community Bus Christmas Shopping 17/11/11

The Faringdon Community Bus has Christmas Shopping trips organized, so don't miss these opportunities:

Sunday November 20th - Christmas Shopping at Bristol Cribbs Causeway (The Mall), depart 10:00, tickets £12.00 – just a few tickets remaining.

Sunday December 4th - Christmas Shopping at Milton Keynes (Centre MK), depart 09:30, tickets £13.00 – One of the best shopping malls in our area!

Thursday December 15th – Last minute shopping at Witney, depart 13:30, tickets £5.00.

Tickets can be purchased from the Tourist Information Centre in Gloucester Street.  
Steve Wright, Faringdon Community Bus

---

## **Zumba** - 16/11/11

Does anyone know of a DAYTIME (9-2) Zumba class in Faringdon, or its surroundings?  
Siobhan

---

## **Faringdon Radio - Special** - 15/11/11

Our second special has eventually arrived. This is a 30 minute audio tour of the Bullpen Art Centre in Standford in the Vale with one of the artists that run the centre Helen Jacobs. From our website look under Faringdon Radio - Specials.

We are still look to hear from writers and playwrights to create a new book reading programme and hopefully a radio play.....don't be shy do come forward.

Sean  
[www.faringdonradio.com](http://www.faringdonradio.com)

---

## **This is a Community Message from Thames Valley Police.** - 15/11/11

HAVE YOUR SAY MEETINGS

The following Have Your Say Meetings are being held in your Neighbourhood: Sunday 27th November, between 11:0hrs and 14:00hrs at Faringdon Market Square

Please come along, this is your opportunity to speak with your Neighbourhood Officers to discuss any local issues of concern you may have.

If you are unable to attend but wish to speak with your Neighbourhood Officers, please call 101.

---

## **Feed in tariffs/Solar PV** - 14/11/11

Never has a Government scheme been so ill-conceived & unfair, this scheme benefits those who can afford to pay for an installation of around 10k, and those whose property is predominantly south facing ie the already privileged in our society, yet they expect the rest of us. The elderly, The not so privileged, The unemployed, etc etc to subsidise this scheme through our utility bills, estimated to be about £100.00 per household a year. So I for forgive me if I do not feel sorry for you. The sooner the Feed in Tariffs are reduced to below 10p per unit the better, we may then see a takeup by the true eco warriors, not those looking to make a quick profit from the rest of us.  
Name Supplied

---

## **Waste Recycling Centres. Christmas and New Year opening** - 14/11/11

Christmas Eve 20th to 21st

Christmas Day CLOSED  
Boxing Day CLOSED  
Tuesday 27.12.2011 - 8am to 5pm  
Friday 30.12.2011  
New Year's Eve 8am to 3pm  
New Year's Day CLOSED  
Monday 02.01.2012 onwards - normal opening hours apply, 8am-5pm

---

## **New changing facilities at Faringdon Leisure Centre** - 14/11/11

Adult customers of Faringdon Leisure Centre are to benefit from new dedicated changing facilities.

A store room and treatment room have been transformed into members only changing accommodation for users of the gym, squash courts and dance studio.

The new changing accommodation, which opens this week, consists of male and female changing areas with showers and locker facilities.

The new facilities provide members of the public with their own dedicated changing area during school hours. School groups will continue to use existing facilities in a separate area of the building, meaning that there will be more room for people to change.

The work, which cost £30,000, has been carried out by the Vale of White Horse District Council. The project has been funded through Section 106 developer contributions from Bloor Homes Ltd, and is part of a continuous leisure centre improvement programme.

The new changing facilities will be open from Wednesday 16 November.

Cllr Elaine Ware, cabinet member for leisure, said: "We are always looking to improve our leisure facilities so that members can enjoy a more welcoming environment and feel that they are getting value for money. We hope that the upgrade to the changing facilities will make using Faringdon Leisure Centre a nicer experience for both members and school parties."

Dave Morrell, the General Manager of Faringdon Leisure Centre, said: "Customer numbers at the Faringdon Leisure Centre increased by 20 per cent since last year. We are delighted with the works that the local authority has undertaken which will benefit our customers during the day."

---

## **Cotswold Volunteers Need Your Help...** - 14/11/11

Cotswold Volunteers are opening a charity shop in Marlborough Street, Faringdon (opposite Budgens) in the New Year. We need your help to make it a success!

Just one half-day per week can really help.

There are many 'behind the scenes' roles such as sorting, steaming, cleaning and polishing that are vital to the successful running of the shop as well as 'front-facing' display, sales and till work.

Special skills are not required as you will be fully trained but if you have any relevant experience it will certainly be put to good use!

Volunteering is not only a fun way to get involved with the charity but, with a real team atmosphere, it's also a great way to make new friends.

Cotswold Volunteers is a charitable organisation set up to promote volunteering and to help disadvantaged people in the Cotswolds to live life as fully as possible with the help of volunteers.



- It recruits and helps to place volunteers so they can provide vital support within the local community.
- It provides transport for the disadvantaged, frail and elderly and those who are isolated for whatever reason.
- It provides day care facilities for older people and others in need of care.

Anyone interested in volunteering is asked to contact Judy at Cotswold Volunteers on 01285 651246. Email [judy@cotswoldvolunteers.org](mailto:judy@cotswoldvolunteers.org)

Ed(GW) I'm told that this organisation '*supplies transport through the hospitals in the Faringdon area for the patients going to Cheltenham and oxford hospitals as well as supporting the PCT when they have a urgent transport need with a specialist vehicle*'

---

## Two hours free parking confirmed for the Vale - 13/11/11

Residents and visitors to the Vale are set to receive an early Christmas present after it was confirmed, subject to scrutiny, that they will be able to park for free for two hours every day from this December.

On Friday 11 November the Vale of White Horse District Council's cabinet voted in favour of implementing a new car parking order, which includes the provision of a two hour period of free parking that drivers can take advantage of anytime between 8am and 6pm in district council car parks.

The new scheme was proposed as a way to help boost the trade in Abingdon, Faringdon and Wantage town centres, allowing people time to do everyday shopping and also explore more of what the local shops, cafes and other businesses have to offer, while not having to worry about paying to park.

It is hoped that the introduction of two hours free parking will provide a boost to businesses which are having to cope with the tough economic conditions, and in some cases the added effect of nearby building work.

Under the new arrangements the charging period will change to between 8am and 6pm. During this time people wishing to park will need to display a valid ticket, including during the free two hour period.

Once people have parked for the free two hours in a particular town they will have to pay the standard fee if they wish to park again during the charging period. Parking will remain free of charge between 6pm and 8am.

The new parking order also includes changes to the cost of standard short term parking fees and longer term parking permits.

Following approval by cabinet, the new car parking order is now subject to scrutiny. Once the scrutiny period has passed full details of the scheme will be published. It is anticipated that the scheme will launch on Friday 9 December.

---

## Parking - 13/11/11

I spoke with Thames Valley Police on Tuesday having been faced yet again with a car driving directly towards me on the pavement along Canada Lane as I walked home after dropping off my daughter at school. It's fantastic that there are now less cars parking on the double yellow lines there, however the problems are further along the road towards the junction with Cedar Road and The Pines. Cars parked on the junction, all around the corner before the junction and now every afternoon one or two morons are even parking opposite the junction on the pavement. There's not enough room for the cars to get by safely, let alone us poor pedestrians!

On Friday I asked one person not to park on the path opposite the junction as it's not safe, it's illegal and makes it impossible for anyone with a pram to get past. She said she wasn't on the double yellow lines and there was nowhere else to park! Nowhere? Seriously?

I didn't have the opportunity to educate this ignoramus further because she shut her car door. It takes less than five minutes for me to walk to school, surely it'd take the same amount of time for those people to walk from the

Gloucester Street car park? It's got to the point where it's not safe for me or my daughter to walk to school!  
Cheryl

---

<p><b>SOLAR PANELS...</b> <i>What Are My Options Now?</i></p> <p>PUBLIC MEETING - CORN EXCHANGE Tuesday 22nd November</p> <p>FREE ENTRY. Doors open 7.15pm Panel Discussion &amp; questions 7.30-8.30 . Networking &amp; refreshments to 9pm . Panel includes the MD of independent renewable energy specialists (TV-Energy) &amp; Faringdon's Town Mayor. <i>ALL WELCOME.</i></p>  <p>For more information email <a href="mailto:sjoerd@vogt.org.uk">sjoerd@vogt.org.uk</a> , or phone 01367-241707</p>	<p><b>Photovoltaic panels discussion</b></p> <p>If you're considering solar photovoltaic panels for your roof, and you've been following the news about the surprise reduction in Feed-in Tariffs, then the Corn Exchange event on the 22nd could be very helpful: Corn Exchange, 7.30pm-9pm, doors open 7.15 Discussion and questions Enq: 01367 241707</p>
--	--

**French Tutor wanted** - 12/11/11

Does anyone know a good French tutor for GCSE private tuition?  
Cheryl Allen-Stevens

---

**Parking** - 11/11/11

It was good to see the Police, were issuing parking tickets outside the Infants School on Wednesday morning. Hopefully now, they can also concentrate on the drivers passing the School too fast.  
Well done.  
Mark

---

## Parking and that flag - 10/11/11

### First that flag:

Re. Mike Perks comment 20/10/11. A new flag is flying atop The Pump House, the FTC had first to arrange for a wasp's nest to be removed hence the delay but is now there.

### Parking:

Yes there does seem to be a feeling that double yellow lines, and parking on pavements does not apply to some Faringdon residents, who are 'only going to collect a take away', going to the shop, etc etc or are incapable of walking a few hundred yards and perceive the road outside their house to be their's by right and to hell with other road users (including pedestrians, those in wheelchairs, and those using prams).

This is a perennial problem and as a Town Councillor and a motorist/cyclist/pedestrian I have every sympathy with those of us that are affected by the selfish actions of some of our community. What can be done about it ? Apart from a change of attitude by these selfish illegal parkers (slim chance I fear), the free two hour parking will go some way to alleviating the problem, but not by much. There is no traffic warden in Faringdon, other than someone who checks the pay car parks. This leaves the police to act as deterrents to the illegal parker. I have had many discussions with our local police team and I fully understand that they cannot devote all of their time to acting as traffic wardens. They are doing a terrific job in keeping our crime levels as low as they are and this has to be a priority. Having said that they have significantly increased the number of tickets issued, and have issued many warning letters to persistent illegal parkers.

They can only act on what they see not on hearsay regarding parking problems. However if you have a problem with illegal parking in your area please report it. The police have identified problem 'hot spot' areas in the town and are targeting these for action as time and resources allow, but please report persistent abuse direct to them.

The real solution assuming a collective sense of community responsibility does not suddenly descend on the town (watches pigs fly past window) is for us to have a full time Traffic Warden. The FTC are asking for this and I would urge you all to lobby your Vale & County Councillors to make this happen.

Personally I think it would be self funding in a matter of weeks!

Nick O'Keefe

---

## Tip petition - 10/11/11

This is one petition that I think may be a good idea. The catchment area for the stanford tip encompasses a large area including Faringdon, Wantage and all the surrounding villages in the Vale, plus any from other local authority areas for whom the Stanford tip is closer than any others.

There is time to make a well organised and presented case, with many thousands of signatories.

Bystander

---

## This is a Community Message from Thames Valley Police. - 10/11/11

Theft of tools from vehicles - "No Tools Left in Vehicle" Sticker

There have been vehicles broken into and tools stolen in the South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse areas. Thames Valley Police are urging vehicle owners, particularly van owners, NOT to leave tools in unattended vehicles whenever possible and to remove them at night.

All tools should be property marked, preferably with a visible mark such as chemical etching, further detail about this can be found by visiting:

[http://www.selectamark.co.uk/product\\_logomark.html](http://www.selectamark.co.uk/product_logomark.html)

The "No Tools Left in Vehicle" stickers are being supplied to potential victims to display in their vehicles to show that no tools have been left inside. The stickers are FREE and will be available at the following police stations:

Abingdon, Didcot, Faringdon, Henley, Thame, Wallingford & Wantage.

Your neighbourhood policing teams will also be distributing the stickers and some will be available from local builders merchants and similar trade outlets.

Please be extra vigilant, if you see anyone anyone acting suspiciously in or around vehicles please call the police on 08458 505 505 or 999 for crime in progress.  
If you have information but wish to remain anonymous, please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

---

## Available in Faringdon Tourist and Community Information Centre now: **Faringdon Calendars** - 10/11/11

13 beautiful views of Faringdon and the surrounding area. Great Christmas present or just treat yourself!  
Only £7.50  
Faringdon Christmas Cards - two different designs. Available as single cards or in packs of 3 or 5.  
Faringdon Tourist and Community Information Centre, Corn Exchange, Faringdon. 01367 242191 email [tic@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:tic@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk)

---

## **Tip petition** - 9/11/11

Is there an existing petition opposing the closure of the Stanford tip? If not, is it worth starting something?  
There are so many people who feel strongly about this issue.  
Name Supplied

---

## **Faringdon Radio- Calling all writers and playwrights** - 9/11/11

We are looking to expand the content of Faringdon Radio and have book readings on the station. This can be either short stories and or novels (these would be by instalments and may need to be abridged to keep the time down). We can find people to read your stories if you feel that reading your work is not your strength.

We would also like to develop a radio play if any performers and writers would like to get in touch with us.

Please get in touch [sean@faringdonradio.com](mailto:sean@faringdonradio.com)  
[www.faringdonradio.com](http://www.faringdonradio.com)

---

## **Survey- 2hrs free parking in Faringdon** - 8/11/11

At a meeting on 8 July 2011 the Vale of White Horse District Council's Cabinet agreed to introduce two hours free parking in all the council's car parks where there is currently a charge for parking. The council and the town partnerships (Wantage and Faringdon joint economic forums and the Choose Abingdon Partnership) are working hard to encourage people into the town centres and the two hours free parking would allow people the opportunity to do everyday shopping and also explore more of what the town centres have to offer without having to pay parking charges.

A public consultation on a draft car parking order, including the proposals for the two hour free parking scheme, is set to end this week, and a draft order will then go before the Cabinet on Friday 11 November. Should the order be formally approved, it is anticipated that the free parking scheme will launch by mid December.

Businesses in three Vale of White Horse towns are therefore being asked to help inform the Council about the potential benefits of a new two hour free parking scheme.

Could you complete a survey to tell us what impact that the introduction of two hours free parking in Vale car parks will have on your business and town centre vitality?

The results of this survey will be used alongside other research such as the number of cars parking in the car

parks, town centre footfall surveys, and the shop vacancy rates, as a basis for comparison purposes over the coming months to judge whether the introduction of free parking has been a success.

The deadline date for completing the survey will be 10th November 2011.

### **To complete the survey please click on this link**

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GLZVVK5>

Thank you for participating.

If you have any questions about the survey please email [economic.development@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:economic.development@southandvale.gov.uk)

kindest regards

Economic Development Tel 01235 540346

---

### **Mindless Vandalism** - 8/11/11

I can't imagine what pleasure is given to the mindless, brainless vandal(s) who smashed windows at the RC church hall. Their destructive, idiotic behaviour is totally anonymous, but I sign myself :  
Carolyn Williams.

---

### **Parking by the Swan** - 7/11/11

Has anything been done or will be done about the ridiculous parking going on by the Swan pub/Bromsgrove area? It is ludicrous. Cars parked on the once grass island by the Church there, a tree damaged by parking and at times its very difficult to get through. As usual no one is taking notice of the one way street, double yellows and disabled bay. Where are the PCSO's and the Traffic Wardens? Do we actually get what we are entitled to by paying the most expensive council tax in the vale thanks to poor councillors and bad management?

Colin

Name allowed.

Nothing to hide

---

### **M.A.D.D. Christmas Party /Fund raiser, 23 and 24th Dec.**- 7/11/11

Crown Hotel, 9pm . Free Entry

OXJAM gig. Bands already signed up, "Faceless" "Hands Down" "Young Rosie" "SkyBurnsRed" "The Fixed" "TentwentySix" "Dj COAST" "Lifehiker" "Invasion Sound and Lighting".

It is our aim to try and turn this into a mini Fest and run 2 days

This could be the with your help an awesome party,lotta fun, and a great Fund raiser as well as a roof raiser.

So please participate ,If you wish to perform or help out please get in touch with me, Sam Prince on Facebook, [samprince@fsmail.net](mailto:samprince@fsmail.net) 01367243806 0753 145 9179.

---

### **Faringdon Local new show out on Faringdon Radio**- 6/11/11

In this show: -

- The Maggie Centre & fundraising dinner with writer of Vicar of Dibley at Sudbury House
- Royal British Legion -Faringdon & Shrivenham branch

Music from: The Brickwork

Lizards

Ligherthief

The Man with the Stereo Hands

Comments welcomed on our Facebook page [www.faringdonradio.com](http://www.faringdonradio.com)

---

## Faringdon on Facebook - 5/11/11

I live in Faringdon on Facebook has been upgraded to the new groups format, to make it easier for members to connect and share  
Roz

---

## Halloween at the Folly- Witney TV- 5/11/11

<http://www.witneytv.co.uk/videos/faringdon-folly-at-halloween>

---

## Feed in Tariff changes- 5/11/11

I'm doomed! The new dates are bad news. I have quotes, but the decision deadline for my planning application isn't until 18th December.  
Ifor Phillips

---

## WANTED! Memories about Faringdon House. - 3/11/11

I am writing a book about my maternal grandparents – Robert Heber-Percy and Jennifer Fry and also about Lord Berners. I am particularly interested in hearing any memories about Faringdon House during the wartime – when the house and grounds were occupied by the US army. My mother, Victoria, was born in February 1943 and spent her first years at Faringdon House. I would be extremely grateful for any information that anyone could give me, including general information about the town during the war.

My email address is [sofka@zinovieff.com](mailto:sofka@zinovieff.com)

many thanks.

Sofka Zinovieff

Website:**Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**

---

## Queens Diamond Jubilee - 2/11/11

The Faringdon Town Council have set up a working group to organise some events for the Queens Diamond Jubilee. We are having an open meeting on Wednesday 30 November at Faringdon Business Centre and would like anyone or organisation that would like to take part to join us.

We will start the meeting at 7pm and we will provide some tea and coffee.

Julie

---

## Halloween at the Folly - 1/11/11

Thanks to the 300 people who climbed the spooky tower last evening.

The little ghouls and goblins loved the (resident?) witch and the Jigsaw character. Spooky music and spooky decorations added to the excitement

[Photos on Flickr](#)

All proceeds to Faringdon Folly

---

## Double Yellow lines - 1/11/11

It appears from contributors' reports, that it wouldn't be more of a problem if some of the yellow lines were eradicated. They appear to serve no useful purpose.

Hopefully, as in Witney, we will see free parking and then more stringent policing of illegal street parking.

Mark Cunniff

---

### **Calling Back** - 31/12/11

Not sure about calling back, but what I'd like to see is a tradesman's properly itemised quotation or estimate. What I mean is the hourly rate for labour, and materials expressed separately. That way we might know what we are paying for and would have some way of knowing whether it is fair, and how the rate compares with other tradesmen. Before anyone tells me the difference between a quotation and an estimate, I already know, but none of the ones I have seen actually tell you how the sum payable is divided. In some countries this is mandatory, there is a rate for the different elements of a job and is clearly fairer than having to accept a guess without knowing what is being charged for what.

name supplied

---

### **New Shop** - 31/12/11

Karja are now supplying lingerie to Uptown Fashions. Come and see us on the first floor (opposite The Wheatsheaf).

Jane Boulton and Karen Draper

---

### **Calling Back** - 31/12/11

I actually have had problems with "artisans" over the years, but have found my son the most unreliable of them. I have found Daryl Pugh to be a very good plumber and extremely reliable (but beware his "builders whistle")

Janie

---

### **Faringdon Community Bus** - 31/12/11

Do you have some spare time and want to give something to the people of Faringdon? Why not join the Faringdon Community Bus team that our passengers tell us provide an invaluable service, the team that won the 2009 Faringdon Community Group Award? We have recently lost some of our drivers for various reasons so need new recruits. The bus is straightforward to drive and full training will be given. Although welcome, no regular commitment is required, unless that is your wish. If you would like to join us, please call Richard Smith (07879 470440) or Steve Wright (01367 241011) and see our website, <http://www.faringdoncommunitybus.co.uk>

Steve Wright

---

### **Emergency Plumbing (calling back)** - 30/12/11

Just as a matter of interest, why is it that tradesmen e.g. roofers, builders, electricians etc. often don't 'call back'? Having been given assurances that they will be in touch, or call around, sometimes on a particular day when I have to wait in for them, they are not seen or heard of again. This has happened to me and others a number of times, and I am left wondering if they are too busy, too disorganised, or simply couldn't care less. In the meantime I am left wasting time - not knowing what to think, then have to start all over again. Surely if they don't want the work or are too busy then they could say so and save me a lot of anxiety and trouble. Any answers?

name supplied

---

### **Emergency plumbing** - 30/12/11

Not all plumbers have a couldn't care less attitude. Our power shower also failed 8 December, inspected next day by R J Harrison, new pump ordered and fitted the following week. Brilliant job done: fast, efficient, tidy courteous and a pleasure to deal with. Definitely recommended. Still waiting for the courtesy of a call back from Abel.

Name Supplied

---

### **Book Crossing** - 30/12/11

I was wondering if there are any other Book Crossers in Faringdon as I have very recently joined up and was wondering if they could recommend places to 'release' books.

Sam. BC name- songofdarkness

---

### **FARINGDON RADIO** - 29/12/11

'...from the Ladder Factory'. A new music show from Faringdon Radio. Music & chat from Sean Hodgson & Pete Rowe with bands from Swindon, Oxford & other places close by. Episode one out now on Faringdon Radio [www.faringdonradio.com](http://www.faringdonradio.com) SPREAD THE WORD - TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Sean Hodgson

---

### **Singing Bird** - 29/12/11

We also heard it Christmas Eve and we are sure it was a robin. In previous years we've always heard one in the evening over the road closer to Mojo furniture shop.

Rachel

---

### **Christmas tree recycling** - 29/12/11

Faringdon & District Rotary Club will be re-cycling Christmas Trees Saturday 7th January 9am - 3pm Faringdon Market Place, Shrivenham High Street, The Green Clanfield and Stanford Village Hall. Donations to Local Charities Please Visit [www.faringdonrotaryclub.co.uk](http://www.faringdonrotaryclub.co.uk) to see how active Faringdon Rotary Club Are in your Area

Mike Bell

---

### **Faringdon Town Centre/Doing food** - 29/12/11

I was intrigued to read the comment about the Bell's opening hours. I do not dispute the fact that they are open, but repeat that, when my friends and I asked for a snack in the early evening, we were told in no uncertain terms that it was the supper menu or nothing i.e. no salads, jacket potatoes or other light meals. Those were only served at lunchtimes. I believe there was nothing on offer for under £7 each.

name supplied

---

## Christmas tree recycling - 29/12/11

Faringdon Rotary Club will be in the Market Square on Saturday 7th January from 9am to 3pm. Bring your christmas tree along for recycling.

Sarah Benson

---

## Santa's Farewell - 27/12/11

Christmas now is over...My elves are on the dole.  
I can't afford the heating up here at the North Pole.  
I've climbed a lot of chimneys .Each year there's less and less  
but my beard gets really sooty and my suit is quite a mess  
I'm sick of eating mince pies and a cup of milk is fine  
but I'd much prefer a hamburger and a glass of wine.  
It's assumed I'm always jolly and shouting Ho ! Ho ! Ho !  
but I'm trying to stop my reindeer by screaming Whoa ! Whoa ! Whoa !  
I used to get nice letters from the little girls and boys  
asking for a bicycle or basic clockwork toys.  
But now they send me Emails or texts by SMS.  
and these modern miracles don't tell me their address  
I'm troubled now by chilblains and my nose is always runny  
So now I'm off to Tenerife for fun  
with the Easter Bunny.

S.Claus.

---

## Faringdon Town Centre/Doing food - 27/12/11

The Bell Hotel in the Market Place, Farindgon. does serve food during the day 8 am till 3 pm and 6 pm till 8.30 pm  
Monday to Friday ,Saturday 8 am till 8.30 pm and Sunday 12 pm till 8.30 pm. Carvery on a Sunday 12 pm till 2  
pm. Booking would be adviseable because we do get fully booked quickly. We have light bite meals, Starters,  
Main Course and Desserts on our Menus on Every table. Blackboards in the Bar also supply Specials.

Eddie & Mel Gravestock

---

## Singing Bird - 27/12/11

Hi! I wonder if anyone could help me identify a bird which I heard singing from a tree in the little seating area near the top of Eagles. I came out of the Midnight service on Christmas Eve, at about 1am, to hear a little bird singing its head off. It was rather startling to hear it singing so loudly and clearly at that time on a Winter's night. It was not a blackbird or a thrush, and when I came back to church the next morning, there it was again, singing away. I caught a glimpse of it, and it looked more loke a warbler, but I could not identify it. This bird has such a loud song that I am sure some of the residents in that area will have heard and identified it. I did make a recording on my phone, but it is not all that clear. Thanks for any help with identification!

Jules Carr

---

## Land near Southampton Street - 23/12/11

Hi this land is owned by Badnell Properties, they own the land on Pioneer Road. It is going to be a new factory for Alser UK Ltd, the fenced area is part of the new yard as the factory will be where the peugeot garage was. Hope this helps.

Sue Crook

---

### **Budgens Redevelopment** - 22/12/11

I received an e-mail today from commercial estate agents Rapleys (www.rapleys.co.uk), asking if I wanted to open a store in a small Oxfordshire market town called Faringdon! I wasn't impressed with their attention to detail when the e-mail spelt Farringdon with two 'rs'. On reading further, it described the town centre as 'vibrant', but made no mention of the impending threat to the viability and vitality of the town from the Out of Town Tesco. The Rapley details outline the plans to downsize the Budgens store & to create a new sub-let unit.

David

---

### **Emergency Plumbing** - 21/12/11

D Hatton (Plumbing and Heating Services) We would like to say thank you to Mr Hatton who replaced our power shower promptly and efficiently. Had we gone with the response from other plumbers we would be waiting until the New Year for a replacement. A job well done.

Rachel and Simon

---

### **Land near Southampton Street** - 21/12/11

Does anyone know what's happening on the land at the end of Southampton Street South? A heavy duty fence has been erected and there has been a lot of earthmoving equipment moving about. I've heard rumours of allotments, but likewise of a carpark/turning area/access for cars and lorries coming to the new Tesco. I certainly hope the latter is not the case; it would blight an otherwise quiet area of Faringdon.

Grant Womack

---

### **Folly Christmas Light** - 21/12/11

Once more the Folly Tower displays a Festive Light  
I'm sure we all admire it  
So....  
THANK YOU PETER WHITE

THATMAN

---

### **Despair** - 21/12/11

Yes, it is with despair that we have just discovered that, once again, the rose bush in our front garden has been stripped. We had a really beautiful rose for Christmas and some thieving job has helped himself. What is the solution? Barbed wire? Remove the whole bush and replant it safely out of reach, and sigh? We are really fed up.

Geoffrey and Carolyn Williams

---

### **FARINGDON RADIO** - 21/12/11

Our new 'Faringdon Local' show is now out featuring interviews with Steve Gilbert Personal trainer, Alan Mcfadyen

Faringdon Fire & Rescue. Music from: Handsdown, Mortdelamer, and Martyn Joseph. We wish you all a merry Xmas and thank you for your support during our first year. Sean [www.faringdonradio.com](http://www.faringdonradio.com) SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT FARINGDON RADIO

---

## **Faringdon Town Centre/Not doing food** - 20/12/11

We had the same experience about dining in Faringdon. We got the "not doing food" message in The Old Crown and repaired to the Red Lion which, a few months ago, was a good place. My wife's cousin wanted to know what was the "pie of the day". The young lady on the counter went into the kitchen and came back with the message: "He'll be out in a minute". The minute grew into 5 minutes until I crossly said: "I only want to know the pie of the day". The young lady said: "I only wish I could tell you". I went back to my wife's cousin who'd gone off the pie idea and I ordered something else. Forty five minutes elapsed during which I had time to notice that the pub seemed to be making the pub itself a priority over eating" I uttered a gentle reminder about the food at the counter and from the young lady came the two words: "Ten minutes". I said that if the food hadn't come in ten minutes I'd want my money back. It came in the nick of time to avoid me carrying out my threat. In fairness the food was satisfactory - but the way seems open for someone to provide simple meals at a reasonable price and at reasonable speed.

Bill Rennells

---

## **Dog Fouling** - 20/12/11

There's been another series of repeated dog fouling, this time in the vicinity of the tennis courts, especially on neighboring pavements and up the alley way to the health centre. With the dark evenings the increased chances of stepping on a deposit makes this particularly unpleasant. When this last happened the dog warden caught the culprit that time, which put an end to the matter. He has the power to impose a large fine. However if anybody can identify the current offender a quick word might bring the matter to a close, without the dog warden having to investigate.

Name Supplied

---

## **Calendars reduced** - 19/12/11

Faringdon 2012 Calendars are now reduced in Faringdon Community and Tourist Information Centre. Were £7.50 now £6 each or two for £10. We only have 20 left so hurry!

### **Faringdon Town Council and Faringdon Community & Tourist Information Centre**

We will be closed from 12.30pm on Thursday 22nd December 2011 through to 9am on Tuesday 3rd January 2012. The Town Council telephone (01367 240281) will be manned between 9am and 12.30pm on 28th, 29th and 30th December but the office will be closed to members of the public. Outside of these hours please leave a message on our answer phone.

---

## **Missing blackbird** - 15/12/11

The top of one of the very old (over 220 years) Scots Pine at the Folly has broken off in the recent high winds - very sad - especially as it was a tree with one of our super blackbirds perched in it. The blackbird is no longer there - so I guess someone has 'rescued' it. Please do pass it to one of the friends of the Folly so we can put it back. '23 blackbirds baked in a pie' doesn't have the same ring to it!  
Thanks  
Gene Webb

## Faringdon Town Centre - 14/12/11

Support Faringdon town centre? Dream on!

Going out with friends tonight, went into the Crown and were told crossly "we're not doing food". Crossed over to the Bell, only to discover they don't do any light meals in the evening, not jacket potatoes, not salads, only dishes costing much more than we wanted to afford.

Do these people take any interest in Faringdon?

Ended up getting takeaways from Portuguese Faringdonians. We were made welcome there and the food was good and reasonably priced. But that is not what we were really looking for when going out for the evening.

Name Supplied

---

## 1945 Faringdon Firemen - 14/12/11

This is a photo of Faringdon Firemen in 1945 or 1946, also a list of names of which i am three short.

This photo has appeared in the Oxford Mail and Folly Papers to try and find the missing names. The photo was taken in Bromsgrove opposite what is now Hart avenue. (I believe)

During the second world War Faringdon Firemen were sent to Exeter, Bristol, Coventry, London and I believe Southampton during the Blitz. The then Lord Faringdon who was in the Fire service attended some of these and I believe distinguished himself.

Also Faringdon has had a number of Fire Stations One of which was in Bromsgrove (3rd Station) where Hart avenue is now and then under Marlborough House (4th Station) where the motorist shop ( Piano shop before) is at present.

Has anybody who looks at this site a photo of either of these previous Fire Stations?

From Left Standing	From the Left Sitting
1. Bernie Stepp.	1. Bill Stanton
2. Cyril Chapman.	2. Percy Harris
3. Fred Kirby.	3. Ray Gilling
4. Herby Page.	4. ?
5. Jimmy (Titch) Horton	5. ?
6. Boas (Buzz) Simpson	6. Sid Taylor
7. Joe Priest	7. Bill Goodenough
8. Walter Busby	
9. Jack Green (From Bampton)	
10. ?	
11. Lovell Drawbridge	



[Click to see a bigger picture \( large file 3.6mb\)](#)

Bill Law  
01367 242226

---

## This is a Community Message from Thames Valley Police.- 13/12/11

12 days until Christmas – don't become a victim of burglary this winter

Christmas is a busy time of year for everyone, but ensuring your home is properly protected against festive crime should be made a priority.

Ch Insp Geoff Robinson, Head of Neighbourhood Policing and Partnerships, said: "Having bought all those wonderful presents, don't make it easy for someone to steal them from your home.

"Keep presents out of sight until last thing on Christmas Eve and if you 'hide' or store larger items such as bicycles in the shed or outbuildings, make sure they are very secure.

"Don't leave curtains open so people can see your decorations as potential thieves can see in. Be extra careful about locking doors and windows. As a fire precaution, don't leave Christmas lights on in the house while you are out.

"If you go out for the evening, make it look like someone is at home by turning on lights and the radio. If you go away for the holiday period - use an automatic timer for lights and ask a trusted neighbour to watch your home.

"If you have high value presents like a new laptop, mobile phone or games console, please dispose of the packaging with care. Just leaving it next to the bin with the other rubbish will advertise what you have inside your home for all to see. Fold it up and put it in the bin or take it to the recycling centre".

Consider property marking high value items with your postcode and house number. This will put a thief off as the property can be easily identified as stolen, and if it is stolen, this will assist the police in getting your property back to you. Also, keep a record of the serial numbers of expensive items.

Some basic burglary prevention advice is bullet pointed below.

Remember to close and lock all windows and doors, even if you only leave the house for a few minutes.

Most burglars will only steal items that are easy to carry and sell on such as jewellery and small electrical items – like laptops, mobile phones and cameras. Often, the first place they look is the bedroom for jewellery and money. Consider hiding jewellery and money away in a place that only you would know about.

Lock items away when you leave the house and do not leave them on display in front of a window. This advice applies to Christmas presents too.

If you have a high value present such as a new laptop, mobile phone or games console, dispose of the packaging with care. Leaving it next to the bin with the other rubbish will advertise what you have it in the house for all to see. Fold it up and put it in the bin or take it to the recycling centre.

Consider property marking the high value items with your postcode and house number. This will put the thief off as the property can be easily identified as stolen, and if it is stolen, this will assist the police to get your property back for you. Also, make sure you keep a record of the serial numbers.

Ensure you have a good lock on your garden shed and consider getting an alarm fitted. Always keep bikes stored somewhere safe.

For further crime prevention advice or to find out more about crime in your area, follow us on Twitter @ThamesVP (opens new window) alternatively you can give us a 'like' on Facebook (opens new window)

Alternatively you can also visit our website or call and ask to speak to a Crime Reduction Adviser via the non-emergency number, 101.

---

## **Solar Panels - Listed Building Consent** - 13/12/11

I would like to express my thanks to the members of the town council who "fully supported" my proposal to fit solar PV panels to the out-of-sight rear roof of my house in Gloucester Street. Unfortunately the planning department's design and conservation officer has objected to the proposal "on the basis that the proposed solar panels would have an adverse affect on the appearance of the listed building and would detract from its architectural interest".

I've been looking for signs of architectural interest for the last sixteen years and not found any yet.

The final decision on the application will be made at a full Planning Committee meeting in early January.

Ifor Phillips  
15 Gloucester Street

---

## **Thankyou for having us** - 13/11/12

I discovered this website more than 8 years ago. I had a vision of the two editors wearing large flowery hats, driving gleaming gas guzzlers and meeting like minded ladies for lunch. I have never met either of them so I retain the vision.

Since then I have submitted 411 posts (including this one if it is published ) and used almost 40 pseudonyms, partly from modesty but mainly from fear of retribution  
At this time of year I wait for someone to express their thanks to Gene and Hil for their hard work so that I can simply say 'Here Here' or even 'Hear Hear.'  
I believe that without this safety valve many contributors would have spent time and money on a psychiatrist's couch or on the phone to the Samaritans being told 'your call is important to us and a sympathiser will be with you when they have finished their coffee'  
But as no one has so far come forward  
On behalf of a vast number of grateful but shy posters  
Merry Christmas. Happy New Year and many thanks Gene and Hil

HGM

*ED(GW): Thanks HGM ( no hat or gas guzzler!)*

---

## **Faringdon Community Awards 2011** - 13/12/11

There are many 'heroes' in our town whose achievements go unrecognised please nominate for Faringdon's Community Awards 2011. Your nominations can be for anyone from Faringdon who you feel deserves to be recognised.

There are three categories:

- Community Hero
- Group Award
- Business Award

You can nominate for any category or for all three. Nominations will be shortlisted and put to the public vote in February / March 2012

[Nomination forms](#) are available from Faringdon Community and Tourist Information Centre or you can email your nominations to [sally@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:sally@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk)  
Closing date for nominations is 31st January 2012.

---

## **Timeline 0430 hours Faringdon England** - 13/12/11

I'm early to bed and I'm early to rise I should feel Healthy, Wealthy and Wise  
But that silly song for me is quite wrong  
For I know that I only  
feel lonely

Insomniac

---

## **Hi Speed fibre for Faringdon in 2012** - 12/12/11

BT announce fibre for Faringdon in 2012, Monday 12th December 2011

Please follow this link to the BT Press Release:

<http://www.btplc.com/News/Articles/Showarticle.cfm?ArticleID=5D490029-9378-46B1-922D-94A8F8F29AA9>

The Consultant.

---

## **Second to None** - 12/12/11

I have to also sing the praises of Second to None. I was visiting the area from Devon at the end of last week and on Friday afternoon, my car developed a problem - which was a worry as I needed to return to Devon on Sunday.

After speaking to Bob at second to None, I took my car in at 4:00 on Friday. By 11:30 Saturday morning they had diagnosed the problem, removed and fitted the parts and all at an exceptionally good cost.

Their customer service was exceptional, as was their value for money – certainly not what you would get from a main dealer or a national chain.

Thank you Bob & the Team

Richard King

---

## **Faringdon Community Academy Steering Group – Academy Consultation Update** - 12/12/11

The Faringdon Community Academy have now written and provided information to the following groups:

- Parents and carers of every pupil in Faringdon Infant School, Faringdon Junior School and Faringdon Community College.
- All students at Faringdon Community College.
- Faringdon Junior School has been provided information for Student Councils at their schools.
- Every member of staff at these schools and all support staff have received informal briefings from the Steering Group.
- Every Head Teacher in the Faringdon Partnership and every feeder school.
- Governors at all 3 schools.
- Local Community Groups including: Faringdon Town Council, Family Centre, Chamber of Commerce, U3A, Faringdon Area Project, Faringdon Association of Residents, Faringdon 41 Club and Faringdon & District Rotary Club.
- Additionally, information has been provided to the Faringdon Folly, Faringdon.Org, What's On and Talking Points.

There is a link on each school website to an Academy Status page providing copies of articles and all the letters listed above, Q&A and a link to the Department for Education's website which provides a comprehensive library of information relating to academies.

Every piece of correspondence includes an e-mail address ([academyqueries@fcc.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:academyqueries@fcc.oxon.sch.uk)) for any member of the local community to raise observations or ask questions – these queries are being answered individually and the questions, where relevant are being added to the extensive list of Q&As available via the school websites. The Academy Status web-page includes a clear statement that sets out the vision for education in Faringdon under a multi-academy structure.

It is acknowledged that this is a significant change programme and the Governing Bodies and the Steering Group are taking this responsibility extremely seriously.

It is also acknowledged that the pace of the proposed changes is relatively quick; less so for Faringdon Community College who have been considering this option for over 12-months.

However, it is understood that there maybe significant financial benefits for academies that convert within this financial year and consequently, the Steering Group has decided that it would be prudent to target a conversion of 1 April 2012 in order to take advantage of the higher funding levels.

This process will conclude on 12 January 2012 with an opening evening for all groups represented above. The evening will comprise a short presentation from the Faringdon Community Academy Steering Group followed by an opportunity for those present to ask questions.

The Open Evening will take place at the Junior School from 6-7pm. The Governing Bodies from each school will then meet individually to decide whether to proceed with their applications.

Even if all Governing Bodies decide to continue with their applications, they will retain the option to withdraw at any stage leading up to the legal point of transfer, if they feel that they are not satisfied with the outcomes that evolve.

For example, a key decision point will be the receipt of the proposed funding agreements from the Department.

For further information please visit our website on [www.fcc.oxon.sch.uk/college\\_news/academy\\_status.html](http://www.fcc.oxon.sch.uk/college_news/academy_status.html). The Faringdon Steering Group would be happy to listen to your views.

Please e-mail your comments to [academyqueries@fcc.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:academyqueries@fcc.oxon.sch.uk) or write to the Business Manager at Faringdon Community College, Fernham Road, Faringdon, Oxon, SN7 7LB.

---

## Call for volunteer ushers- Oxford Playhouse - 11/12/11

A great voluntary job- you get to see the whole performance when you usher. The job is mainly to man a fire door, but you also take tickets, sell programmes and icecream.

<http://www.oxfordplayhouse.com/takingpart/Jobs.aspx>

Gemma Summerfield  
Front of House Manager  
T: 01865 305352

---

## Council Tax ebilling - 11/12/11

[Read about the savings to the council and how to sign up](#)

---

## Faringdon Fire Station Christmas Fayre and Santa's Grotto on Saturday 10th December.

We would like to say a big thank you to all those that came to the station on Saturday and supported us. We raised just over £800:00 pound on the day and this would not have been possible without the support of the people of Faringdon and also the businesses in town who donated items to us. Once again, thank you all and have a safe festive period. We look forward to seeing you all in March at our carwash.

The crew at Faringdon Fire Station.  
Many thanks for your time.  
Darrell Thomas.  
Fire Fighter.  
Faringdon Fire Station.

---

## Macmillan Cancer support the Faringdon and District Group - 11/12/11

We would sincerely like to thank the great people of Faringdon and the surrounding area who have so generously supported us this year. Since January we have sent £13,500 across to Macmillan Oxfordshire (Tel: 01264-343810 - Macmillan Accounts Office).

We have a remaining £254 in Lloyds Bank Faringdon as a back up. The total amount raised is £13,754.

**WE ARE TRULY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR SUPPORT TO MACMILLAN AND WISH YOU A HAPPY AND PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS!**

Chris Moorhouse  
Chairman

---

## Second to None - 10/12/11

Here, here, regarding the recent post supporting Second 2 None. Some things are not always about price alone, although I have found them very competitive and cheaper than the big guns. It's also about honesty, integrity and customer service.

I recently discovered an odd flat spot on one of my tyres, one that I had purchased from Second 2 None some months earlier. I anticipated a response that the tyre had been damaged by accidental means (hitting a rock, curb, stone etc). Indeed this was the first reaction "it looks like you have hit something", however without any prompting the owner took time to remove the tyre and investigate it further. I'm no expert, so he could quite easily have said "yes, sorry it looks like you have hit something in the road". In contrast without any pressure he advised that he couldn't see what the cause was and would send it back. He then fitted a brand new tyre, smiled and saw me on my way with no charge.

I know where I will take my car in the future.

Devils advocate

---

## Buy the Sensible Folly- a story book- 9/12/11

A quirky story, written by Dr Who writer, Paul Cornell- especially for the Friends of the Folly.  
All proceeds go to support the running of the Folly tower and woodland.

A signed copy for £2.50. It's a snip!!! Great little present for those who have everything!  
You can buy it from the Tourist information centre, or directly from me  
[genewebb@rocketmail.com](mailto:genewebb@rocketmail.com)

---

## Re Academy Status - 9/12/11

Agreeing with Mark's posting about the speed with which the consultation process for academy status is being pushed through. These are very important and far reaching changes that are being suggested for all three schools and to rush it all through before everyone involved has had a chance to consider them fully is not a proper consultation. I suspect that the governing bodies have already made up their minds to do this and can't wait for January 12th when they think it will be all over. Remembering that once this decision is made there is no going back to local authority control.

How convenient that the two week Christmas break falls right in the middle of the process.  
Kevin (another parent)

---

## Further Praise for Second to None - 9/12/11

Not only do they do a good job at a reasonable price but the boss is very pleasant and friendly and so is her husband and her dog  
HGM

---

## Christmas lights - 8/12/11

Having travelled through Carterton and Highworth this week, and having seen the display in Faringdon, I would suggest that Faringdon Electrical Services should have gone to Specsavers! I was in the Market Place on Saturday afternoon before and during the Switch-On, amongst a packed audience who did appreciate the lights and efforts made by the Faringdon Retailer Group, the Faringdon Rotary Club and Faringdon Town Council, and I thought the whole event was a huge success.

I understand from a reliable source, that the reason some of the lights went out on Saturday and some stayed on until Monday morning was due to sabotage!  
Name Supplied

---

## Faringdon Singers CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT - 8/12/11

in the Catholic Church of Blessed Hugh Faringdon  
This Sunday 11th December - 3pm .  
CAROLS for Choir and Audience.  
Free Entry.  
Retiring collection in aid of Help for Heroes.  
Conductor: Terence Carter . Organist: John Ridgway .  
Followed by HOT PUNCH AND MINCE PIES.

All welcome - DO Come!

---

## Second to None - 8/12/11

I see Second to None sponsor the Faringdon First Responders.

I do hope the person/people (I forget!) who posted negative comments about them earlier this year based entirely on price feel an appropriate pang of guilt should they or their loved ones be in the unhappy situation of needing the services of the FFR.

Good to see a local business who believes in putting something back into the community - we could do with more like them!

Personally, I can't fault them.

Name supplied

---

## South and Vale up for "Council of the Year" award

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils have been jointly shortlisted in the "Council of the Year" category for the 2012 Local Government Chronicle (LGC) Awards.

The two councils, which operate on a predominantly shared basis, are one of just six throughout the country to have been shortlisted for this prestigious award.

[Read more about it](#)

---

## Faringdon Town Football Club, 30 year lease - 7/12/11

[Now with a 30 year lease, here are the plans](#)

---

## Christmas Trees for sale in Faringdon - 7/12/11

Does anyone know if the charity Christmas Tree sale will take place in Park Road this year? If so, is it this Saturday the 10th December?

The Consultant.

---

## Merry Christmas everyone - 7/12/11

The decorations have been switched on so now we're officially into the traditional Christmas period.

And what is filling my TP screen ?

Faringdon Community Academy Steering Group Update - Federation and Academy Status

This is my alternative posting for Christmas. It's a previously published poem which I like and if the author objects to a bit of Christmas plagiarism. I have a message for him/her

Merry Christmas, Happy New year...and Sue me !

Thatman

### Belated Christmas Presents

Our Christmas lights are not brand new, in fact they're rather old. But this year we decided we would have a star of gold.

It had a bulb inside it.. which made it very bright. I hung it in the window and it was a pretty sight.

Later on that evening I was watching Kenneth More when suddenly a visitor come knocking at my door. The knocking really angered me and made me want to yell. "That little button on the frame is connected to a bell."

But full of good will I went to see who it was disturbing me.

A sunburnt chap was standing there with a towel on his head. His outfit was a stylish sheet .with stripes of blue and red.

Two other men were with him, they were a motley lot I thought "Jehovah's Witnesses ?" but then I thought " They're not"

Their leader told me they had come.. 'from a land afar'. What brought them here to Faringdon?... They said my shining star.

They'd come to us with presents. At least they said they were. The Gold was very welcome but what is Frankincense and Myrrh ?

I told them that their SatNav had got their route quite wrong. I wished them Merry Christmas and said now please get along

I also said " You're miles off track and sorry to relate. The place you want is Bethlehem and you're two thousand years too late".

---

## White Horse Book shop closure - 7/12/11

Re closure of David Gottelier's White Horse Bookshop

Please note that David has reduced all his books by 25 % Most of our own stock is currently for sale with a 50 % discount.

Wim Meeuws

---

## Re Academy Status - 7/12/11

As a parent with a child at school in Faringdon, I would like to know what "consultation" is going to take place over the next couple of weeks. The Schools break up next week and many parents will be away over Christmas. This is not something that can be rushed and all parents, teachers and older pupils should be involved. This will take much longer and to conclude by January 12th, I believe could not involve full consultation.

Regards Mark

---

## Faringdon Community Academy Steering Group Update - Federation and Academy Status - 6/12/11

For many years there has been a great deal of informal collaboration between the Infant School, the Junior School and the Community College.

We want to build on the achievements of each school and ensure that Faringdon schools remain at the forefront of education.

For this reason, we have been considering options to form a federation of Faringdon schools so that we can share best practice and take advantage of the strengths that exist in the teaching and leadership at each school.

More recently another opportunity has presented itself and that is to explore the benefits of transferring from the Local Authority to Academy status. The Boards of Governors of the 3 schools have voted in favour to register their interest with the Department for Education to convert to academy status.

The intention would be for all 3 schools to convert as a multi-academy, operating to a Board of Trustees who would provide strategic oversight and direction and with all 3 schools forming local Governing bodies responsible for the day-to-day running of their schools.

Consultation will take place with students, parents, staff, unions and the local community, after which the Governing bodies will meet individually to decide how to proceed.

This process will take place over the next few weeks and will conclude at an **Open Evening to be held at 6pm on Thursday 12th January at Faringdon Junior School.**

If the Governing bodies agree to move forward, it is envisaged that the conversion will take place by 1 April 2012.

It is considered that the main advantages of converting to a multi-academy model are that it will give schools more

immediate and direct control over the running of the school.

Furthermore, if all 3 schools transfer then it will enable us to speak collectively with one voice for all Faringdon schools and ensure improved continuity of education between our schools.

A Steering Group, comprising senior members from all 3 schools will consider any risks or concerns raised during the consultation process. All 3 of the mainstream political parties are committed to the Academy model and there is a growing momentum in Oxfordshire with many of our neighbouring schools having registered their interest to convert or having already converted. Whilst all 3 Faringdon schools maintain an excellent relationship with Oxfordshire County Council, it is clear that the enduring pressure to reduce Local Authority spending is likely to have an adverse impact on the breadth and depth of the services that they have traditionally supplied. By converting to a multi-academy, Faringdon schools will be able to self-determine the range and level of services that they procure.

For further information please visit our website on [www.fcc.oxon.sch.uk/college\\_news/academy\\_status.html](http://www.fcc.oxon.sch.uk/college_news/academy_status.html). The Faringdon Steering Group would be happy to listen to your views.

Please e-mail your comments to [academyqueries@fcc.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:academyqueries@fcc.oxon.sch.uk) or write to the Business Manager at Faringdon Community College, Fernham Road, Faringdon, Oxon, SN7 7LB.

Bob Wintringham Chair of Governors Faringdon Community College

Mark Mobey Chair of Governors Faringdon Junior School

Roger Cox Chair of Governors Faringdon Infant School

---

## Leisure Centre Membership - 6/12/11

Hello All

I have a current SOLL Faringdon Leisure Centre membership that I would like to escape. The only way I can do this is by transferring to another customer. So if anyone is thinking of joining up please contact me and I can transfer across.

The membership is £25 per month and tied until January 2013 so you won't get tied in as long as you were if you were to take a new membership!

Hopefully this will be beneficial for both of us!

Thanks Stephen

[sday01@hotmail.com](mailto:sday01@hotmail.com)

---

## Festive Faringdon - 5/12/11

Firstly I would like to say that myself and my family had a wonderful time yet again this year. Missed the continental christmas market we've had previously but was a lovely event none the less.

I would also like to say sorry to the woman pushing her child in a wheelchair. I really wish I had said something to the incredibly rude woman who refused to move so you could get passed. You were very polite when asking people if you could get through, and that ignorant woman dared to ask why she should move. My simple answer should have been "because you can!" but I was too dumbstruck that someone would say such a thing to you, and by the time I realised I hadn't imagined it, the moment had passed.

Its people like this that taint our wonderful town. It almost makes me ashamed to be a Faringdonian!

Emma Riddle

---

## Working Christmas lights - 4/12/11

Should anyone wish to see some nice local Christmas light displays, then please visit Highworth or Carterton, these are just two of the annual Christmas light displays installed by our company Faringdon Electrical Services. Merry Christmas from FES

---

## Nothing ventured etc - 4/12/11

Let's face it. Faringdon's Christmas Festival of Light isn't very impressive even if the lights were working and the sad fact is that whoever is in charge is probably doing his/her best with a limited budget.

Many years ago I was taken to see a Peter Pan Panto. At one point Tinkerbell was also having a serious problem with her power supply and her light was fading.

In order to bring back her personal illumination the audience had to shout "WE BELIEVE IN FAIRIES " So we shouted and it worked. Happy days !

But back to the present ( is that an oxymoron ? Does it matter ?)

In the past we have had one much admired claim to fame and I hope that this year it will once again lighten our darkness. I refer of course to The Folly Light.

But just to be on the safe side I would like everyone whenever they see the Folly Tower, to shout "WE BELIEVE IN PETER WHITE"

OK....It might not work but desperate measures for desperate times....

Who knows ? It might.

Wishful Thinker

---

## New 'Faringdon Local' show on Faringdon Radio- 4/12/11

This show features David Reynolds talking about the relaunch of the '15 Minute Club'.

Joe Moore, Sarah Oliver and Nick Brumit of the Cotswold Voices interviewed at their Christmas Concert at Faringdon Junior school.

Music from: David Reynolds, Luci-Lu, and a live recording of the Cotswold Voices.

[www.faringdonradio.com](http://www.faringdonradio.com)

---

## Carols with Sing Faringdon - 4/12/11

Tuesday 6th Portwell Bar, 7pm - 8pm

Come and join us for a jolly good sing

Gene Webb

---

## Problems emailing Talking Points? - 4/12/11

**NB. Most email services expect a semi colon (;) between email addresses( as below. There are some that see this as an error- and require a different separator such as a comma(,).**

**If your email to us 'bounces', just delete one of the email addresses and the semicolon or send to**

**[enquiries@faringdon-online.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@faringdon-online.co.uk)**

Thanks

Ed(GW)

---

## Christmas Lights switch on disappointment - 4/12/11

It was a real disappointment to see the complete town centre Christmas lights switched off by 9.00pm on the Saturday evening, dose any one know why ?

Could it be a new idea to save energy, there doesn't seem much point in putting them up if there not going to be switched on!!!!.

A disappointed resident

---

## Cotswold Voices Choir in aid of NSPCC

Super concert last evening. To see and hear so many people singing together was a joy. Great soloists too.  
Hope lots of money was raised  
Name Supplied

---

## Free Two Hours Parking From December - 2/12/11

Following the promotion of Faringdon's free 2 hours parking 'from December' in the Winter 2001 edition of the Advertiser I thought that I would try it out.

I tried to use the Gloucester Street Car Park but could not see any obvious signs. Then I noticed a set of plastic laminated sheets attached to the base of the notice board. These turned out to be a set of legal notices setting out the changes for the whole of the VWHDC area, including Faringdon, and they quite clearly stated that these changes would be in effect from 1 December 2011. As the Advertiser article said that one had to display a valid ticket, even for the free 2 hours, I tried to extract one from the machine - but that was not possible without paying. I asked another lady there how to do it and she just said she had paid - but I showed her the notice and she agreed that it said 1 December was the start date. As I had no change I drove on to Highworth where I knew that I could park free for 2 hours and shop without rushing.

On returning home I spoke with a woman at VWHDC who said that the scheme was not operational until 9 December, I pointed out that their own legal notices at the car park said 1 December. She had no explanation for the discrepancy in dates but promised to post the answer on this website when she had found it out.

Name Supplied

---

## Faringdon on Radio Oxford - 2/12/11

BBC Radio Oxford will be doing a feature about Christmas Lights on their breakfast programme on 3rd, and Faringdon is one of the towns featured.

The piece will be aired between 7.45 and 8.30 a.m.

We are being 'pitched' against Wallingford, who turn their lights on this Sunday.

The idea is that, having heard the piece, people will be able to vote for the town they like the best, via Twitter number 81333.

Please could you urge everyone to listen to the piece and then vote for us? Thanks and kind regards,

June

FTC

*ED(GW) Sorry I didn't get this on sooner- but maybe still time to text*

---

## Help for Carers - 1/12/11

Calling all unpaid carers: Meeting at White Horse Surgery on **Thursday 19th January from 10am – 12noon**  
Includes carers who are registered with the Fern Hill Practice.

We can support carers to get grants for carer's breaks and make sure they are on the correct benefits.

We can put carers in contact with volunteer services to give them a break from their caring role and put them in contact with many other services who can support them.

Please just come along or Phone Merisha Anderson on 0755 743 0882

Email: [merishaanderson@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk](mailto:merishaanderson@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk)

Carers Oxfordshire, Office number : 01235 424715

---