

News and Views

December 2013

Christmas Lights - 31/12/13

I can't answer for the whole council but I am on the FTC rota for checking the lights. Apart from a star in Marlborough St they were all working when I checked them on 22nd Dec. Admittedly just after they went on. I don't know what has gone wrong but we do do our best.

Jane Boulton (FTC)

Christmas Lights - 31/12/13

Just walked through the town on New Year's Eve to see all the Merry Seasonal lights are out, yet again. The lights up Marlborough Street and Gloucester street have been out for most of the festive season - why is this? Why don't we just save on the expense of putting them up if the council is too incompetent to keep the power supplied to them? Can't blame the gales for this, just the usual hot air. In days gone by we had a lovely simple colourful display of coloured incandescent lightbulbs that always worked and were always on, even when I left for an early shift at 6:00am, quite cheering. Now we have the chill blue led arrays that fail at the first opportunity - can we hope Tesco will help us with a better set??!!

Cassandra

Doll found - 25/12/13

Found today on Ferndale Street small soft bodied doll with pink bunches. Looks like new so maybe a lost Christmas present ? Please call 07425 131967 if you think she belongs to you.

Name supplied

Flooding - 25/12/13

I hope that residents have been knocking on Roger Cox door to get him in his wellies to take a look.

I do hope that at next elections folk will come out and vote and elect those that really want to listen and not there for own self esteem.

Name supplied

Re Fernham Fields Flooding.- 24/12/13

Warning the road is so flooded villagers are going via the A420.

Councillor Cox so belittled the concerns over flooding making a joke out of it at a planning hearing. So disrespectful and factually incorrect.

name supplied

Davenport's vouchers - 24/12/13

A couple of people have said they didn't get their December Davenport's vouchers until 23 Dec, too late to use them. It seems getting them in the middle of the month is normal

Perhaps Davenport's would comment.

Ed(GW)

Flooding - 24/12/13

Could someone please take a photo of the fernham fields next time it floods ? and fax a copy to roger cox and the entire planning committee.

There is a road in Cirencester that floods terrible and makes Cirencester impossible to get to. Guess what this was due to the big wigs, thinking that there was no flooding problem. Jokes on them when they will be footing the bill to drain the water.

Fred Gilbert

New Costa - 24/12/13

Went to new Costo coffee shop this morning, it was very nice & comfy, coffee was fantastic, it was lovely & warm, staff were friendly. Afterwards I went to budgens & so I think that coffee shop will have me as a regular customer.

Name supplied.



Flooded Westland Road - 24/12/13

A mirrored image of the bottom of Westland Road that was flooded on Christmas Eve! Maybe it will freeze over night so we can all go ice skating on Christmas Day!

Mark Langlay-Smith
ED(GW) Super picture- thankyou.

Fernham Fields Flooding - 24/12/13

Dear Mr Cox

I had assumed from the representations that you made to the District Council that flooding was not a real issue following your walk around the boundaries.

Imagine my surprise this morning when I found the road flooded. Have you walked the boundaries again since the meeting? If not today may give you an understanding why people who pass along Coxwell Road everyday are worried.

Please when you walk the boundaries of The Steeds remember that just because flooding does not happen everyday that it is not a real problem.

Yours

No more floods to worry about

Name Supplied

Well done Guides and Brownies - 23/12/13

Well done to the Guides and Brownies at the weekend for giving up their time to raise money for Faringdon to have it's own defibrillator; by packing bags at Tesco.

Disappointed however to hear some customers quite rudely decline their help.

These were young children giving up several hours of their weekend in support of a very good cause - shameful.

Kai Howard

ED(GW) Does anyone know how much was raised?

Pump House Project - 23/12/13

Loads of things going on in the old theatre behind the Pump Rooms. Not just for the very young either.

Have a look at <http://www.thepumphouseproject.co.uk/timetable/4578172166>

Costa in Faringdon - 22/12/13

We visited the new Costa in Faringdon today. Very impressed. We don't live in Faringdon and would not have gone today if it wasn't for Costa. We then did some shopping next door in Budgens and then popped into Tesco - again very impressed.

Name Supplied

Tabby Cat now found - 22/12/13

Thanks to the lovely and kind Emma, who has been caring for Charlie, he is now back home.

Sarah

Lost Tabby Cat - Marlborough Gardens - 22/12/13

My elderly cat Charlie has been missing from Marlborough Gardens since late Friday night (20th). He is quite a large dark tabby, and is a friendly old boy. He was due to visit the vet yesterday morning, as he has been limping for a few days (right front paw), but went missing instead. He has a regular routine and trots down from the green towards the phone box at the bend of the road near its junction with Park Road. If anyone has seen him, we'd be very grateful for any information - please call 07432532679
Many thanks - Sarah Steele

Impressed with Costa - 22/12/13

Very impressed with the addition of Costa to Faringdon. We tried it on Saturday and it was quite busy. I believe that they will be open every day which will be good for the town.
Name supplied.

To quote : Come and see Santa at Tiensa's Budgens of Faringdon on Saturday December 21st 11am - 2pm! - 21/12/13

How full of Christmas Cheer it was to turn up, with excited children in tow, to find he had been sent back to Lapland because there were not enough customers (reason given by member of staff) .
Happy Christmas to you too Simon Tiensa !
name supplied .

Gof, patiently waiting - 21/12/13

I've just heard that Gof's reinstatement has still not been confirmed. He's retaken a driving test and a medical test and passed both. He has reapplied for the job, as requested, a new CRB check has been actioned(why I wonder)
I can't remember how long this has been, but it seems ages to me. The reinstatement processes seem to grind slow in the Ambulance service.
I gather Gof is trying to be patient, but is getting really disheartened..
So my message to you Gof is ' **please, please hang on in there. We need you**'
Local Yokel

Regent Cinema- pictures- 21/12/13

What a great place this is- a call for pictures of the cinema yesterday and some have arrived already and another is promised.
The ones I've added are from Faringdon History Society records. See [Regent Cinema page](#)
It looks as if the picture was taken after the cinema was closed (no advertising outside) and before the building became a Bingo Hall.
Perhaps someone has a photograph somewhere of how it looked in it's heyday

I've been asked to say that there are many local pictures in the Local Studies Room above the Library, including businesses, people, streets going back many years. They are currently being digitised.
Anyone can have access to them, just go to the Library and ask.
Instructions are yet to be written, but it is pretty easy to search for the files on the PC. Anyone who is reasonably PC literate should be OK.
Ed(GW)

Impressed with the Rookery - 21/12/13

Popped into the Rookery today and was really impressed - good food and reasonably priced!!
Alice Randall.

Regent Cinema- the original one in Gloucester St.- 20/12/13

I've just been sent a great account of the old Regent Cinema, between 1949 and 1969 when it became a Bingo Hall. Mark Pawley, the son of the manager at this time has written this and sent a photograph of the inside of the cinema. You can read it on the [Regent Cinema page](#).
Sadly he has not been able to track down photographs of the outside.
Has anyone got any??
Ed(GW)

Park Road - 20/12/13

Are there any plans to put roundabouts at some of the junctions along Park Road ?.

Turning onto the road from the estates is getting increasingly difficult and the junction near Tesco's is so wide, trying to pull out at the bottom of Marlborough Gardens to turn right is often really horrible.

I'm pretty sure a roundabout would have been better there in the first place.

More houses to come, and a new school, the road issues need to be sorted asap.

Name Supplied

Costa - Open - 19/12/13

You've got to hand it to businesses like Costa and Tesco. When they give an opening date, they make it happen. A couple of weeks ago the Costa shop was an empty shell. Now it's fully working

Well done Costa people.

Wouldn't it be good if public sector projects were so reliable!

Local Yokel

Found Key - 19/12/13

A key with a yellow tag was found in the bar of the Old Crown Coaching Inn last night.

Michael Sage

Bloor- South of Park Road - 19/12/13

With regards to the latest Bloor application - South of Park Road - this is perhaps one of the better applications for Faringdon not least the urgent need for another primary school. From experience of how Bloor have been with the FVP development they have, in the most part, tried to be sensitive and communicative with all and have worked with the Residents association. Granted there are certainly areas that need improving with them but as developers go they seem to be one of the better ones.

Rob Perkins

Far Runners - 19/12/13

Hi. Just wanted to say thank you to all my fellow Far Runners for a great Christmas Curry night at the Saffron last night.

For anyone who doesn't know about us we are a motley crew of runners, joggers and complete beginners who take to the streets Tuesday, Thursdays and Sundays with motivational and qualified Run Leaders.

We will be out on Sunday for a pre-Christmas run so look out for us, there will be Santa hats and tinsel involved!!

If you would like to join us, the more the merrier 9.30 at the Leisure Centre car park - It's completely FREE as always.

Name Supplied

Planning Permission- South of Park Road - 18/12/13

I've just heard that outline planning permission has been given to Bloor for another site on Park Road - South, opposite Folly Park View. (this was in VWHDCs last local plan)

The application indicates it will include a Primary School and 64 1 and 2 bed extra care units, plus social housing. I've been told that 'our ward councillors' will be involved in negotiating the 106 (planning gain) agreement. Is this good news I wonder.

ED(GW)

Thank you ! - 18/12/13

- mobile phone has been found and returned. This web page provides a very valuable local service, not just a place to rant.

Thanks again,

Sharon

ED(GW) So pleased- thanks for letting me know

Aldi coming to town?? - 18/12/13

I understand that Aldi are coming to Faringdon next year. Does anyone know where they will be situated?

Name Supplied

Dog Poo! - 18/12/13

There seems to be an awful lot of it about again, in the 7 minute walk I take to the Infants school every day, I just encounter 3 lots, between The Pines and Chestnut Avenue alley ways, is someone purposefully walking their very large dog round that area, so they don't have to pick up after it in the dark, disgusting. There was a campaign to stop this, what happened?

Penny Carter-Francis

ED(GW) Have a look at this [VWHDC page re Dog fouling](#)

Old Crown Carvery - 18/12/13

Please note that there will be no carvery on Sunday 29th December (but the full bar menu will be available).

The carvery will re-commence on Sunday 5th January.

At only £6.75 for a selection of at least four roast meats (all from Pat Thomas) plus freshly cooked vegetables, mashed and roast potatoes, we think this is probably the best carvery deal around. Even with a dessert it's only a tenner!

Demand is now great each week so booking is highly recommended. 01367

242744 oldcrown@relaxinnz.co.uk www.theoldcrowncoachinginn.com

Dogs OFF leads - 18/12/13

Folly is a great place for walking. I just wish that those with dogs OFF the lead would respect others dogs on leads.

Name supplied

Tesco Giveaway/Bromsgrove Day Centre - 18/12/13

Actually this is really about Bromsgrove Day Centre! Just wanted to say what a great place this is. The staff are mostly volunteers and they are the kindest, most dedicated people imaginable. Bromsgrove Day Centre deserves as much support as it can get for the tireless, genuine help that they give to the elderly. I can personally vouch for the excellent quality of care that they offer.

Bystander

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Bystander

Tesco and the Folly - 18/12/13

I think that is great of tescos giving to local projects. Nice to see positive news instead of complaints. The folly looks amazing. Faringdon is really a lovely place to live.

Name supplied.

Scouts Christmas post - 17/12/13

1st Faringdon Scouts collected in the Christmas Post bins today and we are delighted to say that we've raised £246.00 for the group. The Cubs and Scouts sorted several hundred letters which will be delivered within the next few days. Thank you very much to those of you who donated more than the card price - we sincerely appreciate your kind donations.

Thank you to Budgens, Costcutter, The Post Office, Brackendale, Oakdene and Tesco for hosting our post boxes.

Apologies to those who couldn't find the box in Tesco; it kept being moved to a back room.

Thank you to all the parents, helpers, cubs and scouts who turned out for the sort. Same time next year!

Faith Carpenter

Fundraising Chair

1st Faringdon Scouts

Tesco giveaway - 17/12/13

Tesco are giving away £1,500 to local causes and have given £500 to Bromsgrove Day Centre to buy new chairs as the present ones have been in use for about 25 years.

Name Supplied

Shining star - 17/12/13

As I ventured off to work in the dark and cold this morning I glimpsed the folly star shining in the distance, and it put a smile on my face. Thanks for the time and effort in placing it up there. Regards Mark

Council vacancy - 17/12/13

There is one vacancy on the Town Council. Unfortunately the time allowed for calling for a bye-election has passed, so the vacancy has to be filled by co-option.

The job of a Town Councillor is unpaid, but can be very rewarding and useful for our community. A councillor is expected to attend full council meetings and the meetings of at least one committee. This means that the minimum time commitment is 15 meetings a year.

The Town Council is responsible for:

- Two play parks
- Three community buildings - the Corn Exchange, Old Town Hall and the Pump Rooms. This includes their use, lettings and maintenance.
- The Faze youth centre and the activities of youth services in Faringdon.
- The Community and Tourist Information Service.
- It has a policy of supporting the community through grants to organisations that offer help.

It is also a "statutory consultee" on all planning matters affecting Faringdon.

It is the lead organisation driving the Neighbourhood Plan that will have a major influence over the direction of development for Faringdon up to 2029.

To apply to be considered for co-option have a word with the Town Clerk at the council office in Gloucester Street and she will give you the full details and procedure.

Alan Hickmore

You are all stars - 17/12/13

Thanks to all that put the fabulous star on top of the folly tower. Driving home tonight on a dark and blustery night down the A420 it was a lovely warming glow to guide me that final stretch home to Faringdon.

It is little things like this that make the place unique and special. Granted it is just a well lit star but it makes such a difference to the end of a hard days work and makes you feel all warm and nostalgic. Bring on Christmas now :)

Rob Perkins

Further Tesco pricing problems. - 16/12/13

Handed in five Tesco money off coupons at till. Operator only able to process two successfully. Weird as they were all sent to us by Tesco Head office! Operator very helpful and said she would process the other three manually. Strange that this branch of Tesco's does not automatically accept all of its own vouchers! Yes they were all in date.

Name supplied.

Santa at Tiensa's Budgens - 16/12/13

Come and see Santa at Tiensa's Budgens of Faringdon on Saturday December 21st 11am - 2pm!

Presents for all the children - young and old alike!

Lost Mobile - 16/12/13

LOST mobile phone on Folly hill. If found please contact 240500.

Thanks, Sharon

It's a star!! - 16/12/13

You can see a [picture on facebook](#) or better still look towards the Folly and see for yourself
Thankyou Peter - again - this is the 14th time you've lit the Tower for us.

Brilliant

Folly Friend

ED(GW) You might like to know it takes 3 or 4 able bodied adults, the best part of half a day, to erect the frame, put the star together and hoist it in position including many journeys up and down the 150 stairs. And of course all this is done in reverse after Christmas. Peter White is the main man, but Folly volunteers, probably Eddie, Stu, Raoul help. All are volunteers. All done because we love the Folly Tower. All done for Faringdon residents, and A420 drivers to enjoy. What absolute stars!

Councillor vacancy- Faringdon Town Council - 16/12/13

There's a notice on the [Home page of the FTC website](#), which links to a pdf. Not much information- just that there will be a bye election if several people put their names forward, or FTC will co-opt someone.

Perhaps someone from the Town Council would update us

Ed(GW)

Tv Reception - 15/12/13

Many thanks for the information, Mark. I did contact them and they assured me they would be happy to help if there were further reception problems in the future once the 4G masts are activated.

Charmian

Key found - 15/12/13

Found a key at the top end of Gloucester Street near the Lechlade Road roundabout, a silver Yale-type key,
Give me a ring if it is yours - 0784 1431 2319

Rebekah

Visit Santa's Reindeer in the Tesco car park - 14/12/13

Sunday 15th December

Free entry

TV reception - 14/12/13

Hi Charmian. Yes, our filter is called an " at800" filter and arrived with a leaflet out of the blue sent by a company called at800. according to the leaflet, freeview may be effected by the 4G signal at 800 MHz (similar frequency to freeview).

You would have thought that the goverment would have thought about this problem before awarding the 4G licences. Although the thought of all that money obviously counted for more than their electorates ability to watch tv without interference, who pay their licence fee by law yet are not garuanteed a signal. i think mass refusal to pay your licence fee could be on the cards if these filters don't work.

Funny thing is, is that we also have SKY, which is unaffected by 4G as it's a satellite signal.

If you want a tv filter they can be contacted according to the leaflet info by email at either www.at800.tv or enquiries@at800.tv or 0333 3131 800.

If you get any further problems, may be worth contacting them.

Regards Mark

Lost Glasses - 14/12/13

A gentleman has handed in a pair of glasses he found on a window sill in the town. If you have lost your glasses or know someone who has (maybe you are reading this for them!) we have kept them in the Tourist Information Centre.

Our opening times are Monday to Friday 9am to 2pm and Saturday 9.30am to 1pm. Or telephone us within those hours on 01367 242191.

Xmas Crime Reduction Gift Bags on sale- 13/12/13

Back by popular request are the Xmas Crime Reduction gift bags. In a festive gift bag are a personal attack alarm, a UV pen, purse bell and a warning sticker to burglars that your property is marked at a bargain price of £3 each . These are available from all South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse police stations. They make a great present for family and friends especially students or older people. You can ring 101 and ask for your local station to reserve a bag for collection.

Nuisance calls- Enviro - 13/12/13

Just a quick note in response to one or two who have had the phone call from Enviro...do yourself a favour and search Google for additional info on their business or any other company that phones for that matter...you can then make up your own mind about their legitimacy ...I've cut and pasted the below from a public site.....almost a year ago, the BBC secretly filmed Luke Ryan, the director of Enviro Associates, making misleading claims about how much money can be made by investing in carbon credits. Ryan reckoned there was "serious money" to be made. Of course, we know he was lying. An online survey by the Financial Conduct Authority found that no one had made any money by investing in carbon credits.

Enviro Associates used to be a "clearing member" of Carbon Neutral Investments Limited. Enviro Associates is now a "clearing member" of Gemmax Solutions, one of the three companies that Carbon Neutral Investments split into earlier this year. The Financial Conduct Authority has issued a warning about investments involving both Carbon Neutral Investments and Gemmax Solutions. It has also issued a warning about carbon credits, in which FCA describes the sale of carbon credits as "most likely a scam".

So, Enviro Associates' director was filmed by the BBC misleading potential investors. The FCA has issued warnings about companies that Enviro Associates works with and about the product that Enviro Associates is selling. Yet the company continues its utterly unregulated operations, misleading people about carbon credits and relieving them of their money.

On the Financial Times blog, FT Alphaville, Paul Murphy described an email from the company as "scumbag correspondence". Enviro Associates, it seems, has moved on to phase 2 of the scam – the recovery room.
Allan Barrow

TV Reception - 13/12/13

If Mark has already received a freeview filter in the post without requesting one, it looks as though there are further joys to come for Faringdon! TV reception back to normal today. Watch this space.....
Charmian

Food Banks - 13/12/13

There are large foodbanks in both Swindon and Wantage who would be very grateful of any food donations. I believe that All Saints and Blessed Hugh churches are both available as drop off points for the Wantage foodbank, though it would be best to contact them directly to confirm.

At Faringdon Baptist we have a small food bank for those who would struggle to get to Wantage or Swindon due to transport issues etc. Normally people are referred to us from various local organisations such as the children's centre, early years intervention team and local schools home link workers etc, though people are able to contact us directly on the church office phone number or email (below). Any donations of food with at least 6 months shelf life are very welcome. The Baptist Church foodbank is for those in Faringdon and surrounding villages
Stephen Martin Minister Faringdon Baptist Church 01367 243455 office@faringdon-baptist.org

Survey- effectiveness of free parking - 13/12/13

Two hours free car parking was introduced in December 2011 in Abingdon, Faringdon, Wantage and Botley. We URGENTLY need your views on how you think the introduction of free car parking has impacted on your business. As of this morning, 61 businesses have responded to this survey, but we would like more business responses. Given the very large investment that the Vale is making in the two free hours' car parking every year we do need evidence that it is having an impact on your business.

I know this is a really busy time of year for you - but this survey will take 10 minutes of your time.

We are very grateful for your time.

https://consult.southandvale.gov.uk/public/vale/economy_leisure_and_property/ed/2hrpark

If you have already responded, you will not be able to do so again.

I would be very grateful if you could circulate to businesses within the towns

Trudy Godfrey

TV - 13/12/13

Just wanted to say that we live in Faringdon and have already received a free Freeview filter in the post, but have not used or needed it yet.

Regards Mark

TV reception - 12/12/13

Seeing that Charmian also has experienced a problem makes me glad in one respect that it is not me or the tv equipment at fault. It prompted me to do some digging and I have been in contact with the AT800 group that is involved in sorting out the 4G rollout and they have been able to confirm that at present the 4G mast and rollout has not yet become active in our area.

It is coming to Faringdon at some point (Just 3G would be a novelty) when it does start getting setup all households will get a postcard from them and can then claim a 4G filter 1 per house.

It does, however, mean that the cause of ITV etc going a bit off on one is something else and could be atmospheric conditions or something similar. The rather helpful people at AT800 gave me the following number that is worth checking in future: 08456 505050

They are <http://www.digitaluk.co.uk/>

Their job is to provide free support and information about freeview and any problems inherent with it.

They are available 9 - 6 M - F and 9 - 5 Sat.

Hopefully this may just be a blip?

I hope that helps others.

All the best Rob.

TV reception - 12/12/13

Rob - I contacted the company who are supposed to issue filters as necessary, and was told that any reception problems we are having at present with Freeview are definitely NOT due to interference from a 4G mast as none is presently operational in this area.

I had further horrendous problems this morning when I retuned my TV. I firstly ended up with BBC1 London and then lost all channels and was unable to retune. However, I did manage to retune eventually and now have all channels once again from the Oxford mast, including ITV. But whether they will be there tomorrow remains to be seen.

Is it atmospheric, I wonder? I normally have perfect reception. The Oxford mast website reports no problems and no engineering work.

Charmian Martin

Nuisance Calls - 12/12/13

The caller said he was going to be opening a home improvement shop in London Street but wanted to know whether I wanted a voucher for boiler or hot water efficiency. Does anyone know of an impending home improvement shop coming to town?

Samantha Brady

New Year Speed Networking @ The Bobbin - 12/12/13

Monday 27th January @ 7pm

People do business with people they know or with people who've been recommended, right? Come to this speed networking event and meet fellow small businesses in Faringdon. You don't have to be a member of the Chamber of Commerce, there is no fee and each "date" is five minutes long. Bring lots of business cards and flyers to exchange. If it works, we'll do it more often! Bar open too!

Mel

Reference 07964037555 phone calls - 12/12/13

We have received two one on each of our lines. When I tell them they have contacted a business they hang up very quickly.

Peter Kinch PLant Hire

Food Bank - 12/12/13

We try to drop in a box every month to the Oxfordshire West Food Bank.

<http://www.oxonwestfoodbank.co.uk/>

It is based in Witney, rather than Faringdon, but was the most convenient one we could find.

Grant Womack

TV problems - 12/12/13

Is it just me or has other Faringdon residents with Freeview being having problems in the last couple of days with ITV and other channels on the C60 band? Research would suggest it may be 4G interference but I thought those areas were to be contacted by the 4G rollout group and given devices to filter out the interference? Do I go and independently buy a filter or could it just be the foggy damp weather lately? Has anyone else noticed this problem?

Thanks in advance.

Rob Perkins

Loss of TV Channels - 12/12/13

Has anyone else experienced loss of ITV channels over the last couple of days (Freeview)? Has the dreaded G4 arrived? In desperation last night I performed the new installation procedure and they all came back - only to have disappeared again this morning! I did the new installation procedure again today and back they all came. Usually my reception is perfect.

Before I contact them to ask for one of their filters - which presumably I will have to fit myself (why is everyone expected to be a technology expert these days????) has anyone else had the same problem?

Charmian Martin

Food Banks - 12/12/13

Hi, is anyone aware of Food Banks I can donate to in Faringdon or surrounding area please?

Name Supplied

Nuisance Phone Calls - 12/12/13

I have had this number call on two consecutive evenings. Also neighbours have too.

We have also had several calls mid day that are cold calling. We are not supposed to get these either.

Name supplied

Fabulous starlings - 12/12/13

For those that may be intersted there is a fantastic aerobatic display, daily, by a very large flock of starlings over Bowling Green quarry by A417, if you are there around 4pm you will be in for a treat.

Michael Scott

Oxford Clinical Commissioning Group - 11/12/13

Our Strategic Direction: 2013 - 2018, describes our views about the challenges the NHS in Oxfordshire faces over the next five years, and the emerging strategy to deal with these issues. The purpose of this document is to enable a debate with our partners, staff, people who use our services and live in Oxfordshire about what needs to do to be done to address these issues, and how the local NHS should work together to deliver the changes required.

Oxfordshire is a largely healthy and wealthy county and as such has one of the lowest funding per capita in England. This makes the task of meeting need within the available resources even more challenging.

Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG) has resources of £612m for 2013/14 and is working with providers to improve efficiency and deliver models of care with the objective of enabling costs to be managed within this overall resource limit. Looking ahead, if we continue with the current model of care, the gap between the projected spending requirements and the resources that will be available to OCCG will rise to at least £100m by 2017/18.

OCCG wants to ask you if the opportunities identified in our strategy will help to address the challenges in Oxfordshire.

Your views on how you can help us to achieve and maintain financial stability in Oxfordshire, are really important. To participate in this debate you can:

1. [Download the document which sets out OCCGs' Strategic Direction: 2013 - 2018](#) and send your comments in to us.
2. [Answer our online survey](#)

3. [Participate in our discussion forum](#)

4. Attend a public meeting to discuss your ideas and hear the views of others:

- Wallingford, 19 December, 9am – 12pm at the South Oxfordshire District Council Offices
- Oxford, 7 January 2014, 6.30pm - 9pm, Oxford Town Hall, Q & A Panel with Senior Clinicians and GPs

For further information about the events or to book a place to attend, please contact 01865 334638 or email cscsu.talkinghealth@nhs.net

Nuisance phone calls - 11/12/13

Have just received a phone call from 07964037555. Person asked for homeowner then 'Are you familiar with [my street, Faringdon]?''. Asked him what he meant by 'familiar with' - apparently he wanted to know if I knew it existed. Told him it was clearly a nuisance call and I wasn't going to talk to him then hung up. If you google it, it seems I'm not the first. <http://www.unknownphone.com/search.php?num=07964037555>

Like the folk who've posted on that website, I'm ex-directory and registered with the TPS.

Be warned - it's almost certainly a scam and they're trying to empty your bank account.

Name supplied

ED(GW) I've just had one too. Said they were Enviro something. I'm TPS registered too

The post "is it the governments fault" misses the point.- 11/12/13

Far from supporting the decision to accept the Fernham, Fields application, I am shocked that it was agreed. The point I am making is that the government has made it very difficult, if not impossible, for local planning authorities to make decisions that, in the past, would have reflected local opinion.

This move away from local democracy is a trend that we should all resist and change in 2015.

Please also note that Faringdon Town Council, along with Coxwell Parish council objected to this application in the strongest terms and both sent representatives to argue cogently against it. They failed because there is no provision in the planning laws that this government introduced, to take these views into account. The only thing that can be considered is whether the developer can demonstrate that the development is "sustainable." - whatever that means.
Alan Hickmore

Is it the government's fault? - 10/12/13

27 November - planning decision made

5 December - Autumn statement

6 December - posting on website naming Autumn statement as reason for planning decision.

Please, do not insult the intelligence of the electorate in an attempt to justify your (VWHDC) actions

Name supplied

Fireplace advice - 10/12/13

Can anyone offer or recommend advice on our fireplace which contains a disconnected back boiler with the view to using the fire again please? 1950's house, ex-council house.

Many thanks in advance.

Paul Constable

Free parking survey - 9/12/13

Two hours free car parking was introduced in December 2011 in Abingdon, Faringdon, Wantage and Botley. We URGENTLY need your views on how you think the introduction of free car parking has impacted on your business. We have had a very low response to this survey. Given the very large investment that the Vale is making in the two free hours' car parking every year we do need evidence that it is having an impact on your business.

I know this is a really busy time of year for you - but this survey will take 10 minutes of your time.

We are very grateful for your time.

https://consult.southandvale.gov.uk/public/vale/economy_leisure_and_property/ed/2hrpark

If you have already responded, you will not be able to do so again.

kind regards, Julie Farmer

Tidy up the Hobble path/Southampton St - 9/12/13

Are there any plans to tidy up the bit of walkway from Tesco's carpark exit into town via Southampton street? The new path part is fine now, but the first bit as you exit the car park is awful and would not encourage anyone to walk to town. There is no sign pointing to the shops or how far. I would suggest some nice boarding to cover the back of the industrial estate and a mural painting similar to the one done for the underpass by FCC. I thought the idea of Tesco being where it is would not detract from town centre shops, but no signs or maps showing the way (either Park road or Southampton st) won't help those who don't know the area well.
Name supplied

Wider Community? - 9/12/13

Abingdon must be pretty wide then.
Why do they feel the need to go "nuh nuh nuh we only care a bout abingdon and witney" all the time
Fred Gilbert

Planning Gain - 10/12/13

You might be interested in the 106 ££ that the District and County Councils are holding or expecting to receive (and spend) on our behalf. There's also the 106 requests from OCC for Fernham, Fields. See <http://www.faringdon.org/local-public-services.html>
On the [VWHDC site](#), [planning page](#) you can see requests from other local public organisations.
The officer report that went to committee included 106 sums that the developer has offered. There was no detail as to how these related to the requests.
ED(GW)

Heron Watch - 9/12/13

Alas over the recent weekend my pond has been denuded of pretty well all my goldfish. These were about twenty big well grown fish that I had bred. So upsetting. Net your ponds!
Bystander

Plaudits for Abingdon refurbishment work - 9/12/13

Is this post rubbing our noses in it. Shame the same amount of money is not spent on improving our "shopping experience".
We certainly are treated like the poor relations in the vale.
name supplied.

Abingdon plaudits - 9/12/13

I really don't find this relevant or interesting to Faringdon.org talking points. Or are they trying to rub our noses in it?
Name supplied

The 1st Faringdon Christmas Post boxes are out again. - 9/12/13

Please support the Scouts by posting your letters for only 30p to addresses within Faringdon and Great Coxwell. You can find boxes in Budgens, Costcutter, Tesco, the Post Office, Oakdene and Brackendale. The last posting date is Tuesday 17th December at 5pm, so get them in early.
Thank you for your support and a Merry Christmas!
Faith Carpenter
Fundraising Chair 1st Faringdon Scouts

Beware 'TESCO'S' PHISHING EMAILS - 9/12/13

We think we're all pretty good at spotting the scams, but I can't help worrying that a very realistic email that's been coming through recently - supposedly from Tesco's - may be fooling a few. It's a TESCO CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY offering you £60 for taking part; and the timing in Faringdon's case comes across as if it's genuine. After all, they WOULD be conducting surveys in our area now wouldn't they?

BE CAREFUL. It's a phishing email . See <http://www.millersmiles.co.uk/email/tesco-rewards-you-tesco> . It DOES come across as very credible, and after you've answered the thoroughly wholesome & reasonable questions, it then goes on to ask for your bank details for the transfer of the money. It only needs your a/c# & sortcode for this purpose - but it asks for much more than that - and in your excitement to get the £60 you may accidentally find yourself filling in your 16-digit debit card number and the CVV (the 3-digit card verification number) Sjoerd

Plaudits for Abingdon refurbishment work - 9/12/13

Refurbishment work carried out in centre of Abingdon has received a prestigious retail award.

Bury Street, formerly Abbey Shopping Centre, has won the **Gold Award in the Refurbishment (under £5million)** category at the British Council of Shopping Centres (BCSC) Awards.

The awards, which took place at a special ceremony in London on Wednesday 4 December, recognise outstanding achievement in shopping centres and retail across the country.

The Refurbishment (under £5million) category showcases examples where smaller scale work has helped to improve the shopping experience for the general public and benefited the wider community.

In December 2011 Bury Street, which is leased to Scottish Widows Investment Partnership by Vale of White Horse District Council, was awarded planning permission to replace five of the existing small retail units with two new larger two storey shops.

The work, carried out by McLaren Construction and managed by NewRiver Retail, also involved the removal of the dated pedestrian mall canopies and the installation of new facades with pitched roofs in the look of a traditional street.

Construction began in April 2012 with the majority work completed by the following December.

This was the first sizeable work to be carried out at the site since its construction in the early 1970s and marked a welcome move away from the dated look that the area had become known for.

Cllr Elaine Ware, Cabinet Member for Economy, Leisure and Property at Vale of White Horse District Council, said: "We are delighted that Bury Street has been recognised in this way. The refurbishment has made the street look better and is certainly a nicer place to go shopping as a result. The site now fits much better with the surrounding streets and is much more suited to attract the long term investment in shops, cafes and licensed premises that the town is aiming for."

Allan Lockhart, Property Director at NewRiver Retail said, "We are thrilled that the British Council of Shopping Centres has recognised the delivery of our extensive redevelopment of The Abbey with this prestigious Gold Award. Our role as development and asset managers of The Abbey for Scottish Widows has brought forward a long overdue high quality transformation of the centre, providing a modern and revitalised shopping destination with a greatly improved retail offer far better suited to the town's character and demography. Working with Scottish Widows and the Vale has been an excellent partnership of shared visions to achieve a great end result."

T-shirt Printing (A special gift for someone) - 9/12/13

Personalise your message from a silly word to a sentimental text.

Email: bcmr@fsmail.net

Regent Cinema, Corn Exchange, Faringdon - 9/12/13

POLAR EXPRESS

Tickets are starting to sell really quickly.

This is a lovely film about one doubting boy - an astonishing event occurs late on Christmas Eve night. He lies in bed hoping to hear the sound of reindeer bells from Santa's sleigh when to his surprise, a steam engine's roar and whistle can be heard outside his window. The conductor invites him on board to take an exciting journey to the North Pole with many other pyjama-clad children. There, he receives an extraordinary gift that only those who still believe in Santa can experience.

There will be sweets and popcorn on sale, the bar will be open, teas and coffees available. There will be an interval half way through the film and ice creams will be available. There will also be a special guest calling by before the film starts! Doors open 6pm, film starts 6.30pm. £4 adults, £3 children, £10 family ticket (2 adults and 2 children)

Heron Watch - 9/12/13

My wife tells me that a Heron has twice come to look at my gold fish pond. Has anyone else seen it (the heron, not my pond)

HGM

It is the government's fault - 9/12/13

The government has not helped of that there is no doubt, however the VWHDC can refuse applications if they are not sustainable. Very clear and cogent reasons were given as to why this is the case in respect of Fernham Fields. If the council refuses for the correct reasons they will not lose on appeal, the applicants will pay their costs and they will not lose the subsidy.

However fear seems to drive the council and our own councillor appears to be more frightened of how he is perceived by

the council than consider what is sustainable in his constituency. All the others could see it!

Other councils without local plans succeed and even this council has turned applications down.

Please Mr Cox judge every application on its merits and sustainability both long and short term, if you do it correctly you will not lose an appeal.

Name supplied

VWHDC has a lot to answer for - 9/12/13

I am glad someone brought up the cotswolds. They are they perfect example of how housing development should be managed.

- They fought the correct battles, stopping stupid development when it needed to be and encouraged the ones that also need to be.
- All houses built match the cotswold look and feel, can you say the same for oxfordshire housing ?
- They don't spend time and effort fighting big supermarkets who have benefitted the town greatly, not only wasting time effort and money, do I even need to mention 106.
- They don't spend all year crying about having no local plan whilst not making one. They don't keep feeding people the usual B.S on websites designed to report issues with roading with the usual canned statement of "We looked into this and basically our rules say its all fine and dandy."
- They don't even bend over backwards and ignore the views and voice of the people living in the area. Whilst I appreciate the council will suffer greatly for refusing the development at the hands of the government. And they have been lasy building the houses they needed, so they already have a black mark against them.

Whilst I appreciate the council will suffer greatly for refusing the development at the hands of the government. And they have been lasy building the houses they needed, so they already have a black mark against them. But I think this is an excuse.

- Why does this stop them negotiating a better deal ? They could of asked for more shops or commodities to be built ? they could of deferred the planning permission until a school was built ? They proved they are able to be great negotiators when they were absolute pains in the back side with Tesco's.

- Why does this stop them even suggesting better places the developer could build themselves? Faringdon already has a lot of Aff-Council housing, arguably more than its fair share. Could they not have gone, sorry gladman we think you are being a bunch of idiots, I mean building in the middle of a river isn't a good place to build, but hey as consolation for refusing your planning permission we know this great place by wantage ?

- And last of all why on earth does this stop them making a freaking LOCAL PLAN, My 5 year old could make one of these in 5 minutes. I mean even a basic "No building on the west side of Faringdon" would be better than what they have now.

Our councils have a lot to answer for, if I had my way I would consider not paying my council tax as I feel they haven't done their job properly.

Fred Gilbert

Is it all the governments fault?? - 8/12/13

I think there are council areas that are managing to resist the onslaught of housing developers. Cotswold Council? How are they doing it?

Local Yokel

Scout Post - 8/12/13

If you have cards which need to be delivered within Faringdon and the Coxwells, why not use the Scout post? There are boxes in McColls, Budgens, Costcutters and Tesco and all you do is drop your cards into the box along with 20p per item and they will be delivered in time for Christmas.

It's a cheap but reliable local service and helps raise money for the local Scout Group.

TIC Faringdon

Busking in Faringdon - 7/12/13

Just been down in the town - an accordion player outside the Folly cafe (former Fish shop) Super

Let's have more street musicians

Local Yokel

It's the governments fault - 6/12/13

One of the little noticed parts of the Autumn Statement that the chancellor made yesterday is that local planning authorities that refuse planning permission and then find their decision overturned by an inspector will lose their subsidy from central government for providing new homes.

If this were to be the case in VWHDC the cost of a refusal could amount to £1.5m. This makes decisions by the planning committee almost impossible and takes any influence that local opinion may have into never never land.

Remember it's the governments fault that we have lost all control over local planning decisions.

Alan Hickmore

Roger Cox is consistent if nothing else - 6/12/13

Just spotted this:

<http://m.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-25235200>

Name Supplied

District Council - 5/12/13

I heard one district councillor on the planning committee say how brave Mr Cox was. Brave to fail to stand up to the power and money of the developer, and brave to ignore the views of his electorate. That is not my definition of brave. If Mr Cox is considered brave for these reasons then what hope is there? I do hope you are not feeling brave Mr Cox because that would be unfair on all of our other representatives who did try to stand up what their electorate have said.

Name Supplied

Fix my Street - 4/12/13

Thank you for putting the Fix my Street contact on here. We have had a broken street light for some time, in a very dark lane near us.

I used the link last night and today I have received a message to tell me it will be fixed!!

Jane Smith

Pack of Dogs, London Road - 4/12/13

On Tuesday 3rd December, I was driving out of Faringdon past the Folly to the A420. I saw a pack of dogs running across the grounds of Sudbury House. I slowed down as I know there are openings for the dogs to run onto the road. As expected one of the dogs ran in front of my car, luckily I had had to stop behind a quad bike to let a car from the opposite direction pass. When I mentioned to the gentleman on the quad bike that the dogs were in danger on a 60mph road, he f'd and blinded at me! I got further up the road, and nearly hit another dog. Whether I am against hunting or not, I believe that the road should've been closed so as not to put the dogs in danger, or they should stick to the fields where the dogs are not in danger if motor vehicles.

Name Supplied

Fix my street hijacked - 3/12/13

Appears someone has hijacked, Fix My Street to protest against the planning permission

<http://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/around?pc=faringdon>

Is this a valid form of protest ? and if so could we use it ?

David Hilbert

Fix my street- Faringdon - 3/12/13

Report street problems through Fix my street. You can see on

<http://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/around?pc=faringdon> there are already a few reported problems.

ED(GW)

Council running scared - 3/12/13

If local Planning Authorities are that scared of turning down major house building projects due to financial expense (I would call it blackmail) then what is the point in their existence. If the councillors are that opposed to this or any other development then maybe they should resign en masse to show the strength of feeling. I certainly would, and I certainly won't vote again for the current ones.

Name supplied.

Tesco Pricing - Keep an eye - 3/12/13

It is down to the consumer to keep an eye out, surely thats how you get the best deals?

If you have mentioned the problem to management they have 24 hours to rectify the price to the correct price whether this be on the shelves or the tills, in line with Trading Standards

A new shop with a long inventory of products surely deserves 1 or 2 let offs?

If its not the consumer then who else is going to find out these faults?

Maybe you should realise that not everything is given to you in life and sometimes you have to put in a little work to reap the rewards. More work you put in is proportionate to the reward you get out

Regards,

Name Supplied (Nothing to do with Tesco, just a loyal customer)

Fernham Fields - 2/12/13

It is hugely regrettable that the Fernham Fields planning application has been granted. However the reality of the situation is that, without a Local Plan in place, and with the need for a 5 year housing supply, Local Planning Authorities are very nervous to refuse applications on sites that are 'border line' cases .

If the application had been refused, it is likely that the applicants would have appealed and the application would then go to a Planning Inspector for determination. If the appeal is then successful, Local Planning Authority would incur the significant cost in defending their decision but would also have to pick up the appeal costs of the applicant. On a major application such as this, the appeal costs can be huge.

In an environment where Central Government has decreased the amount of money given to local Councils, Local Government does not have the financial resources to meet these unexpected and unbudgeted appeal costs. Thus, Local Planning Authorities are being more careful about refusing planning consent for major residential development, regardless of strong local opinion against.

This is not a defence of their decision, just an explanation of the commercial reality. Money drives everything regardless if it is right or wrong for Faringdon.

This, however, doesn't prevent the elected representatives from listening to wishes of the people!!

Name Supplied

VWHDC Residents panel and surveys - 2/12/13

If anyone would like to get involved in surveys from the Vale of the White Horse regarding issues like; illegal parking, leisure facilities, adequate parking provision etc. Please contact the District Council on (01235) 547614 or email haveyoursay@southandvale.gov.uk where you may be able to become part of the local panel emailed by the district council for your views on specific subjects.

I'm very aware that many people may not believe this is useful in any way. But if you have an opinion about local issues, if you take the time to feed back directly to the district council they are more capable of dealing with the issues. If they don't know what the issues are, how are they supposed to do anything about them?

The current survey is about leisure facilities in the VWHDC and illegal parking problems.
Mirabelle Mack

Election of Roger Cox - 2/12/13

The public voted for Roger Cox. Those that vote for Judith Heathcote always vote for conservatives at district elections. Judith Heathcoat is an excellent County Councillor. Unfortunately our Conservative Councillors that represent our town don't speak for us.

Maybe next elections faringdon people will come out to vote. If not roger and others will be re elected.

Name supplied

Developments - 2/12/13

I can't decide if it's a good or a bad thing that Faringdon isn't alone.....this quite an interesting website (strength in numbers?):

<http://savehaygatefields.wordpress.com/uk-campaign-groups/>

It seems that Bampton has quite an active group; perhaps we need the same.

Does anyone have the necessary time/skills/inclination to take this on? Will undoubtedly be a difficult and stressful (and at times probably demoralising), but very worthwhile task.

Name supplied

Recent Local Planning - 2/12/13

Well, call me cynical if you like. In local politics (in my experience) the members of political parties agree in private what their line is to be on a particular issue, before any public meetings are held. Should a controversial planning decision have to be made it is usually 'decided' by the officers, not the elected councillors. In a case where most of the vocal population are against, say, a new development, and the elected councillors are all members of one party, it makes sense for the one who has the vote on the planning committee to vote in accordance with the party line, and for the others to make speeches indicating their sympathy with the majority of their voters. That way the future vote is not alienated, but the scheme gets approval anyway. Get my drift?

Bystander

Fernham Fields - 2/12/13

Of the bizarre moments when the planning committee discussed the application for Fernham Fields was dealing with the flooding issues. Great Coxwell Parish Council provided photographic evidence. How did our District Councillor Mr Cox deal with the flooding issue? He said that he had visited Fernham Fields site that day and there was no flooding! Phew for a moment I thought the flooding was a serious issue and was going to be treated so.

William Selby-Lowndes

Votes for Councillor Cox - 1/12/13

Who elected Roger Cox? Time an time again he prove to me how he is unworthy of our vote

First at Brandy Island and now with this! I couldn't believe it when people warned me that he likely wouldn't object despite the fact everyone opposed to this hideous development. Would he really add insult to injury and become a yes man ?

"Surely not" I thought, but alas the nay sayers were right.

Now is time for the layman to take arms and vote for an appeal, or at the very least perhaps we should ask for a petition for a new council ?

Fred Gilbert

ED(GW) I believe it is only the applicant who can appeal a planning decision- sadly. All we can do now is try and make sure that the development is as good and appropriate for Faringdon that it can be. Anyone any ideas how we do this?

News and Views

November 2013

Faringdon in the Civil War - 30/11/13

On sale in the Faringdon TIC. £2.50.

Written by Chris France and illustrated by Brian O'Rourke. For those of you with long memories, it's a reprint of the booklet produced some 20/30 years ago. All proceeds to Faringdon Folly Tower. (charity 284795)

<http://www.faringdonfolly.org.uk/>

Folly Friend

Local elections - 30/11/13

It might sound defeatist, but the only places where a change of elected officials or political party is possible are in marginal seats.

Faringdon & the Coxwells is not one of these. I vote to abolish all party politics from Local councils (some hope!)

Local Yokel

The Fernham Fields application. - 30/11/13

I think that the success of this appalling application is a very good example of the failure of the government's changes to the planning regulations built up over decades. They are of the opinion that the solution to the housing crisis in England is to change the planning laws in order to allow developers to do almost anything that they can class as "sustainable".

This policy is just plain wrong.

After the Second World War governments of both colours supported the growth of garden cities and towns to good effect. Over 300,000 houses a year were built in the 1950s/60s without ruining the countryside surrounding our market towns.

In some ways I feel sorry for local planning authorities - they have to stay within the law. It is the present law that is so wrong (the NPPF). The main blame for this sort of wrong decision rests firmly with a government that had no idea of the dire consequences to rural areas that their cavalier changes to planning law would bring about.

What has happened is that policy on major housing developments has moved from our locally elected representatives to unelected planning inspectors and unelected local enterprise partnerships.

Our chance to change all this won't come until 2015!

Alan Hickmore

ED(GW) Yes BUT- if VWHDC had kept the local plan up to date (and NPPF compliant) it wouldn't be an issue- so the previous management and political administration (Lib Dem majority) let us and so many other places, down

Housing - 30/11/13

To be fair all of the local councillors spoke against, including the FTC, Great Coxwell PC, our county councillor and two of the three district councillors. They did it well.

It was only one councillor who did not speak against the application but supported the application, and sadly Roger Cox as the member of the planning committee could have had the most influence.

Name Supplied

Planning - 30/11/13

Well unfortunately councillors are elected on what they tell you to get you to vote for them. Then get so focused

on what they think is right and not listen to public.

The present County and District representatives have been there for so many years they forget to think outside the box !!!!!

Faringdon needs new representatives that listen and put our views forward not their own

It's up to the public

Dee England

Local councillors - 30/11/13

I thought our councillors (Parish, District and County)were elected to express our views.It would appear from what has been written about the Planning Committee that they think their opinion over-rides the wishes of the general public.

Old Faringdonian.

Housing - 29/11/13

I'm afraid the town and areas vote for conservative councilors district and county so they must suffer the consequences.

Name supplied

Pop-up shop.- 29/11/13

Are you a local online retail business?

Why not try selling your goods in a pop-up shop.

The Pump House in Faringdon makes an ideal venue for selling anything from craft items to rugs!

For hire by the hour from as little as £6 + Vat

For details call Faringdon Town Council on 01367 240281

Sally Thurston

Folly at Fernham Fields - 28/11/13

I've always said Steeds Farm is a done deal if Fernham Fields was approved. This seems even more likely now based on the performance last night of our elected officials and of Roger Cox in particular.

If we can't rely on our local representative to reflect the strength of local feeling, or at least to abstain from voting in favour of this type of development, then I fear the future for Faringdon, and Great Coxwell, looks grim.

It is all the more surprising that the planning committee voted to oppose the Humpty Hill development at the beginning of October (I wonder what the voting for that looked like), though in the current climate it would seem highly likely that this will be granted on appeal.

We all appreciate there is a need for new housing, but to allow developments that will irrevocably change the character of smaller communities and that simply generate more houses but with no matching growth or development of local services and infrastructure, is surely a dereliction of duty.

Let's hope everyone remembers this in 2015 when it's our turn to vote!

Folly Man

Fernham Fields - 28/11/13

The Editor is right, last night was a charade. The committee was too frightened by the prospect of being appealed if they refused the application to consider the very genuine concerns about this application's sustainability. The

irony was not lost when one D/C suggested that the intimidation from the public seats was enough to allow the applicants to appeal when they were unable to see beyond the threat of the applicants appealing!

Credit should be given to all those who spoke and who did it very well and at a much higher standard than the debate by the committee. It should not be lost that our own representative on the committee took a different view to all the others, failed to address any of the substantial issues raised and not only voted for but told the other members that they should do so too. Is this local democracy?

William Selby-Lowndes

Fernham Fields application for 200 houses has been permitted - 28/11/13

This was last evening at VWHDC planning meeting. The vote was around 7 for, 1 against, 3 abstentions. The most frustrating experience I have been in for a while. The quality and depth of the questions and points raised by the elected members on the committee, apart from 2, were superficial. The reasons for refusing the application as raised by members of the public who spoke (flood, traffic, population growth, proximity to Gt Coxwell) were dismissed by the officers there, virtually with 'we believe it is acceptable' Worryingly they referred to the Steeds farm application as 'if it is permitted' it will compliment this site and provide further measures to support sustainability. Sounds like a done deal!!

Our councillors were all there. All but one spoke against the application. Mike Wise spoke clearly and factually for Faringdon Town Council, Alison Thompson (VWHDC) spoke for herself and Mohinder Kainth, Judith Heathcoat spoke as Oxfordshire CC councillor.

Roger Cox, our only councillor on the Planning Committee and allowed to vote, VOTED **FOR** THE APPLICATION. He rationalised his position by saying, amongst other things, that he has always been against this site being developed in the past, but now things have changed. He at no time indicated that he was there to support the view of the community.

All a charade- as we know, the way each councillor intends to vote is agreed (within parties) before the meeting. Poor Faringdon

Gene Webb

Thankyou - 28/11/13

Many thanks Fiona for providing links to local businesses who are able to provide a clothing branding service ...I will contact them asap for further info.

I forgot to put contact details on my original post...they

are allanbarrow@btinternet.com or allanbarrow@absm.pro....www.absm.pro being my driving school website.

Regards Allan

Re- Driving School Logo etc - 27/11/13

For Allan - Try either Davenports <http://www.davenportsmedia.co.uk/> (next to Perry Bishop and Chambers in the Market Place) or Simply Schoolwear, Regal Way, Faringdon (off park Road) www.simplyschoolwear.co.uk.

Fiona M.

Re illegal parking. - 27/11/13

Can't help but notice that the Wheatsheaf Landlord takes no notice whatsoever of the double yellow lines on London Street, the parking area at the Coach Lane Cemetery in the evening is always full yet the cemetery is empty(of the living at least), by Ferndale Street where there is a grassed area at the end of that section of Southampton Street ; that section is being used as a shortcut.

Mentioned this some time before to the OCC but as no one has been killed or injured they aren't interested. Perhaps the Town Council, OCC Councillors could take interest as driving across the footpath is of course illegal. Cars are for roads not footpaths. Of course with a grassed area and the long spell of damp weather, the area is slowly turning into a mess. Surely a few wooden posts or very large boulders could be source to stop this action.

As for the Bus Laane in the Market Place, have you seen how quickly some people drive up there! Not too mention the cobbled areas are sinking and looking decidedly tatty at the moment.
Name withheld as Town, and Council "officials" hate being criticised.

Vale Christmas parking days announced - 27/11/13

People in the Vale of White Horse can park for free for two hours every day of the year in district council car parks and, once again this December, will be able to take advantage of an entire day of free parking in the run up to Christmas.

Drivers in the Vale of White Horse will be able to park for free in district council car parks in Abingdon and Faringdon all day on Saturday 30 November, while motorists in Wantage will be able to park for free on Saturday 7 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.

Cllr Matthew Barber, Leader of Vale of White Horse District Council, said: "We hope as many people as possible will take advantage of the free Christmas parking to get their presents from their nearest Vale market town centres. And remember, for those who already have other plans on those Saturdays, they can still park for free for two hours all year round."

Name supplied

VWHDC Residents Panel/Illegal On-Street Parking - 27/11/13

Having just completed my first VWHDC residents panel survey, I thought I'd share the following, which appeared in the section on illegal on-street parking. It seems to suggest that VWHDC have realised they may have been a bit hasty in agreeing to take over enforcement from the police:

"Many local councils in England have taken over responsibility from the police (and traffic wardens) for enforcing on-street parking restrictions as the police do not have the resources to carry out the necessary level of enforcement. On-street parking becomes the responsibility of Civil Enforcement Officers and costs are met by the council.

Comments from Town Clerks and Councillors suggest that illegal on-street parking may be an increasing issue in Vale of White Horse and this has prompted the district council to reconsider taking on the responsibility for enforcement."

Folly Man

*ED(GW) My understanding is that OCC/VWHDC have so far **not** taken on the responsibility of onstreet parking for fear of the costs of fines not covering the management costs. They are one of the few councils across England who haven't done this, so it seems to me their concerns have been overcome by other councils. I suspect a great deal to do with it is their degree of tolerance with illegal parkers- they can decide this. Consultation indicates they're reconsidering it.*

Merchandise branding - 27/11/13

A short while ago I received a great response to a request for web site design, branding etc...so much so that the website & my brand logo has been completed (big thanks to David Reynolds)....but now I would like to know if anyone can recommended someone who can put my Driving School logo & web address info etc etc onto items of clothing...ie: polo shirts,fleece & jacket..it would be great to support the car advertising with some nice corporate style branded clothes.

Muchos Gracias
Allan

Tesco pricing- keep an eye - 26/11/13

I too am aware of two instances of Tesco overcharging. In the first instance my friend was refunded the overcharge and also given £2 as 'compensation'. In my own experience no staff were prepared to refund me the overcharge and I had to speak to three layers of staff before I insisted I see a manager. Only then did I get my refund. To all shoppers: check your receipts carefully in Tesco's.

Name supplied.

Join VWHDC residents panel for Faringdon - 26/11/13

The current consultation asks your views on how illegal onstreet parking should be resolved- something this site is often receiving comments about. Do join- the survey is short.

Plus4 manage the panel and are looking for new Panel members from the Faringdon area (as well as other areas). In order to ensure the Panel is representative of residents we are currently seeking to recruit in the 16-34 age group and/or those with a disability or long-term illness (any age).

There are however still a few places left in older age groups.

Anyone wishing to join the Panel can contact me directly for a postal registration form, or they can visit www.plus4.co.uk/valeinvite and complete their registration online.

More information from Cara Allen cara_allan@plus4.co.uk

Ed(GW)

Fernham Fields planning meeting - 25/11/13

You may want to comment on the officer's report (recommending that the dapplication is permitted. I think there is much officer opinion in there, rather than real fact or evidence. There is no information about how well the officer knows Faringdon, or on what he bases his opinion. If you feel strongly about anything- make your comments known- see below.

<http://democratic.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/documents/s22185/P13-V0139-O%20-%20Fernham%20Fields%20Faringdon.pdf>

If you wish to speak at the planning committee you will need to email me by 12.00 Tuesday 26 November 2013 to planning@whitehorsedc.gov.uk & if you wish to make written comments then also email these to planning@whitehorsedc.gov.uk then we can pass them on to the case officer to read out at committee.

Ed(GW)

Convoy to Kosovo talk tomorrow (Monday) at 7.30pm The Bobbin - 24/11/13

Caroline Shaw and Sarah Oliver drove from Faringdon to Kosovo in Oct 13. They joined a convoy of trucks from around the UK taking much needed humanitarian aid to some of the poorest families in aidEurope. They delivered to 250 families and drove 5000kmPlease come along, everyone welcome. There will be a bar and donations bucket (of course!) Sarah Oliver

Found 1 ladies Bike. - 24/11/13

If you have lost or had a bike stolen please contact me as I have found one on Sunday. 01367 246003.

Julie Farmer

Keep an eye on what you buy at our Tesco! - 24/11/13

So far I've been in twice. The first time I noticed tins of 400gm biscuits being sold as 500gm which made them the better buy from the other varieties on offer.

Yesterday, Ginsters chicken slices were on 'special' at £1.00 but two I bought were rung up on the tills at £1.69.

I have to say that both times these errors were rectified by management, however, it shouldn't be down to the consumer to keep finding these faults. I do wonder how much of this is going on if I've found two faults in two visits.

Just so you know, I'm not in the habit of scrutinising every product.

CG

Dogs and leads - 24/11/13

Thank you Oliver Stone for your comments could not agree more.

I was rather upset by the comments the small dog person has made. As you say aggression has more to do with the owner behaviour and breed not the SIZE.

From owner of large black lab who loves the pub, play and hugs of course the odd treat or twenty. The dog that is.

Kirsty Phillips

Dogs On Leads - 23/11/13

I agree, any breed and size of dog can be a nuisance and unfortunately there will always be owners who think it's ok for their dog run around freely and uncontrolled. They are usually the same owners who are so unaware of what their dog is doing that they fail so pick up the mess it leaves.

The rugby pitch, tuckers park and the folly are ruined by these ignorant people.

I've lost count of the number of times I've shouted at other owners to call their dogs away from mine as he's not always happy to be approached but very few of them have bothered to teach recall so the dogs just annoy and cause problems.

It isn't the responsibility of the cricket club or folly to teach dog owners how to look after and train their pets but it wouldn't surprise me at all if one day they looked to ban all dogs from the rugby and football pitches because of the lazy people who don't clear up.

It will be sad, but I wouldn't blame them.

There has been mention of Pit Bulls on here, I'd be very surprised as they are a banned breed but if you are certain you've seen Pit Bull's then please report it.

Name Supplied.

Dogs. Off the lead - 23/11/13

Oliver. Does my note say that dogs were aggressive and uncontrollable.

What it does say is that dogs that are off the lead should not be allowed to pounce on small dogs. Owners should not assume all dogs get on with each other and should control them off the lead.

Name Supplied

Fabulous Festive Faringdon, Sat 30th - 22/11/13

FollyFest Committee will be found at Fabulous Festive Faringdon next weekend trying to fundraise again for next year so we can make it EVEN BETTER!!!

We need your help please...

We're going to do the Barrow of Booze raffle again which last year netted us £600 so could you please help us by dropping off a bottle of anything with booze in to either the Bobbin, Davenport's Business Centre or the Cellar Bar by Friday next week (29th).

Thank you!

FollyFest Committee

Dogs on leads - 22/11/13

In reference to dogs on leads, I think it is a little arrogant in itself to presume that only large dogs attack little dogs. Just last week whilst walking past the new tesco site my large (very friendly) chocolate labrador was attacked by two terriers their owner was an elderly lady who was unable to control them. Whilst I agree dogs with a tendency to act aggressively should always be kept on the lead it is unfair to brand all large dogs as uncontrollable and aggressive. Unfortunately there is an increasing amount of status dogs such as staffs and pitbulls in our area which are falling into the wrong hands. These are the owners that should be the target of any anti dog campaign not anyone who happens to own a dog bigger than a cat!

Oliver Stone

Slippery path - 21/11/23

I've just contacted Biffa regarding the dangerously slippery path on Gloucester Street directly outside the library. They've assured me they will sort it ASAP.

Best wishes

Emma Riddle

Dog that are off the lead folly hill and cricket pitch - 21/11/13

Those owners that think it is ok to allow their dogs not only off the lead but charge to other dogs that are on the lead and pounce on them are arrogant.

You may like your dog as I do but others may not.

My dog has been attacked today by dogs off the lead at the cricket field.

Can I ask the friends of the folly and cricket club to do something about this. I also realise it is open fields but small dogs should not have to go through what my dog did today.

Pit bull dogs and large dogs should be on lead.

It is very obvious that owners think that their dogs won't do any harm but think recent news any dog can cause harm not only to other dogs but owners and members of public

Name supplied

Look Out for Father Christmas & Thomas the Tank Engine during December -

21/11/13

Monday/Tuesday 2/3 December - Shrivenham

Wednesday 4 December - Faringdon (Orchard Hill, Westland Road, The Pines)

Thursday/Friday 5/6 December - Watchfield

Saturday 7 December - Faringdon (Stanford Road, Nursery View, Tuckers Road, Berners Way, Harding Close etc)

Monday/Tuesday 9/10 December - Southmoor & Kingston Bagpuize

Thursday 12 December - Uffington, Fernham, Little Coxwell

Friday 13 December - Clanfield

Monday/Tuesday 16/17 December – Stanford-in-the-Vale

Wednesday 18 December - Faringdon (Rawdon Way, Town End Road, Marines Drive, Marlborough Gardens, Folly View Road,)

Thursday 19 December - Great Coxwell, Faringdon (Coleshill Drive, Fernham Road, Leamington Drive, Fernham Gate)

Saturday 21 December - Faringdon (Bloor Estate, Park Road, Walnut Court)

ROTARY CLUB OF FARINGDON & DISTRICT

Ref the new housing development applications; Humpty, Fernham Fields etc

etc - 20/11/13

why do we not have a local plan that may make it harder for such developments to go ahead. Can anyone advise please.

Name supplied

Fernham Fields - 20/11/13

Mike Wise (Chair of Faringdon TC's Planning & Highways) will be attending to support the town in opposing the plans.

Jane Boulton

Fernham Fields - 20/11/13

In answer to Grant "Does the public voice count for nothing any more?"- The answer is no, thats why many of us don't bother voting anymore. It makes no difference as politicians rarely listen or represent the views of the people who elect them.

Regards Mark

Support from Councillors - 20/11/13

All four of our councillors (Thomson, Kainth, Cox, Heathcoat) know the strength of feeling in Faringdon and Great Coxwell. Even though only Roger Cox can vote at the meeting (I think), surely all the others will turn up and speak for us- won't they??

Local Yokel

ED(GW) Perhaps all councillors will confirm this

Fernham Fields - 20/11/13

In answer to Grant "Does the public voice count for nothing any more?"- The answer is no, thats why many of us don't bother voting anymore. It makes no difference as politicians rarely listen or represent the views of the people who elect them.

Regards Mark

(No) Support from local councillors - 20/11/13

I wouldn't rely on Roger Cox. When it came to brandy island, everyone in the entire of Buscot objected. But yet he didn't make any effort to make these objections clear to the committee. So the plans were approved.
Georgis Reid

Fernham Fields Housing Development - 20/11/13

According to the notes accompanying the agenda for the meeting on 27 Nov, the planning officer's recommendation to the planning committee to grant planning permission for this 200 house development is despite recommendations of refusal from both Faringdon Town Council and Great Coxwell Parish Council and 120 letters of objection from local residents.

It will be a sad day for Faringdon and Great Coxwell if VWHDC uphold the recommendation and surely only a matter of time before the Steeds Farm development on the other side of Coxwell Road is approved.
Folly Man

Fernham Fields - 19/11/13

I've had a quick scan of the officers report. It recognises the objections and the issues, but says because there is no VWHDC local plan, the governments guidance to give permission must be followed.
We do have Roger Cox, 1 of our District councillors on the Planning committee. Let's hope he will be persuasive on our behalf
ED(GW)

Fernham Fields Housing Development - 19/11/13

According to the notes accompanying the agenda for the meeting on 27 Nov, the planning officer's recommendation to the planning committee to grant planning permission for this 200 house development is despite recommendations of refusal from both Faringdon Town Council and Great Coxwell Parish Council and 120 letters of objection from local residents.

It will be a sad day for Faringdon and Great Coxwell if VWHDC uphold the recommendation and surely only a matter of time before the Steeds Farm development on the other side of Coxwell Road is approved.
Folly Man

Fernham Fields- officer recommends to grant permission- 19/11/13

I received this letter by email today:

Planning Committee Notification

Location: Fernham Fields Land to the East of Coxwell Road Faringdon

Proposal: Outline planning application for residential development, public open space, associated infrastructure and new access (As amended by Drawing No: 2360.3000 Revision F accompanying agent's letter dated 11 November 2013).

Application reference: P13/V0139/O

I am writing to let you know planning committee will consider this application on 27th November 2013. The meeting will start at 6:30pm in the council chamber at Vale of White Horse District Council, Abbey House, Abbey Close, Abingdon, OX14 3JE.

The officer's recommendation to committee is to grant planning permission. You can see a copy of the officer's report on our website at www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk - search for 'meetings and agendas' and click on planning committee from the list.

If you would like to speak at this meeting, please let me know in writing by 12 noon on 26th November 2013. You can either:

- email me at planning@whitehorsedc.gov.uk; or

- return the slip at the end of this letter. Please mark your envelope for the attention of Public Speaking.

If you register to speak I will share your details with any other parties who have also registered to speak on this application. You can arrange for one person to speak on behalf of a group.

Please contact me by telephone or email if you need any help.

Yours faithfully

MRS K CLARIDGE

for Adrian Duffield, Head of Planning

Enc

Although this is probably what was to be expected by not having a local plan, I'm still shocked that the officer's recommendation to the committee is to grant planning permission, despite such enormous public and regulatory opposition. Does the public voice count for nothing any more?

Grant Womack

Tesco reductions?- 18/11/13

Does anyone know what time tescos starts reducing food and whereabouts in store they put it

Name Supplied

Brighton Marathon places for Hope & Aid Direct - 17/11/13

Hope & Aid Direct (Faringdon) have two places left for Brighton Marathon 2014 on 6 April. We will give you a free running vest, as much support as we are able and low sponsorship.

www.hopeandaiddirect.org.uk

Brighton Marathon is beautifully organised, a great route for experienced and first time marathon runners and after only running since 2010 is now one of the most popular running events in the country.

<http://www.brightonmarathon.co.uk/about>

Any questions, please ask: mail@saraholiver.freeseve.co.uk

Christmas @ The Bobbin! - 17/11/13

We've simplified our Christmas pricing (bear with me, I'm new to all this!)

If you're joining us for dinner from 30th November, then...

2 courses for £24.95

3 courses for £29.95

Both include welcome mulled wine or prosecco and Christmas crackers! If you've already booked, then the price is either as above or the one we gave you, whichever is less.

<http://www.bobbin-bistro.co.uk/christmas-menu>

Bauble Burlesque has only 10 places left on 7th December and this is the last event until Jan/Feb. It stars Tabitha Taboo (from London) and Lou Leigh Blue (from Bristol) and also Delores, a Solo artist covering songs from the fabulous 40's to the current decade (from Lechlade!).

Also, we are still showing our vintage films (Christmas ones!) every Tuesday night from 8pm, including Christmas Eve. Film night costs £5 each but on Christmas Eve, the money raised from voluntary donations will go towards a Faringdon charity or group.

The last Children's Film of the year is on 7th December @ 2pm. Under the terms of my licence I'm not allowed to say what it is online but I'll give you a clue! It has a song in it sung by Aled Jones! Kid's film club is £2 per child which this time will be donated to the NSPCC.

We're so excited about our first Bobbin Christmas and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Best wishes

Mel and the Bobbin Team x

Bell Hotel - 16/11/13

Let's all give the new managers some time to get sorted: it takes a while when you are new to a business. All the signs I've seen are that it is and will be much improved.

Food to be 'tested' at a pre Christmas lunch in December.

Name Supplied

Faringdon 9th in the Top Ten - 16/11/13

Quite interesting facts on

<http://www.familyinvestments.co.uk/hotspots/postcode/> Enter SN7

Also found on the family investments site:

Faringdon is a market town in the Vale of White Horse, Oxfordshire. Sitting at the top of the Thames Valley, its northern meads stretch down to the River Thames. In 2004, Faringdon became the first Fairtrade Town in the South East of England and has since held an annual arts festival in early July. There are many clubs that run throughout the year, including cricket, football, rugby, tennis, plus a range of art and music classes. The town is nestled around the Parish Church which dates from the 13th century. Along with a leisure centre, a short stroll from the centre you'll find open fields and a network of footpaths to nearby villages. There are a number of pre-schools and preparatory schools making up the above average Key Stage 2 results in the area.

Having said all of that I've been told that Faringdon dropped to 337th when house prices increased by 8%

ED(GW)

Tesco - 16/11/13

When in Tesco this morning, was very disappointed to see a tesco's member of staff throwing his rubbish onto the car park.

So sad to see that..

Name supplied.

Hotels - 16/11/13

I recently went to the Bell Hotel. The new manager was outside on his mobile and I waited by the bar for a couple of minutes. He came back in, I ordered a beer and a meal.

I sat down and drank my ale, 40 mins later I asked for my £6.00 to be returned as my meal had not arrived.

Last time I go in there

Hungry of Faringdon

Mushroom and Toadstool - 15/11/13

I love the two new carvings in the Folly woodland. Beautifully done.

Suzy

Apprenticeships with British Gas - 15/11/13

[See the Jobs page](#)

Our Apprenticeships are full time jobs, open to any applicant with a full driving licence for use within the UK with 6 points or less, and 4 GCSEs grade A-C (or equivalent e.g. Scottish Standards) including Maths and English. There is no upper age limit, and nobody is required to make any financial contribution towards their training. The starting salary is £13,750, rising to £20,600 when fully qualified and competent. Benefits include a vehicle, tools, uniform, the latest hand held tablet technology, pension, share schemes and flexible add-ons
Ed(GW)

Shopping wars- 15/11/13

From today's Times in a column by Gaby Hinsliff.

Perhaps I should declare an interest, then, before writing about the Pugh family from Oxfordshire, who, as last week's Times noted, saved a bomb on food shopping by boycotting supermarkets for a year and using only small, independent shops.

It turns out they live just down the road from us, and, while I don't know them, it seems we share a really good butcher and an instinctive antipathy to the whopping new Tesco that has just opened on his doorstep. I'm boycotting it, natch. It's just that when I nipped into the butcher's yesterday for some sausages, glowing with the certainty of doing the right thing for once, he said trade was, if anything, busier than usual on Tesco's opening weekend.

A temporary spasm of guilt, perhaps, from customers whose good intentions may not last. But if it carries on, we may have to consider the awkward prospect that the pro-Tesco faction wasn't actually talking hogwash by suggesting a supermarket might benefit everyone, if it lured back the crowds deserting this pretty little market town for big ugly ones.

Because, come to think of it, the shops I've seen fold in our nearest towns sold stuff that supermarkets didn't: posh bakeware, secondhand furniture, car parts. It wasn't evil corporate behemoths but internet shopping and a recession and the fact that most working women don't have time to trot from butcher's to baker's to candlestick maker's that killed them: and those trends threaten not just small shops but entire small towns. So all power to the Pughs, and from now on the butcher gets our custom. But still, here's hoping that the dreaded Tescoites were right.

Name Supplied

Doesn't reflect positively - 15/11/13

" If you think you know the hospitality profession better than the incumbents put your money where your mouth is - buy a hotel and prove it."

I don't think those sorts of comments reflect positively on you as a business.

As a customer every-time I hear a business owner say that, red lights go off. You've put me off, I am not doing business with you.

Fred Harrot

Lost shop sign - 14/11/13

Hello, I have lost my shop sign, an A-frame/pavement board. I think someone probably wandered off with it on Saturday night as it was left outside by mistake...it's painted peacock blue and pale grey/green, (to match the shop front) with stencilled white letters...

Please return to The Gifted Magpie at 6 London St. -Rachel

Re: Coaching Inn's - 14/11/13

Perhaps the management have been so unhelpful and rude to you as a customer that it feels pointless complaining to them in person, and in the case of my wife who felt degraded by the management of one pub/hotel that she felt utterly uncomfortable making any issue known.

In my opinion the best way to share these concerns are on opinion websites such as this and Trip Advisor. The latter of which I use to highlight great hospitality as well as poor experience.

In age where money is tight for so many, researching the reviews of an establishment where you will be spending time and money is a must.

In the instance of my own family, researching whether the pub/resteraunt is child friendly is essential. Its shame that predicting instances of poor customer service is impossible especially when the retailer has had a recent change of management and had previously been outstanding.

Those retailers who fear the voice of their customers obviously have something to fear, those who are open to criticism and talk to their customers will utimately fair much better in these hard times. Places such as The Bobbin who have embedded themselves within Faringdon life will always gain greater support from the local community.
Stephen Day

The Nut Tree - 14/11/13

I popped into the Nut Tree on Tuesday and was greeted by lovely Donald, have to say that's the very first Christmassy feeling I've had this year, the shop looks really beautiful full to the rafters with gorgeous things to buy for Christmas, we are so very lucky to have The Nut Tree on our door step, there is nothing in the high street or on line to beat it.
Chrissie

Coaching Inns and more - 13/11/13

I'd like to offer some support to the comments of Mike at the Crown. If you have any feedback to make about a local business please have the courtesy to go direct to the management of that business in the first place rather than make a public statement. To the poster it's a throw away comment, to the business it can cause huge harm especially at a time when local businesses are under great pressure. Most issues can be resolved, just talk to the business owner.
David Reynolds

Coaching Inns, and more - 13/11/13

I really don't know if this is a suitable forum to make adverse comments and offhand, ill-informed swipes at local businesses - it's getting a bit like TripAdvisor!
Suggestion to those who have posted:-
1/ Come out from behind the shield of 'name supplied' and visit the business with which you have an issue, introduce yourselves to the management and express your opinions. Anonymous jibes are valueless!
2/ If you think you know the hospitality profession better than the incumbents put your money where your mouth is - buy a hotel and prove it.
Michael Sage
General Manager
The Old Crown Coaching Inn

Faringdon Regent Cinema - Corn Exchange - 13/11/13

Still time to get tickets to see Johnny Depp in 'The Lone Ranger' (12a) showing this Friday November 15th.

Doors 7pm, Film 7.30pm.

Adults £4, Children £3, Family (2 adults, 2 children) £10.

Refreshments, bar, popcorn, sweets.

Tickets from Faringdon Community & Tourist Info Centre.

Ring 01367 242191 for more details.

Empty pies - 13/11/13

i bought some mince pies on Saturday (well they weren't mince pies there were meat pies!!) but we had them on Monday and they were delicious BUT 3 of the pies were empty. Just to warn you.

Penny Spink

FARINGDON HOME LIBRARY SERVICE - 13/11/13

Faringdon Home Library Service is a free service offered to anyone in and around Faringdon who is unable to visit their local library.

We can bring books, large print and audio books right to your door. So whether it is a page-turning novel or some local history you are after, the knowledgeable library volunteer can help.

We are able to cover a 10 mile radius of Faringdon.

If you, or someone you know, would benefit from this free, friendly service please contact Sheena or Jane 01367 240311

FARINGDON FRIDAY READING GROUP 6.00-7.00 FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH STARTING JANUARY 2014 SHEENA OR JANE TEL.01367 240311 OR POP IN TO JOIN.

Coaching Inns - 13/11/13

If these two businesses want to attract people from further afield, they may do well to create websites that suitably advertise their business. Putting chalk boards and tacky banners outside will hardly do it.

Name Supplied

Dog Walker advert - 13/11/13

People quite often advertise for a dog walker on this site. Someone new is offering this service. See the [Jobs and Volunteering page](#)

Ed(GW)

The Bell New managers? - 12/11/13

The outside of the Bell is indeed much tidier and looks a lot more appealing however this is overshadowed by the excessive amount of boards that make the place look shabby. I used to be a regular at the Bell but I agree with previous comments and have to admit the new managers are rude and can't even pour a decent pint. I asked for the glass to be changed on my pint twice as it was so flat. The chef that made the place a success has now left i have been informed. such a shame as the place is full of old memories and it has an inside full of character.

Name Supplied

Health Summit. Wed 13th - 12/11/13

18.30-20.00. Roman Catholic Church Hall (entrance behind Budgens car park)

Dr Gavin Bartholomew will tell us what is happening under the new health organisation.

<http://www.whitehorsepracticeppg.org.uk/>

Anyone registered with the White Horse Practice is welcome

Thankyou - 11/11/13

I would like to very gratefully thank the honest person/persons who found my handbag still hanging on a trolley in the car park at Tesco on Friday last. It contained my purse, cards, phone etc., and I was so thankful to find that it had been handed in to the Customer Services desk.

You made my day. Thanks so much.

Name supplied.

Faringdon Coaching Inns - 11/11/13

I don't know what goes on at The Bell and the Crown. There does seem to have been pretty frequent changes of managers over recent years. Such a shame. I remember when both these hostelrys were sought after places to go by people near and far. High quality food, well trained helpful staff in wonderful historic buildings.

These two hotels are the gems of the Market Square. Whoever is running them I hope they're seeking to attract visitors, whether for a meal, overnight or longer.

I've noticed the outside of the Bell is much tidier than it was

Local yokel

Free Parking - 11/11/13

People in the Vale of White Horse can park for free for two hours every day of the year in district council car parks and, once again this December, will be able to take advantage of an entire day of free parking in the run up to Christmas.

Drivers in the Vale of White Horse will be able to park for free in district council car parks in **Abingdon and Faringdon all day on Saturday 30 November**, while motorists in Wantage will be able to park for free on Saturday 7 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.

Cllr Matthew Barber, Leader of Vale of White Horse District Council, said: "We hope as many people as possible will take advantage of the free Christmas parking to get their presents from their nearest Vale market town centres. And remember, for those who already have other plans on those Saturdays, they can still park for free for two hours all year round." VWHDC

The Bell Hotel New Managers - 11/11/13

I completely agree with you George we used to come in every Sunday but recently got asked to leave because apparently my son was being an apparent nuisance, I can assure you this was not the case they just didn't want our sort in there. I'm sad to say the place has gone down hill and the staff are quite frankly rude.

Name Supplied

Faringdon in the Top Ten - 11/11/13

Something rather lovely to share for a Monday morning.

I know Faringdon is great, my family and friends know it's great. It's good to have that confirmed by data.

Faringdon is in the top ten list of best places to bring up a family in the UK. I would like to agree!

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/this-britain/wheres--the-best-place-to-bring-up-a-family-its-bingham-8931594.html>

Mirabelle Mack

ED(GW) and thanks to the others who sent in information about this. and another

link <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-nottinghamshire-24895290>

Tesco - 11/11/13

I would like to echo the response of others with regards to how Tesco does seem to have started off well. There will inevitably be some naysayers however Sunday I had the need to pop down and found the staff to be extremely helpful, polite and genuinely were trying to do a good job. The store was clean, well stocked and made it hard to believe this was actually a Tesco store that I was in. Whether this good start will continue after the buzz of the store wavers we shall see but personally I think everyone needs to look at this store as a positive addition to the town and can work in harmony with other stores.

The only slightly cheeky black mark I will give it was the fact that on Friday they were handing out the remaining hessian bags and offering rickshaw rides to the store. It is one thing having the store and competing with Budgen and the like but whisking people out of the town centre is a little naughty.

Rob Perkins

The Bell Management - 10/11/13

Due to circumstances beyond our control we had no choice but to leave the Hotel in the control of the tenants whom we used to work for.

While we were managers of the Hotel we tried to cater for everyone and welcome everyone with a very warm welcome.

We have now taken over the Royal George in Purton just outside of Swindon. Since our short time here we have built up a good trade here.

Sunday lunches started this week so everyone is more than welcome to visit us over here and as previous in The Bell we are more than happy to cater for children in the pub.

Many thanks for all your support while we were at The Bell. We look forward to seeing you all over here for drinks or a bite to eat

Mel & Eddie Gravestock

Royal George, Purton 01793 978180

Gof passed his driving test - 10/11/13

Just heard that Gof passed his driving test. Now he must wait to hear if SCAS will reinstate him.

I'm hoping too we'll soon hear when the 2nd response vehicle that Faringdon residents funded will be returned.

Ed(GW)

New managers at the Bell? - 10/11/13

Does anybody know what is going on at the bell? It has gone very down hill recently which is a shame as the place has so much character which was used to the full advantage by previous staff. Recently went in on a Sunday for lunch and found the staff very rude to those with kids, I thought the place was a family pub. It seems the old managers who really made a good go at the place have left. Does anyone know if a holding company has or if there are new managers?

George Aldridge

Tesco - 9/11/13

After all of my reservations about Tesco coming to Faringdon I take it all back, went into the store today to be greeted by friendly staff clearly showing that nothing is too much trouble, a modern, clean store, well stocked, as good as any Waitrose or Sainsburys I really enjoyed my Tesco experience. All good (they pack your bag too.....wonderful) thanks Tesco

Chrissie

Pavilion plans, Football Club - 8/11/13

Looks like additions and improvements to existing pavilion.

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P13/V2292/FUL>
ED(GW)

Tesco - 8/11/13

If you've ever been to Cirencester lately, they have 3 Tescos and a Waitrose plus 4 Coffee Shops.

Are all their local shops dead? NO, far from it. They adapted by going "Oh, why are we so rubbish that people would rather go to a supermarket they could visit anywhere, rather than our one of a kind shop ? "

Its got to be said a lot of shops in Faringdon are just plain lazy, expensive or just don't have that energy. The new Tesco looks lush, its thought out, cheap and is just plain welcoming :)

Of all the shops in town, I would say only the likes of Sandwich Phillers really matches the new Tescos in quality of experience.

I think it's great we got Tesco, it should bring in more business and give shops that much needed kick up the bum and show them how its really done !

Seriously pop down to Cirencester one day, I really think the way it has its market square set up is the future for Faringdon.

Jake Harrot

Tesco - 8/11/13

For anyone who shops economically and does a large food shop once a week the Tesco's is going to benefit greatly and save having to go to Swindon or Carterton. I have friends and family who live in the local villages and small towns surrounding Faringdon, who have all said that they will be using the new Tesco's, which in turn is going to bring more people to the town in general which will benefit the smaller local business's too. I thought there was an excellent selection of choices of food, but if you want something of guaranteed quality 'bread' 'meat' 'cheese' or 'pies' for example you would more than likely still pop in and use the butchers or bakers or other small shops. Quality IS what they are predominantly renowned for not convenience.

Name Supplied

Impressed with Tesco- 8/11/13

I went to the new Tesco's & was very impressed. Staff very friendly no staff stacking shelf's. Plenty of staff on the check out.

But although I like the new store' I will still support the shops in town. But the shops in town need to change to keep there customer's.

In budgens there is never staff on the tills. They stack the shelf's during the day making it hard to walk around the shop. Charity shops charge too much on there clothing. It has to be a give & take. Faringdon is growing. Maybe the town shops will grow to be better from tesco's in town. And we must support the town or it will die.

Name supplied

Tesco's - 8/11/13

Although I appreciate people are entitled to their views - however minuscule ? I think Tesco's is the best thing to hit Faringdon for years. But what I find so very sad is people who question whether Tesco's had permission to sell Pizzas' and breakfasts etc. or state that they will shop elsewhere because they couldn't find a parking space??

Surely it is basic common sense that a shop like this's first day of opening will be It's busiest and parking will be hard to find? Again - A food shop is very likely to sell Pizza's and breakfasts?

Some people in this town seriously do need to get out more and get a life? We will only give this town the "BUZZ" that it needs to shine amongst other local towns by being positive and questioning the more important things that really and truly do matter :-)

Name Supplied

So the new Tesco is open, yippee. - 7/11/13

Pity there were no parking spaces available when we went this morning, I guess we will do what we always do and that is shop elsewhere.

name supplied.

New Tesco - Fabulous - 7/11/13

Must say the new store is excellent - friendly, helpful staff (even if they're still learning where everything is) and a really good shop fit. Bright and inviting with some lovely food.

Such a gust of fresh air compared to Budgens. I really think the writing is on the wall which is a shame but there's such a massive choice at Tesco - we'll certainly be switching and shopping there from now on.

Paul Gale

ED(GW) One chap I spoke to said he would no longer have to drive to Swindon twice a week. Let's hope that there are many more like him and that this might encourage more shopping, maybe for non food, in the town centre.

Tesco - 7/11/13

The Tesco's store looks as you stated new and shiny. It will become an asset and I think it will be visited by old and new Faringdonians. Without throwing cold water on such a new venture there are a few features in the store that was not on the original plan. Does G.W. know when the extras were approved.

I will use the store, why go to Swindon when there is a Tesco's on your doorstep.

Old Faringdonian.

ED(GW): Don't know detail. I do know it started life as a Super store, then became a Metro with Click and Collect. I remember the planning appeal- I think it was agreed as a high % of food (ie not the Tesco Extras- clothes, pharmacy, cafe etc)

Coxwell Pit decontamination - 7/11/13

Michael Jenkins, I think you'll find I'm not suggesting anything! What I said is that I need some more information on the 'hundred year ban' and burying of radioactive material by Harwell. That's a pretty major allegation of not just local but national significance should it turn out to be true! So please – more information and some solid evidence. Should I be contacting the Police, Harwell and Environment Agency? When did this happen, how often and under whose instruction? All I can go on is the evidence submitted when Coxwell Pit was decontaminated and stringent scientific analysis was carried out. I can't speak for the landfill the other side of the SSSI... there could be anything under there!

On a slightly different issue, in response to Folly Man's comment: Yes, there was an enforcement action issued against Builders Ede to remove containers and hardcore that they dumped on the site. Conveniently they managed to remove it on the day the order was due to be presented to them if my memory serves me correctly. It may be of interest locally though to know where all their rubbish was relocated. It was taken all the way to Builders Ede's development site on Park Road and has been there ever since. The one near the medical centre that had an access road built (in order to keep the planning permission open!) and is now a total eyesore. More details can be seen here:<http://whitehorsedc.moderngov.co.uk/mgConvert2Pdf.aspx?ID=604&T=9>

How do these companies get away with such behaviour...and for so long?!

Anna

ED(GW) I had a quick look through the planning application. Much communication and very considerable costs re decontamination, if anyone wants to find out more

Christmas is Coming.....- 7/11/13

so why not fill up your 5000 free bags with 'Cards for Good Causes' from the Faringdon Community & Tourist Information Centre !.

Tesco now open - 7/11/13

Super shiny new store- Tesco's new style- so we're one of the first in the country. Has a great spacious, attractive look and feel.

Has the Click and Collect service- which I think is free until Christmas (best check, normally £3)

The store is a Metro; I have been told that pricing for Metro, Superstore, Extra is the same nationally (except inside M25). It is only Tesco Express that has a different pricing policy.

ED(GW)

Coxwell Pit - 7/11/13

According to the minutes of the FTC Planning & Highways Committee Meeting on 10 November 2009 the matter was raised by a local resident in public speaking time who enquired what progress had been made with the transfer of land from Builders Ede to the Town Council.

In response, the Chairman advised that the town council's solicitors had been in contact with Builders Ede but to date had had no response. He confirmed that he would ask the Town Clerk to follow up the matter again.

Separately, the minutes of the VWHDC Planning Committee Meeting on 16 December 2009 record under 'Urgent Business - Enforcement Programme' that "The committee received and considered report 88/09 of the head of planning detailing a request to take enforcement action in respect of unauthorised use of land by Builders Ede at Coxwell Pit, Fernham Road Faringdon."

The committee authorised the head of planning to take enforcement action against Builders Ede to cease the use of the land for the storage of materials including fencing, shipping pallets, building materials and rubble/hardcore and to secure the removal of these materials.

As so often happens with these sorts of developments, the builders lose interest and forget promises made once the development is complete and they've made their money. A lesson for all the new housing being proposed in our town perhaps?

Folly Man

re Coxwell Pit - 7/11/13

Are you suggesting that the radioactive vehicle that regularly came up Fernham Road with a police escort, was just carrying batteries?

Michael Jenkins

re: Coxwell Pit - 6/11/13

I am not aware of any 'hundred year ban' so please do enlighten us further! I do know that the part of Coxwell Pit that was developed by Builders Ede was contaminated land which had to be totally dug out to bedrock and decontaminated before being refilled and built on (and yes, there are still people locally who think glowing tomatoes can be grown in the gardens of Fernham Gate!). There was a lengthy (and costly) decontamination process before building commenced. It included very low levels of radon I believe. I was under the impression that this was from the dumping of car batteries and such scrap. I am not aware of contaminated waste from Harwell...that sounds a little like an urban myth but I would happily stand corrected if there is some evidence out there?!

I do know that some people who purchased houses in Fernham Gate spent a great deal of time pouring over the lengthy tomes that detailed all the environmental information throughout the decontamination process. Not my field of expertise at all...but I do know enough to understand that building on Landfill is not exactly straightforward

(the land in question is landfill...unless I have been misinformed). I will speak with someone for whom this is a field of expertise and see what I can find out!

Finally, I did manage to root out the minutes of the Town Council Finance meeting at which it was agreed to pay the solicitors fees required to finalise the handover of the land to Faringdon. Can anyone confirm what happened next?http://www.faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk/files/resourcesmodule/@random48ef618175c69/1241787985_Mins_04_09__2_.pdf

Coxwell Pit - 6/11/13

I have just read with interest Anna Marlow's article and your editor comments. All very good information, but what about the one hundred year ban on the part of the pit that AE Harwell buried their radio active waste?
Michael Jenkins

Call to Action - 5/11/13

Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group Our Strategic Direction: 2013 - 2018

You've been invited to participate in the **Our Strategic Direction: 2013 - 2018** consultation by the consultation manager, Julia Stackhouse.

Our Strategic Direction: 2013 - 2018, describes our views about the challenges the NHS in Oxfordshire faces over the next five years, and the emerging strategy to deal with these issues. The purpose of this document is to enable a debate with our partners, staff, people who use our services and live in Oxfordshire about what needs to do to be done to address these issues, and how the local NHS should work together to deliver the changes required.

OCCG wants to ask you if the opportunities identified in our strategy will help to address the challenges in Oxfordshire. Your views on how you can help us to achieve and maintain financial stability in Oxfordshire, are really important. To participate in this debate you can:

- Download the document which sets out OCCGs' Strategic Direction: 2013 - 2018 and send your comments in to us by using the following url:<https://consult.oxfordshireccg.nhs.uk/consult.ti/5yrstrat/consultationHome>
- Answer our online survey: <https://consult.oxfordshireccg.nhs.uk/consult.ti/5yrstrat/consultationHome>
- Participate in our discussion forum: <https://consult.oxfordshireccg.nhs.uk/consult.ti/5yrstrat/consultationHome>
- Attend a public meeting to discuss your ideas and hear the views of others:
 - Wantage, 19 November, 1pm - 5pm
 - Witney, 20 November, 6.30pm - 9.30pm
 - Oxford, 21 November, 9am - 12pm
 - Banbury, 3 December, 1pm - 5pm
 - Bicester, 5 December, 9am - 1pm
 - Wallingford, 19 December, 9am - 1pm

For further information about the events or to book a place to attend, please contact 01865 334638 or email cscsu.talkinghealth@nhs.net

(Please note, if you haven't used Talking Health before you will need to complete the registration form first)

If you would like to book to attend any of the events, or would like to request hard copies of the survey, please contact us at cscsu.talkinghealth@nhs.net or phone 01865 334638. We would also encourage you to share this information above with other contacts or organisations that you think would like to get involved.

A positive news story from Faringdon! - 5/11/13

Faringdon's running group 'Far Runners', which started earlier this year, has just featured as a 'success story' on the news section of the Run England website.

<http://runengland.org/news.asp?itemid=2751&itemTitle=How+far+can+Faringdon+Far+Runners+go%3F§ion=23§i>

[onTitle=News](#)

If you'd like to join us, please do come along: Tues/Thurs 7pm market place; Sun 9.30am leisure centre.

All ages and abilities welcome !

The Far Runners

New phone mast Park Road- 4/11/13

The application is for: Removal of existing Vodafone 2G only Phosco pitchfork mast with 2 omni-directional (tops of antennas at 17.7m AGL)

and replacement with Jupiter single stack monopole with three shrouded multi-band antennas and a single 300mm transmission dish antenna together with replacement of one RBS2103 equipment cabinet with one RBS6102 equipment cabinet to enable the base station to provide sharable 2G, 3G and 4G RF coverage for Vodaphone.

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P13/V2398/T56>

Fireworks money raised - 4/11/13

1st Faringdon Scouts is pleased to announce that we raised £658 from running the hot dog stall at Faringdon Fireworks on Saturday night. Thank you to everyone who helped over the weekend, the 41 Club for allowing us to come along and to Mark Blatch of the Cellar Bar for lending us tents, doing our shopping and generally helping out and working with us. It is all very much appreciated both by the fundraising committee members and by the Scouts in Faringdon, who can purchase much-needed new equipment.

Faith Carpenter, Fundraising Chair

1st Faringdon Scouts

Tesco - 5/11/13

I appreciate peoples concerns that some businesses will close once Tesco opens. I have lived in the town for 36 years, and so many shops and businesses have come and gone over the years. I am sure that the people who have always shopped at Budgens, Costcutters, Pat Thomas etc will remain loyal customers to them. But hopefully for the majority of people who shop out of town, this new venture will bring those shoppers back to Faringdon. Jacqui Massey

Re: Coxwell Pit SSSI - 4/11/13

Does anyone remember the 'generous donation' to the good people of Faringdon by Builders Ede many years ago when they built Fernham Gate next to our SSSI site? It is proudly mentioned

here http://www.oxfordshiregt.org/coxwell_pit.htm and again here on this very site (in its previous guise) <http://w.faringdon.org/hyfkjune3.htm>.

Well...no great surprise it never actually happened. Now Builders Ede have had contractors out clearing the land (gone are the trees, flowering plants and vegetation that has naturalised over the past 10 years) and today there have been surveys of the land carried out and photographs taken. You can be pretty sure this isn't to finally give the people of Faringdon the generous gift that was promised all those years back! Can anyone tell me what actually went wrong? Why has Faringdon missed out on yet another green space? One final link - minutes from a Town Council Planning meeting back in 2009 (see point

11).http://www.faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk/files/resourcesmodule/@random49088be871b63/1241769882_P_H_Mins_14_04_09.pdf

Looks like we have yet another development battle on our hands. What next?!

Anna Marlow

ED(GW) My memory is that land was to be given, not just for the SSSI but also for access from Fernham Road. I believe a Trust was set up (Faringdon Town Council will know and be represented). I haven't asked recently but I know it took years (yes years) to set up the trust- needed to receive the gift of land.

More info on: <http://www.faringdon.org/fossils-and-colespits.html>

Tesco - 4/11/13

Tesco's may have invited businesses to submit flyers that can be included in their goody bag but they require enough to go into each bag. Do they know how much that can cost a small business. It would also appear that not all shop owners have been invited to the Wed's get-together, a mistake on someone's part or not is everyone that important to them.

The coming of Tesco's may seem to be good for the Town but we still have to consider the shops in the centre or the Town will die and then we will become devoid of all character that makes us unique

Pick as many holes in my piece as you want to my views will stay the same. I love this town and I hope you do to..
Old Faringdonian.

Housing - 3/11/13

Re name supplied's comments on Gladman. You are right about the lack of a Local Plan bringing about a proliferation of planning applications. Unfortunately because there is no Local Plan the default document for reference becomes the National Planning Policy Framework which basically infers that the assumed position on planning applications is to approve them unless there are very specific reasons not to.

I posted about this after the Humpty Hill plan was rejected just a few weeks ago.

"I sincerely hope your optimism that this is the end of it proves to be the case. However, this might just be the start as the applicant has the right to appeal. I have personally been battling to stop a completely inappropriate property being built next to mine for nearly 3 years. With the support of some Councillors the applicant merely kept coming back with various incarnations of the original plans until it finally received approval a few weeks ago. This property is just a hundred yards from the proposed Humpty Hill development and similarly also outside the existing development boundary the retention of which, allegedly, is supported by local Councillors both Town and District. We shall see. Unfortunately, it's not over 'til it's over.

David Reynolds

Housing - 3/11/13

There is a rather unsettling article primarily about the practices of Gladman Developments in today's Sunday Times. It seems that we may have only won temporary respite from the proposed development of Humpty Hill. The lack of a current Local Plan for housing means the decision of the VWHDC planning committee to reject the proposal is likely to be overturned when the application is considered by the national inspectors. Gladman are evidently targeting green field sites in sensitive areas where no local plans are in place and have submitted over 40 such applications many of which are approved at the appeal stage.

Name supplied.

Lost £30 - 2/11/13

En route to pick up our take away on Saturday my son lost the £30 that he was intending to use to pay for it. If you were passing down Gloucester street and up London street on the way back from the Faringdon House fireworks and picked it up or know someone who did, is there any chance you might feel able to return it. Many thanks for reading

Alice Randall

Costa Coffee - 2/11/13

Planning permission has been given

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P13/V1936/FUL>
Ed

Tesco takeaway - 2/11/13

Just read in the Faringdon Folly that Tesco are having a Pizza counter and intend to offer "prepared breakfast, lunch and dinner" to take away.

Was this in the plans?

Name supplied

Faringdon's population since 1911 - 2/11/13

Census organisation kindly provided these. 3079 in 1911, 3201 in 1951

See for more in a pdf on the [Directories landing page](#)

ED

Consultations re bus services - Oxfordshire County Council - 2/11/13

OCC are consulting on a number of bus services. (not the Swindon:Oxford 66 route). They are asking about the X15 Witney to Abingdon. This currently is the only way non car users could get from Faringdon to either of these places. I don't think it works that well, but I've been hoping that the frequency of the X15 will be improved, so that it will synchronise with 66 buses.

If you think this would be good, tell OCC. You've got until 15/11

<https://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/system/listConsultations?>

Ed

Halloween at the Folly - 1/11/13

Nearly 300 people climbed the tower last evening . Many were little witches and ghouls, some were bigger monsters!

Super decorations, amazing sound and light displays from Ade North

of <http://www.starsoundexpress.co.uk/index.html>, plus our very own witch

Photos are on Folly facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/FaringdonFolly>

Folly Friend

Carpenter wanted - 1/11/13

Can anyone recommend a carpenter who can repair sash windows, and can replace part of an old stair case, with the emphasis on restoration; would like to use someone locally if possible. Have contacted a number of carpenters from further afield and never got a call back or an email response.

Many thanks. 07787 178788

Tesco- 1/11/13

[Some information in attached pdf \(5mb\)](#)

Ed

New Book by Faringdon Author Carmen Snelling - 1/11/13

Details of this collection of poetry can be found here:

<http://www.unitedpress.co.uk/featured-authors/featured-author-carmen-snelling>

Copies of the books can be ordered from the author:

Carmen Snelling

01367 240601

Flyers- hand out at Tesco opening - 31/10/11

I've just late last night had it confirmed that:

- 1) All businesses in Faringdon are welcome to produce flyers to go into 5000 hessian give away bags from Tesco from their opening day on 7th November
- 2) Flyers are needed by 5th November at the store
- 3) Tesco staff will be filling the bags.

This is clearly a very tight deadline and some businesses have been aware of this opportunity but the majority not. There are many national and international printers online as well as several based locally who will be able to help, or of course you can print yourself.

Good luck everybody

Me! @ The Bobbin

Folly Tower HALLOWEEN EVENT. Thurs 31st Oct 2013- tonight - 31/10/13

Climb the Tower at night.

Great decorations and Spooky music and a bit SCARY!

5.30pm till 8.00pm

Adults £2, Children 11-16 £1; 50p for Children under 11

Just turn up. No advance tickets

For more information at www.faringdonfolly.org.uk, or 01367 241142 or enquiries@faringdonfolly.org.uk

Local Producers Tasting day at Budgens - 31/10/13

Come and join us on Saturday between 11am and 3pm and enjoy a taste of some of our favourite locally produced foods, all available at Tiensa's Budgens! Chutney & jam from Giles' Preserves, Sausages from Kelmscott Country Pork, Cheese from the Oxford Cheese Co, Curry from Ben & Jacobs of Oxfordshire and plenty more!

Tiensa's Budgens

Tea Dance - so successful - 30/10/13

A huge thank you to everyone who made the Tea Dance at TPHP such a success. What a fantastic event. Great music, fabulous food and drink, wonderful dancing and enjoyed by both young and even younger. Thanks to

Nathan for the fantastic music. Wow!

Nathan Jones All Stars Band -nj-allstars.com/ <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Nathan-Jones-Allstars-Jazz-Band/107216195981721>

Mark Blatch at the Cellar Bar Faringdon for providing the drinks and running the bar. <https://www.facebook.com/thecellarbaruk>

Rod Green of Tyranalight Show for his very effective lighting rodgreen@talktalk.net

Kealy Whenray and her Dancers who entertained us and worked so hard making cakes and serving our guests. Once again the young people of Faringdon shine.

Everyone who volunteered behind the scenes to get TPHP ready and who made sandwiches and cakes.

Everyone who came to help on the day with a special mention for Albania Grosso who made so many wonderful cups of tea and Aaron Snelling who is the best raffle caller and generally all round good guy.

Everyone who helped to clear up especially Dottie Robinson who quietly but efficiently washed up nearly a hundred cups and saucers.

And finally a huge thank you to all of you who came to the event. It was wonderful to see you all dancing and having a

great time. Your support will help TPHP enormously.

Please go to our Facebook page to see some photos of the event <https://www.facebook.com/ThePumpHouseProject>

We will be doing it all again on the 23rd February 2014.

Nicky Brown

TPHP Admin

Web developer wanted - 30/10/13

I'm looking for a person/business who can design, build & support (the Red Setters rude bits) of a website to market a driving school business...inclusions will need vector graphics for vehicle,site,clothing & merchandise...albeit the brand has been roughly decided on Powerpoint which is the lowest of the low I know for web design...also required are online payment, pupil progress marking sheets, live in car video feed & lesson booking options along with links to just about every DSA update available. Most mainstream sites on the Web use templates...I'd like a bit of original thinking to make this happen along with a realistic quote...has anyone used or have personal recommendations of folk that can fulfil this brief....does not have to be in or from Faringdon.

Regards Allan

allanbarrow@btinternet.com

REGENT CINEMA, Corn Exchange, Faringdon.- 29/10/13

Next film LONE RANGER (Johnny Depp, Armie Hammer).

Friday 15th November.

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

Faringdon Community and Tourist Information Corn Exchange, 01367 241 191

[More information Regent Cinema](#)

Park Road - 29/10/13

Quote from Tesco

Highways works are being pushed on as quickly as possible to minimise the disruption on Park Road. The current completion date of all highways works is 6th November. The existing road did not have any drainage, and the Highways Authority have required substantial deep drainage to be installed as part of the approved scheme. This has meant that the extent of works has been much more intensive than first intended which has impacted on the duration of the traffic management. Hopefully the below timeline is useful:

Store works complete 31/10/13

Highways 6/11/13

External landscaping 6/11/13

Store open 7/11/13

ED(GW)

HEDGEHOG RESCUE - 28/10/13

.....would be very grateful for any old towels, pillow cases, sheets or blankets for over wintering of poorly or underweight hedgehogs. Happy to collect locally. Please help us help this most endearing species survive. Email

to carlmaz@uwclub.net.

Many thanks, Mazzy.

Good plasterer wanted - 28/10/13

Hi, can anyone recommend a good plasterer in our area, for a small skimming job that needs doing now and a larger job in the New Year.

Name supplied.

Tea Dance at the old theatre- 27/10/13

Super occasion. Great music from Nathan Jones Big Band- Gershwin, Sinatra, Glenn Miller and more modern stuff. Lot's of dancing - the old and the young. And a scrummy tea.

There'll be another dance on 23rd Feb- possible different music genre I think.

Great way to spend a cold and windy Sunday afternoon

In aid of the [Pump House Project](#)

ONE WEEK TO GO! WILL YOU BE THERE WHEN WE COME TO FARINGDON?- 27/10/11

The "heart2heart" sponsored walk will start from Prestbury war memorial (GL52 3AU) on Friday 01.11.13 at 9am with the blessings with the Cheltenham Mayor Cllr. Wendy Flynn towards Chipping Norton via Winchcombe and Stow-on-the-Wold.

Day 2, Start from Chipping Norton (OX7 5AX) war memorial at 9am (Saturday 02.11.13) sent by Mayor Cllr. Mike Tysoe towards Faringdon via Carterton. We will be met by the Mayor of Carterton Cllr. Lynn Little around 1pm.

ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED! CAN YOU HELP?

Day 3, Start from Faringdon war memorial (SN7 7HL) at 10am (Sunday 03.11.13) sent by Mayor Cllr. David Price towards Royal Wootton Bassett.

ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED! CAN YOU HELP?

Day 4, Start from Royal Wootton Bassett war memorial (SN4 7AU) at 9am (Monday 04.11.13) sent by Mayor Cllr. Linda Frost towards Stroud.

Day 5, Start from Stroud war memorial (GL5 1QN) at 9am (Tuesday 05.11.13) sent by Cllr. Kevin Granston towards Cheltenham via Gloucester Cenotaph. We will be met by Mayor of Gloucester Cllr. Chris Chatterton at 12:15, at the Cenotaph (GL1 1LS) and send us off on our last leg towards Cheltenham. We will be met by the Mayor of Cheltenham Cllr. Wendy Flynn again around 4:30pm at the war memorial on GL50 1NW to conclude our walk.

Please support us by coming in numbers as we would love to see you there. The fallen heroes will be remembered with a candle lit prayer for the souls who fought for freedom in this country. Then heads down we will press on the grueling 27 mile uphill walk towards Chipping Norton.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE TOO! IF YOU NEED SOME FLYERS PLEASE CONTACT ME AND I'LL HAVE SOME SENT BY POST!

johannes shanmugam, organiser

"heart2heart" charity walk

W: <http://www.h2hwalk.org> E: info@h2hwalk.org T: 07815 496902

Storm Forecast- 26/10/13

I'm not sure whether the severe part of the storm will hit Faringdon. It will be very windy, so what with the wet ground and leaves still on the trees, there may be some damage.

Don't think we can do anything about it- except not to stand under trees! Let's hope it's not as bad as the 1987 storm
Name Supplied

Folly and woodland - 26/10/13

Regular walkers to the Folly, with dogs or not, will know that a great deal of work has been done (much by volunteers) to make it a pleasant and fun place to spend time. On a fine day there are nearly always little children with a parent or grandparent playing around and enjoying the hunt for the sculptures among the trees.

Dog walkers: Please please pick up (and take away) after your dog where ever it decides to perform. There is now a much larger bin at the foot of the Folly path- please use it. Thankyou

Friend of the Folly

Keep to footpaths - 26/10/13

I absolutely agree that the general public should be keeping to footpaths on farmland and not trespassing so they can "enjoy the view". At the end of the day it is private property and farmers can cultivate their land as they please. If you want to enjoy a piece of your own unspoilt countryside, buy your own field.

Name Supplied

Complainers - 26/120/13

People should be ashamed complaining of ploughed feilds. Its the farmers land, not dog owners. This page is just full of complaints. Lets have some community spirit.

Name supplied.

Litter and dogs - 26/10/13

for all the people who have only lived in faringdon for 5 minutes dogs have run and played up the folly for many a year.and for all the people that keep on about picking up dog muck pick up your fast food cartons and waste food which the good old rats enjoy.

Name supplied

Park Road Traffic lights - 25/10/13

People are still moaning about the chaos on Park Road with the traffic lights. I look out of my window that faces onto the road and see umpteen people jumping the lights causing traffic to clog up in the middle by Marlborough Close and Gardens. Then the same drivers are giving the groundworkers abuse because the traffic is at a stand off. To moan at people who are just doing their job is absurd..

I myself, have been sat in the traffic queuing by the Swan and some idiot in a gold VW golf sped past me and through the whole lot. If everyone abided by the regulations it wouldn't be a problem.

I'll say it again...I bet these people who are moaning will be shopping in the new Tesco.

Name supplied

14 houses, land behind Duke of Wellington - 25/10/13

This is the former Tetronic land. Application includes 14 allocated parking spaces and 14 unallocated. Pedestrian access next to Duke of Wellington. Vehicle access off Canada Lane.

Decision targetted for January

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P13/V2301/O>

Ed

Land around Folly - 25/10/13

Yes it did need to be ploughed to sow another crop for next year. You never know what colour we will enjoy next year. Green for silage, yellows for barley, wheat, oats, blue for linseed. This is what happens when you live in/near agriculture land.

Do you pick up after your dog? Not sure I would like that amongst the food that is growing!

name supplied

Ploughing the land on Folly Hill - 25/10/13

Did the "Saunders " really need to plough even the path at bottom end of the folly. Could not just an extra couple of feet be left for folks to enjoy the walk and views.

The folly looked much better with lovely green fields

Name supplied

Land around the Folly - 25/10/13

I was always understood that farmers were allowed to plough their land to grow crops. Since I have been living in Faringdon that land has had a rotation of crops. It is not open land for dog walkers. There are paths around the folly and there are plenty of footpaths to walk dogs around Faringdon. Dogs should be kept on a lead unless you have your own field in which to exercise them.

Name supplied

The land around the folly is arable - 25/10/13

..... and the farmer does not have to tell you that he is going to plough, keep to the footpaths as you are supposed to and you won't have any problems.

name supplied

Land around Folly - 25/10/13

Well, I'm not Saunders but I can tell you that the land around the Folly, excluding the public footpath, is privately owned farmland. The owners/tenants are under no obligation whatsoever to communicate what they intend to do with it, and why should they be, any more than you are obliged to tell all and sundry what you intend to do with your garden? The public footpath, not the farmland is there for the convenience of the public and their dogs. Think yourself lucky that you have been able to use the farm land up until now.

Bystander.

Anyone got a PA to lend? - 24/10/13

Looking to borrow or hire a PA to suit a four piece group for a couple of small events this side of Christmas. Wondered if anyone could help ?

Simon Jury

Land around the Folly being ploughed - 24/10/13

Please, "Saunders" ... tell me why the whole of the land around Faringdon Folly has been ploughed ? I walk my dog there on a regular basis and I am deeply upset that you felt no need to communicate the fact that you were ploughing the land. I'm guessing that other dog walkers feel the same .

Simon Jury

STOP PRESS! Jahmene Douglas is now visiting Budgens Faringdon on Tuesday 29th October at 4pm! - 23/10/13

Unfortunately he is poorly, so not able to come tomorrow.

2012 XFactor runner up in Budgens- 22/10/13

It's nearly Halloween, and the celebrations start this week in Budgens! If you watch X Factor, you will definitely recognise the name Jahmene Douglas... well he's visiting us on Thursday!

Come and join us at Budgens Faringdon on Thursday 24th October at 4pm, we are being visited by last year's X Factor runner up (and Swindon boy!) Jahmene Douglas! He is coming to carve a pumpkin especially for us, and we will be raffling it off to raise money for The Pumphouse Project.

Halloween fancy dress optional!!

Lucy Worrall

EVERYONE NEEDS FRIENDS AND NOW SO DOES FARINGDON LIBRARY- 21/10/13

This Wednesday 23rd October between 6pm and 8pm the Library will be open for Library supporters to visit and discuss the plans to form a Friends Group; do please come and see us and get involved.

Name Supplied

Christmas at the Old Crown - 21/10/13

There are still a few days left to claim your 10% early booking discount on Christmas parties and Christmas Day Lunch. Party bookings accepted throughout December at only £19.95 per person for two courses or £24.95 for three courses. There are also a few places left for Christmas Day luxury carvery featuring turkey, beef, pork, ham and venison (all from Pat Thomas butchers) as part of a five course meal with all the trimmings for £40.

Vegetarian options always available.

Children's rates available for all meals.

Call in, phone or email for a menu and booking form.

Michael Sage

The Old Crown, 25 Market Place, Faringdon, SN7 7HU

01367 242744

oldcrown@relaxinnz.co.uk

Eat or Heat - 21/10/13

I know Faringdon Baptist Church are in the process of setting up a food bank and I think Churches Together in Faringdon are working on something. The Baptist Church office number is 01367 243455.

Steve Bunce

RE: Abandoned motorbike - 20/10/13

The bike is mine, the customisations were done by my lovely colleagues of The Cellar Bar and friends. It looks rather nice if you ask me... The bike is not blocking 2 bays as i've made sure over the weekend that there is ample room for cars to park round it. When I parked it there friday the space available was only big enough for the bike.

Oliver Williams

Christmas @ The Bobbin - 20/10/13

I am proud and pleased to advise that our first Christmas menu at The Bobbin is now up on our website and we're now receiving our very first bookings. You can view our website at www.bobbin-bistro.co.uk and the Christmas section is under "Menu".

Bookings from 2 to 48 guests are welcome for dinner over the festive season. The table is yours for the entire evening giving your guests a unique festive experience with exquisitely prepared food, exciting drinks and attentive service in a former drapers and haberdashery shop in the old Market town of Faringdon at the edge of the Cotswolds.

We think that the secret to fabulous cooking begins with selecting the great ingredients from local producers and viable fisheries. We prepare them with pride and simplicity to showcase their wonderful flavours.

We are unashamedly proud of our vintage venue and have a menu which reflects the rich, vibrant and diverse nature of our region and its produce. Our menu is quintessentially English and our drinks list is extensive and imaginative.

Please call 01367 240578 or email book@bobbin-bistro.co.uk to book.

Very best wishes

Mel Lane

The Bobbin

Abandoned motor bike? - 20/10/13

who owns the red motorcycle parked outside the portwell angel, its been there now for 3 days blocking 2 parking bays. the owner must be strange to have pink flowers on it and to have left it there

John Lee

Re Gof - 20/10/13

A few people who wrote to Will Hancock, Scas CEO have received a reply.

The gist is that a process of retraining and assessment has been agreed for Gof, with no guarantees what the outcome might be. Petition Reinstate Gof on Change.org **1232** 20/10/13 at 11.00

Ed(GW)

Dog Poo Scourge - 18/10/13

After a comparative lull the dog poo scourge seems to have hit Faringdon pavements again with a vengeance. The majority of dog owners are very diligent but instances of neglect are beginning to appear, particularly in Stanford Road. Perhaps we should all become supergrasses and report any lapses we see. It really is disgusting...
Bill Rennells

Tesco opens 7/11/13 - 18/10/13

Seeing how far building the store, changing the roads etc have got to, I thought it was highly unlikely that all would be ready in time.
I'm told the store **WILL** open on 7th November
Ed

Mathematics Homework Club. Starts 6th November - 18/10/13

Faringdon Library
Every Wednesday after School 3pm – 4.30pm During Term time
Need help with your maths school work or help in understanding homework?
Come along to this weekly session in Faringdon Library.
The aims are always to build confidence and a better understanding of mathematics ...and maybe even a love of maths.
All ages welcome from year 1 to year 13
The sessions are free - not everyone can afford extra lessons.
Dr Audrey Curnock
[Educational Consultancy Education Unlimited](#) which is just celebrating its second anniversary.
Audrey has lots of experience and has amazingly been awarded a National Award for the Best Mathematics Tutor 2013. (She holds a current CRB form – now called DRB forms).

Yellow helicopter - 18/10/13

Helicopter over Fernham Road/Folly view end of town, yesterday. Anyone know why?
Ed(GW)

Fashion Show Tonight - 18/10/13

I would like to remind everybody about The Fashion Show at the Corn Exchange Faringdon, Friday 18th October. African Children's Fund will be showing their Autumn Collection. doors open at 7pm, Tickets. £6.00 on the night or £5.00 at our shop.
hope to see you there
Alison Moore
African. Children's Fund Charity number 1114699

Parking - 17/10/13

Can't help but notice that the vehicles belonging to those at the Wheatsheaf can be seen parked all day and now all night on London Street and nothing gets done! Double yellows still mean nothing in this little town.
Name Supplied

VHDC Local Plan delayed - 17/10/13

New government rules delay local plan The government has introduced new rules that will cause delays to our local plan. After changes to the way government inspectors were making decisions on local plans already in progress we adjusted our programme to undertake a new Oxfordshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) with Oxfordshire partner authorities. The SHMA will identify how many houses we have to plan for in the period to 2029.

After we started work on the SHMA, the government announced a new requirement for the Local Enterprise Partnership to produce an economic strategy for Oxfordshire. We have had to delay the SHMA by several months to incorporate some of the work for the economic strategy to ensure these two important documents are fully aligned.

The latest changes will also affect the timetable for the production of the SHMA. New government planning practice

guidance is now saying that when preparing the housing numbers we must correct the underlying government household projections if there is evidence of past housing undersupply. We must also consider a range of market signals such as housing affordability, and other factors such as future labour supply in our growing economy.

The disruption to our local plan timetable caused by government rules means that it will no longer be possible to produce the next draft of the local plan as we had hoped to do this year. It will instead be released in 2014. In December we will publish an update of the Local Development Scheme, our local plan work programme, to incorporate these changes. This will set out when our partners and communities will have opportunities to review and provide feedback on the emerging Vale of White Horse local plan.

"eat or heat "!!! - 15/10/13

any plans to organize a food bank in Faringdon? or would you know who to contact.
many thanks
Carol

Fight in Town - 15/10/13

So the bar fight in town on Friday night is now officially classed as a riot because 12 people, locals and construction workers (building a certain supermarket) have been arrested thanks to the quality of the cctv footage supplied to the police.
Name Supplied

Burlesque Dinner @ The Bobbin - Date Change! - 15/10/13

Due to circumstances beyond our control, we need to move the date of the Burlesque Dinner which was this Saturday to Friday 1st November. We will contact everyone to reschedule but if you'd like to go, the info is below:
£30 for two courses, welcome bubbles and performances from two professional burlesque artistes!
We're welcoming back Tabitha Ta Boo & introducing Lulu Macaroon all the way from Sunny Yorkshire to another of our madcap, quirky and exciting burlesque evenings. Call 01367240578 or email book@bobbin-bistro.co.uk to book

Water problems - 14/10/13

Hi Just wondering if anyone who,s lives in Marlborough gardens area are you having any problems with your mains water? for last 3 weeks my water has horrible taste to it even went and change kettle thinking it was that, have to run tap for a while before you can use it.. Anyone else with same problem?
Name supplied

Fracas on Friday - 14/10/13

What was the fracas in the town on Friday night??
We must be told!
Anonymouse

Some Facts - 14/10/13

A short time ago I had a conversation with a number of people at a town meeting on the neighbourhood plan, that concerned the "rent subsidy" paid out to social housing tenants. The general view was that rents are subsidised and that this is a burden on the state finances.

This is absolutely untrue. It was clearly demonstrated over the last couple of weeks when it emerged that at least four councils (including Oxford) have transferred £35 million from the rents received from their tenants into the general account (this is the account that provides all the council's costs). In other words, the council's tenants are subsidising the ratepayers.

It is true that the building of new "affordable housing" by housing associations is subsidised by the government to the tune of £3b. This is a reduction from £12bn in 2010 and sinks into insignificance when compared to the £12bn being spent on the Help to Buy subsidy and the huge tax benefits handed out to buy to let landlords.

Just thought you would like some facts.
Alan Hickmore

EVERYONE NEEDS FRIENDS AND NOW SO DOES FARINGDON LIBRARY.- 11/10/13

Just a reminder that the first meeting to create a Friends Group for the Library is on Wednesday 23 October from 6pm to 8pm, please do come along and see what we are planning.

For those Friends who wish to be an active volunteer i.e. to work and help in the Library full training will be given; this will be a great addition to any CV and may widen your skills and knowledge base.

David Turner

Loose Dogs on the Folly - 11/10/13

I walked my dog this morning around 11am. My dog was attacked by a dog large long haired and black. It jumped at me several times barking and trying to grab my dog who is very small. I was almost knocked to the ground.

I have taken a photo of his dog and I shall be looking for its owner in future on my walks. I will be reporting it to the police.

No dogs should be off the lead unless owner at its side.

This dog was just let loose

Name supplied

Town Meeting - 10/10/13

I've been to one Town Meeting. As far as I can remember it is more about how much the budget will increase and why. I remember Chairman of committees giving reports, but I wouldn't call that announcing plans/aims for the year. There were no papers to tell anyone this in advance.

It would be good to see plans/priorities, guideline costs, timescales, and then occasional reports through the year telling us of progress

Name Supplied

Town Meeting in January- come and have your say - 10/10/13

Just a quick reply and, I hope, a suggestion for "local yokel". FTC has a Town Meeting every January where everybody is. Invited to discuss the next years Town Council tax rate. Anybody attending the meeting is fully entitled to ask any questions they want to concerning activities for the coming year. (It is my understanding that FTC is the only local council in Oxfordshire to do this).

Unfortunately the meeting is usually very poorly attended - it would be great to see a packed hall next January.

Alan Hickmore

Park road- a disgrace - 10/10/13

In addition to the footpath, I hope that Park Road is going to be resurfaced. It is a disgrace, especially since it's the main road through Faringdon.

Mark.

2014 Calendar £7.95 on sale now - 10/10/13

...at The Tourist Information office in Gloucester St. Super old photos of Faringdon, some dating back to 19th century Faringdon TIC

The Town Council and the Footpath - 10/10/13

I feel that the News and Views page of Faringdon.org is not always the place to explain at length the hard work that the Town Council does to make Faringdon a pleasant place to live in. However, since the issue of the footpath running between Park Road and Southampton Street has been raised I'd like to use that to show that we do not sit on our hands.

In the middle of August, following the start of work to install the dropped kerbs, we discovered that the agreement that Tesco had with Oxfordshire County Council to improve the highway in connection with the new store included work to the footpath; at no time had either Tesco or the County considered discussing the work with the Town Council or the people of Faringdon because, I have been told, "there is no legal requirement to do so".

As soon as this came to light a member of Farcycles had a meeting with Richard Wedgbury, Tesco's Store Development Manager, and left that meeting under the impression that the path would be rebuilt somewhat wider than the formal

agreement allowed for. The Town Council, which owns the small piece of land alongside the path, supported this and advised Mr Wedgbury by e-mail of its support. His reply came as something of a shock as he stated that he was only prepared to undertake the work already agreed with the County.

He was immediately asked to justify his position but consistently refused to respond to all requests and it was not until we involved Tesco's Chief Executive some six weeks later that Mr Wedgbury provided a reply. Had we received that reply back in August we could have challenged some of the statements in it and perhaps persuaded him to change his mind. It's now too late to do that and we have to live with a path that is little better than the one it replaced.

However, in the last few days a piece of information has emerged that I hope will satisfy Mr Eddy following his original post. Mr Wedgbury has now stated that the path has still to receive its surface coat which Tesco intends to lay when the car park is surfaced and he has admitted that the condition of the areas next to the dropped kerbs need to have more work done to them. The Town Council will be monitoring the situation.

I do hope that the above helps to show that the Town Council makes every effort to get involved in situations where it feels it can improve Faringdon

Andrew Marsden

Councils - 10/10/13

I get frustrated about the lack of information that comes from our Town Council. Yes there are minutes and agendas, but sometimes these lack enough information to understand what is happening or what the plans are. It would be good if each committee, when it did the annual budget, published what the plans for the year are.

Having said that, we haven't a cat in hell's chance of getting similar from Oxfordshire County Council or VWHDC.

I try and keep in my head that Town Councillors are volunteers, they are unpaid. VWHDC councillors and OCC councillor are paid depending on their responsibilities. Our VWHDC councillors received £18k, £11k, £3.8k and OCC £23k in 2012/13 (including travel and subsistence)

Local Yokel

Re: Faringdon Town Council - 10/10/13

To all those who are so critical of Faringdon Town Council - the answer is simple, get yourself onto the Council - but be prepared to give up a lot of your free time for no reward and to get a whole load of unjustified criticism from people who don't understand or refuse to understand the different roles of the County Council, District Council and Town Council. If only the Town Council actually had some power or influence, but it's certainly not their fault that they don't!

Name supplied

A cleaner, better Vale for all - 10/10/13

Just days after their last prosecution, Vale of White Horse District Council scores a hat-trick with three fly-tipping prosecutions in one day.

Reinforcing the message that fly-tipping is not acceptable in the Vale, the prosecutions show that action can, and will, be taken against anyone who dumps their rubbish illegally or fails in their duty of care.

Prosecuted for not having a commercial waste carriers licence, Steve McMahon of Faringdon was also found guilty of failing in his duty of care for the disposal of building waste, including concrete drains and other rubble. The waste, which should have been taken to a recycling and waste disposal centre, was left in a lay-by on Denchworth Road, near Grove. He was ordered to pay £1356 in total. Also prosecuted was David Collison from Headington who was ordered to pay £1220. He also failed in his duty of care and did not have a commercial waste carriers licence. A one tonne builder's bag belonging to him, was found full of rubbish on Upper Road in Kennington.

And finally, reported by an observant cyclist who saw him dump black bin bags from his vehicle, Gunntis Baumains of Swindon, was prosecuted for a fly-tip along Park Lane at Stanford in the Vale. He was ordered to pay a total of £831. These prosecutions, all on 7 October 2013, were carried out under various sections of the Environmental Protection Act (1990) and the Control of Pollution Action (1989) which, among other things, are designed to ensure that waste is disposed of properly.

Councillor Roger Cox said: "I am delighted that we are able to reassure our residents that action is being taken to help keep the Vale a beautiful and clean place to live and visit. Ideally, we'd like fly-tipping to stop altogether, but until that time, it will continue to be taken seriously and acted upon." Fly-tipping can be reported by visiting www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/flytipping or by calling 03000 610610 (local rate).

Faringdon Town Council - 10/10/13

If the town council is so open why can't we find things out such as the terms and conditions of the contract for the SOLL leisure centre for example.

There are numerous legal documents such as that, the common man can't get his, in the council's eyes, grubby little mitts on.

I really don't give a hoot if its the responsibility of a man by the name of pedro living in mexico. Its your responsibility to look after this town for the people, if that means pestering big companies, or even the VWHDC, we expect you to do so. If you guys tried as hard as you said you do then maybe we would of had some 106 money.

Why aren't the minutes published here ?

Name Supplied

ED The trick is to know which council has responsibility for which service. You can find a brief explanation on [the landing page for public services](#)

FTC minutes and agendas can be found on <http://faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk/index.php?section=29>

Park Road Bloor Homes Application - 9/10/10

Having looked at the revised plans they have now included an 'Extra Care Residential Unit' next to the proposed Primary School. A quick 'google' and it seem to be residential care of elderly or frail people. Is anyone able to clarify this is what it will be?

Name Supplied

Tea Dance with Nathan Jones Big Band- 27th October. Only 14 tickets left - 9/10/10

2.00pm – 4.30 pm at The Old Theatre, Swan Lane, SN78AF

£6.00 per ticket

Ticket includes; Tea, sandwiches and home made cakes, and we have a licensed Bar too, cant be bad !!!!!

01367 242142 for tickets

In aid of the Pump House Project

MP Constituency Surgery - 8/10/13

Ed Vaisey has a surgery in the Pump Rooms on Friday 11th 5.30-7pm

Ed(GW)

Town Council - 8/10/13

For Andrew Hickmore. Spelt my surname wrong. My opinion is that the Town council are not completely upfront with all the comings and goings in the political arena. My opinion.

Mr Marsden, regardless of who is responsible for the footpath; it is in the TOWN. Surely the TOWN Council should have or at least show an interest in it?

Why should I waste my time trying to find out who is responsible for it. Its a path in the town I live in and pay a lot of money in Council Tax and of course we pay more than people in Abingdon or Wantage which have far better facilities than us!

Instead I chose to use a public forum. What is wrong with that. Perhaps those sitting in there fancy offices in Oxford or Abingdon will now get themselves over here and see what the problems are? Doubt it very much.

I dare say that come next February/March we shall see the Town Council raise the precept yet again and whinge at the likes of me, a resident who has found a problem.

Colin Eddy

New barrowman - 8/10/13

We've got a new chap trying to get our streets clean, and keep them that way. Saw him sweeping/weed removing in Marlborough St today- along the gutter- I've never seen it before! If you see him, do give him words of encouragement.

Name Supplied

Late posts - 8/10/13

Several posts below that were sent yesterday. My email wasn't working so I missed them- until today. Some in What's On and For Sale too.

If I've missed any, please post again

Thanks

Ed(GW)

Coxwell Road - 7/10/13

Since when has Coxwell Road turned into a caravan site?? How come 3 camper vans can park there when other people have to find alternative parking. One even has 2012 tax disc, is this a highway or private car park and no prosecution can be made. Come on Community Police please do your job and sort out all this parking mayhem in Faringdon it is now a joke!!

Name Supplied.

Colin's comments - 7/10/13

Colin Eddie's comment is quite frankly very unfair and untrue. The Council is not secretive - all its meetings and its committee meetings are open to the public. We also publish a newsletter quarterly to keep everybody up to date. I, and all my colleagues have very frequent telephone and email conversations with Townspeople who have questions and problems. What does he want us to do? Perhaps have the Town Crier walk the streets every night and proclaim on matters that he is interested in?

Alan Hickmore

Bloor Homes application - 7/10/13

I wondered if anyone more knowledgeable would be able to comment on why the Bloor homes planning application has moved from Application Under Consideration, back to Consultation period. Does this mean a further round of consultation with

Residents? <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&CACHE=0&REF=P13/V0709/O>

Name Supplied

Southampton St: Park Road path - 7/10/13

Had Mr Eddy approached the Town Council directly he would have learned that:- 1.This footpath is a public highway and the work to it has been agreed between Oxfordshire County Council (the highway authority) and Tesco without involving the Town Council in whatever discussions to place. In fact, the first notice the Council had was when the contractors began work on the various dropped kerbs that have been installed in Southampton Street which were part of the same agreement 2.Despite having no statutory right to be involved in this agreement the Town Council has had, so far unsuccessful, discussions with Tesco in an attempt to persuade the company to provide a much improved footpath and cycleway. To date Oxfordshire County Council has not shown any support for this action 3.As and when the contractor announces his work is complete an Officer from Oxfordshire County Council will inspect the agreed work and if it has not been completed to a satisfactory standard the contractor will be required to bring it up to that standard – this also applies to the dropped kerbs I sympathise with Mr Eddy over his disgust at the present state of the footpath but I think that his criticism of the Town Council is unjustified. All the Council's dealings with matters in the public interest are freely available to anyone who cares to ask and most are contained in the minutes of the Council meetings and its various committees.

Andrew Marsden

FTC and Tescos - 8/10/13

I'm pleased to hear that the FTC will be discussing the quality of the work being done by Tescos and 'other issues' with them. I do hope they have the wherewithall to check back through this site and collate the various concerns that have been voiced, which range from lack of space for the landscaping, as per the approved plans, to kerb alterations that damage local residents' cars. How residents who don't post on this site are able to raise concerns is unclear.

Nonetheless, the actions of the FTC are appreciated - it would be encouraging if the council who granted planning permission (ie VoWHDC) showed a similar interest in what's going on in little old Faringdon.

Name supplied

New lights - 8/10/13

Seems a bit silly to be paying out for more lights when we have perfectly working ones already.

Although I noticed that seems to be a bit of a trend at the moment. It was only the other day I was in Swindon that I saw a road where they had place smaller not as powerful lights next to the old ones but haven't yet got round to putting the light itself on the lamp post. So you have this humorous situation of just seeing a bunch of lamp post with out a light on it next a older fully working light.

George Smith

Thames Valley police - Burglary in Faringdon - 8/10/13

Between 7:10pm on (3/10) and 2pm on (5/10) a garage in Bromsgrove, Faringdon was broken into.

Offender/s gained entry via an insecure garage door. A red ladies fold bike was stolen. No further information given at this time.

Between 1:40am and 2am on (4/10) a hut in Stanford Road, Faringdon was broken into.

Offender/s gained entry by breaking the side window. No items stolen. No further information available at this time.

If you have seen any suspicious looking people or vehicles in the area or have any information relating to this message, please ring the 24 hour non-emergency telephone number **101**.

Alternatively if you have information but wish to remain anonymous, please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or online @ crimestoppers-uk.org. No personal details are taken, information is not traced or recorded and you will not go to court.

Moaning about Tesco - 7/10/13

I'm fed up with people moaning about the Tesco work.

I bet the people who are moaning will no doubt be shopping in the store.

I live near Park Road and yes, have had to put up with dust, traffic lights, works traffic, no street lights, noise, walk along uneven paths etc etc

All of these are to be expected if a building of this size is to be erected.

It seems to me that people just have to have something to moan about!

I can't wait for the new Tesco and am prepared to put up with these issues if it means a nice store to shop in.

Some people need to get a grip.

There are far worse things going on in the world!

Victoria

About the Pump House Project - 7/10/13

www.thepumphouseproject.co.uk

www.facebook.com/thepumphouseproject

The Pump House Project is a registered charity and community project based in the town of Faringdon. The project is housed in the old Theatre in the Market Place which has undergone a huge transformation to create the first Parkour centre in Oxfordshire. Other activities are also offered-see list below.

What is Parkour?

Parkour / Freerunning is a method of moving physically and creatively through the environment around you, using the environment as an obstacle course. The discipline of Parkour develops strength, agility and flexibility and improves fitness, health and confidence. Pump House Parkour is the first Parkour training centre in Oxfordshire, putting it at the forefront of a new and exciting sport.

Parkour Sessions will be held several times a week, led by fully qualified instructors. Payment for sessions will be minimal to encourage everyone to take part.

Funding to restore the building has been raised through generous individual donations, local grants and gifts.

CLASSES:

-Parkour / Freerunning

-Dance

-Slacklining
-Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Scouts
-Media,
- Film / Photography
-Music
-Nerf Parties

And more to be confirmed!

If there is anything else you need to know please contact Nicky Brown at info@thepumphouseproject.co.uk or call Lou Smith on 01367 242142

Phone/broadband problems - 7/10/13

Is anyone else affected by problems with their phone lines or broadband? When people try to phone us they get routed to someone completely different in Faringdon and if we phone out it broadcasts the wrong number. A neighbour of ours also just rang and was expecting to get through to someone else. Apparently OpenReach have been working ...I have TalkTalk investigating but wondered if others affected.

Name supplied

Phone/broadband Problems - 7/10/13

Friend of mine (Marines Drive) has been without landline and broadband all day today. Anybody else any problems?
Sylvia Bowley

Missing cat - 6/10/13

No sooner does my post about our missing cat appear on this site than she strolls up to the back door like shed been away for ten minutes! Hurray!

Now we know she can go somewhere and find her way home again we won't panic next time she disappears!

Alison

New sign on the Bargain Centre? - 6/10/13

You may have noticed that the painters/decorators have been doing up the outside of the Bargain Centre . Amazingly, in the process, they've discovered an old sign that was hidden under a couple of coats of paint - which they've now cleaned up.

Doesn't make much sense. Probably another one of LB's.

Name Supplied

Street Lighting near Tesco - 6/10/13

We are very concerned about the new street lighting around the Tesco store in Park Road, Faringdon. Replacement lights have been installed next to the original street lights marked with the numbers 8 to 17. The original lights are still in position but have been disconnected. Why have these new lights been fitted?

The big problem is that the new street lights are not as bright as the old ones, as is easily seen when walking along Park Road between the new and old light areas. We think this poor lighting is bad from a safety view point and could lead to accidents on the main Road into Faringdon. It is important to make this point now, before the older but brighter lights are removed for good. We wonder why have these new dimmer lights been installed. The old lights need to be re-connected and the new lights removed. We think safety is paramount here.

The situation at this point in time is also not helped because both the old and new lights in positions 10 and 11 do not work at all.

I see we also have new street lights in part of the alley from Park Road towards Southampton Street and the town centre. This is street light numbers 1 to 5. Lights 6, 7 and 8 at the Park Road end are still the originals. Why have these new lights been fitted?

These new ones in the alley seem rather a waste of money. When compared to the originals, still in place, the new light units appear almost identical. The original light poles though have a bend in them, so each light unit is over the central area of the path. However, the new lights have a straight pole and so the light is to one side, not overhead, as before. It seems very much that the new lights will not be as good as the old ones.

We are very interested in others thoughts on this.

Mike and Pam Watts

Re southampton Street and the railway line footpath.- 6/10/13

Tis a pity we have to make a comment on this forum in order for them to come back, "its in hand".

Not good enough quite frankly. As elected officials, why can't they show a bit of sense, public duty or whatever they want to call it and LET the general populous know.

Why are they so damned secretive?

Colin Eddy

Re footpath between Southampton St and Park Road - 6/10/13

I fully agree that the work done by Tesco contractors has been left in an unacceptable state, not only at the alley way but also the crossing at Southampton Street. Your Town Council has noticed this and has arranged a meeting with Tesco when this and other matters will be raised.

Alan Hickmore

Missing cat - 6/10/13

One of our cats went missing on Friday night (4th October) at about 10pm. We inherited her five weeks ago and she's never been further than the back garden so we're really worried.

Her name is Sooty and she's an all black, female cat, about three years old but very tiny. She was spayed 6 weeks ago and the fur on her underbelly is still a little thin.

She went missing from Rawdon Way (near the doctors) - our house backs onto the Folly View estate so she might be over that way too.

Please check your garages/sheds as she is probably very scared and hiding somewhere.

If you think you've spotted her please call Alison on 01367 243773 or 07927 330293. There is a small reward for her return.

Alison

Loud Music - 5/10/13

Why do the wheatsheaf have to play their music so loud in the evenings, especially tonight, Saturday, when there is only about 7 people in there! Any chance they could keep the doors shut too?! Surely there are many more who get annoyed with this?

Gary Logan

BT Problems - 5/10/13

We have been without our BT house phone for over 24 hours now. I have been told that the fault is at the exchange. Has anyone else got 'a problem'?

Jane Smith

Fun in the Folly Woodland Sunday 6th - 5/10/13

For one day only: Slack lining between the trees (a bit like tight rope walking) with the experts from [The Pump House Project](#). You'll be well looked after (fully insured)). Also join Jeanette from Woodland Education who will entertain the children.

The Tower is open too. 11am-5pm

Friends of the Folly

Everyone needs friends and now so does Faringdon Library - 4/10/13.

As you may already know we are planning to create a Friends Group to support Faringdon Library.

Anyone can join the Group and all ages are welcome from students still at college right up to grandparents and beyond. You may just wish to become a friend to show your support and help to shape the local Library services or importantly help in the Library as a volunteer. We believe that the Library is an essential facility in the community providing much more than just books and there are many ways in which you can help.

To explain the plan and processes involved we are holding an open evening on **Wednesday 23 October** so please do come along to find out more when we will be very pleased to see you at any time between 6pm and 8pm.

Sheena Gutteridge Library Manager

Madness - 4/10/13

What would you expect to find in a cemetery !!!!!

If you had followed the project you would have read that 40/50 bodies was expected to be found !!!!!!!

Name supplied

Madness!! - 3/10/13

First scores of housing developments destroying the Town, then hordes of crusty jugglers moving in and making it so you cannot walk the streets safely and then, just when we thought it couldn't get any worse, it does.

Human remains found buried in our cemetery!!! By A CHURCH no less.

Where will all this madness end.

Name Supplied

Archaeology at All Saints - 3/10/13

Read about the over 300 skeletons found on <http://www.faringdon.org/all-saints-churchyard.html>

ED(GW)

Footpath from Park Road to Southampton Street. - 3/10/13

Have'nt been able to use this path for a few weeks due to the "upgrade" of it and was the wait worth it? No.

The subcontractors who carried out the "improvements to enable us to get to the Tesco store clearly did'nt give a damn as the path was better before they started! No idea if the current state of it is the finished article or not but considering the time taken for them to do the work, its dreadful.

Have emailed the CEO of Tesco and the planning dept at the Vale with my concerns. Also, why is the town still littered with the detritus from the dropped kerbs debacle also carried out by Tesco contractors. Don't the Town Council notice these things or our elected representatives who usually stay very quiet on any matter concerning the town?

Colin Eddy

Evening buses - 3/10/13

Has any more been done regarding lobbying for an evening bus that would enable theatre/cinema goers come home to Faringdon without waiting until 11.25 pm? If there is a petition going please let me know how to sign up.

Theatre/cinema enthusiast

Humpty Hill - 3/10/13

Main points of letter of refusal from VWHDC's Head of Planning to Gladman Developments:

"Vale of White Horse District Council hereby gives notice that planning permission is REFUSED for the carrying out of the development referred to above for the following reason(s) :

- 1. The application site lies within the North Vale Corallian Ridge landscape area, and is prominent in views due to its slope up towards a ridge top. The development proposed constitutes a prominent urbanisation of this sensitive area of countryside, which will erode the setting of the town and harm the prevailing character and appearance of the landscape. Therefore the proposal is contrary to policies NE7 and GS1 of the adopted Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2011.*
- 2. From the illustrative materials submitted, and having regard to the layout, the use of three storey dwellings, and the relatively high density, the proposed scheme would result in a insensitive form of development on this edge of town location. The type and form of the built environment proposed would not be commensurate with what would be reasonably expected from a fringe-of-settlement location. Therefore the application is considered to be contrary to policy DC1 of the adopted Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2011.*
- 3. On the basis of the information provided it has not been demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority that the proposed development can be adequately served by the existing foul water (sewage) network. Therefore the development is likely to lead to sewage pollution problems, to the detriment of wider public health. As such the proposal is contrary to Policies DC8 and DC9 of the adopted Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2011.*

The applicant was advised why the proposal does not accord with the development plan and that there are no other material considerations to outweigh those objections before the application was determined.

If you are aggrieved by the decision of your local planning authority to refuse permission for the proposed development or to grant it subject to conditions, then you can appeal to the Secretary of State for the Environment under sections 78 and 79 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990."

Folly Man

Highworth Road Development - 'Humpty Hill' - 3/10/13

Mike I sincerely hope your optimism that this is the end of it proves to be the case. However, this might just be the start as the applicant has the right to appeal. I have personally been battling to stop a completely inappropriate property being built next to mine for nearly 3 years. With the support of some Councillors the applicant merely kept coming back with various incarnations of the original plans until it finally received approval a few weeks ago. This property is just a hundred yards from the proposed Humpty Hill development and similarly also outside the existing development boundary the retention of which, allegedly, is supported by local Councillors both Town and District. We shall see. Unfortunately, it's not over 'til it's over.

David Reynolds

Highworth Road - reasons for refusal - 3/10/13

The council has refused a planning application, reference P13/V1366/O, for development work at the following location:
Highworth Road Faringdon Oxfordshire

The application is for: Outline planning application for residential development of up to 94 dwellings with landscaping, open space, highway improvements and associated works.

The relevant planning policies were:

Local Plan Policy DC1 Design

Local Plan Policy DC13 Flood Risk and Water Run-off

Local Plan Policy DC14 Flood Risk and Water Run-off

Local Plan Policy DC5 Access

Local Plan Policy DC6 Landscaping

Local Plan Policy DC7 Waste Collection and Recycling

Local Plan Policy DC9 The Impact of Development on Neighbouring Uses

Local Plan Policy GS2 Development in the Countryside

Local Plan Policy H10 Development in the Five Main Settlements

Local Plan Policy H15 Housing Densities

Local Plan Policy H17 Affordable Housing

Local Plan Policy HE10 Archaeology

Local Plan Policy NE7 The North Vale Corallian Ridge

VWHDCED(GW) I wondered why I hadn't seen this application on the VWHDC planning committee agenda. VWHDC said 'this application was refused under delegated powers in consultation with the chair of planning committee, it didnt need to go to full committee due to officers agreeing with the local Town Council. '

Highworth Road Development - 'Humpty Hill' - 2/10/13

Good news!

VoWHDC have refused Gladman Developments the permission to built 94 homes on the Highworth Road site.

Let's hope that's the end of it and they don't change their name to Gladhand Developments ----

Mike Perks

Best Broadband? What do you think? - 2/10/13

TalkTalk has been my provided for quite a few years- time I looked around the market. I haven't had any problems- maybe sometimes a bit sluggish, but that could be a number of things. I did a Talktalk speed test: Download 17.24 mbps: Upload .85 mbps. Speed is important, but so is cost and reliability.

Any thoughts? Should I stick with them until we get superfast broadband?

Cheers

Ed(GW)

Can you spare 3 hrs a week? You can change a child's life! - 2/10/13

Assisted Reading for Children In Oxfordshire - ARCh require two volunteers to help in schools in or around Faringdon. We will train and support you to volunteer in a local school to help children who could benefit from personalised learning. Term-time only!

We welcome volunteers from all communities, men and women.

No formal qualifications necessary just wanting to inspire children to read.

For information contact ARCh in Oxfordshire

Email: info@archoxfordshire.org.uk

Tel: 01869 320380

www.archoxfordshire.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 1146276

Faringdon Dramatic Society Information Update - 1/10/13

IMPORTANT Please note Lower Age limit is 9 years (School Years 5/6) not 5 years.

Our next pantomime will be ...THE SCARLET PUMPERNICKEL By Dave Buchanan

READ THROUGH

Adults and Children, Years 5/6 and over - age 9 and above Wednesday 16th October, 8pm to 10pm

(NOT 5 years and above, as is stated in Faringdon Folly newspaper.)

AUDITIONS Wednesday 23rd October, 7pm to 10pm

United Church, Coxwell Road Roundabout, Faringdon.

(Limited parking behind the church)

Carolyn Taylor

News and Views

September 2013

Bathroom Fitter recommendations please - 30/9/13

We want to get our bathroom replaced to include new suite, tiling, lighting etc & wondered if anyone could recommend somebody local to us please? Thanks very much.

Julie Griffiths

Thames Valley Police - 30/9/13

Between 3:30pm on (27/9) and 8am on (28/9) a garage at a local school in Carswell, Faringdon had an attempt break in.

Offender/s attempted to gain entry via the rear garage door by prising the lock. Nothing has been stolen. No further information available at this time.

Between 9:29am on (26/9) and 11:00am on (27/9) an outbuilding in Baulking, Faringdon was broken into.

Offender/s gained entry via an insecure stable door. A red Yamaha YBR 125 was stolen along with various power tools. No further information available at this time.

If you have seen any suspicious looking people or vehicles in the area or have any information relating to this message, please ring the 24 hour non-emergency telephone number **101**.

Alternatively if you have information but wish to remain anonymous, please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or [online @ crimestoppers-uk.org](https://www.crimestoppers-uk.org). No personal details are taken, information is not traced or recorded and you will not go to court.

TV reception - 30/09/13

this may help on the freeview problem

[https://at800.tv/?utm_expid=68052535-0.aW-9nOLCQGym0A69amAq-A.0&utm_referrer=https%3A%2F%2fat800.tv%2Ffaq%2Fwill-4g-masts-affect-freeview-in-my-area%2F](https://at800.tv/?utm_expid=68052535-0.aW-9nOLCQGym0A69amAq-A.0&utm_referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fat800.tv%2Ffaq%2Fwill-4g-masts-affect-freeview-in-my-area%2F)

ryan enevoldsen

Re Gof Smith - the fight still goes on Oxford News Article- 29/9/13

http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/headlines/10704584.Ambulances_moved_as_chief_meets_sacked_paramedic/

Plus support today in the Sunday Telegraph in the Letters Pages -

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/letters/10340203/Let-common-sense-prevail-for-this-community-hero.html#>

Never let it be forgotten that although there is a wider nationwide issue regarding emergency response time targets, and that the only reason Gof was even IN Oxford (18 miles away from Faringdon) was just to protect SCAS targets there are some local issues too.... Our local MP Ed Vaizey HAS been supportive - but what about a neighbouring MP who's constituents

actually live within Gof's previous local response area? Has he been supportive in any way - Not yet - but I personally intend to make the Constituency MP for residents north of Radcot Bridge (Within the local CFR response radius) aware of the situation. He might have other more pressing issues - appearing on Andrew Marr this morning, Party Conferences, the EU, Syria etcBUT he IS still the Constituency MP for Witney and therefore has a responsibility to get involved in matters that now will involve the real people that vote for him..... Dear David.....

Teresa Reynolds

Freeview and Dab - 29/9/13

This explains poor reception (and why you can't do anything about it!): https://www.radioandtvhelp.co.uk/interference/rtis_news/newshighpressure

Most programmes are available to watch/listen to live (or later) on-line.

Sheila

Gof news - 29/9/13

http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/10704584.Ambulances_moved_as_chief_meets_sacked_pamedic/?ref=mr

ED

TV Reception - 29/9/13

I live off Berners Way and have had similar problems with BBC reception. The last straw was not being able to watch Strictly last night :- (Would be interested to know if anyone has managed to resolve the problem?

Lynn Pettit

TV Reception - 29/9/13

Not only have we had poor reception on the digital freeview television it has been absolutely useless trying to listen to dab radio.

We bought dab radios because we were all told FM would be closed down. Which was rubbish as it's still going strong.

I am confused as to why with the "wonderful" reception on dab I can't even listen to radio Oxford. I guess I will have to use my old FM radio to listen to the stations I want to hear and not those pre-programmed into the dab radio.

Name supplied.

Tutors wanted- Faringdon Community Education - 29/9/13

Teachers in some subjects, especially crafts, wanted.

<http://www.faringdon-community-education.com/>

TV reception - 28/9/13

Yep. Same rubbish reception in the East end of town!
and not just BBC
name supplied

TV reception- 28/9/13

I can assure you that you are not the only person experiencing problems with television reception - many people are! Something is intermittently blocking the BBC channels. I suggest that you ring the help line on 08456 50 50 50 and report the problem.

Mark Chatfield

Funding opportunities for Vale communities - 27/9/13

Areas affected by new housing in the Vale will benefit from a new pot of money that has been made available by the district council.

Organisations and community groups have a chance to apply for a share of £100,000 to help fund projects to support their communities.

Vale of White Horse District Council receives a grant paid by central government to areas that are dealing with new housing and has decided to allocate £100,000 for local community projects.

Leader of the council Cllr Matthew Barber said "this really is an excellent opportunity for community groups in the Vale to assess where their neighbourhoods need extra support."

"The council is under an obligation to allocate extra housing in the district, and we are absolutely committed to providing support and assistance to those communities impacted by these developments".

"Those who think they would have a use for such funding are encouraged to come forward to avoid missing out".

The main priority areas are Abingdon, Sutton Courtenay, Cumnor, Wantage, Letcombe Regis, and Faringdon.

Applications to the scheme will be open from 30 September, with a closing date of 30 November.

The district council is holding a workshop about the New Homes Bonus funding, which will be held at Abbey House on 22 October from 5pm to 7pm for those who want to find out more about making an application.

For more information about the New Homes Bonus scheme and other grants, please visit www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/grants

VWHDCED(GW) If this is the same as the [governments new homes bonus scheme](#) it seems that VWHDC get £1,373,954 and Oxfordshire CC get £1,662,294 :- 'The purpose of the grant is to provide support to local authorities in England towards expenditure lawfully incurred or to be incurred by them'

I wonder what the rest will be spent on!

Beginners Latin and Ballroom Dance at Faringdon Leisure Centre - 26/9/13

– an introduction dances including the cha cha, foxtrot, waltz and jive.

Tuesdays 7-8pm. Tue 15 Oct to 10th Dec

£4 a session (first session £2)

You don't need to know how to dance or need to have a partner to attend sessions. Just come along and have fun!

There will also be the chance to win a pair of Strictly Come Dancing 2014 tour tickets for those who attend a minimum of 5 sessions (terms and conditions apply).

To register your interest or for further details contact Anna Capel-Davies, GO Active Coordinator for the Vale, anna.capel-davies@southandvale.gov.uk or 01235 540377.

Housing - 25/9/13

Its got to be said that I see a heck of a lot of sale houses that are either not near any jobs i.e in the north or are too expensive.

The solution to this problem isn't build more affordable but to work out how to make our existing supply accessible.

The way the government is handling things at the moment. Is like if you had a cookie jar on the top shelf of a bookcase, you couldn't reach so you decided to bake some new ones.

When you could of just used a ladder, thus not wasting precious resources (In the case of housing would be valuable green space)

David Hall

Concern over housing - 25/9/13

Hi David, It's an interesting question, but I'm guessing that the large building concerns who are putting in planning applications have had options on various bits of land for a number of years, possibly over a decade, and there hasn't been much chance to build so they are hoping to recoup their investment by opportunistically 'bigging up' the evidence for housing need. I may be defining 'urgent' differently to you since I interpret that as over the next few years, rather than immediately.

Also what we would have considered acceptable in terms of accommodation has changed and I suppose that there are many people who are certainly living somewhere already but who are overcrowded or in other unsuitable circumstances. When that number becomes excessive, as it will be soon if not now, it becomes obvious and is brought the public's attention.

As for the lack of infrastructure - all I know is that strategic plans have come and gone (in Faringdon at least) over the years but rarely ever come to fruition. It always seems to me that the 'horses and carts' dont always match up. Councillors are expected by central government to make big plans but they are rarely able to spend the money to put in place the services that are needed in advance of the need arising. When the need does arise, [and we riot in the streets LOL] of course there is real 'urgency' and money may be made diverted from other things.

As for the Vale, the one thing that has struck me is that Faringdon, out of the Vale towns had

and probably still has proportionally the greatest number of benefit claimants. I think if we are to have large housing developments, we might reasonably ask that the statutory proportion of social housing that we are required to have be waived to reflect this and maintain a balance with Abingdon and Wantage & Grove. Something for our MP to consider, perhaps.

I should add that I have no insider knowledge about any of this - merely my opinion.

Bystander

Housing - 25/9/13

David's comments on housing needs is a very important point. He is right to ask the question, however, he really does need to read the evidence.

It is not a new development as he seems to imply. We are building fewer houses now than since the 1920s. Yet our population has increased enormously. There is also a big demographic change - a population that is getting older and occupying homes for longer, a growth in families that break up and need two homes and a desire for our people for better and more comfortable homes.

One of the biggest problems we have is the shortage of really affordable homes for young couples to move into. I did an analysis recently that showed that a couple on average income in the south of England (excluding London) would have to save for 12 years to afford the deposit on buying a home - others have put this figure at 20 years.

In this situation the only sensible response is to build more homes to bring the supply more in line with demand.

The current situation is causing enormous stress to many of our young people. They are in a situation where they cannot afford the ludicrous prices to buy, they are forced to rent on short leaseholds from private landlords at uncontrolled rents and are not eligible for social housing because they are deemed to not be in housing need.

As a nation we have a responsibility to house, and make housing available for everybody - it is a basic human need.

Please stop the "I'm alright, everybody else can go jump" attitude that seems to be prevalent in our society at present.

Alan Hickmore

Folly Coffee Shop to close - 25/9/13

There's a notice in the window that it will close 28/9. I've heard it said that this is because the property is to be repossessed. The tenants who live above will lose their homes.

Tough for all concerned

Local Yokel

!! BARBER ROOMS SUMMER BALL !! - 25/9/13

We need to know final numbers today - Wednesday - just a few tickets left

This will be a lovely evening on Saturday 28 September at Faringdon Junior School there will be a delicious meal, live music from Boogie Me, and fundraising events including an Auction

of Promises and of course a bar! Tickets are available from the Nut Tree, the Mustard Seed, The Bobbin. All profits from the event will go towards the wonderful Barber Rooms Appeal to build a fantastic church and community facility.

Tickets £30

07974 938 265

Concern over Housing...- 25/9/13

Thanks for your comments "Bystander". However, my question was not flippant. Re-read again. Where is the "urgent" need to build all these homes? You rightly point out that the demographics have been changing over a long period and yet we are suddenly faced (nationally) with the desire to rush build properties in every available space without thought to the planning of supporting infrastructure. Why?

David Reynolds

TV reception - 25/9/13

We live in Ash Close and use Freeview television. For the last few nights we have had dreadful breakup of coverage, especially on BBC. The really bad occurrences seems to start around 9.30pm. Last nights News at 10 was a total washout and tonight's seems to be going the same way. Is anyone else experiencing this, if so what can be done?

Sandra Wheeler

Faringdon Dramatic Society's (affiliated to Noda and ODN) next pantomime will be ...- 25/9/13

THE SCARLET PUMPERNICKEL By Dave Buchanan

READ THROUGH - Adults and Children –years 5/6 and over Wednesday 16th October, 8pm to 10pm

AUDITIONS – Wednesday 23rd October, 7pm to 10pm

United Church, Coxwell Road Roundabout, Faringdon. (Limited parking behind the church)

The villagers of Saucisson-Sur-Mer are shocked when Citizen Chauvelin threatens to ban their beloved pastime of boules unless they turn over the Scarlet Pumpernickel.

When Chauvelin arrests heroine Simone de Boudoir, hero Percy Breakneck plus the Three Fops, Dame Mimi Blancmange and Mayor Gaston Legroom devise a cunning rescue plan.

The Chateau where Simone is held is (allegedly) haunted, and the scene is set for thrills and comic horror.

Performances will be on Friday 25th January and Saturday 26th January and Friday 31st January and Saturday 1st February

New members welcome

www.faringdondramatic.org.uk

Mobile Network Providers - 25/9/13

Basically there are two groups of Network Providers.

EE, Orange, T-Mobile, Virgin Mobile all use the same network, they are miles ahead of the other in terms of being able to use data (Partly helped partly by the fact Ofcom allowed them to use the 4G spectrum first and their early merger).

O2, Vodafone, Tesco Mobile, Giff Gaff and Three share the same network as well. They may be behind on the Data but when it comes to normal raw phone usage i.e Texts and Calls they are neck and neck with the others. You will always find one group of network being worse than the other depending on where you live. It used to be the case Vodafone would suck in London but was amazing in Faringdon.

Ultimately though there is little difference in coverage between networks than people think except for the likes of 4G. The biggest difference is features, options and price (Some networks are only 2G meaning you can only really do texts and calls).

Both groups are reliable and rarely have downtime except for the MVMOs (Virgin, Tesco and especially giffgaff) which can suffer from more down time as they don't own their own networks.

Its just a case of picking one out of each group you like and seeing for yourself.

James Campbell

Vodafone.- 25/9/13

Been on to "customer services" at this dire phone company quite a lot this year. Dreadful signal, no signal, no 3g and worst of all no plans to spend a single penny on the mast until possibly 2015!

When my contract expires as the exit charges are ridiculous I certainly wouldnt go back to them. Three arent too bad in most respects I am led to believe.

Colin

Street Cleaning - 24/9/13

I'd be interested to hear from anyone who has noticed extra effort being taken to improve street cleanliness (apart from Glos St). When I last spoke to the VWHDC guy, he had asked Biffa to focus on Zone 1- the Town centre area (he wouldn't tell me exactly what the boundary of this was). He also said that this week or next, beyond Zone 1 would be swept (this is meant to be on an 8 week cycle)- I think with a mechanised sweeper.

I've been told too that Oxfordshire CC will be dealing with some of the weeds- do let me know if you see any sign of this happening

Thanks

Ed(GW)

Re Mobile Coverage - 24/9/13

My family and I are with O2 and have never had a problem, until a recent blip when the whole of Faringdon's O2 went down but that was highly unusual.

Fiona

Mobile Reception - 24/9/13

We haven't had any issues with Virgin.

Tony

Best Mobile Coverage? - 24/9/13

A good question, O2 and Vodafone are peas in a pod, OK for calls and texts, but that's your lot.

EE says it offers but I have had some negative comments.

Orange? Been there done that - that's why I went to O2 in the first place.

So, seems to leave us with 3 Mobile? I am also Looking to change my provider but coverage is important, as is access to 3G.

Anyone like to comment?

Mike.

Smart town.- 24/9/13

Once again, out on the annual FCC Geography Field Trip, learning all about the local area, I must say that Faringdon is looking good!!! The Folly looks lovely now, nice grass area and wooden play area. Not much litter either. Town Centre quite busy for a Monday morning.

However, the bus lane by the town hall was constantly being used by cars, lorries and vans taking a short cut. Police, why not sit there for an hour with a camera..... a nice little earner!!!

Very dangerous as well, an elderly lady narrowly missed being knocked over.

Chris Higgs

Concerns over housing - 24/9/13

I'm sure that was a flippant remark, David, however if you really don't know where the next tranche of people needing homes live, I can help you out. Projections for housing need are based on demographic statistics. If therefore there are at present x number of young persons living at home with mummy and daddy, it won't be long before they are needing to move out into a home of their own. Then there are couples who need more accommodation as their families increase. Since the population is rising, there is a greater need for family accommodation. There are also many more single parents who need their own accommodation. Since the end of WW II, it has become increasingly unacceptable for youngsters with children to share with grandparents. (Maybe though the thought of having to live with mother would be an effective contraceptive for the aspiring single-parent) There is an increasing number of elderly - living longer - in unsuitable accommodation. They cannot move

into smaller homes until there are a sufficient number of smaller homes built. All that is not counting the people who are deemed to be in urgent housing need, the homeless, the disabled who for one reason or another find themselves in worsening states and need to move, the youngsters disgorged from care , etc, etc, etc.

Personally I don't wish to live in some sprawling conurbation any more than anyone else, but when any substantial amount of newcomers come to a town there is always an outcry. We were newcomers once, possibly even living on a new estate. Problems with infrastructure exist everywhere, not just in Faringdon.

If we don't want more housing, we should find a way to stop people breeding, and kill off the old folks.

(And that, for the PC brigade, is irony)

Bystander

Best Mobile network? - 13/9/13

Can anyone give me some good advice regarding which mobile network I should defect to? Just about to come out of contract and FED UP of the third world service Vodafone provide these days. Live just north of the town.... Thanks!

Caroline Bell

It only takes a few...- 23/9/13

I read with some heart Mirabelle's recent post on optimism within the town, and watched the galvanising of support within the town for Gof. However there are always a few mindless people that, perhaps unwittingly, perhaps deliberately, usually just mindlessly undo that good.

To the person, or persons, who saw fit to allow their dog(s) to foul the pavement in London Street outside my house twice in as many weeks, why? Just plain why? It's illegal. I know that there are plenty of responsible dog owners that clean up after their dogs, but it only takes a few.... to leave a disgusting mess.

To the mindless litter louts that saw fit to throw their chips and ketchup over my car and the surrounding pavement, I suspect on their way back from a few drinks, why? Just plain why? If they were cold or unwanted, why not put them in a bin, rather than throw the contents and the paper cone over people's property, litter a public street and leave it for someone else to clear up. It only takes a few... to make the place look untidy.

To the mindless people who have thrown McDonalds happy meals and associated rubbish in the verge as you drive past Sudbury Hotel, why? Just why? You obviously bought it from the drive through in Shrivenham, so why not drive the waste a little bit further to your house and put it in your own bin rather than littering the countryside and the approach to town. It only takes a few... to make the place look uninviting.

On balance:

I've never met Gof nor had need to call out a First Responder, but something is clearly wrong with the system when a volunteer can be sacked without any application of common sense to the situation. Just because someone at SCAS is following their process to the letter, doesn't mean they can't apply simple common sense. The way the town has rallied round Gof gives me hope for the community. It only takes a few... to unite the many together.

To the people (Faringdon free food group?) who have planted herbs, fruit and vegetables in the planters and other locations around town, brilliant. Simply brilliant. The planters look better, tidier and the town looks like someone cares for it. If I ever need those couple of sage leaves at the last minute I know where to find them. It only takes a few... to make the town look loved for the many.

To the people of Gloucester Street who got on to the council and had it tidied up, good on you. The council tax we all pay contributes to the upkeep of the roads, pavements and other essential services. The council can't be everywhere within the Vale at once, so needs to know if things need attention (potholes, weeds etc). It only takes a few... to point the council in the right direction for the benefit of the many.

As Mirabelle says we live in a charming and interesting town that we should take pride in and be proud to live in. The sense of community shared by many can also be destroyed by a few. There are so many positive things going on in the town that there almost too many to mention, but think Pump house project, Regent cinema, folly fest, markets, running groups, cycling groups, singing groups, dance groups, a veritable prospectus of interest groups, local coffee shops, restaurants and local shops that welcome you with a warm smiling greeting, and many many others. Do not be disheartened as I was this morning when greeted with the "presents" outside my door. Let us ensure we do not allow the few to stop the community from flourishing for the many.

Yours hopeful for the future,
Jon D

Concerns over Housing - 23/9/13

One thing I have trouble understanding...we are told there is an urgent need for so much housing...Where do all these people who have an urgent need to be housed live now? Surely they already live somewhere?!

David Reynolds

Concerns over Housing - meeting - 22/9/13

Concerns over new housing being planned for the Vale were raised at a public meeting held at Wantage Civic Hall this morning (Friday 20 September).

Planning Minister Nick Boles and Council Leader Matthew Barber answered questions from members of the public in a lively discussion chaired by Local MP Ed Vaizey. Local community groups expressed their concerns about how the infrastructure in and around the towns and villages will be able to cope with new housing that has been allocated to the area in the draft of the Vale of White Horse District Council's local plan.

Cllr Matthew Barber, leader of Vale of White Horse District Council, said: "We understand the concerns local people. I think this meeting has helped people understand the pressures the Council is under in dealing with the Vale's current planning problems."

Nick Boles was put under pressure on many aspects of planning policy, particularly on the insistence of a 20 per cent buffer of extra housing to be identified due to under delivery in previous years.

In tackling the issue of infrastructure, Cllr Barber said: "I will not make empty promises that everyone will be satisfied by the outcome, but I can promise that the Vale will work tirelessly to ensure the best deal possible to provide the roads, schools and leisure facilities that would be needed."

Developers are expected to contribute to the required infrastructure, but it is also vitally important that these improvements are in place early. It was made clear that the Vale will consider borrowing to front-fund developments if it will help put infrastructure in place faster. Cllr Barber added: "If there are ways in which we can help get infrastructure in place we will not sit back and do nothing."

VWHDC

ED(GW) This is a rather one sided account of the meeting- no surprise there. I think the press was at the meeting, so maybe it will be reported in more detail.

Update re. Gof in today's Sunday Telegraph : article on p.14 and editorial on p.29.-
22/9/13

Let's hope the SCAS sees the light and reinstates him, especially in view of the huge support shown by all in Faringdon. I know how grateful he is to everyone who promoted and signed the petition, wrote letters and emails, posted on Facebook, and to Davenports who produced a superb book containing all the online names and comments.

This is a great community

Carolyn Williams

ED(GW) [Telegraph article](#)

RE GOF SMITH : - 20/9/13

NO DECISION TAKEN ABOUT REINSTATEMENT. TOMORROW'S PLANNED GATHERING IN THE MARKET PLACE HAS BEEN POSTPONED.

Carolyn Williams

Friends of Faringdon Library - 18/9/13

People are being sought to be part of a friends group that will help shape the future of how

Faringdon Library will be run.

The library is one of 21 in the county which will deliver services differently from April 2015, with volunteers supporting staff in the running of the library.

The county council is working closely with communities across Oxfordshire to put the new operating model in place, and to maintain current opening hours. It is now seeking members of the public to form a friends group for Faringdon Library.

This group will speak for the local area on matters related to the library, and will help with delivering the volunteering model there, which will see around 20 hours per week of volunteer time.

An Open Evening will be held at the library between **6pm and 8pm on Wednesday 23 October** for anyone interested in finding out more about. Alternatively, please contact James Hazlewood, the county council's Community Libraries Coordinator, on james.hazlewood@oxfordshire.gov.uk for more information.

Judith Heathcoat

County Councillor for Faringdon

Reinstatement of Gof - 18/9/13

Please watch this space : if Gof has not been reinstated by Friday evening, after his meeting with the chief executive of the SCAS, there will be a peaceful gathering in his support in Faringdon Market Place the next day (Saturday 21st) at noon. The press will be invited, though such short notice might mean that they cannot attend.

Please keep as many people as possible informed and ready to come out on Saturday, if necessary. We hope it will not be the case!

Carolyn Williams

Calling all runners! - 18/9/13

After a glorious summer the nights are drawing in....If the prospect of running on your own in the dark isn't terribly appealing, why not join Faringdon's amateur running group Far Runners?

We meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7pm in the Market Square and Sundays at 9.30am at Faringdon Leisure Centre. We usually run for around 30 mins and select routes that accommodate all abilities, so the distance you cover in that time is up to you.

It is free to join and there is no obligation to come to every run, or even every week - just whenever you can make it!

Far Runners is registered with Run England and all runs are co-ordinated by a Run England-trained volunteer Leader in Running Fitness.

All abilities will be catered for and beginners/returners are always welcome, so if you've been meaning to give running a go or get back in your trainers, we'd love to meet you!

We also have social events in and around Faringdon.

Check us out on Facebook (Far Runners), email farrunners@yahoo.com or just turn up to a

run.

The Far Runners

Local Optimism - 17/9/13

I want to share some local optimism that I have encountered this morning in Faringdon. I have been discussing how the last quarter has been for a number of businesses in the town. I am very pleased with the result. Some retailers suggesting that in the last quarter their takings were up 25% on the same time last year. A lot of that will probably just be down to the better weather and how people feel when the sun shines. But fingers crossed, if habits have started to change towards using the local shops more that has to be a good thing!

Perhaps our friends 'a year without supermarkets' are making people think about how and where they shop. Encouraging the moto 'keep it local'. Perhaps all the energy and effort that went into the Follyfest and it being back in town this year has made people feel more like they are part of a community again and reminded them what a beautiful and useful market square we have in Faringdon. Maybe the hanging baskets and Faringdon Free Food planting in the town centre has increased a sense of pride in the place. The council coming in and cleaning the streets. The Faringdon litter picking club, helping to remove the unwanted waste. The Faringdon Loyalty card scheme and all its great offers and promotions has drawn people in who don't otherwise use the town. The pink pigeons and their wild and wonderful signage around the town reminding people of the towns heritage.

I imagine it is a long list of efforts being made by a huge range of people in the form of charities, groups and individuals. Perhaps the optimism of the retailers themselves is having an impact. Whatever it is, long may it continue and increase. Positivity breeds positivity and people going into town getting good service and feeling better means they talk to their friends about how great their day has been and the things they have done and seen, encouraging others into the town too.

We live in such a beautiful, charming and interesting town. I'm glad there is some positivity back at it's heart!

Mirabelle Mack

Miss Towns, headmistress of the Elms 1957-1976. - 17/9/13

Miss Towns is still enjoying her retirement in Suffolk and is in good health but with failing eyesight. It is her 98th birthday at the end of September.

If anyone would like to send a card and or letter (please print LARGE). Please contact me at ivorhunt@hotmail.co.uk or via facebook or linkedin.

I will put all cards in 1 package and send to her - I'm sure she would like to hear from her old pupils and staff.

Many thanks

Litter, weeds etc - 17/9/13

I have complained to the council a number of times regarding knee high weeds growing and destroying the road and pavement surfaces in my road. My emails are either ignored or you get the standard reply that they have assessed the area and no work is required. Well, knee high weeds are a disgrace, destroy the pavements and roads and will cause more damage. I have even offered to spray the weeds myself if they want to provide me with the equipment. The council must either be stupid or blind.

As for Park road and all the disturbance the residents are suffering, I do hope that the road is going to be re surfaced shortly as it is pretty awful.

PS. I do hope that the Jobsworth's re-instate GOF, although I wouldn't blame him for declining if offered.

Regards Mark

Litter, weeds etc - 16/9/13

The council have not weeded the back of the Leys (the main walkway to town for many) or Bennett Road. The roads are a disgrace and covered in potholes and indents & the grassed areas are unkept.

I do my bit for my property but others (in housing association homes) don't seem to do the same. I have to pay a mortgage which means even when they do eventually get to my road, they will miss out the little section outside of my house because it is private! What is my council tax for again? Oh I remember, the daily police up and down the road.

Name Supplied

ED(GW) Unless your bit of road has not been 'adopted' by VWHDC it should be cleaned. Suggest you email admin.vale@biffa.co.uk or phone 03000 610610

Gof Smith - reinstate Gof Smith Online Petition - 16/9/13

I'm delighted to report that at 6.30 this evening, the online petition on Change.org reached 1,000 signatures!

I understand Gof has a meeting with management this Friday and now has a substantial collection of signatures to take with him.

Keep sharing the petition in the meantime <http://www.change.org/en-GB/petitions/south-central-ambulance-service-reinstate-gof-smith>

Best

Mel Lane

Re Litter, Weeds and Dirty Streets - 16/9/13

Maybe they should put up Litter Fine Signs ? Not just reply on the small amount of Dog Fouling Fine Signs.

Name Supplied

Re Litter, Weeds and Dirty Streets - 16/9/13

It's mostly very obvious, as you walk round Faringdon, which businesses and residents keep the pavements outside their premises clean and tidy. As VWHDC appear to be putting extra effort in to make our streets pleasant, it would be good if more people tried to keep them that way. I'm really surprised when I see where well established businesses fail to do this.

Name Supplied

Re Litter, Weeds and Dirty Streets - 16/9/13

To the person who questioned if the residents of Gloucester Street had cleared up themselves rather than relying on the council to do the job, the answer is yes!! Unfortunately we end up picking up other folks litter, dog dirt, etc so it's a pretty endless task - I've watched people emptying the rubbish from their vehicles, throwing their cigarette butts away, and I've lost count of the times I observed people vomiting on the pavement and abandoning their take away packaging etc etc. We rarely experience a street clean on the scale that we saw last week and are very grateful to the VWHDC for making it a priority.

Name supplied

Gof petition - let's get to 1000 - 15/9/13

We're now at 928 signatures on this online petition and Gof, I understand is meeting with South Central Ambulance management next Friday. It would be great to get this to 1000 signatures by then... <http://www.change.org/en-GB/petitions/south-central-ambulance-service-reinstate-gof-smith>

Have a peaceful Sunday all and let's hope he's reinstated by the next one!

Mel

Litter, Weeds and Dirty Streets - 15/9/13

At The Old Crown we sweep outside every morning. It is not our customers littering the street but rather people waiting for buses.

I have written to Stagecoach suggesting that if they provide a litter bin at the bus stop we would undertake to empty and clean it. They have not even had the courtesy to reply.

Michael Sage

General Manager

The Old Crown Coaching Inn

Fernham Wives Singing group - 15/9/13

Tuesday 17th Sept, Ferndale School, 7pm

Any one who wants to sing can come(as long as you're female).

Every Tuesday during term time

Gof Smith latest News Coverage - 15/9/13

Excellent article & video - <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/health/healthnews/10309596/How-a-good-Samaritan-was-betrayed.html>

Teresa Reynolds

Tesco site - 15/9/13

my father lives opposite the tesco site, and is rather annoyed because his driveway was blocked completely during the week due to the workman making the path smaller to make the road wider.

This has in fact made the drive from the road to his property rather steep and the car is grinding on the surface that has been laid,

many of the drives along the same side are affected,,,,,

i can't find any info on this work being planned!!!

name supplied

ED(GW) The planning officer to contact at VWHDC is mark.doodles@southandvale.gov.uk

Balls for Kosovo - 15/9/13

Does anyone have any access to any sports balls (tennis, football etc). The tennis club have already very kindly donated a box of balls but we can take as many as we're given.

Thanks, Sarah 01367 242769

Litter, weeds and dirty streets - 14/9/13

I wonder have any of the complainants litter-picked and weeded outside their own premises - business or residential - to keep them presentable rather than expect the Council and hence the ratepayers to do it for them.

Gloucester Street is reported to be weed-free and tidy. How many Gloucester Street residents contributed to that?

Name Supplied

More evening buses needed - 14/9/13

We are about to move to Faringdon and have realised with shock that the number 66 bus does not run from Oxford between 20.50 and 23.25.

This means there is a 2.5 hour gap without a bus during the time that theatres, cinemas and concerts finish. Is there a way to install a petition on this community website for members of the public to sign (add names) so that the bus company, Stagecoach, can be persuaded to insert an additional bus which departs Oxford about 22.15/22.30.

I am sure there are a great many people along the 66 route who would make use of public transport around this time and would welcome the introduction of an additional late bus.

Comments from residents' of Faringdon would be welcome.

Tessa Timms

ED(GW) Good idea. Happy to publicise a petition (or a survey) for this. The emerging Neighbourhood plan suggests:

Swindon:Oxford More evening buses, and maybe pre 09.00 weekdays and Sat also

Improved Witney, Abingdon - through better scheduling at Kingston Bagpuize if a direct route

is not viable

More frequent Wantage service.

This would enable people in Faringdon to get to all these places for work, health, public services and entertainment

Oxford County Council have money (c £195k) from past Housing developments for our bus service. They have mentioned increasing the number of buses between Swindon and Oxford to 3 per hour. This, in my view, is not the best way to spend the money.

Possible lost black and white kitten? - 14/9/13

There is a little black and white kitten who maybe be lost roaming around at the Southern end of Southampton Street near Liddiards Row. It's mainly black with white paws and is wearing a jewelled collar with a bell. A gentleman from further up the road looked after it yesterday evening and is keeping an eye on it this morning. Please phone on 07530547287 if it's your lost kitten.

Concerned cat lover

Non Traditional piano lessons - 14/9/13

Does anyone know of someone who can give non traditional piano lessons to an 11 year old (with some piano playing skills), ideally in Faringdon. What's wanted is more about modern tunes and improvisation rather than classical pieces and piano exams

Thanks

Gene Webb

A 'quintessentially British do' at Buscot Park - 14/9/13

GREYHOUND Rescue West of England (GRWE) are promising a 'quintessentially British do' at Buscot Park near Faringdon on Sunday 22 September.

The event, a garden tea party and dog show, happens at the stately home of Lord Faringdon which will also provide the elegant backdrop for a money raising auction.

"This promises to be a really jolly day out" said GRWE's Chief Executive Rachel Grocott.

"We have some delightful 'lots', ranging from signed books by Victoria Stilwell and Jilly Cooper to a winter break in a dog-friendly Peak District cottage, which will be auctioned by celebrity guest David Paton" smiled Rachel, who has spent much of the last few weeks planning the day.

"We are also thrilled to have TV vet Zara Boland in attendance. Zara will help judge our fun dog show, with classes ranging from 'waggiest tail' to 'dog the judge would most like to take home'" Rachel told us.

All the money raised will go directly to help rescue, rehabilitate and rehome greyhounds and lurchers.

Last year GRWE (recently named as Animal Charity Team of the Year by the Association of Dogs and Cats Homes) rehomed 616 beautiful dogs.

If you would like to join in with the festivities, the gardens open at noon, with the dog show

beginning at 12.30pm, and auctioning commences at 2.30pm.

Advance tickets are available from the charity's website www.grwe.com.

Homeshare initiative- what do you think? - 14/9/13

Homeshare is a well established intergenerational scheme which allows older people in need of some companionship and help at home, who have a room to spare, to remain at home. The scheme works by matching them with younger people prepared to lend a hand in return for accommodation. Homesharing is about friendship, mutual respect and support, and a new scheme for Oxford is being explored by Age UK Oxfordshire, in collaboration with Oxford Brookes University and Oxford City Council.

Hubert in Oxford has an informal Homeshare arrangement. He is a recently widowed octogenarian and his wife's former carer has become a Homesharer, living with Hubert free of charge 'in exchange for dealing with house-cleaning, laundry and ironing. We share the jobs of shopping and (in theory) cooking. Even if she is away for few days or on night-duty she always ensures that there is abundant prepared food for me in the fridge!' Paul Cann, Chief Executive of Age UK Oxfordshire can see many the benefits of Homeshare in Oxford: 'Homeshare helps an older person who feels less lonely and better able to stay in their own home. It helps a younger person who may be on low income to live and work in the city. It promotes inter-generational understanding. It provides a practical solution to housing problems.'

A survey of potential Homesharers (the younger part of the match) has already been carried out, which showed very strong interest in an Oxford scheme. We are now seeking responses from potential Householders (older people with accommodation to offer). We would like to know what would attract or concern you about Homeshare, what you could afford to pay to take part in the scheme, and whether and how you'd like to find out more about it.

If you, or someone you know, is interested in Homeshare, please take a few minutes to complete our survey by 30 September 2013.

You can find the survey [here](#). Alternatively call Age UK Oxfordshire on 0844 887 0005 or email homeshareoxford@gmail.com and ask for the survey to be sent to you by post or email(as you prefer).

If you are interested as a potential Homesharer (a younger person looking for accommodation) please complete the survey on line [here](#)

Age UK

Cleaning Faringdon streets - 13/9/13

They certainly have done something about it!! Gloucester Street is looking weed free and very tidy; thank you to all who wrote in support of cleaner streets - hope all the main streets are getting/have had the same treatment!!

Alice Randall

Thames Valley Police action to help tackle rural crime - 13/9/13

The police in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse area will be holding some days of action to help tackle rural crime in the area.

This activity is part of the larger initiative where Thames Valley Police will conduct 100 days of action to tackle rural crime. Each of the ten rural Local Policing Areas (LPAs) will hold 10 days (five in summer, five in winter), of intensive operational and crime prevention activity to tackle rural crime.

As part of the days of action your Neighbourhood policing teams will be at Markets in Abingdon, Didcot, Wallingford, Thame, Henley, Wantage and Faringdon, on the following days in September:

Monday 16th - Abingdon Market

Tuesday 17th - Faringdon, Thame and Wallingford Markets

Wednesday 18th – Wantage Market

Thursday 19th – Henley Market

Friday 20th – Didcot Market (Abingdon and Wallingford Farmers Market)

Please come along and obtain a FREE UV marker pen and advice on crime prevention and property marking. Ask the Neighbourhood Policing Teams about signing up to Country Watch and receiving FREE Thames Valley Alert messages www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk

RURAL CRIME REDUCTION EVENT – FRIDAY 20th SEPTEMBER

Rural Crime Reduction Event - Friday 20 September, between 10am and 4pm at Millets Farm, Kingston Road, Frilford, near Abingdon.

The Neighbourhood Policing Teams will be property marking bikes and giving out property marking kits FREE OF CHARGE.

Faringdon Community Education Enrolment Day Wed 9th October - 13/9/13

10-11am and 6.30-7.30pm

Friends Meeting House, Lechlade Road, Faringdon (opposite the former Duke of Wellington)

This is a new venture for Faringdon, initiated by a local resident. We have already have a good selection of courses with teachers on offer, but welcome more teachers and ideas for courses. Classes start in the week beginning 14th October.

More information email faringdoncommunityeducation@gmail.com or phone 01367 240929
<http://www.faringdon-community-education.com/>

Re Jobs at Tesco - 13/9/13

In response to the questions about jobs at Tesco.

Jobs are now available to apply for online at <http://stores.tesco-careers.com/>

If you search 'Faringdon' in the 'keywords' search on the right hand side of the page all the latest vacancies will be listed.

You can then apply online. Applications are open until 3 October and jobs will be popular so

apply soon!

Beth

Jobs at Tesco Faringdon - 12/9/13

I've been told that Tesco are recruiting. Can anyone tell me where to find the job ads. I've looked on the Tesco site, but can't see any

Thanks

Name Supplied

Litter and weeds in Faringdon - 12/9/13

I have been 'on the case' for the dirty state of Faringdon streets, particularly in the old town. Reps from VWHDC visited today and agree they are not clean enough and say they will do something about it.

I urge you to report issues that you see to:

either https://forms.southoxon.gov.uk/ufs/ufsmainesessionid=0FB42547B31F0F2280E152A73600EF5B_1&formid=REPORTIT&SOVA_TAG=VALE

or admin.vale@biffa.co.uk or 03000 610610

and ask to be told by when it will resolved (the standards indicate different timescales, depending what level of priority the street has)

Oxford County Council are responsible for the dealing with weeds, but in the main streets in and around the town centre, VWHDC(Biffa), have taken on the responsibility. Weeds should be removed, areas swept and litter removed, even where there are parked cars.

Please let us all keep reporting to make sure any improvement is not just temporary, so that Biffa realise we care and standards must be maintained.

ED(GW)

Re: Fo Website is for all - 12/9/13

I totally agree that getting Gof Smith reinstated is terribly important and have written to Will Hancock to complain and urge that the decision be reviewed. But I'm very uncomfortable that people who are posting their views about other matters are being belittled. I don't think we want to put anyone off posting their views, however petty or otherwise some consider those views to be.

name supplied

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name supplied

Gof Smith - 12/9/13

I have been in touch with Will Hancock of South Central Ambulance Service. He assures me that he is scheduling a meeting with Gof and will review the situation. Let's hope...

Michael Sage
The Old Crown

Gof Smith - 668 have signed Online Petition at Change.org - 12/9/13

668 people have signed the petition already. (17.46, 12/9)

I've been told that the IP address of the computer used to sign the petition is logged, therefore, if there is more than one person in the household that wants to sign, they will need a separate device. Laptops and smartphones are all useable.

Super to see so much support for Gof
ED(GW)

Fo website is for all - 12/9/13

Faringdon site is for everyone to make comments however trivial or important they are. The parking may not be important to some but if a child is knocked down because to many cars parked in wrong place. Then a responder might be called on so actually it's just as important

This site is for all.

Folks making comments need to be careful what they say

Name supplied

Gof Smith - Online Petition at Change.org - 11/9/13

There is now an online petition at the below link:

<http://www.change.org/en-GB/petitions/south-central-ambulance-service-reinstate-gof-smith>

Please share this with your online and email contacts. Its the best way to hit a large number of people quickly. This one has had five signatures in ten minutes!

Mel Lane

Gof- support from Faringdon - 11/9/13

It has been a pleasure reading & seeing the support this town has when someone needed help for a wrong doing.

Name supplied

Gof in the Oxford Mail - 11/9/13

I hope everyone's seen today's Oxford Mail, with Gof Smith on the front page.

How sad that, when there really is something important for us all to be concerned about (anyone might need a First Responder one day), two people have taken it upon themselves to

argue about the rights and wrongs of parking outside a private school as opposed to a state one. How petty can they be ? An obstruction is an obstruction, not an excuse for a class war. Do you have nothing more important to worry about?

Carolyn Williams

Re: Support for Gof.- 11/9/13

Well the good news is this media train has picked up a pace as it is now prominently on the Daily Mail website. Global support is now heading his way.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2417476/Ambulance-volunteer-sacked-SPEEDING-way-999-patient-collapsed-breathe.html>

Rob.

Re Chelsea tractors - 11/9/13

The parents from Ferndale school park just where they like. The head teacher should Bring in some sort of parking code. Budgens car park is free of charge for 2hrs. Parents should walk to pick children up from budgens car park.

Names supplied

Thames Valley Alert - Neighbourhood Return Scheme - 11/9/13

If a neighbour of yours with dementia had gone missing and you were free to help search for them in your immediate vicinity, and maybe save their life, would you be prepared to help? If the answer is yes, and you have a mobile phone, please consider registering for the new, innovative, scheme called Neighbourhood Return.

Neighbourhood Return, is a voluntary scheme independent from Thames Valley Police, run by Neighbourhood and Home Watch Network. The scheme needs volunteers in your area. Neighbourhood Return is looking for volunteers to help find people with dementia should they ever get lost. This may never happen, and even if you do get a call, if you are not available, you just have to text back 'no'. We know people aren't available all the time, which is why we want as many people as possible to register.

You can register for NR very quickly through Thames Valley Alert. Just log into your account by clicking **The Police**

Tick Neighbourhood Return, and this will then present you with some questions that the National Lottery, who are funding the project, have asked to be collected from all volunteers. No identifying information is given to the Lottery. If you have any difficulty doing this please contact info@ourturn.org.uk or phone 07584 051004.

For more information about the Neighbourhood Return Scheme and how it works, visit their website, www.ourturn.org.uk. (Please do not register again as you can access all the facilities directly from your Thames Valley Alert account). You can also download an [information](#)

[sheet](#) and a [safe searching guide](#).

JIVE+ Comes to Faringdon Friday September 13th - 11/9/13

Jive+ comes to Faringdon for an evening of friends, fun and dancing.

We are fundraising to help pay to get two trucks of humanitarian aid to Kosovo in

October. www.hopeandaiddirect.org.uk

Faringdon Junior School. The doors will open at 7.30pm - 12 midnight

The evening will begin at 8pm with a fun lesson for 45 minutes.

The lesson will enable complete beginners and those with two left feet to pick enough moves to enjoy the rest of the evening :-)

If you have never danced before or if you're a regular dancer, whether your're 18 or 80, this fun evening is for you.

You do not need to bring a partner...although it is good to have a good balance of men and women.

Entrance £8 Bar Enquiries 07974 938 265

Sarah Oliver

Re Thank you News & Views ed.- 11/9/13

I'll second that!

Bystander

Portwell Press site, Park Road - 11/9/13

Planning permission for showroom space providing kitchen design and display facilities, office, disabled w.c., warehouse and light production had been given.

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P13/V1587/FUL>

ED(GW)

Re Chelsea Tractors - 11/9/13

Maybe there should be a charity to provide counselling for sad envious people. Drivers park their large cars outside the infant and junior schools, as well as all over Faringdon on double yellow lines. Perhaps if you are so 'concerned' you should turn your attention to something more important, or just get a life.

Name supplied

Thank you News & Views Editor - 11/9/13

Thank you Gene (Ed GW), For responding so quickly to the updates from myself and so many others on Faringdon.org ref Gof Smith - For once Faringdon seems to be totally united & about something SO important to all of us - So that's a first!

But importantly - Genuine thanks to you PERSONALLY because as another Faringdon

Volunteer, you knew it was SO very important & logged in often, just to post "Breaking News" literally as it happened. YOU understood just HOW important this issue is to all of us so thanks for your support! By the way feel free to copy and paste my praise of YOU - another unsung Faringdon hero (but it has to be word for word & my whole e mail!)

Ref my earlier headline "Forget Dog Pooh, Parking, New Housing Estates, Tesco, Dust from the Tesco Site or decisions about to "Costa" or Not to "Costa" - there are some things far more important to the people that live in Faringdon right now..... " I won't retract it ...because for ONCE something far more important DID matter.....

Faringdon.org proved it mattered - Radio Oxford proved it mattered - BBC South Today proved it mattered - News at 10 proved it mattered - No doubt the Oxford Mail tomorrow will concur and continue to prove it matters..... Facebook has proved that when something really really matters - just a tiny Facebook update (just a sentence) in one friend's post, that people like me latched on tocould unleash THIS incredible & overwhelming community tidal wave of support - Thanks again Gene for helping us all convey our deep appreciation of the VITAL life saving support that Gof & his son Matt have provided to this community

Teresa Reynolds

ED(GW) Thanks Teresa- this is such an important issue

Faringdon Community Supports Gof - OUR First Responder - 10/9/13

If you missed the News on TV today or Radio on BBC Oxford - Yes there are catch up's available but they take some hunting down & are also time limited..... BUT a really awful (quality wise only) video is now available on Youtube - of the BBC 6 o'clock & 10 o'clock news report - Again So sorry about the quality - I just grabbed my camera and video'd the TV screen -I have of course assured Gof that as soon as this appalling situation is satisfactorily resolved I will remove this video from Youtube

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHIMGDW5E18>

Teresa Reynolds

Where you can sign the Gof petition - 10/9/13

Latest list of places where you can sign the petition asking for the reinstatement of Gof Smith

:

the Bobbin

the Bell Hotel

Budgens

Costcutter

KwikSave

our house if we're in (1 Southampton Street, opp. the car park)

I hope everyone either heard Oxford Radio this afternoon/evening or saw BBC South at 6.30 or 10.30.

Please keep up the support until Gof gets his job back.

Carolyn Williams

BBC News Report ref Gof Smith OUR Local responder - 10/9/13

PLEASE Please sign the petitions in Budgens, Costcutter, The Bobbin, The Bell & Quiksave & also contact the Chief executive of SCAS Will.Hancock@scas.nhs.uk + PatientExperience@scas.nhs.uk and our local MP Ed Vaisey vaizeye@parliament.uk to insist that Gof is reinstated.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-24037618>

Teresa Reynolds

Chelsea Tractors at Ferndale School - 10/9/13

During School term time it is heart breaking to see the yummy mummies having to park their Chelsea tractors right in front Ferndale school to drop their children off.

Most likely because they have no grasp of the Highway Code and their inability to walk the 2 minutes from Budgens Car park to Ferndale School.

Maybe we need to start a new charity which will provide the following:

- 1) Lessons in the Highway Code regarding parking rules to where you are and are not allowed to park.
- 2) Shoes for them and their children so they can park their Chelsea tractors at the Budgens car park and then walk to Ferndale School.

A local concerned resident

Faringdon Football Club behind Gof - 10/9/13

We at faringdon football club have just handed over £1200 to the first responders and hope this stays in faringdon. We raised this money because gof is always there to help us at the club, as the local responders come from faringdon and we need people like gof and his fellow helpers remember we are all behind you and jane janice francis

SCAS Chief Exec - 10/9/13

I have just had a reply from Will Hancock, the SCAS Chief Exec. He said '*I am unaware if the circumstances surrounding this decision. I will review the situation and respond in due course.*'

So this email works: Will.Hancock@scas.nhs.uk

Gene Webb

Gof on radio and TV- 10/9/13

Just a quick update re Gof - He was just on the 4pm News headlines on Radio Oxford - and the whole interview is on between 4 & 5pm - please also watch the 6.30 BBC News as well - Hope all the local support will make a difference!

Teresa Reynolds

Gof - 10/9/13

If someone can get me a copy of the petition, I'll put it in the bar at The Bobbin. We've just done a raffle in aid of the First Responders and someone won it on Saturday night. Gof was the reason I did the draw as an extra thank you for his support during FollyFest. I'm loathe to hand over the £50 raised to an organisation which treats its volunteers in this bizarre manner. I'd rather donate it to a "fighting fund" to get him reinstated, i.e. train fares to meetings to lobby his return etc. and will have another raffle this month to keep contributing...

Can whoever is leading this valiant charge (there seems to be a few names circling) please drop me a petition to The Bobbin, 1 Bromsgrove, Faringdon.

Mel Lane

Thames Valley Police notification - 10/9/13

On Monday (9/9) at 1am, a property was broken into along Faringdon Road, Great Coxwell. Offender/s forced open the front door disconnected CCTV & phone lines. A cash register containing money were the items stolen. The register was later located nearby with the money missing. No further information given at this time.

If you have seen any suspicious looking people or vehicles in the area or have any information relating to this message, please ring the 24 hour non-emergency telephone number **101**.

Alternatively if you have information but wish to remain anonymous, please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or online@crimestoppers-uk.org. No personal details are taken, information is not traced or recorded and you will not go to court.

First Responder Gof - 10/9/13

The sacking of Gof is quite clearly outrageous. This smacks of a cost-cutting exercise using the excuse of speeding. Gof may be a volunteer but there are still costs attached to the role. The costs in terms of peoples lives could be far greater!

Tony

Petition for Gof - 10/9/13

The petition for Gof Smith is now also at KwikSave. The one at the Bell Hotel is filling up very fast. Please, please, all sign.

Interviews : BBC TV Oxford this morning, Oxford Mail this afternoon. Gof MUST be reinstated.

Carolyn Williams

Thankyou from Gof - 9/9/13

I have been swamped all day with messages and phone calls from so many lovely and very kind people. I have tried to respond to everyone individually but it has now become impossible and I have almost lost my voice. So, please accept this as personal thanks.

I remain absolutely humbled by the lovely comments which have been made about me by so many people, many of whom I don't know.

Gof Smith

Gof - 9/9/13

i agree with all julie said i have also known Gof and jane for many years i think its awful to think such a dedicated person can be sacked i will deffo be supporting him all i can

Jane Lewis

Support for Gof and the responders - 9/9/13

I only found out yesterday about Gof Smith being sacked for doing his job, I have known him and his wife Jane for many years, you could not meet two nicer people, I am so angry this has happened, 15 years of pure dedication and care for his patients, I too have used the services of Gof with the first responders you could not meet a more dedicated person, at Faringdon town football club we totally support his re-instatement, only last Wednesday we donated £1200 Gof was unable to attend the presentation as he was on a call, so two other representatives attended, we were given a certificate for our many years of fundraising for the first responders, all as I can say is this will be reviewed if the decision is not reversed, hang in there we are all supporting you.

Julie Watts

Gof update - 9/9/13

Just to update you - BBC Oxford will be in Faringdon tomorrow to interview Gof and a few of us. We have letter and petitions in place and a newspaper article in the offing. If this doesn't get results then I suggest that we contact the Chief Exec to request a meeting - perhaps there are communiy leaders who are better placed to help.

We may even have to resort to a protest of sorts!!!

Alice Randall

Re Gof- write to Chief exec - 9/9/13

I contacted the Patient Experience team to find out the email address for Will Hancock, the Chief exec. They wouldn't give it to me, saying send emails to them and they would forward. I wasn't too happy about this so I tried Will.hancock@scas.nhs.uk the normal format for Scas emails. I didn't get a 'couldn't deliver' message, but neither did I get a reply as I asked (sent about 4 hours ago).

So I suggest any emails are sent to

PatientExperience@scas.nhs.uk as well as Will.hancock@scas.nhs.uk

Gene Webb

Petition re Gof - 9/9/13

Please sign the PETITION asking for the reinstatement of our First Responder, GOF SMITH. You can find it at Budgens, Costcutters and the Bell Hotel.

Carolyn Williams

A petition re Gof - 9/9/13

You can sign a letter re Gof Smith to the Chief Executive of South Central Ambulance Service. There is a copy in Budgens (near car park entrance) and in Costcutter.

Dave Headey

First Responder - 9/9/13

Relevant document - anyone know what happened about this?

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/speed-limit-exemption-for-life-saving-services>

Hilary Taylor

Refurbished Phone Box, Canada Lane - 9/9/13

I'm sure many of you have noticed the newly painted phone box in Canada Lane. No longer with a phone, the box is owned and has been refurbished by Faringdon Town Council. It has been offered to the Infant School for display of childrens' paintings.

Let's hope something can be done about the rather down at heel phone box in the Market Square (still has a phone)

ED(GW)

Big Brand Coffee shops - 8/9/13

I think big brand coffee shops / restaurants can thrive along side independents. Cirencester has the 3 big brand coffee shops (plus another 14 coffee shops) and loads of Tescos. The independent shops simply had to adapt to offer a unique experience that drew people in. For example one restaurant is a waffle shop, how many places could you get that ?

Name Supplied

Contact South Central Ambulance service re Gof - 8/9/13

Here is the address/telephone/email address you need to register your disgust at Gof's sacking and let the ambulance service know that we want him reinstated; I don't want to sound dramatic but your life could depend on it!!!

Compliments, Complaints and Feedback

Patient Services Officers

E. PatientExperience@scas.nhs.uk

T. 01962 898 052 (Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire)

T. 01962 898 053 (Hampshire)

Chief Executive: Will Hancock

South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust

7 And 8 Talisman Business Centre, Talisman Road, Bicester, OX26 6HR

Alice Randall

Thankyou Faringdon First responders - 8/9/13

As a former beneficiary of the first responders presence when my husband was taken

seriously ill in the middle of the night, I can confirm how important and reassuring the arrival of the first responders was whilst we waited for about 30 minutes for the ambulance to arrive. I really feel that volunteers who give so freely of their time in such an important role shouldn't be sacrificed in this way, presumably the 15 years of devoted service that was given stands for nothing! This should be flagged up to the local news media.

Name supplied

Saddened- re Gof -8/9/13

I am extremely saddened to hear about Gof. A few months ago we needed an ambulance in the night as it seemed my son was struggling to breathe and coughing. I had no idea what the problem was. Within 5 minutes of the emergency call being made by nhs direct (or whatever they called now) Gof and his son arrived. The reassurance from him was amazing. He said I can tell you what it is - croup. Get the kettle on in the kitchen for steam and within a short while my son was improving. A while later a paramedic arrived and they went on their way. However the ambulance didn't come as they were busy and have to come from Didcot. So after 1.5 hours we went to the hospital by car (lucky I have one!).

It is disgusting that these good people have been treated like this.

It worries me now if there aren't first responders how many lives may not be saved or reassurance given to mothers like me!

I hope the ScAS take it back and apologise to Gof.

Cheryl

Our Emergency service - 8/9/13

The South Central Ambulance service (SCAS) relies heavily on Community Responders to get to emergencies within the designated timescales (8 mins for most urgent). When I did some research a few years ago, it was clear that ambulances seldom reach places like Faringdon within the laid down service targets. When I asked SCAS about this they said the targets were met over the whole of Oxfordshire; they were not required to meet the targets in every place.

Reliance on Community responders is an integral part of the service- so much so that SCAS includes their response times when they measure service performance.

Gof has been a Community responder for 15 years, for much of that time he has been the team leader. It is through him that other responders were recruited, and funds were raised for liveried vehicles and defibrillation equipment.

As a committed responder, he answered a call to an emergency in Oxford, well outside his patch. It seems this was because there were no ambulances available to respond.

He did exceed the speed limit, but no one was hurt and no police were involved.

Maybe you know that Responders are not only unpaid, but don't receive any expenses, even if they use their own vehicle. (Responders who are employed by the Fire or Health service as their main jobs do get paid)

So SCAS relies on volunteers, fails to even refund expenses, but gives them no redress if sacked- no discussion, no appeal.

It's a disgrace and I suspect deeply upsetting for Gof, who has given his time and energy to the Responder service and the people of Faringdon over many years

Let's do as Teresa suggests and write to the Chief exec

Gene Webb

Thankyou from Gof ++ - 8/9/13

I write as a member of the public, not a Community Responder.

Firstly, can I thank everyone who has given me and my family such immense support since I received the South Central Ambulance Service dismissal letter. I am humbled by the very kind remarks made by so many people, even some who I do not know.

Secondly It is important that I correct a couple of points. There are three members left in the Faringdon team and, although two of them are away at the moment, I think they will be trying to fill the gaps left by myself and my son. In addition, I should point out that the people of Faringdon kindly gave us two responder vehicles, only one of which has been removed.

Gof Smith

Sacked First Responder needs investigation - 8/9/13

So, a First Responder has been sacked for driving at 33 MPH on his way to an emergency. I would feel more secure if, in the case of an accident, I knew that Gof Smith was on call and on his way to save lives, as he has done on many occasions.

This case needs a thorough and just investigation.

Geoffrey Williams

Sad news- Robert Dyer has died - 8/9/13

Robert Dyer lived in Faringdon for many years, but for the last 10 or so in Kingston Bagpuize with Juliet his wife. Sadly he died last Sunday.

Robert was a Faringdon Town Councillor and very active in the Chamber of Commerce for many years.

I've been asked to say that the funeral is 16/9/13, 2.15 at Kingsdown Crematorium, SN25 6SG, and afterwards at Sudbury House.

Robert's son has said that everyone is welcome to attend, but asks that you let me know, so I can give him an indication of numbers.

genewebb@rocketmail.com

Tesco jobs in Faringdon being advertised - 8/9/13

See <http://www.indeed.co.uk/Tesco-jobs-in-Faringdon>

No idea why 'Indeed' indicates they're in Shrivenham, but if you look at the detail, they're definitely Faringdon

ED(GW)

Faringdon has lost 2 First responders - 8/9/13

Forget Dog Pooh, Parking, New Housing Estates, Tesco, Dust from the Tesco Site or

decisions about to "Costa" or Not to "Costa" - there are some things far more important to the people that live in Faringdon right now.....

Hope you are feeling well that's goodyou'll need to..... for now and probably the foreseeable future..... because we no longer have the support of a vital community all hours around the clock voluntary service. If you or your parents or your children are unwell & you have an emergency situation don't expect to get help within 8 minutes it will take forever to get an ambulance here - we are not talking minutes - try MUCH longer

Because - as of last week, Faringdon lost 2 of it's probably most important assets - people that literally save OUR lives..... on a day to day basis - and HAVE saved the lives of friends, friends children, neighbours & strangers - unsung heroes that you probably don't even notice until you need them. Now it's probably too late ... We used to have a team of VOLUNTEER UNPAID First Responders in Faringdon - Now we have just one responder left on duty at the moment as 2 others are on annual leave and away + another team in Stanford (who could not get here in time to make the same sort of difference). As local people we raised money to equip the First Responders and their 2 vehicles with life saving equipment - one of which has now been removed.

Community First Responders are volunteers who are trained to respond to emergency calls in their local area through the 999 system in conjunction with the UK's regional Ambulance Service NHS Trusts.

Community First Responders are not a substitute for the Ambulance Service. But, as they are based within the community in which they either live or work, they are able to attend the scene of an emergency call in a very short time; often within the first few minutes and, in the majority of incidents, they will be first on scene. Community First Responders are able to administer vital, life saving first aid treatment before the arrival of an Ambulance crew. Their early intervention further increases the patient's chance of survival or may just provide the simple reassurance that the ambulance crew are on their way.

A VOLUNTEER that has saved the lives of countless Faringdon residents - and HAS done for the last 15 years, can still be "sacked" and sadly has been....and another has resigned in protestand guess what - you can't even appeal - you can't fight it - you have NO rights - you just have to accept that after 15 years of looking after THIS community that tonight and for the future you can't make that difference anymore, and that as a result of this action, people locally in Faringdon WILL die because unless the Ambulance service puts a vehicle here on permanent standby the inevitable will happen. Just one volunteer responder currently available (despite being asked to increase the hours that they "volunteer") cannot provide a 24/7 service to this community.

Incredibly saddened by such appalling treatment of one of Faringdon's unsung heroes - I for

one will be contacting our local MP demanding a full investigation and instant action.....
Teresa Reynolds

Re Costa - 8/9/13

Re Name Supplied's comment regarding Costa being a multi national company, the cafe's are operated as franchises run by independent business people. Need to be accurate on the matters in the interests of fair debate.

Sue Lund

Gof our responder has been sacked - 8/9/13

I would urge anyone who is disgusted with the decision to sack Gof from his post as our community First Responder to write to:

or send a letter addressed to our Chief Executive Will Hancock at the following address:

Will Hancock

South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust

7 And 8 Talisman Business Centre

Talisman Road

Bicester

Oxfordshire

OX26 6HR

Gof was sacked for a minor speed offence. He is desperately needed!!

Alice Randall

Costa Coffee - 7/9/13

Personally I think it would be great to have something like this in Faringdon, and I fail to see why it will care any less about the town than any other business.

We have got other coffee shops, one I confess I haven't been in, one rarely seems open and the other is often really busy, especially all the lovely outside seating area which I doubt Costa will have. Also, two of them are in beautiful historical buildings but neither are very accessible for people with mobility problems, and one in particular isn't ideal for Mum's with buggies.

I believe with the town growing like it is we can keep them all going as they appeal to different markets.

I remember complaints in Wantage when Costa came along, the independent 'Madisons' tried really hard to stop it but in Wantage today both were doing a great trade.

Faringdon town centre will be far more appealing with more choice and no empty buildings to let.

Name Supplied

Costa Coffee - 7/9/13

Costa Coffee won't be any competition for our wonderful coffee shop in the market square, Costa don't do the wonderful Scampi and Chips that Tracy cooks goodness no, Costa will be

great for the young people of this little market town, it's the hip place to hang out ...gets the kids away from those computers, I see Faringdon as another 'Weybridge' in Surrey that was once a sleepy backwater ...now it's a bustling little town with the most upmarket shops. We need wealth coming into Faringdon, Charity shops just don't bring that kind of people in. The old guard of this town fear change but the young people demand it...as with all things progress brings change...not all things from the past can be seen as good, we need to move on...WooHoo bring it all on

Mrs P Take

Re: Costa Coffee Shop - 7/9/13

No, no, no - we definitely don't need another coffee shop, especially a multi national operation who won't care about Faringdon, will add nothing to it's character and will potentially drive the existing independant excellent cafes out of business. All very depressing!

Name supplied

Faringdon and the 21st Century.- 7/9/13

Well it looks like Faringdon is being dragged kicking and screaming into the twenty first century.

On the skirt tails of Costa Coffee will come Laura Ashley, they always go hand in hand, followed by many other well known shops like Fatface which make the modern town popular, and lets face it, quality shops bring in quality shoppers.

Up by Tesco's will appear a Mothercare, perhaps a Curry's....maybe even a Marks & Spencer ...there is plenty of building land by the A420 for all of these shops.

It looks like the infrastructure is going to match all of the new building developments...before some go running to the hills or wander around moaning we are all doomed....this all could be a good thing and bring this town back to life.

Added to this the fantastic Music festivals we hold...the future looks bright for little 'ol Faringdon...for a change, and this might be radical for certain naysayers and Frazer's from Dads Army of this town.....lets be positive and look forward for a change.

Walter Wall.

Costa Coffee Planning application - 7/9/13

A planning application has been submitted for the shop next to Budgens.

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P13/V1936/FUL>

Could be good for faringdon to have a Costa, but do we really need another coffee shop- there are 3 or 4 already, plus the pubs.

ED(GW)

JIVE+ Comes to Faringdon Friday September 13th - 6/9/13

Jive+ comes to Faringdon for an evening of friends, fun and dancing.

We are fundraising to help pay to get two trucks of humanitarian aid to Kosovo in

October. www.hopeandaiddirect.org.uk

Faringdon Junior School. The doors will open at 7.30pm - 12 midnight

The evening will begin at 8pm with a fun lesson for 45 minutes.

The lesson will enable complete beginners and those with two left feet to pick enough moves to enjoy the rest of the evening :-)

If you have never danced before or if you're a regular dancer, whether you're 18 or 80, this fun evening is for you.

You do not need to bring a partner...although it is good to have a good balance of men and women.

Entrance £8 Bar Enquiries 07974 938 265

Sarah Oliver

World Issues - 6/9/13

With all that's going on in the world today and we have faringdon folk winging and commenting on words.

Name supplied

Faringdon Twinning events - 6/9/13

Faringdon Twinning Association AGM and wine tasting At The Portwell Angel on Wednesday 9th October 7.30 start for AGM and 8.30 for wine tasting £6 per person Please contact Jeanie 240374 or David 240033 or jeaniepugh@talktalk.net if you will be attending.

Our friends from Le Mele with be visiting Faringdon from Thursday 31st October until Sunday 3rd November

There will be a dance on the Saturday evening with Boogie Me at the Junior School from 8.30pm, £5 a ticket. Licensed Bar

If you would like to host please contact Jeanie 240374 or David 240033 or jeaniepugh@talktalk.net

Bunker? - 6/9/13

There was a pill box in Faringdon, is that a bunker ?

Fred Gilbert

Bystander - 6/9/13

Unless you think snails and earthworms post to faringdon.org, you were referring to a human when using the term here and for humans, hermaphroditism or intersex is a medical condition.

I am not shocked about the concept but rather that you would so blithely use it as a insult. It is akin to thoughtless way people in my childhood would use "spastic" or "Mongol" in the same way to insult someone in an argument

Katrina Campbell

Circling Helicopter - 5/9/13

Looking for a parking slot ?

Name supplied

Sat 7 Sept, Councillors Surgery - 5/9/13

10.00 -11.30 The Library

Judith Heathcoat and District Councillor Mohinder Kainth Surgeries provide an opportunity for any ward resident to come and talk with their councillor face to face.

Councillors' surgeries are open sessions where you can get information and advice, enquire about services that the Council provides.

All welcome . First Saturday of the month

ED I'm assuming this is to express concern re local issues too- potholes, weeds, street cleaning, dog mess, new housing, bins, parking, speeding ++

Re shocked - 5/9/13

Katrina, if you read the post again, together with the previous ones which gave rise to it, you will see that it was not used as an insult, but as an observation. For what it's worth:

"Many taxonomic groups of animals (mostly invertebrates) do not have separate sexes. In these groups, hermaphroditism is a normal condition, enabling a form of sexual reproduction in which both partners can act as the "female" or "male". For example, the great majority of pulmonate snails, opisthobranch snails and slugs are hermaphrodites. Hermaphroditism is also found in some fish species and to a lesser degree in other vertebrates. Most plants are also hermaphrodites"

So not primarily a 'medical condition'

Personally I have only ever really associated the term with earthworms (as per 20th century GCE biology) but I apologise if I inadvertantly shocked you.

Bystander

Cold War Bunker- was there one in Faringdon? - 5/9/13

In the early 1950s and beyond, in fact throughout the Cold War period, local authorities were required to make provision for emergency facilities in their area of responsibility – essentially control and communications. To begin with it was organised geographically along similar lines to that of the WW2 ARP (subsequently Civil Defence).

In the part of Berkshire which is now in Oxfordshire there were four such areas, all reporting to Reading. Faringdon Rural District Council was one such area. These facilities were invariably below ground-level and often referred to as 'bunkers'. It is possible perhaps, in view of the cost involved, that it may have been a combined venture the Wantage Urban District and Wantage Rural District Councils, but during WW2 they were quite separate. I have not explored that possibility yet.

Thank You.

Peter Burton

Roadsafe- index of accidents in school roads - 5/9/13

Just published: <https://axainsurancezone.com/localroadsafetyindex/#.Uihj49K-1Bk>

'Road Safety Analysis' data relates specifically to roads that are within the 500 metre radius around British schools. It has been collated to help local authorities, parents, teachers and drivers have a better understanding of the road risks in specific local areas. The data looks at all road related incidents that are reported to the police.

When considering the Index, statistics have been generated by analysing the roads that are located within the 500 metre radius around each British school. Figures take into account all incidents regardless of whether they were in school term times or not. They also incorporate both child and adult casualties. The child casualty numbers do not necessarily mean children who belong to that particular school, as they could be residents or children passing through the area. Road Safety Analysis used GIS mapping technology to analyse the roads that are situated within the 500 metre radius around each of the 29,142 UK schools. Official Government statistics from the Department for Transport for 2006-2011 were used to compile this road index'

More information about methodology www.roadsafetyanalysis.co.uk

ED(GW)

Circling Helicopter - 5/9/13

I would like to know why a very noisy helicopter is circling this area continuously for the last 20 minutes? It's horrendous, the noise!

What is going on?..

Scharlie Meeuws

Feeling unwelcome.- 5/9/13

You shouldn't be feeling unwelcome - You said it yourself; the people here are friendly and welcoming. If you look at the last fifty comments, the majority are neutral and for information, and yes there are a few which (I'm guessing you're referring to the ones about new estates) are negative, but every forum has its share of ranters/moaners/one-brick-short-of-a-load jokers and the oops-I-pressed-the-send-button-by-accident posts. That's what actually makes it worth reading. Look upon it as entertainment. Everyone else does.

Bystander

Shocked - 5/9/13

I have to say I was a bit shocked at the flippant use of the term "hermaphrodite" by a previous poster. I appreciate it was meant as a joke but it is never good taste to use a medical condition as an insult.

I thought that such insults were a thing of the past but clearly and sadly not..

Katrina Campbell

Language class - 5/9/13

I would like to know, if there are English courses for German students in Faringdon.

Thanks

G. Kücking

gloriakuecking@web.de

Football course at Faringdon Town FC! - 5/9/13

Following the success of the August course, I am delighted to announce that I will be running another football course during the October half term at Tucker Park!

For more info, please contact Adam Bradley on 07969678164. Alternatively you can email abradley_facaf1@hotmail.co.uk or check the Facebook page for more details! This can be found at www.facebook.com/adambradleyfootball

[Application form attached](#)

Adam Bradley

Feeling unwelcome - 5/9/13

I have recently moved to Faringdon, and very much enjoyed my first few weeks here...the people have been friendly and welcoming and we've liked getting to know the area (although the level of dog fouling here is frankly at a level I've never seen elsewhere and needs to be tackled!). I visited this site to get a better idea of what's going on in and around Faringdon and found the experience depressing. Nearly every comment is negative and judgemental...apart from this comment I'm making now I doubt I'll comment/visit again...as a new resident of the town reading your views makes me feel extremely unwelcome!!

J O'Connor

Re not funny or mature - 5/9/13

Well, I'm very sorry that the hermaphrodite was offended. It was intended as a lighthearted riposte to your remarks, but allow me to explain my post in a less upsetting way. Both "Bert Herman" and "Laura Jones" expressed exactly similar views about new housing estates, and there was something about the style of the posts which led me to believe that a) neither was using their real name and that b) the same individual is behind both names. I expressed neither agreement or otherwise with you. There.

As for being sued for slander, might I suggest that you look up the definition of it?

Bystander

TV repairer - 5/9/13

For TV repairs try Rose TV on Alvescot Road in Carterton.

Colin

Vale turns the corner on housing delivery - 5/9/13

Message from Cllr Matthew Barber

Following the collation and analysis of housing completions, the Vale has now published its annual report on housing delivery, including the pipeline of housing planning application

consents and allocations, which make up the five year housing land supply for the district. You can download and read there report by [clicking this link](#).

The report states that we have now achieved a supply of 3,470 homes deliverable within the next five years. This demonstrates a five year housing land supply against our current housing-need numbers including a five per cent buffer. Unfortunately the Vale has persistently under performed in its housing delivery in the past, so we are currently required to provide a 20 per cent housing buffer (reflecting a 4.4 year housing land supply). This shows we have made significant progress, but unfortunately does not yet mean that local plan policies take priority over the NPPF presumption in favour of residential development.

We are closely monitoring housing planning consents as they are processed and issued after planning committee or planning appeal, as to how they add to our housing land supply. Unfortunately consents are generally granted in outline, leaving the developers with significant work to do before any construction can start. In some cases this can take more than a year.

In addition to this, larger consents will be typically delivered over a number of years, (up to 10 or even 15 in some cases) due to market sales rates, and it is this delivery rate that we are judged upon in terms of whether we can demonstrate a five year land supply.

This lag means that the impact of providing consent for development on our immediate housing land supply may be far lower than the headline number of houses stated in the planning consent.

It is also this consent-to-delivery time-lag and phasing of housing completions over an appropriate site delivery timescale, that means that we now have to make difficult decisions when deciding planning applications, a problem that stems back to a failure to address housing development several years ago.

VWHDC

ED(GW) Last para 'difficult decisions' Given the number of large scale housing applications in the pipeline, I fear what this might mean for Faringdon

Successful Triathlon - 4/9/13

The 1st September saw Faringdon Leisure Centre host another very successful triathlon. The sprint event, ideal for all experience levels, consisted of a 400 meter swim in the pool, 20km cycle to Highworth via Coleshill and a 5km run to Great Coxwell. In total 129 competitors entered the event including those taking part in their first event and experienced tri-athlete's. Faringdon Leisure Centre would like to thank Costcutter for providing refreshments for all participants and all volunteers for all their help with marshalling the event. Without them the event would not have been possible!

If you fancy a challenge then this is the event for you. contact Faringdon Leisure Centre to

register your interest now for next year's event.

Craig Curtis

Very young Litter pickers - 4/9/13

A group of very small people in Faringdon are doing their bit to improve the local environment and hopefully get some of the older members of the community thinking about it too.

The group was started due to two very young people witnessing a group of teenagers leaving piles of rubbish after enjoying a bbq down at the buscot weir. They were so disgusted by the mess they felt they just had to do something about it. Further information will be in the Faringdon Folly Newspaper this month. But for any other young people interested in joining the group please follow of Facebook link below:

<https://www.facebook.com/faringdonlitterpickers>

Mirabelle Mack

Grants for Faringdon's Community Cinema - 4/9/13

Faringdon Town Council is delighted to announce that The Big Lottery fund has granted £10,000 for new equipment at the revived Regent Cinema in the Corn Exchange, Faringdon. Oxfordshire County Councillor, Judith Heathcoat, has also approved a grant of £2,000 from the 'Big Society' Community Fund. In addition Faringdon Town Council will be making a substantial contribution to cover any shortfall needed to purchase good quality equipment. It is hoped that black out blinds for the windows will be purchased and that fundraising will continue to provide more comfortable seating.

The Corn Exchange was originally home to a cinema from 1919 to 1935 until the Faringdon Cinema was built opposite, in Gloucester Street. This was closed and demolished in 1972 meaning that Faringdon's movie goers needed to travel at least 10 miles to visit the cinema. As the modern day Faringdon grows in population the need for entertainment close to home grows with it. Therefore, Faringdon Town Council decided to re-launch The Regent as a Community Cinema in the Corn Exchange, initially as a 6 month pilot scheme starting on 8th November 2012. Town Council staff have managed the pilot cinema; from adhering to licensing and copyright laws to selling tickets and ordering the pop corn! Showings, including *Skyfall* and *Life of Pi*, have been regularly sold out.

Public response to the cinema has been very positive with the friendly atmosphere a real draw. Residents feel confident to attend alone or in groups and the films have attracted an audience of all ages. Faringdon Town Council believes a real need for a permanent cinema has been demonstrated and is very grateful that both the Big Lottery Fund and Cllr. Judith Heathcoat agree. The grants ensure that the not for profit Community Cinema can remain as a valuable service for the people of Faringdon.

The portable equipment the Town Council is hiring during the pilot scheme is costly, time consuming to set up and needs a trained operator. The new equipment, which should be

operational by November 2013, will be easy to set up and use. With the installation of permanent cinema equipment, the Town Council hope that they will be able to show a more diverse range of films more regularly and that the people of Faringdon will use the cinema for their own groups. Faringdon residents, clubs and groups who are interested are encouraged to get in touch on the number below.

The next showing at the Regent Cinema will be an independent film. **Summer in February** screens on Friday 20th September at 7.30pm. The film is an Edwardian period drama based on the early career of artist Sir Alfred Munnings set in Lamorna in Cornwall. The film stars Dominic Cooper (*MAMMA MIA!*), Dan Stevens (*Downton Abbey*) and Emily Browning (*Sucker Punch*).

There is a fully licensed bar, tea, coffee, refreshments, sweets and popcorn available. There will also be an interval. Adult tickets are priced at £4 and children £3. Buy your tickets from Faringdon Community and Tourist Information Centre or call 01367 242191. For more information see www.visitfaringdon.info/regent-cinema

Not funny or mature!! - 4/9/13

I don't think its funny or mature of you to make fun of hermaphrodite like that.

I don't approve of the editor for letting that comment through either. Why are comments that aren't even that insulting not approved because you probably disagree with me, yet someone who agrees with you insults me you let it on ?

In this day and age if your not careful you will be sued for slander, I strongly suggest you take it down. I will defiantly be telling people what a farce this website is.

I used to thought you could have an opinion here but it seems so PC, you can only hold Community approved opinions.

Bert Herman

Ed: Bert I tried contacting you re your previous post- I needed to check something. But it bounced. Do send again with valid contact information. I've been away for a few days- hence the delay in posting this and other posts.

Recommended TV repairer? - 4/9/13

Could anyone recommend a local business that repairs televisions. Thank you.

Alice Randall

News and Views

August 2013

We have some very talented children in Faringdon of all walks of life. - 31/8/13

We should be celebrating these children and supporting them. Talented musicians, artistic skaters, footballers, cricket, tennis players, and many others.

If Faringdon drew all talented children together in a Festival it would be a great day. It's the minority that spoil things for others.

We also have good schools that get good results and young adults are getting into college or uni of their choice.

Faringdon folks need to look further than their front door.

Name supplied

All is not doom and gloom in Faringdon. - 31/8/13

The front page of the Faringdon Folly has a lovely photo of the young boys and girls who attended the summer holiday football club.

The club was managed by Adam Bradley and his worthy crew of helpers. All gave their time to run the club. There are more young people in the town who give something back to help the community and we should concentrate on them and not the hooligan element who always make the news. So thank you Adam, my grandson and great nephew thoroughly enjoyed themselves and it was all down to you.

Old Faringdonian.

Plaque on the Volunteer to remember Arturo Barea - 31/8/13

Read about him on this site: www.faringdon.org/notable-faringdon-people.html. You need to scroll down to the end of the page and look for the pdf.

Ed

Hmmm. Laura Smith...Bert Herman... - 30/8/13

Blaura Smerman? Berla Hermith? I think a new species of hermaphrodite has been discovered.

Bystander

Chocolate labrador - 29/8/13

Just found out our chocolate Labrador made it into the news! I was litter picking and my elderly Labrador was watching me from a distance. One minute he was there, the next he was scooped up and driven past without my noticing. However two girls helped me look for him and later the girls found out he'd been taken to Danetree's. Anyhow the dear old boy was back after his 'adventure' the same night, so all is fine!

Bernadette Disborough

Sponsored Seadog Saunter Sat 7 Sept - 29/8/13

Your local RNLI fundraising branch is holding a charity dog walk 'seadog saunter' a great fun, family day out - please could you share this information – the event really needs local support.

Starting from the Trout Inn (Tadpole Bridge – Buckland) any time from Noon Saunter along the river bank to Rushey Lock and back.

The circuit is only 1.5 miles and is flat so accessible to owners and dogs of all abilities. The Saunter finishes at 3pm so there is plenty of time for lots of sponsored laps.

Winning cups will be presented for the highest sponsorship and the most numbers of laps. Please do come and support us. If you could also raise a little sponsorship that would be great.

For more information about the day or for sponsorship forms contact Denis Pope Secretary Faringdon

RNLI Denis.pope@talktalk.net 01367 241943

Poster re grass and Baptist church - 29/8/13

I tried emailing you to ask for your name, but the email bounced. If you want your comments posted please submit again with a real name or email address- as requested on our contact form

ED(GW)

Consultation - Council Tax Reduction scheme - 29/8/13

Vale of White Horse District Council would like to know whether people think entitlement to council tax support in the Vale should change.

We are proposing a number of changes to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme, formerly known as council tax benefit, from 1 April 2014. To find out whether people agree with these proposals we are holding an eight week public consultation.

Residents, community groups and representative organisations are now being invited to give their views on the proposed changes by completing an online survey. You have been sent this email because you are a member of the Residents'

Panel.

We would be very grateful if you could take part in the consultation. Please visit www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/haveyoursay for more information and a link to the online survey. The consultation closes at 5pm on Friday 18 October.

An independent agency, Alpha Research Limited, has been hired to carry out this consultation, and will process and report on the findings.

Anyone who does not have access to the internet can request a hard copy of the survey by contacting Ben Watson, Finance and Systems Manager, South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils at ben.watson@southandvale.gov.uk or by phone on 01235 540488. If you have any queries regarding Alpha Research or about how to respond to the online survey, please contact Wendy Mitchell at wendym@alpharesearch.co.uk or by phone on 01844 260248.

Hard copies of the survey are also being sent to 1,000 members of the public across the district, including 500 people whose entitlement to support may be affected by the proposed changes.

VWHDC

Vodafone - 28/8/13

Anyone else having issues with Vodafone again?

Name supplied

FOUND: Elderly Chocolate Labrador 28/8/13 - 28/8/13

6pm near Faringdon Medical Centre. Taken to Danetree vets but microchip details out of date. Previously lived in Abingdon.

Please ring them if you think it is your dog 01367 242777

Lorraine Hirst

Tai Chi classes - 28/8/13

tai chi classes at Faringdon infants school Wednesday evening 7 - 8pm. cost £7 per session. soft and gentle way to exercise.

new class starts sept 2013.

call tony on 01235-813857 for details.

re Faringdon - 28/8/13

If "Laura Smith" has never heard of anything like this happening anywhere other than the new estates then she must either be deaf, or have a very short memory.

Bystander

Bert..... - 28/8/13

I can't tell if Bert has lived in Faringdon for a long time or is a newcomer but either way he has a short memory.

Well before the new estates developed we had a local murderer (currently serving life), a local paedophile who received a long jail term but has since died, a young chap stabbed in the head by another local man, a man beaten up very badly, his attacker was local and I understand hasn't been allowed back to the town. All of these crimes were within just a few years and are the ones I remember, there are sure to be more I don't. Sad to dwell on these awful events but Bert needs to take off his rose tinted glasses.

Drugs, driving without insurance/licence/tax, owning an air weapon, nothing new to Faringdon I'm sad to say, or any other town.

There have always been bad people and unfortunately there always will be.

Name Supplied

Hobble Path, Southampton St to Park Road - 28/8/13

Works have started to improve this path - presumably as part of the Tesco development. It is hoped that this will be much wider so that it can be a designated cycle path. I understand though, that any improvement will only go as far as the buildings at the Park Road end.

I'm told the works will last c4 weeks

Name supplied

126 houses, Highworth Road- 28/8/13

Planning

application <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P13/V1653/O> is open for comments until 5/9/13

A number of Westland Road residents have commented. Anyone can do this, wherever they live.

Thames Water say there is a water and sewage issue, Schools are full, Gp services stretched, Police are asking for an Automatic Number Plate recognition camera.

This is the land on the Faze/Youth Club side of the road, and is currently owned by Faringdon Charities. It has been

productive agricultural land for at least 30 years.

Do comment- this will mean that it must go to VWHDC Planning Committee for discussion
Scroll down here to 6/8/13 to see all the proposed developments on the edge of Faringdon.
ED(GW)

Consultation re Council Tax support - 28/8/13

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Hard copies of the survey are also being sent to 1,000 members of the public across the district, including 500 people whose entitlement to support may be affected by the proposed changes.

Thank you for taking part in this consultation.

VWHDC

Faringdon - 28/8/13

http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/yourtown/oxford/10635063.Air_weapon_recovered/

^--- I ever remember things like this happening any where other than the new estates.

Laura Smith

Helicopter culprit - 27/8/13

After causing such a stir it appears that the culprit of the cause for a helicopter has been released on bail!

Taken from the Oxford Mail - Air weapon recovered

10:30am Tuesday 27th August 2013

AN AIR weapon has been recovered after armed police were called to Palmer Road, Faringdon, on Sunday.

A 22-year-old man arrested on suspicion of driving without insurance; driving without a licence; possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear; criminal damage and possession of a class A drug has been released on bail until September 18.

A 17-year-old girl arrested on suspicion of assisting an offender and obstructing a constable has been bailed until September 16. A 30-year-old man was last night still in custody following the incident.

It is also rumoured that this individual has just been released from prison for causing significant harm to a Faringdon local.

Name supplied.

Bank Holidays - 27/8/13

Growing up in Faringdon in the sixties as I did, bank holidays used to be uneventful and truth be told, boring, the sort of days you hoped and prayed to find a patch of wet paint somewhere just so you could sit down and watch it dry for the excitement... not for us the hedonistic lifestyle of wacky baccy,, no, we were more into Spangles and Jimmy Clithero, (neither of these performed at the Follyfest by the way just in case you were wondering...by the way what a great weekend that was...anyway...I digress...) but of course the world had shut down for the duration of the long weekend,so nothing happened.....

Now of course in 2013 we are overloaded with things to do, watch or hear over a bank holiday.

Police helicopters could be seen for several hours over the town centre, I must admit that at first I thought that is was the helicopter ride from the Uffington show but soon realised of course that the two minute duration of the flight just wouldn't have got it this far, the excitement of watching it though made us completely forget to go to the White horse show thus

saving the pair of us £22 for the pleasure of walking around a field to thrill at the static steam engines or to order a brand new car from a local garage which no doubt would have had a stand there.

Then of course there was the gun siege....yes, a gun siege...in Faringdon....in memory the only other time I can recall a gun siege around here was when a farmer friend of mine had forgotten to purchase a licence for his shotgun and the police took it away.....

Then of course for those people lucky enough living in Gloucester, street, you have the wonderful Volunteer pub where on a weekly basis(especially Friday/Saturday nights) screams and arguments and discussions from the tired and emotional customers can be heard into the small hours, to be fair to the pub this is not just a bank holiday event as loud mobile disco music can be heard virtually every weekend, residents of Park road, you should be ashamed to close your windows just for a little dust, we have to close our windows for far more than that....you are so lucky just to have dust!

Of course at our age we look longingly back at the past and get quite dewy eyed at the thought of looking for wet paint to watch.....Mmmmmm..happy days.....P.S...this surly all can't be the fault of Tesco's can it.....?

Name rank and serial number Supplied.

Planning Minister to Wantage constituency - 27/8/13

Over recent months I have received many letters and emails from constituents who are concerned about the process through which decisions on large-scale planning applications are being made. I have taken several opportunities to relay these concerns to Nick Boles MP, the Minister responsible for planning matters, and I am very pleased that Nick has now agreed to visit the constituency to hear about the various issues for himself.

On **Friday 20th September** at **Wantage Civic Hall**, from **1030-12 noon**, I will be chairing a meeting with the Minister for Planning, where constituents will be able to tell him in person about the issues we are facing, and hear from Nick Boles about how the Government is addressing the points raised.

I do hope you are able to come on Friday 20 September and I will ensure that we have a wide range of issues and locations represented.

To ensure there is adequate seating for everyone who would like to attend the meeting, can you please email my secretary, Anne Langley (langleya@parliament.uk) office: 0207 219 6350, to register your interest, so that we can have an idea of how many people are coming.

Hopefully there will be sufficient accommodation for everyone, so advance warning of your attendance would be much appreciated!

I will let you know the final arrangements once parliament returns, next month.

Ed Vaizey MP

Member of Parliament for Wantage and Didcot

re: James this is the link to what happened - 27/8/13

I am sorry to get on my high horse here Bert but I really do take umbrage at your comments "Its interesting that this occurred in one of the New Housing Estates (Folly View to be exact), I think this really points to the estates having a negative effect on Faringdon."

I will have you know that the vast majority of residents at Folly View Park are extremely proud of our estate and have in fact formed a positive residents association that has already been active in ways to improve the area, become part of the Faringdon community and provide events, information and help to residents. There is a good Neighbourhood watch community and the mix of social, private and military actually works quite well.

Anti social behaviour is not tolerated on the estate and any issues are fully examined and dealt with in a professional and well handled fashion. The estate is growing and flourishing and we will not be tarnished by one event that has no correlation with the Estate being built.

You talk absolute rubbish and I welcome you to see the way we have worked well with Bloor homes and the councils to make this Estate a family led area that is safe and harmonious.

How about you stop being negative and look to being part of a positive member of Faringdon?

Yours Rob Perkins

Bert fans - 26/8/13

Having recently moved to Faringdon, bringing my small family along for the ride, I must say, this site is great. My wife and I love reading about everyones tits and tats, and think Burt should be given his own column in a paper to rant in.

He's so funny!

He's either a very genuine grumpy old man in the vein of a Vicar of Dibley character (which would be adorable) or a comedic genius.

Either way we're fans!

Name Supplied

Red Telephone Box - 26/8/13

Curious... Who owns the red telephone box in the market square?, by the butchers. It looks a mess...

If it belongs to BT should the council send complaint to have it removed or renovated?

I imagine however, BT gave up on red boxes long ago and that someone on the council requested it to be kept for a bit of history and character for the town. Nice idea If the council took it on but then who has forgotten to paint it and should the chamber of commerce send a complaint to the council to have it removed or renovated.

Perhaps we could have suggestions for its use and a group in town could take it on. I have seen book swaps, village libraries, art exhibitions in them etc could be tourist info or a green house for the new urban gardening group that started recently...

Name supplied...

Revealing view of Faringdon Society - 26/8/13

Living as we do in the town centre, we have a revealing view of Faringdon society. Unlike many people on here, we know that anti-social behaviour is not limited to any one section of the population. The Lees are not a den of iniquity and there are people living there who are decent, upright, hardworking, and who bring their children up to behave in a proper manner. This is more than can be said for certain anti-social elements living on the "smarter" estates. The drunks we see and hear at all hours of the night are, admittedly, sometimes from the Lees, but also from other areas of town, and therefore more dangerous as they then proceed to drive home. Describing one section of society as "rough" is one generalisation too many.

Carolyn and Geoffrey Williams

Unacceptable Behaviour - 27/8/13

VWHDC Social Housing Policy (document can be found on <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/housing/need-home/choice-based-lettings>)

on Appendix 2 section 1.2 says

1.2 Unacceptable behaviour

An applicant can be ineligible if the local authority is satisfied that an applicant or amember of their household, has been guilty of unacceptable behaviour serious enough

to make them unsuitable to be a tenant and, in the circumstances at the time of the application, the person is still unsuitable to be a tenant by reason of that behaviour.

A three stage test will be applied:

1. Has the applicant or a member of the household been guilty of unacceptablebehaviour?
2. Was the unacceptable behaviour enough to entitle a landlord to obtain a possessionorder?
3. At the time of the application, is the applicant still unsuitable to be a tenant by reason of their behaviour, or the behaviour of a member of their household?

The test can be applied where there is evidence of anti-social behaviour or in cases of serious and persistent rent arrears.

You can report anti social behaviour to Sovereign Housing (owns most of Faringdon's social housing I believe). See <http://www.sovereign.org.uk/for-residents/anti-social-behaviour/> See pdf on <http://www.sovereign.org.uk/about-us/publications/resident-publications/> which says

Possession action (where we take a home back from a resident) may be taken if residents are guilty of serious ASB. This also includes cases where the perpetrator is someone living or staying with other residents.

Perhaps it's time for nearby residents to take some action

Name Supplied

Exciting Faringdon !! - 26/8/13

Well !! Helicopters of various guises once a week, the tones of Folly Fest still ringing in the ears, reenactments of Juliet Bravo (with supporting fire brigade and ambulances) and let it not be said the children of Faringdon are short changed. All reenactments come fully animated with sirens AND flashing lights !! And finally, la Pièce de résistance the Grand Opening of Tesco to help us all have that Perfect Xmas -----C'est plus excitant !!! -

Whatever next ? Perhaps a spot of FIBUA training in the Park Rd area ? 6 Air Assault Brigade dropping in (assuming the RAF have sufficient Hercules Aircraft) ? 42/ 45 Commando dug in acting as enemy ? 3 Royal Horse Artillery & 29 Commando RA providing a supporting barrage from the Ridgeway ? - we're on a roll - can't stop now !!!!!

As a resident of Park Road I could never be persuaded to move June - its far too exciting living here !!

Interesting variety of comments on Every Little Helps - those poised like coiled springs waiting patiently to pounce on those opening offers (it's alleged that dusters and polish have been reduced to near give away prices over the initiation

period - phew - the relief of it all) and then there are those who appear just a tad apprehensive - probably just coming to terms with the excitement of it all, it can reek havoc with the mind.

Well can't WAIT for next weeks exciting installment of Park Rd - never a dull moment !!
Name Supplied

Helicopter over Faringdon on Sunday Aug, 26 2013.- 26/8/13

Have a look at this Oxford Mail Article.

http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/10634147.Armed_police_called_in_at_Faringdon_housing_estate/

Regards,

Raoul van Eijndhoven

James this is the link to what happened - 25/8/13

http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/10634147.Armed_police_called_in_at_Faringdon_housing_estate/

Do people still think Faringdon hasn't got rougher ? Its interesting that this occurred in one of the New Housing Estates (Folly View to be exact), I think this really points to the estates having a negative effect on Faringdon.

Years a go we would of never seen a police helicopter let alone a man with a possible gun. Do we really get these sort of crime in the private housing ? I'm not taring people but I think we need to look at the sort of people likely to buy these houses and what we can do for them.

At the moment Faringdon has little Job opportunities for people and historically estates like the Leys have ended up with people unable to get you to places like Swindon and resorting to crime due to boredom. Do we need more of this ? I fear that this incident today is only the beginning.

I welcome the news below of Ed Vaisey holding a meeting discussing the impact of these large scale planning, I think we need this discussion to help lay these issues to bed. Lets hope they come with open ears and minds. Its a shame that it is held at a time that many people can't make it.

Bert Herman

Helicopter over Faringdon - 25/8/13

Anyone know why the Police Helicopter was hovering over Faringdon ?

James Campbell

Extra recycling - 25/8/13

As mixed recycling bring banks are currently being removed from locations in the district, top recyclers in the Vale are reminded that they can leave extra recycling out beside their green bin.

Last year, Vale residents were named as the top recyclers in England. This occasionally means that they have too much to fit in their big green wheelie bins.

Vale of White Horse District Council is reminding all diligent recyclers in the district that they can leave extra recycling out in an appropriate container next to their green bin every recycling week.

Mixed recycling bins are currently being removed from the bring bank sites across the Vale because fly-tippers misusing the sites meant the recycling was often contaminated so much, it had to be sent to landfill. Leaving excess recycling as side waste is much easier than driving it to a bring bank, so residents are urged to do that instead.

Residents can leave extra recycling out next to their green wheelie bin on recycling week in:

- clear sacks or bags, including carrier bags (as long as waste crews can see that it's recycling inside)
- open cardboard boxes
- the small kerbside recycling boxes we used to use (please note crews cannot take responsibility if these boxes go missing)

Residents should NOT leave recycling out:

- during grey bin week
- in black bin bags (these may be mistaken as landfill waste and won't be collected)

VWHDC

Businesses- 24/8/13

All businesses are there to make profit, no matter whether they're small or large. Some businesses support local events and charities as well as national ones, some do not. This is true of existing businesses in Faringdon- the experience of the FollyFest group seems a case in point.

Sainsbury provided money towards the refurbishment of the Folly Tower. Tesco say they will designate one of their employees as Community Champion for Faringdon, presumably allocating money for local events and community groups. It is yet to be seen how generous their support is.

I guess the profit objective is common to all businesses, whatever their size, but a social or community conscience is not.

Name Supplied

Tesco - 24/8/13

I read this page on an occasional basis and notice there are clearly two sides to the Tesco debate. I'm going to add just a little, and some may think trivial addition to the argument - the time it's taken, and more importantly, the quality of the work by the Tesco workers on the pavements between town and the new store. They've been at it for about 5 weeks now - doing just a little at a time. That in itself was a bit baffling for me. Whilst it didn't especially inconvenience me, I'm sure it made getting along the pavements more challenging for those with pushchairs and those with limited mobility.

That in itself wouldn't have got me on here today. What has has the appalling way that the work has been 'completed'. I have just walked back from town and notice that the workers have reseeded the grass that they have dug up for the new slopes up to the path. I say reseeded, more sprinkled some seed over the work-site! They ground that has been reseeded has been left as it was - totally uneven, with stones, bits of rubble and even the treads from the tyres of the vehicles they originally dug it up with. The seed has merely been sprinkled over the top. It also doesn't look like it's been watered in. If by some miracle it does actually germinate, the grass that's there will be uneven and unsightly. I cannot believe that anyone thinks they've done a satisfactory job.

Appalling work Tesco - you disrupt our pavements for the majority of the summer and you can't even put our green spaces (small that they may be) back to what they were.

Sorry, rant over

Name Supplied

Tesco - 24/8/13

The complaints about Tesco really are "because it's Tesco" I guess, not really about the inconvenience of the building work. If you live along Park Road, surely you don't need to use the pavement on the opposite side to where your house is, there is a perfectly usable pavement on your own side of the street. Any major building work generates dust, and as for not being able to have your windows open, surely the windows at the rear of the property can be opened. Of course Tesco don't 'care' about the community - be realistic - Tesco is a big business, what they care about is 1. their profits, and 2. their profits, end of.

As a resident of Faringdon for several decades, I can assure you that the traffic, noise, vibration and dust down London Street before the by-pass was built far exceeded that presently along Park Road; all the houses there are still standing, and none sustained any damage due to vibration to my knowledge.

Be thankful that we are at last to have a major supermarket in a relatively convenient place, and I bet come Christmas you'll be popping in there to bag all the bargains, and doing your shopping along with all the other nay-sayers when the place is finished.

Relax, you may not like Tesco as a company, but huffing and puffing about trivia wont make a smidgeon of difference - just stress you out. (Unless of course, you just enjoy complaining for complaining's sake...)

Bystander

Tesco - 24/8/13

I wonder if the euphoria surrounding the new Tesco store may be misplaced, we have had these new beginnings in Faringdon before. Let us remember that Tesco are not coming to Faringdon to supply the residents with cheap food, they are coming to make money out of them. As to the promised 150 jobs, we shall see.

In the meantime let us wish the Yacoub family who are long standing Faringdon residents and have served the community well over the years every success with their new Kwiksave venture in London Street.

Dennis Haynes

Tesco and Park Road - 23/8/13

I am also a resident in Park Toad. Why do people keep moaning about Tesco. We have been waiting for this for a long time. If you don't like it move. What's a bit of dust. It cleans. Most of the people I speak to can't wait.

june Mackillop

Tesco - 23/8/13

I'm told that the VWHDC case officer responsible for the Tesco planning application is :

Mark Doodes Telephone: 01235 540519

mark.doodes@southandvale.gov.uk

ED(GW)

Planning Minister to Wantage constituency - 23/8/13

Over recent months I have received many letters and emails from constituents who are concerned about the process through which decisions on large-scale planning applications are being made. I have taken several opportunities to relay these concerns to Nick Boles MP, the Minister responsible for planning matters, and I am very pleased that Nick has now agreed to visit the constituency to hear about the various issues for himself.

On **Friday 20th September** at **Wantage Civic Hall**, from **1030-12 noon**, I will be chairing a meeting with the Minister for Planning, where constituents will be able to tell him in person about the issues we are facing, and hear from Nick Boles about how the Government is addressing the points raised.

I do hope you are able to come on Friday 20 September and I will ensure that we have a wide range of issues and locations represented.

To ensure there is adequate seating for everyone who would like to attend the meeting, can you please email my secretary, Anne Langley (langleya@parliament.uk) office: 0207 219 6350, to register your interest, so that we can have an idea of how many people are coming.

Hopefully there will be sufficient accommodation for everyone, so advance warning of your attendance would be much appreciated!

I will let you know the final arrangements once parliament returns, next month.

Ed Vaizey

Good Luck to Kwiksave - 23/8/13

The old Threshers shop in London St, now Kwiksave, looks good. I haven't considered range and prices, but it's clean and tidy layout and design must only be an improvement for London St. This morning it was good to see quite a few people in the shop and walking down London St with Kwiksave bags. Hopefully it will generate more footfall for the other shops in that part of town.

Local Yokel

Tesco - 23/8/13

I am a resident opposite the Tesco's development on Park Road in Faringdon and I would like to register several small but highly irritating complaints.

First of which is a case of extreme and sustained vibration, my concern is that this could easily have caused damage to mine and other properties in the vicinity.

Next is the sheer volume of concrete dust that the site is causing, while the buildings were being demolished this was completely understandable but since then there is a very large mountain of rubble that spreads the building dust everywhere. It has been very warm over the last few weeks and I cannot have my windows open because my house fills with the building dust.

Next is the closure of the Pavement along the site line. Now I appreciate this may be because of Health and safety but there has been no alternative path provided.

The electrical supply to my house has been cut or disconnected on at least four occasions.

I have also noticed that Tesco's could not make a meeting with the local Chamber of Commerce, once again showing their complete ambivalence to the local community. My neighbours have raised concern with Tesco's themselves and I understand they have yet to have their concerns answered. My worry is that Tesco's, being a very large corporation, will just do what they like and not respond to any local resident concerns. I truly hope that I am wrong and that Tesco's do care about the local community, but they are yet to show any signs of that.

I have sent a copy of my concerns to our local MP and had a response.

As yet no firm response from Tesco's. They have sent me a letter to introduce the Project management team and that is that!

Alistair Hollister

Undesireable Faringdon - 23/8/13

I think it's this post below that demonstrates what I was trying to warn people about the new housing. We could end up with multiple Leys.

Bert Herman

Undesireable place to be - 22/8/13

Another police car (actually 2) and an ambulance down the Leys - hopefully no one is seriously hurt. However this is almost a weekly occurrence. Surely our services have more important jobs to do than be constantly providing a regular service to people who spend their day sat on the pavements drinking, smoking (illegal) substances, and generally causing a nuisance? The area within and behind the Leys which is a main walkway to town is a disgrace - litter, weeds, smell of dog and car faeces and ruin, empty cans, graffiti and people shouting in the street. I have no option to live where I do but we are a hard working family with standards and want to be proud of where we live - I am ashamed to bring people here because a minority have turned it into a non-desireable place to be. And guess what? I would be very lucky to find a buyer for my home because of them - that's if I could afford to move after paying my mortgage so i dont need social housing, Childcare fees so I can work and a whole heap of tax for the priviledge of seeing emergency services at the Leys weekly! Get a grip Faringdon - this place is a disgrace.

Name supplied.

Re Mirabelle Mack - 22/8/13

Wonderful post, very well written x

Emma Riddle

Regarding the proposed developments in Faringdon. - 21/8/13

If you are concerned with the number and size of the developments being proposed around the town currently, perhaps a letter to your local MP would be better placed than a rant on here.

My understanding is that developments are each looked at on an individual basis and dealt with as such. Planning does not look at the global effect on a whole town and it's infrastructure etc. If planning applications are submitted simultaneously. Only their individual merits and faults can be assessed on a case-by-case basis. In my view, if that is true, it is a huge error in the system that could mean some horrible problems emerging in the next decade or so.

I'm not sure who to ask that would know in detail if this is strictly true. But it might be worth questioning before these developers nearly double the size of the town?

Can anyone answer the question with any certainty?

Melissa baker

My Role in Faringdon - 21/8/13

Following three free one-hour workshops on social media and strategy run by local experts, Mary Thomas of Concise Training and Gail Gibson of True Expressions on Tuesdays throughout July. I have been thinking long and hard about the purpose of my role in Faringdon. Some simple questions that were raised during the workshops that have encouraged me to come to some conclusions about the purpose of my role and what is required to make it successful.

1) What am I trying to achieve?

- Short term.
- To successfully complete ten projects set by the Faringdon Joint Economic Forum. To prove my ability to professionally complete a number of defined tasks in a specified time frame.
- To build genuine, strong and lasting relationships / partnerships with local business and residents. To help understand the building blocks of the town and how it works and / or doesn't work at present.
- To identify suitable projects specifically relevant to Faringdon town to have definable impact and be truly sustainable, through local involvement.
- Medium term.
- To identify appropriate projects to help encourage a sense of community and ownership of the town by its residents and businesses.
- To help Faringdon as a town fulfill its full potential. By nurturing the strong sense of community that already exists and finding ways to increase that to engage new residents to the town. To help settle people in and make them feel part of somewhere with a positive outlook.

- Long term.
- To be proud of the town that I live in. To invite friends and family to stay and watch them leave wanting to stay.
- To see projects that I have had some involvement in grow and succeed due to local people finding inspiration in them and making them into their own success stories.

2) Who is it for?

- Businesses in Faringdon – to have increased footfall and better profits. Not due to inflated prices, but due to increased sales and loyalty from the local residents and visitors to the town. Due to the products, services and the overall experience that they provide.
- Residents of Faringdon – to have better services and amenities available to enjoy. To encourage a sense of community and belonging in the town. To make people want to use the local businesses because they are better than the alternatives in the surrounding towns and villages.

3) Why am I doing it?

- Because I fell in love with Faringdon before I even moved here. As much as I am very frightened by all of the proposed changes to the town. I think that with some positive attitudes and hard work it is possible to retain our beautiful, charming, quaint town and grow into something more modern and engaging for future generations.
- I want my cake and eat it. I want to be able to walk into town regularly to shop and buy food, gifts and services from businesses that I recognize and feel engaged with. Independent businesses that are run by honest people who want to offer something so much more than just a shrug and a grunt in lieu of good service.
- No longer is it enough to just stock shelves with nice products. In an increasingly busy and hectic world, everyone wants to be treated as an individual.
- Because a supermarket will never provide me with the quality of local produce that the markets do, or the friendly hello and banter that makes me smile. Returning home with heavy bags laden with produce but light on my feet feeling good for the experience that I have just had, the personal service and recognition of being an individual.
- The quirky and fun birthday gifts that I would go mad just trying to find, battling through the sharp elbowed, over enthusiastic customers in larger town or cities. But that I have the pleasure of picking up and feeling unlike and online purchase, knowing that it is just the right thing to bring a smile to a friend or family member.
- But I also want convenience and value for money. I don't want to have to drive Swindon or Oxford or Witney to go to a reasonably priced supermarket for the extras that the town does not supply within my price bracket.
- So with the increase in the size of the town, if we work hard and encourage the right businesses in and have small local voluntary groups working towards building better community venues and amenities (examples: The pump house project and skate park) can we stay in Faringdon? Can we work and live and shop and be entertained in a small (getting medium) sized market town?
- Personally I think we can. It doesn't mean that I will never want to leave the town. As variety is the spice of life and I love visiting friends and family around the country. I also like other towns in Oxfordshire, Wiltshire, Gloucestershire and Berkshire. Driving out to visit the amenities, parks and provisions that they have makes me grateful to live in such a wonderful location. On the border of four counties each with their own identities and attributes.
- If you ask me Faringdon is already a wonderful place to live. Sometimes you just need to allow yourself to see the wood for the trees and remember the bits that you really do like about a place instead of constantly dwelling on the bits you don't like. Perhaps its even time to get active and doing something positive to change those bits that you don't like. Get together with some like-minded people and see what a positive difference you can make. If you want something to happen, find out if it's possible and go and do it. Good luck with your efforts!

Mirabelle Mack

Young ballet star from Faringdon - 20/8/13

The dreams of a young up-and-coming ballet star have come true. Kirstie (10) was selected at an audition in May from over 250 young hopefuls. She will appear in an electrifying adaptation of Swan Lake at the New Theatre in Oxford, for 3 performances from 20 – 21st September with English Youth Ballet (EYB). The young dancers in the cast will dance alongside EYB's stunning international principal artists in a professional production. They will gain an insight into what life is like as a professional ballet dancer.

The young cast are working with the EYB's principal dancers at The Oxford Academy in a 10-day intensive rehearsal process. EYB is a professional ballet company and each rehearsal day commences with company being split into 3 groups for company ballet class warm ups. The rehearsal day continues with a complex timetable of different rehearsals running simultaneously in 3 studios at the Academy. The ballet is gradually pieced together like a complex jigsaw. At the end of each rehearsal day the whole company always gathers together in the main studio to show what has been learnt

that day. British principal ballerina, Julianne Rice Oxley, says *"there is such a wonderful team spirit in the young company."*

Julianne Rice Oxley speaks very highly of the standard of the young dancers: *"The young dancers we are working with in Oxford have great energy and attack. Working in a professional environment gives the students a unique insight into life in a ballet company. Kirstie is so lucky – I wish there had been something like EYB when I was training! I love my job! I feel very privileged to be a principal with EYB as I get to work with some of the UK's most talented young dancers. I find them incredibly inspiring!"*

Ben Garner

Thames Valley Neighbourhood Policing - 20/8/13

Would you like to know more about your local policing team? Why not visit your local neighbourhood policing team's page. Read about your local neighbourhood priorities, access your team's monthly update and even have a look at the faces of your team's members.

Just visit: <http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/yournh/yournh-tvp-pol-area/yournh-nh-listnh.htm>

Tesco's development - 20/8/13

Thank you Ed, for the link to the Tesco Plan. The landscaping looks perfectly clear to me. Although I have never been a great fan of the Tesco idea, I have no doubt they will make a good a job of it as they can. Why anyone who doesn't even live at that end of the town should feel so 'very concerned' I can't imagine. What does he/she expect? fully mature English oaks? Virtually anything will look better than the previous big shed with a strip of dog-turdy grass alongside it.

Name Supplied

Tesco's development - 20/8/13

Last week I wrote to the VoWH DC planning department asking them to investigate the development on Park Road. The plans quite clearly show landscaping including trees along the road, presumably to avoid an eyesore and alleviate some of the inevitable increase in noise/light pollution to local residents. Can't really see where they're going to fit these, unless they're thinking 'Bonsai'.

Not so much as a squeak of of the Council - not even an automatic courtesy email.

Thankfully I don't live at this end of town, but if I did I'd be very concerned. Has anyone else commented to the planning department? Once it's up, there's no way the Council will 'waste' taxpayers money fighting the might of a multinational in the courts.

Name supplied

ED(GW) Have a look at

http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/dynamic_serve.jsp?ID=177958682&CODE=AB1B04AA099DBE4F4D4A7CA419BFA16 it certainly looks as if there should be trees along the boundary

Water and sewage issues - 19/8/13

I hear a fair few people talk about water pressure issues and sewage issues- smells, backing up. With the possibility of many more houses in Faringdon it is important that Thames Water and VWHDC planners are aware of these.

Do report any problems:

To Thames Water via an online for: <https://customerhelp.thameswater.co.uk/app/ask> or phone them on 0845 9200 800

To VWHDC planners: planning@whitehorsedc.gov.uk 01235 540347

They'll have no excuse for not knowing!

Ed(GW)

Faringdon and District NCT Nearly New Sale - 19/8/13

Sunday 15th September 2013 3:15pm-4:00pm FARINGDON LEISURE CENTRE, SN7 7LB

Would you like to SELL ITEMS and/or HELP AT THE SALE or JUST SHOP?

JUST SHOPPING

Our next sale is on SUNDAY 15th SEPTEMBER at THE LEISURE CENTRE, Faringdon, SN7 7LB.

3:15pm-4:00pm (3:00pm entry for NCT members and heavily pregnant ladies).

£1 adult admission in aid of NCT charity (801395)

Please note that no buyer's pushchairs will be allowed into the venue during the sale.

SELLING ITEMS

If you are interested in selling items at this sale then please download a seller's pack from our website, just go to: www.nct.org.uk/faringdon and scroll to the bottom, the link will be there on the right hand side. There's no need to register with us. If you have difficulties downloading the documents then please email us back and we'll be happy to email the pack to you.

New for 2013:

You can now sell mattresses if they have a removable waterproof cover.

HELPING AT THE SALE

Finally, we rely on volunteers to make this sale a success. If you would like to help on the day or to find out more, please click in the box below and update your profile by changing "interested in volunteering" to 'yes'. We will send out SIGN UP email shortly to those who have said 'yes'.

160 homes in Abingdon - 19/8/13

Vale has hands tied over Drayton Road decision Having taken the highest level of legal advice, the Vale of White Horse District Council has reluctantly announced it is unable to challenge the appeal decision on the planning application for 160 homes on Drayton Road in Abingdon.

The council originally rejected the planning application by developers primarily on the basis that it would cause unacceptable levels of congestion in an area that already struggles with traffic.

The developers appealed the decision and in July, a planning inspector overturned the Vale's decision and approved the application, and included a condition that two new pedestrian crossings must be put in place to alleviate traffic concerns. The district council immediately sought legal advice as to whether it had grounds to take the decision to a judicial review. The legal advice came from two barristers, including Mark Lowe QC who is widely regarded in both the legal and planning professions as one of the leading QCs in the country on planning matters. The legal advice from both barristers made it very clear that there are no grounds on which the council could issue a legal challenge to the inspector's decision.

Cllr Matthew Barber, leader of the Vale of White Horse District Council, said: "Sadly, we've exhausted all of our options and it looks like we have no more legal avenues we can follow. It's enormously frustrating but the only way we could have challenged the decision would have been if the planning inspector's decision was legally unsound. We are no longer able to challenge on the basis that the development is essentially unsuitable in planning terms. We will now have to rely on the condition imposed by the planning inspector that a satisfactory transport solution must be found and implemented before any house building takes place"

"We fought this application throughout and have now obtained expert advice that we have no grounds on which to challenge the decision through the courts. If we had gone ahead, it is extremely unlikely that we could have succeeded - we can't waste tax payers' money chasing a lost cause." The six week deadline for anybody to mount a challenge to the appeal decision is Thursday 22 August.

This doesn't mean house building can begin any time soon. The developers cannot proceed with the new housing on Drayton Road until Oxfordshire County Council have confirmed that the highway improvements will take place. Before they can be approved, the county council must first conduct a public consultation in which views of the local community and residents will have to be taken into account.

VWHDC

ED(GW) This could be good news for places like Faringdon. One of the reasons VWHDC need more houses in the district is because they have said that no further buiklding in Abingdon is possible becasue of traffic issues.Hopefully these 260 houses will help them reach their perceived government quota.

Burlesque & Dinner @ The Bobbin Bistro, Bromsgrove, Faringdon.- 19/8/13

We're now taking bookings for our 3rd Burlesque Dinner (31st August) starring two performers all the way from Sunny Cardiff - Miss Tickety Boo and Primrose Proper.

Join us in our late summer event, stick a feather in your hair and kick your heels to this night out, in our great little town, in one of our most quirky venues.

Rest assured this event is tasteful, funny, elegant and entertaining with a regular audience aged between 25 and 80!

This is a two course dinner including a welcome drink of our latest seasonal Blackberry Royale cocktail or Prosecco for £30 each including 4 acts.

To book, please call 01367 240578 or email book@bobbin-bistro.co.uk

See you soon

Mel Lane

The Bobbin Bistro

More houses in Faringdon - 18/8/13

The thing is, they haven't demonstrated any plan for how they think they can get Faringdon to cope with the new houses when they claim it can.

I don't understand why they can't give us a better idea. I also disagree with the way people are accusing others of living in the past. Sometimes people just don't like the future being given to them. I think the housing could be better designed and I think would only be sustainable if a school was built as well as a big commercial lot for more shops :) rather than the pathetic 1 they are suggesting. I think its disgusting how there is derilic construction sites they could use for other buildings or shops.

Lasty I don't think building more houses will fix the housing crisis as a young person with a family in the north. I am well aware that there are tonnes of house but they usually fall into one of three categories,

- 1) Priced too high by a certain company, that doesn't reflect the current demand / supply chain. Building houses definatly won't fix this.
- 2) Everyone wants to live in the south, again there will come a point where this will become unefesiable, I know for a fact up north there are loads of empty houses.
- 3) Alot of the houses don't seem to live up to peoples expectations, when I am told a house has a garden I expect a small plot of green land to plant flowers and when I am told I have a bedroom I expect to fit a bed and a wardrobe in. I have been told the latest houses, you would struggle to fit any more than a bed in and if your lucky your garden may consist of a whopping 3 plant pots.

Is it any wonder people dont buy these house and then complain there aren't any houses.

For what ever reason, companies have decided its okay to sell us terrible houses for silly prices and I fail to see how building more will help when I think the industry as a whole isnt doing a good job.

To me its less of a housing problem and more of a Logistics Issue. I think Faringdonians have a right to complain against this if they wish. I think it is very sad that we should lose our belvoed countryside for some poorly planned houses that at worst may not sell due to poor design and at best may attract a large amount of population which like it or not will make crime worse in the area (And like the people before me have said Faringdon is already getting a reputation for getting rougher)

Laura Jones

02 SIGNAL- 18/8/13

I have just been on to 02 to try and get compensation for the time we were without a signal and they informed me that there has never been a problem. They have no record of it whatsoever. We all must have imagined it then!!! After I complained about this they did give me a refund of £5 as a gesture of goodwill but only because it was on my notes that I had informed them of the problem!

Suzy

Lost photos- clutching at straws - 17/8/13

I had a ring binder of old Faringdon photos- collected over many years. Now I can't find it in my house. I have a vague recollection that I lent it to someone. Was it you?

If yes, please get in touch

Thankyou

ED(GW)

Mats your lot! – campaign reminds drinkers about the risks of behaving anti-socially - 17/8/13

A new campaign reminding pub goers of the risks if they behave in an anti-social manner has been launched this month. The 'Summer Socialising, Social Seclusion' campaign will see beer mats and posters distributed to pubs throughout South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse that have signed up to the Nightsafe scheme. The beer mats will act as a reminder to drinkers that behaving anti-socially could result in them being banned from local pubs and town centres, potentially running the risk of them spending a summer alone while others enjoy themselves.

Cllr Bill Service, Cabinet Member for Community Safety at South Oxfordshire District Council, said: "we are continuing to

work together with police and our local pubs to promote our market towns as safe and enjoyable places to spend time. The vast majority of drinkers go to the pub to enjoy themselves and are a big part of the local community. However there will always be one or two who may cause issues for other people, so seeing a quick reminder as they finish their drink may prompt them to think again.”

Cllr Mathew Barber, Leader of Vale of White Horse District Council, said: “Although anti-social behaviour is not a major issue in the Vale, when it does happen it can be quite alarming for other drinkers and especially local residents. Those whose behaviour takes a turn for the worse after a few drinks should be aware of the consequences, including possibility of not being able to go drinking with their friends in the future.”

The ‘Summer Socialising, Social Seclusion’ campaign will reinforce the aim of the Nightsafe to reassure people that disorderly behaviour is not acceptable in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse.

For more information about the Nightsafe campaign see (For south) <http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/nightsafe> (For Vale) <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/nightsafe>

Donation to Folly Fest - 17/8/13

How pleasing that the Volunteer has made a contribution, even though, it seems, they were not one of the businesses who benefited from FollyFest a great deal, if at all. A fine example of supporting activities in the Community. I shall view this pub in a new light from now.

I don't know what the profitability of beer/lager is but my guess is that £200 represents fewer than 200 pints, and there were hundreds of people in the square on the Friday and Saturday evenings buying drinks. So come on Market Square bars; do the honourable thing.

I suspect that the coffee and food businesses did pretty well too, though their sales probably didn't contribute to the huge cost of rubbish collection. Don't know what the cost of the road closure was- maybe they'd like to contribute to that.

So much volunteer effort goes into events such as this. It would be great if raising the money needed was less hard work. Name Supplied

Davenports- a new Faringdon Business - 17/8/13

Davenports Accountancy

Payroll services, day to day bookkeeping and end of year accounts for Ltd companies, LLPs, Sole Traders and Partnerships

August offer: FREE 45 minute financial health check meeting with our experienced Accountants and Business Mentors.

We will look over your accounts, finances and business framework to help you to get the most out of your business.

14 Market Place, Faringdon, SN7 7HP

01367 241903

Email: accounts@davenportsaccountancy.co.uk

Website: www.davenportsaccountancy.co.uk

Davenports Business Centre

The Davenports Business Centre is the new hub in Faringdon, for all your business needs, all under one roof.

Regular offer: Completely FREE use of our meeting room to local groups and businesses from across Faringdon

Email: info@davenportsbusinesscentre.co.uk

Website: www.davenportsbusinesscentre.co.uk

Davenports Printers

Let Davenports Printers take care of absolutely all of your printing needs. You name it, we can print it!

August offer: £5 off your first order of business cards. Our experienced design and printing team can produce the highest quality, made to order business cards and graphics to really sell your business.

Email: website@davenportsmedia.co.uk

Website: printing.davenportsmedia.co.uk

Davenports Media

Help with the branding and image of your business, including graphics, website design and hosting, printing, social media and much more

August offer: £50 off your first website. Our experienced graphics and web designers can create a fantastic bespoke website for you. Choose from one of the packages that we offer on our website and tailor your bundle to your exact

needs.

Email: website@davenportmedia.co.uk

Website: www.davenportmedia.co.uk

Fibre optic broadband - top of Faringdon - 16/8/13

If anyone is interested, I found out when the fibre optic broadband service (FTTC) will be available to the top part of Faringdon - under the folly - from cabinet P6. You may have seen recent works around the green cabinets. This is what I received from Openreach today:

Thank you for your enquiry about fibre broadband at SSFGN 6. There was a slight delay due to the cabinet requiring extra 'earth' bonding to satisfy the power safety certification. However, the project manager released the cabinet to be tested and commissioned yesterday. If all goes successfully, we would expect the cabinet to be ready for service in two to three weeks' time.

Hurrah! faster broadband is nearly here - essential for anyone who works from home, especially in IT related businesses.
Paul Gale

Volunteer Inn donation to Folly Fest - 16/8/13

Today, we found on our bank statement that The Volunteer Pub has donated £200 in donation to FollyFest - presumably as a contribution towards the £1200 the committee had to pay out to clear and dispose of the litter from the Market Place during FollyFest.

This kind action from a pub which frankly had to work very hard to maintain their customer base over the weekend which saw us place the main focus of the events in the Square and away from them is frankly, humbling. Virtually none of the rubbish can be attributed to them so this makes their donation all the more generous and community minded.

This pub may not be to everyone's taste but frankly, this donation sets them apart. Any gesture of a similar nature by pubs IN the Market Place would be very gratefully received too.

Good on you, Dave and the Volunteer. Much appreciated.

Mel Lane

O2 is back - 16/8/13

Finally the O2 signal is back! I had a couple of days with same problem in Milton Park end of last week. Just chatted O2 advisor and received compensation for the time I've been without signal! Excellent!

Name supplied

Found: Friday 16 August 2013 14.45 approx. - 16/8/13

Yale type house key, with Mickey Mouse metal fob.

Reported to police. Will be taken to Faringdon Police Station on Tuesday 20 August, unless owner has contacted me first one:

01367 240670

Name supplied

O2 mast in Faringdon - 16/8/13

The O2 mast in Faringdon is up and running again.

If you are an O2, Tesco or GiffGaff mobile phone user and you have had no signal for the last 6 days and 19 hours, you should contact your provider for compensation.

One O2 customer received a 1 week refund on his/her O2 contract.

Raoul van Eijndhoven

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

O2: - 16/8/13

I've been getting texts from O2 as well about discounts and codes for this and that. It's the only thing I have been getting for the last week!!!! And it's all very well them telling us to download this, that and the other so we can use the service, but some of us don't actually have smart phones (believe it or not....). I am waiting for 5 pm today when it is all supposed to be fixed - but I shan't hold my breath..... And why are there 200 engineers working on the problem if they are just waiting for a part??? Sounds a bit like "How many engineers does it take to change a light bulb....."

Charmian Martin

Faringdon Housing - 16/8/13

"Expressing a view about the overcrowding of Classrooms and Dr's surgery does not make us bigoted, it means we are concerned and worried for the future of Faringdon.

Old Faringdonian"

I'm only too aware how Faringdon is struggling with the increase in housing as my 4 year very nearly had to be taxied to school in Shrivenham come September. We also struggle to get doctor and dental appointments.%

Housing Developments- what Faringdon could look like- 6/8/13

I have been sent this picture of all (Is it all?) the possible housing developments in the pipeline- an additional 1000 houses in addition to the 400+ already built on Folly Park View.

Poor Faringdon- it will be ruined- in my view!



ED(GW)

Highworth road Planning application - 6/8/13

This is not Humpty Hill - it's the site opposite, behind the youth club. So that's another 126 houses to add to the list!

Folly Man

ED(GW) THANKYOU

Highworth road Planning application - 6/8/13

The 'Humpty Hill' development application has now been registered. Once an officer has been assigned it will be possible to comment. Outline planning permission for 126 houses is sought.

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P13/V1653/O>

It is due to be decided by September 17th

ED(GW)

Cat has disappeared - 5/8/13

Beloved neighbourhood cat disappeared. Normally seen in the meadowbank area. Black cat going by the name of Thomas. 18 year old black cat. Slim in nature, adorable and loving. Has arthritis so looks bony, no collar.

If anyone has seen him please let us know. Thank you!

Nicky Duester

What a great weekend. - 5/8/13

It was great to see the festival back where it belongs in the Town Centre and at the heart of our community. And to see a well run and organised event which was enjoyed by everyone I spoke to. Like a lot of these events they are run by volunteers who have worked very hard over months of planning and preparation which was evident in the way that everything appeared to come together.

So a huge thank you to everyone involved, the bands and acts who entertained us, and the stall holders who fed and watered us, and those with products to sell and charities to support, Thank you, just let us know when next year's event is planned.

Joe Cilia

The Hum - 5/8/13

I hear that the Hum has returned again around Faringdon. Kept us awake till 3am this morning. Is it RAF Brize Norton, soak testing aircraft or is it coming from the wind Farm.

Regards Mark

FollyFest - 5/8/13

I made it to FollyFest all three days of the event and I was thoroughly impressed on each visit. Everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves, the music was great and not too loud, local businesses saw increased trade (of those I spoke to), and the weather mostly behaved itself. Drinks were fairly priced and the selection of food was outstanding!

A big thanks to Mel Lane and the entire FollyFest committee (every one of whom worked so hard so we could all enjoy ourselves!) for their sterling efforts in organising this excellent Faringdon-based event, and for bringing it back to the town centre again this year.

Grant Womack

Can we talk about the good stuff now? - 5/8/13

After weeks of worry whether there would be clashes in the street, as well as clashes on the music stages, I for one thought that the events in the Town Centre this weekend were a demonstration of how much all of us in Faringdon love being a part of our community. Thousands of us turned out from the very old, to the tiny young, with two legs and four. I personally know how hard the organisers worked to ensure it ran smoothly (yes, I will confess to being a yellow shirt wearer), but I write this message personally, as a member of a Town that knows how to party!

I do believe that everyone who attended the festival feel that it belongs in the Market Square and I also hope that the disruption caused to those that are impacted was as minimal as it could be. Let the strong community spirit continue for as long as possible!!

London Street Gez

FollyFest Churchyard Update - Monday @ 08.30 - 5/8/13

Good morning Faringdon! After a good night's sleep, the whole world looks different...After Lizzy Womack went straight down to the church last night and cleared away a whole bin liner of rubbish, Teresa Reynolds got up very early and went down to see if anything else was around but apart from a few bits, all was clear. So, please stand down all your lovely offers of help this morning and after work and bask in the warm glow of this new found community spirit. Let's work together to keep it going for next year.

Bins are being collected today but we thought we'd keep the bunting in place for a few weeks as a reminder of the fabulous weekend and also what people can achieve through working together.

Big love Faringdon! Let none whine no more and say "...just typical Faringdon..." - look what we can achieve!

Have a great week . Mel Lane

Sunday Evening 4th August 2013 - 4/8/13

It is with complete dismay that I find myself typing this. After a whole weekend at FollyFest of picking up litter and mess, we find that the churchyard at All Saints is once again full of rubbish chucked there by young people attending FollyFest. This morning, one of the Marshals removed more broken glass from there than from anywhere else. Apart from being disrespectful to the dead buried there, this is a central location in the heart of our community. Most of us are hatched, matched and dispatched from there so it deserves our respect. After a full ten months of working on this event, tomorrow morning from 10am I will be there removing rubbish, glass and cans and ask you all, if you can spare any time at all, help me return it to a tidy state.

Yours...Mel

Cost of Pimms - 4/8/13

I would love to know where in London you can get a jug of pimms for £5-£6???? All bars/restaurants make a mark up on drink, and to be honest, £12 is nothing compared to London prices, at an average of £11-£20 for a jug of pimms! Unless you go into Wetherspoons or a Hungry horse....always classy establishments.....you will never pay a lot less than that for a jug of pimms!!!! As for wine prices, i would rather pay a little more, and know i wasn't drinking a bottle of pure chemicals!! I have never been in The Portwell bar, nor do i have any affiliation with them whatsoever, but i felt this needed to be said. If you can get it so cheap at home, then maybe that is the best place to have it, rather than complaining about someone else making their living!!!!

Name supplied

Thankyou everyone - 4/8/13

As a band performing on the M.A.D.D stage just last night, I'd personally like to thank everyone who stuck around and enjoyed the music that we and others had to offer. As I'm sure the rest of our band "The Damned and The Dirty" would as well.

Good luck to all the bands we personally know for today!

Big thank you again to Sam Prince and all the organisers, including the folly folk for hosting such events for local live bands.

Please continue your support in the future and help carry forward our countries culture for live music.

P.s. Glad our stage held out! (All Ears Avow) :P

-TDATD-

Mike

Schools getting Rougher - 4/8/13

Schools and FCC have in the passed had a good reputation for behaviour. With schools and FCC getting bigger the teachers are pushed to the limit.

If schools are getting rougher this is down to Parenting. If parents lay down boundaries in the home and in social areas children would be better behaved at schools.

Children/ teenagers/ young adults have no respect at all for those that are trying to teach them.

Name supplied

Cost of Pimms at Portwell Bar - 4/8/13

The cost of jug of Pimms £12 ridiculas price. Many places even London only charge £5 to £6. Why is it that Portwell Bar think they can charge ridiculas prices.

Wine by the bottle 3 times the cost. A £6.99 bottle cost £25 in Portwell Bar.

Name withheld

Faringdon - 3/8/13

I don't know if other people have heard the same as me. But I have been hearing reports that the recent development of Faringdon is having a negative affect.

I've have been told that the new batch of Infant School Children are Much Rougher.

People who don't live in the town but visit or work near it are claiming it used to be nice but is getting more rough. People are even complaining that the new Youth Centre is causing issues with youths, with wearing non visible clothing on a dark patch of road, walking in the centre of the road and almost getting hit. With the new development it is only going to get worse. As a town trying so hard to improve its image with festivals and other such things, it seems such a shame it seems our image is going the opposite direction.
Bert Herman

FollyFest - 3/8/13

Isn't it a pity that a tiny minority small-minded people who hide behind anonymous jibes try to put bizarre spin on what is turning out to be a great weekend. Yes we have been monitoring the volume from The Crown stage (as promised) and it is not conflicting with the main stage at all. There have been some great acts on both stages and people are enjoying themselves.

Yes we are supplying music on Sunday evening - nothing unusual in that really so why even comment?

For goodness sake stop the petty politics and just get on with enjoying the weekend. or if you're brave enough come and introduce yourselves!

Michael Sage

General Manager - The Old Crown Coaching Inn

Apologies to Luke Wride - 3/8/13

Please accept my apologies - my tongue-in-cheek query about the potential longevity of your band vs that of Bob Dylan was just that. It was not driven by anger, nor was it an attempt to belittle or insult you or any other band performing this weekend. Nor do I engage in the 'politics' that have fuelled much of the recent debate on this site.

Miss Anon

(not Mr - not all Bob Dylan fans are fusty, beardy, jumper-wearing old duffers!)

Launch of Faringdon Free Food - 2/8/13

"If you eat, you're in!" That's the motto of *guerrilla gardening* groups springing up in towns around the UK to promote local food growing, healthy eating, and ecological sustainability.

Faringdon Free Food is one such group, planning to grow interesting food in unexpected places throughout the town.

"We will be planting herb gardens in Faringdon Market Place, fruit trees along verges, and raised vegetable and salad beds wherever we can", says Albania Grosso, one of the trustees of **Faringdon Free Food**. *"We encourage everyone in Faringdon to get involved, whatever their age and whether or not they currently know anything about food and how it's grown."*

The fruit, salad, and vegetables produced from **Faringdon Free Food** plantings will be available to everyone, completely free. *"Our vision is of a town in which hundreds of trees blossom every spring, fruits ripen during the summer, and there is an abundance of beautiful produce for residents and visitors to harvest and share in the autumn"*, says Albania.

Faringdon Free Food will be officially launched during the **FollyFest** with a short presentation at 1.30pm on 3rd August at the Old Theatre, Swan Lane. This will be followed by a fun free-food planting session of herbs and strawberries in the town centre for adults and children.

If you are interested in discovering more about **Faringdon Free Food** then go to the website at faringdonfreefood.org

Black Hats -Withdraw from M.A.D.D stage - 2/8/13

IMPORTANT NOTICE : Due to unforeseen circumstances Black Hats will not be performing this evening in Faringdon.

Apologies to anyone who wanted to see us

Name Supplied

FollyFest at last - 2/8/13

Having just wandered through the market place, everything seems to be coming together with an impressive stage in the centre. So it's disappointing to see that the Crown stage has been sited so that it points directly out through the courtyard entrance, the doors of which I understand will remain open for the weekend. We can only hope that the manager of the Crown sticks to his promise (see below) that if "the music from the courtyard stage is affecting the main stage all they have to do is tell me and I will have it turned down". I think he's going to be busy.

One final observation; the FollyFest programme finishes on Sunday at 6:00pm in deference to town centre residents. I see that the Crown will continue with live music until 11:30pm. I hope people will remember this when they reach for the phone on Sunday evening.

I hope everybody is able to have a very happy and enjoyable weekend. Best of luck to all the bands and performers and many thanks to the organisers of FollyFest for all their hard work in making this happen.

Folly Man

Dear name supplied - Vooz - 2/8/13

The comments on his site are not aimed at you and your band(s). Unfortunately you got involved in some politics.

Julie Farmer

Vodafone again - 2/8/13

After hours spent ringing Vodafone to sort out the network issues I have contacted BBC watchdog today to see if they can help. If anyone has any other ideas for people to contact please let us know.

I have spoken to Vodafone so many times I will soon be on first name terms with the network guys. If anyone else has chance, it would be worth putting in a complaint too and see if we can get something done about it. There have been cases where people are released from the phone contract for lack of service at their home address.

So far I have been told there is no fault, no-one has reported it, there is a guy there right now fixing it which has always been complete lies. I have even walked to the transmitter to check. I've had a read through and I can see there are a lot of other people here just as annoyed as me.

Ashley Lakey

The Vooz withdraw from the M.A.D.D stage - 2/8/13

Due to unforeseen circumstances The Vooz have to withdraw from the gig this evening at the Crown. This is due to personal circumstances, rather than the issues with the event itself.

However, it is concerning that people were under the impression that this is going to be a folk event. We are a loud rock band, so there may have been a problem in regard to the noise levels.

Please, if any members of the local community have issues with the event or the bands playing, contact us directly rather than discussing us on forum. We are not obtrusive rock stars, we all raise money for local charities through gigging and we don't want to cause conflicting opinions.

I am absolutley mortified that bands such as Nudybornque and Skyburnsred have recieved bad press through this forum, they are excellent musicians as well as people.

Name Supplied

WWII Military vehicles in Faringdon on Sunday 11th August. - 2/8/13

North Oxfordshire and Cotswolds Branch of the Military Vehicle Trust www.oxcot-mvt.org have arranged a private visit to the Folly tower and over 20 of their vehicles will be in town. At about 11.15am they will arrive along the Radcot Road, then travel through the Market Place and London Street to park in Stanford Road, where they will be happy for the public to have a look at the vehicles.

[The attached article was written by Bill King](#), and gives details of **Faringdon's role in World War II Defence**

Additionally, on the same morning there will be a collection of Morgan cars in Sudbury House car park from 10.00.am till 11.10

Pictures and information about Faringdon in WWII can be found on <http://www.faringdon.org/world-war-ii.html>

Basic Conversational Italian Lessons @ The Bobbin - 1/8/13

Pay £5 a week and sit round a table in an informal setting and learn enough Italian to order a meal, get around, introduce yourself etc. Lessons are only an hour long and run for 12 weeks. Why not sip a lovely glass of Pinot Grigio and have a crack at this beautiful language in our lovely bar. Emphasis on conversation rather than grammar!

Course is 12 weeks long, every Wednesday from 11th September. Classes start at 7pm and are just an hour. Pay each week

Mel

Tonight - unique chance to see Poniente - 1/8/13

Live at the Corn Exchange 8pm Tickets £5 on the door.

<http://www.poniente.net/#>

Parking enforcement - 1/8/13

Wonder why VoWH reckon taking over parking is not financially viable?

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-23518194>

Name supplied

Dear Mr Anon.- 1/8/13

I know Bob Dylan is alive, it was a joke.

I'm not going to enter a keyboard warrior esc debate with anyone despite your attempts to belittle and insult the bands playing the MADD stage.

Try to put aside your anger and research some of the bands playing that stage and i think actually you'll be impressed. Spread over three days are purely original acts who have done everything from tour Europe to get far in nationwide Glasto emerging talent and open mic competitions. More than one has played the O2 arena and one has played to a sold out 100club in London.

And be polite.

Luke Wride

News and Views July 2013

They will appoint a Community Champion ---- 31/7/13

Now, I wonder who will be first in line for that one ---

Name supplied of course.

ED(GW) Think they mean one of their employees.

Bob Dylan...- 31/7/13

Is alive and well and currently touring the US. Wonder if you'll be able to say the same when you're his age?

Name supplied

FOLLY Fest on radio - 31/7/13

Listen to Mel Lane in interview with [Sean Hodgson](#) on Round About Swindon on Swindon 105.5 this morning at 10am - All thing FollyFest <http://www.swindon1055.com/>

[SWINDON 105.5: Swindon's Local Community Radiowww.swindon1055.com](#)SWINDON 105.5 is Swindon's Local Community Radio Station.

Sean Hodgson

Lost Purse - 31/7/13

In the early evening of July 29th, my daughter lost her purse in Faringdon. Not only did it contain the usual items such as bank card, Boots card etc she also had money from her 16th birthday and various gift cards. She is distraught. If anybody has found it, please contact me

at franklinsmummy@gmail.com

There is a reward for it's safe return.

Cheryl Hanrahan

Tesco in Faringdon- 30 7/13

Tesco have said that they plan for the new store to be open early November, 2013. The store will employ about 150 full time equivalents. Their policy is that people should get to work on foot or bicycle. Most jobs will be advertised 8 weeks before store opening, and will be made online. There will signage for the Market Square, and an in store notice board for use by Faringdon organisations. They will appoint a Community Champion, who will work with and support not for profit initiatives in Faringdon.

Faringdon Chamber of Commerce is continuing to liaise with Tesco management.

Ed(GW)

Illegal Parking (30/7/13) - 30/7/13

I didn't blame the residents of Coxwell Street for the terrible parking on Friday night, indeed, the lower end is very often people collecting takeaways. It's still a huge problem whoever it is.

I appreciate that disabled drivers may sometimes need to park on double yellow lines (even then they must not cause an obstruction) but at the same time people with mobility problems, the elderly, parents with pushchairs and people with sight issues must be able to use pavements without having to negotiate cars on them.

Interesting that you say a nurse was parked visiting a seriously ill elderly neighbour, well the whole reason I was so infuriated by the parking was that I was in a queue at the mini roundabout trying to get up to Coxwell Road. A mini bus was stuck, none of us could reverse back so it took a bit of maneuvering from the driver and goodwill from the drivers coming down. Hopefully next time it won't be an ambulance or fire engine.

I stand by what I said, the majority who park on double yellow lines and on the pavements do so because they simply can't be bothered to walk the short distance from further up the road.

Name Supplied

Illegal Parking(again) - 30/7/13

All I can say is that as someone who travels by car and on foot down Coxwell Road on a daily basis, it is a nightmare at times with all the cars parked on the yellow lines.

I don't care whether it's technically illegal or not. I do know it's dangerous, especially when you sometimes can't even walk down the pavement because it's blocked by an selfish driver parked more on the pavement than the road.

I have no sympathy for the said car owners if someone walked up and over their cars. I do believe it is illegal to park on the pavement blocking access to pedestrians.

Regards Mark

A Nudybronque comment - 30/7/13

"Anyone who had the misfortune to witness a previous MADD offering will no doubt share my views that whatever you might call that noise, 'folk' it ain't! For the avoidance of doubt have a look at the offerings online from two bands shown as playing - Skyburnsred or Nudybronque." - Unnamed person.

I gratefully accept your rebuke. But its spelt Nudybronque and Bob Dylan died years ago, get over it. :).

This page and these negative comments are such a waste of your time. Try to be patient and understanding. And enjoy your life! It's later than you think.

Luke Wride Nudybronque.

Re: Illegal Parking (Again) - 30/7/13

In response to the poster asking "Can we do anything at all to get this ridiculous situation sorted?" I too share their passion about Coxwell Street, but rather than reply immediately I thought I would restrain myself UNTIL I had hopefully "Sorted" things officially first.....

To be honest I had already started "Sorting Things" from about 9pm last Monday night when the cones suddenly appeared by liaising & consulting with the Police, the County Council, Highways Department, Council Traffic Officers, Tidestone Development & Lux Traffic Management. I am now pleased to report that my consultation, liaison & negotiations have now been extremely successful. I did not do this lightly, as it took a lot of my personal time to make all the calls & correctly research the appropriate legislation under The Road Traffic (Temporary Restrictions) Procedure Regulations 1992 to ensure I was not mistaken in any way.

You will be pleased to hear that from tomorrow the cones will be removed because certain aspects of The Road Traffic (Temporary Restrictions) Procedure Regulations 1992 were not complied with -

namely Lux have not put accompanying signs up, or leafleted the affected properties. The requirement for street notices at the start and end of the restricted area is obligatory in the case of temporary regulation "by notice" on footpaths, bridleways, cycle tracks and byways open to all traffic. They are also being removed because the cones are actually totally pointless & achieve/serve no practical use in traffic management for the closure of Coxwell Road for preparatory works for the new housing estate being built ¾ mile away below Coxwell House towards Great Coxwell.

So the only "Criminals" acting illegally were indeed the nightly noisy vandals (often inebriated & shouting) who relocated the cones on top of resident's cars with the obvious potential to scratch paintwork, who also placed them on top of bollards/road signs & who lobbed them as missiles against buildings & against the advertising hoarding in Coxwell Street and into residents' gardens. They even placed one over the side gate of an elderly neighbour who could have seriously injured if it hadn't been removed in time, before they opened the gate.

Parking offences are not actually criminal offences since The Road Traffic Act 1991 (c. 40) provided for the decriminalisation of parking-related contraventions committed.

While I appreciate some of the 24 cars observed by your poster may indeed have been parked on double yellow lines or even single yellow lines during the hours of 8am to 6pm (on any day except Saturday), I suggest that a larger majority of the 24 cars they refer to were not in fact parked illegally but on the normally unrestricted right hand side of the road which was in fact still totally legal, even with the cones in attendance, as the requisite signage and consultation (Under the terms of The Road Traffic {Temporary Restrictions} Procedure Regulations 1992) had not taken place. Do not knock the police for failing to act because in fact they couldn't as these cones were NON enforceable by LAW.

Please do not refer to myself and my neighbours in such a derogatory manner as "Coxwell Street is a disgrace" and asking us "Who do they think they are". I really resent on behalf of the residents of this street as also being called lazy....WE are not a disgrace & you personally do not know the health or disability status of anyone in this street. One of the cars I personally observed that had to park by the cones was a district nurse making a visit to a seriously ill elderly neighbour.

You ask "Who do they think they are" I will tell you who I am - someone who actually bothers to check the FACTS first, checks the law, talks to the appropriate authorities in a polite adult manner & someone who has spent their personal time getting something positive done for their lovely neighbours, about the current situation BEFORE making assumptions & admonishing both the residents for their actions, and blaming the police for their apparent lack of action.

"Law abiding & factually correct concerned Coxwell St Resident "
(Name Supplied)

SkyBurnsRed's response to comment: MADD Stage - 'Folk' on 24/07/13 - 29/7/13

As a band, we were extremely disheartened to see our name being used on this site in a negative manner in relation to the Follyfest/Madd stage and wished to clarify our position and intentions.

As a band we've always taken great care to be respectful of the audiences we play to and the venues we play at and whilst we understand that everyone has different tastes in music, we always remain

respectful of others opinions.

Consequently, after viewing the comments on this forum, we have made the difficult decision to withdraw from playing the Madd stage on Sunday evening as we wish to respect the desires and interests of the local community.

We hope that our decision will appease those of you who have expressed concern at our involvement and wish you and all those involved all the best for the Follyfest weekend.

Jason Johnson

Re. Pavements works Station Road/Bromsgrove - 28/7/13

I live on Walnut Court and was advised by the workmen that as part of the deal purchasing the land, Tesco give the council money for various improvements around the town, So, although the work is being carried out by the Council, Tesco have funded it.

I appreciate the need for good access for less able bodied people to get around the town, but personally, I do think what they are doing is excessive. The small space of green land at the end of Walnut Court for example is now going to be cut in half to allow for an extended pathway and proper kerb - however, the pavement down Bromsgrove on that side is so narrow (with parked cars alongside pretty much permanently) that hardly anyone uses it, let alone people with wheelchairs/mobility scooters/buggies i.e. those that would actually benefit from improved access!

Name Supplied

Re: Illegal Parking (again) - 27/7/13

Both the contributor and editor raise some very valid and interesting points about this pervasive, long standing problem in Coxwell Street and London Street. It seems that the police aren't interested in doing anything and the VWHDC are happy to shirk their responsibilities to the townsfolk of Faringdon.

So perhaps it's an opportune time to remind people that we have three VWHDC councillors living in Faringdon; Roger Cox (who is also Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet member for Housing and Planning), Mohinder Kainth and Alison Thomson. All three are members of the conservative majority (so they can make policy decisions!) and their contact details can be found on the VWHDC website: <http://whitehorsedc.moderngov.co.uk/mgFindCouncillor.aspx?XXR=0&AC=WARD&WID=247>

So why not drop them a line, send them an email or give them a call and let them know what you think about the problem.

Folly Man

ED(GW)and our County Councillor Judith Heathcoat

on <http://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/mgUserInfo.aspx?UID=144>

Poisoned cat - 27/7/13

The day before yesterday, I found my cat poisoned in my garden. Although he was still alive, there are chances that he will never fully recover. The vet can't say exactly what poison it is. Also, I saw some birds and pigeons this morning which seemed to have ingested some kind of toxin. I just wonder if there are other cases known. I live in the area Marlborough gardens.

Thank you very much for looking into the matter.

M. Becker

Pavements works Station Road/Bromsgrove- 27/7/13

It looks as if the pavement from the town end of the Tesco site is being extended/improved, including drop kerbs- presumably to improve the way in to the town centre.

I notice that similar is happening on the Walnut Court side of Bromsgrove- I can't believe that people from Tesco will want to go down that way, so maybe it's just improvements by OCC for wheelchair/pushchair users. Does anyone know?

Local Yokel

Illegal Parking (again).- 26/7/13

Can we do anything at all to get this ridiculous situation sorted?.

Just driven down London Street and through to Coxwell Street, having to pass 24 illegally parked cars. Surely this is a little gold mine for the council or the police. The bottom of Coxwell Street is a disgrace, who do these people think they are, parking across the pavement and on double yellow lines. They've even moved some of the cones to enable them to do so. I assume these are in place to prevent dangerous parking due to the extra traffic using the road because of roadworks. Are these people simply too lazy to park in a sensible and legal place on the other side of the road a little further up ?.

I see plenty of police cars driving by and ignoring them so just who is supposed to enforce the law?.

Name Supplied

Ed(GW) In the VWHDC area the police are still responsible for on street parking enforcement. In 90% of other areas across England Councils have taken on the responsibility. I have asked OCC and VWHDC whether they have plans to take it over (this is what the government wishes), but they say no, as they would not be able to breakeven in terms of costs. (Other councils I've asked do breakeven). The police here, in my view, will never enforce illegal parking effectively- it is not a priority and they don't have and won't invest in the technology needed to do the job efficiently (VWHDC already has this for off street parking enforcement). It seems a nonsense to me that there are people in the VWHDC and the town trying to improve it, so it's an even better place to live and to attract visitors, when this fundamental problem is not being addressed.

I think we all need to lobby OCC and VWHDC to take over the responsibility

Key found (again) - 26/7/13

Sounds like the same one as was found on 23 July (hole in pocket??). Picked up on Stanford Rd this morn. Post on here if you want it back.

Name supplied

One final comment - 25/7/13

Yes I agree that more than enough has been said, however someone has raised a legal question so to put the record straight - after we applied for extended hours and to have a licence for live music in the courtyard of the Old Crown, we were visited by a representative of the Environmental Health Department. Subsequently the licence was issued in full with no restrictions. The gates will be open to allow the public to move freely in and out. As I have said previously we are not in competition with Folly Fest but intend to add to the available entertainment and I have made it absolutely clear to the committee when they met with me here last week that if they think the music from the courtyard stage

is affecting the main stage all they have to do is tell me and I will have it turned down. Now let's all get on with having a great weekend for the whole town and enjoy some great entertainment!

Michael Sage General Manager

Madd and Folly Fest - 25/7/13

Thankyou to everyone who expressed their views re Madd at FollyFest. I think enough has been said now. Best wishes to the Folly Fest. Let's hope that the sun will shine.

Ed(GW)

Faringdon's Bethany Povey joins inspirational sailing trip - 25/7/13

Bethany Povey (14) from Faringdon has taken part in an inspirational sailing trip with the Ellen MacArthur Cancer Trust, along with 27 other young people between the age of 9 -17 in recovery from cancer. Bethany joined the crew of one of five yachts to sail around the Solent last week (15th -18th July), in a four-day yacht adventure.

Bethany who finished treatment in August 2009 for Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML) at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford was joined by four other young people on board their boat, Arcturus. Bethany explained what the opportunity meant to her, "I didn't imagine the trip to be anything like this, its been amazing I've had really good fun and made loads of new friends. We got to do everything on boarded, cooked, fished, steered the boat and navigated. It's really inspirational to be around other people with cancer that understand what you have been through and how you're feeling, it makes it very easy to talk, everyone here has just been amazing."

There are many ways you can support The Trust with your time, money or services. To become a Friend of the Trust and help them to continue to provide support and encouragement to young people in recovery from cancer visit: www.ellenmacarthurcancertrust.org

MADD Stage - 'Folk'? - 24/7/13

Could Sam Prince clarify, for all concerned, what little gems from his unique musical taste Faringdon is going to be subjected to this year? He refers to 'folk' in an earlier posting. Anyone who had the misfortune to witness a previous MADD offering will no doubt share my views that whatever you might call that noise, 'folk' it ain't! For the avoidance of doubt have a look at the offerings online from two bands shown as playing - Skyburnsred or Nudybrongue. I'm sure they are very talented, but it's hardly Ralph McTell!!

So Sam, spill the beans and then at least we can begin to gather the evidence before calling the Environmental Health Officer to complain about the inevitable noise pollution.

(Do those big doors on The Crown's courtyard entrance still shut? Can they be sound proofed?)

Good luck Folly Fest!! (And well done Mel for rising above this).

Name Supplied

Folly @ FollyFest? - 24/7/13

Reading the latest postings and taking a closer look at some of the bands being featured, it's difficult see how the unofficial M.A.D.D 'fringe' event is going to "complement" the main FollyFest festival , as the landlord of the Old Crown assures us. The original proposal of beer and folk music, yes, but rock

music and heavy metal in the Crown courtyard, only metres from the FollyFest stage? surely this is a recipe for disaster for all concerned.

For those of us who had hoped that this year's festival lived up to the values of the original Faringdon Arts Festival, as outlined in an earlier posting by David Reynolds, it is deeply saddening to see such developments. Surely the M.A.D.D. event could have been organised on a different weekend?

Name supplied

Re-Houses at Tetronics site.- 24/7/13

That will make interesting viewing then, all the lorries trying to go in the Canada Lane gate with all the school mums parked all over the place!

From a Nearby Resident

FollyFest - 24/7/13

Following the last posting from Mr Prince, we have decided to comment no further in the best interests of the community as any corrections will only add fuel to an unwanted fire.

We look forward to seeing everyone at FollyFest

Best wishes

Mel Lane FollyFest Treasurer

Tetronics Site, Lechlade Road - 24/7/13

Discussions to develop this site have started. According to FTC Planning committee agenda permission is being sought for 14 houses

ED(GW)

Fernham Fields amendment to plan - 24/7/13

SGR (faringdon), the Fernham Fields developers, have amended their plans again. Consultation is now until 6 August. With due respect to the developers it does seem extraordinary that they have changed their plans so often and does not, in my view, bode well for the future if permission is ultimately granted. What will we actually end up with?

Please consider making any comments on the Vale website

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P13/V0139/O>

or sign the petition at <http://www.change.org/petitions/vale-of-white-horse-district-council-refuse-planning-applications-to-develop-land-on-edge-of-great-coxwell>

It is important that the Vale know the local opinion whether positive or negative to allow them to reach a proper decision

If like me you object please get as many people to sign the petition before the area is overwhelmed.

William Selby-Lowndes

Portwell Press, Park Road- change of use and development - 24/7/13

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P13/V1587/FUL>

It is intended to change the use of the ground floor and mezzanine area from B1 to A1(shop) use for

showroom space providing kitchen design and display facilities. The remaining areas will remain as office, disabled w.c., warehouse and light production which complies with the current B1/B8 usage.
Comments by 13/8/13

MADD stage at the FollyFest - 24/7/13

In the early part of this year I went to a meeting with the committee of the FollyFest which was held at The Bell. It was suggested by the committee that I organise a 'Folk' event in the Old Crown. I said that I would gladly organise such an event and the matter was discussed no further.

In March there was a public meeting regarding the FollyFest in the Corn Exchange where a few items were discussed, the idea of folk music at the Crown was not discussed and I was completely ignored by the representatives of the FollyFest who were in attendance. This left me in a limbo state and I had no idea what was expected of me anymore with regards to assisting the Folly Fest. Wanting to still be a part of the FollyFest, I went ahead and organised an event to happen at the Bell which the management fully supported. However, there were some unforeseen circumstances which led to the event venue being changed to the Crown (with full support from General Manager Michael Sage).

Still believing that the FollyFest was trying to encourage participation. I thought it was a good idea to name the event "MADD stage at the FollyFest". I contacted the organisers about the event being advertised on their website and in other forms of advertising. My idea was that this event would take the place of the apparently abandoned folk event idea which they had asked me to do. I received no replies from the organisers whatsoever. We thought that if the FollyFest organisers were against such an event being associated with them, they would have asked us to disassociate ourselves. As no request came we assumed that there was no real problem and continued.

To anyone who believes I have tried to sneak an event into the FollyFest and 'Take advantage of other peoples hard work' I can assure you that I took every action to make the organisers aware that the event was happening and tried very hard to become involved with the festival, only to be met with silence. We have never intended to compete with the FollyFest and have merely tried to support it in what way we can.

We at M.A.D.D are extremely disheartened that we are being made out to be the villains in this, especially after all the time and effort we have put in to trying to supply entertainment for this town. We can only hope that this is all the result of bad communication and that everything will be resolved amicably.

Sam Prince
Chairman, M.A.D.D

Folly Fest - 24/7/13

How exciting - so many events happening on the same weekend in Faringdon! Let's all look forward to such a weekend!

Oh no - let's all argue about what it's called and who is allowed to use what term.

The events planned for the first weekend in August are an exciting gift for Faringdon, can't we all get along and enjoy it?

Jill Angela

Torture - 24/7/13

Can I just say - Drum kits, loud bass speakers, and terraced houses DONT GO TOGETHER. Have some consideration for your neighbours, please!

Listening to other people's music, esp when you can only hear the 'Chinese water torture' of their repetitive bass, is hell and as for drumming practice...

Name Supplied

FollyFest for Under 5's - 24/7/13

I neglected to answer a question someone asked in a post mainly about Vodafone and asked which activities would be suitable for under 5's at FollyFest.

Well...there is a Fancy Dress Parade with various age groups including under 5's which leaves the town park on Saturday morning and parades up to and on to the main stage. This is being sponsored by Budgens who are providing the prizes. The theme is Nursery Rhymes. You just need to report to the town park at around 10.30 to register.

Also in the town park all weekend is a bouncy castle, an inflatable slide and an ice cream van. In the market square, there are two children's roundabouts too.

There are various children's stalls, games and raffles around the market square with candy floss and face painting.

I hope your children enjoy FollyFest

Best wishes

Mel Lane

FollyFest Treasurer (...and secretly wishing to be 5 years old...)

Folly Fest - 23/7/13

If Sam Prince is not part of Folly Fest then he should stop advertising the fact he is.

Shame on you Sam Prince, once again taking advantage of other people's hard work.

Folly Fest, good luck, I'm really looking forward to your event and won't be drinking at the Crown over the weekend. I used to get all my Festival food and drink from the crown during the weekend.

FollyFest which pubs are supporting you, I will get my drinks etc from them.

Julie Farmer

Re Facebook - look out - 23/7/13

That is most likely a computer pretending to be a person. They used to send messages like that over internet forums but it seems like they have matured and started to attack Facebook.

James Campbell

Not FollyFest - 23/7/13

'The music festival at the Crown is not a FollyFest event. It is an independent activity which stands outside of the FollyFest remit and does not form part of our event plan or licence with the Vale to hold the event either'.

What a shame that the people involved with M.A.D.D have been misleading us for months then - even their facebook page has used the 'FollyFest' name in it's title.

Name Supplied

FOLLYFEST - 23/3/13

After all the hard work the organizers of FollyFest have put into this event it is such a shame that the arrogance of the MADD cronies raise their heads once again. Shame on the Crown for allowing this to happen!

Hope FollyFest is a great success and I am looking forward to it.

Suzy

MADD - 23/7/13

M.A.D.D. Group in future years should not plan their weekend same time as Follyfest.

In my experience they are a group that because they have been performing for few years everyone should work around them.

Why not MADD just organise their event in the winter months

Name supplied

FollyFest - An Appeal for Calm! - 23/7/13

As the FollyFest committee, we are trying to ensure we stay neutral to any debate about festivals, past or present and concentrate on FollyFest which is just ten days away.

However, I do feel we need to clarify our position in terms of the MADD or Crown Beer Festival events on the same weekend.

The music festival at the Crown is not a FollyFest event. It is an independent activity which stands outside of the FollyFest remit and does not form part of our event plan or licence with the Vale to hold the event either.

While we were initially intending to site a play in the courtyard, we've not been able to cast it (something we tried to do for many months). An alternative stage was proposed to the management of the Crown by Sam Prince under the MADD umbrella and, as is their right, they elected to do this instead. It would be incorrect to say we're not concerned about the potential risk around conflicting sound levels between their courtyard stage and the main stage but there isn't much we can do about that.

FollyFest are not accountable for anything which happens in any of the private venues outside of the Market Square area. Our live music schedule is planned for the main stage and other activities are all either within council venues, the street or in the square itself.

In the spirit of FollyFest, we hope that all businesses have a profitable weekend and that the people of Faringdon are safe, happy and have an enjoyable time.

We hope to see you all there

Best wishes

Mel Lane, FollyFest Treasurer

Haa! Haa! The Prince of Darkness - 23/7/13

Thunder & Lightning, raises his head @ the "Flying Pig" Festival this weekend. (Sandhill Farm Airfield. 26th and 27th. Rock, Indie, Punk and Blues). See www.flyingpigfestival.co.uk

Then afterwards I can turn my "Focus On" That lovely little sleepy town of Faringdon, Where the M.A.D.D. Stage can bring it's hoardes of loud, noisy, energetic, enthusiastic group of performers. Remember The M.A.D.D. Stage @ The Crown, 2nd, 3rd and 4th August. We can then Rock your Blues away or Blew you Rocks Off.. SUNDAY the 4th of August Faringdon gets invaded by Pirates. Arrrrrggggha me hearties ,give em a broadside.

Just as an afterthought starting in August "Sunday Tease" @ the Crown , Faringdon, 4-7pm New weekly music sessions. Interested in performing?

Contact "The Prince of Darkness" Sam Prince. You don't have to look hard to find me, just go down to the crossroads.

Folly Fest - 23/7/13

When I started The Faringdon Arts Festival in 2004, the forerunner to what has now become Folly Fest, it was intended to bring the community together with the common language of art and music. It was not meant to be divisive...which is what I see now. From what I've seen so far the current organisers of Folly Fest are doing a great job of carrying on the spirit of the original intention engaging the community. The Arts are not a competition, they're an opportunity for engagement, cohesion and communication. Faringdon is a small, wonderful community. The spirit of what was started all those years ago still exists. I'm looking forward to Folly Fest 2013.

David Reynolds

Key Found - 23/7/13

We have found a yale-style key with a "Nectar" key fob seemingly dropped on the pavement outside No.1 Stanford Road, near the beginning of the tarmac path up to the Folly. We have it here if anyone wants to claim it.

Name Supplied

Madness @ M.A.D.D.? - 22/7/13

So if the manager of the Crown has come forward to say their beer and music festival is officially sanctioned, encouraged even, by the organising committee of FollyFest, perhaps the organisers of the rival M.A.D.D festival would like to provide similar assurances. It does seem remarkable that there will be three music events running at the same time, all competing for the same audience.

Name Supplied

Vodafone - 22/7/13

I too have had issues since last week regarding my vodafone connectivity. Looked on their website to see if their network coverage section suggested anything. But all it said was there was another fault. I rang up vodafone to ask what was going on to be told that "unfortunately the system has gone down". Ironic really, it always seems to be when you have a complaint or are not estatic with their service... On a plus note am really looking forward to follyfest and was wondering what things (if any) were being put on for the children who are younger than 5?

Annoyed Vodafone user

MADD - 22/7/13

Whats the deal with all the backlash about the M.A.D.D stage in the crown? Surely its just more music to listen to?

With a community event such as Follyfest shouldn't the emphasis be on supporting the efforts made by local people instead of damning them from behind a keyboard?

I personally look forward to seeing the performers on both stages :)

Nial Prince

Events Management Undergraduate

Vodaphone again? - 22/7/13

Is anyone else having more problems with Vodafone. I have 5 phones and they all keep telling me that the network is busy. After half an hour on the phone and many denials that anything is wrong, the call taker admitted that there is another fault. I suspect it's the mast on the Tesco's site yet again. That site has become unreliable and I think Vodafone should find somewhere else to put it. What do other residents think?

For me, I am definitely cancelling all non work related Vodafone contracts when they come up for renewal.

Gof Smith

Folly Fest @ The Pump House Project - 22/7/13

Swan Lane, Faringdon

All activities for children and teens from 5 – 19 years old.

Everyone attending will be asked to paint their handprint on to The Pump House Project wall. This is an opportunity to make your mark on this fantastic project.

Friday 2nd August

Invasion Radio 4pm-9pm Come and be involved in their local live broadcast and learn DJ skills (FREE)

Slacklining 6pm-8pm (50p for 20 minutes)

Parkour 7pm-8pm (£3.00)

Sweet Shop (inc ice creams and ice lollies) OPEN 6pm – 9pm

Saturday 3rd August

Arts and Crafts (11am-8pm (50p for unlimited time)

Parkour 11am-12.30pm 3pm-4.30pm (£3.00 per session)

Invasion Radio 12pm-9pm Come and be involved in their local live broadcast and learn DJ skills (FREE)

Help Plant The Pump House Garden 1.30pm-2.30pm (FREE)

Slacklining 3pm-8pm (50p for 20 minutes)

Sweet Shop (inc ice creams and ice lollies) OPEN 11am – 8pm

Sunday 4th August

Slacklining 11am-4pm (50p for 20 minutes)

Art and Crafts 11am-4pm (50p for unlimited time)

Invasion Radio 11pm-4pm Come and be involved in their local live broadcast and learn DJ skills (FREE)

Sweet Shop (inc ice creams and ice lollies) OPEN 11am – 4pm

All charges are donations to The Pump House Project. These donations ensure that we can offer you even more fantastic opportunities in the future. For more information find us on Facebook

at www.facebook.com/ThePumpHouseProject

Facebook - look out - 22/7/13

Hi Everyone, I have just received this as a PM on my Facebook page.

Dan Holme

Hi pretty ,you look cute,i was looking for my niece on here on fb while i stumble into your profile and you got my attention what is the secrete of your beauty?

This seems a little odd to me so I have reported it to the police but there is nothing they can do. I have also reported it to Facebook as well.

This PM message was found in Messages and then OTHER. Please check your kids messages etc to make sure this person has not contacted them.

Julie Farmer

Re Threshers that was - 22/7/13

I asked one of the chaps refurbishing Threshers the other day of plans... It is definitely something to do with CostCutters (so we won't be short of supermarkets it seems). Apparently, it might be a twist on the norm though - someone said it was to be a "CostCutters £1 shop"

London Street Gezza

Threshers that was - 21/7/13

Refurbishment activity in the old Threshers shop- good news. Anyone know what sort of shop it will be?

Local Yokel

The Bell - 21/7/13

How good to see the cobbles in front of The Bell cleaned up, and the planters and hanging baskets looking so pretty.

However- in my view all of this is spoiled by the rather tasteless advertising boards (and TV banner) - so many of them. There must be a better way of advertising the services and deals more in keeping with a Grade I listed building.

Name Supplied

MADD - 21/7/13

The M.A.D.D group cause issues every year. They should pick a different time of the year. Or just go away.

Name supplied

Madness @ the FollyFest - 21/7/13

Just as we are within sight of FollyFest 2013 and absolution from the sins of MudStock 2012, the Prince of Darkness raises his head.

The M.A.D.D. stage is just that, mad! It's piggy backing the success of a well organised event, while slinging mud (what else) at the many people who will be working hard to make it a success.

'Bands not familiar to Faringdon' playing 'self penned music' is a thinly veiled swipe at the many local acts performing at FollyFest. Unlike MudStock, FollyFest has actively encouraged and embraced the involvement of Faringdon's musicians, no matter what they play.

FollyFest will celebrate the wonderful talent within our local community, not turn its back on it. I can

only hope the noise from the 'Mad Stage' will not shut the whole festival down like it nearly did in 2011.

Folly Man

The "Flying Pig" festival.- 21/7/13

Is held on the 26th-27th July @ Sandhill farm Airfield, Shrivenham, Oxfordshire.. Featuring, Rock, Indie, Punk and Blues Bands.. Trial Gliding Lessons-Skydive Displays-Vintage Cars-Vintage Aircraft. This is a Family Friendly Charity event. For All Information www.flyingpigfestival.co.uk

M.A.D.D. Stage @ the FollyFest.- 20/7/13

It has always been our wish to be part of the Festival and provide a programme of music which is different to the main stage, featuring mainly self penned music by bands not familiar to Faringdon. We have never wished to clash or compete with the other events happening at the Festival Just to compliment it.

Enjoy.

Sam Prince

Family Wedding Photos - 20/7/13

I am looking for old family wedding photos to scan and subsequently display in the shop. With vintage being the big trend in weddings at the moment I would love to have a display of photos of the real thing.

Victorian Era to 1960's - any photos of couples or groups would be welcome. I will scan the originals and credit the family concerned on the frame.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Sue Lund

Cariad Bride

Change to bus information (24/7/13 for up to 4 weeks) - 20/7/13

More information from Oxfordshire CC

'Further to the recent e-mails from my colleague David Bellchamber, I regret that there has been a change to the plans to serve Coxwell Road during the forthcoming closure. Stagecoach has expressed concerns regarding the double-run as route 66 will it will also be subject to a lengthy diversion in Swindon Borough for the same three weeks due to road-works (notified after the Faringdon closure!). Consequently they have decided that they will be unable to serve Coxwell Road. I am presently investigating what alternative services could be provided on top of the town bus route run by the Faringdon Community Minibus'.

Marcus Laphorn

FollyFest, 2,3,4 August - 19/7/13

Maybe the businesses in the town that get extra sales through the Folly Fest days, will make a donation to the fund for next year.

Wouldn't that be good! <http://www.follyfest.co.uk/schedule/>

Name Supplied

Exhibition at Folly Tower Sunday 21st- one day only - 19/7/13

To celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Coronation.

A collection of pictures of Queen Elizabeth II performing her roles as Queen of the United Kingdom and Commonwealth Countries over the last 60 years

Don't miss this special event!

11.00am till 5.00pm. Adults £2, 11-16 50p, free for under 11's

More information at www.faringdonfolly.co.uk, or call 01367 241142

Oxfest - 18/7/13

I'm glad to see a positive report on Oxfest. However, I know for a fact that the drinks outlets did not do well, and they and the organisers lost - in some cases - large sums of money. There were thousands fewer people there than had been predicted so a repeat is unlikely.

Name supplied.

Oxfest - 17/7/13

so now oxfarce has finished, do you think they will go round and remove the adverting from the many post,s, lamp posts and whatever else they could cable tie those signs to!!

for real good music, check out the flying pig festival!

ryan enevoldsen

Ox-Fest. - 17/7/13

Well we went Fri, Sat and Sunday - despite the heat. It was brilliant! Highlights for me were Boogie Me, Tramp Aviators, 'Take That', 'Beatles', 'Rod Stewart' the various choirs, FCC on djembe drums and local lad Dale another Ox-factor winner! We saw no traffic congestion and were very impressed with the logistics. I personally had three curries(!), but accept that, probably due to the weather, they may not have done too well. I'm fairly sure the drinks outlets would have done okay. The programme of artists was varied and expertly choreographed. Well done to the many and varied individuals and groups involved in the organisation. We hope you return. In the meantime roll on FollyFest!!

Name Supplied.

"Cashing In" - 17/7/13

It appears I have misjudged The Crown and its contribution to FollyFest and I apologise. Let's hope that all aspects of the festival are successful for everyone.

Festival Enthusiast - Name Supplied

Oxfest - 17/7/13

We went on Saturday, helping on a friend's stall. The event seemed well organised on the day from what we saw, and the entertainment was quite good - excellent young band from Witney (The Reaper), Abba tribute act and Military Wives, etc. However, there were few people there, and traders like Snooty Mehman and Shush! with large marquees cannot have been pleased by the poor attendance. I doubt whether any of the stalls made any money.

Either the event was not well enough advertised, resulting in poor advance ticket sales, or the reliance on tribute acts was not a big enough draw and it was too expensive. A pity, because I can't see it being repeated. I gather the golf club wasn't too happy either at its access being blocked.

Name supplied

Next film? Help to choose - 17/7/13

The Regent Cinema in Faringdon is a community project and public input is vital! There will be a vote to decide on the next Regent Cinema film in the Corn Exchange, Faringdon.

The choices are:

Oz The Great and Powerful

Star Trek

Iron Man 3

This film will be shown on Friday 23rd August.

Everyone attending The Great Gatsby on Friday 26th July will be given one vote.

Results will be announced on the night.

Faringdon Calendar - 2014 - 17/7/13

It is time to start compiling the Faringdon Calendar 2013. If you have either a local photograph or a local painting that you would like to be considered please email sally@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk or bring them in to the Tourist Information Centre.

The only criteria is that entries must be of our beautiful town or surrounding countryside.

Thank you

Follyfest - re 'Cashing in' comment - 17/7/13

I notice someone has posted that we are 'cashing-in' by having a beer and music festival. What rot! The committee were originally going to provide musicians for us and put on a play in the courtyard but when neither came to fruition we were fortunate enough to be offered an alternative music event. As for the beer festival - this formed part of the committee's suggestion to me at our original meeting back in December last year!

The Old Crown has been an active supporter of the festival from the outset and are offering additional music and an ale festival to compliment the event.

We have had a number of fund raising events here to benefit Follyfest - as an example we provided food at cost for the St Georges Day dinner dance and paid the staff wages including tax and N.I. out of our own pockets (several hundred pounds). If you care to look you will see that we are proudly displaying our Follyfest posters.

Whoever you are (hiding behind 'anonymous contributor') I suggest you get the full facts before issuing a tirade of nonsense that could damage my business.

Michael Sage

General Manager

Follyfest 2013 – Donations for Stalls - 17/7/13

Have you got unwanted Christmas gifts? Has Auntie Mabel's antimacassar been cluttering up your linen drawer? You really don't want that china donkey that you bought on holiday, do you? We'll take it off your hands and sell it at FollyFest on our White Elephant stall.

If you have any books you'd like to clear out of your loft, let us have them for our book stall. You never know, you might pick up a few new ones!

We'd also like some donations for the home baking stall. Plenty of scones, tray bakes, Victoria sponges, Brownies, anything as long as it's tasty!

Please hand donations for books or White Elephant stall into the Bobbin, 2 Bromsgrove. Home baking can be handed in on Sunday direct to the stall.

Email – follyfest@btinternet.com

www.follyfest.co.uk

Oxfest - 17/7/13

Did anyone go?... what was it like?...we wanted to go on the Sunday but it was far too hot, not something you complain about in this country very often I must admit, ...I see the tickets had been reduced to £10 each on the gate, so I would have been a little miffed if we had bought them in advance at £25 each. Having said that, still interested in how it all went off.

Name Supplied

Cashing in? - 17/7/13

Today I noticed a sign outside The Crown Hotel - "The Old Crown Ale and Music Festival, Friday 2nd August to Sunday 4th August". Now, call me cynical but is this not an example of a business cashing in on the efforts of the FollyFest organizers having, apparently, made no contribution to that organization but using all the publicity and promotion efforts of FollyFest to get customers into The Crown. I think the people of Faringdon might be a bit wise to this and, as a local resident and not one of the FollyFest organizers, I feel we should buy our drinks elsewhere, preferably at a pub that actively supports FollyFest rather than freeloading on its efforts.

Festival Enthusiast - Name Supplied

Police report - 15/7/13

Faringdon West

Welcome to July's monthly neighbourhood update for NAG 1, Faringdon and Shrivenham, from Sgt Louise Williams, PC Chris Linzey, PCSO Kerry Davis and PCSO Maralyn Pack.

This month we said good bye to PCSO Emma Eyley who has transferred to the Abingdon Neighbourhood Team. Emma joined us in 2011 and became a familiar face around the town. One of Emma's many achievements whilst on the team was successfully setting up the Neighbourhood Watch scheme on the new Folly View estate which has contributed to the reduction in anti-social behaviour in the area. We wish Emma all the best in her new position.

This month we have had one reported house burglary in the Shrivenham area. The offence took place in the early hours of the 14th June. Enquiries are ongoing. If you have any information that could assist with this investigation or an investigation into another offence please contact us on 101.

We have had several reports this month of large scale underage drinking particularly around Canada Lane, Faringdon. It has not been uncommon to find 50+ under 18s hanging around in dark fields where access for emergency services is on foot only. The combination of location, numbers, alcohol and darkness are a recipe for trouble. The most common alcohol being consumed is spirits as these can be mixed with soft drinks. This subject has been covered numerous times in past neighbourhood updates but we would like to remind our young residents that the underage consumption of alcohol is both illegal and dangerous. Thames Valley Police will take under 18's to court if they are found to be persistently in possession of alcohol. The team have found that in the vast majority of cases alcohol is being purchased by older siblings and parents. This is of course illegal and entirely irresponsible. The

team will continue to commit resources to tackling this issue and deal robustly with related offences when they are identified.

Operation Massey, an operation designed to combat rural crime, was run on Wednesday 26th June. Officers from Faringdon, Wantage and Abingdon patrolled extensively throughout the rural area and targeted key hotspots. This operation has been running for some time now and has clearly played its part in reducing rural crime which is down from this time last year.

Finally, we are entering the fete season. Many villages and schools have fetes planned over the coming months. It is a great pleasure when the team has the opportunity to attend these events and we aim to attend as many as we can this year!

We wish you all a safe happy July!

Thames Valley Police

Meeting Rooms at Faringdon Business Centre - 15/7/13

Just a quick reminder that the Faringdon Business Center has air conditioned meeting rooms available for hire, at an hourly rate with teas and coffees.

Faringdon Business Center is the home to myPA Virtual Services. myPA offers administrative and secretarial services and support to individual and small businesses. Take a look at our website www.mypavirtualseervices.com to find out about our services.

We also offer Business Postal Addresses and a drop of services.

Julie Farmer

Postcard to the Bobbin - 15/7/13

Holiday season now in full swing! Send the Bobbin a postcard from your holiday and we'll enter you into a draw with first prize a dinner for two, complete with wine and cocktail to ease the sting of returning to normal life. All you have to do is post us a postcard from your holiday destination and include a fascinating fact about where you are. Add your name and email address or phone number and we'll pull a winner from the entries on Saturday 14th September. You have to be in it to win it! Send your postcards to The Bobbin, 1 Bromsgrove, Faringdon, Oxon, SN7 7JF

Language Teachers Needed - 15/7/13

I'm thinking of running some short conversational language courses in French, Spanish, German and Italian. Quite informal and with the aim of having a bit of local lingo up your sleeve before you go away on holiday or just for casual interest. Would quite like to do this weekly over drinks in the Bobbin starting from September, either 7pm in the week or 6pm on a Saturday lasting an hour. I see each mini course lasting a term and would like to get out of it the ability to have a social conversation, ask directions, order food and drink etc. so quite basic but useful.

Are there any language teachers out there who may be interested in helping us with this? If so, please email me your fees and what days you would be able to host the classes.

Many thanks

Contact mejlane@me.com

Barclays Bank in Faringdon to Close - 15/7/13

In October this year. Nearest branch will be Lechlade

ED(GW)

Pump House project- fantastic - 14/7/13

The old theatre behind the Pump House has been transformed into a multi purpose facility for all year round sport and other youth and community related activities.

All this has been achieved by local people with the help of grants and donations and assistance from local businesses.

The young people have been very involved in getting the building ready to use and will continue to be involved in all aspects of running the group.

Already arranged:

Dance classes

Parkour

Slacklining

Scouts/Cubs/Beavers

Find out more:

<http://www.thepumphouseproject.co.uk/>

Super photos of the opening on <https://www.facebook.com/ThePumpHouseProject?fref=ts>

Ed(GW)

Big Society Fund - 14/7/13

Oxfordshire County Council administers the Big Society Fund through the Councillor Community Budget Scheme for 2013/14.

All 63 county councillors in Oxfordshire have a £10,000 councillor community budget for 2013/14 to support the projects that matter most to their local communities.

The scheme reflects Oxfordshire County Council's commitment to the Big Society vision and the principle that councillors are best placed to recognise and meet the needs of their local communities.

To apply for funding you must be a not-for-profit organisation looking to meet a recognised need in your community. Eligible organisations are able to submit requests for funding by completing and passing a funding request form to their local councillor.

To find out more about Councillor Community Budgets and how to apply go to www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/councillor-community-budgets.

Bus route - 13/7/13

Further road closures will affect the 66 bus route when Oxford Road, Swindon is closed for three weeks from Monday 22 July!

Marcus Laphorn

Tesco - 12/7/13

I'm really pleased that the Tesco's build is progressing well and that amongst other things, we'll be having a salad bar and fish counter. It looks like there might be quite a large car park too.

I can't help wondering whether some of the numerous objectors will actually shop there.

Name supplied

ED(GW) Found this '[A letter to the new Faringdon Tesco](#)'

Grass cutting at the Folly - 12/7/13

can anyone tell me who is responsible for grass cutting at the folly. many people like to give their dogs a good run up there and for those with smaller dogs it becomes a problem not being able to see them and also the the grass mites is also a big problem. unfortunately there is not many places in faringdon for our dogs to run free safely, so if any land owner as a field which can be used specifically for dogs please let us know.

Michael Barnes

Ed(GW) The perimeter of the woodland is the responsibility of Folly Tower Trust. We will cut the grass soon- once wild flowers have finished. The fields around the Folly belong to Faringdon Estates and are leased by a local farmer.

Coxwell road closure and route 66 buses - 10/7/13

From correspondence with OCC Highways

'Closure is from morning of Wednesday 24th July for up to four weeks (to 21st August) but may reopen sooner if works are completed (or after if problems are encountered)

Stagecoach Swindon will provide a banksman to supervise the reversal of buses at the junction of Coxwell Road / Fernham Road for all journeys throughout the day on Mondays to Saturdays only. Buses will NOT serve Coxwell Road on Sundays (or Bank Holidays if work continues until Mon 26th).

All buses on routes 65 and 66 on Mon-Sat will double-run from Park Road and Station Road, Faringdon to Coxwell Road / Fernham junction via Coxwell Street, serving the diversion FIRST (before the Market Place) on journeys TO Oxford, and AFTER the Market Place on journeys TO Swindon.

Stagecoach Swindon to kindly provide on-bus notices, a notice at Swindon Bus Station and information on the Stagecoach web-page.

OCC to provide notices on affected stops in Faringdon – there may be a requirement for a temporary stop sign at one point in Coxwell Road, eastbound near the Fernham Road junction. OCC will also deal with alterations to TravelLine information'

Faringdon Community Bus changes

FCB route changes will be as follows:

- On first run of the day, go from Market Place, divert along Park Road/A420 to Gt Coxwell and on return, come along Park Road, up Coxwell St/Rd and rejoin the normal first run route coming down Marlboro Gardens and then on to the Health Centre and Palmer Road.
- On other runs to Gt Coxwell, simply divert along Park Road/A420 and back. If anyone specifically requests a trip up Coxwell Road, only do it as an "off piste" if the driver has time.

Passengers will be warned that this will not generally be possible and Coxwell St/Rd passengers should take the Westland Road run at 16 minutes past the hour.

Marcus Laphorn

Free weekly Fitness Session - 11/7/13

Starting Wednesday 17th July, 6-7pm at Faringdon leisure centre field. Sessions include interval running, Circuits, Hill climbs and Athletic based drills.

Contact Ashley.chapman@southandvale.gov.uk or 01235 547646 to register.

Also, Free Rounders session on Tuesday 23rd July, 6-7pm on the field too so come and join in!

Ashley Chapman, South and Vale Councils

Pci Repairs has moved to within The-PA - 11/7/13

Just to remind everyone that Pci Repairs have now moved from our shop above Barclays Bank and settled in to our new home at the new business centre called The-PA at Portwell House Faringdon, entrance is opposite Pat Thomas the Butchers, look for the Pci/PA round yellow signs and you will easily find us! Please note we no longer do mobile phone or tablet repairs.

Check out our website for full details at www.pcirepairs.com or call 0845 548 5438, The-PA Website is www.portwellangel.co.uk/ThePA 01367 246142

If you are one of the many Home workers that live and work in Faringdon, why not work from The-PA one or two mornings or afternoons a week and work with fellow workers, and do a bit of networking at the same time, we also do business lunches lasting an hour or so on Thursdays at 1pm, contact us to book your space and we can let others know who will be coming so we can work together.

Mike O'Keefe

Radio 4 drama about Lord Berners - 10/7/13

Sadly I missed the first few minutes- but I'm hoping Radio 4 will offer Listen again. The play is called What England Owes and is set in the period after WWII when Robert Heber-Percy is married

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b036kscx>

ED(GW)

Re. Housing developments. - 10/7/13

I have used the VOWHDC site commenting on the proposed developments, yet my comments are not listed on their site. Are all the comments being shown, or is their subterfuge afoot with vested interests.

Regards Mark

The Vale Community - 10/7/13

In June 2013, members of the Vale Community submitted questions about the Vale of White Horse District Council's Local Plan Part One.

Cllr Matthew Barber, Leader of the Council, answered the key questions in a video interview which you can view at <http://youtu.be/ojliSgTC0BU>. There was not scope to include all the questions submitted in this interview so written answers will be provided for these.

For further information about the Local Plan please see www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/localplan.

Social Media workshop - 10/7/13

A little reminder of the first of three social media workshops running this month in Faringdon for Faringdon businesses.

From 6pm till 7pm at The Portwell Angel. Being led by Gail Gibson from True Expressions. The first in a series of three one hour workshops about the use of social media in business.

The first workshop today provides an introduction to the use of social media for businesses.

Objectives of the course:

- Help build a stronger sense of 'community' among local Faringdon business owners.
- Raise awareness of the importance of integrating social media into a marketing plan – to blend traditional and digital channels to successfully promote a 21st century business.
- Encourage an improved level of support, inspiration, motivation, open communication and collaboration among the local business community.
- Introduce the power & benefits of social media marketing as an excellent B2B tool via various platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Pinterest and Slideshare.
- Explore the pros & cons, etiquette and security concerns around using social media for business.

Free to all local Faringdon businesses. Please come and join us. Arrive by 5.45pm for a prompt start at 6pm.

Faringdownteam@yahoo.co.uk

Humpty Hill development - 10/6/13

You can comment on this application until 8th August.

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P13/V1366/O>

ED(GW)

Steeds Farm development - 10/7/13

308 have signed the boundary petition - many more are needed. Do sign it if you haven't yet done so. The land is in the Great Coxwell parish, but the development will seriously affect Faringdon and put pressure on local services.

<http://www.change.org/en-GB/petitions/vale-of-white-horse-district-council-refuse-planning-applications-to-develop-land-on-edge-of-great-coxwell>

Many people from Great Coxwell have submitted comments to VWHDC, but very few from Faringdon. I'm surprised, particularly as there are so few from people at the Coxwell end of Faringdon

Here is where you can do it:

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P13/V1102/O>

There's still time- consultation ends 18th July

ED(GW)

Stolen property found - 9/7/13

Thames Valley Police is seeking to trace the owners of property recovered after thefts, mainly in the South Oxfordshire and Oxford areas.

The property has been recovered from offences that took place between 30 April and 29 May this year, and was retrieved from a disused airfield in Berinsfield and a commercial address in

Stokenchurch.

The items, which were mainly stolen from gardens include sundials, roof tiles, staddle stones and staddle stone bases.

PC Mark Russell said: "I would like to reunite this stolen property with its owners. If you have been the victim of this type of theft and think any of these type of items might belong to you, please get in touch.

"I understand that some of these thefts might not have been reported to the police, but if the victims can identify their particular items and where they went missing from, we may be able to reunite the objects with their rightful owners."

If you believe any of these items might be yours, please contact PC Mark Russell of Didcot police station via the Thames Valley Police Enquiry Centre on 101.

Burglary in Faringdon - 8/7/13

Between 9am and 11pm on (7/7), a property in Eastfield Court, Faringdon was broken into. Offender/s gained entry by an insecure downstairs window and stole two vases. No further information is available at this time.

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 **101**

Alternatively if you have information but wish to remain anonymous, please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or online@crimestoppers-uk.org. No personal details are taken, information is not traced or recorded and you will not go to court.

CALLING ALL JUNIOR GOLFERS TO FARINGDON PAR 3 GOLF CLUB, Great Coxwell - 9/7/13 Summer Golf Camps 6th & 7th August or 13th & 14th August

Professional Golfer Dean Davis has been running golf camps for the past 10 years.

He has a great knowledge of teaching children, putting the fun and enjoyment into the game of golf. This year the Summer Camp will be taking place at Faringdon Par 3 Course. This is a great venue for you to take up the game of golf or simply sharpen up your short game!

The Summer Camps are a great way for children both boys and girls aged 5-15 years to learn the basics to the game of golf or if they have played before they will be given tips on their game and shown ways to help them improve.

Children will play on the course and there will be various competitions throughout the day.

The Days & Costs

The days start from 9.30am, finishing at 3.30pm. There will be a mid-morning break and a break for lunch. Children can bring their own packed lunch, or these can be provided at a cost of £8.00/day.

The cost for the day is £30.00/child or you can book for both days at a cost of £55.00/child. Prices include coaching, equipment and green fees.

This is a great way for junior golfers to learn the game, make new friends and win some great prizes! To book your child's place, call Dean using the contact details below.

If you unable to attend the Summer Camp

We appreciate how busy the school holidays can be, so if you are unable to attend then do not worry. One-on-one lessons with Dean can be arranged with prices starting from £15.00.

Green fees at Faringdon cost only £9.00 for the day for Juniors.

Junior membership starts from £130.00 for the Year.

For further information or to book a place please contact Dean Davis

Tel: 07717577834 Website: www.golfprodeandavis.co.uk Email: info@golfprodeandavis.co.uk

RE; Council Meeting July 10 - 8/7/13

You need to go the Faringdon Town Council website and follow links through to Agendas:

<http://www.faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk/index.php?section=34>

Useful for reading the subsequent minutes too.

Folly Man

Dog Found - 8/7/13

If it's not been claimed yet, there's a poster about a missing dog on the gate at the bottom of Folly Hill (second entrance on Stanford Road) - might be the same one. Hope dog and owners can be reunited!

Andrea

Dog Found - 7/7/13

Dog found on Sunday lunchtime in Nursery View. Please contact Mary on 07799 634835

Opening of the Parkour Centre - 6/7/13

£40k in funds have been raised to refurbishment the old theatre behind the Pump House. Builders have installed a computer suite, kitchen, bathroom facilities. Volunteers have redecorated throughout. The Parkour (free running) centre will provide youth activities in the Town Centre.

Dance classes have already been arranged, there's a climbing wall and a media centre.

The opening is 12/7/13, 6pm-8pm, when everyone is welcome to go and have a look.

ED(GW)

Council Meeting July 10... - 6/7/13

What can I find the agenda items for the Town Council meeting for July 10?

It would be nice for the council to publish this somewhere (where we can find it) so we (faringdonians) can decide to attend.

Also can somebody from the council, please, publish the appropriate procedure on how the public can interact with the council during the meetings?

Again this seems to be a hidden art and I would like to learn the secret handshake so I am allowed to speak to which the council will listen too and even better they can respond to.

Name Supplied...

Building on our green sites - 6/7/13

"We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect." [Aldo Leopold](#)

Name Supplied

School holiday planner - 5/7/13

Download the Word document - [Lots of great holiday ideas for you and your children](#)

Printer cartridge recycling - 2/7/13

In answer to my own question. You can recycle your toner and print cartridges at The Mustard Seed in Faringdon Centre.

Mirabelle Mack

Great Coxwell Boundary petition- 4/7/13

253 have signed the petition - many more are needed

<http://www.change.org/en-GB/petitions/vale-of-white-horse-district-council-refuse-planning-applications-to-develop-land-on-edge-of-great-coxwell>

ED(GW)

Free swimming for women - 4/7/13

Women throughout the Vale of White Horse now have the opportunity swim for free.

Active Women, administered by Vale of White Horse District Council is providing free swimming vouchers for women to use at the White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre and at Faringdon and Wantage Leisure Centres.

At the White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre in Abingdon women can take a whole month's free swimming any time between now and the end of December. At both Wantage and Faringdon Leisure Centres there are six free swims on offer, also available to be used any time until the end of December.

Cllr Elaine Ware, Cabinet Member for Economy, Leisure and Property at Vale of White Horse District Council, said: "This offer provides a great opportunity for women in the Vale to give swimming a go at no cost at all. We'd love to see as many women as possible take up this offer and swim for free in 2013."

Vouchers, which are available to women aged 16 plus, are available now by contacting the Active Women co-ordinator for the Vale Lil Roe on 07801203539

The Folly on BBC South today- 30/6/13

Perhaps you saw Faringdon Folly on BBC South on 20th June. You can see behind the scene photos on the Folly Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/FaringdonFolly>

ED(GW)

Coxwell Road Closure- 30/6/13

Does anyone know what is happening to the bus route? There are 3 stops in the towards Swindon direction, and 4 towards Faringdon which will not be accessible.

The Notice says:

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

Section 14(1)

Notice of Temporary Traffic Order Faringdon, Coxwell Road Prohibition of Vehicles Date of Order: 28 June 2013

Works Commence: 24 July 2013

This Order is being introduced because of highway drainage and reconstruction works in part of Coxwell Road which is anticipated will take 4 weeks to complete.

The effect of the Order is to prohibit any vehicle from proceeding or waiting, when the appropriate traffic signs are displayed, in that part of Coxwell Road southwards from its junction with Coleshill Drive for 100 metres.

Exemptions are included for police, fire and ambulance services and for the works and for vehicular access to adjacent premises which are only accessible from the closed section of road. The alternative route is via Coxwell Street, Park Road and A420 & vice versa.

This Order will remain in force for a maximum period of eighteen months or until the works have been completed whichever is the sooner.

Traffic Regulation Team (Ref.CJL) on behalf of the Director for Environment & Economy, Speedwell House, Oxford, OX1 1NE. Tel 0845 310 11 11.

Live at the Park - 30/6/13

On behalf of the organisers thank you to the hundreds of people who came to support Live at the Park yesterday. Great weather, great people, great venue, great fun. Also many thanks to the local businesses and organisations who helped sponsor and support the event. Also the artists, bands and sound assistants, and the lighting crew who gave their time free of charge to give superb entertainment throughout the day. Live at the Park has arrived as major local annual event. Plans have already started for 2014!

Thank you all for making it such a success.

David Reynolds

Social Media workshops- 30/6/13

You are invited to attend a series of three social media workshops as outlined here.

July 9th. 6pm - 7pm

Beginner – ‘Get Online’ – What is Social Media all about?

July 16th - 6pm - 7pm

Intermediate – ‘Get Connected’ - I'm signed up on various platforms but what do I say? How do I say it to have the greatest effect? Who am I talking to? How do I build my audience?

July 23rd - 6pm - 7pm

Advanced – ‘Get Social’ - I want to harness the power of social media and learn how to integrate it with success in my marketing strategy!

I would appreciate a speedy response from anyone interested in attending any of these dates. Following a positive response from you, I will send out further information about venues etc.

I hope that a large number of local businesses will take the opportunity to join in these workshops, as the training is being provided for no cost to you from the High street innovation fund.

It is becoming increasingly important to use all media outlets to network and promote your business in a way that was not possible until very recently. Doing this the right way is essential. But without help can involve endless hours of your time trying to learn how to use platforms such as Twitter and Facebook effectively. An alternative is very expensive training courses, or outsourcing the job to a company skilled in social media promotion.

This is your chance to learn more about how to advertise and promote your business effectively online, without the big bill! It is then up to you how you decide to use that knowledge.

I am asking for a one off nominal contribution of £15 per person to cover the cost of refreshments for all three one hour sessions. You are not being asked to pay for the workshops themselves. This is being offered for free as part of the high street innovation funding to help build the business community and online presence of Faringdon town. Unfortunately I can not spend public money buying you all a drink, hence the requested contribution.

The course objectives are as follows:

- Help build a stronger sense of 'community' among local Faringdon business owners.
- Raise awareness of the importance of integrating social media into a marketing plan – to blend traditional and digital channels to successfully promote a 21 st century business.
- Encourage an improved level of support, inspiration, motivation, open communication and collaboration among the local business community.
- Introduce the power & benefits of social media marketing as an excellent B2B tool via various platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Pinterest, & Slideshare.
- Explore the Pros & Cons, Etiquette & Security concerns around using Social Media for business.

Please feel free to forward this email on to any local business or voluntary group in Faringdon that you think might be interested in participating in the workshops.

Also a great chance to network with other local businesses and learn how to cross promote businesses from Faringdon.

If you have any questions regarding the workshops or would like more information. Please don't hesitate to contact me.

Also please find attached a data collection form which I would like all businesses in the town to fill in and send back to me so that I can more effectively communicate with you about projects that might benefit you and your businesses.

Information will then be fed back to the local directory www.finditinfaringdon.com which will be optimised to help get Faringdon businesses found first when searching for relevant terms relating to your business across all search engines.

Mirabelle Mack Project Manager m: 07747025508 FaringdonTPM@mirabellemack.co.uk

Leisure pass for Faringdon Leisure Centre - 30/6/13

Leisure discounts with Access to Leisure pass

The council offers an Access to Leisure pass for people who receive certain benefits and who live in the Vale. There is no cost attached to the pass, which offers all eligible residents an approximate 30 per cent discount from the published fees and charges during off peak time.

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/sports-and-leisure/leisure-facilities/our-leisure-centres/leisure-discounts> for more information.

Download a form from http://www.soll-leisure.co.uk/images/stories/37529_Access_to_Leisure_leaflet_2012_V2_copy.pdf
VWHDC

Tesco : Chamber of Commerce Meeting. 8th July - 30/6/13

Here is notification of the forthcoming Faringdon Chamber of Commerce meeting when we will be hosting representatives from **Tescos** in order to find out more about their plans for the new store on Park Road. We are expecting a lot of interest so please note that this meeting will be in the **Old Town Hall**. Chamber of Commerce members will be given priority over other business owners and individuals. Book now to reserve your place as we do have a strict limit on numbers. As with all our meetings, the meeting falls on the second Monday of the month, which next month will be **Monday 8th July**. As usual, we will commence the meeting at **6:30pm**.

The meeting will take the form of a short presentation from Tescos, followed by a Q&A session. To give it some structure,

we would like people to pose any questions through the Chamber, so if you have any burning issues please let us know what you want to raise (this applies as much to you if you are going to be present to ask your question in person as to you if you are unable to attend). We will review the questions to see if there are some key themes and will ensure that as many are raised as possible. if time permits we will throw the meeting open to the floor.

Certainly we are keen to find out the timeline for completion of the store and whether there will be any further disruption to roads or other practical issues of interest. The future of the Vodafone mast will also be a topical issue. But most importantly to the Chamber, we will want to know how Tesco intend to help the town in the future by providing signage to the town centre and participating in town centre activities.

We will finish the meeting by 8 o'clock, but anyone is welcome to join us for a pint after that. We look forward to seeing you there.

If you are intending to come, please RSVP to paul.brame@virgin.net

Parking in Gloucester St. - 29/6/13

It is not only Gloucester St that suffers. All the streets within short walking distance from the town centre do. The Town Council have paid for a parking survey in order to address the situation, however this has been put off until Tesco's is built as their carpark will change the situation. I would love to have residents parking even if I have to pay for it. This is my opinion and not that of the FTC.

Jane Boulton

ED(GW) VWHDC have had the money (106 agreement) from Bloor since c 2010. For reasons best known to themselves they have not carried out the parking survey. I find it hard to believe that the Tesco car park will make a big impact on parking in the Town Centre.

Back from holiday - 29/6/13

Normal update service now resumed.

ED(GW)

Council meetings - 28/6/13

My apologies for being 10 days late in responding to this post. Those that know me will probably understand --- however. There is a degree of misinformation in the following comment:

"Dear Name withheld- re FTC- 18/6/16

With regards to the Town Council discussing matters with the community before making decisions, I would like to point that that they do."

I would like to clarify this statement.

One, we are 3 years in the future, but more importantly, there is a portion of council meetings where the public may speak.

There is however no requirement for a response unless a written letter demanding same is lodged.

It is my personal opinion that public speaking time is just that, time to speak.

Does it have any sway?

No, it can be totally ignored.

Mike Perks

Summer comes to Faringdon - 28/6/13

On Thursday I sat in the sunshine in the Market Place and noticed all the new hanging baskets and planted tubs - it looks lovely. Thanks to all concerned.

Pam de Wit, Faringdon resident.

Disabled Parking..... - 27/6/13

I think the council should erect a larger disabled parking sign in Marlborough St as there are always cars parked in the bay without a blue badge. Also I recently noticed a mobile mechanic servicing and repairing vehicles in the bay (must be

illegal). The trouble is the parking attendants are non-existent..police not interested so nothing will be done about it.
Cornholio

Coffee at The Old Crown - 26/6/13

The Old Crown now opens at 10am every day. Freshly made Lavazza coffee. Try a cappuccino or latte with a Danish pastry for only £2.99 or bring a friend - two for a fiver!

Also please note that we serve meals every day 12-3 and 6-9pm including Sunday evenings.

PciRepairs move to Portwell House - 21/6/13

PciRepairs are pleased to announce that we will be Closing our shop above Barclays Bank 14 Market Place, Faringdon on Friday 28th June 2013 BUT we are Very Happy to say we are offering computer repairs from the newly opening THE-PA at Portwell House Faringdon which is opposite Pat Thomas the Butchers from 1st July 2013

The PA is the new Office Services Company in Faringdon. At the PA you will be able to access a range of services (Some detailed below) at competitive rates, in a professional but relaxed atmosphere with table service for drinks and foods.

Wi-Fi, Web Maintenance, Web design, Virtual PA/Actual PA, Tax & PAYE, Start-ups, Risk Management, Printing & Copying, Payroll, Networking, Monthly Lunch meetings, Mobile Website Apps, Meeting Place, Marketing, Legal Services, Insurance, HR & Personnel, Health & Safety, Computer repairs, Company Set Up services, Business Support, Branding, Boardroom Facilities, Advertising & Marketing, Accounts, Debt control and collection, Telephone answering services, and Mailing address to name a few of the services offered.

People who work from home will be able to come and setup your laptop on a desk and plug it in to charge it, log on to our new Wi-Fi and print, scan and copy, also mix with likeminded people in a business environment all for a small fee per morning or per afternoon, (free till September 1st 2013) We Will NOT be doing Phone, iPad, iPod and tablet repairs, nor will we be selling Pc parts or other bits and pieces

Call 01367 246142 and speak to Jenna or Mike

Recycle old print cartridges - 21/6/13

Does anyone know anywhere in Faringdon that currently recycles old toner / print cartridges?

Mirabelle Mack

CALLING ALL LOCAL ACTORS - amateur and professional! - 21/6/13

I am part of the committee organising this year's FollyFest - Faringdon's Arts, Drama and Music Festival which is being held in and around the Market Place this year on Friday 2nd, Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th August.

A member of Faringdon's Dramatic Society, whilst not being part of the organising committee, responded to our request for a short play based on some aspect of the history of Faringdon. After some research he came up with 'Colonel Lisle's Decision' and we on the committee would like this to be part of the FollyFest activities.

Unfortunately Faringdon Dramatic Society have not be able to take this on as they were fully committed to their production of A Midsummer Night's Dream at Sudbury House Hotel; as this was such a major production, just about every member of the Society is involved in some way.

There are parts for 6 Male and 1 Female who would have a few lines each, but nothing too taxing.

Please could you consider and get back to me as soon as possible? Mark emails as "For attention of Fiona" and email me at follyfest@btinternet.com

Thank you

Fiona Merrick pp FollyFest

Half price badminton courts - 21/6/13

I was pleasantly surprised to find out that you can book a badminton court in the leisure centre at weekends half-price (£5 an hour).

I would particularly recommend Sunday mornings as the hall usually has spare capacity.

Name Supplied

Parking in Gloucester St - 21/6/13

Isn't it about time that Gloucester Street and all those streets which lead to the Market Square, were designated for residential parking. So tired of competing with casual shoppers and town centre workers who park for the day; so many towns and cities in the uk recognise the need and make appropriate provision for town centre residents. The apathy in Faringdon regarding this and illegal parking is maddening!!!

Name supplied

Ginger Cat Found - 21/6/13

We have found a ginger cat at Wicklesham Farm. He looks quite young, quite vocal and is obviously a well loved pet. Please call 244794. Sarah

The Bobbin Bistro - 21/6/13

The Bobbin Bistro had a very successful first weekend and we'd like to thank all of our new customers for their support. So...we're feeling quite brave now and we'd like to tell you all that we will now be serving dinner from 6pm Tuesday to Saturday. We are however closed on Sunday and Mondays.

Film Club

Our film club commences on Tuesday 23rd July 2013 at 8pm . No need to book for film night but if you'd like to receive the schedule of what's on and when, you need to email us at book@bobbin-bistro.co.uk.

Miss Fire's Burlesque Dinner

Our burlesque night is on Saturday 27th July at 7.30pm. Tickets are £30 a head and include a welcome glass of bubbly and two courses. Please call us on 01367 240578 or email book@bobbin-bistro.co.uk

Think that's about it for now...!

Best wishes

Mel & The Bobbin Team

Recommendation - car repairs - 21/6/13

I recommend David Lund for any mechanical work that needs doing to your car. Prompt service at a good price. Gave me a quote for my car within an hour and did the work within 24 hours. No hefty garage labour fees. Top bloke. Will definitely use him again.

His number is 07919904989

Name Supplied

FOLLYFEST EVENT - 21/6/13

CHILDREN'S FANCY DRESS PARADE

Saturday 3rd August

Theme – Nursery Rhymes.

Age categories –5 – 8 yrs. 9 – 12 yrs. and 12 to 16 yrs.

Assemble in Town Park from 10.30am. Parade starts approx. 11am.

If you wish your child to enter, please print off and fill in the form below and post or hand into 12 Ash Close, Faringdon SN7 8EJ by Thursday 1st August.

<http://www.follyfest.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/CHILDRENS-FANCY-DRESS-PARADE-REG.-FORM2.pdf>

RE: Planning Applications - 19/6/13

Revised plans for Fernham Fields have also been

submitted: <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/planning/ApplicationDetails.jsp?REF=P13/V0139/O>

Folly Man

Vodafone - 20/6/13

Amazing!!!! 07.40 in Faringdon and a FULL Vodafone signal!! Yay!

Oh, by the way, did anyone see the item about the Vodafone signal in SouthToday last night? Good work everyone!

Name supplied

Vodaphone - 19/6/13

As of 22:15 on 19th June I have signal!!! Only taken Vodafone 9 days to sort it!

Name Supplied

Vodaphone - 19/6/13

1) VIP update

BT has confirmed no temporary options are available (from BT) and they are now engaged with the BT planning team looking at rerouting this fibre. The VIP team have also engaged the VF Transmission planning team to see if a temporary microwave or fixed line service is an option and both are currently being progressed. It looks like we may have a temporary option for microwave and I'm just awaiting confirmation that a survey team will be attending tomorrow to assess.

2)Dear Lfor,

Very sorry for the inconvenience. our Service Support Team are still investigating to try and resolve, and as yet we do not have any new update.

I trust you will find this information useful. If you require any further assistance in the near future, please do not hesitate to contact us, on 191 from your handset or 08700700191 from another phone. You will need your case reference number to hand.

You can also reach us at networksupport@vodafone.com and we will endeavour to get back to you as soon as we can.

Kind regards, Abdul Kamara

3) Please would you explain how this information can be useful to me in any way whatsoever?

Regards Lfor

4)Dear Lfor,

Apologies for this delay in resolving this issue. There were major issues with the fibre transmission links connecting to the radio site and core network. Our team are working on their best to resolve this issue. As this issue is taking long, they decided to set up temporary transmission links, currently they are in the process of implementing this. We need your support at this point of time. They are trying every possible way to restore this issue. Once we have next action of work done on this incident we will promptly update you.

Regards,

Lakshman Yeluri

5)Please tell me what support you need from me. I'll help if I can, but I'm almost certain I don't have the necessary training.

Regards Lfor

Vodaphone - 19/6/13

Just a warning to say that Vodafone have just said that if you do what i did and drive out of Faringdon to get signal then you are not entitled to any compensation as the phone is in use!

I spoke to a very rude lad at Vodafone who said that no appeal against this would be heard.

Neil Guiden

Planning applications - 18/6/13

Humpty Hill

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P13/V1366/O>

94 dwellings- According to the website consultation period will begin when a planning officer has been assigned

Steeds Farm. Up to 150 dwellings, shop and pub.

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P13/V1102/O>

O

According to the website consultation period will begin when a planning officer has been assigned

ED(GW)

Live at the Park 2013 - 18/6/13

"Party in the Park" may not be happening but LIVE AT THE PARK most definitely is. Tuckers Park Saturday 29th June 12-11pm. Packed with family entertainment and live music all day and in support of Faringdon First Responders, RAF Benevolent Fund and Faringdon Football Club. Lots of stalls, attractions and food and drink. Full details in the programme published this week available at various retailers and other outlets in Faringdon. We look forward to seeing you. To paraphrase a Robbie Williams song..."Let us entertain you!"
David Reynolds

South Today at the Folly - 18/6/13

Just seen that Sally Taylor of South Today is going to be at the Faringdon Folly on Thursday for the evening programme..... an opportunity to further publicise the Vodafone problem methinks....
Name supplied

Vodafone - 18/6/13

According to the latest Consumers Association survey of satisfaction with mobile phone service providers (monthly contract) Tesco mobile come top, with Vodafone languishing at the bottom, behind Orange and EE to name but a few. So, if any of us are actually out of contract they might be worth considering? They are apparently a 'virtual network' using O2 transmitters, so it might be worth checking coverage via their (O2's) website postcode checker before taking the plunge - but can it be any worse?
Name withheld.

Regarding FTC Meetings...- 18/6/13

1) Protocol

Apparently there is a protocol for members of the public to engage with council members during a council meeting.

I just had a look on the FTC website, but can not find anything regarding this protocol.

It would be beneficial for the FTC to state on their website the exact protocol for members of the public, who attend a FTC meeting, so they can convey questions or concerns towards the members of the specific meeting.

2) Meeting Agenda's

The FTC website has a list of past meeting agenda's but I do not see the agenda's of future meetings. Is there a location where the agenda for future meetings is published so the public can see if attending might be in their interest?

Name Supplied

Vodafone - 18/6/13

The ongoing situation with Vodafone and the mobile coverage (or lack of) in Faringdon just further emphasises how little these multinationals care about the smaller hands that feed them..... As a previous poster has said, PLEASE contact Vodafone and make our town heard. We have rights to what we pay for, and should not be fobbed off!! Email guy.laurence@vodafone.com - below is an email sent earlier today.

Dear Mr Laurence,

As a monthly contract holder with Vodafone, I would be grateful if you could let me know a timescale for the restoration of a workable mobile signal in Faringdon and its immediate environs. As you will be aware, the signal has been unfit for purpose (and therefore, presumably, Vodafone in breach of the contract I have entered into with them) for a week. If, as I understand, there are ongoing 'issues' with the other FTSE100 company which is currently blighting this town, it is not beyond the resources of a major world leader such as Vodafone to provide a temporary mast facility.

Your customers deserve better than the response, or non-response, that has been evident to date. The news

*page on www.faringdon.org is fast becoming a source of very negative publicity for Vodafone.....
I look forward to hearing from you...*

Name supplied

Vodafone PAYG customers - 18/6/13

You can still claim a small amount back if you email Vodafone with your complaint. Here is my reply from Vodafone:

Thank you for contacting Vodafone Customer services about your network coverage.

I can understand your concern and would like to inform you that I checked the account and would like to inform you that it is a known issue of the mass down and it has already been escalated to the relevant team to fix it out.

Jill Dean

Lack of Vodafone Signal - 18/6/13

Here is a copy of what I have sent the CEO in an attempt to get some answers - can others please do something similar... see his e-mail address in a post below"

Dear Mr Laurence,

As I know you are aware, the Vodafone signal is currently down in central Faringdon and I, along with many other businesses in Faringdon are losing trade because customers are assuming the mobile phone is switched off when they cannot get through to speak to me.

I raised a complaint immediately I noticed this and was fobbed off with by the Customer Care team, who told me "owing to the nature of mobile telecommunications, it is impossible to provide a fault-free service" with no forecast of when the problem will be fixed.

I understand the aerial you own is within the Tesco redevelopment site and after 3 or so years after securing Planning permission, work has now commenced. Are you seriously telling me that no-one from your organisation could see a potential issue arising here? Apparently other complainants from the town are being told that none of your operatives have "sufficient training" to enter a site where redevelopment work is being undertaken.

This lack of honesty with your customers leads your company into disrepute. As Tesco run a competing mobile phone service, I imagine that they are refusing you access to maintain your aerial in the hope customers desert Vodafone in favour of them – which is exactly what I am considering doing.

I have alerted BBC Radio and BBC Oxford TV to this debacle and would be grateful if someone from your organisation would be prepared to give some straight answers as to exactly when the service will be resumed, if at all, so we as failed customers can make the necessary arrangements to preserve our businesses.

I look forward to hearing from you very shortly.

Andrew Goodwin

BUSCOT PARK FUN RUN - 18/6/13

On Sunday 30th June 2013, The Rotary Club of Faringdon & District are holding their annual Fun Run over 5k and 10k in the beautiful setting of Buscot Park whilst the park is closed by kind permission of Lord Faringdon.

The course has been accurately measured using GPS and runs right past the front door of Buscot House, through formal parkland, woods and around open fields on a mix of gravel and tarmac. Water stations will be at strategic locations. The 5k race starts at 10.30am and the 10k at 11.15am. Whether you're a serious runner or just jog for enjoyment, if you would like to enrol for either race, please contact Ian Lloyd on 01367 240212 email: ian@propertyandenergy.co.uk or message us on our facebook

page: www.facebook.com/faringdon.rotary

All proceeds go to our charity projects, most of which are local.

Mike Bell

Dear Name withheld- re FTC- 18/6/16

With regards to the Town Council discussing matters with the community before making decisions, I would like to point that that they do. Every month there is a Town Council meeting where members of the community are invited to attend the meeting and ask questions. The meetings are very formal but there are sections where members of the community are welcome to have their say. If you are unable to attend for any reason, you are able to write to the council with a question that will be placed before the town council for discussion. In addition, the Town Council holds a yearly meeting for members of the community to ask councillors questions and find out what has been going on during the year. These meetings are advertised in advance and on the Town Council website and other local publications including this website. Currently only a handful people turn up for the meetings but you are all very welcome to come along.

Also the Town Council has been completing the Neighbourhood Plan in conjunction with members of the community and there has been a number of meetings arranged for members of the community to turn up and have their say. The Neighbourhood plan is still going and looking for volunteers. If you would like to get involved and have your say about Faringdon than please contact the June Rennie at the Town Council offices. You could also volunteer to become a Town Councillor.

Julie Farmer

Party in the Park - 18/6/13

Someone mentioned today that this event has been cancelled. Does anyone know?

ED(GW)

Re Willes close - 18/6/13

'the decision to proceed with the project has yet to be made by the full council, and therefore no point discussing it further until the go-ahead had been given'

Heaven forbid the Council should consult the electorate before making a decision.....

Name supplied

Re: Willes Close - 18/6/13

As previously mentioned, the issue of how to spend the money given to Faringdon Town Council for community projects will be discussed, and decided upon, at the next council meeting on 10th July, at which time any questions, observations and wonderings GW, the nameless Willes Close resident and any other interested party can be responded to.

In line with Faringdon Town Council guidelines, that is the correct way for answers to be given so they can be minuted by the Town Clerk, rather than on an internet forum.

David Keeble

ED(GW).

Residents aiming to go to the meeting on 10th can either write to the Council with their views (in advance, I think 1 week) or speak at public speaking time (3mins max) and I think if there are many people wishing to speak the chairman can limit it. Other than that residents can only listen to the debate between Town Councillors

Live At The Tithe - 18/6/13

A huge thank you to everybody who braved the weather to come along to the Tithe Barn on Saturday.

Special thanks to the stall holders who had to hang on to their gazebos on more than one occasion!. Despite this, many kept going for as long as they possibly could and remained good humoured.

It's estimated that around 500 people visited during the day and made the most of the non stop music - and the beer tent to hide in during the rain!.

The evenings concert by 'Show Of Hands' in the barn with support from the wonderful Cole Stacey & Joseph

O'Keefe was, as expected, a massive success. 'Show Of Hands' are so popular that it was no surprise that it sold out months ago. The lucky 300 who were there on Saturday night had an amazing time in such a great surroundings.

If you missed out on tickets and want to see them you may be interested to know that the next time they will be nearby is at the New Theatre Oxford on November 22. Keep an eye on their website to check other dates.

Thank you again for all who came along.

Name Supplied

ED(GW) It was a really good occasion - and would have been even better had it been a fine day. I hope the organisers won't be deterred.

Vodafone.- 17/6/13

I learned from Vodafone, yesterday, that an engineer will be attending the site today. Below is the response I got when I asked why it has taken a week to get an engineer to the site.

Dear Ifor,

'I have checked the engineering notes and the approved route into the site is not accessible now due to a demolished building.

The only way into the site now is through an active demolition site, which requires specialist training.

I am sorry for any inconvenience this may cause'

Ifor Phillips

Vodafone.- 17/6/13

Email the CEO of vodafone at this address and vent your spleen. No signal for 1 week, they have no idea when it will be fixed and quite clearly dont give a damn for this sleepy backwater.

guy.laurence@vodafone.com He or rather one of his minions will email back or possibly try and phone. They as of 1830 on Monday 17 June have no idea when it will be fixed. Complain as us on contracts will get some compensation if you ask for it. As for a 4g signal from them, as much chance of Cameron winning a popularity contest!

Lawrence at Vodafone will contact you as he hates getting complaints. dont bother with Customer Services as they have no idea whatsoever.

Colin

Re: Willes Close Allotments (David Keeble),- 17/6/13

If Willes Close becomes a development/emergency access for Willes Triangle. Willes Close will lose parking spaces as residents will not be able to park in front of their houses anymore. And we all know that residential parking spaces are becoming more of a premium in Faringdon, especially around the town center.

If the Willes Close Triangle is considered for Housing Development, I would like to understand how vehicle access is gained to the site (if Willes Close residents do not allow vehicle access from their end, due to the "Ransom Strip")?

I also remember that a couple of years ago a company on Regal Way was offering access from Regal Way to Willes Triangle in return for some additional parking spaces.

Has the council pursued this any further?

I also agree with GW, and people will use their car to come to the allotment. You can not stop them.

Name Supplied.

Great customer service - 17/6/13

Called Second 2 none garage in the morning to arrange some work on my car, called me straight back with a quote and booked it in for same afternoon, reasonable price to. After collecting my car, I'd just got home to receive a call to say another customer had handed my bank card in. Just really wanted to say thank you to that customer and the staff for getting my card back safely, great customer service and will definitely recommend

them.

Name supplied

Vodafone Mast.- 17/6/13

If you do speak to Vodafone all they can tell you is that the problem is being repaired but they are unable to say if it will take a day or a month. All we can do is contact them until they get fed up of the bad press.

I have asked the last lady I spoke to if she could speak to someone senior and let us have some news.

Apparently that does not compute.

They have offered to refund the lost time but those running businesses will get little comfort from this.

Why not ring today and make a nuisance of yourselves. We use 08700700191.

Andrew Brown

Willes Close allotments.- 17/6/13

Dear 'Willes Close resident',

We have yet to discuss taking this project any further with any resident of Willes Close, including the ones which were in discussion with one of my fellow councillors, as the decision to proceed with the project has yet to be made by the full council, and therefore no point discussing it further until the go-ahead has been decided.

Faringdon library VOLUNTEERS wanted - 31/5/13

Volunteering can be a rewarding and enriching experience.

Summer Reading Scheme Volunteers (13th July - 14th September)

to help deliver the Summer Reading Challenge

talk to the children about the books they have been reading, help them choose others

help with activities and craft sessions

hand out rewards

Rhyme time Volunteers (Fridays 10.30 - 11.00).....if you would like to offer some time, half an hour once a week or once a month we would be really pleased to hear from you.

Home Library Service Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers who are willing to give a couple of hours each month to brighten up a housebound person's life and be part of a worthwhile service

If any of our volunteer positions appeals to you please ring us or email

01367 240311 farindon.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Bogus Council Tax officials - 31/5/13

Residents are being warned to be on their guard against bogus officials offering council tax refunds or threatening them with fines.

There have been several incidents reported recently across Oxfordshire, including in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse.

The fraudsters operate by ringing, texting or visiting residents claiming to be from the local council, valuation office or some other company which deals with changes to council tax banding. They suggest that you are either due a council tax refund, or owe more council tax and must pay it promptly to avoid a fine. They will then ask for personal information and bank details to process the refund or payment or they may ask for a fee to secure a refund or band reduction for you.

Thames Valley Police

Reversing out of a driveway on a main road - not illegal - 31/5/13

The advice given in the Highway Code (Rule 201) is just that; advice. It is not an offence to reverse into a road. Unwise, maybe, but not an offence. It could, however, be construed as careless driving or even dangerous driving, according to the circumstances, and these are offences.

Folly Man

Reversing out of a driveway on a main road - not illegal - 31/5/13

The Highway code says it is illegal to reverse from a sideroad out into a main road but when using a driveway you should "reverse in and drive out *if you can*"

<https://www.gov.uk/using-the-road-159-to-203/reversing-200-to-203>

Name Supplied

Beginners jogging group with Far Runners - starting 23 June - 30/5/13

Did you make a new year's resolution to improve your fitness and somehow June's almost here?

Faringdon's amateur running/jogging group, Far Runners, are holding beginners running sessions every Sunday starting from 23 June. Come along and meet our friendly and supportive, mixed-ability group including our runners who only started in January and are now regularly running several miles.

First meeting on 23 June at 9.30am in Faringdon leisure centre car park. Everyone is welcome - please come and join us!

<http://farrunners.wix.com/home>

farrunners@yahoo.com; andreaplant@hotmail.com

Like us on Facebook (Far Runners) or just come along!

Missing cat - 30/5/13

Our one year old grey cat has gone missing. He has a few tiny white hairs on his chest but is mostly grey with green eyes. We miss our baby boy very much and would welcome any news, good or bad. 07720385538

Attempted burglary, Faringdon - 29/5/13

Between 7pm on (25/5) and 1:30pm on (26/5) attempted burglary to a shed in Park Road, Faringdon.

Offender/s tried to gain entry to a shed by pulling up the roof. After an unsuccessful attempt the offender/s stole an insecure bike which was left in the garden.

Please be extra vigilant. 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 **101** and state you are responding to a Thames Valley Alert message.

Alternatively if you have information but wish to remain anonymous, please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or online@crimestoppers-uk.org. No personal details are taken, information is not traced or recorded and you will not go to court.

Sponsored swim Diabectics Uk- 27/5/13

Congratulations to Stev England for taking part in swim . His challenge was 200 lengths arms only.

He completed this in 1hr 44 min

Thankyou to leisure staff for supporting this good cause

Name supplied

Singers and Bands wanted - 27/5/13

We are looking for any singers/bands who would like to perform at our end of year fundraiser/social event.

We are a small rural school who are trying to organise an evening of sporting fun along with some musical entertainment, bar, barbecue etc. The event is planned for the evening of Friday 5th July.

If you feel you could help please get in touch, young teenage musicians welcome.

teresa.foster1@btinternet.com

Road closures - 26/5/13

You don't have to go though the Market Place to avoid the Tesco Road works, you can go through Ferndale Street.

James Campbell

Park Road:- 25/5/15

As a resident of Park Road and having suffered enough abuse over the years when trying to get into my driveway I would like to remind other drivers that we have to reverse in as it is against the law to reverse onto an A road. With the new Tesco store development we are having enough disruption without people making our lives more difficult. Please have some consideration.

Cats!.- 12/5/13

As a cat lover (and past owner) I disagree that cats can't be trained to toilet in a particular place. When I first rescued my cat from a rehoming centre he was kept indoors for two weeks to get used to his surroundings. He had a litter tray of course and a couple of days before his first outing I emptied the tray into our garden. This meant that as soon as he went out he recognised his own scent and felt safe and secure that this was the place to go. I know for a fact that he used this area for quite some time. Of course he did wander and investigate and no doubt enter other gardens, however my immediate

neighbours who didn't have cats I approached and asked if they ever saw him using their gardens as a loo. One said yes, so I cleared it up and bought them a supply of cat deterrent. As my cat aged I supplied a litter tray for him again, catsan is so clean and easy to use and every cat would prefer this method rather than digging in mud in all weathers I'm sure!. So unless you live in the countryside with few houses around I think it's unnecessary to expect your neighbours to put up with cat mess in their flower borders. Cats are free roaming it's true but all owners could at least try and encourage home toileting.

I look forward to having another cat and I'll do my best to keep my neighbours happy.

Name Supplied

Cycling in Faringdon - 11/5/13

Faringdon will be the focus for UK cycling on Saturday the 3rd of August, 2013 when two exciting events take place in conjunction with the town's rejuvenated annual festival.

All cyclists will be welcome and each individual will find an event to suit her or his taste, lycra or no lycra.

Those who are up for a challenge can start out from the Market Square at 8:00 am whereas those who just want a bit of fun can sleep in and present themselves in the square at 3:00 pm.

The earlier event takes the form of a traditional "sportive", which is a timed road run along a predetermined route and which typically draws an entry of 100s from around the country. There will be two routes on the 3rd, one of 35 miles and another of 70 miles. The route will be signposted and there will be marshals to guide people but, most importantly, there will be food and drink along the way. The routes meander through the Cotswolds where the scenery is incomparable. There is an advance entry fee for the sportive and all profits will go to the running of the festival. The event is being run under the auspices of British Cycling. To enter, go to <https://www.britishcycling.org.uk/events/details/90387/Farcycle-FollyFest-Sportive>.

The later event, at 3 pm, is a "bike HHH". This is a fusion between a paper chase and a Hash House Harriers run. One bike HHH group describes itself as a "drinking club with a cycling problem". This event is all about having fun without having too many cycling skills. There is a prize of a brand new mountain bike and the winner's name will be drawn from all those who complete the course of approximately 5-7 miles. There is no entry fee for this event.

You can find out more about these events by emailing farcycles@gmail.com or searching for "farcycle" on Facebook. There is a brilliant opportunity to get ready for these events - every Saturday morning at 09:00 in the Market Place ...

Mark Harrison

Cats/Dogs/Kids - 11/5/13

I was appalled to read the comments regarding Cats going into other peoples gardens, as a Cat person I cannot understand the mentality of someone who has such extreme views and doesn't know the true nature of a Cat...Cats are by nature animals that roam, the Cats that I've have had, have had their own Cat flap and free to come and go as they please, always fed and watered, It's like saying to the wild birds 'NO POOING IN MY GARDEN' ...impossible!

Some of the kids around here are more badly behaved than animals, just the other day a child who lives in Marlborough Gardens ran straight out in front of my car, had I been driving at more than 20 mph I would have hit him, he was completely unsupervised and badly trained in road sense, Dog owners have the luxury of putting their pet on a lead and can pick up the dog dirt as they go, unfortunately for the Cat owners they don't have the luxury to walk their cats on leads so please don't moan about Cats they're doing what nature intended them to do, also giving great comfort to their owners, the thought of having them trapped disgust me.

Pussygalore

Cats - 11/5/13

Unfortunately with "name supplied" entries I never really know whether the comments are a wind-up or not! However, I'll assume that the poster is genuine in his or her comments. Quite how we manage to get from the wild antics of cats to the ownership of guns in less than a sentence is beyond me so I won't even respond to that! The fact is cats roam. That's what they do. Owners can't "train" a cat where and where not to wander. My slightly tongue in cheek suggestion to get a cat is probably the best solution because it will keep other cats at bay. However, if you don't want to get a cat...at least try and get

a life! Debate ends.

David Reynolds

Planning applications in your area - 11/5/13

If you want to be told when someone makes a planning application in your area, sign up for an 'alert' from VWHDC

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/news-and-events/keep-me-informed/email-alerts>

You get notified of planning applications within 100m of your postcode. If you want to extend this to a wider area you need to email the VWHDCplanning department

ED(GW)

Local Plan, leader of VWHDC - 10/5/13

Last Friday I had the pleasure of attending a public meeting for local people from the communities of Wantage and Grove at the Wantage Civic Hall.

Over the course of the consultation for the Local Plan Part One, there has been significant local concern in the Wantage and Grove area about the level of housing that has been allocated there compared to the perceived need for additional homes.

At a well attended meeting with around 200 residents, we discussed concerns about how the local supporting infrastructure and services would cope with this additional housing in a lively question and answer session

It was a positive and constructive meeting for both the district council to better understand the thoughts of local people and also to help the community groups to gain an insight into how the decisions in the local plan are made.

The discussions included the work that the Vale is doing to ensure a sound evidence base for the number of houses being developed in the district. Many residents spoke to me afterwards and said they appreciated the frank responses, and left the meeting with a better understanding of our position.

Finally, I would just like that all of you who responded to the consultation, which closed yesterday. Your comments will be incredibly helpful in taking the Local Plan forward to the next stage.

Cllr Matthew Barber, leader of Vale of White Horse District Council.

Cats! - 10/5/13

To David Reynolds - you would seriously suggest people buy a cat to keep other cats out of their garden? People who choose NOT to have pets, yet have to put up with the mess from the cats of irresponsible owners? It's like calling for people in the US to buy a gun because other people have guns. It's not helping the problem, it's contributing to it.

I regularly chase upwards of 15 different cats out of my garden (not at the same time). They are a nuisance - I don't want them there, but I'm legally not allowed to do anything to physically remove them (e.g. trap them). I often having to clear up cat poo, bird feathers, hairballs, etc from those that visit my garden uninvited, not to mention witnessing their fighting almost daily. I think they are horrible pests and, were it legal, I'd trap and remove as many cats as I could.

Cats have somehow maintained a 'right to roam' over the years. When will this foolish rule end? Many cat owners in our neighbourhood don't feel obliged to bring their cat in overnight, which means they're now barely better than strays. It's despicable and irresponsible.

Name supplied

Re: Council Tip- 10/5/13

The Stanford recycling centre had been due to close in December 2014, not this year. However, Oxfordshire County Council has had to abandon its plans for a large-scale recycling site near Oxford, which was driving the closure, because of land ownership issues. They're looking for an alternative site but unless and until they can find one, Stanton-in-the-Vale will remain open.

Folly Man

Neighbourhood Policing update for May- 10/5/13

Theft, alcohol disorder, assaults, shed thefts, break in, illegal parking in Faringdon in May.

Read the May report:

<http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/yournh/yournh-tvp-pol-area/yournh-tvp-pol-area-soxon-vowh/pub-pg-nh-upds->

VWHDC Residents Panel - 10/5/13

We are currently seeking to expand the Residents' Panel further and we hope that you may be able to help us do that by sharing the link below with your friends, family [living in a different household], neighbours and colleagues living in the area, so that they too can be invited to join the Panel. You can even share this with your place of work and any community group(s) you are aware of - anywhere you like if relevant to the people there www.plus4.co.uk/valeinvite

Currently we are seeking:

-People aged 16-54 [older age groups already being well represented] who are currently living in Abingdon, Botley / North Hinksey, Faringdon, Wantage and Grove [other areas already being well represented]

AND we are also keen to invite:

-People who have a physical or mental impairment ... of any age 16+ from any area in the District.

For each qualifying person who joins the Residents' Panel by the end of May, who states that they were recommended by you [we ask them how they heard about the Panel], we will enter your name into a prize draw. So if 5 people join as a result of your recommendation, your name will be entered 5 times into the draw!

We have 10 x £20 supermarket vouchers to give away and if you are one of the lucky winners, we will call you and make sure we purchase them from your chosen supermarket brand. The draw will be made during the second week of June.

Cat- near miss - 10/5/13

This morning (10th May) a black cat ran out in front of my car just behind the petrol station. I don't believe I hit it (first time using an emergency stop since driving lessons!) as he then shot off back into the field at the speed of light.

I wanted to post here as I am a cat owner and if anything happened to my cat then someone would be so kind to alert me. As he shot off I didn't get a chance to check him over, but wanted to put something on here in case they have a spooked cat return home later.

Name supplied

Council Tip - 8/5/13

Does anyone know if the planned permanent closure of the council tip at Stanford is still happening at the end of this year. The guys that work there believe it is.

Regards Mark

LIVE@THE TITHE - 8/5/13

Programmes for 'Live@TheTithe' - a family festival on June 15th at the Great Coxwell Tithe Barn are now available for just £1.00 from the Faringdon Coffee House.

www.liveatthetithe.co.uk

The John Betjeman Poetry Competition - 8/5/13

.....for Young People is open to 10 -13 year olds living in the UK and the Republic of Ireland.

Each child is invited to send in (by post or online) one poem on the theme of 'place'.

The first prize of £1,000 is shared between the winning entrant and his or her school. The winner, runner-up, and second runner-up will each win four standard class tickets from St Pancras International to Paris, Brussels or Lille donated by Eurostar. Five finalists will receive £50 of book tokens. Entries will be judged by Susan Hill CBE.

Full details and online entry form <http://www.betjemanpoetrycompetition.com/submit-your-entry/>.

In addition to the prizes for individual finalists, six schools entering the competition will be awarded poet visits.

Poems and completed entry forms can also be sent via post and should be addressed to:

The John Betjeman Poetry Competition for Young People, PO BOX 3850 , Royal Mail, Swan Lane, Faringdon, Oxfordshire, SN7 7JB.

The competition closes on 31st July.

Full details can be found at our website: www.betjemanpoetrycompetition.com

Dog Poo Bags- 7/5/13

Use nappy sacks - they're the right size, biodegradable and often scented!

Asda do 200 for £1, Sainsburys do 100 basic ones for 12p.

Mel Lane

AA Friendliest B&B Of The Year Finalist 2013-14.- 7/5/13

Chowle Farmhouse Bed & Breakfast is pleased to announce that we have been nominated by the AA Inspectors from over 3,500 establishments in the AA Guest Accommodation scheme as a finalist in the 2013 AA Friendliest B&B of the Year competition.

Keep your fingers crossed for us on the 28th MAY, 2013 for the AA B&B Awards 2013.

We would like to say a thank you to local families and businesses for all their continued support.

Janet Muir

Re - Dog Mess- 7/5/13

You don't have to buy specific bags for your dog mess. Just buy cheap sandwich or food bags in whatever size you need, or if you go to a supermarket and buy loose fruit and veg, keep the plastic bags from that.

Dog owner

Garden Centre at Chowle - 6/5/13

I haven't looked at the application, but in principle it sounds good- a nearby garden centre

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P13/V0717/FUL>
ED(GW)

Cat Poo...- 4/5/13

The best way to avoid cat poo in your garden...get your own cat. They don't mess in their own territory and they'll make sure no other cat comes near!

David Reynolds

Cat Poo - 4/5/13

Hi. Not long moved to a ground floor flat I have now got this problem. I was told today cats do not like moth balls if you put them around the garden. It will keep them out. I have not done this yet. Just thought I would pass this in. Worth a try

Roy Cook

Re Housing and elections - 4/5/13

A very condescending missive from VOWHC regarding housing. Politicians wonder why the electorate are so apathetic when it comes to voting, well maybe it comes from the fact that the politicians of all levels are not listening and doing as they are elected to do. ie what we tell them to. I think most of them don't deserve our votes and at the next elections, I shall tell them so.

Mark Lunnon

Election results - 3/5/13

Conservative Judith Heathcoat 1,038 54%

Labour Tony White 391 20%

UKIP Stephen Graeme Beatty 277 14%

Green Lesley Ann Hoyle 141 7%

Liberal Democrat Brian George Sadler 89 5%

Voter turnout 26% (1936)

2009 elections voter turnout 36% (2071). Elected member (conservative) 63%(1311)

ED(GW)

Gospel Music Concert on 8th June.- 3/5/13

An atmospheric evening of Gospel music by candlelight in All Saints Church. Relax with a glass of wine to some of Faringdon's best know musicians playing as you have never heard them before. The Oxford Gospel Choir, Jamie Miller, Embellish, Boogie Me and friends will raise your spirits through the swell of Hammond Organ, harmony of choir, and clapping of hands. Doors open 7:30pm. Tickets £10 (including a glass of wine) available now from The Nut Tree. Proceeds

to be split between FollyFest and All Saints Church.

Sarah, Jon & Steve

Housing - 3/5/13

Interesting point by VWHDC on housing which I think reads as we are going to build where we like whether you like it or not. If you take Faringdon no amenities, no jobs yet we intend to build large numbers of new housing which can either just create a ghetto or a dormitory town.

Name Supplied

Election -3/5/13

I have to agree with Faith. Very little information, either through our letterbox or available on the web about the candidates standing. I nearly didn't bother to vote, and normally don't vote tory but in the end voted for the only candidate that bothered to come and knock on our door and seek our views and canvass for votes..

Regards Mark

Much ado about nothing.- 3/5/13

As a town we seem to hold very polarised views about doggy doos - we either love to walk our dogs and let them relieve themselves all over the surrounding green spaces or we are enraged by stepping in it. No wonder there's been so much outrage over plans to develop a well known beauty spot and dog conveniences for housing. If prospective councillors had let known their opinions on dog poo no doubt the turn out (excuse the pun) at the polling booths would have been at a record high. There's a saying that 'we get the society we deserve'. Local people need to campaign on issues that they consider important, to lobby local councillors and hold them to account at the polling booths if we are to have the local amenities we deserve. On recent C4 News Cameron proudly stated that if we vote Tory the Rates will be kept down. The flip side of this is of course, potholes, unfettered building by developers and lack of local services, education provision and amenities. But then of course, I forgot - there's no such thing as society....

Name supplied.

Dog Mess - 3/5/13

Just to express solidarity with the final paragraph from the last correspondent. Unfortunately most cat owners are completely unconcerned about the nuisance their pets cause to the hapless owners of pet-free gardens. I have to clear up almost every day to clear cat mess from my garden, I am surrounded by neighbours cats which see my patch as a handy latrine. Cat deterrents, electronic or not are all equally useless in putting off these determined filthy creatures. If anyone knows of an effective remedy, hurry up and publish it. I've tried virtually every recommended method without success.

Name Supplied

Dog mess AND cat mess- 2/5/13

Totally agree with name supplied regarding dog mess.

I spent many hours in the summer months in my garden only to be outraged by the amount of cat mess i find on a daily basis and have to dispose of.

i dont have a cat and I don't like cats but they can leave mess in my garden and there is absolutely nothing i can do about it ! so yes the law should be changed its smelly, horrid and unhealthy and in my case very costly, i must of spent quite a bit of money on various gadgets and powders that do not work ! If anyone has any ideas how to stop cats using my garden as a toilet i would welcome them.

Name Supplied

Local election - 2/5/13

Early this morning I hobbled painfully down to the Corn Exchange to read the election candidates' manifestos. I had to do this as I knew nothing about most of them: only one candidate had bothered to put anything through our door in the preceding few weeks. Upon getting there I found a lively hall filled with information and candidates telling me what they stood for and in which direction they proposed to steer our town. (Obviously that last line was a joke. Sarcasm.) I found an empty hall, no candidates and no information whatsoever about any of them or what they are going to do for Faringdon's residents. So I hobbled home. I looked online. I looked on the Vale of White Horse website. I rang the hotline number. 'We only run the election'. I googled the candidates. After two hours I still know nothing about them, including what is the most important thing to me - who is going to stand and block the proposed new housing estates?

So if any of the proposed councillors are interested in why there weren't more votes, it's not apathy on my part. I can't vote if I don't know what I'm voting for. If you can't be bothered to tell your proposed electors why they should vote for you then perhaps they won't vote.

Faith Carpenter

Dog mess - 2/5/13

As a dog owner I would like to say the following in response to various posts:

1. It is your responsibility as the owner to clear up after your dog regardless of where it goes. The law relates to ANY open space, so all those people who think it doesn't matter on Folly Hill, Humpty Dumpty Hill etc as it's 'out in the countryside' - you are wrong. Please start clearing up after your dog.
2. You can put bagged waste in ANY bin (including your own home bin); however I do agree that, once you get out the town centre, a few more bins would be useful (also to tackle the problem of rubbish).
3. Yes, I do always take my dog out to be emptied, but then she refuses to go in the garden - many house-trained dogs are like this as they see it as an extension of their home (but I also always clear up after her)
3. Plenty of shops in Faringdon sell poo bags - the pet shop, the Really Useful Shop and (I believe) Budgens. No excuse there!
4. Please do not use carrier bags - there's a reason you now have to pay for these in many countries.
5. The bags are about £1 for 200 in the Really Useful Shop (>3 months' worth) - if you can't afford that, how can you possibly afford to keep a dog?

In my experience, it seems to be the older dog owners who are particularly remiss about clearing up - I guess this is because they grew up in an age when no-one did. However, times change!

Please can I encourage ALL dog owners to act responsibly. Dogs are already banned from so many places, the anti-dog brigade don't need any more ammo, and this is something we can all do to improve the image of dogs and their owners. Finally, when is the law going to start protecting home owners from the nuisance of cat mess in their garden? Why is it not OK for my dog to foul public places but my neighbour's cat can go wherever it likes?

Name supplied

Vale Local Plan update - 2/5/13

One of the main talking points at our exhibitions for the local plan consultation is the amount of housing that is required in the district. As stated in the draft local plan and throughout the consultation; the best data that has been available to us to this point is the data that informed the South East Plan - a document that the government has since revoked.

To create a robust local plan that the Secretary of State will approve, we need to produce our own housing need figures. We have to assess housing need in the context of the housing market area, which for us is Oxfordshire. This work is taking place over the summer, to produce a county-wide Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA). This will be based on a large body of up to date evidence, including demographic, housing and economic factors. This will use the most up to date census data.

Locally, there appears to have been a degree of confusion about some figures recently provided by the government's Department for Communities and Local Government. The household projection data cannot be taken in isolation and its forecasts cannot simply be projected forward to the full length of our local plan (until 2029) and then be used as the housing target. These projections will form part of the demographic evidence to inform the SHMA. That is because these figures project forward what has happened in the past five years, which has been a period of low economic growth that may not be repeated across the much longer time horizon that local authorities must plan for. If we were to base the local plan on these numbers alone, it would not be in accordance with national policy.

When distributing housing to meet our housing requirement, we cannot treat individual towns and villages in isolation. We need to focus development in parts of the Vale that are suitable for sustainable development and support the economic growth of the district.

VWHDC

Dog Fouling - 1/5/13

It now seems that the mess left on the pavement is not the fault of dog owners, but everyone else. The council for not providing bins and the Shops for not stocking 'Poo-Bags'.

If people have dogs, it is their responsibility to make sure they source their bags (even if it means travelling to Swindon etc.). After all, they will spend enough on dog food, vets etc. They could always 'recycle' shopping bags from local stores instead of just throwing them away when they get home.

Here's another thought for dog owners - if there are no bins TAKE IT HOME WITH YOU. Surely you have dog waste to dispose of there - or do you always take your mutt out, so you don't have that problem?

Name Supplied

Extended deadline of 14th May. Community campaign to clamp down on dog fouling - 1/5/13

Can you please get your entries to

Holly Davies, Anti-fouling Campaign, FocusON Oxfordshire, Portwell House, Faringdon, Oxfordshire, SN7 7HU.

The competition is centred on a slogan 'Don't be a chump, pick up that dump', but we are happy with any slogan as long as it gets the message home, the more humorous the better.

Judges will be encouraged to select posters that get the message across clearly and have the best use of graphics, colour and illustrations.

Posters will be grouped by age with a maximum of four posters going forward in each age category.

The shortlisted posters (and more if there is room) will be displayed throughout the rest of day in the Jubilee rooms which is also Oxfordshire Art week, so we are hoping for good visitor numbers throughout the day.

The winning poster will be printed by Davenports Media as their contribution to the campaign for distribution throughout the town and on the <http://dontbeachumpkickupthatdump.weebly.com/> web site.

We look forward to seeing you then, but should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either of us.

Please confirm that you are still able to take part.

Holly Davies 01367 246136

Joe Cilia 01367 242964

Dog Fouling - 1/5/13

In response to the question of dog fouling in the town. Please can I draw your attention to the following information from the 'Keep Britain Tidy' campaign. <http://kb.keepbritaintidy.org/dogsv5/Background/kbtdogfoulingpolicy.pdf>

In the section 'What can be done to combat dog fouling?'

The final bullet point is essential and is part of the local poster campaign to help people understand individual responsibility to clear up after their dogs. The key fact being THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A DOG WASTE BIN! For some years now dog waste can be disposed of in any bin.

- Clear and consistent messaging that bagged waste can be placed in any bin.

Yes I agree that more shops should stock dog waste bags. But as all of the shops in town are commercial enterprises, if customers ask for them and buy them, they will stock them. Shop locally and the tell local businesses what your shopping habits are and what you would buy if they had it in store. I would hope you will get a very positive response and will be able to shop locally more as everything you want to buy can be bought in the town.

I hope that helps.

Mirabelle Mack

Progress...- 1/5/13

Was it a dream? As I drove down park Road today - I think I saw a 'perimeter fence' going up. Looks like the Tesco site development is under way. Good news.

Bystander

Visit to Le Mele in Normandy 30 May to 2 June - 1/5/13

How about a fun-filled week-end in Normandy?

Includes a day-trip to Amboise on the Loire to see the house of Leonardo da Vinci with fascinating working models, works of a genius, centuries ahead of his time. . . . followed by wine-tasting. Legendary French hospitality

Spare seats available for a week-end visit to Le Mele (bargain price!)

Barnes coaches all the way from Faringdon to Le Mele, approx 12 miles from Alencon
Depart early Thursday 30th May for the 8.15am Brittany Ferries crossing from Portsmouth
Returning on Sunday 2nd June 16.45h from Caen, arriving in Faringdon late Sunday evening
£120 per person (less if we fill the coach)

We need to know as soon as possible For more details please contact: Jeanie Pugh 01367
240374 jeaniepugh@talktalk.net or David Williamson 01367 240033 dllm.williamson@btinternet.com

More bins, more bags needed - 30/4/13

It seems people complain about dog users and the fouling of footpaths and kerbs.

To recognise this would you not expect that some of the local stores stock dog waste bags, also compared to many town centers there does seem to be inadequate amount of bins around the town for specific dog waste.

Before you think about fining owners look at the facilities you actually have to support the dog owners.

J.B.

Flowers around town - 28/4/13

The town council have said that they will be planting the existing planter boxes in May. The Bell is also due to have their planters and hanging baskets done during May. The Faringdon project manager is also working on a scheme to install hanging baskets to shops in the town centre to help make it look brighter and is pushing to have some of the larger flower beds replanted. Like the ones in Southampton Street car park. Trying to get some pride back into the appearance of the town!

Mirabelle Mack

ED(GW) See jobs page. A job to care for the flowers is on offer

BT Infinity now available to some of Faringdon. Anyone work for Openreach?- 28/4/13

BT Infinity fibre optic broadband is now available to some lucky residents in Faringdon. I've been waiting for years for this as working from a home studio, it will significantly improve the service I offer to my customers.

BUT, it's not quite available from my cabinet yet (Cab P6 serving the top end of Faringdon under the folly). So, does anyone have any information on what the holdup is and a better idea of a date for go live? The usual checkers and online databases show a possible go-live by the end of June but nothing more. The new cabinet is sitting there although I don't know what the state of the hardware install is.

Anyone work for BT Openreach, know someone who does or got an engineer booked and can find out what the situation is?

Paul Gale

Planters around the town - 28/4/13

Are these going to be planted and cared for this year? Perhaps if the Town Council are not going to do them, the nearby businesses will?

Helps to make our town look attractive

Name Supplied

Call for entries Last two days: Community campaign to clamp down on dog fouling -

28/4/13

Can you please get your entries to

Holly Davies, Anti-fouling Campaign, FocusON Oxfordshire, Portwell House, Faringdon, Oxfordshire, SN7 7HU

By Wednesday 1 of May. If you are struggling to get the entries to us in time, drop us an email and we will look out for your posters later in the week.

The competition is centred on a slogan 'Don't be a chump, pick up that dump', but we are happy with any slogan as long as it gets the message home, the more humorous the better.

We wait with bated breath for the entries to arrive at the end of April.

Judges will be encouraged to select posters that get the message across clearly and have the best use of graphics, colour and illustrations.

Posters will be grouped by age with a maximum of four posters going forward in each age category.

The shortlisted posters (and more if there is room) will be displayed throughout the rest of day in the Jubilee rooms which is also Oxfordshire Art week, so we are hoping for good visitor numbers throughout the day.

The winning poster will be printed by Davenports Media as their contribution to the campaign for distribution throughout the town and on

the <http://dontbeachumppickupthatdump.weebly.com/> web site.

We look forward to seeing you then, but should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either of us.

Please confirm that you are still able to take part.

Holly Davies 01367 246136

Joe Cilia 01367 242964

Inadequate Nursery School - 28/4/13

I have raised the requirement for more childcare with the academy and not received a response. Faringdon needs more quality childcare to support our children and meet the needs of parents. As a working parent myself I have found it extremely difficult to find quality childcare which meets my family and professional needs.

I am an Early Years professional with almost 20 years of experience and am prepared to take on the exciting challenge of opening a new nursery for the town. However, unfortunately the financial commitment required is not something I can raise on my own at this time.

Can this be achieved in another way? Is there funding out there? Do you have access to land or a property which could be developed? I would be interested in hearing from you.

LisaJConstable@aol.com

I wish..... - 28/4/13

I wish that the Bell, as one of our most important and attractive buildings (and it is Grade I listed) would find a better, more attractive way of advertising their meals, events, accommodation (there are 8 chalk boards outside, plus a sky TV banner).

I wish they would sweep the cobbles, which are littered with cigarette butts and other debris.

I wish they would plant the tubs with flowers

Name Supplied

Starting a folk band - 27/4/13

Fellow musicians interested in starting a folk band! Not looking for major time commitment, maybe one weekend afternoon a month to see how it goes?

Please contact lisa.avenell@btinternet.com

Welbeck consultation- Steeds Farm Land - 26/4/13

The proposal includes 150 houses, a pub, a convenience shop and a good deal of open space and a new roundabout onto A420 to 'make it easier for people to get to Swindon for shopping'. I didn't read every word- it's all too depressing, but I gather schools were not mentioned, and the site was described as 'quiet'.

I didn't complete the consultation form - once again designed to get information that I'm sure would be used when the full application is made, and to tick the 'we have consulted box' The slick young man I spoke to seemed to believe that more houses in Faringdon could only be a good thing- but he would, as he was there on behalf of the developer.

Ed Vaisey was there, and some of us gave him our views- who knows if this will be helpful in limiting the amount of possible development. The exhibition in the Old Town Hall is open until 8pm this evening, and will be at Great Coxwell tomorrow.

Gene Webb

Faringdon Cricket Club - 26/4/13

I completely agree with the comments by Anthony Palin concerning the 'social membership' charge. I along with several friends of mine walk dogs around the area and a pint or 3 on a sunny afternoon while watching cricket would be a nice touch... but I begrudge paying a 'social membership'. My suggestion now as was when the club first opened was to have two tiers of pricing-membership and non membership and let the public decide rather than being dictated to!

For the record I once asked a member of the committee how the fees were justifiable, their reply was "purely revenue". In my opinion unjustifiable revenue!

Name Supplied

Inadequate Nursery school? - 26/4/13

It has always seemed to me that the nursery in Faringdon in the portacabin near the Infants School seems rather inadequate. Sure there are private nurseries charging commercial fees but more nursery provision in a purpose built centre seems like a good idea - especially as so many parents in the town have to commute to work. I wonder whether people would support the development of a better nursery in the town?

Name Supplied

ED(GW) I was surprised that the Academy's plans don't include preschool. Apparently they are not part of the Academy.

Friendly Cricket Club - 26/4/13

Faringdon & District Cricket Club is friendly and welcoming however is bound by strict licensing laws. For a small £10 social membership, forms available at the club, you can benefit not only in use of the bar but also in the many social events that are taking place during the year. Everyone welcome.

Name Supplied.

Burglary- Faringdon- 25/4/13

On Wednesday (24/4), between 2.30pm and 3pm, a property in Marines Drive, Faringdon, was burgled.

Following an attempt to gain entry via the front door, offender(s) entered the rear of the property through an unlocked gate and then used a chair to reach in through a rear top window in order to open an unlocked bottom window and gain entry.

An untidy search was carried out and jewellery was stolen.

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 **101** and state you are responding to a Thames Valley Alert message.

Alternatively if you have information but wish to remain anonymous, please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or [online @ crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org). No personal details are taken, information is not traced or recorded and you will not go to court.

Thames Valley Police

Congratulations to Faringdon Dramatic Society - 25/4/13

(affiliated to the National Operatic and Dramatic Association (Noda) and the Oxfordshire Drama Network (ODN)) who recently found out they had won FIRST PRIZE in the ODN Pantomime Competition with Jack and the Beanstalk. Well done to all concerned, especially Peter Webster who wrote and directed it.

FDS's next production is In association with the Faringdon Branch of The British Heart Foundation, An outside performance in the grounds of Sudbury House Hotel, London Street, Faringdon

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM By William Shakespeare

Wednesday 12th, Thursday 13th and Saturday 15th (Matinee and Evening) June 2013

Evening Performances start at 8.00pm

Saturday Matinee 2.00pm

Picnicking in the grounds from 7.00pm and 1.00pm on Saturday pre the Matinee; please bring your own seating.

Adults £10.00, Children £5.00

Available from our website www.faringdondramatic.org.uk,

The Nut Tree, Cornmarket, Faringdon

Faringdon Tourist Information Centre and on the gate.

All profits go to The British Heart Foundation

Enquiries Fiona Merrick via webmaster@faringdondramatic.org.uk

Academy proposals- 25/4/13

The Academy proposals do not take account of the Steeds Farm development in Great Coxwell. I was recently in discussion with one of the Academy heads, and he informed me that if Steeds Farm went ahead then another new Secondary School would have to somehow be built as FCC will have its maximum 1450 pupils before then.

Regards Mark

Faringdon in the Future - map of proposed developments. - 25/4/13

May I suggest an addition to this website - a map of the area showing the proposed developments for residential and industrial sites. The photos and maps tabs show us where we have been and where we are now - it would be helpful to get a view of how the town may look in a few years time.

Name supplied

Scouts Walkabout Garage Sale - this Saturday, 1000-1400. - 24/4/13

Here are two ways to find the map for this Saturday's garage sale:

1) Look on google:

<http://www.google.com/maps/ms?ie=UTF8&hl=en&oe=UTF8&msa=0&msid=216790107241896048857.0004dae349a22a9e3a68d>

2) Search on facebook for Faringdon Scouts. You'll find the same google map and information about all of our other events.

Whether you are selling or buying, good luck and let's hope the weather holds!

Faith Carpenter

Fundraising Chair 1st Faringdon Scouts

Possibly more housing - 24/4/13

I've just heard that Faringdon United Charities are choosing a developer to build houses behind the Faze Youth Centre on the Highworth Road.

ED(GW)

Scouts Walkabout Garage Sale - this Saturday, 1000-1400. - 24/4/13

Enjoy the weather, have a stroll and pick up a bargain! Venue map here - try it on your smartphone as you wander! <http://bit.ly/scoutsgaragesale>

Peter McGurk

"Community Consultation"- 24/4/14

Strange that these Developers who arrange "Public Consultations" do so when most people

are at work and if you hadn't seen on this website the latest one arranged for this Friday, you wouldn't know of its existence.

Maybe that is their idea, to sneak under the radar, hope nobody notices and then blame residents apathy for not turning up.

The latest development, I believe is Steeds farm development which will completely obliterate Great Coxwell. Look forward to seeing where they propose to build a new Secondary school that would have to be built for all the extra hundreds of Children, as FCC will be full after Park road development.

Does seem that Faringdon is being used as a complete dumping ground for the Vales housing.

I think FTC,VOWHC and OCC need to explain to Farindon residents what on earth is going on.

Mark Lunnon

ED(GW) Faringdon Academy proposals for all schools can be seen on http://www.fcc.oxon.sch.uk/about_us/faringdon_academy_of_schools.html. Ther's an email address for comment

Election - 24/4/13

"Democrat". As you don't see the logic of my statement allow me to clarify it. The candidate you see around will not be the only party worker involved locally. There will be others in the background. That however wasn't my whole point, sorry if I was unclear. Without an unusually strong presence, in Faringdon and the surrounding villages, as in most affluent rural areas, no party except the Conservatives have a hope in hell of getting in. The other parties will field candidates if they can find anyone motivated enough to stand, simply to give voters the chance of registering a vote if they wish. The problem is though that for parties other than the Conservatives there isn't enough manpower in any of the local areas to make leaflet drops, canvass, etc. The other parties therefore concentrate their workers (including candidates for other wards) in those areas where they stand the best chance, and that means that even though we have candidates, they will have been drafted in to other areas to boost support where it will be of most help, ie NOT here, where the presence of the Archangel Gabriel himself would make no difference.

Bystander

How mean can you get? - 23/4/13

2 people seen picking (stealing!) daffodils from the Folly woodland.

The daffodils were given and planted by volunteers for the pleasure of all who visit the Folly Friend of the Folly

More housing- consultation - 23/4/13

A community consultation event is to be held on 26 April 2013 when Welbeck Strategic Land LLP will be seeking views about a proposed housing and employment development on land to the west of Coxwell Road, Faringdon. The event is being held at The Old Town Hall,

Faringdon between 2.00pm and 8.00pm.

Election leaflets - 23/4/13

I have seen 2 election leaflets. The one from the current councillor, does not mention Faringdon at all.

It is Oxfordshire County Council that has failed to resolve the traffic issues in Abingdon making additional housing there not possible. It seems a nonsense that the biggest settlement in VWHDC area, where I suspect there is most employment, cannot have additional housing. This is the main reason why so much housing is likely in other places.

Despairing name supplied

Election candidates - 23/4/13

From one who has stood at a County Council election as a candidate. One must accept that this area is a conservative safe seat and has been for many years.

The conservative County council candidate works hard for our area as do the district councilors.

Other parties could spend weeks and weeks giving out information as I did but im afraid they have an up hill struggle.

All Candidates can be found on the web.

Name supplied

Thames Valley Police - 23/4/13

Yesterday, Monday (22/4), police received a report of a male cold calling in Faringdon.

Around 4pm, a male called at a property in Folly View Road, trying to sell household items.

Whilst talking to the occupant he asked to use the toilet and gained entry to the property.

The caller is described as a white male with a northern accent, 5'4" in height, slim build, ginger hair, wearing a grey tracksuit. He was carrying a large black sports bag.

Residents are advised to report any cold callers to the police on 101 as soon as possible and NOT to let any unexpected visitors into their home.

Please be extra vigilant and keep a look out for any elderly or vulnerable neighbours.

If you see any suspicious looking people or vehicles in the area or have any information relating to this message please call the police on **101** and quote URN 955 of 22/04.

Alternatively if you have information but wish to remain anonymous, please call

Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or [online @ crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org). No personal details are taken, information is not traced or recorded

Election information.- 23/4/13

I don't see the logic of election candidates not providing information because they "don't have so much support and find it difficult to get help at election time". The one candidate that is providing information is doing a lot of the canvassing herself and correctly believes that is the way to gain support. I wish her well and only wish I knew who the other candidates are and what they stand for!

"Democrat"

Vale of White Horse District Council Residents' Panel - 22/4/13

We are seeking to invite residents in the area to join the Vale of White Horse District Council Residents Panel. We are particularly keen to invite residents aged 16-44 who reside in **Faringdon**, Botley and North Hinksey [older age groups and residents in other areas already being well represented on the Panel]. We would also love to encourage more men to register, though both men and women are welcomed.

The Panel aims to find out what residents think about local issues. We ask for your views on a number of different topics, all of which are important to life in Vale of White Horse. Understanding the views of local people is really important to us and the Panel is one of the ways we improve that understanding, helping to improve services and tackle important issues for the community.

You'll be invited to take part in around 3 surveys a year, usually taking 10-15 minutes to complete and you can complete by post or online. Occasionally we may invite you to take part in workshops or other events, but on each occasion it is up to you whether you want to take part.

We'll let you know what the panel have told us and what we have done in response, so you can see the difference the panel makes.

To register and to complete your first Panel survey (on this occasion covering contacting the council, using our website, social media and community safety) please click on the link below and complete your survey by May 6th .

www.plus4.co.uk/valenew

How will my information be used?

Vale of White Horse District Council has asked Plus Four Market Research Limited to manage the panel on its behalf. Plus Four are a long established (1970), independent market research company who comply with the Data Protection Act and the Market Research Society Code of Conduct. You can check the validity of Plus Four by calling the Market Research Society on Freephone 0500 39 69 99.

The contact details and basic demographics that we ask for help us to make sure the panel is up to date and broadly representative of the local population. As required by the Market Research Society's Code of Conduct, the responses that you give to future surveys will only be reported upon in an anonymous form i.e. Plus Four will not inform the council who has said what, and no names will be mentioned in Plus Four's reporting of results, unless you have given permission for them to do so.

Your contact information and key demographics will be shared in an identified form with the council. The council may also share this information with other market research agencies, but

only when they are working on the council's behalf. Joining the Residents' Panel does not mean that you have to take part in all future market research surveys and/or consultation.

If you have any questions about this letter or the panel in general or you would like to request a postal version of the survey, please contact Cara Allan, Senior Research Executive, at Plus Four on 020 8254 4444 or email cara_allan@plus4.co.uk

Alternatively, please contact, the Council on 01235 540408 or email haveyoursay@southandvale.gov.uk

Sally Truman

Shared Policy and Partnerships Manager

Vale and Downland Museum: Alfie and Friends Stories, exploring and Craft for under fives. - 22/4/13

Come and Have some Fun with Alfie Bear! 23rd April George and the Lonely Dragon Children must be accompanied by an adult (no charge for adult or younger siblings)

Other Information

Tuesdays 10.15am-11.15am weekly in term time

£1.50 per child per session (includes crafts to take home and snack in cafe)

Booking Essential

Register your interest and contact details to keep in touch with family events at the museum: museum@wantage-museum.com

For pre-school children, aged 3 +

Contact: Dorothy Burrows

Telephone: 01235 771447 Email: museum@wantage-museum.com

Website: <http://https://www.facebook.com/valeanddownlandmuseum>

Garden fires - 22/4/13

Is it really necessary to burn garden rubbish making a disgusting smell in everyone's house. We have an opportunity after a long winter to open windows and then some folks who are to lazy I drive to skip to dump garden rubbish burn it on a lovely evening.

Please can those in Southampton street consider the homes around them. It really isn't good to burn rubbish in your garden and stop folks sitting in their gardens.

Name supplied

BoardGOATS! - 22/4/13

A board gaming group meeting on Alternate Tuesdays in Stanford in the Vale.

We are a relatively new group playing modern board games and would really like to meet some new people who might be interested in giving them a go (or established gamers looking for some new buddies!).

We encourage in game banter and a fun real life "social network"!

We meet at The Horse & Jockey pub (back room) on alternate Tuesdays (next one Tuesday

30th April) at 7:30 (for 8pm start).

The Horse & Jockey can be found on the A417 in Stanford in the Vale.

There is NO CHARGE!!! (just a drink at the bar in support of our local pub - first night...we'll buy the drinks!)

You can visit our website to see some of the games we play : <http://boardGOATS.org>

and e-mail at boardGOATS@gmail.com

Chris Cook

Tesco & Election Info.- 21/4/13

Glad to hear that Tesco are coming. Tesco is better than no good sized supermarket. Thanks for the update.

Election Info. for Sheila. The reason that only one party is canvassing and dropping leaflets around here is that the 'one' predominates and has a strong association locally with a tradition of social events etc., and a dedicated core of workers. The other parties don't have so much support and find it difficult to get help at election time, especially for local elections. It really isn't because they don't want the votes or aren't interested.

Bystander

Tesco update from Tesco - 21/4/13

Extract from email received 21/4

'I'm pleased to confirm that we are committed to opening our store in Faringdon. We're due to open by the end of the year'

ED(GW)

Tesco update - 21/4/13

I've heard that Tesco have gone out to tender for the construction of the supermarket. Work could commence May/June possibly completed end of 2013 early 2014.

ED(GW)

Cricket - 20/4/13

I like cricket. I also like nice weather and with the two combined I'm quite partial to a beer. However, when going to support my local team I'm told that I can't be served. Surely Faringdon Cricket Club are missing a trick here. For the odd dog walker, fan of cricket/nice weather who should pop in for some liquid refreshment at the clubhouse throughout the summer they could be adding to much needed club finances. Or are they so rich they don't care nor want any support, which they won't be getting in future from my family and I, 2 beers, 1 glass of wine, 2 soft drinks minimum, that's about £15 every Saturday for maybe 2/3 months. $15 \times 10 = 150$ from just 1 family. And are youngsters or newcomers really going to want to join such an unfriendly club? I think not.

Antony Palin

Visit to Le Mele in Normandy 30 May to 2 June - 20/4/13

How about a fun-filled week-end in Normandy?

Includes a day-trip to Amboise on the Loire to see the house of Leonardo da Vinci with fascinating working models, works of a genius, centuries ahead of his time. . . . followed by wine-tasting

Legendary French hospitality

Spare seats available for a week-end visit to Le Mele (bargain price!)

Barnes coaches all the way from Faringdon to Le Mele, approx 12 miles from Alencon

Depart early Thursday 30th May for the 8.15am Brittany Ferries crossing from Portsmouth

Returning on Sunday 2nd June 16.45h from Caen, arriving in Faringdon late Sunday evening

£120 per person (less if we fill the coach)

We need to know as soon as possible For more details please contact: Jeanie Pugh 01367

240374 jeaniepugh@talktalk.net or David Williamson 01367

240033 dllm.williamson@btinternet.com

Election Candidates - 20/4/13

Should one assume that lack of information means that all but one of the candidates/parties standing for election either have no policy statements to make or simply are not interested in gaining votes?

Sheila

St. Georges Day Bash TONIGHT - 20/4/13

Help us raise FollyFest funds with a dinner and dance to celebrate St. George's Day at Faringdon's oldest pub!!!

2 traditional English courses (veggie option available) in the newly refurbished dining room followed by dancing with...

BOOGIE ME!!! £15 a head available from The Crown in person or phone 01367 242744

Tesco - 20/4/13

Well, there we are. If Tesco pulls out of the deal - or 'land banks' as they were doing anyway for years, it serves us right, (or some of us anyway). Had the Waitrose application been heard before the Tesco appeal, and had the council(s) not paid so much attention to the "Waitrose is too posh/Gloucester Street will become an accident-waiting-to-happen/my property will suffer" brigade we might have been well on the way to having a decent supermarket on the best site to enhance and support the existing town centre infrastructure. As it is we're stuck with the same old, same old.

Budgens has, to its credit, improved but it is more like a large convenience store than a big-shop supermarket. The vociferous few who campaigned so vigorously against Waitrose may have a lot to answer for.

Bystander

Competition. Poster'Don't be a chump, pick up that dump - 20/4/13

Faringdon is running a campaign to crack down on the worsening dog waste epidemic in our parks and streets, and we understand that some the footpaths to the schools are particularly blighted.

We would like people to design a poster or if they are young ones then colour in a poster encouraging dog owners to pick up after their dog and highlight the dangers of dog waste. The Vale of White Horse District Council are supportive of the campaign to stamp out the problem and the motto

'Don't be a Chump, Pick up that Dump'. which is the key feature of the poster campaign. We hope that you may be able to use the competition as an exercise to allow the pupils to express their creative skills to a specific brief.

The competition is aimed primarily at school children but is open to everyone, with winners being judged from various age categories.

The Posters should use the motto 'Don't be a Chump, Pick up that Dump' and the choice of how to illustrate it and the graphics are up to the individual.

An overall winner will be chosen by the Mayor of Faringdon, and will be used in posters to remind owners of their responsibilities.

The deadline for submissions is Tuesday 30 April and the shortlisted posters will be displayed in the Pump House, Faringdon during Oxfordshire Art week on Saturday 18 May.

Full details can be found at www.dontbeachump Pickup that Dump.weebly.com

Please let us know if you have any questions, and if you are able to help. We have attached a file that you can print off for colouring in and a pdf that you can email out to anyone else who you think might want to submit a poster.

Entries should be sent to Holly Davies, Anti-fouling Campaign, FocusON Oxfordshire, Portwell House, Faringdon, Oxfordshire, SN7 7HU.

Please email holly@focusonuk.co.uk or joe@lastrolo.me.uk

Good luck

FCB Off The Road - 19/4/13

To all FCB passengers, please accept our apologies but the reliability gremlins have struck again and the Faringdon Community Bus is off the road being attended to at our garage in Swindon. We hope to be back in service early next week but we do not yet have a specific date.

Steve Wright, FCB

More housing- consultation - 18/4/13

A community consultation event is to be held on 26 April 2013 when Welbeck Strategic Land LLP will be seeking views about a proposed housing and employment development on land to the west of Coxwell Road, Faringdon. The event is being held at The Old Town Hall, Faringdon between 2.00pm and 8.00pm.

David Barnes

Tesco - 17/4/13

Tesco issued their 2012 company results today with the accompanying announcement that 'we have identified more than 100 sites which we no longer plan to develop and have therefore written their values down'. Maybe this might be behind the delay on activity for the Faringdon store. We can only hope that Waitrose might buy the site from them (if Tesco will sell to a competitor) and we may get a decent supermarket after all. Alternatively, they may 'land bank' the site for a few years until times are better, which will be a poor outcome for Faringdon.

More support for the Library site (particularly from the Town Council) might have seen a Waitrose store close to opening by now. Oh well - we have all moved on. But let's hope something happens in the town and we don't just have to live with dilapidated industrial units for ever more.....

Name supplied

Re: Tesco?- 17/4/13

What are the chances of Tesco ever coming to Faringdon now?

With their profits falling and the news that they are abandoning the building of a lot of new stores, Tesco, I feel will now dump Faringdon. Can someone please persuade Waitrose to come please? Will Faringdon ever get a decent size supermarket so that we can shop locally?

Name supplied

Oppose Gladman development - 17/4/13 If you object to the proposed Gladman Development, you should be warned as to the unashamed greed of this developer and their seeming abuses of the planning process.

Join up with other action groups against Gladman - Slad Valley, Mankley Fields, Action for Green Fields to name but a few.

Other groups are now specifically taking a stand against Gladman Developments (their associated companies) and the approach they take.

Please join them in writing to the numerous MPs who now have Gladman in their constituencies.

Simon Pitt

How do I get on the waiting lists for an Allotment? - 16/4/13

Can anyone point me in the best direction to get on the waiting lists for the allotments in Faringdon? I have found a number for the council, but as I understand it they manage about 32 plots, is there a separate list for the rest? What is the best way to get a plot? I used to have one before I moved to the area and would like to get going on one again.

Name Supplied

ED(GW) The Town Council will be able to give you the contact number for the National Trust owned allotments

Scouts Walkabout Sale - 13/4/13

If you are thinking of signing up to sell at the garage sale, please could we have your name, full address, telephone number and a minimum donation of £5 to 8 Maple Road by Sunday 21st April at the very latest. This date is because we need to print maps and distribute prior to the sale, which is 10am-2pm on Saturday 27th April. We hope it goes well for you if you are taking part!

Faith Carpenter
Fundraising Chair
1st Faringdon Scouts

Faringdon School Academy Plans - 12/4/13

Have a look at the schools plans for education in Faringdon. You can comment too.

http://www.fcc.oxon.sch.uk/faringdon_academy_of_schools.html

Blue Plaque for the Folly - 9/4/13

Commemorates Lord Berners, who built the tower in 1935

http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/10341081.Blue_plaque_for_towering_eccentricity/

ED(GW)

Nothing gets in the way of developers - 8/4/13

The comment about Cowan's Camp in Watchfield having Great Crested Newts. We have other rare snakes along with the newts but I'm sorry to tell you that nothing gets in the way of developers. I was told by our local councillor that if we had bats or a protected species it would bring a development to a halt and would save a site but when the 'experts' are called in to inspect the area they always find a solution to get around the problem. So the newts will be removed to another area along with the snakes to the edge of the development. In Watchfield we too continue to fight against the constant attack from developers which now appears to be like a Tsunami of concrete creeping over the Vale. We no longer hear or see cuckoos, bats, owls and hedgehogs. If only the housing requirement in the Vale could be spread more evenly across the Vale and all the villages receiving small developments rather than the few taking the bulk of them just might have made it more palatable.

Name supplied.

Neighbourhood Police update- Faringdon - 8/4/13

Welcome to April's monthly neighbourhood update for NAG 1, Faringdon and Shrivenham, from Sgt Tim Pavey, PC Chris Linzey, PCSO Kerry Davis, PCSO Maralyn Pack and PCSO Emma Eyley.

The clocks have 'sprung forward' an hour and whilst we may have lost an hours sleep, we have gained lighter evenings. Unfortunately this can sometimes lead to an increase in anti-social behaviour. The team will soon be reinitiating last year's successful ASB operation, OP

Mojito. The aim of the operation is to target known ASB hotspots at key times, particularly during the school holidays.

On the 4th March a male from Marlborough Street, Faringdon was arrested and charged with assaulting a police officer. On the 17th March the same male was arrested and charged for being drunk and disorderly. He will appear at magistrates within the next few weeks.

Rural crime remains a major priority for the Vale's police teams. The cross border operation, OP Festive, that we run alongside West Berkshire police, is still continuing. This operation recruits local land owners, gamekeepers and farmers who are issued a police radio and bring a wealth of local knowledge to the operation.

OP Marauder has also recently been introduced with the priority of high visibility patrols in rural areas. A police officer from the Wantage response team has now been permanently assigned to the Operation. PC Bob Searle is a familiar face to many in the rural community and has the passion and knowledge to help co-ordinate our efforts to tackle offenders committing crimes in the rural areas.

If you have any information that you feel may assist PC Searle and the local police with this goal, please call 101 or crime stoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

There are still a small number of reports being received in the Faringdon area of shed and garage breaks. As many people do not use the equipment stored in their sheds and garages over the winter period, some of the offences being reported are potentially several months old. Please check your outbuildings at your earliest convenience and report any suspected offences to us on 101.

Overall, March has seen a very low number of reported crimes, a trend we sincerely hope continues in to the summer!

Commented on Neighbourhood Plan yet?- 8/4/13

You can find the documents on <http://faringdonplan.webs.com/>

It's really important that as many people as possible take the time to read and comment
ED(GW)

Councillors' position on planning applications? - 7/4/13

When an application was made to build a huge property next to where I live the Town Council not only didn't object they also sent a representative to the Planning Committee to speak and ACTIVELY SUPPORT it. A Local District Councillor also spoke in support of the application at the same meeting. At no point was any consultation made with me or other directly affected residents. Unfortunately, this application was a stone's throw from the proposed Humpty Hill site so maybe a precedent has been set! So yes we're right to ask..what is the position of our local representatives?

David Reynolds

Live @ The Tithe + a concert by 'Show Of Hands' - 7/4/13

On Saturday 15th June 2013, there will be a day of celebration of folk music, dancing and related arts that will be held at the Great Barn at Great Coxwell near Faringdon.

Entrance to the event will be by programme costing £1 for adults with children admitted free. Programmes will be available early May.

Commencing at 12 noon, there will be a continuous programme of entertainment until 7.00 pm. There will be folk singing, story telling, magic shows, Morris dancing, circle dancing, making and drawing activities, a community drama item, a drum workshop and more. There will, of course, be a food and drink tent with real ales and other drinks and a range of stalls selling craft items and local produce.

The culmination of the day will be a concert in the Great Barn at which the featured artists are the multi award winning band 'Show of Hands'. For those who are not familiar with 'Show of Hands', suffice it to say that they have filled the Albert Hall three times in recent years such is their popularity. Tickets for the concert, which will begin at 7.45 are £17 each - these are selling very quickly.

You can find out more about the event at www.liveatthetithe.co.uk

Newts at Watchfield - 6/4/13

With regard to the building on the Cowans Camp site at Watchfield, I wonder what the builders will do about the Great Crested Newts that reside in the emergency water supply tanks on that site. They are of course a protected species.

Pity they don't reside on Humpty Dumpty Hill.

Roger Davey

LOST PINK TEDDY BEAR (5th April) - 6/4/13

My daughter lost her beloved pink teddy bear with a pink ribbon around it's neck on 5th April. It was in the special seat for bears/dolls on her bike on Southampton St South so was most likely lost on Bennet Road, Goodlake Avenue, Ferndale Street, Coach Lane or in the Market Place as this was the loop that we took from Southampton St South. She is missing it very much. Please get in touch if you find it. Many thanks.

Marie

Planning application Vale of white horse:P13/V0033/FUL tennis courts southampton street south, we lost! - 6/4/13

I see that everyone is up in arms with the humpty hill proposal and I say go for it!!

Tell them you don't want it!!!!

local residents in southampton street south objected to the plans proposed to the above planning application on parking, access,safety and if there was a need for another 11 dwellings in a high density housing area

And guess what!,

The faringdon local council didn't object to it and I do believe we have a councillor living a few doors down from us, so It will affect them!

I am Gobsmaeked!!!!

I Say SHAME ON THEM (the councillors) for not supporting the people they are supposed to represent. US!

Ok councillors, Hands up how many of the are members of the said tennis club as you can see I am fuming that all the time spent by all the residents of the area to write there comments about the proposed plans have fell on deaf ears.

So Humpty followers you have my support! let the above be a warning.

Remember that it's not only the big open spaces at risk of being 'estated' but the small spaces too!

Don't let faringdon end up looking like a glorified housing estate!

We moved here from surrey (5 years ago) to get away from that sort of area (too many people living too close together), we thought faringdon would be omitted from this barrage of lego house estates.

Finished ranting, thank you for reading
name supplied

Blue Plaque for the Folly Tower - 6/4/13

Unveiled today by Sofka Zinovieff, owner of Faringdon Estates.

[Look out for picture on the Folly Facebook page](#)

ED(GW)

Re Support from District Councillors - 6/4/13

Interesting and disturbing post from James Campbell, re the alleged behaviour of our District Councillor re. Brandy Island !

But as for grumbling about unfinished developments, who exactly are the 'they' who should be building on Park Road? Maybe 'they' ran out of money, or some other unexpected impediment occurred, I agree that the mess should be tidied, but buildings cost money and there are many stumbling blocks for the small developer.

Of far greater concern in my opinion is the cynical behaviour of Tesco , with regard to their lack of action in Park Road. The fiasco over the supermarket planning applications was another instance where our elected representatives could have acted in their electorate's interests, but didn't.

Bystander

Re Support from District Councillors - 6/4/13

The Plain English Guide to the Localism Act states:

Clarifying the rules on predetermination

In parallel with the abolition of the Standards Board, the Government has used the Localism Act to clarify the rules on 'predetermination'. These rules were developed to ensure that councillors came to council discussions - on, for example, planning applications - with an open mind. In practice, however, these rules had been interpreted in such a way as to reduce the quality of local debate and stifle valid discussion. In some cases councillors were warned

off doing such things as campaigning, talking with constituents, or publicly expressing views on local issues, for fear of being accused of bias or facing legal challenge.

*The Localism Act makes it clear that it is **proper for councillors to play an active part in local discussions**, and that they should not be liable to legal challenge as a result. This will help them better represent their constituents and enrich local democratic debate. People can elect their councillor confident in the knowledge that they will be able to act on the issues they care about and have campaigned on.*

ED(GW)

Buscot Park Archers - 6/4/13

Club shooting times are Wednesday and Friday evenings from around 6:00 PM and Sundays mornings from around 9:30 AM. The archery field is available to members at other times. The club also shoots in the adjacent woodland between February and October each year.

Three outdoor beginners courses will be held at Buscot Park during 2013. These will start on Monday 13 May and Monday 8 July and Monday 12 August. They last for five sessions, are held on Monday evenings from 6:30 - 8:30 PM (Monday and Thursday evenings for the August course) and cost £45 per adult and £25 per junior. Juniors must be over 8 and under 18 years of age. All equipment is provided and booking is essential.

See our website for further information or contact the Club Secretary, Pete Wright.

Tel: 01367 240 095

Email: secretary@buscotparkarchers.org.uk

Web: www.buscotparkarchers.org.uk

Support from District Councillors - 5/4/13

Councillor Roger Cox was recently involved in the approved development of Brandy Island in Buscot. There, the entire parish of Buscot and its residents objected to its development, yet our elected representative allegedly told the committee that there would be no objection to any kind of development on the island.

Based on these recent events in Buscot, it is very likely that most of our councillors will sit on the fence as far as stating their opinion is concerned. As this is what a lot of people involved in the objection of the development Brandy Island felt like.

It would be far better expenditure of time to find ways to prevent development i.e find rare wildlife species. Unfortunately Buscot is only a small hint of how the VWHC may just roll out the red carpet for any potential developers.

I believe the A420 side of Faringdon should be further developed as it is the more sustainable especially the brown field site by the Garages. As you come into Faringdon you will see a piece of unfinished road behind a fence with some builder's huts behind it. Surely they should at least do something with that first ? Build some flats or something, we get a large fine for dog fouling, yet they can start building something and then leave all the mess behind.

James Campbell

Missing Teddy - 5/4/13

..... one beloved pink teddy bear, possibly lost on Southampton St South, Bennet's Road, Southampton Street or at top end of London St near The Folly pub on Friday afternoon (5th April). Please contact me if you find it. My daughter is missing it very much.

marie_cresswell@hotmail.com

Helping Hand up Humpty Hill - 5/4/13

Many thanks to 'Name supplied', who has kindly provided this excellent concrete information which may influence the outcome of the current 'screening opinion' which has been submitted to the VWHDC and help swing a decision to request an Environmental Impact Assessment. I shall forward this information to the case officer in charge of this application forthwith.

Anthony Field

Humpty Hill - Screening Opinion - 5/4/13

This is what I have sent to the Planning Officer, a Mr Mark Doodes at the Vale. Feel free to use any of its content.

Dear Sir,

Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011:
Regulation 5

Application ref : P13/V0653/SCR – Request for screening opinion by Gladman Developments Ltd in respect of land at Highworth Road, Faringdon.

I refer to the above formal request for a screening opinion by Gladman developments limited. While there is no statutory requirement for public consultation on this matter, the LPA nevertheless has a duty to consider any representations made to it. For clarification I will refer to the site subject to screening as “the application site”

In this regard I would make the following comments.

As you will be aware the council commissioned a Landscape assessment to provide advice on the landscape impact of further development at Faringdon. This was reported in December 2008 and was undertaken by a suitably qualified assessor. The methodology used was based on The Countryside Agency's Landscape Character Assessment Guidance for England and Scotland and also the Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (second edition)

The conclusions reached in the report were that while all of the countryside around Faringdon is designated as an area of High Landscape Value any development to the west of Faringdon will have greatest impact on the wider AHLV including impacting on the upper River Thames landscape. In terms of accommodating change it considered that the application site has a very high level of sensitivity to change in landscape terms (sites LCA7 and LCA8). All other sites considered were categorised as having less sensitivity, being listed as being high, moderate or low.

In terms of the capacity for the landscape to accept change in the form of development it identified the application site as having a very low capacity for change, and in addition development of the application site was seen as having a much wider impact in terms of effects on the upper River Thames Landscape. The other sites around Faringdon were categorised as having low, moderate or high capacity for accepting change in the form of development.

Turning to Robustness it advised that combining the sites very high landscape sensitivity with a very low capacity for change, it has a very low level of robustness. The other sites were low moderate and High.

The report in summary advised that the application site was the most sensitive of all the sites examined and that the area to the west of Faringdon was least suitable for future development.

Given that the site has been identified as having very high sensitivity, very low capacity and very low robustness, then in landscape terms this is considered to represent a significant impact and one which triggers the need for an Environmental Impact Assessment.

The request for screening makes no reference to this commissioned report and contains comments which are at odds with it:

- The screening request states that the development will not be more than local importance and it is considered to have no wider-ranging effects. The landscape report advises that it will do so and that effects will extend and impact on the upper River Thames landscape.
- The letter states that the development would not have significant urbanising effects on the area. The landscape report advises that this is the most sensitive site around Faringdon having very high sensitivity and very low capacity to accept change. In this regard it is difficult to appreciate any comments about being a logical extension to the fabric of Faringdon.
- The letter says that the site is not environmentally sensitive. It is correct that the designations listed are not affected. However the landscape report identifies the site as being the most environmentally sensitive areas around Faringdon (in landscape terms).
- It is irrelevant that the site only marginally exceeds the 5 ha threshold. It does.

The above deals with Landscape issues only, and at present I cannot comment on other matters raised. However, given the above, the comment that the site has limited environmental value is considered to not reflect the position. The councils own commissioned report conflicts with what the developer is putting forward in its case for not submitting an EIA.

In my view, the above comments concerning environmental effects (in landscape terms) amounts to a significant Impact and thus any application should be accompanied by a full Environmental Impact Report. Failure to request this will leave any future application open to legal challenge.

The comment by the applicant that larger schemes in the Borough (Harwell, and Coxwell Road, Faringdon) were not considered EIA developments is of no relevance in this matter, and I am surprised that it is being promoted to the contrary.

Name Supplied.

Folly Fest - 4/4/13

Well...it has been a very busy few months for the FollyFest committee. Recent months have seen a Public Meeting at The Corn Exchange, two volunteer recruitment evenings, a pub quiz, a new sewing group to make bunting for FollyFest, a Safety Advisory Group Meeting at Abingdon council and a whole slew of tasks, activities and events still in progress.

Forthcoming events include:

1. St George's Dinner & Boogie at the Old Crown Coaching Inn. Tickets cost £15 each and for that you will receive bangers and mash (veggie alternative also available), a traditional pud and two sets from Faringdon's very own, home grown Boogie Me. This event is on Saturday 20th April 2013 and starts at 7.30pm. You can buy tickets from the Old Crown direct.

2. Gospel Concert at All Saints Church – Saturday 8th June 2013. This is a very special event for Faringdon and important for FollyFest as the concert is candlelit, and your £10 ticket includes a glass of wine. Musicians have been practising hard and feature, amongst others, Roger Clarke and Mel Paterson (Boogie Me), Jamie (Zen Pigs), The Yearning and as our special guests, Oxford Gospel Choir who will also be performing several numbers with the backing band made up of Jon Lane, Steve Wright and Mike Frazer. You can buy your tickets from the Nut Tree in Faringdon

We've managed to raise around £3,000 through fundraising initiative and are busy applying for new grants from various public and private bodies. We're spending it as fast as we raise it though on the stage, ticket printing etc.

As Faringdon residents we need you to support these events as much as you can; it's the easiest way to help us and have a good night at the same time!

In February, we also wrote to 53 businesses in and around the market square requesting donations of anything at all to put towards FollyFest. So far we've received two generous £100 donations - from Ming's takeaway on Marlborough Street and also from Thanks a Bunch Florists in the Market Square which was wonderful to receive! Come on you Faringdon traders – we're working our socks off to get a fabulous event planned which should mean a lot of footfall in Faringdon that weekend – we desperately need funding and we're grateful for any amount, however small...

Graham Fletcher is our committee member responsible for the stage and acts on it. He's just started booking the first bands which we'll be publicising soon.

We need the following skills on the FollyFest committee at the moment:

- **Marshals** – you'll only need to do a few hours over FollyFest weekend. Marshalls are an essential element of FollyFest as we need to assure the councils and the emergency services that we have enough people who can help us make the event a safe one for all concerned. At

the moment, we don't have enough people so please come forward if you can help

- **PR/Marketing** – If anyone can help us advertise events, take on Twitter and Facebook for us, help update our website and organise tickets and poster printing we'd love to hear from you.

- **Compere** – Can you do a two hour slot as a compere at FollyFest? Introducing bands, passing on announcements (lost kids etc.). We need people who are confident, lively and good humoured. We don't care if you've never done it before!

If you can help in either of these areas, please email us at follyfest@btinternet.com or phone 07836208800.

In the meantime, please have a look at our Facebook pages, our websites and keep an eye open for events and we hope to see you all soon!

Mel, Graham, Fiona, Roger, Gerry, Simon

Humpty Hill - A helping Hand - 4/4/13

In 2008 the council commissioned a landscape study to evaluate land on the edge of Botley, Abingdon, Wantage, Grove and Faringdon to assess their suitability for development from a landscape perspective. In regard to Faringdon the assessment was issued in December 2008.

The study comprised an independent landscape assessment with the purpose of providing advice to the council on the potential landscape implications of further development at Faringdon. The paper identifies the most appropriate areas for future development, although purely from a landscape perspective. The results of the appraisal has fed into the preparation of the Core Strategy site appraisal work. The document identifies the Humpty Hill area, within the area of West Faringdon and more specifically site LCA8.

The document identifies potential scenarios for the expansion of Faringdon based on the effects on the Landscape. Not one scenario included the development of Humpty Hill (LCA8), as it was felt that the landscape sensitivity was very high in terms of accommodating major change. It also concluded that if residential development were to occur in LCA8 then the changes would also impact on the upper River Thames landscape. Thus, combining LCA8's very high landscape sensitivity with a very low capacity for change, it has a very low level of robustness.

It concludes that LCA8 (together with two other sites) are not robust enough to accept changes that would occur if large scale residential development were to take place.

Out of the eight sites considered, Humpty Hill (LCA8) and the site on the other side of the road (LCA7) were the only sites which were categorised as having very high sensitivity (other sites ranged from high, moderate and low), very low capacity for change (other sites were low, moderate and high) and very low robustness (others were low, moderate and high)

In conclusion and in simple terms, the commissioned report, identified the area to the west of Faringdon (including Humpty Hill) as being the least suitable for accepting development in Landscape terms.

This is the sort of information and evidence which needs to be collected and articulated in any response to the council, (when an application is submitted). It is also arguable whether the

analysis in the report is sufficient to demonstrate significant impact and thus the need for an Environmental Impact Report. If so then it could delay any application

Screening Opinion - 3/4/13

I know this is going to sound pedantic, however, the application currently before the council in regard to the land off Highworth Road (Locally known as Humpty Hill), is not a screening option, but a screening opinion. Also it has nothing to do with establishing whether there is any impediment to developing the site.

The purpose and reason that a screening opinion has been submitted, is in order to establish whether the Council consider that the development of the site would have significant environmental impacts (in the context of the relevant legislation) and thus whether any future application on the site will need to be accompanied by a statutory Environmental Appraisal. If it is concluded that there are not significant impacts then a formal Environmental Statement will not be required, and the application can be accompanied by individual topic based reports instead.

Name Supplied.

Humpty Hill- Screening option - 3/4/13

The application submitted to VWHDC on 25th March by Gladman Developments for the development on Humpty Hill is a so called 'screening opinion'. Such an application is not the full planning application but rather an enquiry to the Local Authority as to whether there is any impediment to developing the site, e.g. soil contamination or a potential source of shale gas, and this stage of the process is not open to public consultation. The case officer dealing with the application at the VWHDC told me today that the full planning application has to be submitted later and that the time for local residents to raise their objections is during the subsequent consultation stage. We are fortunately somewhat ahead of the game!

Anthony Field

Humpty Hill - 2/4/13

I've just been reading the letter Gladman Developments have submitted to VWHDC. (Application received 25th March). Their letter actually states "This site could be bought forward for development quickly as no major infrastructure is required to facilitate development of the scale proposed". They also talk of the "limited environmental value of the site"

So much for public consultation. I urge everyone to keep an eye on these plans - it feels as if the diggers will be moving in to our treasured countryside as soon as they can. Worrying times for our town.

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P13/V0653/SCR>

Anna Marlow

ED(GW) This is a 'screening opinion' application, with rules that require VWHDC to reply within 3 weeks(of 26/3 date). I cannot see an opportunity for the public to make comments- there are points in the letter that could be refuted. Can anyone suggest what action to take?

Humpty Hill - What does our Representative on the VWHDC Planning Committee think? - 2/4/13

Dear Mr Roger Cox,

As one of our elected representatives, Faringdon resident and a member of the VWHDC Planning Committee, would you mind giving us your position re the speculative development of the land known locally as Humpty Hill?

Specifically are you in favour of the development of this location as a residential site or not?

Name Supplied

Lost Cat- now found - 1/4/13

So very pleased to hear that Trevor has got his little Cat back, I can imagine that he feels so relieved and happy now, sure the little Cat is feeling much the same too. From Chrissie and Jim

Root & Branch Spring Plant Sale Sunday 12 May 1 – 4pm - 1/4/13

Root & Branch is holding a Plant Sale on **Sunday 12 May from 1 to 4pm** to

which **everyone** is welcome! Please note you may have seen the sale advertised for the previous Sunday but the date has changed because of the cold weather affecting growing plants! Our beautiful organic garden will be open for you to browse and sit in, and you'll find us at Westmill Farm (on the B4508, the road between Highworth and Watchfield.)

There will be sales of plants to adorn your flower beds and hanging baskets plus a choice of herbs and vegetables, all grown by our gardeners and the volunteers who help them. There will also be delicious refreshments on sale.

Root & Branch is a therapeutic gardening and rural craft project for people who experience mental health difficulties, such as depression, anxiety, schizophrenia and bi-polar disorder. Located on an organic farm in the beautiful Vale of White Horse, Root & Branch provides the opportunity for people to become involved in a wide range of interesting activities such as organic gardening and horticulture, blacksmithing, woodworking, crafts, artwork, and cookery. So, please come and join us for an enjoyable afternoon in this amazing hidden gem!

Details: 01793 780380 rootandbranch@btconnect.com

www.rootandbranch.info

Charity no. 1143294 Company no. 7685042

Budgens opening times - 1/4/13

Sorry for the lady who couldn't get milk. Role on tesco coming

Named supplied

Humpty Hill petition - 1/4/13

Now 1024

http://www.change.org/en-GB/petitions/vale-of-white-horse-district-council-reject-planning-proposal-to-build-homes-on-humpty-hill-in-faringdon?utm_campaign=action_box&utm_medium=twitter&utm_source=share_petition

News and Views March 2013

WANTED- to borrow - 31/3/13

Due to being let down I urgently need to borrow or hire a PA system for Thursday 4th April. I need small mixing desk (for 2 instruments and I singer) speakers and microphone stands.

Mike 07525 764501

Opening hours - 31/3/13

I was unexpectedly asked out for a meal this evening (30/03/13) and we went to the Red Lion. I realised that I had no milk for the morning cuppa and went to Budgens to buy some. The opening times for Easter Weekend stated that they closed at 20.00 pm today. 2 people in front of me walked through the doors, I was a few seconds behind and the doors wouldn't open. I tapped on the windows and was ignored. This was at 19.50 pm. If you advertise that you will be open until 20.00 pm then customers should still be able to get in at that time.

Name Supplied

FCB – Drivers Needed - 31/3/13

The Faringdon Community Bus is looking for new volunteer drivers. The bus is easy to drive, full training is given, and the commitment required can be as little as 2 or 3 mornings a month depending on drivers' availability. It can be very enjoyable, meeting many of the town residents from young children to pensioners that you would otherwise never know. Volunteers, male or female, who wish to get involved are asked to contact Steve Wright on 01367 241011 or through the FCB web site, www.FaringdonCommunityBus.co.uk.

Lost Cat- now found - 30/3/13

Thank you to everybody who kept a look out for our cat. Grateful thanks to Linda and her husband who managed to catch the said animal who is now quite full and warm and sitting on Donald's knee purring away .Thanks for every bodies help.

Trevor Wynn

The Nut Tree

Overheard in Budgens - 28/3/13

'They want to sell the school land for housing' - said by a VWHDC councillor.

I assume 'they' are Oxfordshire County Council

ED(GW)

Planning housing etc - 28/3/13

Instead of moaning about where houses should or should not be allowed to be built or whether our town should remain this size or not, I think it's very important to realise that relaxed planning laws and increased developments in our towns, has come directly from our government, that is politicians you voted for....really anyone can look into what our future holds, just google sustainable development in UK. This is a template and ideal that has come directly from the EU and a by product of agenda 21. Before voting in the next election we really need to open our eyes, because after all that is the only time we really get a say on what happens in our town!

Lesley Owers

Draft Neighbourhood Plan and consultation - 28/3/13

You can see a copy, and an online consultation on Public Consultation on <http://faringdonplan.webs.com/>

The District Council and the Town Council are holding a joint exhibition on the draft Local Plan and the draft Neighbourhood Plan in the Corn Exchange from 12 noon to 7pm on Thursday 28 March. This will encompass the Faringdon Academy of Schools' proposals for the restructuring of Primary School provision in the town. This will be a good opportunity to help explain how the two draft planning documents form part of the development plan for the Vale. The exhibition will be followed by a public meeting at 7.30pm in the Corn Exchange to officially launch the six week consultation period on the Neighbourhood Plan.

It is hoped that as many people as possible will attend both the exhibition and the public meeting.

VWHDC Local Plan, Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan and School Academy plan - 28/3/13

Thursday 28 March Faringdon Corn Exchange, 12pm - 7pm

Launch of Neighbourhood Plan 7.30pm, Corn Exchange

LAST CALL FOR ACOUSTIC ACTS & SINGER SONGWRITERS - 28/3/13

Frid 5 April 2013 - OX-FEST Acoustic Auditions @ SHUSH, The Venue, Wantage - FREE ADMISSION ALL EVENING, Doors Open 8pm, Auditions from 8.30pm, NIGHT CLUB from 11pm til 2am.

Acts MUST be Acou...stic or Singers/Acts with backing tracks.

Sorry, No bands unless you can perform Unplugged and are able to set up quickly, within a few minutes.

African style drums or simple snare and hi hat set up is ok but we won't have time to set up and swap full drum kits or backline.

All acts will be expected to prepare 4 songs and perform 2 initially and a further 2 if they get through to part 2 the same evening.

TO APPLY - Please email info@ox-fest.com NOT LATER THAN Monday 1 April 2013.

PLEASE FORWARD AND SHARE THIS WITH ANY GREAT ACTS YOU KNOW - www.Ox-Fest.com

Ox-Fest The BIGGEST and BEST Oxford Festival EVER 12th 13th and 14th July 2013

New Goods Sharing Website for Faringdon www.ecomodo.com - 27/3/13

The aim of Ecomodo is to enable people to lend and borrow things within their local communities - anything from gardening tools to golf clubs and board games. It also includes skills, services and spaces (e.g. parking spaces).

The average drill is used for only 12 minutes of its lifetime. If it costs £50 to buy, that means that we spend £4.17 per minute of use! Rarely used objects could help us make and save money if we lent them to other people locally. Ecomodo participants give feedback after each lend, and you can opt for a deposit and insurance on higher value items.

Perhaps you have a video camera you rarely use, or you can mend a puncture, or perhaps you need someone to walk the dog when you're too busy. The website includes 'wanted' items.

The link below takes you directly to the Faringdon circle, or go to ecomodo.com and search for Faringdon. Do take a look, and join us in using this exciting new resource.

www.ecomodo.com/index.aspx?id=circle3336

Zoe Williams

FTC and Humpty Hill and Neighbourhood Plan - 27/3/13

David Reynolds has suggested that Faringdon Town Council approves of the plan to develop houses on Humpty Hill. This is totally incorrect. To date there has been no official application for this site, so the planning committee has not yet made an advisory decision.

That said, I have had conversations with councillors who have severe doubts about this idea. However everybody should be aware of the problems attached to objecting to such applications. The previous administration at the district council (the liberal democrats) failed to replace the district plan that expired in 2011 with a new one. Then the present government introduced a new guidance (the national planning policy framework) that allowed development where there was no district plan to proceed if any such development was "sustainable". This means that developers have a virtual free hand no matter what the local population thinks. This dreadful law means that it is very difficult for any popular view to be effective. The Faringdon Neighbourhood plan wants to designate Humpty Hill as an area of Green Space. This is a possible way of preventing development but has difficult hurdles to overcome. Not least of these is the timing of the application and the likely I date for the implementation of the neighbourhood plan.

If you would like to find out more about the neighbourhood plan and the suggestions being made in it for the whole future of Faringdon, there will be an exhibition at the Corn Exchange from 12.00 on the 28th March followed by a public meeting from 7.30pm.

Alan Hickmore

STOP MOANING - AND DO SOMETHING ! - 27/3/13

As an ex Faringdon resident (we moved away because of work- no other reason) it makes me mad to log onto Faringdon.Org and read the continuing stream of moaning and whinging coming from the current residents.

If it's not The Faringdon Festival, it's Tesco, it's Waitrose, it's Budgen's, it's Dog Muck, it's Humpty dumpty hill or God forbid it's the man who parks his car outside the Wheatsheaf in London street.

Have a look around, you have a great town, if you do not like what is going on - get off your backside, get involved and do something, but please stop MOANING!

P.S No I do not support the developement on Humpty Dumpty Hill and yes I have signed the petition.

Name Supplied

NIMBYS? - 27/3/13

You mean people who care about not seeing Faringdon ruined and services stretched beyond limit. Name supplied- which School do your children attend. The Infants School which my children attend is already overcrowded, this will only get worse. how will the Community College cope with hundreds more pupils, or are you expecting them to be bussed to another School out of the area.

As for homeless people, as you should know they would be in rented accommodation and priorities for social housing should be for families first.

You may have lived here all your life (not that counts for anything) but you're in a small minority on this one.

Name supplied

Humpty Hill- NIMBYS - 27/3/13

I have just read a considerable number of the views of people petitioning against developing the land mentioned. Having lived in Faringdon most of my life I do not recognise the names of many of the petitioners, assuming many have moved into the area and are more worried about the effect the development may have on the price of their properties. My recollection of the area is that the only Public part is the footpath which runs from Highworth Rd to Canada Lane the field itself was private and was used for cattle until recently. Tho' it is now abused by many people by allowing their dogs to use it as a toilet and forgetting to take their excrement with them.

Whilst I agree with some of the petitioners who are concerned that Faringdons services are becoming extremely stretched, I do think the

NIMBYS from Orchard Hill, Highworth Rd, Canada Lane areas could spare a thought for the homeless in the County, especially with the extreme weather we have had recently, if this development takes 5 people from sleeping rough it will be worthwhile, no matter what effect the development has on the price of your property you will still be in a better position than they are.

Name supplied

Humpty Hill - 26/3/13

I don't know about the District Council, but I believe that the Town Council's Planning Committee is absolutely against any development on Humpty Hill. I understand that the Neighbourhood Plan specifically covers this along with all the other green spaces in the town.

Name Supplied

Humpty Hill - 26/3/13

Perhaps the nice farmer who owns Humpty Dumpty hill will donate the land to the people of Faringdon in a trust, NOT. By the way I thought that land was farmland?, there certainly used to be cattle grazing on there.

Name Supplied.

Humpty Hill - Councillors position please - 26/3/13

Yes indeed, how do the Town Council and local representative District Councillors intend to respond to this planning application?

Some might say they already support the planning application. Both the Town Council and one Vale of White Horse District Councillor have recently spoken publicly in support of a development outside the development boundary on this side of Faringdon.

It's a shame. Under the recently dormant, Local Plan, the Humpty Hill area would have been beyond the development boundary and therefore exempt from permission to develop. However, in recent months both the Town Council and District Council, seemingly, ignored the boundary and gave their public vocal support of development in this area direct to the VWHDC Planning Committee.

Maybe people power will prompt our representatives to finally realise that they could in fact represent the people and act accordingly.

David Reynolds

Disgusted! - 26/3/13

I am disgusted that so many people in Faringdon think that it is ok to use Pye Street park as a dog walking area. This is a childrens play park and has signs on both gateways into the park saying NO DOGS ALLOWED. Yet some very lazy, ignorant people think that it is fine for them to take their animals in to this park, let their dogs off their leads and allow them to run wildly around the park. There are always groups of children playing in the park and they shouldn't be made to feel scared or worried about playing safely in an area allocated for them to play in. If you do happen to approach these people with their dogs you are often made to feel intimidated and often scared as these people are usually very aggressive about their dogs being in the park in the first place. If you ring the police to report a dog in the park, they are often not able to respond in time and the culprits have often left the area before they arrive. The council should look at putting CCTV in this park as it is a popular park for the local kids in the area, as well as mums/childcarers with pre-school children that use this park in the middle of the day too. This is the only park that is in a more secluded area and therefore not viewable easily from Goodlake Avenue or Pye Street. So it is only until you are down near or in the park that you are able to see these individuals and their dogs. I am sure lots of people feel the same as me and I am always worried when my children visit the park in case someone is down there with their dog. They are told to come home if there is just in case. I wouldn't want one of them to be hurt, maimed or worse killed by one of these dogs.

I am also disgusted by the amount of dog mess left on our pathways and often see people walk off with their pets leaving the mess on the path for some poor person to come along and walk in it. If you cannot be bothered to pick it up your dogs mess then you shouldn't have a dog!!!

Name supplied

Better Broadband - 26/3/13

http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/community-self-help-options?utm_source=Better+Broadband&utm_campaign=41baf4d8b2-Broadband_Better_Mar2013&utm_medium=email

Fibre Optic Broadband - 26/3/13

It is possible to upgrade to fibre optic broadband now (according to Zen). Has anyone in Faringdon done this yet and how does it perform?

I think the new website looks great

Steve Bunce

Humpty Hill - Councillors position please. - 25/3/13

With the Petition to stop development on Humpty Hill approaching 1,000 signatures isn't it time that our representatives on the Town Council, County Council, VWHDC declared their position?

Which of our Councillors is going to take up this issue?

Name Supplied

<https://www.facebook.com/SaveHumptyDumptyHill> - 25/3/13

This facebook page was set up to try and gather a few more signatures for the petition. But it might also be a useful place to gather comments, photos and any other information that may prove helpful in the campaign to stop the development of Humpty Dumpty Hill.

Name Supplied

Update our Petition, VWHDC: Reject planning proposal to build homes on Humpty Hill in Faringdon" - 24/3/13

Dear Petitioners,

When I set up this on-line petition I couldn't imagine that over 800 people would have signed it in only two weeks. My motivation for doing this is simply that I don't wish to see this beautiful area of countryside, which has meant so much to me during my life to be spoilt and I see now that this feeling is shared by others in the town too, even those who grew up

but no longer life here.

There are of course other reasons why we don't wish to see Faringdon over developed and we have concerns about the lack of infrastructure in the town to support a growing population. These reasons however came second for me to my concern about preserving this particular spot which means so much to many people. I can imagine that in future, if this field is developed and, as has also been proposed, the Infant School site is too, then it won't be a great step for the planners to take to give their approval to fill in the 'gaps' in between! So, it's definitely worth making a stand over this site now.

When the developers have submitted the planning application to the VWHDC I'll make an appointment to present our petition to the Planning Committee and prepare something to say which represents the various views of all of you who have signed. In the mean time, if you can think of a few more people to ask to sign then we may even reach 1000 signatories by then, which I think would make the statement that a very significant fraction of the people of Faringdon object to these proposals.

Kind regards,
Anthony Field.

ED(GW) Petition now 890. http://www.change.org/en-GB/petitions/vale-of-white-horse-district-council-reject-planning-proposal-to-build-homes-on-humpty-hill-in-faringdon?utm_campaign=action_box&utm_medium=twitter&utm_source=share_petition

Aggressive Chocolate Labrador - 24/3/13

On Saturday afternoon my dog, which was on his lead, was attacked by chocolate labrador while walking on the bridleway behind Wicklesham Quarry. My dog suffered a couple of nasty puncture wounds and was left traumatised.

The owner of the labrador knew his dog was going to attack but couldn't recall it, I wouldn't be suprised if it has attacked others before.

If this dog belongs to you, I urge you to keep your dog on it's lead if you can't control it, or at least muzzle it. If it does attack another dog, you should provide your contact information.

It is an offence to allow a dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place.

Name Supplied

FOLLYFEST BUNTING TEAM - 24/3/13

Help us make miles of re-useable and recyclable bunting for FollyFest to go all round the town! We need people to come together, cut triangles, pin together and sew up over a drink and a gossip.

If you can operate scissors as a minimum, WE NEED YOU! Every week!

Monday evenings 8.30pm, in the Portwell Angel.

Fiona Merrick

Lost Cat - 24/3/13

In moving from the Pines to Gloucester Street we seem to have lost our cat, He is a two year old Ginger Tabby with a white chest and chin he quite thin and not very friendly please check your out buildings and sheds, .any news good or bad would very welcome

Trevor Wynn @The Nut Tree

Stall at Oxfest - 24/3/13

Do you own a small business and would like a stall at Oxfest from the 12 to 14 July. Contact me at julie@mypavirtualseervices.com for more information. A great opportunity to sell to circa 5000 people.

PCi repairs- great service - 23/3/13

Recently had problems with my laptop - unable to access the internet,so contacted my ISP [TalkTalk] via a call centre in India [£27 in phone calls!] they could not fix the problem and unable to understand the Indian accent i gave up.Took the laptop to PCi Repairs in Faringdon where the owner Mike suspected a virus had infected it,left it with him and collected it the next day all repaired and fully restored to its original settings, and at a reasonable price.So if you have any computer problems i would certainly recommend PCi Repairs [above Barclays Bank] ps. i don't have any connection with the owner - just a satisfied customer!

Geoff Corker

Humpy Dumpty hill - 23/3/13

There has to be good planning reasons not to build on the hill. It's private land so they can sell it to who they like. They can do as they please. So residents need to find good reasons not to build.

Nice place to walk. Good views are not good reasons not to build.

We know its lovely but planners just see it as a place to build.

Residents need to start looking deeper find reasons

Name supplied

HUMPTY HILL - 22/3/13

There are some things you can change and some you can't.

Humpty Hill Development is definitely something which can be stopped.

Don't get me wrong, I have no objection to developing Faringdon in a sensible and sensitive manner. But building on Humpty Hill is the wrong development in the wrong place. There is plenty of development scheduled to go in along Park Road towards the A420 which will use land between the current town boundary and the A420 and will not have a negative impact on Public use of the natural environment.

However, Humpty Hill is another matter entirely. It is just plain inappropriate to build on land which has been so extensively used as a public amenity for the last 40+ years.

The strategy to block needs to focus on the amenity aspects of Humpty Hill. This is very important when the Planning Committees come to consider any Planning Proposals which may be put forward.

The Petition currently running is extremely important - strong support will prove that it really is a valued natural amenity which is important to the local people.

Please encourage your friends and relatives to support the petition

Name Supplied

Hello Mark - 22/3/13

Just a note to say that i have 8 O levels, 5 A levels, a degree and 17 years working experience. I also am paid more than min wage. Still cant get a mortgage for a 150k box in Faringdon tho. Good credit rating too!

Also heard today that Humpty is not the only development to be proposed in Faringdon, but this one (i cant give u details due to my work) is still in very the early stages.

Great News!!

Name Supplied

Petition now 746 - 21/3/13

Can we get to 1000?

http://www.change.org/en-GB/petitions/vale-of-white-horse-district-council-reject-planning-proposal-to-build-homes-on-humpty-hill-in-faringdon?utm_campaign=action_box&utm_medium=twitter&utm_source=share_petition

Household Rubbish Bins. - 21/3/13

Why is it that folks cannot see the eyesore that bins can be when they are overflowing.

Bins that folks have to walk by and smell the disgusting bins overflowing in Ferndale street.

If you ring the council. They won't do anything about it just log the complaint and send someone out. Oh when it's on route.

How can residents live with seeing the rubbish just piling up.

A trip to the skip is in order!!! We are very lucky to have a excellent skip close to faringdon.

Residents please use it

Name supplied

Free parking a big success in the Vale - 21/3/13

The introduction of two hours free parking to the Vale of White Horse has proven to be a big success with both motorists

and local businesses significantly benefiting from the scheme.

In December 2011 Vale of White Horse District Council launched a new initiative to allow motorists to park for free in its car parks for two hours each day. The move was designed to boost the local economy by encouraging people to spend more time and money in Abingdon, Faringdon and Wantage town centres.

Just over a year later and free parking has been a real success story, with a substantial increase in the numbers using the car parks and many businesses believing that their early optimism for the scheme has been proven correct.

In the first year of the scheme the average number of car park users increased by over 30,000 per month, going up from over 45,000 in 2011 to more than 77,000 in 2012. Individual car parks, such as the Civic in Abingdon, Portway in Wantage and Southampton Street in Faringdon each saw over 3,000 more visits per month, helping to boost the numbers of people in the town centres and increase the access for many to the local shopping areas.

When the scheme was originally agreed in 2011 local traders were asked whether they thought two hours free parking would have a positive impact on their business and 73 per cent indicated that they believed it would.

A year later and this early optimism appears to have been right with almost 70 per cent saying the scheme has had a positive effect on their business, and a majority believing that it had improved people's access to their business, helping to increase footfall and turnover.

Traders in both Faringdon and Wantage said that they felt the scheme was a real benefit to the towns, helping to encourage more people to visit the area, while in Abingdon business owners commented that it had helped to compensate for the disruption during the redevelopment of the town centre.

The success of the first year has guaranteed that the two hours free parking scheme will continue for the foreseeable future, while new and more permanent signage will be installed to ensure that car park users are reminded about the initiative and the need to display a ticket, even during the free period.

Cllr Elaine Ware, Cabinet Member for Economy, Leisure and Property at Vale of White Horse District Council, said: "We are absolutely delighted that the scheme has proven to be a real success with huge numbers taking advantage of two hours free parking each day. Perhaps even more pleasing is that many local traders have noticed the benefits, which was the reason why we chose to introduce this initiative in the first place.

"We are really working to support our town centres and providing free parking is playing a very big part in that. We know residents and visitors have really appreciated being able to park for free and encourage them to continue to take advantage of this and spend time in the local shops, cafes and attractions."

OCC asking for information about potholes - 21/3/13

The county council's Deputy Leader Rodney Rose said: "To speed up our spring clean of the road network, we need the help of Oxfordshire's residents. Their local knowledge can help the authority's highways department to plan their daily repair programme efficiently as possible. Our repair teams in turn will then report back on our website when the work has been completed.

"We have a good track record on repairing potholes; in fact the vast majority are already repaired within 28 days and the most severe ones are sorted within two hours. However, we recognise we can always do better, particularly in rural areas which is why we are asking residents to report pot holes."

[Read the rest of the press release](#)

Report potholes on: <http://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/>

Tennis Club Planning meeting - 21/3/13

Application number P13/V0033/FUL will be considered by VWHD council's planning committee on Wednesday 27/03/2013.

Full details of this application can be found

on <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/planning/ApplicationDetails.jsp?REF=P13/V0033/FUL>

Humpty Hill - 21/3/13

I have signed the petition against the building on the land purely because I believe the town is already at breaking point. I don't live very close to Humpty Hill and have rarely walked through it and I'm afraid stating reasons as it having lovely views, dog walking and fun in the snow (twice a year maybe!) won't have any effect on the final planning decision. This is just one area that we will probably lose and rather than fighting this one development we should be putting effort into all of them. But, where to begin I don't know.

I was born here and can remember when Orchard Hill/The Pines was built, what I can't remember is whether or not there

were objections to those developments!. I guess many of us are living in houses on what was once a lovely field!. I didn't think the cricket field would ever be built on but it was (although replaced). We lost Liddiards Field etc etc. I wonder if the football field will join the list?.

The council rejected a supermarket in the Faringdon House grounds but now I hear we could get houses instead. Surely that will increase traffic more (one of the main reasons for the rejection) especially as developers seem under no obligation to provide adequate parking per house (the supermarket included an increase to the Gloucester St carpark). Makes me wonder if that was councils plan all along.

Another possible site is the Infants School and what then, the allotments ?.

I've read the comments on the petition and one states that basically he doesn't want council house tenants dragging down the value of his property. I'm sure if he met many of the tenants in affordable housing he'd find them perfectly nice people. Troublemakers come in all walks of life!.

However, it's common knowledge, easily found on the internet, that one of our town councillors on the planning committee is on the board of Florin Homes which is part of Sovereign Housing so perhaps this would be the person to ask about how some of affordable housing plans are passed and if he feels the town needs more houses everywhere.

Name Supplied

ED(GW) It is the lack of VWHDCs Local Plan and the changes in planning law the government have made that is causing so many potential developments. It's happening all over the area. The Town council always comments on planning proposals, but in reality they have little/no say. It is our VWHDC and Oxford county councillors that have more influence. IT is VWHDCs policy that all large developments should include 40% social housing. As there is no development around Abingdon (it is said because of the flood plain, and the (expensive) need for major road changes) VWHDC are wanting their quota of new houses to be elsewhere. I just hope the people who are offered a home to rent in Faringdon do want to live here. A key concern is that Faringdon doesn't have employment opportunities and lacks extensive support services.

Humpty Dumpty - 21/3/13

With regard for photo's of Humpty Dumpty hill being used by the community there was recent film of many of us sledging on the hill in the recent snow, circa Jan 2013.

As for "name supplied" wanting to call us nimbys for trying to stop this unwanted desecration of our countryside, then maybe if he likes living in a more urban area he should move. If he wants to insult me, I could reply that if he paid attention at School and works hard then he will be able to afford a house. As for more housing=lower prices, he is dreaming. This is just about big money for developers and back handers going to others.

Regards mark

County Councillor achievements - 21/3/13

15.03.12 – Oxfordshire county council is the 4th highest performing council in England for cutting carbon emissions and managing its carbon footprint according to an Environment Agency league table for 2011/12.

Gladman – Highworth Road development – no planning application has been submitted yet. I will attend the public exhibition on Friday 22 March.

Councillor Community Budget a personal budget of £10k

£1k to Stanford-in-the-Vale, 1st Responders

£2k to Faringdon - Folly Trust

£500 to South and Vale Carers

£2000 to Faringdon -Pump Room project for young people

£500 Faringdon, Family Centre

£500 Little Coxwell – renovation of pump

£1,500 Faringdon Play School

£700 Coleshill

£1300 to Faringdon - FAZE

County Councillors Highways fund £50K for me to spend in my Division – overspent my allocation by some £2,500

Vehicle Automation Systems - Coxwell Road and London Street, Coleshill x 2 units.

Gloucester Street - pavers, Marlborough Street – no entry, Market Place – no entry, Bromsrove,

Buscot, Faringdon and Great Coxwell, path clearance.
Buscot A417 red paint on road, warning of approaching village.
Little Coxwell – footpath 278/1 from the village passed St Mary's Church to A420, level and install barrier
Faringdon A420 footpath/steps
Faringdon – Goodlake Avenue/Pye Street Realign kerb to widen carriage way
Faringdon A417 Lechlade Road clear footpath
Faringdon – repaint traffic roundabout, Lechlade Rd/Gravel Walk
Great Coxwell – planings on footpath behind stables
OCC Highways funded work.
Buscot Wick/Coleshill junction- flood work
Buscot – road safety scheme
Eaton Hastings – A417 re-surfacing
Coleshill – lift pavement by church
Judith Heathcoat

Thames water problems - 21/3/13

Problems with water pressure, drainage and sewage are sometimes mentioned as issues if there is a substantial increase in housing in Faringdon.

Has anyone got any evidence- it would help make a case that infrastructure cannot cope.

I've heard that Faringdon has a dual system. ie water and sewage use the same pipes. This means that in periods of wet weather manholes and the sewerage plant in Lechlade road can overflow. (Thames Water were fined £10k for this happening on one occasion last year)

The Fernham Fields possible development has included a tank system- waste is stored until night time, when it is released into the sewer system- so already capacity issues have been identified.

Name Supplied

Scouts Walkabout Garage Sale - 21/3/13

Saturday 27th April: 10am to 2pm

Need cash?

Want a clear out before summer?

Like a bargain?

What's a Walkabout Garage Sale and how does it work?

It's like a car boot sale, but at home.

Sellers register their sale with **1st Faringdon Scouts** for a minimum donation of **£5** and then you keep **all sale profits**

We'll provide a map showing how to find all the sales nearer the time

Registration and Questions Faith Carpenter on 01367

241237 faringdonscouts@hotmail.co.uk [http://www.facebook.com/pages/1st-Faringdon-Scouts-](http://www.facebook.com/pages/1st-Faringdon-Scouts-Fundraising/152623414807706)

[Fundraising/152623414807706](http://www.facebook.com/pages/1st-Faringdon-Scouts-Fundraising/152623414807706)

1st Faringdon Scouts Fundraising

Re: Humpty Hill Development - photos?- 21/3/13

The Local Plan recently put up on this website is an important document which gives indications as to how the development on Humpty Dumpty hill might be blocked. Page 126 onwards refers to the importance of Green Infrastructure - it talks about the importance of local natural amenity.

Does anyone have photos of Humpty Dumpty Hill being used by the community - sledging, walking dogs, picnicking, flying kites? Also photos which show the hill being used over a period many years will help to establish the importance of the site to the community.

Name Supplied

More housing in Faringdon- Good news - 20/3/13

Fantastic news regarding the building of homes on Humpty Hill!

At last us suffers of the the BTL 'Generation Jammy' Landlords may actually be able to buy a house here- we may even invest in the town if we hold a stake. I certainly wont yet as my Landlord may move me out with just two months notice.

Hopefully it will drag the other houses prices down as well and maybe working people will be able to afford to stay near

family in Faringdon!

I have emailed my support to the council and developers to say that not all of us are NIMBYs.

Name Supplied

Consultation 28/3/2013, Corn Exchange, 12-7pm - 20/3/13

VWHDC Local Plan, Neighbourhood Plan and Academy plan

A draft of the VWHDC Local Plan is available for comment until 4pm on Thursday 9 May.

You can download a copy of the draft of the plan at www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/localplanpartone - this page also explains how you can have your say, and how you can find out more about the plan and what it means.

The **Neighbourhood Plan** and the **Academy's plan** for restructuring Primary Schools in Faringdon will also be available.

The official launch of the 6 week consultation period for the Neighbourhood plan is 28/3/13, 7.30pm

Re: Humpty Hill Consultation - 20/3/13

The petition is not limited to one per household and that anyone aged thirteen or over can add their name. If everyone who has signed to date gets their partner or son/daughter to sign too we would double the number of names to over 1000!

Name Supplied

Re: Humpty Hill Consultation has reached 613 - 20/3/13

If you haven't yet signed the petition please do.

613 represents around 7.4% of Faringdon's population, and roughly 16% of the adult population. The petition was started on 16th March- an excellent response from local people. More votes would be even better

http://www.change.org/en-GB/petitions/vale-of-white-horse-district-council-reject-planning-proposal-to-build-homes-on-humpty-hill-in-faringdon?utm_campaign=action_box&utm_medium=twitter&utm_source=share_petition

Name Supplied

Re: Humpty Hill Consultation - 19/3/13

So, only 487 people have signed the petition about the development on Humpty Hill. That is absolutely pathetic and just shows the apathy of Faringdon people when it comes to defending their heritage. They'll grumble, but do nothing.

Someone needs to go out into the streets and collect signatures. Relying on the internet eg Facebook is just not enough.

We would be happy to help. Time is running out.

Geoffrey and Carolyn Williams

Re: Humpty Hill Consultation - 19/3/13

The purpose of developer's public consultations is to produce dubious statistics for a planning application. So visitors to exhibitions or web sites who do not actively register opposition will be cited as approvers or at the least, not bothered.

Name supplied

HUMPTY DUMPTY HILL DEVELOPMENT - 19/3/13

A leaflet popped through the door the other day - I didn't like it!

Gladman Developments want to build on Humpty Dumpty Hill - I don't think so.

Gladman developments justify their proposals by referring to Faringdon as "sustainable". One of the things that makes a community "sustainable" is its recreational spaces which can be reached without the need to get into a car. Humpty Dumpty Hill is a perfect example of such a place. Dog walking, sledging or just enjoying the views - it is a much appreciated and well used spot in Faringdon. Building on this land would destroy "sustainability" not enhance it.

I know there is a petition but has an Action Group been established yet to look at blocking this development?

Could be interesting to hijack the Gladman consultation meeting on Friday to create such a Group.

Does anyone know who actually owns the land - I understood it was the National Trust - am i wrong?

Name Supplied

Thames Valley Police can confirm that the current police station in Wantage will close this week.- 19/3/13

Staff at the station will move to a new base in the Grove Technology Park and a front counter will be introduced next to Wantage Library. Both are due to open and be fully operational by Wednesday 20th March 2013.

Deputy Chief Constable Francis Habgood said: "This station is too large for the needs of the local community, especially since the closure of the court in Wantage.

"The site has now been sold, but I would like to reassure residents that the visibility of officers on the streets of Wantage will remain the same.

"The neighbourhood team will operate as normal and access to officers will continue to be 24-hours a day.

"Thames Valley Police remains as committed to providing visible frontline policing in the community as ever.

Humpty Hill Consultation - 19/3/13

It is very likely that at the exhibition (Friday 22nd, Pump House, 4pm-7pm) that the developers will have a 'What are your views' form. It is highly likely that they will not ask the fundamental question 'Do you want this housing development'. They will ask questions about house style, green spaces, +++.

My view is that if you complete this form that it will be counted as support that the development goes ahead, and comments will be used to inform their planning application.

The only way I can think of dealing with this is to write on the form 'Objection, no housing development on this site' But that may not be effective as they're unlikely to record these. Most likely, the application documents will include ' we have asked the community and % of people agree that.....

I don't know what else to do. Anyone got any ideas?

Sceptic

Vacant shop/heady days.- 19/3/13

I have heard a rumour that the vacant shop next to Budgens is to be another takeaway.....can never have enough of them eh?..... as we walk through our quaint market town on a warm summer evening the waft of cooking from the fat fryer extractor fans will mingle with all the others to intoxicate the drinkers sitting outside the pubs.....a slight breeze will lift up the tossed wrapping paper and turn over the discarded cardboard boxes.....as it approaches midnight the loud cries from the drunk and disorderly shouting to each other from opposite sides of the road letting the sleeping residents of Faringdon know just what a spiffing time they have had.....(yes Volunteer, I do mean you).....oh to be in England when the planners are allowed to get away with murder.....wake up you lot we are about to be overrun with apathy. (deep sigh).....All that is necessary for the triumph of social evil is for the good folk of Faringdon do nothing.... (sorry Mr Burke)

Name Supplied.

Budgens/Costcutter - 19/3/13

Very pleased to report a recent visit to Budgens and they have really 'upped the anti' so friendly and very helpfull and even pack your bag, this makes the whole shopping experience pleasant ...well done Budgens..I truly believe they didn't realise that they were offending people, now they're aware that their customers are important.

Name supplied.

Please sign the Humpty Hill petition - 19/3/13

487 people have now signed the petition. More are needed

http://www.change.org/en-GB/petitions/vale-of-white-horse-district-council-reject-planning-proposal-to-build-homes-on-humpty-hill-in-faringdon?utm_campaign=action_box&utm_medium=twitter&utm_source=share_petition

Planning - 18/3/13

Is this massive increase in housing, the councils way of dispersing overpopulated and run down estates around the county and driving down crime by thinning out the number of trouble makers in one place? It may explain the increase in crime recently?

All these developments just seems a bit sudden with no extra infrastructure to support them? Pot holes are bad enough around town without the extra '3000' people quoted below needing to use these roads? Budgens and Costcutters can't surely keep up with this demand of people?

Faringdon seems to be an expanding town, is it for the better though?

Name Supplied

Re: Planning - 18/3/13

Holly Davies' account of the village she grew up in, fighting the development of a major trunk road is more apposite than she may realise.

The main road west (the A420) was, recently enough, the road straight through Faringdon, down London Street, and through the Market square. In the 1970s there were sit-down protests of residents campaigning to get a by-pass

constructed to spare the Town the increasingly heavy traffic. Their wish was granted. The by pass was built. But, the unforeseen consequence was that it became gradually linked up with road improvements and other by-passes to make a major trunk route. The fast road made Faringdon more accessible. Faringdon's role changed from market town to dormitory town. It has already become suburbia. Like nearly every town it has already been spoilt by speculative housing developments of ugly houses, serviced by narrow access roads barely able to accommodate the Fiestas, Yarises and Golfs. England has been turned into a land fit for estate agents, property developers and mortgage lenders. The people who work pushing bits of paper around for these enterprises need somewhere to live in easy commuting distance from the office. They can then come home and relax in front of the TV, watching programmes about cooking food or buying houses and getting rich, while getting fat on horse flesh ready-meals.

Every archaeologist will tell you that settlements say everything about the way of life of the people who inhabit them.

Perhaps our towns are developing in a way that reflects our own culture and way of life rather than merely because of the greed of jerry builders and loads-of-money land speculators. Nonetheless I heartily support any attempt to stop these crooks and spivs from building more crap. Why don't they build new roads to places a little distant from everywhere else and build proper new towns elsewhere of decently designed and constructed houses with an infrastructure to cater for the car-borne consumer civilisation, and leave the old places to adapt to their own economic imperative.

And by the way Humpty Hill is part of the hunting territory of a pair of Red Kites -no longer as rare as they used to be, but protected: Annexe 1 of the European Birds Directive.

Name supplied

More sport facilities funding up for grabs - 18/3/13

Sports clubs in the Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire have another opportunity to apply for funding to improve their facilities.

In total, £50 million of Inspired Facilities funding, provided by the Lottery Plus Partnership, is available until 2014, with money allocated equally over five rounds. The fourth and penultimate round is now open with another £10million up for grabs.

The first three rounds of funding, which took place in 2011 and 2012, saw thousands awarded to help pay for facility extensions, upgrades and new equipment at sports projects across southern Oxfordshire.

Among those who have received funding so far are Cumnor Cricket Club, Henley Tennis Club, Letcombe Regis Recreation Ground and Village Hall Trust, Grove Rugby Football Club, Abingdon Rowing club, Chinnor Rugby Football Club and Abingdon Bowling Club.

Inspired Facilities is part of the Sport England's Places People Play initiative, which aims to bring the inspiration and magic of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games to the heart of local communities.

Up to a thousand grants are available throughout the country between £20,000 and £150,000. Those applying for funding are required to identify an appropriate amount of money from other sources to support their application.

Applications for the funding can be submitted by any organisation entitled to receive public funding, including voluntary or community organisations, local authorities, sports clubs, playing field associations and educational establishments.

For further information, to apply for Inspired Facilities funding and for ideas of possible improvements that could be made to your club's facilities, go to <http://inspiredfacilities.sportengland.org/>

Rising crime rate - 18/3/13

I too have recently been a victim of theft where my shed door was forced - broken apart - and my chainsaw stolen. This was done at night over this past weekend and the culprit fled over a back wall. If anyone has any information, please contact the police.

Why has Faringdon suddenly become such a hot spot for break-ins and theft? Not only is there a significant financial burden on those being targeted, there is also the sense of insecurity brought on by such things happening literally in your own backyard.

The rising crime rate, the seemingly inevitable influx of 3000-4000 additional residents and the increasingly dejected feelings from even those townsfolk who have lived here most of their life make me think that Faringdon's days as a pleasant and quaint market town have all but come to a close. Such a shame.

Name Supplied

Thames Valley Police - 17/3/13 On Saturday (16/3), between 10am and 5.30pm, a shed in Liddiards Row (off Southampton Street), Faringdon, was broken into.

Offender(s) forced open the shed door and stole a Stihl chainsaw.

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 **101** and state you are responding to a Thames Valley Alert message. Alternatively if you have information but wish to remain anonymous, please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or [online @ crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org). No personal details are taken, information is not traced or recorded and you will not go to court.

Humpty Dumpty Hill - 16/3/13

I live in Highworth Road and have done for 10 years now. I have children and dogs and have always loved the ability to use Humpty Dumpty Hill as one of the few remaining green areas in Faringdon with proper public access. Like many on here I am appalled at the prospect of it being built on and really cant see any sound reason for it with all the other development that is happening in Faringdon. I will happily support any petition and protests that will help stop this unwanted and un-needed development.

Martin Stevens

"Humpty Dumpty Hill" housing development consultation - 16/3/13

Friday 22 March 4pm-7pm in the Jubilee Room in the Pump House.

Please make the effort to go along and let the developers know what you think.

Please sign the petition (link given below) and ask all your friends and neighbours (and their friends and neighbours!) to sign too!

<http://www.change.org/en-GB/petitions/vale-of-white-horse-district-council-reject-planning-proposal-to-build-homes-on-humpty-hill-in-faringdon#share>

Sheila Donovan

OX-FEST is a 3 day family festival of fun and frolics for all ages, in the beautiful Oxfordshire countryside, at Carswell Golf & Country Club, A420, Buckland, SN7 8PU.

Ox-Fest is a celebration of all that's good about Oxfordshire, showcasing local talent, performers, live Tribute bands and artists plus quality food and drink from local suppliers and Award Winning pubs and restaurants.

Local Acoustic Acts and Singer Songwriters are invited to audition for a chance to appear at Ox-Fest.

The Auditions are being held on Frid 5 April 2013 at SHUSH, The Venue, Wantage

FREE ADMISSION FROM 8pm, Auditions from 8.30pm to 11pm followed by nightclub til 2am.

TO APPLY - Please email info@ox-fest.com NOT LATER THAN Monday 1 April 2013

Humpty Hill petition - 16/3/13

An on-line petition has been set up with change.org for people to register their objection to the proposed development of housing on Humpty Hill. This can be accessed using the following link:

http://www.change.org/en-GB/petitions/vale-of-white-horse-district-council-reject-planning-proposal-to-build-homes-on-humpty-hill-in-faringdon?utm_campaign=action_box&utm_medium=twitter&utm_source=share_petition

An e-mail will be sent to the VWHDC Planning Committee by for each person who signs up to this petition, with opportunity to make their own opinions known.

Name Supplied.

Need a temporary job! - 15/3/13

I am a seventeen year old teenager looking for a Saturday job. I have had previous experience working with children, working in retail and working in cafes. I am an eager student, working at high grades in college. Please get back to me with any positions opening. I can submit my CV by email: bellaas1995@hotmail.co.uk

Annabel Allen-Stevens

Humpty Hill - 15/3/13

I know Humpty Dumpty Hill is only a field but if we want to protect it we need to find a jolly good reason why it should be protected - dog walking, views and sledging won't be enough for these people.

So how about looking at an Environmental Impact Assessment: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/full-legal-text/85337.htm>

Then we have the Habitats Directive: ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/index_en.htm

There are lists of fauna and flora on the European Red lists that require protection.

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/species/habitats_dir_en.htm

You never know in a corner of that sleepy little field there might be a tiny creature or seedling that has every right to be protected.

Someone must have the skills to find this out!

Holly Davies

Planning - 15/3/13

Many years ago in the village where i grew up they proposed a massive trunk road linking two motorways together cutting a swathe through the countryside. The villagers believed the road to be coming too close to the village and ploughing through a small wood. So what did the villagers do? Did they moan and gripe? No they got themselves organised and they set about cataloguing every single fauna and flora living in the affected wood. On doing so they discovered several species of importance. The result? The road got shifted away from the village and the wood was saved. People power! Now if we want to protect Humpty Dumpty Hill and the Fernham Fields area we need to get out there and make it our job to find out about the wildlife that are going to be affected. Will it affect hunting land for Barn Owls? Nesting sites for Voles? Do we have some flowers of importance growing in these areas? Frogs? We need to find out now before it's too late. The village i grew up in had 1000 residents and they won with people power. We have 8000 (?) residents where's our people power?! Do we have people in Faringdon who can catalogue these animals and put power behind a petition?

Holly Davies

Fishing permit - 15/3/13

hi in answer 2 steve jones if you contact nigel plum on ;-07528291242.he will be able 2 help you with a fishing permit
Sandra

Potholes. - 15/3/13

Reference my comments on potholes earlier, Potholes on and town side of the pedestrian crossing in Park Road, were repaired yesterday. I think that is good service. Tuesday reported, repaired Thursday just a pity they did not fill the others developing near by.

So this system does work.

Name supplied

Budgens - 15/3/13

i think budgens has made a big inprovement over the last 6 months. The staff are much more friendly. I don't know why people keep moaning about the store i always get my shopping packed and if i cant find anything i ask and they show me where it is. The only thing i would say is bring back the fruit basket at the front of the store as i have to walk all the way to the back to get my fruit for my lunch

from a regular morning customer

name supplied

New Cre8ive Steps Classes in Faringdon - 14/3/13

Please visit www.cre8ivesteps.com for more information.

Children's Dance Parties also available.

PARENT AND TODDLER DANCE AND PLAY

Dance, Games, Disco, Coffee

Helping development in the following areas: Coordination, Confidence, Mobility, Memory, Rhythm and Creativity

Pump Rooms - Jubilee Room - 10.30am-11.30am, £4.00 a session

Wednesdays (Term Time Only) Starting Wednesday 1st May

DANCE FITNESS AND TECHNIQUE (AGES 12+)

Fitness, Stretching and Dance Technique

Suitable for all dance styles

Corn Exchange - 4.15pm-4.45pm, £3.00 a session

Wednesdays (Term Time Only) Starting Wednesday 24th April

CONTEMPORARY DANCE (AGES 12+)

Creative dance to modern chart music
Lyrical, Contemporary Hip Hop and Commercial Styles
Corn Exchange - 4.45pm-5.30pm, £4.00 a session
Wednesdays (Term Time Only) Starting Wednesday 24th April

Report potholes - 14/3/13

I reported the potholes in Park Road by the pedestrian crossing to Oxfordshire county Council on this website <http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk>, on Tuesday evening. I had an acknowledgement of email Wednesday, This Morning Thursday, I had a phone call from someone who said they were going to come out today and look at them and organise the repair. If this is done shortly that is prompt action.

Another site for contact <http://www.fixmystreet.com>

Name Supplied

OxFest - 14/3/13

Announcing Ox-fest 2013 at Carswell Golf Club on July 12, 13 and 14. Please like our facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/OxFestUK> for more information and a chance to win two free tickets each week between now and the end of April!

Faringdon House - 14/3/13

I've heard that it is to be put on the market for sale

Name Supplied

Humpty Dumpty Hill - 14/3/13

I have just returned from walking my dog around Humpty Dumpty field. I have been doing so with all the dogs I have owned for over 20 years. I stopped at the top of the field and as usual took in the beautiful view of the countryside looking towards Brize Norton. If the proposed housing goes ahead on that field what a disaster that will be for the local countryside.

Who wants these houses? do they live in Faringdon now? I doubt it. The media tells us that the housing market is all but dead.

Seems to me just another money making scheme.

Where is the infrastructure to cater for all these extra people, Doctor's, dentists etc.

Lets face it the local council can't even fix the pot holes in the roads.

GGGrrrrrrrr.

Name Supplied

Humpty Dumpty Hill - 14/3/13

The suggestion to form a petition against the proposed Humpty Hill development is a good one. I'll be at the public consultation at 6 pm next Friday and will attempt to meet with anyone who would like to organise this. I may even prepare a draft and attempt to collect signatures. Any suggestions for what to mention on the petition would be welcome. Points already mentioned are; spoiling views and an area of natural beauty, excess demand on over stretched services, roads, etc, building over a 'recreational' space. To be honest these objections sound a bit weak - if the council want more homes built then we need to come up with some more substantive objections to stop this development. Alternative sites more integrated into the existing town would be a more positive suggestion, e.g. to the East of the town along with other recent developments and closer to the A420 and services instead of building on unspoilt open farmland.

Anthony Field

ED(GW) There is already a proposal for 350 more houses along Park Road (opposite Folly Park View). This is in the (expired) Local Plan, so will happen. Other possible/ speculative proposals are both sides of the Coxwell Road (Fernham Fields and Steeds Farm in GT Coxwell Parish) plus Tetronics, 20 more on Park Road, 50 on Faringdon House site (behind Junior School/library) and the Infant school- depending on the Academy plans. There are other infills too. If they all get their way Faringdon's population will increase by more than 2000, reaching nearly 11000. It is now c8000

Humpty Dumpty Hill - 14/3/13

I would love to have a petition against the Humpty Dumpty Hill Development. Why are they spoiling our countryside, when just down from the Esso Garage next to Follow View, there are a load of builders huts and unfinished road with Fencing?

Couldn't they build something on the thing they never finished or at least cleaned it up? We can get fined £70 for littering, so how come the developers can get away with it?

Residents don't need any of their beloved country side being ruined.

James Campbell

Fishing Licence - 14/3/13

Where can i purchase a full fishing license to able me fish at the folly park fishing lake in faringdon (off palmer drive) and how much would it cost.

Steve Jones

New houses for Faringdonwhat's happening about the empty ones? - 13/3/13

Like many posters I am appalled at the prospect of new homes on Humpty Hill, particularly when some are already lying empty.

I refer of course to the 9 new homes completed in 2011, I believe, on the ex Carter's mansion site off Coxwell Road near the ex-health centre.

As of today, 13 March, almost two years on, 8 are still empty.

I know the property market is flat but i suspect these homes, which are very crammed in and have tiny gardens, are still on the market as they are over-priced and unwanted. They always were unwanted before they were built but the developers got their way..as they usually do. I wonder what is happening with them..does anyone know

Now if anyone is organising a petition against Humpty Hill development, I'll be the first to sign and will even help organise it if help is wanted. So let me know, please.

Peter Hawkins

ED(GW) Great if someone who organise a petition for this and the other possible developments. I've been told by a VWHDC planner that objections from residents have more weight if they're evidence based.

Fernham Fields decision - 13/3/13

Application P13V0139OUT (Fernham Fields) is still under consultation and assessment of public responses.

Likely date for a committee consideration is early to mid June, recommendation will be made then for members consideration.

Email from David Rothery, VWHDC Planning Services

Calling all acoustic acts and songwriters

Frid 5 April 2013 - OX-FEST Acoustic Auditions @ SHUSH, The Venue, Wantage - FREE ADMISSION ALL EVENING, Doors Open 8pm, Auditions from 8.30pm, NIGHT CLUB from 11pm til 2am.

Acts MUST be Acou...stic or Singers/Acts with backing tracks.

Sorry, No bands unless you can perform Unplugged and are able to set up quickly, within a few minutes.

African style drums or simple snare and hi hat set up is ok but we won't have time to set up and swap full drum kits or backline.

All acts will be expected to prepare 4 songs and perform 2 initially and a further 2 if they get through to part 2 the same evening.

TO APPLY - Please email info@ox-fest.com NOT LATER THAN Monday 1 April 2013.

PLEASE FORWARD AND SHARE THIS WITH ANY GREAT ACTS YOU KNOW - www.Ox-Fest.com

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Ox-Fest The BIGGEST and BEST Oxford Festival EVER 12th 13th and 14th July 2013

Humpty Dumpty Hill - 13/3/13

The proposed development of 99 homes on 'humpty dumpty' hill is not just inappropriate from the point of view of spoiling views from Faringdon over open countryside and building on a recreational space. First of all we should make clear that this field is farmland through which runs a public footpath, not a public space - it may well have been a deliberate ploy of the owners to allow almost free access to the public for their recreational use! The effect of development on this site will also expand the boundaries of the town into an area of natural beauty, i.e. the area between the A417 and the B4019 running out to Eaton Woods and Buscot Park. Views of Faringdon from the West and North will be utterly spoilt by this large new development breaking the boundaries of the existing town which have been largely unchanged for centuries. One only has to see the effect of similar developments in Highworth on the views of that town from the North to imagine

what will be the effect on views of Faringdon. The correct place to build new homes would perhaps be between the existing town and the A420? Please also if we are to have 1000+ new homes could we also have more parking, schools, other amenities and the potholes repaired in all the roads first - the Park Road approach to Faringdon is a mess and puts shame on VWHDC.

Anthony Field

Book Club in Faringdon? - 12/3/13

Just wondering if there is a writing group or a book club in Faringdon?

Name Supplied

Humpty Dumpty Hill - 12/3/13

The first opportunity for people to air their views on the proposed building on "Humpty Dumpty Hill" is on Friday 22nd March. 4pm-7pm in the Jubilee Room in the Pump House. Please make the effort to go along and let the developers know what you think.

I certainly will in no uncertain terms. Regards Mark

ED(GW) Usually these developers have a questionnaire asking your views about the housing. They seldom ask the fundamental question 'do you support this development' By completing the questionnaire in the way they want you to you are implicitly agreeing to development. Beware!

London Marathon for British Heart foundation - 12/3/13

Hi - I will be running the London Marathon on April 21st and am hoping to raise money for the British Heart Foundation.

Every penny counts so if you can spare some, please visit my page: www.justgiving.com/Debbie-Hulme

Thanks

Debbie Hulme

New development off Highworth Road aka Humpty Dumpty Hill - 11/3/13

Can someone please shed any light on the planned development off Highworth Road (Humpty Dumpty Hill), I read about it in the Faringdon Folly but cannot find any other information anywhere. Has planning application been accepted? I know there is a 1 day consultation on the 22nd March but what does this actually mean? Do we have any say as local residents?

Do we really need more housing in Faringdon? We need to preserve our open spaces and landscape! Humpty Dumpty Hill has a beautiful view stretching all over the county and serves as a great area for children to play in the snow, surely this is more important than to jam pack our town with more and more houses and fund greedy developers?

If it's an option please petition against this and keep our green areas green.....

Frustrated

Anti Poo Competition - 5/3/13

Here in Faringdon we are running a competition to design a poster encouraging dog owners to pick up after their dog and highlight the dangers from dog waste.

The posters will be displayed in the Pump House, Faringdon during Oxfordshire Art weeks on the 18th May. Deadline for submissions is 30th April.

Posters will be judged according to age groups (age groups subject to change - please indicate your age and school when you submit your poster):

Under 7s, Years 3&4, Years 5&6, Years 7-9, Years 10-13, Over 18s and Professionals.

We ask that you use our motto "Don't be a Chump, Pick up that Dump" and include contact details for the White Horse District Council environmental health 01235 540555 and remind viewers of the poster that it's against the law to allow your dog to foul a public space and you may be liable to a £50 fine.

Your artwork needs to allow for printing at A3 right down to A7.

Please include your name, age, school (as appropriate) and contact details.
The poster from the winner in each age group will be available for download from this website and www.focusonuk.co.uk for public use.

Please send your entries to:
Holly Davies, Anti-fouling Campaign,
FocusON Oxfordshire, Portwell House, Faringdon, Oxon, SN7 7HU

Sad News - 5/3/13

Sad news for someone at Highworth Rd end of town, sorry :(Just stopped and checked a cat on the road next to the layby overlooking Humpty Hill - I'm really sorry but it didn't make it. Spotted it on way home (7.30pm Monday 4/3), dropped kids off and went back to check if it had a collar. Large black cat, think male, adult, well built, no collar. Was still warm :(Can't believe people who hit cats and drive on, makes me so mad. You'd never leave a dog who's been hit, so why a cat?! We've had people hit our cats and dump them in a rubbish bin, but never bother to call us. That's why I stopped to check this one.

Please will you let anyone in F'don who's missing a cat of that description know I've moved it onto the grass verge by the lamppost (it was still on the road), as Vet wasn't open but emergency vet said there wasn't anything they could do and it was a health hazard to store it until they opened tomorrow. Sad that I couldn't do more, but hopefully someone will read this and be able at least to tell the owners :(Sorry I don't have better news :
Jen

Dog Fouler needs identifying! - 4/3/13

I have received information that an irresponsible dog walker is allowing his dog to foul on the new Folly Park housing development.

Details that I have been passed are as follows:

A dog owner (who does not live on the Folly Park Estate) with a brown boxer dog is consistently allowing his dog to foul on the grass next to the path in Palmer Road.

Irrespective of the Vale of White Horse's notice that dog owners will be fined he is showing disregard to the dog act 1996. He varies the times he walks his dog, especially at night when he believes no one is watching.

If anyone has information about this person then please contact me at the Vale of White Horse District Council either by telephone 01235 547641 or email colin.marshall@southandvale.gov.uk

Volunteer Police Officers wanted - 4/3/13

We are currently looking to have a team of Volunteer police officers at Faringdon helping support the police in the local communities.

We will be having a recruiting event at Faringdon Community College on the 12th of March 2013, between 19:00 and 21:00 so people can find out more. They will be able to meet current volunteer police officers, and they will be able to answer questions and talk about being a volunteer with Thames Valley Police.

We will also have tea and coffee and discuss the process and the reasoning behind the move.

If you would like to discuss this further please give me a shout. I am currently looking to get it as far and wide as possible and I am hoping it might be something useful for your site. Here is the web address for applications, which might be also useful to

you. https://applyonline.thamesvalley.police.uk/job/Volunteer_Police_Officer_Special_Constable_Faringdon/100818

Pavement Outside Budgens - 4/3/13

The pavements are swept on a daily basis. People sometimes find it hard to put their rubbish in the bin provided.
Name Supplied

Poor Faringdon- destined to be a massive housing estate - 3/3/13

Because VWHDC haven't kept their local plan up to date, and through changes to planning law that the government have made it is a free for all for Housing developers.

I have heard it said that if all the developments in the pipeline are successful our population will get to nearly 11000 (it's currently 8300).

That's another 1000 houses! Of course people need homes, but this step increase in growth needs many years for the new population to be integrated and services to be grown to suit. I hope people won't be looking for employment here- there is so little at the moment.

Anyone any ideas how to stop this- or at least slow it down.

Name Supplied

Faringdon on Radio Oxford - 3/3/13

If anyone missed Malcolm Boyden's Radio Oxford Programme live from Faringdon on the 1st March - you can still listen on Catch up - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p014w8vy>

Teresa

Outside Budgens - 2/3/13

Wouldn't it be nice if Budgens swept the pavement outside their sparkling new, smart shop each day? It would take about 2 minutes!

Good if other shops and residents in the Town Centre particularly did the same.

Name Supplied

Schools in Faringdon - 2/3/13

I've just heard that Oxfordshire County Council has £1.2m (developer contribution Folly Park View). I think extra temporary classrooms have been provided at the Infant school, but it seems that some Faringdon children are still required to go elsewhere to school. I wonder how they're planning to use the money?

Name Supplied

Regent Cinema. The Hobbit

Corn Exchange, Faringdon, 22 March 2013

Doors open 6.30. Film 7pm

Adults £4, Children £3

Licensed bar and popcorn

Tickets from 01367 242191

www.faringdonregentcinema.webs.com

VWHDC Local Plan - 1/3/13

We have now published a draft of the Local Plan for you to comment on. This is a great opportunity for you to have your say and influence this important document.

It will be available for you to comment on until 4pm on Thursday 9 May.

You can download a copy of the draft of the plan on our website at www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/localplanpartone - this page also explains how you can have your say, and how you can find out more about the plan and what it means.

Exhibition in Faringdon Corn Exchange, 12pm - 7pm, Thursday 28th March and Saturday April 13th 10am-3pm

Dog Fouling - 1/3/13

I am an enforcement officer for the Vale of White Horse District and I have been receiving complaints of dog fouling in the areas of Ash Close, The Pines, Chestnut Avenue, Cedar Road, Maple Road, Beech Close and Elm Road in Faringdon. There is a persistent dog walker(s) in that area who is not picking up after their dog.

Under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 a person who is in charge of a dog must clean up after it when it fouls any footpath, highway, verge or other open space to which the public have access.

It is a crime to allow a dog to foul in any public area without cleaning it up. By doing so you could face a fixed penalty notice of £50 or prosecution.

I need the assistance of residents living in that area to report in confidentially if you see another dog owner committing this offence. Please keep a record of anything that can identify them and contact the Vale of White Horse District Council's Environment Wardens on 01235 547641 or email environmental.protection@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Any dog mess that needs clearing up can be reported to the Council's Waste Contractor Biffa on 03000 610 610 or email Biffa at admin.vale@biffa.co.uk identifying the exact location, eg on pavement outside 114 Green Lane, Dean Court, Cumnor.

Hopefully, the person can be identified!

Parkour Centre in Faringdon - 1/3/13

Read on the BBC news that the Faringdon Old Pump House Theatre is going to be turned into a Parkour centre, does anyone know anything about this it says it will start being worked on in April ready in May.

Is there any more information on this, my son is really into Parkour at the moment and I am sure he would love to be able to use it but I cannot see anything else about it anywhere.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-21585188>

Neighbourhood Plan Open meeting - 28/2/13

Thursday 28 February, in the Corn Exchange., 7pm

The meeting is open to the public and will be considering the Options to go into the draft Neighbourhood Plan. Please do come- there will be some important decisions made about the development of Faringdon

Ox-Fest Stalls - 27/2/13

Do you run a small business or have some crafts you would like to sell? If so please contact me at julie@mypavirtualservices.com. Only £100 for the entire weekend with circa 5000 visitors.

This is a long shot! - 27/3/13

I live in a wooden house of an unusual design and build in Ashendon, Buckinghamshire. It is about 75 years old and all wood and I believe supplied by the Swedish Government after the war and I understand that there are similar properties in the Faringdon area. I'm seeking information about wall construction and whether anyone has had any form of cavity wall insulation successfully applied, or whether anyone might have drawings or have researched the unique design of this type of dwelling.

Name Supplied

Car Keys found - 27/2/13

Many thanks to Richard for rescuing my car keys.

Name supplied

The Vale Community Local Plan - 25/2/13

Faringdon Corn Exchange, 12pm - 7pm, Thursday 28th March
and Saturday April 13th 10am-3pm

We are publishing a draft of our Local Plan on 28 February. We will send some more details on how you can have your say on it later this week.

In the meantime, as members of the Vale Community we thought you might be interested in the dates and locations for our consultation exhibitions.

VWHDC

Thames Valley Police appeal for witnesses - 25/2/13

TVP is appealing for witnesses after a number of garages were broken into in Faringdon.

Between Thursday (21/2) and Friday (22/2), offender(s) gained entry to a block of garages in Marlborough Gardens (behind Cost Cutters), and stole property.

Locks were broken off the garage doors to gain entry. Property stolen included a ring and two watches.

If you have any information relating to this message please call the police on **101** and state you are responding to a Thames Valley Alert message.

Alternatively if you have information but wish to remain anonymous, please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or online@crimestoppers-uk.org

No personal details are taken, information is not traced or recorded and you will not go to court.

FollyFest Public Meeting - 25/2/13

Presentation of progress to date, planned FollyFest events, fundraising progress etc.

Come along, have a drink and a listen and then volunteer, donate cash, complain if you wish, give us some advice etc. See you there!

Corn Exchange, Faringdon. Tuesday 26th February.
Doors open 7.30pm, meeting starts 8pm. Bar open.

Fernham Fields housing application- still time to comment before deadline 28/2/13 - 23/2/13

The easiest way is via the webform

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P13/V0139/O>

I've just had a look at the planning site. I don't know why but all the comments to date are not displaying- there were many from Gt Coxwell residents and a few from Faringdon

If you object, please do tell VWHDC planners

Name Supplied

Car Keys found - 23/2/13

A bunch of car keys were found next to a silver nissan micra parked on London street yesterday. Richard from the Folly Inn has them so if they're yours, they'll be in the pub if you can prove ownership.

Mel Lane

Congratulations on the new website.- 23/2/13

Google tells me that Henry Ford did not actually say "Any colour you like as long as it's black" so I won't misquote him. However I am wondering if you will be colour coding the News and Views Headlines as you did previously. I found it invaluable for keeping track of the threads which interested me.

Once again thanks for providing such a useful website.

HGM

Town Council's Planning and Highways Committee and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group meeting - 23/2/13

Thursday 28 February, in the Corn Exchange.

The meeting is open to the public and will be considering the Options to go into the draft Plan, so are a very important part of the process.

New website - 22/2/13

Congratulations on the new format on the site. I found it easy to use and the lay out is very good.

Name Supplied

Mission Fitness UK- 21/2/13

New Health and Fitness Centre

We are pleased to announce that a Health and Fitness Centre has opened in Faringdon, located just behind the Esso Garage in Park Road (Radcot Estate), SN77BP

The Centre provides a professional, personal, friendly service at an affordable price.

State of the art gym equipment, classes, personal training and much more.

To arrange a free consultation, book classes or enrol for Membership call 07828267070 or 07427183364

Come in and take a look, email: missionfitnessuk@gmail.com, or visit the web site at www.missionfitnessuk.com.

You won't be disappointed!

Skyfall SOLD OUT - 21/2/13

Regent Cinema at The Corn Exchange, Skyfall - James Bond, Friday 22nd February, Skyfall has now SOLD OUT.

Next film: Friday 22nd March THE HOBBIT, doors 6.30pm film starts 7pm

Organ donation - under 18s - 19/2/13

There is no minimum age for joining the NHS Organ Donor Register. Parents and guardians can register their children and children can register themselves. Children who are under 12 in Scotland and under 18 in the rest of the UK at the time they registered require their parent or guardian's agreement for donation to take place.

If you would like to register your child, the easiest way to do this is to contact NHSBT Donor Line on 0300 123 23 23, or visit www.organdonation.nhs.uk and follow the on-screen instructions.

The future of transplantation, and the many thousands of patients each year waiting for a transplant to save or enhance their lives, depends upon the willingness of people like you to make their wishes known.

NHS Blood and Transplant

PUBLIC CONSULTATION - 19/2/13

Proposed development of land south of Park Road, Faringdon

380 dwellings

New Primary School, Open Space, Play Areas and Allotments

Light industrial/office units on Rogers Concrete works site with new roundabout access from Park Road

Come and see the proposals and give us your comment at

The Jubilee Room, The Pump House, Market Square, Faringdon

Friday 1 March 2013 between 3pm and 7pm and Saturday 2 March 2013 between 9am and 1pm

For more information contact:

Peter Horridge at Stansgate Planning on 01789 414097 or e-mail peter@stansgate.co.uk

Chris Shaw at Bloor Homes on 01684 278124 or email Chris.Shaw@bloorhomes.com

Blood doning - 18/2/13

Further to the statistic about the discrepancy between those who would accept or donate an organ, here's another: 96% of us rely on the other 4% to give blood.

The blood donation team are in Faringdon approx every two months. You can make appointments (no hanging around in draughty rooms for hours waiting your turn these days), collections go on till about 7.15 pm, everyone's thoroughly nice to you and you get tea and biccies. If you think you're too squeamish to go, you can't see the blood being collected unless you really make an effort to (that's all done under your bed to get a helping hand from gravity) and if you're nervous they WILL look after you.

The numbers show what a selfish lot we are...why not break the mould? The next session in town is 26 March.

To find out more, go to: www.blood.co.uk

Name supplied

SKYFALL - Regent Cinema, Corn Exchange, Friday 22nd - 19/2/13

There are only 11 tickets left for this. Get your tickets soon at the Tourist Information Centre. Opening hours - 9am to 2pm

Fernham Fields housing application - 16/2/13

Have you commented on this application yet- you have until 28/2/13

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P13/V0139/O>

I've learned that it an outline planning permission, so the detail of layout/housing etc are only examples.

The key points are distance from Faringdon Centre (1 mile, and uphill) and time to walk (15-30mins each way), flooding on the site and road, noise from A420, loss of green corridor between Gt Coxwell and Faringdon, lack of local employment, sewage, water supply, traffic/congestion - all these are assessed by VWHDC to decide if it 'sustainable'.

Lots of Gt Coxwell residents have written with their objections, and Faringdon Town Council has 'strongly objected'

If you object, please do tell VWHDC planners

Name Supplied

Organ Donation - 16/2/13

I watched the TV program about organ donation the other evening.

Apparently 96% say they would accept an organ if they needed it, but only about c30% register to donate.
It seems such a good thing.

Why not join the register

<http://www.organdonation.nhs.uk/>

Name Supplied

Software Tester needed, in Faringdon - 15/2/13

Focus Data need a software tester in Faringdon. This is a permanent full-time role and we can be flexible over start and end times. This is a great opportunity to work in a rapidly expanding company which has been well established since 2005.

Interested applicants should send their most recent CV to sally.sutherland@focus112.com

Look at <http://www.faringdon.org/nvjobsandcareersfaringdon.htm> for person spec and Job Description

Childcare - 15/2/13

Am I the only person having difficulty in finding appropriate 'quality' Childcare in Faringdon? Is there demand for more?

Do you have space/land to rent which would be appropriate for a Childcare facility?

Name supplied

Oxtrails Project - 14/2/13

I'd like to introduce you to the OxTrails project. The project has been commissioned by South Oxfordshire and Vale of White horse DC's and aims to attract sustainable tourism to the area, mostly so Oxford don't steal all the limelight. As I'm sure you'll agree there are some fantastic experiences to be had in the region, and these can go overlooked. It is the OxTrails ambition to get visitors moving beyond the Oxford city limits.

The stop offs have all been selected as they offer visitors something unique and unusual. There are five themed trails, **which will be squished into a smartphone app**. The trails are themed as follows:

History Trail - <http://goo.gl/maps/R4AaW>

Film Trail - <http://goo.gl/maps/qRKu6>

Literature Trail - <http://goo.gl/maps/u10hQ>

Food Trail - <http://goo.gl/maps/O8tze>

Outdoor Trail - <http://goo.gl/maps/djOL9>

The project is funded, which means we get the chance to offer you tonnes of free promotion, on our dedicated Twitter accounts, Pinterest boards and YouTube channel...not to mention your prominence in the app itself.

In order that we can make a sound effort with promotion we would be grateful if you could share any promotional materials you have with us, for use strictly in the OxTrails project. This could include pictures, video footage, event flyers – anything that shines a positive light on the area, and your destination.

We're trying to keep it light and fun, so there is a little bit of competition as to which trail is best. If you want to find out which trail you're on and join in, ping us an email, and obviously we're happy to answer any further questions you may have,

Team Oxtrails

ED(GW) The Folly and All Saints is on it

Wow I got a reply! - 14/2/13

Well I finally got a reply from the Highways Department which does somewhat restore some of my faith in the system. It appears that major repairs will be taking place on the A420 between Shrivenham and Acorn bridge.

This however will not start til 2014. In the meantime potholes will be repaired as and when. So I guess I now know that my emails did not fall on deaf ears.

Don't suppose there is much hope of a certain Mr Cameron sorting out all the other problems we have.

Name Supplied

A420 - 14/2/13

I am glad that I am not the only one to complain about the awful state of the A420 going towards Swindon and many other roads including the A417.. Whilst returning from Swindon, I was nearly hit head on by a car swerving around the

potholes.

I logged the potholes on the fixmystreet.co.uk website and a couple of days later I received a call from the Highways Department. I have to say that I started laughing when the guy said that the potholes were being fixed within 24 hours, as I said to him that he was talking rubbish as I was still driving around ones that have been present since before Christmas !. Needless to say like every previous pothole(s) I have reported, they have either been ignored or taken months to fix. I fear that that section of the A420 will need complete resurfacing as any repair will quickly be pulled out by the HGV's on that route.

Regards Mark (a very disgruntled Motorist)

BBC Radio Oxford - the Big Tour. - 14/2/13

We visit a different town or area of the county every week and shine a light on that community talking about the stories which are important to them. I wondered if you could put an appeal out online or help in any way – I am looking for a steer about the stories, issues and people we should be speaking to in Faringdon.

I am planning the week now and it will be broadcast across the station on w/c 25th Feb, with Malcolm Boyden's show coming live from the town on the 1st March from 10-1300.

If you can help at all I would be very grateful

Best Wishes

Serena Andrews

BBC Radio Oxford Broadcast Journalist

Tel: 01865 889 099 07718 120022

New Faringdon Online website - 14/2/13

This site will be offline from Sunday 17th and if all goes well available in the new format from Tue 19th.

If you've been thinking of writing to Talking Points or sending event details- do before Sunday- please Ed(GW)

Just the usual apathy - 14/2/13

Re the parking in London street, this is just one more of the usual pathetic responses from the powers that be. It comes from the top ie the so called government right down to the lowest person in the chain.

I have sent 3 emails to the Oxfordshire Highways Department, the first at the beginning of January, I asked for an explanation as to why the A420 between Majors road and Acorn bridge was nothing but a disgrace with all the potholes and general degradation. I never even got a reply.

Let's face it the country has gone to the dogs, it is so frustrating the way no-one gives a toss what is going on. I suppose it's only to be expected in a 3rd world country which we have undoubtedly become.

Name Supplied

London Road Parking - 14/2/13

I reckon that the chap from the Wheatsheaf has been given a free permit from the police to park on double yellow lines.

Well, he must have been or else they'd give him parking tickets, wouldn't they? And if he's not illegally parking outside the Wheatsheaf, he's illegally parking outside the Infant School....where he doesn't appear to get any fines either.

So how can I get one of these 'Park Anywhere' Permits please?

Why can't we all have them?

Faith

London St Parking - 13/2/13

When is something going to get done about the vehicle parked day and night and occasionally moves down by the Wheatsheaf?

Double yellow lines in the town as a rule mean nothing, and this car is there almost every day and night!

Why are they above the law?

Cynic

Missing Jack Russell Terrier- back home- 11/2/13

Douglas is now home and well. Emma will never know where he has been for 7 days, but is so very relieved that he is

home.

Name Supplied

ED(GW) Hooray!

Missing Jack Russell Terrier - 11/2/13

Emma's beloved male Jack Russell Terrier went missing whilst being walked on his home turf at Colleymore Farm, near Coleshill on Monday 4th Feb 2013. He was wearing a brown leather collar with an ID tag and his is microchipped.

Have you seen him?

Please contact 07747 858485 if you have any information <http://www.doglost.co.uk/poster.php?dogId=48369>

Lawn Bowling in Faringdon - 11/2/13

Are you thinking about doing something new in 2013?

Would you like to meet new friends?

How about trying LAWN BOWLING and enjoy the following benefits

- Use of club equipment

- Free coaching

- Ample car parking

- Generous reduction on first years membership

- Club open all year (indoor bowling winter months)

- Regular Social events

- Licensed bar

- If you are interested and would like more details the clubhouse will be open every Saturday (10am-12noon) during March and April, drop in have a coffee and talk about bowling, or phone 01793 330564

All Welcome

FARINGDON BOWLING CLUB (est. 1911)

Gravel Walk SN7 7JN (We are behind Faringdon Motorparts)

A Midsummer Night's dream - 11/2/13

Faringdon Dramatic Society (Affiliated to ODN and Noda) presents for your entertainment in association with Faringdon Branch of the British Heart Foundation

Directed by Carolyn Taylor

READ THROUGH Monday 18th February, 8 pm, United Church, Coxwell Street, Faringdon (Limited parking behind the church)

AUDITIONS Thursday 21st February, 7.30pm venue as above

PERFORMANCE DATES Wednesday 12th June, Thursday 13th June, and Friday 14th June in the grounds of Sudbury House Hotel, London Street, Faringdon.

New members welcome. Enquiries Fiona Merrick - Email: webmaster@faringdondramatic.org.uk

Here we go again - 9/2/13

Would the person(s) who are allowing their dog(s) to leave unwelcome packages in and around the Pines, Chestnut Avenue area PLEASE STOP. It is unsightly, unhealthy and is an offence.

Whoever you are pack it in. I hope you get caught and FINED because you deserve it. You give us respectable dog owners a bad image.

Name supplied.

Far Runners- Faringdon Running Group - 9/2/13

Further to the earlier posts, I'd like to raise the profile of the new Faringdon jogging/running group. We are a small-but-growing group who meet at least twice a week and run for about half an hour. Whether you're a regular runner, want to get back into it after a break or have never run before but would like to increase your fitness and fancy giving it a go, please do come along.

We are a friendly and supportive bunch with very enthusiastic and committed race leaders. There's no pressure to keep up with the tall young fellas at the front (you know who you are!) and it's nothing like the awful cross-country running sadistic

games teachers made you do at school! It would be lovely to see some new faces.

We have a website (www.farrunners.wix.com/home) and a facebook page (Far Runners), so please check out the time of the next convenient run and come along!

There's a mixed beginners/intermediate group on Sun at 10am starting from the leisure centre.

Andrea

Traveller site - 7/2/13

I was just delighted to hear about the new Traveller Site. I've nothing against Travellers at all. Except when they a) arrive and b) leave. They used to come every few years to where we used to live.

When they arrived, we had to put up with the noise (arguments and loud music going on till the early hours, kids on quad bikes and motorbikes skidding up and down the field at all hours, cars, vans and trucks incessantly coming and going) and the very obvious increase in burglaries and petty crime in the area.

Then when they left, the locals had to spend the entire day afterwards attempting to tidy up the following from the kids' 2 acre football field: raw sewage, household waste including rotting food, nappies and sanitary items, gas bottles and canisters, mattresses, broken toys, broken chairs, old clothes, bags and shoes as well as huge piles of soffits, guttering, fascias, trees, tarmac and bricks (well what did you think they did with it? Paid to dump it?!). There was no help or money from the council to clean it up either.

Just can't wait. I assume that whoever thought this was a good idea does, in fact, live right next door to the site?

Faith

Boogie me on Saturday 9th - 7/2/13

Boogie-Me is a FABULOUS 15 piece rythym and blues band from Faringdon and the surrounding area. If you've never seen them, this is a great opportunity.

Following our great evening of dancing in February 2012, we have invited Boogie-Me and DJ Citizen Cane back for a repeat evening of fun, friends and dancing.

Saturday 9 February 2013 (Hey....come and celebrate Valentines Day if you like) at Faringdon Junior School £6 on the door. 8 - 11.30pm. Bar. Tel 07974 938 265

Public toilets upgraded and council tax frozen again in 2013/14 Vale budget - 7/2/13

A number of public toilets in the Vale of White Horse will receive a welcome upgrade this year, if budget proposals are given the go ahead.

Cllr Matthew Barber, Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance at Vale of White Horse District Council, will this week (Friday 8 February) present his proposal for the 2013/14 budget to Cabinet. .

Included in the proposal is an investment of nearly £250,000 to improve the district's public toilets. The move will see existing automated toilets in Hales Meadow and Millbrook Square being replaced by new traditional-style public convenience blocks which will be fully accessible for people with disabilities. .

The investment is expected to be welcomed by local residents who expressed their approval for the availability of public toilets when the council consulted on the budget last year..

Further good news for residents comes in the form of a freeze in council tax for the third year running. This means that those living in a Band D property will continue to pay just £116.69 for services provided by the district council, which continues to operate under one of the lowest council tax rates in the country.

BT Exchange upgrade - 31/1/13

So, how much extra will we have to pay to use the new "faster" broadband. I doubt if it is free, nothing ever is these days.

Anybody have any idea?

Cynical Colin

Faringdon Exchange upgraded??- 31/1/13

Readers out and about in the town may have noticed the BT Openreach Vans, barriers, and men in yellow jackets peering into various holes J. They are drawing fibre from the cabinets to the exchange – this is a key part of the work for superfast broadband.

See <http://www.fibremap.bt.com/> - click on South East – Faringdon is scheduled for enablement by 31st March 2013.

That means it should be available in homes and business by late spring...

Peter

Vale of White Horse District Council has re-opened it's Capital Community Grant Scheme to applications - 30/1/13

..... and the council wants all applicants to receive an equal opportunity to submit an eligible application with a viable proposal that meets the council's criteria.

Capital Community Grant Pre-Application Advice Workshop

Tuesday 5 February 5pm – 7pm at Vale of White Horse District Council, Abbey House, Abbey Close, Abingdon, OX14 3JE

Web: www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/grants

Email: grants@southandvale.gov.uk

We would like to invite potential applicants for this round of funding to attend a pre-application workshop to learn more about the grant scheme, the eligibility criteria, how to build a strong application and to explain how applications will be assessed. We advise reviewing the eligibility criteria and guidance notes attached to confirm your project is eligible for funding before booking a place on the workshop.

We will also have a representative from Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action (OCVA) available to advise you on other sources of funding, and to explain the services they can offer to voluntary groups.

Please contact Marian McCormack on 01235 540490 or email grants@southandvale.gov.uk to book your place before 12pm on Tuesday 5 February 2012.

Deadline for applications to the current scheme is - Thursday 28 February 2013.

Another round of funding will open between July 2013 and September 2013 and we will run this workshop again during the opening period.

Residents meeting Folly Park View - 30/1/13

This Thursday, 31st Jan, there will be a follow up meeting for residents of Folly View Park. 7PM at the Faringdon Children's Centre.

The meeting will be attended by representatives from Bloor Homes, Thames Valley Police, Faringdon Town Council, Oxfordshire County Council (schools and Early Years staff), and Vale of the White Horse District Council, Faringdon Children's Centre, the Fire Service and Sovereign Housing Association.

We will be focusing on recent developments and actions agreed at our first public meeting last October. Be there to support and build your community.

A free minibus will be leaving the Bloor sales room on the estate at 6.30 pm if people need a lift to and from the Family Centre

Name Supplied

VWHDC Consultation re Housing Allocations policy - 29/1/13

Online questionnaire and policy documents

Have your say <https://consult.southandvale.gov.uk/portal/?q%3Aform-2297580%3Aquestion-4=Vale>

Close date 1/3/13

ED(GW)

Faringdon Town Meeting - notes - 29/1/13

Open meeting in Corn Exchange, 29/1. Approx 15 residents + FTC councillors attended.

The precept (FTCs chunk of Council Tax) will go up by 23p per week from April (Band D property). This takes into account more houses in Faringdon (Folly Park View) and the reduction from government on what is paid to local councils.

FTC say they have cut many costs. The cost of the Faze Youth service has increased.

Income from the Corn Exchange has increased, but not from the Pump House.

The total FTC budget is £290k of which £ 184k (63%) is staff costs

VWHDC decide on how many houses Faringdon can be paid for in September for the following tax year - so Faringdon receives no money in relation to any new properties occupied after September until the tax year starting 18 months later.

It was said that MOD owned properties are not liable for Council Tax.

It is thought that VWHDC, County (Fire, police, education, Social Services++) Council Tax will increase by 2%.

FTC have not planned for any capital projects for 2013/14

Bloor

There maybe 38 more homes than originally planned- on land designated for employment, on Folly Park View

Another Bloor site is likely, South of Park Road, for up to 400 houses, and a new primary school.

Planning permission to be applied for March/April 2013. It was said that these houses will be less dense (30 per hectare?) and be more conventional homes with gardens.

Neighbourhood Plan- is underway . When it is finalised a referendum will be held with a Yes/No vote. The majority of those who voted will decide.

Ed(GW)

Panto - 29/1/13

On Saturday night, I went with my family to see Jack and the Beanstalk. It was a fantastic production and

we all thoroughly enjoyed it. My daughter and her friend were captivated throughout. I can't recommend it enough - it really surpassed our expectations. It's on again this weekend so if you're thinking of going then be assured you will have a great time.

Marea Brown

Faringdon Twinning Association- exchanges - 29/1/13

Youth Exchange Programme Sunday 14th July to Saturday 20th July 2013

A group of French children from our twin town of Le Mele in Normandy will visit Faringdon (age 12+).
Sunday 21st July to Saturday 27th July 2013

A group of Faringdon children will visit Le Mele (age 12+). If you are interested in hosting 1 or 2 French children and then your children returning to Le Mele then please do contact me as soon as possible.

This is an excellent opportunity for your children to improve their own French and make new friends. We are also looking for 2 Leaders aged 18+ to lead the group to Le Mele.

All travel and accommodation will be paid for.

Great experience for confident people who can speak French and want to develop their Leadership Skills.

If you know of anyone interested then please ask them to get in touch.

Many thanks Carolyn Murphy

01367 240698 07528 891 800

cmurphy@kaacademy.org

New Faringdon Online website - 29/1/13

Lots of you will know that Faringdon Online has been around for something like 12 years. Websites have changed a good deal in that time, so I thought it was about time we did too.

The new version will be put live in the first half of February (if all goes to plan)

If anyone would like to have a go with the new site- and give me your comments/suggestions plus tell me of any bits that don't work properly, please do email me and I'll send you the link.

I still need photos of Fernham, Longcot, Shellingford and Stanford if anyone has any I can use - will save me a job- thanks.

I'd also like a photo of Faringdon in WWII - ideally with uniformed men/women around.

Has anyone a photo of the bailey bridge? or the water tank that was in the market square (I think when the cattle market was still taking place). I'd also like pictures of Gloucester St and Coxwell St without cars!!

When it's live it will be reached through the usual web address.

Ed(GW)

genewebb@rocketmail.com

LOST - Blue Fujifilm camera - 27/1/13

Blue Fujifilm XP50 camera was lost on the hill leading up to the folly on Friday 17th (in the snow). If anyone has found it or hears of it please contact me at mikenes2805@yahoo.co.uk. This is my sons camera, and we would be most grateful for it's safe return.
Mike

Kitchen Fitters? - 27/1/13

Request for Kitchen Fitter Personally Recommended Dan on 07899 754938
email danhodsonkitchens@yahoo.co.uk
Name Supplied

Re Faringdon Motorist Centre - 25/1/13

Told you was getting on in years. Names, pass me by like ships in the night. Still the better shop. When IAN does close the shop, will be a trip to Witney or Wantage for my parts.
Cynical Colin

Dog Fouling Fernham Road - 25/1/13

After a short break of having fairly clean pavements I see the dog fouling in Fernham Road has started again. Obviously the dog's owner thought he/she could leave it and it would simply melt away with the snow. If anybody knows who this owner is could you do two things please – first of all pass the name and address to the Vale Of White Horse Council and then could you pass the name and address to me as I have a parcel they left outside my house which I would take great delight in returning to them through their letterbox.
Name Supplied

Annual Town Meeting - 26/1/13

7.30pm Corn Exchange
Possible budget cuts for FTC
Come and give your views on the budget for 2013/2014

Have your say on the Police and Crime Consultation - 25/1/13

<http://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/Get-Involved/Police-and-Crime-Plan-Consultation.aspx>

Grants for Community projects - 25/1/13

Community projects in the Vale are being urged to apply for grant funding that has been made available by the district council.
The Capital Community Grant Scheme is now open and organisations can request up to £5,000. All applications must be made by the 28 February 2013 with decisions being made in April 2013.
The scheme will support a wide variety of community projects. Only capital expenditure, such as spending on buildings, extensions or equipment will be considered under this scheme.

Cllr Matthew Barber, Cabinet Member for grants at the council said:
"Supporting and investing in communities is a vital part of the work we do and we hope that groups and

organisations across the district will apply for a share of this fund. We have worked extremely hard to get ourselves onto a sound financial footing to still be able to offer this money, despite the current economic pressures faced by local government up and down the country.”

The council will be holding a pre-application workshop to give advice and support to potential applicants on the evening of Tuesday 5 February at the council offices. All potential applicants are encouraged to attend.

To register interest in attending or for more information, please contact the grants team at grants@southandvale.gov.uk.

Groups can apply online by visiting www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/grants before Thursday 28 February 2013.

Andy Robinson

Shared Communications Officer Corporate Strategy

Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire District Councils 01235 540567

Kitchen Fitters? - 25/1/13

Has anyone locally had a new kitchen supplied and fitted by someone they would recommend? You know, the sort that do what they say, keep to budget, finish the job? Or am I asking for too much?
Name Supplied.

Re Faringdon Motorist Centre - 24/1/13

If Cynical Colin has been using Faringdon Motorparts for so long he must be aware that Mr Stringer's name is Ian not Dave.
Green Witch

Re Faringdon Motorist Centre - 23/1/13

I walk past this shop to go to the BEST car parts place in town which is Dave Stringer's Faringdon Motorparts on Gravel Walk. Have used that place for many a year and not the newer one. If I go to Dave's place and the part I want isn't in, he will get it no problem. When he retires as he isn't a spring chicken; shall have to go elsewhere. Simple as that.
Cynical Colin

Jack and the beanstalk- Faringdon - 23/1/13

Now is the winter of our discontent made glorious summer by... Jack and the Beanstalk! Get your tickets for this year's pantomime bright and early; at The Nut Tree, on line (until Thursday night) or on the door. A great family show starts this Friday, curtain up 7.30pm at Faringdon Junior School. Come along and warm your hearts in the chilly snowy weather!
Full details on www.faringdondramatic.org.uk

Housing development - 23/1/13

For anyone who wonders how the planning in the Vale is conducted - it's quite easy, they pass everything because the developers have the right to keep appealing until they get it through. It costs the Vale to fight an appeal and if the developer is going to get permission in the end what is the point of the cost.

Here at Watchfield we have just had an application for 120 houses passed without objections from the residents as we realise we must accept change but the last piece of natural land has also been sold and planning is being sought on that along with a travellers camp outside the boundaries of the village - both are being recommended for passing. Watchfield will then be a village surrounded by main roads with no fields to enjoy for pleasure without getting in a car and travelling.

The planning process makes us feel that our views will be listened to, nothing can be further from the truth, there is absolutely no reason for refusal anymore. No one has any hope of stopping the developers, the Vale might as well close the whole Planning Department and Committee as they have no teeth.
From a very weary campaigner.

Are you clued up about fraud? Read the Little Book of Big Scams - 23/1/13

Fraud costs the British economy £73 billion a year and criminals use a number of sophisticated scams to try and snare victims.

To ensure the public are informed about these scams to allow them to spot them, Thames Valley Police has produced a booklet which aims to reduce the risk of becoming a victim of fraud.

The Little Book of Big Scams, which includes a foreword from Esther Rantzen, includes sections on identity fraud, scam mail, door to door scams and internet scams.

As well as details on different types of frauds, there are a number of helpful hints, 10 golden rules to avoid becoming a victim, and case studies. The booklet also gives details on where to go to get help and how to report fraud if you do become a victim.

The booklet is available to download from our [website](#), where you can find more crime reduction advice.

Faringdon Tennis club "housing" plans.- 23/1/13

Reading through the comments objecting to the proposed housing development on the Faringdon Tennis Club site at Southampton Street, it is no surprise that one of our VWHDC councillors has No objections to the development. Considering she lives quite some distance away from it and wont in any way be inconvenienced with the less than adequate parking, poor provision for waste management collections and the disturbance if it does happen whilst it is being built; then I find it no surprise that she support it. How did she ever get to be voted on to the Council? I do hope we can have some houses built in the Elm Road area soon?

cynical Colin

Support your local retailer- Faringdon Motorist Centre - 23/1/13

I would just like to give all due thanks to Karl at the Faringdon Motorist Centre (opposite Mings and the Peugeot Garage) and Mike the local Mechanic for spending the best part of the last two days helping my sister get her car back on the road to return to Cornwall. Karl came out to my house within half an hour of my phone call, and fitted a new battery but the car would still not start so he returned to get his super charge battery from the shop which still didn't work, so then he called Mike the Mechanic who came first thing this morning as planned, who has managed to get the car started. They have both been backwards and forwards several times and been more than helpful. We will have no hesitation in using them again in

the future and recommending them (THE TELEPHONE NUMBER IS 01367 242420) to everyone we know.

THANK YOU AGAIN KARL AND MIKE for your friendly, competitively priced, and very helpful service from Patty & Annabel

Name supplied

Oxtrails project - 22/1/13

"Creating stories and attracting visitors to your businesses across Southern Oxfordshire"

- a District Council initiative

Not sure who is involved for Faringdon.

See http://www.southernoxfordshire.com/ox_trails.php

ED(GW)

Oh dear- Tesco - 22/1/13

Let me tell you a little story...I used to live in Byfleet in Surrey very near the Brooklands race track, Byleet was a gorgeous little village where everyone knew everyone and the shops were independent, friendly and were making a good trade, you could go from shop to shop buying what you needed, together with seeing all of your friends and having a good old chat, the village altogether had a wonderful community feel and I for one was very proud to live there....

Then in 1990 along came TESCO and bit by bit the village life that we all knew was broken into little pieces and taken to it's knees, all of the shops closed because of this awful shop, now Byfleet is just a mixture of take away restaurants and charity shops and is now just a drive through and so impersonal and boring....Tesco in Brooklands have their own Pharmacy which stays open until 10.00 pm, their own newsagents, everything a little place like Faringdon has under one roof, so as sure as eggs are eggs this will happen here and it makes me feel so very sad, coming to Faringdon to me was like stepping back 20 years meeting people every time you go around the corner to the shops for some milk and I personally love it the way it is, our little market town will be a ghost town before we know it, there will be no room for independent shops, who wants to meet up in Tesco for a coffee when our own little coffee shop is so lovely, also who wants to go and buy some sweets when you can pop to Jan's get what you want and put the world to rights all at the same time.

Despite what Tesco's may say with all of their good intentions they will destroy this little place and of course once they have a foot into Faringdon the land just off of the A420 near the garage will be taken by small outlet stores like Currys etc.,together with all of the extra traffic this will be a nightmare.

I know it's a little late but we need the ghost of Christmas past to show us what Christmas future will be like, there will be loads of sparkly lights, it'll be from the 24/7 opening hours and the only ringing we will hear is the ringing of their tills.... what a shame the last part of old England disappears hey ho!

Chrissie .

Application for housing on Tennis Court site, Southampton St. Resubmission - 22/1/13

I'm not sure what the changes are since the last submission. There are still 11 * 2 storey houses in the plan (5*2 bed, 6*3 bed). The comments so far indicate that there is still inadequate parking per house (18 parking spaces in total), and access from Southampton St is an issue.

The site is .18 hectares, so by my reckoning this is somewhere around 60 houses per hectare.- much more than Folly Park View

Anyone who has been into Folly Park View will see the impact of inadequate off road parking.

You can make comments until Feb 14th

on <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P13/V0033/FUL>

Ed(GW)

Far Runners - 21/1/13

The "Far Runners" (Faringdon's new Running Club) are now meeting regularly at the Town Hall on Thursday evenings at 6.30pm for a 5k run. It's a very friendly group and everyone is really welcome to join us.

Just turn up in your running gear!

Best regards

Marea Brown Littleworth

mareaandpaul@aol.com

Open for business? - 21/1/13

1.22pm pet shop has notice up stating 'out to lunch back at 1.30'; 1.37pm new notice now stating 'gone to post office back soon!'. From this I concluded they neither need nor want my custom and did what any self-respecting consumer would do - came home and ordered it online considerably cheaper than their prices.

I go to the post office in my lunch break.

Name supplied

Tesco to start in the Spring - 21/1/13

I have just heard that TESCO have announced they will be on-site in the Spring.

The Tesco man said 'We are targeting a Spring start but may be on site before then.'

ED(GW)

Faringdon Town Team Administrator - 21/1/13

Following the Faringdon JEF meeting last Thursday, the voting members of the Joint Economic Forum (district councillors, town councillors and representatives from business and community groups) voted in favour of Mirabelle Mack as new Faringdon Town Team Administrator.

Mirabelle will be helping with the delivery of the High Street Innovation Fund and Portas projects and amongst her list of priorities will be:-

§ Faringdon loyalty card additional promotional efforts

§ Floral displays

§ Tourism initiative (e.g. augmented reality tour)

§ Landlords register § Establishing a new market – antiques / food / bric a brac

§ Community notice boards – renovation and more active usage

§ Regular town promotions to attract shoppers / visitors from Faringdon and nearby villages

Investigate ways to sustain the role over 3 years.

The Vale has received £22,500 from the High Street Innovation fund and £10,000 from the Portas fund to revitalise the high street and increase footfall in the town centre .

The Faringdon JEF will provide the overview but there will be a close working relationship between the District - Town and Chamber in order to ensure that the projects are delivered on time and within budget. Mirabelle has already started and will be working as the Town Team administrator for the next 12 months. VWHDC

Jobs - 19/1/13

I was wondering if there were any part time Saturday jobs available in Faringdon? If so please contact me by email at bellaas1995@hotmail.co.uk
Thank you very much, Annabel

Dog thefts - 19/1/13

Thames Valley Police are advising dog owners to be extra vigilant following a spate of dog thefts. Nearly 20 dogs have been stolen from several counties in the past month with thieves targeting pedigree breeds.

As a result of working dog thefts some five years ago, consultations took place with local MPs and Thames Valley Police. As a result DOGWATCH was founded to help combat rural crime and the theft of dogs in particular.

For further information and to join DOGWATCH, please visit www.dogwatchalert.com this is a FREE service, only available in the Thames Valley police area.

If you have any information relating to the theft of dogs, please call Thames Valley Police via the non-emergency telephone number 101.

Alternatively if you have information but wish to remain anonymous, please contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or [online @ crimestoppers-uk.org](http://online@crimestoppers-uk.org).

No personal details are taken, information is not traced or recorded and you will not go to court.

Snowfall - 18/1/13

(Disclaimer, this is in no way intended to upset or ridicule anyone . This is just a light hearted observation so no need for anyone to get their knickers in a twist, and start banging on about how hard life is for shopkeepers or business's for weeks on end or analysing the grammar or the spelling. I'm self employed, I already know how hard it all is..there, that seems to just about cover everything!)

Just went into town to buy some milk ,and I notice that some of the shops, and Post Office ect are closed due to bad weather.....all that is except Blockbuster which went broke yesterday.....

Jim.

Thames Valley Police re burglary- 18/1/13

Thames Valley Police are appealing for witnesses after a business premises in Volunteer Way, Faringdon, was broken into.

On Sunday (13/1) at 8.30pm, offender(s) gained entry by smashing a glass door to the premises. A

number of offices were searched and four laptop computers were stolen.

Theft from a shed

Between (4/1) and (8/1) offender(s) gained entry to a garden shed in Lechlade Road (A417), and stole two lawnmowers.

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 the non-emergency telephone number 101 and state you are responding to a Thames Valley Alert message.

REGENT CINEMA At the Corn Exchange - 18/1/13

PRESENTS JAMES BOND: SKYFALL 12a

Friday 22nd February 2013

Doors 7pm, Film Starts 7.30pm

Adults £4 Children £3 Family (2 adults, 2 children) £10

Refreshments, bar, popcorn, sweets Buy your tickets in advance from Faringdon Community and Tourist Information Centre Corn Exchange, Faringdon, 01367 241 191

www.faringdonregentcinema.webs.com

Man prosecuted for illegal dumping in Faringdon - 17/1/13

A man has been ordered to pay more than £4,700 after disposing of 2,000 tyres illegally near Faringdon. Wayne Clark from Wiltshire was caught disposing of the tyres at Faringdon Business Park near Great Coxwell.

He was fined £2,700 and ordered to pay £1,998.25 in costs, as well as a £15 victim surcharge, after being found guilty of operating without a valid Environmental Permit at Oxfordshire Magistrates' Court. He was also served with a notice to remove the tyres.

The court heard how Mr Clark was storing the tyres at the industrial park in Oxfordshire between October 2011 and January 2012.

Vale of White Horse District Council received a number of complaints regarding the emission of dark smoke at the site. Environment Protection Officers from the council visited the site, and spoke to the tenants of the units on site after liaising with Thames Valley Police and Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue. The Environment Agency also visited the site numerous times over a four-month period and tyres were seen on every visit. During a visit on 9 November 2011, an officer told Mr Clark his operations were illegal, to which Mr Clark responded by agreeing to stop the activities and clear the tyres off the site. On 4 January 2012, a Police Community Support Officer reported that he had seen wheels and tyres being taken to the site, and that the tyres were being cut from their rims.

Mr Clark was interviewed under caution on 12 March 2012, and admitted bringing tyres to the site and cutting them off their metal rims in order to sell the metal. He also confirmed that none of the tyres had been removed but stated he would arrange for disposal.

Despite numerous visits to the site by Environment Agency officers, the site had not been cleared.

Cllr Roger Cox, cabinet member for the environment at Vale of White Horse District Council, said: "The illegal disposal and burning of unauthorized substances is entirely unacceptable. The level of the fine in this successful prosecution should discourage others from similar irresponsible actions in future."

This prosecution follows on from another illegal waste operator, Mr David Ham, being jailed for 25 weeks

in December 2011 for running two illegal waste sites in Whelford and Faringdon, burning waste and allowing waste to enter the Cotswold Water Park.

Coxwell St Speed Limit - 14/1/13

Is anyone else concerned re the speed of vehicles along Coxwell Street?

The number of cars speeding, especially up the road away from the town appears to be increasing, this is throughout the day but particularly later at night.

As far as I am aware there is a 30mph limit in this residential area but I have concerns for safety of residents and pedestrians in this area if this is not addressed.

Name Supplied

Climb the Tower and see the light! TODAY 13th- looks as if there will be a clear sky -

13/1/13

And enjoy the wonderful views of the town at night.

5.00 till 7.00pm.

Free for under 11 years old, 50p for 11-16 and £2 for over 16

In aid of the Faringdon Folly Tower Trust

www.faringdonfolly.org.uk

Jiving 18th January - 11/1/13

!! JIVE AID !!

Jive Temptation are coming again for an evening of **modern jive** starting with a lesson for complete beginners.

If you have never danced before or think you have two left feet, you will be taught enough moves to help you through the evening.

We had a Jive Aid in November which was so much fun

Faringdon Junior School, Gloucester Street ,Faringdon Oxon SN7 7HZ

Doors open 7.30pm

Lesson will begin at 8pm

Ends 11pm

Entrance £6 on the door

BAR

Please feel free to invite your friends.

Contact: Sarah Oliver 07974 938 265

Faringdon Exchange upgraded?? - 10/1/13

BT announced 178 telephone exchanges to be upgraded, including Faringdon in December 2011

<http://www.broadbandwatcher.co.uk/bt-announces-which-178-telephone-exchanges-to-be-fibre-upgraded-4186/>.

Has the Faringdon exchange been upgraded yet?

Church burglaries – witness appeal - 10/1/13

Thames Valley Police is appealing for information following church burglaries in the area.

Offender(s) have forced doors and windows to gain entry. On one occasion it is believed the offender(s) may have hid in the church whilst it was open then waited for persons to leave. Safes have been targeted.

A description has been given of a suspect seen on two separate occasions in the South Oxfordshire area.

The suspect is described as a white male, aged in his 50's, of medium build, with a receding/balding hair line. He was wearing dark clothing and was seen walking away from churches pushing a bike.

Recent churches broken into in the South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse area are as follows:

St Helens Church - Berrick Salome, Wallingford
Between 30/12/12 & 06/01/13
Attempt made to enter safe in vestry

St Peters Church – Little Wittenham, Abingdon
5/1/13 – Between 10am & 4.20pm
Vestry broken into and attempt made to enter safe

All Saints Church – Church Street, Faringdon
Between 2/1/13 & 3/1/13
Internal doors forced open

St Edmunds Church – Radley Road, Abingdon
Between 3/1/13 & 4/1/13
Community Centre entered by smashing a rear window
If you have any information relating to this message please contact Sgt. Shane Harrison at Didcot police station via the Thames Valley Police Enquiry Centre on 101.
Please be extra vigilant. If you see anyone acting suspiciously in or around churches or see any suspicious looking vehicles in the area, please call the police on 101 or 999 for crime in progress.

Alternatively if you have information but wish to remain anonymous, please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or [online @ crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org). No personal details are taken, information is not traced or recorded and you will not go to court.

Road improvements etc.- 10/1/13

Nice to see the illuminated signs and so on, but is anything going to be done about the appalling state of the carriageway in Cornmarket? The original contractors clearly did a poor job, with no apparent redress available. No point having illuminated signs unless you can actually drive along the road without falling into some great big pothole. One more thing. Is anything ever going to be done to improve the problem at the Radcot Road and Church Street junction? as a resident of Coach Lane I experience near misses there virtually every week.

Name Supplied

ED(GW) Find out what Traffic Advisory group are doing in the latest minutes are [on this site](#). There's also a report about Highways works in VWHDC on the same page as the minutes

Book Dr appointment online - 9/1/13

The White Horse practice are now offering this- Drs appointments only.
You need to complete the [attached form](#) and take it to the Health Centre with photo id(driving licence,or passport)
You'll also be able to order repeat prescriptions online too

<http://www.whmp.co.uk/>
ED(GW)

Shopping in Faringdon - 9/1/13

People seem to say quite often that we need more shops in Faringdon. Other than a wide range of clothes, or electrical goods (never likely to have these) what **everyday**things would people like to see that we can't get here?

Maybe some shops would be willing to stock these things if we told them what they were
Name Supplied

Shopping in Faringdon - 8/1/13

Faringdon does have SOME good shops. Pat Thomas Butchers, Aid in Africa charity shop,Mr Stringer at the original Faringdon Motorparts(shall never use the other one), Rainbow chippy, Best Food 2000, Faringdon Pharmacy who are very helpful, and a few others. Needed some varnish for a job and as Faringdon doesnt have a DIY shop I went down to Bert Haynes at Challow. Has a wide range of DIY and tools and isnt too far away.

I do indeed wonder if Tesco will ever open a shop, but in the meantime couldnt the Town Council get Tesco to keep the site a bit tidier. Doesnt give a good impression of this little backwater town in the forgotten corner of the county.
cynical Colin

A good local experience shopping - 8/1/2013

There are some excellent shops in Faringdon. I defy anyone to find meat better than at Pat Thomas's. It may not be cheap, but it works out as good value eg our Xmas goose had very little fat and was delicious.

Hare in the Woods is an experience in itself - it's good quality, varied, and useful for last-minute meals. Rob has a wonderful selection of cheeses, and he knows all about them.

The Pharmacy in London Street is open all hours and they're really friendly. Uptown Fashions has a good selection of clothes at reasonable prices.

Jan's sweetie shop is a paradise for children of all ages. The flower shop staff are friendly and the shop is well stocked. We have several shops selling a good selection of presents etc.

The charity shops do their job well. The IT place is very useful and the owner is helpful.

Rainbow takeaway is clean and the food is good.

The coffee shop near Lloyds is comfortable and friendly. Costcutters is good.

That's not all, but it's just to show that the retail experience in Faringdon cannot be considered bad. I just wish there were more shops, as it is very annoying having to go to Swindon for some everyday items. I would love to be able to buy everything locally and just wish Faringdonians would support the town more

so that traders could feel optimistic about opening shops here.

Hopefully, when Tesco make up their minds to actually open a store here, people will stop shopping out of town for things available here.

Carolyn

Faringdon Youth project - 8/1/13

Faringdon Youth project meets Wednesday 9th January and 23rd January from 4pm – 5.30pm in the Faringdon Library.

Come along if you are aged 16 – 24 years and need help with finding work, applying for apprenticeships, or courses.

Also more general help in finding out what you want to do, and what you're good and build your confidence. Our volunteers offer practical help and are supportive as well as being good listeners..

<http://www.faringdonyouthproject.yolasite.com/>

A good local experience shopping- 7/1/2013

I'm pleased to report that, after years of poor service from retailers of Faringdon I finally had an excellent experience! So, well done and thank you to the very helpful woman in Faringdon Lifestyle and Mobility.

I'd like to take the opportunity to raise their profile a bit as their window display doesn't tell the full story. I am, thankfully, able-bodied and (relatively) young and went in there on the off-chance that they stocked supports to protect weak/injured joints during sporting activities. They do! And they are happy for you to check out their products for suitability prior to purchasing, as well as offering advice. Their neo-g neoprene supports are cheaper than direct from the manufacturer's online store. They also have a good range of back supports etc and will happily get in other equipment that can help those of us afflicted by RSI from spending years working at a computer. Pop in and see what they can do for you! Eligibility for state pension not required.

Name supplied

Shopping locally - same rights as out of town! - 7/1/2013

Whether you shop locally or in a huge store of a multinational retailer, you'll find they'll try to palm you off in the case of complaint...I once had to write directly to the head of John Lewis before they agreed to fix my fridge freezer that had packed in under guarantee! I'd check your rights. Your kettle has failed within 6 months of purchase so, according to the Sale of Goods Act 'there is a presumption the goods were faulty when sold'. I suggest you return to the shop armed with the relevant info. You clearly have access to the internet, so use it to your benefit. If you don't get any joy, there's a handy letter

here:http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/theoneshow/consumer/2009/07/03/sale_of_goods_act_letter_downl.html

Good luck (and remember not to lose your rag, however provoked you may feel!)

Name supplied

Free beginners' jogging group starting Sunday 13th January at 10:00am. - 29/12/12

Meeting in the Car Park of Faringdon Leisure Centre.

Please email mareaandpaul@aol.com for more information

Free Intermediate jogging group starting Thursday 10th January at 6.30pm at Faringdon Old Town Hall. Please email mareaandpaul@aol.com for more information.

Job Opportunities at The Crown - 6/1/13

See <http://www.faringdon.org/nvjobsandcareersfaringdon.htm>
ED(GW)

Shop locally- not any more - 5/1/13

I bought an electric kettle from the Bargain Centre, I think that's what it's called. This was last August and it had a 12 month guarantee.

Today I found that something was rattling in the electrics so I took it back to the shop. After some explanations to the owner of the shop over the phone by the shop assistant I was told they did not have a replacement and I would not be getting a refund.

I suppose that the initial cost of £26.99p was beyond what they could afford to refund to me.

Needless to say I won't be shopping in that shop again and that is precisely why it is not advisable to shop locally. If I bought the kettle from say Asda and it had gone wrong after 5 months I would have got a replacement without any problem.

Be warned if it happened to me it could happen to you.

Name supplied

Donation from Judith Heathcoat to Responders - 4/1/13

Further to a recent posting by our local County Councillor, Judith Heathcote, please can I make it clear that that the donation of £1000 from Oxfordshire County Council towards a 4x4 vehicle went to the Stanford-in-the-Vale Community Responder Scheme, not the Faringdon team. In addition to the van, the Faringdon team already has a 4x4, kindly sponsored by Second-to-none. So far as I am aware, and I have been co-ordinator of the team for 13 years, Oxfordshire County Council has never donated money to the local Faringdon Responder Team.

Godfrey Smith Co-ordinator

Faringdon Community Responder Team

Reply to Judith Heathcoat - 3/1/13

Well done for at last informing the electorate what changes she has helped to make to us mere mortals living in the "forgotten" end of the County.

Firstly the VAS camera? What does VAS mean? Why is it so soon after you leave the A420, why not further along Park Road? Or, a repeater one done by the old JDS factory.

The one at Coleshill also seems to be in the wrong place as well. I suppose we should be grateful they are there though. Pity we don't have more blocks of stone, wooden posts or other obstructive materials to stop people using the grassed areas as cut throughs or parking zones. Look at the area at the Hart Avenue and Southampton Street area. Cars drive across the footpath and grassed area as they are too lazy to use the roadway.

No mention of parking I notice apart from the free for 2 hours signs. Why not free all day to try to bring this backwater to some semblance of life again. Still get the same cars parking wherever they want all

day and night with no prospect of a ticket. There is just no "fear factor" when parking illegally in the town, they know that as its poorly policed they will get away with it. Witney has free parking, and a lot better shopping experience than this town. Hopefully we may get another Food Store this year or else the old JDS site will just decay that bit further and further enhance the run down image of the town.

So thank you for letting us know but there is still a lot to do.
Cynical Colin

ED(GW) VAS = Vehicle activated signs

Thames Valley Police notice re burglaries - 3/1/13

Between Sunday (30/12) and Wednesday (02/01) a property in Gainfield, was burgled. Offender(s) gained entry by forcing open a rear ground floor window. Three ladies watches were stolen. Please be extra vigilant.

There have been a number of burglaries to churches over the past few weeks in the Thames Valley Police area. Offender(s) have forced doors and windows to gain entry. Safes have been targeted. Recent incidents in the South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse area are as follows, although no property was stolen:

St James Church – Church Hill, Little Milton, Thame Between 24/12/12 & 31/12/12

Harpsden Parish Church – Harpsden Road, Harpsden, Henley 28/12/12 – between 2.00pm & 4.10pm

Our Lady of Lourdes – Crown Road, Wheatley Between 30/12/12 & 31/12/12

St Marys Church – Church Road, Wheatley Between 30/12/12 & 31/12/12

St Thomas of Canterbury – Manor Road, Goring Between 30/12/12 & 31/12/12

Methodist Chapel – Conduit Road, Abingdon 31/12/12 – Between 11.00am & 7.00pm

If you see any suspicious looking people or vehicles in the area, or have any information relating to this message, please call the police on the new national single non-emergency telephone number 101 and state you are responding to a Community message.

Alternatively if you have information but wish to remain anonymous, please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or [online @ crimestoppers-uk.org](http://online@crimestoppers-uk.org).

No personal details are taken, information is not traced or recorded and you will not go to court.

Thames Valley Police

Report from Judith Heathcoat, our Oxfordshire County Councillor - 2/1/13

1) A County Councillors Highways Fund was set from last year's budget (ie. 01.04.12) giving a "personal budget" to County Councillors to spend in their Divisions. I have spent my budget on the following:-

2) VAS camera's on Park Road advising folk to drive at 30mph. There are two further cameras due to be installed on Coxwell Road and London Street which will hopefully slow traffic down. I have also had cameras fitted in the village of Coleshill.

3) Two blocks of red paint have been put down on Marlborough Street and Westbrook/Bromsgrove to emphasise that the traffic flow is "one way". I have had the paviors in Gloucester Street repaired and the traffic island at the junction of Gloucester Street/Gravel Walk/Lechlade Road repainted. Red paint has also been place on the A417 to warn drivers they are approaching the village of Buscot. The prohibited roundel in the Market Place by Sadlers has also been installed at my request. Both "no entry" signs and the prohibition roundel mean that if there is an accident in this area, the driver will be held responsible.

- 4) The footpath from beyond the entrance to the Faringdon House Estate on the A417 to Step Farm has been cleared as has a footpath in Great Coxwell and one in Buscot.
- 5) The Vale District Council changed the parking policy in Faringdon and I used the CCHFund to pay for road signs on all the access roads into Faringdon advising every one of the free parking.
- 6) Eaton Hastings – the County Council Highways have, at my request, repaired and re-surfaced the roadway on the A417.

Within my Cabinet Portfolio I have Libraries. All 43 - Oxfordshire County Council Libraries are to stay open. I have submitted articles when the library consultation was on and afterwards in the Faringdon Folly Newspapers – so, hopefully everyone is now aware in Faringdon and the Coxwell's Division.

The Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service also is within my Cabinet Portfolio. The frontline Fire Service has been protected from budget savings – so, service delivery as a blue light service continues at all 24 fire stations across the County. The OFRS is recognised as one of the most cost effective fire services in the country and it is a service that I am exceedingly proud to have within my responsibility.

FAZE the youth centre was able to apply for and received a grant from Oxfordshire County Council for almost £25,000. I sit on the Management Committee and am also a Trustee of a local charity and was able to obtain a grant of £600 recently to supplement the youth centre's funds. FAZE staff have been TUPED across to the Faringdon Town Council. FAZE is a superb facility providing an excellent service to the young people in the Faringdon and the Coxwells area.

The Faringdon Family Centre a hugely busy centre provides a superb service and I attend meetings regularly. The Oxfordshire County Council continues to grant fund this facility and through the County Councillor Community Budget I have obtained in December 2012 a grant of £500 for the centre to help with setting up a new session on postnatal care for young mums to encourage breast feeding and to help with interaction with other mums and their babies.

The County Councillor Community Budget is there to help folk with a vision for their local community. It is especially for voluntary or community organisations looking for a small grant to support a local project. For more details about "Councillor Community Budgets" visit www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/communitybudgets.

Applications need to be sent hard copy to me, Cllr. Judith Heathcoat, for my support and signature – send to Jemima, Puddleduck Lane, Great Coxwell, SN7 7NA.

The County Councillor Community Budgets are £10,000 per councillor and is a new budget which was set up during this financial year. So far I have allocated £1,000 for the First Responders to go towards the purchase of a new 4x4, £500 to the South and Vale Carers, £500 as stated above for the Faringdon Family Centre, and £2,000 for the Faringdon Folly Trust.

More applications are needed.

Judith Heathcoat

Planning Application withdrawn - 2/1/13

I was pleased to read on the Vale planning portal that the planning application for 11 new houses on the tennis courts has been withdrawn.

Hopefully the objections by the residents in this area will be grounds for a more well-thought-out application in the future (or, ideally, no future application at all).

Name supplied

Thankyou from Gt Coxwell Teas - 2/1/13

We wanted to say a huge thank you for your support over the last year and to wish you a Happy New Year.

All the money raised in the Teas goes to the Great Coxwell Park to pay for the mowing and general maintenance of this asset to the village. We do not get a penny from outside to run it. So fundraisers and generosity are it's life line.

Last year we made and you gave £1635.70p here doing the Cream Teas.

THANK YOU

The next teas are on Sunday 6th January 2.30 - 5.30 in the reading room in the middle of Great Coxwell. It is a lovely little cafe serving the most delicious homemade cakes, tea and coffee.

For more info visit our facebook site at Great Coxwell Teas.

Annabelle Zinovieff

Concert at Great Coxwell - 9th February - 2/1/13

Moonrakers - Celtic traditional and contemporary songs and tunes.

Music from England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales. "...mesmerising harp...wonderful gentle harmonies....an uplifting journey." (BBC).

St Giles Church Great Coxwell SN7 7NG

7.30pm Tickets: £10.00 (£8 students/under-16s)

Contact Mike Heathcoat - 01367 241468/07845 395465 mike.heathcoat@virgin.net

To see more of the band go to www.moonrakers.net

FollyFest Fundraising Update - 1/1/13

Special thanks this month go to Dawn of the Barbers and the Portwell Angel for helping sell our raffle tickets; The Old Crown and the Cellar Bar for selling calendars and to the supporters of the Carols in the Pub event at the Red Lion on 23rd December. Quite a turnout indeed with people still buying raffle tickets as we were attempting to draw them!

There were five carols, a couple of typos, mince pies from the pub and a free raffle for the kids, some of which had even dressed in their Nativity costumes!

Here are the winners:

- Anna Marlow won the iPad (she only bought the ticket an hour previously) - I should say that the first ticket pulled out by Father Leslie of the Blessed Hugh Church was actually, Al Cane's ticket! Al graciously put the ticket back in as it wouldn't have been right in his opinion if he'd won it as a member of the FollyFest team. Sad but probably true and let's hope Father Christmas noted that when he stopped by the Cane Household the following night...
- Jo Wilson won the Barrow of Booze - although not present, she leapt from her sofa dragging her husband with her to claim her spoils and it was a wonderful sight to see them wheeling it out of the bar! A few of the FollyFest team shed a tear as it departed but this was such a wonderful fundraiser that I think we'll do it again over FollyFest weekend...
- Trevor Wynn from the Nut Tree won the John Lewis teddy! FollyFest calendars are still for sale at The Old Crown Coaching Inn and from the Cellar Bar - please think of us and buy one to support the Festival.

They're £5 each...

Here are our fundraising totals so far:

- Target: £10,000
- Raised so far: £1,303.53
- Left to Raise: £8,696.47 Forthcoming Events:

- Recruitment Night in the Cellar Bar – first of 3 – Wednesday 9th January 2013 – if you'd like to run a stall, lend a hand, be in a play, help build the stage, fundraise, marshal, judge a competition or run an event come and have a chat with us...

- FollyFest Quiz Night (2) in the Old Crown Coaching Inn – 23rd January 2013 - Another of our slightly batty quiz nights - even more so this time with a special mysterious guest!

- St George's Dinner and Dance - 20th April 2013, 7.30pm at the Old Crown Coaching Inn, Faringdon. Reserve your table by calling into the pub or call 01367 242744

Also, we've just launched our Christmas Present Amnesty – your unwanted gifts are desperately needed by us to raise funds by donating gifts you have no need for (I personally got two duplicate DVDs of my favourite TV show). We can use your donated gifts as tombola prizes during the Festival or sell from the stalls. All in all, your gifts will be very much valued by us, you can guarantee. Please drop us a note to follyfest@btinternet.com or call 07836 208800 OR message us on Facebook - we'll be very grateful for your help on this...

Your continued support and attendance at our events is greatly appreciated. We were even told that our efforts are contributing to a more community focused Faringdon above and beyond what is basically an attempt to run a nice weekend for all which made us feel fantastic. The FollyFest team has never run an event like this so we're very much feeling our way. We're trying to do our best to consider every possible fundraising angle at a time when cash is tight for local residents and trades alike and make sure the events are good value for money as well as building a sense of community pulling together. We really hope we can achieve what we set out to do and look to you to keep us on track.

Happy New Year to you all

The FollyFest Team