

Laser Combat- Who is interested? - 27/12/15

This is, in some ways, the ideal point of the year to be thinking about it. If you want to do something in town as a leisure pursuit, your options are pretty limited, right? Especially if you're a minor. You have to drive to Wantage or Swindon or Oxford for pretty much everything other than about five options.

So we should add another option to that.

Who's ever heard of laser combat? (Chorus: "Is it like LaserQuest?" Yes - in the same way as Sudbury House is like Travelodge: technically competitors, but they're not even in the same league) I used to be involved with an arena in the West Midlands; their parent company manufactures the laser guns - they use replicas of real military weapons, rather than a flimsy plastic case that could be from a budget '80s sci-fi film; there's no heavy pack to carry, just sensors on a British military issue flak jacket. We also had a party room so that we could cater for birthday parties as an all-in-one experience, which I'd like to try and replicate.

You could play a 20-minute game for about £10 per person and a 90-minute game was only about £20 per person; obviously, I'd try to keep the prices at that level down here too and, with enough custom, maybe even beat them despite inflation. I have a good relationship with the manufacturers and would probably be able to get a decent finance deal on a system... I already have several people interested in being part of this as a town co-operative (and several more who would totally play) so what I need now, first and foremost, is a candidate place in or near Faringdon to do it. It needs an arena of at least 5000 square feet (about 465 square metres) though this can be just an industrial unit that I would modify, but it also needs a decent front-side space, for reception, office, briefing room, armoury etc. Building all of that would be prohibitively expensive unless there's a millionaire willing to chip in, so it needs to be readily available.

But as well as that, I need to know some other things. More people willing to be part of the co-operative's board, people who would enjoy working there (I always did) and people who would enjoy playing there. So kindly pick an answer on this poll and share it about to other people in town. And feel free to open fire with any comments you have too, I'd be glad to answer queries, address concerns or clarify anything I've explained badly above.

If you know of a possible premises that I could go to look at, then absolutely shout out!

[The poll is here:](#)

Douglas Carr

Mummers play- 24/12/15

Saturday 26th December Market Square, 10am

Meditation group? - 24/12/15

Does anyone know of any meditation and/or spiritual groups in Faringdon? I am keen to join.

Name supplied

Quirky....24/12/15

"Hilary – as I've told you before, you're my favourite Faringdon artist. It would be wonderful if you were also involved in the design of the town sign, to be part of the process that ensures we meet the above worthy objectives. Mary Beck – the same goes for you of course."

LOL

Hilary

Folly Tower Light - 24/12/15

Because of safety and reliability problems the light needs to be fully refurbished. Peter white is working flat-out to do the work but we are sorry to let you know that it won't be ready before Christmas. We know that the light is loved by the people of Faringdon. Please bear with us and we will get the light on ASAP.

Friends of the Folly

Town sign (yawn)again.- 23/12/15

The word "quirky" seems to sum up quite well what has already been planned and pulled off by the Pink Pigeons, stone divers helmet, plastic pigeons hanging off of window sills in the town, signs stuck on shop walls all saying Faringdon with the letters moved about to make them amusing, even the banner at the bottom of their website declares " stop press, Faringdon to become the suRURAList capital of the world" to close to the word surrealist perhaps, but I suppose that's the joke, the trouble is Faringdon isn't a joke.

Is it any wonder that a lot of people are worried that everything proposed is going to have the Berners wand waved over it, I even half expected a pink pigeon to emerge from the refurbished clock cooing the hours.

Berners was just one resident of this town with far too much time and money on his hands, he was frightfully amusing to his friends in what was a different world to now, do we all have to live in the shadow of this eccentric man who seems to be held up in a god like manner by his modern day groupies.

For pity's sake lets all grow up and turn this town into a place to be proud of not some tacky end of the pier show.

Painting toilets to look like something else and having overpriced ridiculous moving town centre signs which are not needed are not going to bring coach loads of visitors into Faringdonmind you.. a chair lift to the top of the Folly tower from the town centre might do it....now that's a thought.

Name supplied.

Town Sign- 23/12/15

Hilary, many thanks for your very constructive posting relating to the town sign. I agree with much of what you said, and I do hope that your excellent suggestions for other ways that we can celebrate our 800 years will also be organised and made happen! I also agree that just being "quirky" for the sake of it would be completely inappropriate. And I'm not even sure how or why this word <quirky> has crept in and somehow slightly hijacked the discussions. As you can see from the background documents and my summary (N&V posting from approx 10 days ago?) - this is the kind of language that I would prefer to use:

A Town Sign, designed by the community and erected in a prominent spot in the Market Place seems a fitting way to celebrate this anniversary. It can be a celebration of the past; relevant to the present; and take us on into the future.

I don't think I've used the word "quirky" in any of the discussions or background documents, except to describe one of the four options in the town sign first phase public consultation. And similarly: for the toilet art, the artist's brief requests "celebrating Faringdon in a contemporary but respectful way". It doesn't ask for quirky.

So – what would be a better word to replace quirky?

Well, how would we describe the Christmas light on the top of the Folly Tower? Surprising? Wonderful? Attractive? Contemporary? Unique? Special? Relevant? Fabulous? Superb? Terrific? Fantastic? Astonishing? Groovy? Rotating? Different? Appropriate? Memorable? These are all good words – and worth striving for.

Hey, some people might even call the Folly light "quirky" - but it's much more than that.

Whatever is erected in the way of a town sign, it has to be very much part of – and in keeping with – the fabric of Faringdon's wonderful Market Place.

Hilary – as I've told you before, you're my favourite Faringdon artist. It would be wonderful if you were also involved in the design of the town sign, to be part of the process that ensures we meet the above worthy objectives. Mary Beck – the same goes for you of course.

Sjoerd

Two observations on comments.- 22/12/15

The first one is regarding our MP. I don't follow his party but I have found him to be a very good constituency MP. Seriously interested in his constituents and very interested in Faringdon. If you have any concerns email him and he WILL listen. I have had to contact him several times over the last few years on behalf of other people who were reluctant to do it themselves and he was totally brilliant and helpful.

Anna Hoare is wrong. If the site is returned to farmland there is no guarantee that there will access to the fossil faces as there are no rights of way on that land. How can you concrete over the face of a quarry especially as it is protected by an SSSI status. And that is the point. I have actually been in the quarry (by invitation) and there is nothing on the quarry floor. The faces are fascinating and as they are protected the best way of protecting them and giving access to them is to allow part of the floor to be developed . I actually think this could be an opportunity to make a special feature of the quarry to attract visitors who would definitely not be welcome on farmland.

Green Witch

Re Faringdon Police 'Station' - 22/12/15

All of you hands up when A) You last went to the police station in Faringdon and B) When was it last manned?

The fact is they have massive cuts to make and losing the police station is not really the issue. What is important is that they still do the occasional patrol and drive by plus still make use of community officers.

Without jinxing things Faringdon has got a lot better lately and when you look at all the crime figures around Oxfordshire it is doing OK.

Robert Perkins

Dry Cleaners London St? - 22/12/15

Any one got any news as it seems to be shut all the time.

Susan McCutcheon

Recorders wanted - 22/12/15

I am starting a recorder group for our young ones at church (after the little Ukes)

We need recorders - any size - and I wonder if anyone who is de cluttering or upgrading or just feeling a bit of Christmas spirit have one they would give us.

It would be magic for Christmas Day, but could wait till the new year.

If you have a recorder that you no longer use, please contact Dllm.williamson@btinternet.com 01367 240033

Lyn Williamson

Faringdon Police 'Station':- 22/12/15

'POLICE counters across the county are to close, it has been confirmed this afternoon...

The changes are scheduled to come in from April 1 2016 and will affect Cowley, Henley, Didcot, Thame, Wantage, Faringdon, Wallingford, Carterton, Woodstock and Chipping Norton.'

Just as well the town is totally crime free... I would say contact our MP, but I don't think he knows where Faringdon is apart from the bite we are taking out of his new houses total.

Together we can protect Faringdon's unique site of geo- and biodiversity. - 21/12/15

A big thank you to everyone who has backed the campaign to PROTECT WICKLESHAM QUARRY FROM DEVELOPMENT. 11th January 2016 is a key date and we urge you to lend your voice to the public consultation.

Natural England calls it "one of Britain's richest palaeontological sites." Wicklesham Quarry SSSI is too important to be buried under concrete and warehouses. It is the last exposure of the Faringdon Greensand geology of the Corallian Ridge, and its unique fossil record has contributed to the development of paleontology since the 17th century.

Under the Convention on Biological Diversity, Wicklesham quarry is part of the West Oxford Heights Conservation Target Area (CTA). CTAs cover only 17% of Oxfordshire land but support 83% of UK BAP priority species and 95% of Oxfordshire's SSSI sites. Wicklesham tetrad's 11 rare plant species and the quarry's mature breeding colonies of protected Great Crested Newts are intrinsically linked to its rare underlying geology.

Objections to Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan's proposal to turn Wicklesham Quarry into an industrial warehousing (B2, B8) site must be made by 11TH JANUARY 2016 to the Vale of White Horse District Council, and they will then go forward to the independent planning inspector.

You can email protectwicklesham@gmail.com and request the campaign's submission points on how the Neighbourhood Plan's proposals for Wicklesham Quarry breach the "Basic Conditions".

Anna Hoare

Driveway revival. - 21/12/15

Thank you "Faringdonians" for your suggestions. Have a number of quotes to go through and shall make a decision soon.

Colin

Folly Tower Light- 21/12/15

A number of people have been asking us, about this year light on top of the tower and why it is not up there yet.

First, we do not know what we will have on top of the tower this year. This is decided by our Electrician (Peter White).

The reason the light is not yet on top of the tower is due to the weather and Peter's availability.

This year the weather has not been on our side as most of you will have noticed.

All the equipment for this year's light is in the Tower and ready to be put up. We are now waiting for a small break in the weather and Peter being available to put the light up.

Raoul van Eijndhoven

Folly Tower Team

Lorries on Radcot Bridge - 21/12/15

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/weight-restriction-orders>

Here members of the public can make their own sightings by completing a report. Please no photographs as they can often cause difficulties with some prosecutions as the actual method of taking the photograph is often challenged as a more serious offence, especially if taken on a mobile phone whilst driving.

Can I just add the actual going over the bridge is not the offence. It is the act of passing through both restrictions signs which are 1.2 miles apart.

OCC

Faringdon's historic Market Place- 21/12/15

I've long since thought that the look of Faringdon would be much improved if there was some sort of colour scheme from which to choose. Would be good if shop signage and window styles were part of the scheme.

Local Yokel

Faringdon's built heritage - 21/12/15

"I would hate to see a form of forced uniformity"

Mike - Forced uniformity isn't what I was suggesting.

H T

Town sign- 20/12/15

I agree with Hilary. On one of my vernacular architecture courses I learnt that Faringdon is unique as it contains elements of Vale as well as Cotswold architecture. There are also hints of attempts at copying Coleshill House in some of the roofs. The facades of Gloucester Street and London Street are particularly attractive and there is something in the idea of taking the best elements of these into the market square.

Incidentally, I can see why the PPs might think the disabled parking sign is redundant, since I saw a perfectly fit man park his truck there while he went into the bank. Let him just wait until his knees are as arthritic as mine!

Mary Beck

Quirky signs or homogenous blandness? - 20/12/15

OK, so some of the market square facades do need some serious renovation, however, does the varied colours of the individual buildings jar the senses? No I don't think so. Rather they serve to emphasize the variety of the time span of construction.

Some like McColls which in my view is rather naff, need toning back to reflect the overall antiquity of the Market Square, but I would hate to see a form of forced uniformity that blights so many communities administered by such as the National Trust.

One "quirky" sign that is crying out for inclusion however, should be placed adjacent to the junction of Stanford Rd. and London Street (Road). In cast iron and pointing down hill, it should read: "To The Beach".

Mike

That festive time of the year --18/12/15

One could always send Krampus cards instead -- based on old European folk law, Krampus was a helper to St Nicholas, where as Nicholas rewarded the good children, Krampus would do the opposite. Could be a busy boy round here!

Merry Christmas, Mike.

Ho! Ho! Ho!!

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Krampus>

Block Paved Driveways- 18/12/15

The contact phone number for AK Arlott is

Ken Arlott 07736 897759

Unfortunately the landline number is no longer in use.

Sam Lewis

Bin Collections over Christmas - 18/12/15

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/news/2015/2015-12/information-about-waste-collections-over-christmas>

Ed

Town Sign - 18/12/15

The Town centre comprises a number of fine buildings in a conservation area. They are imposing and handsome in their own right. They are all listed buildings. The buildings and the conservation area itself tell much of the story of the town's history. Our built heritage deserves to be seen to its best advantage, not upstaged by a 'quirky' sign. I doubt very much whether tourists will flock to Faringdon to see a sign, but may be encouraged by a sympathetically improved town centre.

The Market Place has a very distinctive and potentially distinguished style. The (painted) buildings, while individually attractive do not always harmonise with each other, and so contribute to a discordant look. Study the green-and-orange Old Town Hall and ask yourself if it looks good against the backdrop of the surrounding buildings, or not. Maybe, instead of striving to come up with ever more additions to be 'bolted on' to the existing agglomeration of planters, seats, and signage we might imagine that it could be better to simplify, perhaps implement an integrated and imaginative colour scheme and enhance the visual impact of the existing environment. Some of Oxford's historic streets are a good example of how this might be achieved.

I believe that a sympathetic refurbishment of the town centre, a well written history, maybe a locally written play, (Dramatic Society? – or see 'How To Put On a Community Play' by Sarah Burton), an exhibition with a well produced catalogue etc. would all make just as – actually more - fitting and informative celebrations for 2018 as a quirky 12ft high town sign. We've had plenty of quirky, thanks.

Hilary Taylor

New houses planned for Fernham Road Faringdon Not Great Coxwell - 17/12/15

This is very confusing this is not in Great Coxwell, it is a technicality to say this due to how the boundaries are set out . It is in fact in Faringdon on the Fernham Road (school and leisure centre road). The address and post code of these houses would be Faringdon not Great Coxwell. Another development on this already congested road, planning permission had already been given for another development on this road How many more houses is our town expected to build our schools and health center are already struggling.

houses on Fernham Road P15/V2649/O - 21/11/15

Land at Fernham Road Great Coxwell. Erection of 25 dwellings with open space and associated infrastructure

Target decision date 5th February 2016

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P15/V2649/O>

Name Supplied

Faringdon based Chef heads to the final of Masterchef the Professionals.- 17/12/15

Restaurant 56 has really been getting things right in Faringdon and is a great asset to the town. Now Nick Bennett is heading on the right track to win Masterchef the Professionals.

On a side note did anyone else know we have the very talented Rory Bremner as a resident of Faringdon?

http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/14149913.Faringdon_chef_books_place_in_TV_show_final/

Rob Perkins.

Re-driveway needs reviving.- 17/12/15

Colin, my near neighbours used;

A K Arlott & Co. 01367 240793

They are very pleased with their driveway and it looks very nice.I will certainly be getting A K Arlott& Co. to quote for mine when I get my driveway block paved in the near future. I am sure they can give you the addresses of driveways they have paved, so you may have a look at their handiwork.

Regards mark

Driveway - 17/12/15

just had my drive block paved by martin whittle did a good job

Gordon Brockie

Re: Driveway needs reviving.- 17/12/15

Would recommend WG Clay Contractors (01367 244047). They have done work for family members over the years, always with really good results - and very pleasant to deal with as well!

Richard King

Self Defence classes - 16/12/15

Combined Self Defence are pleased to announce, that to complement their existing Tae Kwon Do classes that from January 2016 they will be opening an adult only self defence class based on Bruce Lee's Art of Jeet Kune Do.

Jeet Kune-Do or JKD as it is commonly referred to is a mix of open hand and weapon based training to give you the tools to deal with one or more attackers, standing up, on the ground or if a weapon is involved.

Jkd is particularly effective for "non martial artists" as the skills you develop are directly applicable to self protection, and can be used without the years of training that some classical martial arts require to install the automatic responses from blocks and punches, and in these increasing times of trouble, are skills that everybody should have to hand.

We offer all new students a FREE 4 week training pass to properly to help people evaluate and decide if this type of training is appropriate and enjoyable for them.

Classes are held at Ferndale School in Faringdon on Tuesday evenings from 7-8pm

To register your interest please fill out the booking form at www.selfdefencevoucher.co.uk or call Lee on 07977 560086

To Kick Start your New Year, In January 2016 we are offering all new students a Free 6 week training program instead of the usual 4 weeks.

We Also have a T.A.G.B Tae Kwon- Do club, which is a separate martial art.

TAGB Tae-Kwon-Do

Tae Kwon-Do is one of the fastest growing martial arts in today's world. We train in Ferndale School on Tuesdays with a Junior class 4-11 years starting at 5pm and a Teens/Adults class starting at 6pm. All instructors are police checked, insured and qualified Black Belts within the Tae Kwon-Do Association of Great Britain.

We offer all new students a FREE 4 week training pass to properly to help people evaluate and decide if this type of training is appropriate and enjoyable for them.

Classes are held at Ferndale School in Farringdon on Tuesday evenings from 5-6 & 6-7PM

To register your interest please fill out the booking form at www.martialartsvoucher.co.uk or call Lee on 07977 560086

To Kick Start your New Year, In January 2016 we are offering all new students a Free 6 week training program instead of the usual 4 weeks.

We offer all new students a FREE 4 week training pass to properly evaluate our classes.

Regards

Lee Chapman

lee@cirencomputers.com

07977 560086

Photographic exhibition - 15/12/15

Faringdon Photography has a gallery showing in the Portwell Angel from now until the start of January 2016. A great place to eat (their cooked breakfasts are awesome!) or to meet for a drink.

Ian Campbell

Driveway needs reviving.- 15/12/15

Have a concrete drive which is past its best and looking to get it block paved probably. Can anybody recommend a decent tradesman or company who will do a good job please. Have seen a few done badly and would like it done properly. Would be done sometime in the new year. Thank you

Colin Eddy

Fossil Finials - 15/12/15

The Fossil finials on the Folly Park View estate were not a Pink Pigeon project. The money came from the arts funding from the Bloor S106(?) money. The project was facilitated by Abigail Brown the Arts Development Officer at the VWHDC but we, the residents, chose the artist (who happens to be a member of the Pink Pigeons I believe) but we had input on ideas and had final say in the designs that were used. It's great to hear that they are as popular as ever.

The two notice boards that were commissioned as part of the arts project as well should be completed and installed soon and the fencing around the balancing pond has just had the designs ok'd. All done with input from residents of the estate.

Emma Riddle (Folly Park resident and member of the residents association)

RE: Fossil Finials- 15/12/15

They were indirectly connected in as far as a past PP member Gill Campbell was the active consultant to the Folly Park View Art team.

They were catered for by money left from Bloor Homes as part of the Estate arts money. It was this that helped fund the diver in the town center.

The Residents Association worked hard on getting the right look for the entrance and are working currently on some final things for the Estate including a fossil based fencing art project around the balancing pond, A fossil based Folly View Park sign for the front of the estate, a Notice board and hopefully dustbins at some point.

It is great to get positive feedback on the finials that are certainly quite magnificent and very apt for the area. I am sure you will be very pleased with the further improvements underway.

Rob.

Petrol in Wantage 101p/litre and Diesel 107p/litre. - 15/12/15

Regards Mark

Eccentric/Quirky. - 15/12/15

I think what Number 6 was getting at was while a small amount of eccentricity is ok and enjoyable too much soon becomes tacky and tedious.

Simply by our feathered friends holding Berners up to be the second coming, I and a great deal of others think this and the fact the usual apathy from most of the other residents of our town over what is planned gives them carte blanche to do what they like, so everything soon falls under the "quirky " banner.

I'm a great believer in less is more, where as more soon makes you feel sick.

I love to see this town alive but please don't turn it into a lunatics playground or try to make it the quirky capital of the world, it deserves far better treatment than that.

Name Supplied.

Fossil Finials - 14/12/15

I'm on Folly Park View; a relatively recent Faringdon resident. We (or at least the people I speak to on the estate) really like our four fossil finials at the entrance, and the link it gives us to Faringdon's history and the faringdon sponges. That was another pink pigeons project I'm told. And speaking for myself, I really do like all the quirky stuff! It definitely makes me more likely to want to come into the town centre, rather than drive to Swindon or whatever. And when we have family to stay, I love showing them around. Keep up the good work!

Folly Park View Resident.

Faringdon and the Civil War- 14/12/15

I would love it if a local artist got the job for the art installation on the public loos- someone who is interested the Battle for Faringdon and the part it played in the 17th century Civil War. It was a hugely important event in 1645 and there is nothing in the town about it. It would add to local knowledge about our history as well as improve the town visually.

Old Faringdonian

Faringdon Singers Concert- 14/12/15

It was a wonderful concert. The Faringdon Singers sang beautifully and there were many opportunities for the audience to sing too.

A lovely occasion

Local Yokel

Children singing- very funny - 14/12/15

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihQuiyV-IXU&feature=em-share_video_user

Ed

Faringdon Singers Concert & Refugees - 14/12/15

The Faringdon Singers raised just over £500 yesterday for the HARBOUR PROJECT in Swindon at their annual Carol Concert in the Catholic Church. The Harbour Project welcomes refugees and helps them find their feet. MANY THANKS to the very generous audience. Let's follow Canada's lead! See <https://goo.gl/zlmlBI>

Sjoerd

Public Toilets- 14/12/15

The Pink Pigeons obviously find this all very amusing but seriously, the Vale has 5K left over from the toilet refurbishment. Goodness, who did the quotes for them? I could suggest that they should have spent more money and had them made secure, vandal proof and in the first place properly furnished as there were no baby changing/nappy facilities. I hope this has been rectified now.

I actually find spending this amount of money on making the loos more interesting quite obscene in the current climate. I think everybody wants clean, tidy and properly maintained loos which could be done with 5K.

I really do appreciate that the PP's want to make the town quirky and interesting but history does that on it's own. Adding to the town with some of these 'enhancements' could very easily push our towns history to the background, or is that the idea, the PP's become part of the history?

Having lived here all my life, many decades actually, I still have family who remember Lord Berners. He was unique and

original. Sadly, there is nothing original about copying ideas of a rotating sign from Berlin and a toilet from New Zealand. As for a toilet block in New Zealand being the second most visited attraction, I can't say it was second on my list or anybody else I know who's visited. Maybe in the town they are in but in the whole of New Zealand, really?

Of course, well done for persuading the owner of the Nut Tree clock to have it spruced up, it looks lovely. But well done also to all the people and volunteers in the town who do things that go unrewarded and unnoticed. My own late Father was one of these people, not part of a group, just somebody who liked to do good things. I'd like to think that the pink pigeon who sorted it out would have done so anyway, not just because he/she is a pp.

So sorry, I will never support anything that allows a sum of money this big to be spent on prettying up public toilets. I find it disappointing that anybody would do. It has nothing to do with not appreciating art but it has everything to do with seeing people scraping money together to have a decent life, but then having to see 5k flushed down the pan and being done so by the District Council.

If they have 5k left over then I'd rather see it given to the schools for art equipment or to the elderly in care homes to provide stimulation.

Name Supplied.

MULTITASKING PIGEONS - 13/12/15

It's a fair cop gov. We're guilty as charged by Name Supplied. We've been caught with our pants down. At risk of frightening the horses, we'd like the following offences also taken into account m'lud. We do indeed have multiple projects on the go simultaneously (at present there are seven) and some of these are indeed in "a town centre location" (of which there is more than one) .

Funding for each project typically involves a lot of cajoling, badgering and cage-rattling, as well as the generosity of individuals and businesses. It's time-consuming, but can also be rewarding. For example, it was a pink pigeon who successfully persuaded the owner of the Nut Tree to spend the money to carry out the recent clock spruce-up. It was the perseverance of a particularly persistent pigeon who discovered the leftover loo lolly in the council crapper coffers. What would happen to the money if it wasn't spent on this little loo project, I wonder? Well, in a moment of honesty, a district councilor did admit that "we seem to spend an awful lot on consultants..." Best to spend it on a Faringdon Town Centre location – don't you think? And we certainly don't want that lot in Wantage getting their greedy hands on it.

Pink pigeon

FRENCH TOILETS - 12/12/15

My family stopped going to France fifty years ago because of the state of the awful french toilets. Mind you, they might have improved since my grandparents' time.

Squatter.

P.S. Was it the pink pigeons who were responsible for the very helpful direction signs on the lamp post just behind the new toy shop? One says "Public Toilets" and then just underneath it says "Pay & Display" .

The Prisoner 2016 - 13/12/15

Rotating 3D signs in the middle of the town, a concrete divers helmet, artistically decorated public toilets, strange characters dressed up as long dead eccentrics, a flock of plastic pigeons adorning several buildings, strange signs stuck onto walls in the town centre all saying the same thing but with the letters mixed up just to make it amusing.

All we need now are some large white balloons guarding the roads into Faringdon all called Rover of course then we can get twinned with Portmeirion and then we can all be extras in the remake of the cult sixties surreal series only this time filmed in Faringdon.

Name supplied then allocated a number.

Number 6

Public Loos - 13/12/15

I had the need to use the public loos in Ross-on-Wye recently. The need was urgent and I rushed in and did what I needed. I then looked for loo paper. There was none in the cubical. Nor was there any where it would ever be. I went to wash my hands and left the loos which is when I found the paper, just inside the door. Does anyone know how much paper they will need before they go and who thinks to look for the paper before they go in the cubical.

Bizarre.

TRIPADVISOR: ALWAYS JUDGE A PLACE BY ITS TOILETS- 12/12/15

And Lewis Mumford (the famous town planner of the 60's) would agree: "A civilisation may be judged by the way it disposes of its waste" (Mumford, 1965). As would Action for Market Towns: "Towns are often judged by their loos. " And Mary Portas (much loved retail guru, broadcaster & campaigner - and a straight-talking retail marketing consultant) : "Really important: get your toilets right" . Remember the "Hidden Britain" Consultants who wrote the secret shopper report for Faringdon in 2012? What was top of their list : the toilets. It seems that visitors are very heavily influenced - both positively and negatively - by the public conveniences.

If you're looking for inspiration, google "Hundertwasser toilets" ! Opened in 1999, they have become the second most visited attraction in New Zealand. Something similar for Faringdon?

Sjoerd

£1 PER LITRE FOR PETROL?- 12/12/15

Not quite. But if you're going to, or passing through, Lechlade its £105.9. So 3p cheaper than the Esso garage in Faringdon.
Tony

Public Toilets - 12/12/15

I think, name supplied, you will find that the 'call for submissions' re the public toilets is a typical example of the Pink Pigeons famous wit.

It's awfully funny don't you think? ;-)

A. N. Other

Public Toilets - 12/12/15

Dear name supplied,

I think I love you.

Mary Beck

RE: The Esso price discrepancy - pay at pump - 12/12/15

I was disappointed to see that pay at pump had been removed, so when I was paying inside the shop asked why it had been removed and if it would be back. The reply was that the new owners did not think they made enough money from fuel only sales and by making you go into the shop to pay, customers are more likely to buy other (overpriced) things.

As a resident of a village between Wantage and Faringdon, the higher price of fuel in Faringdon is another reason to head towards Wantage for my shopping trips when I need to buy fuel too.

Tom

Faringdon Car Parks - 11/12/15

The question: This morning at about 0950 I parked a car in the Budgens car park and obtained a free ticket. The rules I believe stipulate that no free return is allowed within 2 hours? I was therefore surprised that at about 1520 hours today when I returned to the same car park I was denied another free ticket. The message in the machine said – NO RETURN.

I therefore had to pay but surely this should not be the case? I was way beyond the 2 hour return prohibition. This has happened to me before at the same car park but I have not previously queried this. Could you please look into this and let me know what the criteria is? Thanks

The reply

I have consulted the Car Parks team and

It appears that the technology in the car park machines are not intelligent enough to be able to calculate the time between tickets obtained on the same day and to know that two hours has passed since the registration was first input. The only way we are currently able to enforce this is to program the machine to 'clear down' all data at midnight at which point the vehicle registrations are wiped from their memory allowing anyone who has had a free ticket to get another one the next day.

The car parks team advise users who return to the car park more than two hours after they leave the car park to use the other pay and display machine. The two machines do not 'talk' to each other and so do not recognise registration numbers from each other. This is a workaround due to the type and age of machines.

If car park users find themselves in any kind of predicament, the car parks team encourage users to call them during normal office hours on tel. [01235 547665](tel:01235547665) or email carparks@southandvale.gov.uk and they can give anyone advice.

Name Supplied

2 new shops in Faringdon - 11/12/15

Gluck Gifts and Homeware 8 London St

Little Big Top Cornmarket

Faringdon Free Food - 11/12/15

After a break last month, this Sunday morning (13th December) we'll be running a short tidying up session, particularly of the Town Centre planters, to prepare them for winter.

We'll meet at 10.00 am in the Market Square. All adults and children are welcome.

Mark

RE: The Esso price discrepancy.- 11/12/15

It has indeed risen dramatically since the refurb and you are not even getting the benefit of paying at the pump. It is certainly a shame that they seem to be blinkered about their price. Sadly whilst you still get people stopping and using them I don't see that price coming down any time soon.

If all the town were to boycott them for a month I am sure they would buckle and be fairer with the pricing. It comes to something when you can go to the BP off the A420 and get it cheaper!

As far as I can tell the only good thing since the new takeover is the new free cash machine now outside and available 24/7.

Rob

Public Toilets- 11/12/15

So am I reading this correctly, the Vale Of The White Horse District Council has found 5k to spend on works of art for the public loos? The same loos that have just been vandalised?

And who are these many local people who felt the refurbishment was a missed opportunity to use the central location for an artistic enhancement to the Town?

I'm guessing the same people who are pushing hard for a great big 3D rotating sign in the middle of the town to go along with their divers helmet?

I thought the sign was for the central location but now it seems the loos are a central location too.

I love this bit 'The work/s of art should reflect the character and distinctiveness of the area and be used to celebrate Faringdon in a contemporary but respectful way'. Ok, shove it in the toilets then.

Name Supplied.

Petrol £1.00 a litre. - 11/12/15

Won't happen in Faringdon as since the Esso was taken over by the present landlord, the prices have increased on all the stations they run.

The Esso near to Sainsbury's at Stratton always price matched the store but now its 3-4p a litre dearer. Why? Profiteering clear and simple. Do as I do. Boycott the place and go elsewhere. Even cheaper in Oxford and fairly soon in Carterton there will be an ASDA fuel station AND they are always cheaper.

Esso Faringdon are plain and simply ripping everybody off. Go elsewhere.

Colin

Calling local artists - 11/12/15

VWHDC have found some money for making the Public Loo Building look more interesting. [Here is the artists' brief.](#)

It would be great if local artists who know Faringdon well responded. Deadline is 21st January 2016

Pink Pigeons

PETROL TO FALL BELOW £1 PER LITRE... - 11/12/15

... scream the headlines. I bet it doesn't in Faringdon which consistently 3p more per litre than anywhere else. Why?

Tony

Re: Faringdon History. - 10/12/15

Can I add to Margaret's history, Faringdon was also very involved in the earlier civil war in the 12th C between King Stephen and the Empress Matilda (aka Maud). The reason there is a bend in the road at Radcot is because Matilda had it rerouted to go round the castle she had there, the remains of which are still there as a ditched mound.

One of them also had a fortress on Folly Hill.

Green Witch

Vale town High Streets. Footfall increases - 10/12/15

High streets in the Vale of White Horse district continue to buck the national trend with footfall increasing significantly from the previous year.

Surveys carried out across town centre locations in Abingdon, Faringdon and Wantage during September and October revealed that the number of people visiting each area had increased by an average of 15 per cent compared to same period in 2014, the third year running that footfall in the town centres has risen.

The results are very impressive, especially when compared to the national average, as high street footfall continues to decline, dropping 0.9 per cent year-on-year (ATCM - High Street Index figures).

The biggest increase locally was seen in Faringdon where footfall rose by a very impressive 25 per cent. Wantage saw a 19 per cent rise, while Abingdon's footfall increased by eight per cent.

Cllr Matthew Barber, Leader of Vale of White Horse District Council, said: "It's really promising to see that footfall in our town centres is continuing to rise. The more people we have coming to our town centres the greater the support for local traders and the more retailers there will be who may consider setting up shop in the Vale. Our towns have been really good at putting on events to help attract people. We also have our two hours free parking scheme and the ever popular markets to help encourage more shoppers."

To read the full survey please click on [Footfall Survey 2015](#).

VWHDC

ALEXANDERPLATZ AND THE ROTATING SIGN - 9/12/15

Andy Hayter's post about the World Time Clock in Berlin is fascinating. I tried googling "Alexanderplatz" as he suggested, and he's absolutely right! Alexanderplatz is huge, and a Berlin-based friend estimates that there must be close to 50 statues and installations and works of art and landmarks in "the Alex" (that's what they call it there) . And yet - when you google it, most of the images are of just the one installation: the Weltzeituhr - the world time clock. And the reason for this focused fascination? Because it rotates. It was built in 1969, and if lovers hold hands under the rotating structure for a non-stop 24 hours, then they will be together forever. Or so it is said!

Sjoerd

John Gillman - 9/12/15

John Gilman would have loved the celebration of 800 years. His knowledge of the Civil war was second to none.

Miss his stories

Dee England

Faringdon's History- 9/12/15

I'm pleased we are celebrating 800 years of Faringdon's history. John Gillman, who loved this town and did so much for it, said this was the second most destroyed town in the Civil War. We lost our church tower and many people - including those in London Street - lived under canvas for many months. But the town survived - I feel lucky and privileged to live here - and is still a great and vibrant place. We have already celebrated our eccentric and brilliant Lord Berners - the diver and the blue plaque on the Folly Tower - now let us commemorate our important place in the country's history - in the Civil War.

And not now for such an important anniversary, but let us already remember the hanging of many of our townsfolk outside what is now the Hare in the Woods, watched by Judge Jeffreys from his courtroom in the Crown.

Faringdon is no ordinary town!

Margaret Barker

TOWN SIGN – AND MARKET CHARTER ANNIVERSARY IN 2018 - 8/12/15

Many thanks to all those who have contributed to the town sign discussions in any way; on facebook, on faringdon.org, or on the printed voting slips in the Tourist Info Centre. Clearly, we want the discussion to involve as many people as possible. You may have seen that there are also voting slips in the Folly newspaper. Views will inevitably differ; reaching consensus is often not an easy process! However, we do hope that everyone taking part in the discussions will do so in a positive and constructive way.

And of course we also hope that people will find the time to read the comprehensive background documents - all

on www.pinkpigeons.info . This is where you will find the full details and the thinking behind the town sign.

However, at the same time we appreciate that time is precious. Therefore – here's an eight-point summary of the "Background & Process Document".

1. *On the 7th March, 2018, Faringdon will celebrate 800 years since the granting of its market charter by Henry III. We want to ensure that we have a thriving and vibrant marketplace that will be at the heart of the community for another 800 years. A Town Sign, designed by the community and erected in a prominent spot in the Market Place seems a fitting way to celebrate this anniversary. It can be a celebration of the past; relevant to the present; and take us on into the future.*
2. *The process of developing the sign is being coordinated by the "Pink Pigeons". This is an open group, and all are welcome to participate and to come to Pink Pigeons meetings. The process is taking place in stages – and is designed to be as consultative as possible.*
3. *The first public consultation stage began in the third week of November, and continues until January 18th; when there will be a presentation at the open Town Meeting in the Corn Exchange.*
4. *This first stage is to introduce the concept of the Town Sign and to choose the general direction that the town sign will take; for example Traditional; Contemporary; Quirky; or Rotating .*
5. *Mockups have been prepared so that people can better visualize what a particular approach might look like. These have been labelled: SHIELD, HILL, BOWLER, and GYRATORY. The elements included in these mockups are purely illustrative. If you have other ideas in terms of the general direction, then you are encouraged to express these views through the additional comments.*
6. *The Joint Economic Forum have contributed £300 towards the process of developing the town sign. No other funding is in place at the moment. Contributions will be sought from individuals, businesses, and appropriate funding bodies.*
7. *The Town Council are supportive of this process and in particular the public consultation, but have not approved the town sign; nor have they expressed preferences. The District Council are also being consulted, through the Vale Arts Officer and the Vale Conservation Officer.*
8. *Proposed next steps after the general direction has been chosen: Submission of pre-application; public consultation 2nd phase (choosing the elements); invitations to submit designs (local artists especially welcome to submit); fund-raising.*

We do hope this is helpful, and will lead you to want to read the full documents and join in the discussions!

Pink Pigeons

Harry the cat is missing - 8/12/15

Harry is long haired- mainly tabby on the back and tail and white on his tummy and legs. His face is mainly white with tabby above the eyes. He's got black around one eye and pink around the other. He's 17 and has arthritis, so sometimes limps a little when he walks. He is missing his bottom fang tooth.

Please contact Anne Walton on 07871 709277 or hannahcampbellwalton@hotmail.co.uk

Housing and A420 6/12/15 - 8/12/15

Yes Mark, My sensibilities have been offended or perhaps aroused would be a better description. I seek fair play. My point, that seems to have eluded you, is that News and Views should not be used to post insulting and abusive remarks about people and then the contributor allowed to skulk behind a pseudonym. I'm surprised our esteemed Editor allows it and that you seem to condone it.

On a happier note, the new clock looks great. A real bonus for Faringdon It will look even better when the weather mellows it
Congratulations to all those involved in the project

Dennis Haynes

A420 and a roundabout - 8/12/15

I agree Rob. This strategy is just tinkering. I laughed whilst reading many of the areas mentioned, especially

"A new roundabout will be located on the A420 at Great Coxwell to replace the existing slip road. This upgrade is funded and will be delivered by the developers of the nearby strategic sites"

- The roundabout is apparently now not a condition of the approval of the housing in Faringdon, so for sure will not happen. and "SV 2.10 Delivering improvements along the A417 corridor to address congestion, safety and the conflict between the volume of traffic, east-west travel, and access to the villages along this route. Elements of the strategy include junction improvements, bus stop infrastructure, footpath and cycleway improvements and speed limit reviews. "

The A417 needs improvement for vehicles. It will be completely choked, and commuting will be impossible when thousands of houses are built in Grove, Wantage, Charlton. They are not understanding that most of the people who work in the Science Vale? Milton Park etc. commute by car, and will only ever commute by car. Many do not work a 9-5 routine that allows the use of Public Transport even if it was available. Many commute from 25-30+ miles away.

The A420, just gets a cursory mention. I feel sorry for those, who have to commute in to Oxford. Just wait to see how much worse the A420 it will get when those 8000 houses go in near Stratton, plus the houses at Watchfield Shrivenham etc. It's a shame that people can't see the gradual ruination of a once beautiful county.

Regards Mark

Town Sign - 7/12/15

I've followed the debate about the sign with interest, and can see both sides of the story - those who want a different sign drawn from Faringdon's history in order to welcome visitors to the town at each of the 5 access points into Faringdon (well, 3 - the A417 roads into town are already catered for), but equally I think something bolder will get people talking about the town, hopefully far and wide.

I remember visiting Berlin way back in 1982, and one of the high points was seeing - you've guessed it - the revolving sign in Alexanderplatz, described variously as "one of the most visited squares in Berlin" and "a site of many attractions" . But here's the interesting bit. When you click on "images" you'll find that 80% of the images are of just one particular attraction, the Weltzeituhr, or world time zone clock. It's not tall, it's not old, and it's architecturally a bit Eastern Bloc. But it's also described as one of the most popular rendez-vous points in Berlin - and it's still going, which should allay fears of the thing grinding to a halt at regular intervals.

As far as location is concerned, my vote would be for the island on the Cornmarket - it offsets the Portwell bench perfectly, whereas if it were outside Marriots I think it would be too close to it. Even better would be on the apron outside the Old Town Hall, but I'm guessing that this would be too obtrusive at events such as Folly Fest.

Andy Hayter

Normal rubbish response about A420/A417 access in the week day mornings. - 7/12/15

It has got increasingly frustrating trying to get out onto the A420 due to no one giving you a chance at the roundabout at Park Road. The traffic from Swindon and on the way speed past the roundabout causing 15 to 20 minutes just to get from the Esso station out at any time from 7AM.

Exasperated I tried to contact the highways agency about this roundabout. The response is a two fingers tough luck. If we get any more traffic it is just crazy that nothing will be done and it will get worse and accidents then occur:

See the verbatim reply below.

Unfortunately the County Council does not have a budget this financial year (and unlikely next financial year) that typically could be used for provision of traffic signals at this location.

However, A420 / A417 Park Road Junction, has been identified for upgrading (in particular increased capacity on the approach from Faringdon) in the Connecting Oxfordshire: Local Transport Plan 2015-2031, also known as Local Transport Plan 4. Please see pages 86-94 for the A420 Route Strategy chapter:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/sites/default/files/folders/documents/roadsandtransport/transportpoliciesandplans/localtransportplan/ConnectingOxfordshirevol2partiiOtherAreasRouteFreightStrategy.pdf>

The relevant proposal is on page 91:- Investigate upgrading of the A420 / A417 Park Road junction, Faringdon

Full Council adopted Local Transport Plan 4 in September 2015 and officers will now look at ways to bring forward schemes. As

stated in the chapter, the timescales are yet to be determined as funding will need to be secured through the planning application process for housing and other development sites.

Regards

Lee J Turner MCIHT

Principal Traffic Technician

Traffic Advice & Design

Rob Perkins

Dog mess on the Rugby pitch - 6/12/15

As I'm sure you are all aware the Rugby season is in full swing up at the Cricket ground.

Seniors training - Thurs evening match Saturday's

Mini and Junior training - Sunday's

It has been noted that the amount of dog poop not being picked up is escalating.

We have over 100 children training on this ground every week and would appreciate it if you could kindly pick up after you dog.

Can we take this opportunity to thank the responsible owners who do pick up after their dog.

Faringdon Rugby Union Football Club

Housing and A420- 6/12/15

The government guidance that Planning authorities must accept applications for housing wherever possible, leaves the Planning Authority with little or no room for negotiation for monies for essential infrastructure. Schools get funds, as well as social housing and road changes (provided the Highways authority says it is needed) So developers will pay something, but if the demands are (in their view) too high, they say 'not viable, we won't build' There is little the Planning authority can do- the government is demanding the building of houses.

Name Supplied

Housing and A420 - 6/12/15

Dennis. I would call people who allow tens of thousands of houses to be built all over Oxfordshire, without the decent infrastructure to go with them as idiots. Sorry if your sensibilities are offended.

Regards

Mark

Small business Saturday in Faringdon - 5/12/15

Saturday 5th December

Does anyone remember Edward Davis? - 5/12/15

Just wondering if there is any one who knew my late father Mr Edward Andrew Philip Davis - old friends or relatives on my dads side. He passed away on February 25th 1978 on the A420 at Bucklands Crossroads near Faringdon. A long shot I know, this would be an end to my research. Also a Big thanks to a Mr William Law who sent me the News paper reports regarding my late fathers death.

Spencer Davis

Re. Housing and A420 posted on 2/12/15 - 4/12/15

In the preamble to News and Views we are asked to post our views without being rude or insulting. Is it then acceptable for sad Grumpy Old Man to describe people as "idiots" which they clearly are not and then hide behind a nom de plume?

Dennis Haynes

Late Night Shopping - 4/12/15

It's not every day you get Carol Singers singing to you at your place of work! That's exactly what happened tonight to me!

Thank you to Lyn Williams and all the singers who came in from the rain and the wind to sing in Budgens tonight. I really enjoyed it and appreciated the chance to join in!

Thank you

Fiona Merrick

Jobs in Faringdon - 3/12/15

More jobs on the [Jobs and Volunteering page on this site](#)

Ed

Late night shopping in Faringdon Thursday 3rd - 3/12/15

If you are late night shopping this Thursday in Faringdon town, come into The Wheatsheaf for a night cap before you head home. FREE mini sausage rolls will be on the bar, plus we will be selling our special Mulled warming Apple cider as well as our normal great range of drinks at LOW every day prices.

REMEMBER Late night shopping evening this Thursday arranged by our local retailers, music, refreshments and a great opportunity to pick up some unique Christmas presents FREE mini sausage rolls on the bar at The Wheatsheaf

#shoplocalthischristmas #supportsmallbusinesses #latenightshoppingoxfordshire

PLUS SATURDAY 5th December - Small business Saturday in Faringdon. Pop into the Wheatsheaf for a beverage and (FREE sausage rolls on the bar) . Local businesses participating will be giving triple points with other special events planned in town

The Wheatsheaf, 5 London Street, Faringdon, Oxon SN7 7AE www.facebook.com/TheWheatsheafFaringdon 01367-244219 or 07815 071858 Geoff & Jo Robbins

Best at Recycling - 3/12/15

It's official - residents of South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse continue to be the best in the country at recycling.

According to official Defra figures, South Oxfordshire sits at the top of the chart for 2014/15 with a 67.3 per cent recycling rate, with the Vale just below in second place with 65.6 per cent.

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/news/2015/2015-12/south-and-vale-top-recycling-charts-yet-again>

Housing and A420 - 2/12/15

Without a roundabout at the A420 junction, this and Fernham fields will be a traffic disaster. Obviously the idiots who compile this rubbish don't spend every morning queued up on Park Road trying to get onto the A420.

Traffic lights will never happen, due to the constant volume of traffic coming from Swindon, which would back up for miles.

A roundabout has to be a condition of approval.

Grumpy Old Man

Cornmarket Clock - 2/12/15

Read the history, see old and current photos in the [In the Past section of this website](#).

Thankyou to contributors

Ed

Steeds development - 2/12/15

This application goes to the VWHDC Planning Committee on 9th December.

There are many objections but:

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that authority to grant planning permission is delegated to the head of planning, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the committee,

subject to:

1: A S106 agreement being entered into with both the county council and district council in order to secure contributions towards local infrastructure and to

secure affordable housing, and;.....

[Full Committee report](#)

Faringdon's Humpty Hill has been awarded Town Green Status - 2/12/15

An area of open farmland in Faringdon, Oxfordshire has been given protected town green status by a council. Residents campaigned to preserve the land on Highworth Road, known as Humpty Hill, for three years following a proposed 100-home development.

Oxfordshire County Council's planning committee voted unanimously on Monday to register the area as a town village green.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-34972137>

Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan 'Basic Conditions'- 2/12/15

Consultation on Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan has been extended to 11th January 2016 by VWHDC because of their earlier errors in posting the documents. The Planning Inspector will receive all these responses and will be assessing whether FNP meets the 'Basic Conditions'.

A meeting will be held on 16th December at 7.15pm at Little Coxwell Village Hall to discuss the issues: what are the 'Basic Conditions'? Does FNP identify them correctly? Does it meet them?

You are welcome to attend if you are interested in these questions and considering making a submission.

Please remember, any response you have already submitted to the Town Council will NOT be going forward, so this is the most important opportunity members of the public will have to make their views known.

Anna Hoare

New Police Commander - 1/12/15

Superintendent Rory Freeman will be taking over as Local Police Area (LPA) commander for South and Vale LPA.

Supt Freeman joined Thames Valley Police in 1992 and worked as a patrol officer at High Wycombe, Bourne End and Aylesbury. In 2000, he moved to the Headquarters Public Order Department where he spent almost five years training police officers to manage public disorder and protest.

Since leaving the Public Order Department, he has led patrol, neighbourhood and custody policing teams across Oxfordshire as both a Sergeant and Inspector. He currently works as Head of the Criminal Justice Department.

He said: "I'm really pleased to be moving into this new role, and I'm looking forward to getting started on 1 December.

"The team at South and Vale is already really strong; we have some hard-working and talented officers and staff serving the area and acting Superintendent Jim O'Ryan, who has been an interim LPA Commander, has been great at leading the team.

"We have some challenges ahead as a Force, but I'm looking forward to working with communities to address any issues they are facing, develop solutions with them, and to build on this success."

His predecessor A/Supt O'Ryan will return to his role as Deputy Commander at Milton Keynes.

A/Supt O'Ryan said: "Working at South and Vale has been brilliant; it's such a different LPA from Milton Keynes and so it's been an interesting and enjoyable experience. I'm very proud of the team at South and Vale and it's been a privilege to lead them

"I'd like to wish Supt Freeman every success in his new role here, and while I'm sorry to be leaving South and Vale it will be good to return to Milton Keynes as Deputy LPA Commander."

Supt Freeman will be starting his new role on Tuesday 1 December. A/Supt O'Ryan will also be starting his new role on 1 December.

Descendants of the Haynes family - 30/11/15

Hi i'm looking for descendants of the Haynes family. My Grandmother was Lizzie Haynes , daughter of Mark Haynes the Sexton of Faringdon All saints Church. Lizzie had two brothers , Mark and Oliver who were killed in WW1 in France. I am looking for photographs of Lizzies first wedding in about 1910 and also of the two brothers please.

dstevenson123@btinternet.com

Nut Tree Clock - 30/11/15

Sjoerd - very interesting background to the clock, thank you, and you are right. It looks glorious!

Fiona Merrick

Re: Nut Tree Clock - 30/11/15

sound's like Trigger's broom ;-), but glad it's back.

Name Supplied

BLUNDERBUSS - 30/11/15

I don't get it. If Mary Beck insists on filling her blunderbuss with toys & blasting forth, then she should at least first read the background documents to the town sign – because they contain many of the answers to the questions that she supposedly wants answers to.

Puzzled.

REFURBISHED NUT TREE CLOCK- 29/11/15

ED asks if it's the "original" refurbished clock - or a new one. Interesting question, and the answer isn't entirely straightforward. Starting from the beginning....

According to Rachel Bragg - occasional blogger and freelance photographer based in Devon (see the interesting article <http://www.sweet-images.co.uk/where-did-all-the-clocks>) the original clock is from the mid-18th century.

This is a very interesting blogpost (and spot the photo of another Faringdon clock in the same article!) but not correct.

The original clock is mid-19th century. It was made by Counsell Clockmakers who were based in Faringdon - and still around making very fancy carriage clocks by hand well into the 20th century. It was of course mechanical; with a weights cabinet on the 1st floor. These weights needed pulling up daily. We now jump to the 1930s. The shop was E. Leverton & Sons - selling radios and small electrical items. Rosalie Bleetman remembers when her father David Leverton (the grandfather of the current owner - Danny Bleetman) had the family name of LEVERTON'S added to the top of the clock, and she thinks that he also had Counsell rebuild or replace the insides. This was before WWII.

Before the bypass was built in 1978/79, the clock (and the name sign) were continually being damaged by high vehicles as they tried to squeeze through the narrow Cornmarket. You can imagine that these knocks and bangs led to quite a high maintenance, not just external, but also on the mechanical guts of the clock, and on one of these occasions the Leverton's name was also knocked off, and wasn't put back. Hairline cracks would lead to water ingress. Not good. We can all remember the times when the clock stood still - waiting to be repaired - yet again. We now jump to just five years ago. Trevor & Donald were still pulling up the weights daily. But it was clear that the mechanical clock was on its last legs. The clockmaker (Peter Meacham from Milton-under-Wychwood) found that the insides were now not much more than a pile of rust, and beyond repair. It was at this point that it was converted to mains power - with wireless timing. Very appropriate perhaps, considering that Leverton's were in the 1930s selling cutting edge wireless radios. So - for the past five years it's been a satellite-controlled electronic clock - but with an increasingly shabby face. This latest visit to Peter Meacham's has been purely cosmetic. A full spruce-up to go along with the repainting of the exterior of the building, including new gold leaf gilding - at a cost of well over £2000 .

And doesn't it look absolutely splendid!

Sjoerd Vogt

Thankyou - 29/11/15

I would like to thank the kind person who found my purse in Tesco's car park on Sunday morning and handed it in. I am most grateful. I would also like to thank the checkout gentleman and service desk lady who helped me.

Barbara Brown

Faringdon Post Office - 29/11/15

Post office in faringdon is awful, most times there is only one member if staff. I do go to shrivehman, the staff are lovely & very helpful. It is such a shame. If Mc'colls can't run it proply then give the chance to some one else.

Name provided

Nut Tree Clock- 28/11/15

I think it's a new one. It looks slightly different, although it could have been polished up.

Fiona Merrick

Health Services in South Oxfordshire- do make your views clear - 28/11/15

Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning group are beginning to think through what Health services are needed to cope with the massive population increase in South Oxfordshire. Good News?? Yes for Didcot, Wallingford, Abingdon and Wantage/Grove- but Faringdon hardly gets a mention, Watchfield, Stanford, Kingston Bagpuize are not mentioned at all. We're not even shown on the map in the [Scoping Document](#).

The reply to why is this? was ' *as this project develops further thinking will start to emerge around Faringdon but it is still early stages at present.*'

Please do read the document and make some comments before 15th December to Julia Stackhouse on cscsu.talkinghealth@nhs.net .

ED

I wrote again- Response received: *I am aware we have not done justice in our thinking to Farringdon. I was keen however that we did publish something as there was already concerns about time lag. I will ask what, if anything else, we should publish in this engagement period.*

Obviously we will collate all feedback and use it to inform next stages and we have stressed this is about scoping options.

Ed Mis spelling of Faringdon- not my mistake!

Clock in the Cornmarket- 28/11/15

The clock is back looking very smart. Does anyone know if it's the original one refurbished or a new clock

Ed

Town sign - 27/11/15

The Pink Pigeons must be very relieved to see how far we have strayed from the subject of what to do about the town sign. One question I would like answered is: how did they propose that the sign be funded? If by the town, then indeed there are far more worthy recipients, such as the Day Centre; if it is planned that money should again be syphoned off from what developers are obliged to contribute, then I would suggest that they have already paid for the diver, and that should be enough when there are so many other aspects of town life that could be improved by an injection of cash.

How do we get the Town and District Councils to reconsider the way they seem to have let the sign proposals go through on the nod?

Mary Beck

Festive Faringdon is tomorrow - Saturday 28 November 2015 - 27/11/15

The market square will be closed to traffic from 08:00. Diversions will be via Ferndale Street, Swan Lane & Coach Lane.

Temporary bus stops are in Park Road

There is free car parking all day.

Sally Fox

SMALL TOWN - BIG HEART- 27/11/15

I'm so pleased that Name Supplied took the time to post examples of all the many volunteers who step up to the plate and help to make the town a better, more vibrant place to live. Faringdon also has a big heart and a strong social conscience, and one that we can be equally proud of. I'm sure this also plays an important part in regular surveys that rank us as one of the best towns for families to live. In 2004 we became the first Fairtrade Town in the South East, and the Mustard Seed (run by yet more volunteers) is held up as a shining example by other fairtrade groups around the country. Remember the incredible turnout for the MakePovertyHistory white band event in 2005 – when we put the biggest white band *in the country* round the top of the Folly tower? We've won national awards for our environmental efforts (there are seventeen farms under organic stewardship within five miles of Faringdon – including Folly Hill – hence the poppies!) , and the Faringdon Peace Group with over 300 supporters is one of the largest groups in the town. Christmas shoeboxes, Family Centre, Breakfast Club, Rotary, Food Bank, Refugee group, Church-supported projects both at home and abroad, the list goes on. Keep up the good work – and above all THANK YOU.

Name Supplied

Good News - 27/11/15

I would like to share a good news story about our local Martial Arts Classes in Wantage and Grove and Faringdon. Would we be able to submit this article for the next edition please?

Matt Fiddes Martial Arts (Oxfordshire) Wantage & Grove/Faringdon Teams.

Students from Matt Fiddes Mighty Max's (3-6 years) and the Junior Programme participated in the Matt Fiddes British

Championships in Swindon.

Students participated in an action packed day of hand-drills kickboxing, sparring and kicking categories.

Ruby Gniadek-Pitt (5) from Grove gained a silver medal in wavemaster extreme kicking and Imogen Miles (14) received a bronze medal in Handrills. Jake Nicholls (13) received silver in sparring.

Zachary New (5), Oliver Keep (5) Sam Brewis (13), Tansy Brown (8), Emilie Brown (4), Thomas Stamp (13), Joseph Lappin (8) Hannah Read (8) Joshua Jones (5) Jon Harrison (12) Nathan Harrison (10) also represented Oxfordshire at the event.

Dylan Miles (12) competed for the first time in the adult categories coming 6th out of 20 adults from across Britain.

Neil, of Matt Fiddes Martial Arts Oxfordshire said, "I am very proud of all the students at all of the classes for their enthusiasm and commitment to learning. The students have all developed and have become confident in their skills. Students who attended the championships did themselves and Oxfordshire proud".

All those students who participated came home with medals for participation.

For more information on the local schools contact Neil Miles on 07903 683880 or via email neilmiles68@yahoo.co.uk

Passing of Jo Harbour - 26/11/15

Jo brought so much comfort to many. Her Ministry work at Harnhill Centre of Christian Healing brought healing and comfort to many hurting folks.

She will be sadly missed by many

Dee England

Post office - 26/11/15

The post office just needs more staff. They are doing very best at this time of year.

That "P" word should be used. Not Pizza. Patience

Dee England

Sensory Garden info- 26/11/15

Thank you Mel, for the info. Best of luck with it

HT

RE: Sensory Garden.- 26/11/15

Well I personally say well done to Mel Lane and I wish you all the very best in this great and rewarding plan. The lane has long looked scruffy and unwelcoming, especially when dark. To have this Sensory Garden I fully believe it will spruce up the area and will become a great location for all manner of folk to come, stroll or just sit and contemplate life. Let's face it what is there currently is overgrown and unsightly.

I note the naysayer declined to have their name to the piece. Sadly there is always going to be negative folk who just can't see the bigger picture or feel it is not relevant to them so will shoot an idea down. Since moving to Faringdon over three and half years ago I have been so impressed at the warm and welcoming nature of the town and how people genuinely try to improve and build on things.

This project is just an example of what makes Faringdon so lovely. Please don't spoil it for others by being so negative.

Rob Perkins

Volunteers - 26/11/15

Faringdon has a really good track record of local people, who volunteer their time and energy to improve the town and activities in the town; all of which with little or no public money. I thought it was worth mentioning some of them. They all add hugely to the quality of life for Faringdon people and the vitality of the town

The latest of these, under discussion are:

Town Sign

Sensory Garden

Football Club

New cricket pitch and pavilion

New tennis courts and pavilion

Skate Park

Folly Tower and Woodland

U3a- many interesting activities for large numbers of older people

farindon.org since 2002

Community Bus

Name Supplied

Faringdon Twinning Association

The History Society

Chamber of Commerce

Brownies, Guides and Scouts

Farcycles

Pump House Project

Far runners

WI

Artistic skaters

Young Farmers

Rotary

Marshall Arts

British Legion

Bowling Club

Tuesday and Wednesday walks

Bell ringing

Arts Society

Faringdon Singers

Ferndale Community Choir

Children's ukulele group

Faringdon Post Office- 26/11/15

I've heard that people will drive to Highworth, Shrivenham or Stanford rather than suffer the poor service at the Faringdon Post Office.

This when various groups are trying to encourage more people to shop in Faringdon. I wonder if the Chamber of Commerce, the Retail group or the Town Team could influence McColls?

Name Supplied

Burglaries - 26/11/15

Thames Valley Police is appealing for witnesses following two burglaries (non-dwelling and theft from a vehicle in Faringdon. Between Saturday (21/11) and Sunday (22/11), a garage in Folly View Road and a garage in Marlborough Gardens were broken into.

Offender(s) stole fishing rods and a trolley jack.

Between Friday (20/11) and Monday (23/11) offender(s) stole hand tools from the back of a pick-up truck in Marines Drive.

At around 7am this morning (26/11) a man was seen attempting to gain entry to a vehicle parked on a driveway in Marlborough Close.

He is described as a white male, 5'8: tall, aged 35/40 years old, medium build with dark wavy hair and facial hair/stubble. He was wearing a black leather jacket, jeans and described as scruffy looking

If you see or 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 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.

Late night shopping evening Thurs 3rd - 26/11/15

Does anyone know how late the shops will be open?

Local Yokel

Car accident in 1978- can anyone help? - 26/11/15

Have you any news papers dating back to 1978 regarding a car crash that happened on the A420 at Pusey Woods the 25th of February 1978. The person who I am inquiring about is my dad Mr Edward Andrew Philip Davis and he lived in Chinnor Oxon. I have tried everything else but have hit a brick wall. Really hope some one can help.

Kind regards

Spencer Davis

spncr.davis1@gmail.com

Town Spending ...- 26/11/15

Before Public money is spent on NEW town projects, such as Town Sign or Sensory Garden, surely the priority should be to fund and do as much as possible to retain the services which CURRENTLY exist .. Secondly we should be trying to improve the look of the town and encouraging new business into it, making it a better place to live and work in ... Only after this is done should we be looking at NEW signs , gardens etc ..

As for giving money to people to tidy their gardens, totally ridiculous and insulting to those who genuinely need money to eat or keep warm, and to the tax payer like me who would be funding it ..

Name Supplied

Sensory Garden - 25/11/15

May I reassure those who have commented; the project is not intended to be funded by the local authority. The sum needed will be sourced by other means (private investment, organisations providing grants for such purposes et al. e.g. The Heritage Lottery Fund, Landfill grants etc.)

With regards to "operational expenditure" i.e. ongoing maintenance, this is of course very much on the agenda. Please bear in mind that the council already have an obligation to maintain the site. By planting it in a low maintenance design and ensuring a revenue stream from the planned cafe there then it will reduce the dependency long term on council funding.

On the question of garnering support, I have met with specific groups to understand their requirements. One of the reasons we rarely see people in wheelchairs around, is quite simply, according to local wheelchair users - is that there is nowhere suitable for them to go.

As a professional project manager, I have an obligation to the town and to my own reputation to deliver any project in a manner which considers the scope, scale, costs, risks and constraints. This project will have to go through any number of planning hurdles, all of which I understand are open to the public as meetings to enable them to make reasonable objections to as they see fit. This includes residents of Willes Close, Southampton Street, the owner of the adjacent land or indeed Tesco.

So:

No funding is to be requested from the local council

Yes onwards maintenance is recognised and planned for

Yes planning permission is recognised and planned for also as is also the rights of local residents or businesses to object within the usual parameters of planning objections

Yes I have been and will continue to explore with local groups what they need from such a space and seek to include their requirements throughout.

As a final note, with recent cuts to local services, surely a project which is aimed at benefiting those likely to be hit is a good

thing? Bromsgrove Day Centre was mentioned - I spent several hours here at their invitation and all were urging me to get on with the project "before they died!" - hugely supportive in every way.

I hope this reassures those interested parties.

I welcome constructive feedback and would urge anyone who would like to talk through to contact me on meljlane@me.com.

Mel Lane

Sensory garden/town sign.- 25/11/15

When I read about the proposed sensory garden the first thing I thought of was vandalism, I can see lots of money and a great deal of hard work being put into this well meant project, I can also see the morons of the town guffawing inanely after they get in and destroy it. My second thought was how many people would truly actually use it.

I also agree that a town sign is probably the last thing needed in the town centre, especially if it has anything to do with Berners and his quirky nature which is only admired by just a few townsfolk and the idea that people will come into the town to stand and admire it and thus shop here is quite naïve.

I know it's easy to be negative and pull down other peoples enthusiasm for such things but I tend to be a realist, both projects seem to be a little self indulgent to me.

The Bromsgrove day centre is to close, something that is actually used and desperately needed so why not put a sensory centre in there somewhere while keeping the much needed day centre going at the same time, put the money that would be needed to fund the other two projects into that, surely it could be done and something far more people in this town would benefit from.

And if you still need a sign how about putting one over the door saying "saved for the many not just the few".

Name Supplied.

Adult Social Care budget cuts & Faringdon projects- 25/11/15

Some very pertinent points made by Hilary. Sensory gardens and civic artwork are very nice and I wish the teams involved in both projects well with their ideas and good luck with finding the funds.

The cuts to the Adult Social Care budget proposed by Oxfordshire County Council look severe. If they go ahead many services that provide hugely valuable support to vulnerable members of our community will lose their funding and will struggle to survive.

The next five years will get tough as the cuts start to really take effect.

The consultation period ends 30 November 2015. Do look at the document (very hard to wade through, but worth the effort) and comment. You'll find it at: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/adult-social-care-1>

At least OCC will have a record of your views, even if they pay no attention.

Julia Burn

Sensory Garden- 25/11/15

Public consultation needs to be carried out. Have Wills Close been consulted !!!!!!!

Folks won't use it, too far out of town.

We don't need another town sign, another consultation need doing not agreed just because a few want it.

Waste of money

Name supplied

Town sign.- 25/11/15

Having looked at the choice of signs, my view is that the Bowler is a non-starter. Although Berners has a place in the town's history, this design over-emphasises it.

I also have my doubts about the gyratory design. It would be great fun for those developing it (which, I suspect, makes it attractive to the organisers) but I have concerns about the amount of maintenance it might require.

This leaves the shields, and of these I find the Tale of Two Follies the more interesting.

So, I go for a slightly quirky version of the conventional, 2D, design

Derek Pepper.

Projects- Sensory Garden, Town Sign - 25/11/15

It is very difficult and unpopular to disagree with a well intentioned project which will, in principle, benefit a large number of people, particularly when those people come from disadvantaged groups in society. There are two community projects being discussed on this forum at present. There is no doubt that the sensory garden is entirely well conceived and will take up a hitherto neglected piece of land, and my remarks are in no way intended to denigrate Mel and her project.

If you conduct a survey though, and ask "Will you use the garden?" virtually everyone will say "Yes", and agree that it is a good idea, but what you need to study are the existing habits of the respondents, not their theoretically positive intentions. The project will undoubtedly be brilliantly planned and the garden beautifully designed, but how much will it really be used, bearing in mind the English weather, and the capricious nature of the users. I don't see many carers pushing their wheelchair-bound charges around Faringdon's streets at present, (yes I know that is only one group) and the existing town park is usually pretty empty.

The other question concerns maintenance. How would the ongoing maintenance be funded after the grand opening? A sensory garden will require quite a bit of maintenance and expenditure over the long term. Is it proposed that volunteers will take this on?

As for a town sign, we have plenty already, we don't need another one. If our elected representatives really think a vanity project is necessary, there are experienced, qualified designers in the town who might like the opportunity to put forward their original designs, so why not hold an open competition?

I realise that by voicing these concerns I will appear negative and curmudgeonly, so be it. In times of plenty I wouldn't hesitate to support the garden. In the present economic climate, though, if money is available - from any source - we should be directing it at existing need.

All of that brings me to my final point. Some of you may have woken up to the fact that services are being savagely axed by Oxfordshire County Council. One of those services is day centres for children and the elderly. It's easy to cut their small grants since the recipients rarely complain. In particular, I would like to draw attention to the fact that the Bromsgrove Day Centre in Faringdon faces closure in 2016 when its grant is withdrawn. For a small affordable charge the Bromsgrove day centre offers a proven and regular lifeline to frail, lonely elderly people and respite for their sometimes desperate carers. It does not have the advantage of being fashionable, or glamorous, or high profile. It is staffed by a truly dedicated team of volunteers, led by a paid employee. For a few days a week they provide transport to and from the venue, a hot home cooked meal and company. Much of this is provided at the volunteers' own expense. Their grant is around £14,000 per year. I doubt very much whether the installation of a town sign would be cheap, and the sum is derisory when compared to the £250,000 estimate for a sensory garden.

Hilary Taylor

The Faringdon Post Office - 25/11/15

What is Faringdon's experience of their Post Office? Myself and about 14 others stood in the queue for over 35 minutes this afternoon, for 20 of those minutes the queue did not move. And guess what, only one counter was open. When I left I asked one of the staff at the newsagent if this happened often and they said every day. Every day between 3 and 5pm there is only one window open and an enormous queue. The point is the Post Office have a monopoly, we can't just go into the next shop, with better service and get stamps etc. The business is understaffed and badly run. What will it be like in the coming weeks as we get closer to the busiest time of the year? If you want to complain to the PO the link is <http://www.postoffice.co.uk/contact-us-complaint>.

Name supplied

Health Services in South Oxfordshire - 24/11/15

Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning group are beginning to think through what Health services are needed to cope with the massive population increase in South Oxfordshire. Good News?? Yes for Didcot, Wallingford, Abingdon and Wantage/Grove-but Faringdon hardly gets a mention, Watchfield, Stanford, Kingston Bagpuize are not mentioned at all. We're not even shown on the map in the [Scoping Document](#).

The reply to why is this? was 'as this project develops further thinking will start to emerge around Faringdon but it is still early stages at present.'

Please do read the document and make some comments before 15th December to Julia Stackhouse on cscsu.talkinghealth@nhs.net.

ED

Sensory Garden Project Update - 24/11/15

Just a short note to keep you up to date with progress on the Sensory Garden Project this month.

I've had meetings with Faringdon Day Centre at Bromsgrove, Root & Branch at Westmill, My Carer, Faringdon Community College and Old Station Nursery to gain an initial insight into anticipated useage of the site. The support has been overwhelming from all.

Access is still presenting an issue but we are working with various planning teams to try to overcome.

Tomorrow I have a meeting regarding the launch of a new funding source.

If you would like to be on an email list for news then please email meljlane@me.com. Please also contact me if you'd like to be involved in the project in any way.

With best wishes

Mel Lane

Sadlers Restaurant- 24/11/15

A group of us had dinner at Sadlers last Friday. We had a wonderful meal in beautiful surroundings. I'm sure the Christmas menu will be just as good. Looking forward to it!

Name Supplied

PIDGIN BADGES- 24/11/15

I've seen a few people wearing little enamel dove badges - where can you get them? Very classy. Are they something specifically to do with Faringdon? I've seen an orange one and pink one; does blue exist?

name supplied

ED(GW) Yes -- you can get them in the TIC; the cost is £2 I think. Red, orange, yellow, green, blue, - and even pink!

Town Sign - 24/11/15

I don't know Mary Beck so I'm not a 'supporter'. I happen to have my own mind and don't need to follow.

I had read the 'comprehensive background documents that have been prepared' before commenting. They aren't very concise but I carried on until the end, and hopefully others will.

I obviously missed the simple survey that was conducted, where would I have found it? I've not yet met anybody who knew about it or took part.

I've followed the work of the PPT since they began and I understand completely what they stand for and it's a great group it's just that it does appear, as with the diver, that what they want will happen whatever.

I do hope the town council have more input this time.

Name supplied

TOWN SIGN - CARBON FOOTPRINT- 24/11/15

"Name supplied" asks whether the gyratory could be powered by the wind- or solar panels charging up a battery perhaps. Interesting question; and this is something that *is* under investigation. Slightly disappointing perhaps - but the experts that we have so far spoken with (including a company that specialises in this kind of bespoke moving installation) are advising us that the most reliable & robust way of providing the power would be mains. Both wind and solar would be higher ongoing maintenance, prone to going wrong, and generally a bit random! However, they reassure us that the power required to provide movement is relatively low. And clearly, if an attractive addition to the market place means that more people are likely to want to shop locally, then the impact of the town sign in lowering our overall carbon footprint could be huge....
Sjoerd Vogt

Sadlers of Faringdon Christmas Menu 2015 - 23/11/15

Wild Mushroom and Oxford Blue Cappuccino
Black Pudding and Sausage Palmier
Sweet Potato and Courgette soup
Mild Brie and Cranberry Filo on Pea Shoot Salad

~~

Sadlers Turkey Crown ~ Festive with all the Sides!
Beef & Guinness Pudding on Horseradish Mash
Chilli and Cumin Fillet of Pork with Nasi Goreng Potatoes
Seasoned Cod Fillet with a Crumbed Olive and Sun blush Tomato Salsa
Squash and Walnut Parmesan Strudel

~~

Cinnamon and Spice Bread and Butter Brioche
Crème Brulee
Raspberry and Frangelica Brownie
Dutch Cheeses with Brood and Chutney

£24 per person to include fizz on arrival and nibbles
(small or large bookings welcome – info@sadlerscatering.co.uk 01367 240678)
REMAINING DATES AVAILABLE: 2nd, 6th lunchtime, 9th, 11th, 12th & 16th

Local Jobs - 23/11/15

Do keep an eye on [the jobs page on this site](#). There's an interesting one on offer at the moment- working from home
Ed

Town Sign - 23/11/15

Yes it must celebrate our history- Market Charter, Civil Wars, our architecture, coaching inns, the Folly, All Saints - there is so much- probably too much for a conventional town sign or coat of arms. I think it needs to be a creative interpretation that covers as much as possible from our long history so that people notice it and go and look at it.
Resident of Faringdon for a long time

Town Sign - 23/11/15

I know we're at an early stage in selecting a town sign and that next steps are to involve the schools etc. but given that four designs have already been presented, I can see why people would think to an extent that the decision had already been made (just playing Devil's Advocate, you understand).
I'm not keen on the wacky nature of the designs and I think I'd like to see more variety in the proposed ones. I also agree that the market square already has a tribute to Lord Berners in the form of the recent Portwell Bench and Diver and given the Town Charter is in celebration of this being granted, perhaps this is an opportunity to celebrate the other elements of Faringdon which make us a well rounded, diverse and attractive town to be in?
Lord Berners, doubtless made a significant contribution to Faringdon's character but his lifetime represents 8% of the 800 years of our charter and perhaps more time needs to be spent researching other worthy contributors. A fabulous history research project for the Community Project or the local history groups, I'd say.
Community projects need a lot of goodwill and Faringdon has had its share of controversy in this area to date. This sign will last for generations so its key the community is behind this.
Mel Lane

RENEWABLE TOWN SIGN- 23/11/15

I love the rotary or giratory or whatever it's called! I can just picture it in pride of place in the market place. But (thinking of climate conference coming up in Paris next week) - will it be wind powered - or solar perhaps? LED lights twinkling in the windows?
Name supplied

MARKET PLACE TOO CLUTTERED ? - 23/11/15

Mary Beck feels that the Market Place is too cluttered - and I agree with her - mostly with far too many traffic signs. My personal preference is to get rid of them all, and comprehensively apply "Living Streets" principles (no signs whatsoever, no pavements or kerbs, everything becomes shared spaces pavement ...) but perhaps that's not going to happen immediately. In the meantime, I see that the proposed location for the Town Sign is in the exact spot of an existing unnecessary sign - but it will be much higher, so will actually be decluttering things slightly. In the town sign background document, there's a whole section about the choosing of the location. Extracting just a small bit of this: "It has to be prominent and central but must not pose a

hazard or impede visibility for traffic, particularly high vehicles. It should not interfere with important market place activities such as market stalls. It needs to have space around it with no high objects (trees, buildings, posts) in the immediate vicinity, so that it stands on its own and can be fully appreciated from all sides. " I think the location chosen is excellent and certainly won't look cluttered.

Name supplied.

Town sign - 23/11/15

We don't need to spend money on a town sign. I'm afraid those involved will go ahead with it anyway even if folks don't wish it. So those involved can say " I made that happen". Think this is about " own self importance and not what the town needs.

There are areas in the Town that need an uplift much better to spend money on what town needs and not what we don't need. Money spent on homes that some low income families don't have income to tidy up their gardens support them in looking after outside of homes.

Money well spent.

Name supplied

TOWN SIGN - ANOTHER FOLLY?- 23/11/15

I did have to laugh out loud . It seems that the person who gave us our most iconic landmark in 1935 can be dismissed with a perfunctory "his contribution to the local community was slight". Berners also had to overcome his fair share of small-minded claptrap and ignorance when getting the Folly built. Thank goodness he succeeded. The town sign project looks like a very healthy consultative process to me, and I suggest that Mary Beck and her supporters at least read the very comprehensive background documents that have been prepared. These make it very clear - for example - that the schools will also be involved in the next stage - when the community chooses the themes and elements that should be included; those that best describe our identity - both historical and contemporary.

Dave C

Town sign...again.- 22/11/15

I also agree that Faringdon is far more than Lord Berners, the Pink Pigeons have their diver which is more than enough recognition for just one person who played only a small part of this town, Robert Heber-Percy also had weird ideas but none of them are held up as the raison-detre of Faringdon's existence.

I well remember that the council had big ideas for a Millennium clock back in 1999..... as you all know the town is still waiting for that to appear, so the chance of them getting a town sign sorted out by 2018 is slim.

Surely if there is to be a sign then the whole town should have a go at designing it and the whole town allowed a vote, and a simple vote at that not one that gets ignored because it doesn't suit some. Also there could be six different ones to welcome visitors on the roadsides leading into the town allowing six townfolk the chance of a little kudos.

Name supplied by a Faringdon resident of 63 years.

Town sign - 22/11/15

I have looked at the voting site. Why does the phrase "done and dusted" spring to mind? If the inhabitants of Faringdon were canvassed for their views why did nothing appear in the Folly newspaper? Why do I get the jpression that what we see is all smoke and mirrors? If the council unanimously agreed to the Pink Pigeons proposal why was it not reported in the Folly? How many members does the pink pigeons trust have, outside of the council representatives? Its stated aim is to bring Long Berners to the fore, so whatever the design it will be "eccentric". Is that what we Faringdonians want?

Mary Beck

Town Sign - 21/11/15

Have I got it wrong? I thought the vote was only for the shape of the the sign. The elements based on Faringdon's History will be chosen later- I'm sure with input from those in the town who are interested.

I can see on the examples- Civil War, the Folly, Old Town Hall, Portwell Pump, White Horse Hill, All Saints, fossils. Can't see anything to do with the mail - Coach and Horses, Faringdon trains.

Local Yokel

Town Sign - 21/11/15

I do have to agree with Mary, nothing more in the town centre please. The Pink Pigeons already have their diver to celebrate Lord Berners and the beautiful buildings speak for themselves.

By definition a Town Sign is put at the side of the road to welcome people to a town and usually marks the boundary, therefore we need about 6 of them.

The voting system for this seems as confusing as the voting for the diver was, which if I remember correctly was changed after voting had started.

This time its a choice of love it, like it, it's ok or not sure. Surely a simple tick against the ones you like and a cross against the ones you don't would make more sense or is there a concern that a favourite one won't be picked but if it has lots of 'not sure's' then they'll count as a 'oh well we'll take that as a yes then'.

Faringdon is a wonderful town with a lovely market place. Anything that detracts from that will be wrong.

Name supplied

Faringdon Sign - 21/11/15

I cannot but agree with Mary Beck. If we need to have a town sign it would be good to have an open competition in which a more diverse view of town history is illustrated and the entrants need not go via the conduit of a Lord Berners appreciation society. While Lord Berners may have been a diverting and amusing figure, his contribution to the local community was slight

and his personal eccentricities are not really representative of Faringdon's 800-year history as a market town.

Faringdon sign - 21/11/15

I hope that, since we have plenty of time, our democratically elected town council will, having agreed that a sign is a good idea, organise some sort of competition in which the many Faringdon groups, including the schools, can participate. Might I also suggest that the market square is cluttered enough as it is. Might I further suggest that there is a lot more to Faringdon than Lord Berners, and that 800 years as a market town, and thus as a thriving community, is much more worth celebrating.
Mary Beck

25 more houses on Fernham Road P15/V2649/O - 21/11/15

Land at Fernham Road Great Coxwell. Erection of 25 dwellings with open space and associated infrastructure
Target decision date 5th February 2016
<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P15/V2649/O>

TOWN SIGN & PINK PIGEONS - 20/11/15

Mary - on behalf of the Pink Pigeons, could I just say how much we enjoyed reading your WARTIME MEMORIES (http://www.faringdon.org/uploads/1/4/7/6/14765418/childrens_wartime_memories_mary_beck.pdf) - and I would thoroughly recommend it to others if you haven't read these memories yet. This is of course also an important part of Faringdon's more recent heritage & history, so let's make sure that this is also represented in anything that celebrates our identity.
Sjoerd Vogt

TOWN SIGN - WOW! - 20/11/15

Absolutely LOVE the idea of having a stunning Town Sign in the Market Place - to celebrate our 800 years. How appropriate! Embracing our wonderfully unique identity - our distinctiveness - especially if it combines the historical (and archeological) and contemporary. And I also think the four mock-ups are in their different ways all very attractive. Well done so far! Having read the thinking behind the four options (definitely recommended - see http://www.pinkpigeons.info/TOWN_SIGN_Images.pdf) it seems clear that the giratory ticks all the boxes. I can see it now. With people looking up, fascinated as it goes round. And the next day you catch different details. Great for children too. The Great Faringdon Giratory. Could be as spectacular an attraction as the Folly Tower, but slightly more accessible and always open!
So - after Roald Dahl's BFG comes the GFG . Love it.
But - hopefully we could also put the other mock-ups to good use for other purposes? Ideas anyone?
Mairead

Little Big Top - 20/11/15

Lovely to see the old fishmongers shop in use again. Looks like lovely things for children. Quality toys
Ed



New Sign - 20/11/15

The local authority covered all the bases with their new signage for 'The Hobble', just in case you weren't sure what it was called, as it appears to have four names.
Harry Lime

New Sign - 20/11/15

The local authority covered all the bases with their new signage for 'The Hobble', just in case you weren't sure what it was called, as it appears to have four names.
Harry Lime

Faringdon sign - 19/11/15

I think it's about time the pink pigeons had their wings clipped.
Mary Beck

SIGN FOR FARINGDON TO CELEBRATE 800 YEARS- 19/11/15

Ah, yes. 800 years. That was when they last resurfaced the roads.
Name supplied

AMAZING NEW TOWN SIGN IN MARKET PLACE! WHAT SHOULD IT LOOK LIKE?- 18/11/15

In just 28 months time - on the 7th March 2018 (yes - put the date in your diary) - Faringdon celebrates 800 years of its Market Charter! As part of the festivities, a new Town Sign will be unveiled in the Market Place (where else?) - celebrating Faringdon and all that it represents.
What do YOU think it should look like? YOUR views matter!
At this point, we're not deciding on the details - just the general direction. What should be the general shape? Should it be 2D or 3D? Should it be stationery or moving? You may have other ideas!

Go to www.pinkpigeons.info , where you will not only find full details (Background and Process Document - very comprehensive....) and mockups with explanations, but also a link to the Voting Page!

This initial public consultation will culminate in a presentation at the Town Open Meeting on Monday 18th January. DO discuss the Town Sign with friends, family, neighbours - and get them to vote! Your vote really matters Here's the link again: www.pinkpigeons.info
Pink Pigeons .

Knit Stitch Natter- 18/11/15

I would like to let everyone know that I have changed the name of Faringdon Knit and Natter at Night to Knit Stitch Natter. This is because there is already a group in Faringdon called the Faringdon Knit and Natter. They meet at the United Church each Monday (day time). They knit for the Shoe Box Charity.

Knit Stitch Natter are a group of women who work during the day and enjoy the knitting and want to extend their social network. I hope that keeps everyone happy and we don't have to worry about which group people are talking about.
Julie Farmer

Faringdon Library Junior Book Club.- 16/11/15

Calling all young readers who love reading about dragons! The next meeting of Faringdon Library's Junior Book Club for 8 to 12 year-olds takes place Saturday, 21st November at the library from 10.30 to 11.15. The theme will be dragons.

Come along and bring your favourite dragon book to share with other children. We will be talking dragons, reading dragons and drawing dragons!
Annette Farr

Hobble/Hobwell.- 16/11/15

I have made a Mistake, the Vale of White Horse Name plates read
The Hobble not Hobble Path.
Bill Law.

Hobble / Hobwell.- 15/11/15

I have observed that the footpath that runs from Southampton Street to Park Road has been given a Vale of White Horse name plates " HOBBLE PATH" at each end, but do we have the correct spelling?

I have recently looked at the 1939 registration record this refers to Hobwell Cottages, which I understood were beside the railway line and condemned and pulled down in the 1950s, when I googled Hobwell Faringdon it came up with a history record which confirmed the above about the cottages, I also spotted when the debate in 2008 about Tesco's coming to Faringdon that Tesco's boundary would end at the Hobwell.

Now I can quite understand that something written as HOBWELL when spoken with a Berkshire dialect could become HOBBLE..

Does it matter which spelling we have ?

Well I'm inclined to agree with Ray Wood who had something to say on the matter a few weeks ago, that we should not in this fast changing world lose any of old Faringdon.

Bye the Bye the street name Park Road does not appear to be that old, from what I can see on the 1939 Register it was Station Road leading to the Sands.

Moving on we have been doing some Family research and in the 1880s we had ancestors that lived in RED ROW, Gravel Walk. Can any body tell us which was RED ROW.

Bill Law.

Knit and Knatter- 14/11/15

I agree that it is good to have a choice as to whether you knit at night or in the afternoon, but why does the new group have to name their group so similar to that of the long established Faringdon Knit and Knatter Ladies Surely the night ladies could come up with something original.

Name supplied

Knitting Group-a suggestion - 14/11/15

Alternative Suggestion for New Knitting Group

Can I suggest "Purls Before Wine" as a name for the new group?

Mel Lane

South Central Ambulance Service- 14/11/15

What is your experience of the ambulance service.?

A quick survey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/7YCTWZK>

Sign Petition to keep 67 and 67A buses - 13/11/15

Residents of Stanford In The Vale and surrounding Villages between Wantage and Faringdon will be unable to travel without the use of the bus route 67 and 67A provided for by Thames Travel and paid for by Oxfordshire County Council. This is one of the major routes for local villagers and having it scrapped just for Budget Cuts will mean pensioners and other residents without use of own transport cant get out to do shopping or visit health care professionals, not to mention students of Faringdon Community College and Swindon College who use the 67 route to get to and from their studies on a weekday. Is this what we want? If not please club together and sign this petition so we can tell Oxfordshire County Council where to stick there cuts. This has also been sent to Ed Vaizey to help keep our service going. Change.org

Faringdon Knit & Natter (At Night) - 13/11/15

People will be confused as your facebook page is called simply 'Faringdon Knit & Natter' which is the exact name of the longstanding charity knitting group.

Perhaps 'Faringdon Nighttime Knit & Natter' or something similar would be more appropriate?

Why call it the name of the group we already have?

It would be like setting up a new group called 'Folly Dollies'.

Name supplied

Knit and Natter - 13/11/15

I've heard of a knitting group (elsewhere) called 'Stitch and Bitch'

Name Supplied

Faringdon Street names - 12/11/15

Thankyou to the two people who contacted me.

Elmtree Cottages - Off London st left just after old Fish and chip shop reaching a row of cottages

Pump Alley - Off London St right, just before Folly pub (after Skinners's alley)There was a pump at the Ferndale St end

Still looking for names of :

- The row of cottages on the left after the Gravel walk/Lechlade road roundabout- did they ever have a name?
- the row of cottages opposite the Duke of Wellington

red13car@yahoo.com

'Faringdon Knit and Natter at Night' - 12/11/15

.....is definitely us and we are part of a nationwide network of informal groups who meet to do just that. There is need for a group like this as many of us can't meet during the day but we all enjoy knitting and want to be able to meet to share our skills.

Faringdon Knit and Natter' are doing wonderful work and I hope no one is confused - it's great to have choices!

Name supplied

Does anyone know? - 11/11/15

The name of the alleys/lanes:

- Off London st left just after old Fish and chip shop reaching a row of cottages
- Off London St right, just before Folly pub (after Skinners's alley)

and

- The row of cottages on the left after the Gravel walk/Lechlade road roundabout- did they ever have a name?
- the row of cottages opposite the Duke of Wellington

Please post to this site or email red13car@yahoo.com

Faringdon's population - 11/11/2015

45 Households: 17 villagers. 12 smallholders. 16 slaves

When was this? Scroll down through '[Faringdon through history](#)' to find out

Ed

War on waste. Sign petitions - 11/11/15

Hugh Fearnley Whittingstall's campaign <https://wastenotuk.com/#signup>

More information on <https://twitter.com/hughswaronwaste> and [waste not tips](#) to reduce waste

<https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/help-reduce-the-major-scrutinising-of-farmers-veg-crops?bucket=kickopen>

Ed

Thames Valley Police. Neighbourhood update - 11/11/15

<http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/yournh/yournh-tvp-pol-area/yournh-tvp-pol-area-soxon-vowh/yournh-tvp-pol-area-n378>

Faringdon Knit & Natter- 11/11/2015

How fabulous that so much wonderful and charitable work has been done by the Faringdon Knit & Natter group. They've been working hard to fill shoe boxes and raise funds for the transport of them with events, time and dedication. They've been meeting every Monday in the United Church for many many years and have helped give a brighter Christmas to people who would otherwise receive nothing.

They've also provided companionship for many people who find such pleasure meeting there.

I was therefore suprised to hear that another group has set themselves up using the same name. I know Knit and Natter is a name used by lots of groups across the UK but surely two in the same town is rather unnecessary? I understand the

longstanding group did suggest the new one pick a different name but they didn't want to. Knit and Natter At Night was used for a while but now it's just Knit and Natter.

How confusing, when the old group hold another of their fundraising events who will people think they are supporting? I find this rather mean spirited after all the work the ladies have put in. They've kept the group going for years without the use of social media and that shouldn't go against them. It seems to me that because the original group aren't on facebook etc then they can't possibly exist!

So please, don't forget the lovely knitters in the United Church and the work they do for charity and please continue to support them.

Name Supplied.

Ferndale Community Choir- come and join us - 8/11/15

It's a good time to come and try out the choir- we've just sung at our very first performance at the Festival of Remembrance last evening, so now we'll be singing some well known favourites for a while- much more relaxed.

Do come along Wednesday 11th at Ferndale School, Bromsgrove, Only £2.50

We aim to start singing just after 7pm. The hall is open from 6.45pm

I'm sure you know you don't need any experience, or any ability to read music.

All that's needed is the desire to sing. Do give it a try, it's very spirit lifting

Louise is a super choir leader- very professional, and very encouraging

We have about 45 members altogether, with about 35 coming each week. It's a good mix of abilities and ages. And we have more than 10 men!

Let me know if you can, or just turn up

genewebb@rocketmail.com

The Faringdon Knit & Knatter Ladies- 7/11/15

The Faringdon Knit & Knatter Ladies would like to thank everyone who contributed a filled shoebox or items for the shoeboxes for the Link To Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal for Families and the Elderly. With your help we filled and paid the transport costs for 177 boxes.

Thank you.

Name Supplied

Your views needed- All Party Parliamentary Group on Primary Care and Public Health - 6/11/15

Managing health service demand has been perplexing and frustrating health professionals, economists and politicians for some time. Addressing this problem has largely focused on increasing funding, recruitment and developing new access points into the system, but should we do more to affect behavioural change, and concentrate on information, support and signposting?

More information <http://www.pagb.co.uk/appg/inquiry.html>

Short Survey : <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NAPPIquirySurvey>

The survey needs to be completed by the **end of Monday 23rd November**.

NAPP

Enough is enough- Don't cut care - 6/11/15

You will be aware from the local media of the threatened cuts to social care if the Chancellor makes the savings he has indicated he will make in the Local Authority funding settlement.

We are part of a campaign to say **Enough is enough – Don't Cut Care**. This campaign currently has a national focus, with the aim of influencing the government's spending plans. This email sets out the ways in which you can support the campaign:

Find out more about OCC's options for making savings and respond to the consultation

at <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/adult-social-care-1>

1. Sign the national Age UK Don't Cut Care petition and encourage as many other people as possible to do so – petition attached or at <http://www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire/>
2. Email or write to your MP outlining the impact of the potential savings on your life as a carer
3. Join a meeting of the Carers Voice Panel on **Wednesday 11th November, 1.00 – 3.00**, Level 2, The Charter, Abingdon, to have your voice heard. Please RSVP so that we can accommodate you: michelleevans@carersoxfordshire.org.uk

We believe we can make a difference with this campaign if enough people get involved and show this really matters to them.
Age UK

Free parking in the Vale - 6/11/15

People in the Vale of White Horse can once again take advantage of an entire day of free parking in the run up to Christmas. Motorists will be able to park for free in Vale of White Horse District Council car parks on the following days:

- Abingdon - all day on Saturday 28 November
- Faringdon - all day on Saturday 28 November
- Wantage - all day on Saturday 5 December.

The annual free parking tradition is provided by the district council in the run up to Christmas to encourage people to shop locally for their presents.

On the above days there's no need to display a ticket.

Cllr Eric Batts, Cabinet Member for HR and Technical Services at Vale of White Horse District Council, said: "The free parking tradition gives people a good incentive to hunt for presents locally. The free days in the Vale also coincide with local town Christmas celebrations so there'll be lots on in the town centres too."

See Festival of Remembrance Concert. Friday November 6th - 5/11/15

Faringdon & District Branch of the Royal British Legion invite you to their 4th Annual FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE to be held in All Saints' Church, Faringdon, on FRIDAY 6th NOVEMBER 2015 at 7.30pm.

Tickets at £5.00. each, are available from the

- T.I.C. Office, Corn Exchange, Faringdon, or
- J. Blake (01367 - 242277)

The evening will consist of music, singing and readings - a time of Celebration, Reflection and Remembrance.

All proceeds to the Poppy Appeal. All Saints Church

Radcot Bridge Closure - 5/11/15

When: Monday 9 November 2015 for approximately 4 weeks

Where: Radcot Bridge, between Radcot and Grafton Locks

What's happening: Radcot Bridge repair works

The works will involve a scaffold structure that will be arranged around the bridge arch

See https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/473299/Radcot_Bridge_repair_works.pdf

Closed 3 weeks from 16th November

TOP TIPS FOR WINNING THE 3 LEGGED FARINGDON CHARITY RACE- 5/11/15

FROM THE WHEATSHEAF TEAM

Step 1: Look for someone who is close to your height with a similar leg length.

Step 2 :If you're right-handed, choose a left-handed partner and vice versa, so you can both utilize your stronger side

Step 3: Ensure you are well watered

Step 4: Don't fall on your face!!!

Step 5: If none of the above work for you...JUST GO FOR IT....

This Saturday 7th November 'The Famous Faringdon 3 Legged Race' returns to town. Great local DJ 'rod', DISCO, DRINKS, GREAT LIGHT SHOW all night at The Wheatsheaf. Top tunes to '3 leg dance' the night away. Come and join

us www.facebook.com/TheWheatsheafFaringdon

Re: Faringdon Hum- 5/11/15

Somebody told me that the hum originates at the end of Park Road - it's generated when people see how much higher the price of fuel is compared with elsewhere, but I don't think that's true as the hum would only have been noticeable in the last couple of months.

Name Supplied

Faringdon Dramatic Society - 5/11/15

- hear Dave Headey talk about the forthcoming production of 'Living Together' in this weeks 'Swindon Live and Local' from Swindon 105.5. The interview is at about 1 hr 9 mins <https://soundcloud.com/sean-hodgson/l-l-shaun-buswell-and-faringdon-dramatic-society>

If you like the show please share.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Swindon-Live-Local-on-Swindon-1055/514943295213599?fref=ts>

Sean Hodgson

Re Faringdon hum- 4/11/15

Well boys, the hum is heard all over the world. there is a website where notifications have been mapped - we could add Faringdon if you like. I googled "humming noise".

Apparently not many people can hear the hum. It's usually people over 40, and is louder indoors than out. I, of course, cannot

hear it, hem hem.

Mary Beck

Re hum - 3/11/15

You could be right grumpy old man as a well travelled man it could be related to the native tounge of faringdon and nothing more serious.

D Grenfell

Re. Faringdon Hum.- 2/11/15

Interesting what Mary has posted about seismic waves. I have worked and travelled all over the world, and stay with family and friends all over the UK. I have only ever heard the hum in the Faringdon area. In the past, I have heard it in my garden for a whole day, as could my neighbour.

Regards,

Grumpy Old Man

Re Hum and Town Council - 1/11/15

If only it was the Faringdon Town Council that could decide where new housing and how much of it was appropriate for Faringdon. All they can do is comment. The Vale, as planning authority, decides- and they can ignore the town council as they wish- and they do.

Our 2 Vale councillors it seems, support what is good for the Vale Council, and what is good for their political party which is not necessarily what is good for Faringdon.

Local Yokel

Ref.Hum - 1/11/15

Could it be members of the town council deciding where to dump the next new builds hum..hum..hum

Clive Barton

Faringdon Hum - 31/10/15

Found this on the Independent website, dated 17th April 2015

However, the search for the truth could now be over as researchers claim that microseismic activity from long ocean waves impacting the sea bed is what makes our planet vibrate and produces the droning sound.

The pressure of the waves on the seafloor generates seismic waves that cause the Earth to oscillate, said Fabrice Ardhuin, a senior research scientist at Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique in France.

The continuous waves produce sounds lasting from 13 to 300 seconds. They can be heard by a relatively small proportion of people – who are sensitive to the hums – and also by seismic instruments.

“We have made a big step in explaining this mysterious signal and where it is coming from and what is the mechanism,” Ardhuin said of the study published in Geophysical Research Letters, a journal of the American Geophysical Union.

Mary Beck

Recycling centres - 31/10/15

The Consultation for the closure of some Recycling Centres has now closed but we will not know the outcome until Jan 2016.

Why do we have to wait nearly 4 months for the verdict. I don't expect a small comment from District Councillor Cox (Faringdon Folly) I expect his whole hearted support but we don't appear to be getting that. I must be getting old, because I expect our elected officials to be doing the best for us and that doesn't seem to be happening.

Old Faringdonian.

Consultation re Children's Services - Children's centre on list for closure - 30/10/15

Oxfordshire County Council have just launched a public consultation on the future arrangements for children's social care, including children's centres, early intervention hubs and the creation of new children and family centres. Please find a link to the consultation documentation, including the background information and the questionnaire itself [here](#). The consultation runs until 23.59 on 10 January 2016.

I would like to encourage you to be actively involved in the consultation by taking part in the consultation and encouraging others to do so too.

As part of the consultation process OCC would like to identify any potential impact of these proposals on individuals groups and communities. We would also like to identify options for the future use of the current portfolio of Children's Centres and Early Intervention Hubs, including how universal services could continue to be run without financial support from Oxfordshire County Council.

OCC are planning a range of activities to ensure active involvement in the consultation process. These activities will include three public meetings to discuss the proposals and gather the views of people in the north and south of the county, as well as in Oxford. Details of these meetings are as follows:

- Wednesday 18 November from 6 - 7.30 pm at Kings Centre, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0ES
- **Monday 23 November from 6 - 7.30 pm at Didcot Civic Centre, Britwell Road, Didcot, OX11 7JN**
- Monday 30 November from 6 - 7.30 pm at John Paul II Centre, Webb Court, Causeway, Bicester OX26 6AW

I look forward to receiving your input to the consultation. In the meantime, if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact the Transformation Team on eiservicesreview@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Councillor Melinda Tilley

Ed: Consultation ends 10th January 2016.

Re Faringdon Hum!- 30/10/15

The Hercules have caused noise problems to people living nearby but they didn't arrive at Brize until mid 2011 so I don't think they've been the cause for the noise which people say they've heard for the last 6-12 years.

I've lived at both ends of the town and I've never heard it!

Name Supplied

Re. Faringdon Hum. - 30/10/15

I forgot to mention that we live on the opposite side of Faringdon to Harding close, so the Transformer hum in Harding close is something completely separate and a long way from us. We hear a different noise, In the past, I have been out investigating the source of the hum at night, and have heard it some way north of Faringdon.

Grumpy Old Man

Re: Faringdon hum - 29/1/15

When walking up to Tesco yesterday I also heard an audible 'hum' that seemed to start when I got to the end of Harding close.

As I walked up the footpath towards the store it seemed to get louder so I thought I'd see where it was coming from. It was clearly coming from the electrical transformer station on park road opposite the new second 2 none garage.

The pitch of the hum was quite distinctive, some multiple of 50Hz at first guess which suggests some sort of resonance from

within the transformer cores inside the station. Possibly due to the load going through them at the time or suggesting that they need maintenance?

I don't know whether this is the same 'hum' that other people have noticed, the one that I heard was definitely coming from the transformer station. Given that it was a low frequency noise, it will be quite penetrating which would make sense that it is heard around the town rather than just directly around park road.

In terms of fixing the problem, I guess this can only really be done by SSE, National Grid or whoever maintains the site. Just thought I'd mention as it wasn't something I'd heard until people mentioned it on here. I can only sympathise with those people who have to listen to it every day!

Name supplied

Re. Faringdon Hum - 29/10/15

As someone who has suffered from the dreaded Faringdon Hum (my wife can't hear it but some of my neighbours can), I have checked with a map and compass when it is at it's worst at night and it is coming from the North of Faringdon.

I firmly believe it is caused by the RAF Hercules aircraft which are running for hours at Brize Norton.

The prop engines cause a low level resonance which can be heard for miles. It is especially noticeable on cold still nights. I have heard it on and off for six years and was at it's worst during the time when the RAF were flying to Afghanistan regularly. I have read and seen in the news that they have had lots of noise complaints from people living in Brize and Carterton. Grumpy Old Man.

RE: O2 signal declining - 29/10/15

That is interesting Robert, I always had excellent coverage even in the cellar. The router and phones have not changed, but the phone is getting older -- Ah Ha! A wicked conspiracy to get me to update my phone!
Mike.

Halloween at The Folly- It will be spooky - 29/10/15

Saturday 31st October

Climb the Tower at Night.

Scary music and noises, weird lights, scary character

5pm- 8pm

Adults £2, 11-16s £1, under 11s 50p

RE: O2 signal declining - 29/10/15

For what it is worth Mike I have found the contrary to you in that lately O2 has got a lot better in Faringdon. I seem to get 4 bars consistently anywhere around the town and more importantly I finally get 3G everywhere. I know that the latest whizzy thing is 4G but to have good 3G in the area is a massive improvement. If it helps I am using an Iphone 5. Have you tried your sim in another phone? It could also be your wireless router's position in the house and cordless phones hindering things a little?
Robert Perkins

Re: mysterious hum- 28/10/15

....worth googling the various sites and then try www.thehum.info/ Where you will see that most occasions of this around the world are more prolific in the UK...apparently only 1 in 50 can pick up this noise....however the cause is not my girlfriends snoring :)

Allan Barrow

Faringdon Hum - 28/10/15

I hear this all the time but my husband doesn't. We've lived here just over 4 years, firstly over on Coach Lane where I thought it was very strong, and now over on Folly View Road where it is less intense. Some days I don't hear it which is lovely but that doesn't happen very often!

I know people have said previously it might be from Brize but I'm not sure that is the source. I've lived on two busy RAF military bases and have never experienced this before. I don't really know what could be causing it, would be great to find out!

Julie Griffiths

Proposed flats above the African Childrens Fund Charity Shop - 27/10/15

Planning application for conversion of offices to 2 flats.

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P15/V2473/FUL>

Permission was given in June 2012, but the 3 year period has expired, so this is a resubmission. I can see no mention of parking. Comment by 26th November

Ed

Harding Close Humming - 27/10/15

My wife and I live in Harding Close, and have for the past twelve years been plagued by a persistent low frequency humming noise that never stops day or night. Does anybody else hear or feel this noise in this area or anywhere else in the town, I would be interested to know. And also any suggestions (sensible ones please) as to what might be the source.

Antony Fox

O2 signal declining - 27/10/15

O2 signal strength seems to be on a major decline. When I first joined, it was wonderful, full coverage all over Faringdon, now not so good. Zero signal at the front of the house, 4 bars max in the garden.

according to O2 everything is marvelous, my phone says not.

wazzup?

Mike

Go Active Gold - 27/10/15

In 2014 South Oxfordshire and Vale of the White Horse District Council's Leisure Team consulted with you as part of our Community Sport Activation funding application.

We would like to share with you the good news that we have been successful and have been awarded £227,000 from Sport England

Thank you very much to each of you for taking the time in completing our consultation in 2014.

GO Active GOLD, will be a three year project, launching 1 December 2015 and is aimed at increasing participation in sport and physical activity for people aged 60+ living in 70 rural villages across both districts.

There will be more information regarding the project on our website in the next month. If you are interested in getting involved (e.g. deliver activities, join a steering group meeting, promote the project locally, offer advice on how to target this audience) then please get in contact with the GO Active GOLD Coordinators:

Hendriette Knouwds

South Oxfordshire District Council, 135 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park, Milton, Abingdon, OX14 4SB

Receive the monthly GO Active newsletter straight to your inbox, just visit our website to sign up:

www.getoxfordshireactive.org

Thames Valley Police Alert - 27/10/15

A man and a woman have been sentenced for drugs supply offences in Faringdon.

James Redman, aged 24, of Catkins Close, Faringdon, and Sophie Humphrey, also aged 24, of the same address as Redman, were convicted of possession with intent to supply a class B controlled substance – cannabis, at Oxford Crown Court.

Redman and Humphrey pleaded guilty to the offence at the hearing on Thursday (22/10).

Redman was sentenced to 15 months' imprisonment and Humphrey received a 12-month prison sentence, suspended for two years, a 12-month supervision order and was ordered to attend a course.

At around 9am on 17 December last year officers discovered a large quantity of cannabis at a property in Catkins Close, Faringdon. Some of the drugs were separated into around 40 deal bags, which displayed a small dog logo on the side.

Similar distinctive bags had previously been found on several children aged under 16 in Faringdon.

Cash totalling approximately £1,400 was also found at the property and various lists containing names and numbers were also located. The court has also ordered the confiscation of the £1,400.

Redman was arrested on 17 December and Humphrey was voluntarily interviewed. They were charged with the offence on 24 July 2015.

PC Robert Maris, from Faringdon police station, said: "The sentencing of Redman and Humphrey sends a strong message to those who chose to engage in criminal activity in our area - we will work with our neighbourhood and partner agencies to disrupt, frustrate and ultimately prosecute you.

"Drug dealing has been proven to pose a threat of risk and harm to the most vulnerable members of society and we will continue to act on and develop information we receive from our community.

"Whilst this prosecution was the result of a piece of good, proactive policing by PC Chris Linzey, the Faringdon Neighbourhood Team has also conducted a number of drugs warrants in the past 12 months, significantly disrupting the supply of drugs in the area.

"I would encourage our neighbourhood to continue to report suspicious behaviour to us or to Crimestoppers, with the confidence that working with resources across the South and Vale, robust action will be taken."

Proposed Faringdon Sensory Garden Project - 26/10/15

Further to my recent post, I'm keen to engage with local groups who would use the garden. I need to be able to convince potential sources of funding that the garden is wanted and that it will be visited so now is the time to shout up!

I'm especially interested in hearing from you as to how you feel the garden could benefit local groups or individuals.

Are you a carer, parent or support-worker? Do you have a disability or have special needs or depression?

Would you use or visit it? What would be important for you? Would it be a regular trip to visit it? Would you see your group getting involved in maintaining it or helping to design elements of it? Do you see yourself just going for a stroll in it and having a cup of tea while you're there or is it somewhere where you could envisage taking someone else such as a small child or someone who doesn't get out much due to a disability?

What would you like to do when you're there? Do a bit of weeding, plant some seeds, sit on a bench and read a book or just lie on the grass cloud watching? What about having a picnic with friends or family?

The Town Council are very keen to see the project proceed and this is an important opportunity for you to help me plan it to meet as many local needs as possible.

There is a Facebook page for you to stay up to date at <https://www.facebook.com/faringdonsensorygarden> and if you'd like to lend your practical support, please email me at faringdonsensory@icloud.com

This is a lot of money and a big time commitment; its important I get it right and I need you to help me. I can't emphasise enough how valued your opinion is to this project.

Best wishes

Mel Lane

Rotary Youth Leadership Award- 26/10/15

Are you or do you know of a young adult aged between 18 and 25 who may be interested in taking part in our Rotary Youth Leadership Award? The course takes place at a specially adapted centre in the Snowdonia National Park, North Wales.

The week long course is about developing qualities of leadership, team working, initiative, communication and problem solving including activities such as abseiling, navigation, canoeing, sailing, high ropes. Faringdon Rotary have sponsored one or two participants for the past few years who have returned full of confidence having had an amazing and fun experience.

This is a fantastic opportunity to have fun, learn leadership skills and impress future employers/universities. The experience will look great on the young person's CV or UCAS application and can help towards the Gold Duke of Edinburgh award. The next programme takes place from 16 – 23 July 2016. Candidates must have reached 18 years of age on the first day of the course.

To find out more or if you know anyone who might be interested please message us on Facebook, visit our website or email: jdnightingale@hotmail.co.uk

Faringdon & District Rotary Club can be found at: www.facebook.com/faringdon.rotary

Website: www.faringdonrotaryclub.co.uk

Grundon Planning application - 25/10/11

Comment by 29/10/11

[Application documents](#)

*Section 73 application to **vary condition 3** of planning permission no. MW.0134/14 to require cessation of the development for the importation of materials together with operations for the blending of imported and indigenous quarried materials, removal of all buildings, plant, machinery or structures and their foundations and bases together with any hardstandings and complete restoration of the site by 30th September 2016*

Inspection- South Central Ambulance service - 24/10/15

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) will be inspecting the NHS 111 services at South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS) from the 11-13 November 2015. As part of the inspection they have asked us to pass a request for information on to our members and members of the public.

If you have used the NHS 111 service in SCAS coverage area (Beds, Luton area; Bucks – excluding Milton Keynes*; Berks, Oxon. Hants) please could you share your experience of the service with the CQC by using their online 'Share Your Experience' form at <http://www.cqc.org.uk/share-your-experience-finder> or by telephoning 03000 616161. If you haven't used the NHS 111 service, please can you forward the request to your family members (if applicable), organisation etc.

Please include the CQC's reference number INS1-2203669893 in any letter or email sent with the information.

Deadline: Friday 6th November.

Faringdon is expensive. - 23/10/15

Had to do some repairs to my Dad's hose this week and bought a tube of "Gripfill" to do the job in the local shop at St Ann's Chapel in the South Hams. Very rural Devon. Cost £2.55.

Bought a Kilner jar at Davis DIY in the town today and last year in Modbury one cost me just over £5.00. Davis price £5.99 and

the Gripfill was an astonishing £3.99!

Wish I had bought the Kilner jar down there as well now. That is more than 50% more for the same product. I knew Faringdon was expensive but really. AS for the Esso, profiteering or what.

Colin Eddy

Have your say on Oxfordshire's budget savings options - 23/10/15

As government reduces funding to local government, Oxford county council has to continue to make budget savings. At the same time demand for our services is increasing, partly due to our ageing and growing population, and increasing demand for children's social care services is going up. The council has already saved – or has plans to save – a total of £292 million between 2010/11 and 2017/18.

We now think we will need to save up to £50 million more in the four years between 2016/17 and 2019/20. As a result the council will have to make some tough decisions. Some county council services will be reduced and some may stop altogether. The services left will be targeted at those who really depend on them – particularly children at risk of abuse and neglect, and adults who cannot look after themselves.

See the budget savings options and have your say (<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/budget-201617>)

ED: Public meetings in Oxford, Wallingford and Banbury have been arranged.

Stanford pit closure - 23/10/15

The proposed closure of Stanford recycling centre featured on both BBC Radio Oxford (<https://youtu.be/awhdQSNiD0A>) and BBC South Today Oxford (<https://youtu.be/-puzhZw7xQ4>) on Thursday (22 Oct). View the South Today clip first, then listen to two District Councillors give precisely the evidence about increased fly-tipping this closure will cause which Oxon County Council claims doesn't exist.

Tom Allen-Stevens

ED Petition now at 1204.

https://www.change.org/p/oxfordshire-oxfordshire-county-council-opposition-to-proposed-closure-of-stanford-recycling-centre?recruiter=99722760&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=copylink

New Air Quality website - 23/10/15

Oxfordshire residents are able to see real-time information about the air quality across the county thanks to a new website. The website, www.oxfordshire.air-quality.info launches this week and provides hourly updates about the level of harmful pollutants in the air and historic data, allowing residents to see trends. It is the first time the information has been brought together on one easy-to-use website.

Proposed Faringdon Sensory Garden - 22/10/15

Last night I was able to present a proposal to the Recreation and Open Spaces Committee of Faringdon Town Council. My proposal is to build a Sensory Garden in Faringdon at the site known as the Willes Close Triangle. I have proposed that the triangle piece of land adjacent to the charmingly nicknamed “dog excrement” alley (but actually called The Hobble which runs from Tesco/Park Road through to Southampton Street) be redeveloped for this purpose.

A purpose built and designed garden aimed primarily at Dementia and Alzheimers residents in particular with nostalgic planting (roses, marigolds, pansies etc.), but also those locals with special needs, those who are sensory impaired or disabled in some way as well as those of us who would appreciate a beautiful environment to walk around and sit and enjoy.

In 2018, Faringdon has two very important milestones in its history. The 800 year anniversary of it being granted a town charter and the end of the Great War with the loss of 87 local men. I have an idea that it should be designed as an Edwardian garden with elements linking it to the places where Faringdon's servicemen were deployed or which had a specific link to the conflict itself, e.g. planting a hornbeam tree as this was used to build gun carriages or rosemary bushes for memory, its antiseptic qualities and the fact it grows well in the Mediterranean where our soldiers fought and died. The sensory element comes in as the garden will be zoned into areas (taste, scent, touch, sound, sight) and the planting will reflect these too, e.g. ferns in the touch zone, honeysuckle in the scent zone, herbs in the taste zone etc.)

The design also includes an open air performance space for outdoor concerts or plays and a small café where you can buy light refreshments, heat up baby-food and borrow a trowel to tidy up a bed. Raised flower beds will be designed to look and feel like the sandbagged trenches and artwork to reflect carrier pigeons, “war horses” and the dreaded rats. It's hoped that the educational aspects of the site in terms of garden, WW1 and local history will appeal to the many youth groups and schools in the area.

The town council committee were unanimously behind the proposal and see if it as significant benefit to Faringdon; I know it is a major project, it will cost around £250k to do and take a couple of years to deliver but there is simply nothing like it for many miles around.

There is one major risk to this project currently. Access needs to be planned and agreed as without it, reaching it on foot will be difficult for many. We need a small parking area and access for emergency vehicles. At present, we are only looking at how this

can be achieved via the Park Road side of the land.

If I can resolve the access issue, I will need your help. I will need people to research which plants and trees should be planted, people who work with the elderly or special needs to tell us about their sensory needs, people with babies to talk to us about changing facilities, people who are keen gardeners, people who are good at paperwork or fundraising.

This is a project aimed at our whole community. A garden like this will touch everyone and will last for many generations. It will be a special place.

I sincerely hope I can count on the Faringdon community to help us to deliver this project. I will keep posting updates on how we're getting on with access.

There is a Facebook page for you to stay up to date at <https://www.facebook.com/faringdonsensorygarden> and if you'd like to lend your practical support, please email me at meljlane@me.com

Best wishes

Mel Lane

LIVE AT THE PARK - FANTASTIC NEWS - 19/10/15

Thanks to our volunteers, sponsors and the great people of Faringdon who supported 'Live at the Park' this year, we have been able to support local charities and groups with donations totalling over £2000. At last night's meeting we confirmed our good causes this year would be.

Faringdon Pre-School

FAZE Youth Club

The Faringdon War Memorial Fund

Faringdon Beavers, Cubs & Scouts

Faringdon Rainbows, Brownies & Guides

Oxfordshire Fire Fighters

We're beginning the fundraising for Live at the Park 2016!!!

So please keep these dates for your diary.

Saturday 5th December 2015 – Race Night

Thursday 18th February 2016 – Bingo

Saturday 5th March 2016 – Question of Sport Quiz Night

Sunday 1st May 2016 – 5K Fun Run (morning) - Fun Dog Show, (afternoon)

Full details to follow, so please keep an eye open and spread the word.

CALLING ALL YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHERS - 19/10/15

Are you interested in competing in the Rotary Young Photographer competition?

Age groups 7-10 11-13 14-17

Theme: "OUR WORLD IS BEAUTIFUL" Prints in black & white or colour

FREE WORKSHOP FOR REGISTERED ENTRANTS

ENTER NOW Registration by 5th December 2015

For information pack contact: Paul Rogers, Faringdon Rotary email: rotaryyp2016@aol.com

Saturday Market and Apple Day- 18/10/15

How lovely to see the town buzzing with people. Loved the hurdy gurdy too

Local Yokel

Stanford Pit petition

https://www.change.org/p/oxfordshire-oxfordshire-county-council-opposition-to-proposed-closure-of-stanford-recycling-centre?recruiter=99722760&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=copylink

Now at 1178

Community Grants from Tesco - 18/10/15

Communities across England, Wales and Scotland will soon be able to apply for up to £12,000 for local green space projects thanks to a new grant scheme being launched with the proceeds generated from the sale of carrier bags by Tesco. It is anticipated that there will be two funding rounds per year over the next three years. The first funding round opens on 19 October 2015 and will close at noon on 27 November 2015. The scheme is open to community groups, charities and some public sector organisations and will fund capital improvement projects such as parks, play areas, community gardens and other green spaces.

The scheme is managed by environmental charity Groundwork.

The grants programme will be open to voluntary/community organisations, registered charities, health bodies, Parish/Town councils, local authorities and housing organisations. It will fund capital projects that provide community benefit and have free and open access to all members of the community for a minimum of six days a week, during daylight hours. <http://www.groundwork.org.uk/News/tesco-local-community-scheme>

Vote for Faringdon girl to win BEST OF BRITISH Unsigned Female Artist - 17/10/15

The vote for Best Unsigned Female Artist 2015 takes place at www.bobunsigned.com Vote Closes Sun 18th
Anna Zed is the artistic name of 23 year-old student Anna Zinovieff Papadimitriou. She spent the first years of her life in Faringdon and then moved to Greece - her father's country. Last year, she and her parents returned to live in Faringdon. She writes and performs her own songs and often uses whatever comes to hand for sound effects: slamming doors, cutlery, moving trains, heartbeats, hairbrushes and the human breath. She released her debut EP 'Minds Like Trees' earlier this year which has already been featured on BBC Introducing and numerous radio stations.

BoB Unsigned is the UK's number one website for 'Unsigned Music' and supplies a weekly radio show to 70FM stations in 15 countries.

The result depends solely on public vote, so vote now for Anna to win Best Unsigned Female Artist of the Year!

The vote for Best Unsigned Female Artist 2015 takes place at www.bobunsigned.com Vote Closes Sun 18th

Follow Anna on Facebook and Twitter

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/annazedmusic>

Twitter: @Annazed

Website: <http://www.annazed.info/>

Listen: <https://soundcloud.com/annazedmusic/im-falling-anna-zed>

Tesco Local Community Scheme launches 19 October 2015 - 17/10/15

We're delighted to announce that the money raised from the 5p bag charge in Tesco stores in the UK will be used to pay for a large number of local projects to improve green spaces in communities right across the UK. Projects that will get the green light as a result of the funding will include building new pocket parks, sports facilities, woodland walks and community gardens. Groundwork will administer the funding and we will be working with greenspace scotland to support successful projects in Scotland.

The first funding round of the programme opens for applications across England, Wales and Scotland on 19 October 2015 and will close on 27 November 2015 at 12 noon. This will be your first chance to submit an application for a grant of up to £12,000 to create better and happier places where you live, although there will be two funding rounds per year over the next three years.

<http://www.groundwork.org.uk/News/tesco-local-community-scheme>

Petition for Stanford Waste Site - 16/10/15

If you value the Stanford Tip, please don't forget to sign the petition:

https://www.change.org/p/oxfordshire-oxfordshire-county-council-opposition-to-proposed-closure-of-stanford-recycling-centre?recruiter=99722760&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=copylink

And ask friends and family to sign too!

Name Supplied

ED: 1161 supporters so far

Look Out for Father Christmas & Thomas the Tank Engine- 16/10/15

Saturday 28 November – Faringdon Market Square, Lights-On

Monday/Tuesday 30 November/01 December - Watchfield

Wednesday 2 December - Faringdon (Orchard Hill, Westland Road, The Pines)

Thursday/Friday 3/4 December - Shrivenham

Saturday 5 December – Faringdon (Bloor Estate)

Monday/Tuesday 7/8 December - Southmoor & Kingston Bagpuize

Wednesday 9 December – Faringdon (Health Centre, Sandshill, Marlborough Gardens, Folly View)

Thursday 10 December - Uffington, Fernham, Little Coxwell

Friday 11 December – Longcot

Saturday 12 December – Faringdon (Stanford Road, Nursery View, Tuckers Road, Berners Way, Harding Close etc)

Monday 14 December – Stanford-in-the-Vale

Tuesday 15 December – Stanford-in-the-Vale & Shellingford

Thursday 17 December – Hatford & Buckland

Friday 18 December - Clanfield

Monday 21 December – Faringdon (Coleshill Drive, Fernham Road, Fernham Gate & Great Coxwell)

Rotary Club of Faringdon & District

IN CONCERT - LUKE JACKSON & AMY WADGE- 15/10/15

TICKETS NOW ON SALE to see AMY WADGE & LUKE JACKSON on Friday January 22 January in the Corn Exchange, Faringdon.

Fans of ED SHEERAN will already be aware of Amy - she co wrote 'Thinking Out Loud' and is the Amy in his EP 'Songs I Wrote With Amy'.

Luke has performed in Faringdon before so it's really exciting to welcome him back again.

There is a facebook page if people want to learn more about

them <https://www.facebook.com/#!/events/1493538490942110/?fref=ts>

or you can visit their own websites:

<http://amywadge.com/>

<http://lukepauljackson.com/>

TICKETS £12.00 available from The Box Office at The Quad Tea & Coffee Rooms (old Barclays Bank) or from wegottickets <http://www.wegottickets.com/event/335959>

Val Sansford

From one pines resident etc...- 14/10/15

O.K. I exaggerated about the size of the space... Although kerb mounting was never a prospect in our specific incident.

The real issue here is the cause of both of us losing our cool - the difficulties caused to residents in particular by a road that was never intended to handle the peak volumes of traffic. I have never understood the risk analysis (if indeed there ever was one) which led to the closing of an available largish car in preference to the resulting chaos and very real danger to Faringdon's young children that we have lived with for the past several years. I have lived on the Pines for 25 years without problems until the closure of said car park.

The sooner the reorganisation and relocation of Faringdon's schools takes place the better - hopefully before there is serious injury or worse.

Tony Tarry

Pump House flag - 13/10/15

I believe the Royal British Legion take responsibility for this. I'm sure it will be replaced before Remembrance Day. I do agree it looks very forlorn at the mo.

Green Witch

From one Pines resident to another...- 13/10/15

Yes it is very frustrating trying to get on and off our estate at school pick-up/drop off times...the parking at these times is horrendous , it is only a matter of time before a child will be injured.

but as you say that doesn't excuse us from being polite and courteous (and I also apologise for my irate tone during our brief meeting).

but I do not agree with you that a BUS could get into the gap you suggest, having driven buses for 30 years plus I think I would know that!!!!

I refuse to damage my car mounting the pavement, as this is also not in the highway code.

Barry Grey

Lloyds Bank- 12/10/15

Has Lloyds Bank yet realised they are the only Bank in town and need to put more staff on to accommodate people of Faringdon.

This morning queue in there was ridiculous and only 2 staff.

This Bank frustrates me I never been in there yet where there are enough staff.

Faringdon needs another Bank

Name supplied

From one Pines resident to another.- 12/10/15

I have lived on The Pines for many years and have encountered this problem, coupled with rudeness, many times, even being told I should not try and drive up Canada Lane whilst the school children are arriving/ departing. Apparently many of the drivers of these cars bringing their off spring to School think the road belongs to them and politeness and being courteous is totally forgotten .Time for 5 minute walking zone to be introduced.

Name Supplied.

News from White Horse Medical Practice - 12/10/15

At the end of October, Dr Liz Dickson will be leaving the White Horse Medical Practice. She has been commuting from Bristol one day a week and has helped us through our transition phase post-merger. We will be very sorry to see her go, but

understand that she would like to work closer to home.

WHMP

Ed: More news from the practice in the Autumn Newsletter

Esso Acorn in Faringdon.- 12/10/15

How come the Esso has suddenly become so expensive? The pump prices used to be 1-2p a litre more than Swndon, now about 4p! Fuel is cheaper in Oxford and even Carterton is cheaper now and it never used to be. How come Euro Garages at enquiries@eurogarages.com who own the site are now so expensive? Profiteering? Taking my custom elsewhere as plenty of cheaper outlets to choose from.

Colin Eddy

Union Flag on the Pump House - 12/10/15

The next time the town council have a bit of spare cash can I suggest a new Union flag for on top of the Pump House?.

Looking across from the Bell this afternoon it looked a little forlorn.

Name Supplied

Faringdon Apple Day - 12/10/15

To Support Faringdon Apple Day & Market on Saturday 17th October,

The Wheatsheaf Freehouse is offering FREE tasting of our new Aspalls Harry Sparrow Cider, Strongbow Cider & Ales on Saturday 17th 12 midday to close www.facebook.com/TheWheatsheafFaringdon

We look forward to seeing you. 5 London Street, Faringdon, Oxon SN7 7AE

Geoff Robbins

From one Pines resident to another...- 12/10/15

-Yes it's very frustrating trying to get to or from our houses at school arrival/departure times...

but that doesn't excuse us from

-being polite and courteous (and I apologise for my irate tone during our brief meeting)

-respecting the rules of the road

-Not everyone who has the temerity to impede your travel down Canada Lane is a non-resident parking to pickup/drop off his/her progeny. (I was trying to get off the estate to visit my doctor).

-and even if they are, it still doesn't excuse the 'respect the rules of the road' bit, especially as it would have taken longer for me to perform the manoeuvre that you seemed to think was incumbent on me to perform than for you to move into the bus sized gap on between parked cars on your side of the road.

Name supplied

Oxfordshire Advocacy - 12/10/15

Oxfordshire Advocacy is an Oxfordshire based charity providing a free, confidential and independent advocacy service. OA supports people to say what they want, to secure their rights and services and to represent their interests.

An advocate will argue your case for you, or help you to speak up for yourself, so that your views are heard and taken into account.

Advocates support people to write letters, make telephone calls, research information, attend meetings and appointments.

An advocate will work in a one-to-one partnership with the person whom s/he supports.

Fully-trained staff and volunteers provide the advocacy service for all adults including older people, those with dementia and/or those with learning difficulties, mental health needs, physical needs and with sensory impairment.

We work in the community, care homes and hospitals

We support people with a huge range of issues including getting access to the right services, housing issues, finance & employment issues, medical or health issues or making a complaint.

Tel: 01865 741200 oadg@oadg.org.uk

Barton Neighbourhood Centre, Underhill Circus, Headington

www.gettingheard.org

Faringdon Library Junior Book Club - 11/10/15

The Junior Book Club is up and running. Children between 8 and 11 who love to read and explore books are welcome this Saturday 17th October 10.30 to 11.15 am at the library. Look forward to meeting old - and new - members!

Annette Farr

Halloween and Bonfire Night - 10/10/15

The Folly Halloween event is always on 31st Oct, Halloween night, irrespective of what day of the week that is. The Fireworks are always on the nearest Saturday before 5th November. Every 6 or 7 years there is a clash. Halloween at the Folly starts at 5pm

Folly Friend

Joined up thinking??- 9/10/15

Shame that the Fireworks display and the Halloween Folly Tower evening are on at the same time. Both are activities which my children love. Maybe better planning next time, so they are not on at the same time!!!!

Grumpy Old Man

Wicklesham Quarry - 9/10/15

If the landowner is genuinely willing to sell the land for the purpose of conserving its geo and biodiversity as community, educational, scientific and environmental resources, rather than endlessly trying to concrete it over, then we can constructively look into how this can be done. There are resources and people who are more than willing to help save this fantastic site for the people of Faringdon and the wider community.

The claim that Faringdon needs a 20 acre industrial warehousing site has been lost. Attempts to justify it have been exploded by people who have actually read the FNP documents-(which most of the councillors apparently have not). The 4&20 site now has an application for housing to go on most of what will remain- although it is B- use land.

In my view, what Faringdon needs is to work on what we already have to maximise combined social, economic and environmental benefits. That is what the NPPF advocates- not endless urban expansion into open countryside while the centre of the town dies. So if 'name supplied' is actually serious, then let us know.

Anna Hoare

Faringdon Apple Day and Market - 7/10/15

On Saturday October 17th, Faringdon Free Food will be celebrating all things 'appley' in the town centre. Together with an apple themed market, there will be apple pressing, apple bobbing, toffee apples, apple crumble and cakes and a host of other community groups joining us in the marketplace. The town centre will exhibit the artwork of local children with the best being awarded prizes. Come and join us, and bring your apples, and bottles too, if you want to take your juice home!

Faringdon Apple Day and Market, Saturday October 17th, 10.00am-1.00pm in the Marketplace Faringdon.

Town Team

Become a Dementia Friend - 7/10/15

Come to a Dementia Friends Information Session to learn a little more about what it is like to live with dementia and turn that understanding into action

October 22nd, 18.00-19.00

White Horse Medical Practice, Faringdon

Enq 01367 870665

<https://www.dementiafriends.org.uk/>

We need YOU at the READTHROUGH of Faringdon Dramatic Society's next pantomime! - 7/10/15

Faringdon Dramatic Society's next pantomime is ...Happily Ever After ...? By Helen Thrower & Verity Roberts

Are you age 9 and over - there's NO upper age limit!

Do you sing?

Do you dance?

Do you act?

Come down on Tuesday 13th October, 8pm onwards (adults and children) to the United Church, Coxwell Street, Faringdon.

Children Year 5 and above (9 years and over) only.

New members always welcome.

Re: Wicklesham Quarry - an 'amazing opportunity' for Faringdon - 7/10/15

Who will buy the land in which the quarry sits and then develop a GeoPark! Council tax payers?

Name Supplied

Wicklesham Quarry - an 'amazing opportunity' for Faringdon.- 7/10/15

Mark Jones posted the following comment yesterday:

"This site is geologically world famous and the Faringdon Sponge Gravels are unique and very worthy of careful preservation.

The deposits have been exploited as a building material for many years and it is pleasing that this last working quarry is closing.

It provides the town with a unique opportunity to develop a GeoPark which would create both local and national interest. Having

taught geology for more than 34 years I know what an amazing opportunity this presents."

You can read and sign the petition at:

https://www.change.org/p/faringdon-town-council-the-vale-of-white-horse-district-council-and-secretary-of-state-greg-clark-protect-wicklesham-quarry-from-development?just_created=true

A copy is also still available in the library until the end of the week.

Anna Hoare

Faringdon Job Club - 6/10/15

Faringdon Job Club is moving to Tuesday mornings at Faringdon Library. 11am till 1pm. Tea and Coffee served.

Please let us know if you're coming.

Either phone or pop into the library, (01367 240311) or use our contact page on faringdonjobclub.co.uk.

We offer help with CV's, applications, finding work. etc

Audrey Curnock

Grants for carers - 6/10/15

Carers grants are changing

The Care Act 2014 outlines how care and support should be provided in England and came into effect on 1 April 2015.

All young, parent and adult carers are now entitled to a carer's assessment.

[More details on the leaflet](#) on the White Horse Practice patient group website.

Stanford Recycling petition - 6/10/15

https://www.change.org/p/oxfordshire-oxfordshire-county-council-opposition-to-proposed-closure-of-stanford-recycling-centre?recruiter=45864606&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=facebook&utm_campaign=share_page&utm_term=des-lg-share_petition-no_msg

973 signatories

White Horse Practice Newsletter available - 6/10/15

WHMP Patient Group produces a news letter 3 times a year. This new edition has information about:

Flu jabs

Emergency appointments

Building changes update

Research Trials

New website and wifi

Becoming Dementia friendly

Carers register

Hearing tests

Shingles vaccination

Online appointments booking

You can see it on <http://www.whitehorsepracticeppg.org.uk/news--your-views.html> or collect one from the Health Centre. It is available in various places around Faringdon and the villages.

Garden Recycling- Brown Bins - 6/10/15

Residents wanting to get one last bit of gardening in before the cold really takes hold should get out this weekend to make the most of the extra garden waste collections the councils are offering.

South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse district councils collect garden waste from customers' doorsteps every fortnight for composting and in the autumn and spring they offer to pick up extra when there's lots of gardening to do. This year their garden waste customers in South Oxfordshire can put an extra-large collection out during the week of **12 October**, and in the Vale the week of **19 October**. They'll be able to put out **one extra bins' worth** of garden waste in sacks or reusable bags (but not trade bags) on their usual collection day – they just need to make sure they're open so the crew can see what's in there.

For more information, please visit www.southoxon.gov.uk/gardenwaste or www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/gardenwaste.

Stanford Recycle Consultation ends 5/10- 5/10/15

Reminder that OCC's consultation on their proposed waste strategy closes today Monday 5th October.

If you want comment on the proposals you can do so

here: <https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/HWRCstrategy/consultationHome>

Please make your views known!

on behalf of AGSR 'A Group of Stanford Residents'

Name Supplied

Park Road Roundabout - 5/10/15

An old moan but one that is seriously needing something done (hopefully with the A420 site plans).

It may be the rain and the darkness but now getting out of Faringdon in the morning is crazy. Even at 7:00 you get no let up from the cars zooming across the roundabout from Swindon way. When/Will they introduce traffic lights to this roundabout as that would at least give residents a chance of getting out?

Does any one know of plans to put traffic lights or do something with this junction?

Name Supplied

Humpty Hill is now a Town Green - 3/10/15

Fantastic News- power to the people!! or more accurately to the hard work and determination of Rob Stewart.

Thankyou Rob

Local Yokel

Humpty Hill will become a Town Green.- 2/10/15

The Inspector has produced his report following the public enquiry held at Sudbury House last March. His findings are that Humpty Hill is eligible to be registered as a Town Green and he recommends that the register be amended accordingly.

I would like to thank all of those who filled in witness questionnaires, gave witness statements, helped collect witness statements, gave their time to assist at the public enquiry and those who donated to the fighting fund. Also of particular note, the 14 witnesses who gave evidence at the public enquiry. Most importantly, I would like to thank Eddie Williams, Josie Miller and David Butler without whose support this would never have been achieved.

[Read the Inspectors Report; and OCC's solicitor recommendation for Planning meeting 19/10](#)

Rob Stewart

ED(GW) Fantastic News. It was Rob that did the bulk of the work

Waitrose, Aldi, Costa on A420 site- permission given - 2/10/15

Outline application (all matters reserved except highway access) for two class A1 retail stores, Class A5 drive thru coffee shop, coach parking, car parking,

access, drainage, landscaping and associated works (revised illustrative layout, landscape strategy and flood risk assessment)

Site Location : Land at A420 site Park Road Faringdon. Application No : P15/V0394/O

The permission is actually for:-

- two Class A1 food stores, one Class A5 hot food takeaway. No mention of Waitrose, Aldi, Costa

Link to [Decision Notice](#)

CARDS FOR GOOD CAUSES- 2/10/15

We are really pleased to tell you that we now have in stock a wonderful range of Christmas cards, paper, tags, advent candles and calendars, small gifts etc from Cards For Good Causes. There are more than 20 charities to choose from and at least 70p in the £1 is donated by the organisation.

They are available now from

Faringdon Community & Tourist Information Centre, Gloucester Street.

FREE TASTING of our new ales, bitters or craft lagers at THE WHEATSHEAF- 2/10/15

It's another cracking day in Faringdon, and the weekend forecast is due to be good, make the most of the sunshine.

SATURDAY and SUNDAY we open at midday, Monday to Friday we open at 3pm. If you pop by this weekend or any day and would like to TRY A FREE SAMPLE of one of our new ales, bitters or craft lagers please ask and we will be happy to oblige.

WE NOW have full selection of real ales, premium lagers, ciders & beers hand-pulled & by the bottle, plus a very good selection of white, rose & red wine and champagne. ALL DAY EVERY DAY VERY COMPETITIVE PRICES Carlsberg Lager £2.50

All Day EVERY DAY Strongbow & Harry Sparrow Cider £3.00

All Day Every day Fosters £3.20

All Day EVERY DAY IPA bitter £2.50

All day every day East Coast £2.50

All day every day Special Scrumdown Ale £3.00

Open Monday to Friday 3pm to late, Saturday & Sunday Midday to late We look forward to seeing you Geoff & Jo Robbins

www.facebook.com/TheWheatsheafFaringdon

5 London Street, Faringdon, Oxon Geoff 07815 071958

Geoff Robbins

Closure of Stanford Pit petition - 1/10/15

Sign the petition <https://www.change.org/p/oxfordshire-oxfordshire-county-council-opposition-to-proposed-closure-of-stanford->

[recycling-centre?recruiter=45864606&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=facebook&utm_campaign=share_page&utm_term=des-lg-share_petition-no_msg](#)

286 signatories so far

Closure of Stanford Pit- 1/10/15

Let's hope our two District Councillors are fighting the closure 'behind the scenes'. As well as affecting their local residents it will affect VWHDC- more fly tipping likely.

Or maybe, they can see that it is a done deal- Oxfordshire County Council have already decided. The consultation is simply a costly ticking the box exercise.

Sceptic

Re. the meeting about the closure of the Stanford recycling centre (letter from an Old Faringdonian) - 30/9/15

it is right to say that neither of the Faringdon district councillors was there, though I think one of the village ones was. As for town councillors, I spotted three or four, and Councillor Meredith spoke against the closure.

Carolyn Williams

More kerbside recycling - 30/9/15

The good news is that from 5 October Vale residents can put out any tired or damaged textiles or clothes that aren't good enough for charity with their green bin for recycling. Any small unusable electrical items such as toasters, kettles, irons and hairdryers can be put out with the grey bin for recycling. Items can be put in a tied carrier bag next to the bin on the normal collection day. The services were a big success when they launched in South Oxfordshire last month – in the first week alone, they collected an impressive two tonnes of small electrical items and two tonnes of textiles the week after.

Small electrical items are taken to a specialist site in Newbury for sorting, storing and processing into new items.

Textiles are taken to a sorting warehouse in East London – any cotton and polyester gets cut into industrial rags, and any wool is shredded and made into felt or new yarn. A couple of years ago, the councils installed some pink bring banks for small electrical items in car parks across both districts. They've been popular but aren't as convenient, so the councils expect to recycle many more electrical items with the new service.

Residents can visit www.morerecycling.co.uk for more information about the service

Correction Re. Where are they now? - 29/9/15

In my posting yesterday I described local stakeholders on the Steering Group as 'unappointed'; I meant to say 'unelected'.

No one involved in the Neighbourhood Plan is, strictly speaking, 'appointed'. But the unelected members of the Steering Group and sub-Groups do, I suggest, have the same responsibilities as public representatives as Faringdon's elected Councillors, when they assume roles in shaping public policy.

Anna Hoare

Stanford Pit; Possible Closure - 29/9/15

Oh dear. I meant to say more last night at the Town Council meeting but a Parkinson's moment stopped me in my tracks.

I have seen this Town go from a vibrant market town to now a shadow of its former self. Closing Stanford road Recycling centre will result in Fly-tipping and make our Town even less attractive to visitors.

As I tried to explain last night, it isn't our fault that the Council have to work with less money each year. We pay our taxes and we do expect some thing in return. Judith does champion Faringdon but in a budget meeting she cannot wear 2 hats so her own brief must come first and we roll in afterwards.

I don't know how many Faringdon Town Councillors or Faringdon District Councillors were at the meeting last night but we didn't hear their views on the subject. Our thanks to Al Cane without whose help this meeting would not have happened but I was still left with the feeling that the people on the stage had already made up their minds and they

were just letting us have a whinge.
I hope I am wrong but only time will tell.
Old Faringdonian.

ED(GW) There is still time to let OCC hear your views. - online questionnaire or an email. Deadline is 5th October

Gloucester St Car Park - 29/9/15

It's difficult to see how the Gloucester Street car park could possibly be expanded and a road widening scheme is a major undertaking. The car park is largely underused for most of the day apart from peak school drop off and pick up times largely because most people prefer to park on the street where they are not charged to park their cars. Perhaps a bit more responsible driving and parking discipline on the part of parents would be a first step to reducing the chaos!

Name supplied

Re Family Hotspots, Faringdon is No. 3 again this year, not 19! - 29/9/15

<http://www.onefamily.com/hotspots/top-20/>

Name Supplied

The "4&20 Business Park" revisited... Where are they now? - 28/9/15

The Minutes of a 2008 Vale Planning meeting (link below) note a presentation made by Mr Tom Allen-Stevens, owner of Wicklesham Quarry, whose sister (& business partner) owns the 4&20 site. He was lobbying for the Local Plan to agree to turning Wicklesham Quarry into an industrial warehousing site- a use the Vale has never agreed with. VWHDC reluctantly gave planning consent to the 4&20 site- a decision they must now regret - on the basis of promises that have never been fulfilled. The minutes state: "Mr Allen-Stevens ... commented that Faringdon business were grateful to the District Council for allowing the leeway in the last Local Plan for the 4&20 Business Park to progress. It was attracting a lot of interest from businesses looking to expand, relocate or come afresh to Faringdon, despite the credit crunch, which was great news."

So where are all these burgeoning businesses? After five vacant years the 'Business Park' is to be developed for retail: more profits to local developers the Allen-Stevens family, and another nail in the coffin of Faringdon town centre's shops.

Doesn't all this sound exactly like claims currently being made for Wicklesham Quarry? In 2008 he said quarrying would end in 2010. So why - in 2015 - has the land still not been restored in line with its planning conditions? The constant foot-dragging over restoration is because neither the County Council nor the Vale will approve Tom Allen-Stevens's plans to develop the quarry.

The Neighbourhood Plan now represents a last ditch attempt to force through a use that local authorities regard as a travesty, with worrying consequences for Faringdon. The fact is, the more local people hear about Wicklesham Quarry, the more they question the role of "local stakeholders". The 2008 minutes are at:

<http://democratic.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/documents/s7626/Minutes%2003.12.2008.pdf>

You can read & sign the petition to PROTECT WICKLESHAM QUARRY online at www.change.org, or at Faringdon Library (next 2 weeks only).

Anna Hoare

Public Meeting re Stanford Pit tonight- 28/9/15

Read what OCC are saying

on <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2015/aug/council-consulting-future-household-waste-recycling-centres>

OCC say 'The overall budget for HWRCs is £4.1m. However £2.9m of this is spent on the costs associated with treating and disposing the waste that is brought into centres by the public (including costs associated with transporting the waste) as opposed to the centres themselves. The remaining £1.2 million is spent on running the (7) sites themselves.'

You can find the [consultation documents](#) here.

ED. Closing half the pits will possibly save half of £1.2m. The main cost is dealing with the waste. It seems to me this is the area to reduce cost. I wonder what OCC have done/are doing?

Old Gaol, Abingdon, sale confirmed at £3.2m- 26/9/15

The sale of the Old Gaol in Abingdon has been revealed to be finally valued at £3.2million, a deal which offers good value for the district's residents and guaranteed that the development would go ahead despite the collapse of the property market.

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/news/2015/2015-09/old-gaol-sale-confirmed-£32million>
Ed

I wonder what VWHDC will spend the money on- perhaps it's already spent

Public Meeting re Stanford Pit Closure - 25/9/15

Monday 28th September Corn Exchange, 8pm

Please come to Faringdon Town Council's public meeting next Monday, 28 September, at 8pm at the Corn Exchange to find out from the county councillors and officers what's at stake here. Ask questions about what might be the consequences if it closes. They say they have not made a decision yet, so this is the time to put them under the spotlight.

See poster on Home page of <http://www.faringdon.org/> for detail of who from Oxfordshire Council will be there

DISCO DOTS TODDLER DISCO A monthly disco for under 5's.- 25/9/15

2nd Monday of each month - 12th October, 9th November, 14th December

9.30am -11.00am

£1.00 per adult

Refreshments included

We provide the music, lights, drinks and snacks and you provide the dancing, laughter and fun. We hope to provide a casual drop in session for parents to have fun with their children, meet up with friends or make new friends with other local parents. If you have any questions please email us info@thepumphouseproject.co.uk.

Re. Money well spent.- 24/9/15

I totally agree with name supplied below, the grass cutting.

The contractors have not completed what they have been paid to do.

Oxon County Council have been advised of the contractors shoddy work.

They have sent someone out to inspect the work.

Name Supplied.

Chaos in Car Park- 23/9/15

It's great that parents want to park responsibly in the Gloucester Street car park for

school drop off and pick up instead of blocking residents. However due to volume of cars it's becoming somewhat chaotic and is in desperate need of more spaces and widening the entrance to the car park. Many parents including myself would love to walk to school, but as a working mum, like many work outside Faringdon and drive straight to work after dropping children off. Might I suggest that some S106 money go towards expanding the car park as this is only set to get worse as more pupils come to the schools and younger children too in January and with new developments...

Named Supplied

Faringdon Dramatic Society- 23/9/15

Happily Ever After By Helen Thrower & Verity Roberts

'Happily Ever After' is a brand new pantomime written jointly by two members of the society....and Cinderella and Prince Charming were married and lived happily ever after. Or did they...?

What would happen to those old tales that we know so well if the endings were changed? Chaos ensues when a wicked old witch and her gang of fairytale baddies have finally had enough of losing to the good guys and decide to steal the Great Storybook; the magical book that holds the key to all the 'Happily Ever Afters' there have ever been.

When the Wicked Witch begins kidnapping fairytale characters it is up to Cinderella and her loyal friends to try and sort out the pandemonium, with a little help from her Fairy Godmother.

Will Cinderella find her Prince Charming? Will Dame Trott ever see her darling Three Little Piggies ever again? And what has happened to the contents of Old Mother Hubbard's cupboard?!

Find out in this mixed up tale of magical mayhem!

- Readthrough – Tuesday 13th October, 8pm onwards
- Auditions – Tuesday 20th October, 7.30 – 8.30 Children and Chorus
- 8.30pm onwards Adults and Older Children interested in a larger part

New members welcome

Children Year 8 and above (9 years and over) only

Performances will take place on the last weekend in January and the first weekend in February in Faringdon Junior School, The Elms, Gloucester Street, Faringdon. SN7 7HZ

www.faringdondramatic.org.uk

Money Well Spent?- 23/9/15

As a council tax payer I think I have the right to expect the council to oversee work carried out by contractors to make sure we the tax payers are receiving value for money.

This may appear trivial to some but I have noticed that the grass verges etc around Canada lane, Ash close, meadow bank etc have been recently "hacked" to pieces in a poor attempt to cut the grass. I would suggest that if this effort is the best they can do

the council needs to get someone new to do this work, because as it stands we are not getting value for our money.

Name Supplied

ED. Report via [Fix my street?](#)

The Stanford household waste recycling centre is once again under threat!-

23/9/15

Please come to Faringdon Town Council's public meeting next Monday, 28 September, at 8pm at the Corn Exchange to find out from the county councillors and officers what's at stake here. Ask questions about what might be the consequences if it closes. They say they have not made a decision yet, so this is the time to put them under the spotlight.

Update on The Wheatsheaf, 5 London Street, Faringdon, Oxon SN7 7AE - 22/9/15

We wanted to let everyone know that the refurbished Wheatsheaf will re-open this Friday 'Friday 25th September from 3pm' The Wheatsheaf will remain a traditional Free House, offering a great selection of beer, real ales, wine, spirits and speciality drinks all at competitive prices. We will show all sporting fixtures live on the new large HD screens. * Sky & BT Sports * Open Fire * Wide range of live music every month * Pool & Darts * Courtyard. A very warm and friendly welcome awaits you at The Wheatsheaf. TO CELEBRATE OUR OPENING THE SHADOW MONKEYS WILL BE PERFORMING LIVE FRIDAY 25TH FROM 8.30..NOT TO BE MISSED (New Wheatsheaf Facebook

Page <https://www.facebook.com/TheWheatsheafFaringdon?fref=ts>

We look forward to welcoming you back in The Wheatsheaf

Geoff & Jo Robbins and The Team

Re: Response - 22/9/15

"So to suggest we were untouched by war..." No - I didn't say that either, Grumpy Old Man.

No offense - but I do wish if people are going to respond to comments on this site they would respond to what has actually been written instead of substituting their own inaccurate versions, and then responding to those.

name supplied.

SIR DAVID WILLCOCKS and FARINGDON - 22/9/15

David Willcocks who died at the age of 95 last week, will live on through his music, also in Faringdon. The annual Faringdon Singers Christmas concert in the Catholic Church is often Willcocks-top-heavy ! But there's another link with our fair(trade) town. In 2006 we managed to grab him in the bowels of the Albert Hall and he gamely posed for us with a Faringdon bag! We let him keep the bag...

Sjoerd

Born: 30 December, 1919, in Cornwall. Died: 17 September, 2015, in Cambridge, aged 95.

DAVID Willcocks was a Christmas fixture. He directed the Choir of King's College, Cambridge and the service of Nine Lessons and Carols was broadcast worldwide from the magnificent chapel on the afternoon of Christmas Eve. Willcocks published five anthologies of carols, with Reginald Jacques and John Rutter, while other notable events included directing the music at the wedding of Prince Charles and Princess Diana in 1981.

Obituary

Faringdon is 19th. Best postcode to raise a family- 22/9/15

See <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/property/11879615/Revealed-the-best-postcode-in-England-to-raise-a-family.html?frame=3020600>

Another response - 22/9/15

I have to agree with Ray Woods comments, especially as my Grandfather died in the Blitz, the houses of my father and Aunt and Uncle were both bombed out in the blitz. My Father lost his Father, Brother and three cousins in the war. So to suggest we were untouched by war is quite insulting.

Grumpy Old Man

Response - 22/9/15

Mr Wood, I did not say "... that we in the U.K. have never experienced war in our country".

What I actually said was "The UK indigenous population has not, FOR THE MOST PART, experienced a war on their home ground" which is absolutely true. Anyone who was around (including my husband, a wounded WWII veteran) during WWII will be over seventy. My family lived near Coventry.

Forgive me for not mentioning my name – not shame, but shyness.

Name supplied

Rogue Traders- Beware- 21/9/15

This information request has been sent out on behalf of Oxfordshire Trading Standards. It is that time of year again when rogue traders plan and put their scams into action by targeting elderly and vulnerable members of our community. Rogue traders purport to be legitimate companies and use persuasive pressurised selling techniques to convince people to have unnecessary work carried out on their property.

Can you help?

Oxfordshire County Council Trading Standards are appealing for information from anyone who has been cold called recently or had a flyer put through their letterbox offering to carry out work for services such as gardening, home repairs, roofing, driveways or similar.

It may be that you know or have seen an elderly or vulnerable neighbour that is having or had work carried out at their property which is not required or something that does not look quite right! If so, please help by contacting the Doorstep Crime Team as soon as possible so they can carry out intelligence checks on the company.

Please help by reporting any cold callers who have called at your property or posted a leaflet through your door. It is vital to report information as soon as possible as officers may be able to locate and check a trader's details whilst they are still in the area. When providing information please try to give descriptions of suspects and details of their vehicle if they have one, including colour, make/model and a registration number, thank you.

Doorstep Crime Team Contact Details:

Telephone: 07711 117455

Email: tsinformation@oxfordshire.gov.uk

(Information received will be treated in the strictest confidence)

It is imperative and the intention of the Doorstep Crime Team working in partnership with Thames Valley Police and other local authorities to proactively deal with the identified companies in a prompt robust manner.

Refugees and National Security.- 21/9/15

First, I would like to point out to the person who said that we in the U.K. have never experienced war in our country, I suggest you ask the people of the East End of London, Coventry, and Plymouth, to name a few whose cities were nearly flattened by Bombs during the second world war and thousands of British people killed in their own country, so who ever you are please check your history before making such statements.

Now I would like to say that I feel sorry for those people fleeing these countries caught up in these terrible conflicts, but I am very concerned that hidden among these refugees who wish to come to the U.K. is reported to be terrorist who hate our way life , and would take great pleasure in killing all of us given the chance. So, until our government can ensure that there are no such people among these refugees, I would back our Government to keep them all out.

Ray Wood

Festival of Remembrance Concert- 21/9/15

Faringdon & District Branch of the Royal British Legion invite you to their 4th Annual FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE

to be held in All Saints' Church, Faringdon, on FRIDAY 6th NOVEMBER 2015 at 7.30pm.

Tickets at £5.00. each, are available from the

- T.I.C. Office, Corn Exchange, Faringdon, or
- J. Blake (01367 - 242277)

The evening will consist of music, singing and readings - a time of Celebration, Reflection and Remembrance.

All proceeds to the Poppy Appeal.All Saints Church

Bangers and Beer - 21/9/15

I would just like to thank the organisers of the Bangers and Beer festival at the weekend. My family, friends and myself, really enjoyed it. The band were great, we particularly enjoyed the choir and It was all for a good cause.

We do hope it will be repeated in future. Many thanks and well done.

Regards

Grumpy Old Man

Migrants- 20/9/15

The concept which you describe, Cinzia, is by no means too complicated for a foreign brain to grasp, although I am tempted to ask, who is the foreigner here? I don't suppose there is anyone who cannot feel sorry for those fleeing a conflict. It is however, much harder to really empathise and put oneself in the situation of the refugees - as opposed to superficially (and publicly) expressing sympathy when all one is exposed to are emotive, manipulated film-clips, soundbites, and sensational headlines. The UK indigenous population has not, for the most part, experienced a war on their home ground, and therefore, the small privations which we experience in our own context seem severe even though they are trivial compared with the total loss of home and environment which war brings. As a nation we are generous with our aid, but it is human/animal nature to feel protective when we perceive that we are in an already overcrowded situation. In any event, childish sarcasm won't help.

Name Supplied

Wicklesham Quarry- 19/9/15

The recent BBC South Today news report on Wicklesham Quarry is now available through You Tube for those who missed it. It gives a succinct (2 min), impartial and balanced report, and it's factually correct. It starts about 15 secs into the clip:

https://youtu.be/ZV2c4Y1_3H8

Tom Allen-Stevens

Migrants- 19/9/15

My non-native English skills as EU migrant might be at fault, however I fail to comprehend the analogy that is being drawn between the struggles of a young person not being able to afford the deposit on a house and those of people suffering the atrocities brought upon by war, that include, but are not limited to, rape, bombing, infanticide. Perhaps it is just too complicated a concept for a foreign brain to grasp.

Cinzia

Response to query from resident - Wicklesham Quarry's planning conditions.-

19/9/15

Since 2006, if not earlier, the planning conditions for Wicklesham Quarry specify that the land must ultimately be restored to agricultural use. All top soil has been set aside and still exists, for replacement in the quarry base.

If this answer sounds a bit more complicated than your question, it's because every planning consent for mineral extraction is time-limited, and when they expire further applications have to be made. According to Oxfordshire County Council quarrying is a temporary form of land use. (Without seeing every set of documents before 2006 it is

not possible to be sure what each separate consent stated- see the history attached. Consent was given for time-limited recycling use in 1992, but expired without ever having been implemented.)

Until 1974 Faringdon was in Berkshire, & the first planning document Oxfordshire County Council has on record dates from 1964. This states that the quarry faces must be left visible, because of their 'exceptional scientific interest'.

Oxfordshire's first Minerals & Waste Policy was in 1983 (no copy available), and the first one published, in 1996, is still on OCC's website. Section 4 'Protecting the Environment' states "The County Council will seek to secure the environmental improvement of land that has been damaged by mineral working." The policies on the website are what still currently apply to Wicklesham Quarry. The Quarry's restoration plan, in accordance with its planning conditions, was submitted by Grundon's & passed in 2013. None of the restoration work has been carried out.

I'm sending you *3 relevant documents relating to all this: (1) Grundon's restoration plan for the quarry, passed in 2013, which details what's involved in restoration. (2) the 1964 planning consent from Oxfordshire County Council's archives, & (3) the planning history as Oxfordshire County Council has it on record. You'll see the end-use conditions from brief notes in the right-hand columns. I hope this is clear.

*If anyone wishes to read these documents please email protectwicklesham@gmail.com & I'll send them to you. Any more questions- please ask & I'll do my best to answer as fully as possible.

Anna Hoare

Public Meeting: Stanford Pit Closure

Monday 28th September

Corn Exchange, 8pm

Arranged by Faringdon Town Council

New Advocacy Service

A new service run by Oxfordshire Advocacy in partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support, providing one to one support for anyone aged 50+ affected by cancer, whether they are a Patient or a Carer.

Give us a call on 01865 230203 Email us at copa@oadg.org.uk

If you know of anyone affected by cancer and aged 50 or more

If you feel that they might benefit from having a Macmillan trained volunteer to support them at appointments or with getting the practical help they need

If you are interested in volunteering yourself

<http://gettingheard.org/>

THE LEVANT - TAKING RESPONSIBILITY- 18/9/15

Apologies - joining the discussion about refugees/asylum seekers/econ-migrants so late. I was at a week-long conference in the Oranje Duiven low countries, and when I got back home - I saw the barrage of differing views on N&V . Yes - Holland also

happens to be my home country. I'm another immigrant.

In 2003, we chose to bomb Iraq back to the stone age. What happened next unfortunately very closely followed the script sketched out by the peace movement. Our actions created a political power vacuum that spilled over into neighbouring countries such as Syria. This vacuum was then inevitably filled by a seething cauldron of different unpleasant factions; none of whom had our best interests at heart. In short, we're directly responsible for the humanitarian catastrophe that continues to unfold in the Levant, and walking away is not an option.

This is not the 20/20 vision of hindsight. The peace movement in 2002 warned that this would happen - and it did.

I'm very pleased that the Faringdon's TC has risen to the challenge. They (and we) couldn't possibly be doing anything else.

Sjoerd

Faringdon residents want straight answers from the Council.- 18/9/15

In recent months Faringdon Council has faced numerous questions from local people wanting to know about the plans of "local stakeholders" who sit on the Steering Group to turn Wicklesham quarry into an industrial warehousing (B2/ B8) site, by including it in the Neighbourhood Plan. The FAQ sheet the Council has compiled is as economical with the truth as the Neighbourhood Plan itself.

It fails to tell local people: -

- * about the surveys of the quarry's ponds, rare plants and protected wildlife;
- * that the quarry is a designated Conservation Target Area in Oxfordshire's Biodiversity Action Plan;
- * of the restoration plan passed by Oxfordshire County Council in 2013, but still not carried out;
- * that the quarry has been repeatedly judged by independent reviews to be unsuitable for industrial use, "far in excess" of Faringdon's needs, and the least sustainable of all ten sites examined by the FNP's Sustainability Appraisal;
- * that restoration of mineral workings is a core policy of the National Planning Policy Framework.

The FAQs acknowledge that Wicklesham Quarry is a geological SSSI, but advise anyone who wants "in-depth information" to contact the Town Clerk for a private chat, or to read the Neighbourhood Plan "to ascertain the facts"! What, we wonder, is this "in-depth information" that Faringdon Council is afraid to put on its website? We suspect it may be the same stuff that "local stakeholders" have been peddling for the past six years - that the quarry is a "hole in ground", "ecologically barren", and "a prime development site".

Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan avoids giving any "facts" about the rarity and historical and environmental importance of Wicklesham Quarry's geo- and biodiversity, its habitat conservation status, or the statutory duty to restore the land in line with national policies.

It is clear that the landowner would stand no chance of obtaining planning permission for industrial use of Wicklesham Quarry if he made an application by himself- which is why he has not done so. Instead Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan has become a political vehicle for "local stakeholders" involved with the quarry, and seeking a passport through the planning system.

Local people who wish to read the full text of the petition to PROTECT WICKLESHAM QUARRY FROM DEVELOPMENT can now do so in FARINGDON LIBRARY, where a poster will be on display for the next 2 to 3 weeks, together with a hard copy of the petition for people to sign. Anyone who wants further information or evidence about anything stated in the petition can e-mail: protectwicklesham@gmail.com, or leave a note addressed to Anna Hoare c/o the library. Any Q&As will be posted in an online update for everyone to read.

If you have friends, family or neighbours in Faringdon who are not online, please let them know that they can see the poster in Faringdon library for the next 2-3 weeks, and sign a hard copy of the petition if they wish to support it.

Anna Hoare

MORE ABOUT STANFORD WASTE SITE- 17/9/15

- there will be a stall in Faringdon Market Place on Saturday 26th September, 9 am - 12.30. Come along to get more detailed information, talk about the options, and pick up a Consultation feedback form.

Feedback forms are also available in the Library.

Pam de Wit

on behalf of EARTH & FAITH - the Faringdon Churches Together environment group.

STANFORD WASTE SITE UNDER THREAT - 17/9/15

Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) are consulting on the proposed changes to the waste recycling centres in Oxfordshire.

£350,000 needs to be saved by 2017/18 from the operating costs of £1.2m and OCC are proposing to reduce from 7 sites to 3, or possibly 4. Stanford is one of the sites likely to close.

If you use the tip and believe there are better options than complete closure, or have concerns about the proposed alternative, then let OCC know your views.

You can read details of the consultation and options considered etc on the website www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/waste where you can also submit your comments. The consultation closes on 5th October 2015.

On behalf of A Group of Stanford Residents

FARINGDONS FIRST BANGERS AND BEER FESTIVAL.- 16/9/15

Faringdon Beer Society are holding the towns first Bangers and Beer Festival. Beer from 10 different local breweries, sausages from Pat Thomas and music

performed by local artists.

This Friday from 4pm and Saturday from 11am in the CORN EXCHANGE.

All profit will be going to nominated charities.

FREE ENTRY.

Come and drink to a good cause.

Check out the Beer and Bands on FB - Faringdon bangers and Beer Festival.

Faringdon Beer Society

Name Supplied

The Advice Café - 15/9/15

Need help with looking after your mother?

Trying to decide whether to take your pension early?

Damp that your landlord won't fix?

We all need some help sometimes to deal with life's unwelcome surprises. That's why a group of charities are opening The Advice Café beside the Quad coffee shop in the old Barclay's Bank. You can go to the AdviceCafé when you have a problem that you are struggling to deal with on your own. Maybe you just need a leaflet, or perhaps you need to sit down and talk to an expert in a private place. Everything you tell us is confidential and our advice is FREE.

At the Cafe you can log on to a computer and search for help online. You can also use a telephone, free of charge, to talk to advice help-lines. On the telephone you can make appointments to meet with an adviser in a private space at the Cafe. There are also lots of leaflets available on every imaginable subject.

And when you've sorted yourself out and found the help you wanted, you can visit The Quad for locally sourced snacks and drinks! Or perhaps you'd like to volunteer yourself? The Advice Cafe welcomes helpers. Contact: Tom Fox on 01235 550553, tom.fox@osavcab.org.uk

Some of the things we can help with are:

*Landlords.....Employment.....Scams.....Legal..... Debt..... Domestic
Violence.....Carers Young Carers..... Respite Care.....Pensions..... Benefits
Check..... .Mental Health
Community Care..... Supported Housing.....Tribunals..... Transport.....Fuel
bills..... Independent Living.....Volunteering..... Grants..... Good
Neighbours Scheme*

It is better to make an appointment to avoid a long wait but if you drop-in on Monday or Wednesday mornings someone will do their best to help you. To make an appointment call

- Citizens Advice 03444 111 444
- Independent Advice Centre, Wantage 01235 765348
- Oxfordshire MIND 01865 247788
- South & Vale Carers 01235 838554

Location details: 14 Market Place, Faringdon, SN7 7HP

The Quad Coffee shop is open seven days a week

Creative Writing Workshop - 15/9/15

There will be an all-day creative writing workshop run by professional wordsmith Helen Kidd M.A. on Saturday 07th November at the Pump House Faringdon. If you are interested please have a look at the details on the website:

<http://www.artist.nildram.co.uk/StartWrite/index.htm>

Re: migrants- 15/9/15.

Dennis and Name Supplied, you mix the word refugee and migrant. The 2 have completely different meanings.

What you are talking about are refugees.

This is what I was trying to point out without spelling it out.

Raoul van Eijndhoven

Migrant NOT refugee.

Couldn't be bothered - 14/9/15

I was going to answer Local, Hiding, And then I couldn't be bothered. I like me, my family like me, my friends like me so why should I or any other local care about the few that think we are destructive.

Old Faringdonian

Immigrants/migrants response - 14/9/15

As the Dennis H originator of the 10/9 posting that seems to have caused Raoul Van Eijndhoven concern, I had intended to reply to his posting of 13/9 but Name Supplied's answer of the same date has done it much more articulately than I could. Thank you Name Supplied. Raoul knows very well that his status is completely different to that of the refugees who are the subject of these postings and his replies seem designed to cause mischief.

As far as I am concerned, as an EU citizen he is welcome to live in our nice little town and I hope he is aware of his good fortune in doing so. I also hope his stay will be a long and happy one

Dennis Haynes

Smoking outside pubs - 14/9/15

I think that the comment about smoking outside pubs are completely true by the green witch.

The problem is not of that pub customers are smoking outside, its more of the law in general. Yes, I agree that it is not friendly or welcoming for the pedestrians walking past the pubs with a group of inebriated smokers. I myself am a smoker and also I frequent the pubs. Again though, I also find it awkward to walk past the pubs when I am not out for a pint or three.

The only resolution I can think of and have thought this from the beginning is to make a

certain number of pubs in town or smoking pubs... for example maybe 30% smoking pubs, 70% non-smoking. That way customers then have the choice of what pubs they wish to go to!

All in all, most of the landlords of the pubs in this town are friendly, welcoming and on the side of the consumer.

Name Supplied.

AUTUMN/END OF SEASON PLANT SALE- 14/9/15

Now is a good time to plant things while the soil is still warm.

Val Hudspeth 14 Fernham Road is having a plant sale starting on Thursday 17th September for ONE WEEK ONLY. There will be strawberry plants, some herbs, potted bulbs, day lillies, iris, and whatever else she can 'pot up' before then!

Proceeds will go to Help for Heroes. Have a browse and support a good cause.

Loud music sat night - 13/9/15

There was a lot of loud music and noise coming from the folly view road area on saturday night the people responsible for this have not got any respect for residents living in that area i believe it is not aloud to carry on after 11-00pm

Name supplied

Two nervous local species need help! - 13/9/15

Perhaps the kind people of Faringdon would consider a welfare fund to support two local species which currently feel threatened. The first of these is the rural quarry-bird, a nervous creature which hides in anonymous-trees for fear of being recognized, and tries to defecate on anyone entering its territory. The distinctive odour of its droppings and well-known call: "Who's going to pay me?!" make its attempts to hide comically futile. The quarry-bird's habit of excavating enormous holes in search of gold has earned it the reputation of being destructive and anti-social. When anyone seeks to repair the damage caused by the quarry-bird it puffs up its feathers aggressively and issues its high-pitched alarm call: "Who's going to pay me?! Who's going to pay me?!" The urban relative of the rural quarry-bird is the shop-landlord-bird, which roosts in messy, unkempt nests in the upper floors of historic buildings, eventually making them uninhabitable. Although similarly fearful of recognition, it regularly flies down to the shops below in search of food and glittering objects with which to feather its nest. Keeping the shop-landlord-bird satisfied is a constant challenge, and the depredations of this greedy species threaten many shopkeepers with bankruptcy. Its destructive roosting habits threaten many town centres where it has become established, leading to boarded-up shops, empty and neglected buildings and silent streets. You may not realize that these two nervous species are related until you hear them issue the identical cry: "Who's going to pay me?! Who's going to pay me?!"

Although these may be some of the least attractive of our varied local wildlife, we should remember that they are uniquely adapted to local conditions, and if regularly stroked and constantly spoon fed, the chronic conditions of entitlement and rent-

addiction that these species suffer from can be eased somewhat.

Anna Hoare

Re: European Migrants...- 13/9/15

Name Supplied, Dennis H. stated migrants from ANYWHERE. So that includes the EU. That is why I posted the question.

Then again we have plenty of migrants from outside of the EU in Faringdon. So are you telling me that these migrants from outside the EU should be able to answer the "many questions" before they should be allowed to live in Faringdon?

Any migrant (EU or not) with the correct paper work can live in the UK and does not have to answer the "many questions" before they are allowed to live in Faringdon.

Raoul van Eijndhoven

Wars- 13/9/15

Syria – The world's bloodiest war by far; also has generated millions of refugees. Atrocities on all sides but primarily the government. Spread to Iraq in 2014. Still no solution in sight.

Iraq – Radical Islamists from the U.S. war in Iraq fought in Syria and in 2014 seized much land and resources with support of Sunni tribes who oppose Shi'ite government.

Afghanistan – Fate of government uncertain as international community draws down forces and Taliban persists.

Pakistan – After collapse of peace talks, government battling Taliban elements in autonomous tribal areas adjacent to Afghanistan.

Nigeria – In the north, a violent Islamist group has instigated repeated violence such as bombings, and government attacks in response. The fighting occasionally spills over into neighboring Cameroon and Chad, whose armed forces are helping.

Ukraine – Low-level fighting, ongoing in the east near Russia, killed several thousand in 2014, in addition to the hundreds killed by the shoot-down of a civilian jet. Government opposes pro-Russian armed separatists who control territory.

South Sudan – After a long north-south war, the south voted for independence, achieved in 2011. But South Sudan itself slipped into a bloody civil war (along ethnic lines) that reportedly has killed tens of thousands. UN peacekeepers are present but fighting continues and humanitarian needs are extreme.

Israel/Gaza – Fighting with Hamas in the Gaza Strip in 2014 exceeded a thousand killed.

Somalia – African Union troops (mostly from nearby countries such as Uganda) restored government control of all major cities, leaving al Shabab militants in the countryside to carry out occasional bombings in the cities they no longer control (and in neighboring Kenya, which has troops in Somalia).

Yemen – The post-Saleh government with many competing factions has had some success against Islamic militants who had seized some towns in the south, but ethnic-based fighting has flared up in the north.

Faringdon - An historic Town in the beautiful Vale of The White Horse in Oxfordshire ..

Residents enjoy celebrating together during Folly Fest and Working together throughout the year to make the Town a GREAT place to live ..

Is helping a few people who are caught up in the middle of wars and who are desperately begging for our help such a terrible thing to do .. We could help them and make them welcome if we really want to !!! We could make a difference ...

Dean Suckling

European immigrants- 13/9/15

Raoul .. European Law makes your situation completely different from the situation of refugees from outside of Europe . The Law states :: Most citizens of countries in the European Union (EU), the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland have the right to live and work in the UK under European law. European nationals may also bring their family with them to live in the UK. However, to exercise the right to live in the UK nationals of these countries must be able to support themselves and their families without having to rely on public funds ..

I am sure that the same discussions that we are having are also being had all over Europe including The Netherlands ..

Name Supplied

Heron Watch.- 13/9/15

This morning at 8 am I startled a heron which was checking out my goldfish pond. Has anyone else seen it ? (The heron of course, not my pond)

HGM

Re; Migrants..- 13/9/15

Dennis H. you say: "There are a great many questions that have to be answered before migrants from anywhere are allowed to settle in Faringdon "

I am a migrant from Holland.

Can you please tell me the great many questions I should have answered before I should be allowed to live in Faringdon?

Raoul van Eijndhoven

Council Tax payer since 1997.

Waitrose, Costa, Aldo planning permission- 12/9/15

I've heard that planning permission has been given. Nothing on VWHDC planning website yet.

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P15/V0394/O>

ED

The Wheatsheaf Freehouse, 5 London Street, Faringdon. Oxon SN7 7AE - 12/9/15

Just wanted to let you know we are the new owners of The Wheatsheaf (Geoff & Jo Robbins)

The Wheatsheaf is having a major internal & external overhaul including

- Bar Refurbishment
- Refit of beer & wine cellar
- Real ales introduced and an increased range of drinks & wine selection
- Toilets upgraded
- Courtyard Opened up

The Wheatsheaf will remain a traditional Freehouse in the heart of Faringdon town offering

- Excellent quality beer at competitive prices
- A very friendly and warm welcome
- Open Fire
- Courtyard
- Pool & Darts
- SKY & BT SPORTS
- Large Screen TV'S
- Wide range of Live music every month SHADOW MONKEYS BOOKED FOR FRIDAY 25th September
- Open 7 days a week from 12 mid-day 7 days a week
- Food coming soon

We look forward to meeting you ..Geoff & Jo Robbins New Proprietors

Follow us on our new facebook page www.facebook.com/TheWheatsheafFaringdon.

New website coming soon

For further information pop in or call Geoff Robbins 07815 071958 . The Wheatsheaf, 5 London Street, Faringdon, Oxon. SN7 7AE

WE WILL BE OPEN BEFORE THE END OF SEPTEMBER...SEE YOU SOON

REMEMBER TO SAVE THE DATE – LIVE MUSIC FRIDAY 25th SEPTEMBER THE SHADOW MONKEYS

Geoff Robbins

Faringdon has room? - 12/9/15

Anna Hoare argues that Faringdon has got room for additional residents .

She also stated recently to the BBC ref Wicklesham Quarry development " Expressing her concerns that a business park would increase traffic, particularly the A420, she said: "It won't be employing local people, it will be bringing in large numbers of people and traffic from elsewhere."

Any other views Anna ??

Name Supplied

Scaremongering - 12/9/15

Dont worry - the suggestion re. ten families simply came from an e-petition. Anyone at all can easily set these up for any purpose, they are simply requests to the

council/somebody, nothing more, nothing official. I'm guessing that the people who signed this particular request won't be at all affected by it, and aren't actually prepared to convert their lofts/build an extension to their own homes or take in a refugee family or anything like that. The small number of signatories will not influence anything but they do of course show what lovely, concerned people they all are, as opposed to horrible hard hearted swines like the rest of us. ;-)

Name supplied

Democracy .. - 12/9/15

Carolyn & Geoffrey thank you for your lesson on this subject , however Democracy as it stands at this time not only gives you the right to vote but it also gives you the right NOT to vote . IF you choose to vote , your vote is made anonymously with name and address supplied and ONLY referenced against a number generated at the polling station to prevent fraud.

If you choose to sign the refugee petition , that too can be done anonymously if you wish . All said and done it is not for us to judge people who contribute in any form as long as their contributions do not directly offend or insult .

Name Supplied

Folly Inn ... - 12/9/15

Passing the Folly Inn yesterday evening i was pleased to see that it has reopened and has been refurbished inside , and is looking great. I look forward to popping in for the first time for a pint.

The outside however has always looked uninviting and the colour scheme i can only describe as looking like something you tread in walking through a cow field . I do hope that the owners are also planning to make the outside as attractive as the inside appears to be , preferably a nicer colour !!

Dean Suckling

Reference : Scaremongering - 12/9/15

The very idea of 10 Families appears to come directly from the original request to sign an email petition which if you click on and read the petition , it says Please help settle 10 Syriam Refugee Families in the Faringdon area .

I totally agree with you that these families will have no impact on the people or town of Faringdon .

I disagree with your suggestion that "it is too easy for people to be anonymous on here". Many comments for and against things are both at times made anonymously for whatever reasons , and as for Democracy it is common practice in Parliament, Council Chambers and many other so called Democratic institutions to hold some secret voting . Sometimes people do amazing acts of Good and Compassion but choose to remain anonymous .

Also some of us work long hours ALSO fitting in community work so we cant attend council meetings,

We rely on this site to find out what is going on.

Dean Suckling

Thankyou - 12/10/15

Thank you Carolyn & Geoffrey Williams for a sensible comment

Name supplied

10 Refugee Families.- 11/10/15

I don't think it's scaremongering when it's clearly stated on the e-petition page that "Offer to home 10 refugee families in the Faringdon area" right at the top of the guff about why we should take them and to the right the sixty five people that have signed it, if you signed it then surely you must have read it?

Do you really think that those of us that do not want ANY refugees/migrants, call them what you will, thrust upon us in any number are also the same people that can't be bothered to vote, how arrogant of you to think this but not surprising, even if I didn't vote for our esteem councillors my opinions still count and are as valid as anyone else's.

What is it about people that are well-meaning but unrealistic, who think anyone who opposes them are racists or cold or uneducated, of course they are earnest in their beliefs but often naïve to reality (typically well educated and high salaried) who wants reform through philanthropic or egalitarian means. e.g. wealth redistribution, social justice, welfare, third world immigration, adoption of "disadvantaged" children (usually non-white and from abroad), and don't they love spending other peoples' money for good causes, but one thing that never is given a thought is to bother finding out if their desire to do good is acceptable to the majority and in this case the majority of Faringdon folk and indeed the country do not want anymore refugees....so yes charity does begin at home, this country has been a soft touch for too long and it's time for us ordinary folk to take back the power that has been eroded with any questions we may ask wrapped up in the political correctness blanket that has been foisted upon us to keep us frightened to voice opinions. If you want to help someone, help the struggling indigenous folk, you will still be patted on the back and told how wonderful you are.
Name Supplied.

To whom it may concern. - 11/10/15

Reason for not signing with our given name we don't have a reason. We live in a Democratic Country, as you keep reminding us, so the choice is ours. We don't need a lecture, we will not be made to feel guilty over our choice of name. The Editor knows my name so I will continue to sign.

Old Faringdonian.

Re homes for refugees- 11/10/15

I too have read with interest the posts re. refugees and the possibility that Faringdon should offer housing. Any allocation will presumably be up to the District Council, not FTC. One comment which stood out though was the one which mentioned the accommodation above shops.

1. "...the fact is these were built as family dwellings with shops beneath" That is not the fact, and if the writer had any knowledge of built environment history she would know that when many of these town centre buildings came into existence they would not have been shops at all. Returning them to their 'intended' use would mean less shops...and even more complaints about the town "looking half-dead much of the time".

2. Shops need storage and other space.

3. "Faringdon Town Council and Chamber of Commerce want to 'protect' this as office space" Rubbish - She clearly has no knowledge of the labyrinthine rules and planning regulations which pertain to commercial premises, change of use etc.

5. Many of the spaces above shops are lacking in facilities for use as dwellings, and would need extensive renovation and alteration to meet current needs. [see building regs] Where does she think the money should come from to "renovate and put back to their intended use"

6. "Property owners.....should be compelled to sell them...." Who to, exactly? I can't see the local authority buying them up and renovating them to house refugees.

Just a few points.

Here's a tip. Do a bit of research so that you know what you're talking about - before you tell us all what we "should be compelled" to do.

Name supplied

Folly Tower Open on Heritage Day - 11/9/15

Sunday 13th September. 11am-1pm. Free entry for all

Scaremongering -10/9/15

Where on earth do people get the idea that Faringdon will take TEN FAMILIES of Syrian Refugees? The proposal, following government decisions, is that we would take TWO people over 5 years. Do your sums, that's not even one every 2 years! What sort of scaremongering is this? Even if we were to take a few more (not currently under discussion), what difference would this make? Our schools, our health centre are already overflowing and hundreds of new homes are planned (not for the refugees!), so how would a couple of people make the slightest difference? As for decision-making, democracy means we elect our councillors (those of us who bother to turn out at election time), they represent us, they discuss the issues, and they vote and make decisions. Anything else is not democracy but anarchy. And it's just too easy to make outrageous comments anonymously on here.

So, we sign : Geoffrey and Carolyn Williams.

Refugees- 10/9/15

I have read with interest all of the comments regarding the refugee crisis, we have to

ask ourselves how the local council can actually vote for something like this, surely this is a government decision and the refugee people will be allocated from a government department from London. If any families do come here I can hazard a guess that they will not be put into a home in Gt.Coxwell or Orchard Hill, or Nursery View, I feel sure that the local councillors will allocate homes where these people will not be welcome and the residents will be moaning about someone in their family who can't get anywhere, the majority of people in Faringdon do not want all of these people here, our health centre is struggling, our schools are bursting at the seams there are cut backs everywhere, the government cut back on everything but expect us all to welcome overcrowded situations...for goodness sake let common sense be our guide here. Name supplied.

Syrian Refugees- 10/9/15

This is a very emotive subject and I would like to make things clear regarding the decision taken at the Town Council meeting on 9/9/2015.

Faringdon Town Council do not have the power to make any decisions regarding the acceptance of refugees. The council were asked to offer verbal support to a group of Faringdon residents who plan to lobby local and central government to support refugees. There was an open and two sided debate where different viewpoints were discussed. Residents are very welcome to all our meetings and there is always public speaking time at Full Council meetings. I have included a link to our meeting calendar. Please come. The Town Council need your views and want to represent the community. If you have any questions please feel free to email

me. sally@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk - Sally Thurston Town

Clerk <http://faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk/council/meetings/calendar-of-meetings/>

Sally Thurston

Town Clerk

Refugees / Migrants- 10/9/15

How can this Town Council justify in voting in Favaour of supporting this proposal ??

Most people have voiced on here that many questions need to be looked at and answers need to be looked at carefully before committing to something which all of us will be subjected to ..

I have just looked at the petition and 65 signatures dosent suggest anywhere near a Town Majority in support ..

A Council which totally ignores the views and wishes of the people they serve !!! Is their a motive i ask myself ??

Name Supplied

Views on GW Hospital wanted - 10/9/15

I am a public governor of the Great Western Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. I represent the constituency which includes Faringdon. On the 28th September the Care Quality Commission will begin its full inspection of the Trust. As part of its information

gathering the CQC welcomes comments and observations about the Trust from those members of the public who have used its services.

There are a number of ways in which these comments can be made. By telephone - ring 03000 61 61 61. By e-mail - enquiries@cqc.org.uk.

By completing an online form which can be accessed on the CQC website in the Hospitals section. I would encourage anyone who feels they wish to make a comment about GWH to do so.

Peter Pettit

FTC Support for Syrian refugees - 10/9/15

I'm pleased and proud to say that Faringdon Town Council voted yesterday to support hosting Syrian refugees as part of the UK/EU humanitarian response to the current refugee crisis.

Alex Meredith

Faringdon Heritage Day - 10/9/15

Faringdon Heritage open day this sunday - Beth Davis co-ordinator for the day is featured on 'Swindon Live and Local' on Swindon 105.5. Listen again to the show here - at 1 hour 1 minute

<https://soundcloud.com/sean-hodgson/l-l-the-eternal-sunshines-and-faringdon-heritage-day>

VWHDC Grants- 10/9/15

New homes bonus

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/community-advice-and-support/grants/new-homes-bonus-community-grant-2014-15>

Capital grants

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/community-advice-and-support/grants/capital-grants-scheme>

Ed

migrants - 10/10/15

How can town council make decisions to bring in families without the town having their say.

It would be easy to set up a FB page for the town to vote.

Short sighted town councillors looking for own self importance and hoping the town will support them.

Let's set up a voting page

Name supplied

Migrants- 10/9/15

All the postings of 9/9/15 are right of course. There are a great many questions that

have to be answered before migrants from anywhere are allowed to settle in Faringdon and to even suggest that ten families be taken and presumably houses set aside to take them is nonsense. There is an old saying that "A good turn never goes unpunished" and I'm afraid the migrants will be grateful only until their first Council Tax demand arrives.

So Peter and Lauren and others thinking of signing the petition, emotions are running high, let the euphoria subside and then take a more pragmatic approach. There are plenty of ways you can help refugees without foisting them on the council taxpayers of Faringdon

Dennis H.

Can Faringdon accommodate refugee families or does 'charity begin at home'?-

9/9/15

To correspondents who suggest Faringdon has no room for additional residents- especially if they are refugees: in fact, there are many existing unoccupied town-centre dwellings that the owners are quite happy to keep empty. I mean the accommodation above shops, which lies empty and neglected.

Faringdon town council and Chamber of Commerce want to 'protect' this as office space, but the fact is these were built as family dwellings with shops beneath, and it is high time they were renovated and put back to their intended use. Property owners who leave dwellings underused, or empty and neglected should be compelled to sell them under Compulsory Purchase Orders. Maybe then there would be fewer complaints about our town centre looking half-dead much of the time.

Anna Hoare

Neighbourhood Policing. September report - 9/9/15

<http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/yournh/yournh-tvp-pol-area/yournh-tvp-pol-area-soxon-vowh/pub-pg-nh-upds-N378?id=320460>

ED

Planning application for office and 9 dwellings on Park Road - 9/9/15

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P15/V2113/O>

ED

e-petition- 9/9/15

I too feel that the Faringdon area should not be shamed into taking in refugees. We do not have the facilities for the people that already live here. There is very little social housing and to privately rent a small two bedroom house is beyond the means of families earning the basic wage. It is not selfish to be concerned about our own people.

Name supplied

Refugees - 9/9/15

I am not going to disagree with the people concerned about Faringdon. It is very easy to fall into the way in which we are being directed by the Media. Ten Families in Faringdon, I thought the original idea was for One Family. This suggestion is to be discussed at to-nights Council Meeting.

Where do we house the Families. Where do we school their children. Where are the jobs coming from for them to be employed. How will they like our way of life because they will be the ones changing everything they have been brought up with. Watching the Migrants going through Hungary you do notice they have a complete disregard for our laws and culture.

I have to say I don't see them adapting to our ways and that will cause more stress to them and to us whether they decide to live in Germany or Faringdon .

Old Faringdonian.

migrants - 9/9/15

It amazes me that we can't find enough houses for our own young adults who can't afford to buy homes, yet we can find homes in emergencies. Our council list is long for housing..

Yet we can find homes for emergencies.

We have many families in Faringdon that need help, are they getting the help probably not.

Yet we can support migrant families.

All those families who need homes should come forward stand in a line in town and be counted. Then see how many homes we need before families are brought into Faringdon.

I understand the crisis but council and do Gooders should look at the need of Faringdon residents who need homes first

Name supplied

e-petition. - 9/9/15

I must say that I agree with " name supplied" I too watch with horror at the plight of the refugees on my TV. However they have escaped to safety but they still want to push on through Europe to Germany and of course the land of milk and money..the UK.

The trouble is with me or others that have the same opinions find that the great and the good that live here who just offer up our town without little discussion feel it's their duty to do so and sneer at those that don't. Where are ten families going to be put in Faringdon? some of those brand new houses about to be built perhaps?....our own children will never be able to scrape together enough deposit to ever buy one but perhaps, just perhaps we can give them away to the foreign needy because of their plight.

It seems to me that anyone with a sob story can come to this country and with the help of those great and good people get more or less anything they want while the indigenous people struggle and go to the wall without any e-petitions being signed to help them, has anyone started one of those petitions about the bedroom tax and how it

cripples those that have to pay it?....or how about one for shop keepers struggling with business rates worried sick if they can survive another month or not,clearly not fashionable to do that at the moment.

I am a great believer in charity begins at home. OK now tear me to shreds and let the fun begin....certainly a lot more interesting than discussing dog poo eh?

Name Supplied

Community Choir starts this evening- 9/9/15

Ferndale Community Choir

Ferndale School, Bromsgrove, Faringdon, SN77JF.

Free Parking in Southampton St car park, less than 5 minutes walk away.

£2.50

We aim to start singing at 7pm

Louise Woodgate, a professional singer and singing teacher, leads the choir.

No auditions, no need to read music, no experience needed- everyone welcome

We sing a variety of songs: folk, religion, musical theatre, pop and classical.

It's great fun, do come along

Petition - Refugees Welcome in Faringdon - 8/9/15

Why are we doing this now?

1. We have spare capacity.
2. We have relevant experience.
3. We're volunteers supporting public services.
- 4 We believe in the principles of the 'Big Society'.
5. We can endow our offer.
- 6 We believe we should help people in urgent need.

Peter and Lauren

Refugees Welcome - 8/9/15

... for the last three years that I have been reading this website it has been nonstop outcry from fellow readers that developers might come in and start building homes.. Now we have a refugees welcome petition ,, so the question is where do we put them when they get here ,, and where do they work ?? assuming that we don't want them scrounging off the tax payer ...

They certainly weren't very welcome a few months ago when Faringdon voted for a Conservative MP and Councilors with massive majorities who promised faithfully to tackle the unsustainable problem of immigration...

Stop being hypocrits and be sensible... Faringdon is a small market town which people have fought hard to preserve ,, and just isn't geared up for coach loads of refugees / immigrants. .

Name Supplied

Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan seeks to mislead local people and councillors-

7/9/15

As local people await the results of the public consultation on the Draft Neighbourhood Plan, supporters of the campaign to Restore Wicklesham Quarry urge Councillors to recognize the serious shortcomings of the Neighbourhood Plan for which they are ultimately responsible.

Besides many inaccuracies regarding Faringdon's working population and employment sectors, the Neighbourhood Plan also omits crucial information about the protected landscape and habitat status of Wicklesham Quarry. Wicklesham Quarry lies within the designated Conservation Target Area (CAT) of West Oxon Heights, Streams, Hills, Woods and Parks. Oxfordshire's Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) calls CATs 'hotspots' for protecting and increasing 'priority species and habitats'. CATs are given special protection under the Vale of White Horse District Council's Core Policy 46:

Conservation and Improvement of Biodiversity. Why does the Neighbourhood Plan fail to include this information, which is central to fulfilling the statutory Basic Conditions, and instead wrongly describe the Quarry as 'brownfield site'? We conclude that there is a concerted attempt by members of the FNP Steering Group to misinform both local people and Councillors who recently claimed to have no knowledge of Wicklesham Quarry's existing restoration plan or habitat status.

Wicklesham Quarry is not only an exceptional geological SSSI, but a recognized habitat for rare plants and animals, and its ecology is linked to its 'Greensand' geology as part of the Corallian Ridge. Even before restoration, the Quarry is a breeding haven for smooth and palmate newts, toads and Great Crested Newts. These creatures and the ponds, insects and plant life on which they depend will be lost if the quarry is buried in concrete and polluted by noise and HGV traffic. Supporters of the campaign to PROTECT WICKLESHAM QUARRY FROM DEVELOPMENT urge Faringdon Councillors to reject turning the Quarry into a 20 acre warehousing/ logistics site, and instead to protect its rare ecology in accordance with its special status and the geology which is key to its rare plant and wildlife.

Councillors, please remember the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy: 'Mineral workings are considered a temporary land use; the land should be ultimately restored to a positive land-use ... determined in relation to its land-use context and surrounding environmental character.. As part of the process of seeking planning permission for mineral extraction, the applicant must demonstrate that they will restore the site ... and the restoration plan should be approved as part of the planning permission.' Any future other than restoration would represent a travesty of Faringdon Council's responsibility to the environment, as well as destroying the town's ability to benefit from having this unique, historic environmental site on our doorstep.

If you have already signed the petition, please copy & paste the link in an email to friends, colleagues and neighbours, and add it to your Facebook

page:<https://www.change.org/p/faringdon-town-council-the-vale-of-white-horse-district->

[council-and-secretary-of-state-greg-clark-protect-wicklesham-quarry-from-development?just_created=true](#)

Anna Hoare

e: Petition- Refugees welcome in Faringdon - 6/9/15

OK In the risk of riling everyone up I am going to be a bit contentious here.

I fully understand that these refugees are escaping an intolerable situation in Syria and are fleeing for their lives however they have now escaped and are in countries already that are safe havens yet they continue to then move through Austria and onto Germany and many eyeing up the UK. If they have got to an area that is now safe for them then there is no need to accommodate more in the UK.

It does seem that a few horrific images of children having died have peaked everyone's conscience yet before then dead or dying adults and it was all "oh no we can't let them in".

Don't get me wrong I do feel we need to help but it is interesting seeing the complete volte face of people and sudden lack of questioning and dare I say showmanship of "Look what I am doing aren't I just so perfect".

I really don't want to start a flame war here just want to provoke thought into the matter.
Name Supplied

Bank Card found - 5/9/15

Jeremy Wood, I found your bank card whilst walking my dog near the cricket club (Sun 5:30pm). I'll take it back to the bank tomorrow.

Caroline Wilson

Petition- Refugees welcome in Faringdon - 5/9/15

We have just started the petition "REFUGEES WELCOME IN FARINGDON" and wanted to ask if you could add your name too.

This campaign means a lot to us and the more support we can get behind it, the better chance we have of succeeding. You can read more and sign the petition here:

<http://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/refugees-welcome-in-faringdon>

Thank you!

Peter and Lauren Gale

P.S. Can you also take a moment to share the petition with others in our area? It's really easy – all you need to do is forward this email or share this link on Facebook or Twitter: <http://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/refugees-welcome-in-faringdon>

Burglary Park Road - 4/9/15

Thames Valley Police is appealing for witnesses following a burglary (non-dwelling) in Faringdon.

Overnight between Tuesday (01/09) and Wednesday (02/09) offender(s) attempted to gain access to a Workshop in Park road. The external fence was cut and a wall panel

was damaged. No access was gained.

If you have seen any suspicious looking people or vehicles in this area or have any information relating to this message please call the police on 101.

Alternatively if you have any 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.

Burglaries in churches in Buscot and Coleshill.- 2/9/15

Thames Valley Police is appealing for information following two burglaries (non-dwelling) in Buscot and Coleshill.

Between 5.15pm on Sunday (30/8) and 8.30am on Monday (31/8), The Church of St Mary in Buscot, was burgled.

Offenders gained entry via a rear window and stole candle holders and candles. The candle holders were found and recovered outside the church.

Between Friday (28/8) and Tuesday (1/9), Church of All Saints in Coleshill, was burgled.

Offenders smashed a rear window to gain entry. Items were moved around inside the church, but it is not known at this time if any property was stolen.

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 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.

New Advice Centre in Faringdon- 1/9/15

Find out all about it on <http://www.theadvicecafe.co.uk>

ED(GW)

Smell in Berners Way area?- 31/8/15

Has anyone else noticed a very strong smell of disinfectant and also, at other times, strong smells of burning in the Berners Way area of Faringdon? Today, (31 Aug) the disinfectant smell has been especially strong and penetrating even when my house windows have been closed. I suspect that these smells are coming from the Old Berks Hunt animal incinerator (or nearby) in Stanford Road. What do other residents think please?

Godfrey Smith

Fitsteps in Faringdon- 31/8/15

HI FITSTEPPERS

Just to let you know that we are back in Faringdon again this Friday after the summer break!

Classes this week are:

Tuesday 7.30pm Lechlade Pavilion, Memorial Hall

Wednesday 10am Lechlade Pavilion, Memorial Hall

Faringdon 11am The Pump House Project, Swan Lane, Faringdon

STRICTLY EVENING, Lechlade Memorial Hall. 12 September - in aid of Breast Cancer Now (combination of Breakthrough Breast Cancer and Breast Cancer Campaign). Only £10 per ticket. GREAT RAFFLE PRIZES HAVE BEEN DONATED AND RAFFLE TICKETS WILL BE ON SALE FROM THIS WEEK AT £5 A STRIP which gives you five chances of winning one of 25 prizes! Even if you can't be there on the night!

.....and to you Fitsteppers that haven't been for a while, why don't you start September with a bang and come back to give it another go! Would love to see you.

Sharon Wilson

01367 253346 07769 229084 <https://www.fitsteps.co.uk/>

EX- Market Restaurant- 31/8/15

Sad to say, that it has now happened. Our little Market Restaurant, has now shut, probably for ever. After about 24 years of service, in this wonderful town.

THANK YOU to so many old, loyal, and new customers, and staff who have supported us over the years...and have given us so many cards, flowers and presents. We are so touched by our last weekend 'send off'.

Andy, can no longer cope with the long and strenuous hours of preparation in a hot kitchen. Jo is happy to be teaching more YOGA and Pilates in Oxford and Faringdon. We are looking forward to our new life.

Nobody has bought the premises, it is deemed to large for its purpose. We may need to reduce the restaurant area.

Please do contact us with any queries Shut@MarketRest.co.uk

Looking forward to seeing you around, without cooking.

Jo and Andy

The Quad tea and coffee rooms- 30/8/15

New tearoom in Faringdon in the old Barclays Bank building. Great to see it used.

Good coffee and cake too.

Name Supplied

Heritage Day events in Faringdon. Sunday 13th September - 29/8/15

More details and opening times on [Heritage Day website](#)

'Hidden Historic Treasures of the Cotswolds' by Diz White

The Pump House, Market Place, Faringdon, Oxfordshire, SN7 7HL

All Saints' Church

All Saints' Church, Church Street, Faringdon, Oxfordshire, SN7 7HW

Come and see All Saint's Church of England, this fabulous Church.....

Faringdon Geology Trail

The Pump House, Market Place, Faringdon, Oxfordshire, SN7 7HL

Oxfordshire Geology Trust will have a display of local fossils in.....

Folly Tower

Folly Tower and Woodland, Folly Hill, Faringdon, Oxfordshire, SN77AQ

Visit Faringdon's most famous landmark, built in the 1930's and....

Lord Berners' Bizarre Magical Walk

Below Old Town Hall, Faringdon, Oxfordshire, SN7 7HL

Let Lord Berners, portrayed by Peter Wentworth, lead you in a.....

Meet The Old Berks Hunt

Market Place, Faringdon, Oxfordshire, SN77HL

Meet and greet members of The Old Berks Hunt, who will be paying.....

Pump House

The Pump House, Faringdon, Oxfordshire, SN77HL

there will be various informative displays and exhibitions

Faringdon & District Archaeological & Historical Society

Jan Jakowski's historical photos

Oxfordshire Geology Trust

National Trust Diz White, actress and author, introduces the Cotswolds Memoir

Sharon and Steve Clough's collection of artefacts Oxfordshire Museum Resource Centre

Quakers Meeting House

4 Lechlade Road, Faringdon, Oxfordshire, SN7 8AQ

Come and visit the oldest Quakers Meeting House in the Oxfordshire/Berkshire area.

The Old Station Nursery

The Old Station Nursery, 7 Park Road, Faringdon, Oxfordshire, SN7 7BP

This was once The Faringdon Branch railway station. The station opened in the 1860's and lasted for nearly a century before closure

WWII Exhibition - Old Town Hall

Old Town Hall, Market Place, Faringdon, Oxfordshire, SN7 7HL

This central 17th Century building will be open to the public with....

Blocked Footpath- 29/8/15

Would the brainless person(s) who dumped a large tree branch, plus several smaller branches across the bollards at the top of the busy footpath between Southampton Street and Volunteer Way completely blocking it today, please come back and remove them so that the footpath may be freely used.

Name Supplied

Noise from neighbour - 29/8/15

Is it right that i have to put up with music banging on my wall at 11-30 at night it is quite a regular thing in follyview road
name supplied

Esso Service Station - 29/8/15

If you feel strongly about losing the Pay@Pump facility you can sign a petition to the new owners here: https://www.change.org/p/zuber-issa-mohsin-issa-return-the-pay-at-pump-facility-at-acorn-service-station-faringdon?recruiter=40329451&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=copylink

Dave Headey

Health and Social services working in an integrated way - 28/8/15

Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, Oxford Health NHS FT and Oxfordshire County Council are working together to have in place during 2015; locally based community health and social care teams. Each locality teams will be working closely with a group of GP practices, to deliver joined up support and care to people in their own homes and in clinics.

This is not a new service; it is a new way of working to deliver the integrated care that both the public and professionals have asked for in consultation of several strategies in the last few years, and is set out in Oxfordshire's Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

More information and newsletters on:

<http://www.oxfordshireccg.nhs.uk/about-us/work-programmes/community-integrated-locality-teams/briefings/>

re: Esso Service Station- 27/8/15

The Pay at Pump systems they were using were so slow to register your card, accept the pin and then allow distribution of fuel that you were always better off just going in to the shop in the first place. Mind you the current card reader they have in the shop is a bit hit or miss too. Mind you it is still cheap so worth it however the Esso further up towards Swindon for some reason is always about 2 or 3p a litre cheaper still.

Rob Perkins

THE PUMP HOUSE PROJECT COMMUNITY SINGING GROUP - 27/8/15

WEDNESDAYS 11.45am - 12.45am £2.00 PER PERSON (drop in)

Tutor: Emily Marshall

A relaxed and friendly morning choir, open to all. We'll be singing songs and harmonies from around the world for well-being, for a sense of community and for fun. Come and find your voice with others.

A little note from Emily...

If you've always fancied singing with others but didn't feel a formal or evening choir was for you, then The Pump House Project Community singing probably is. My name is Emily Marshall. I am an experienced singing leader who believe that everyone should have the chance to be uplifted by singing what ever you think of your voice. I work with groups right across the community from baby music groups to singing for fun with Age UK. I believe anyone can sing and everyone is entitled to enjoy the pleasure and power of singing together whatever your past experience. You don't need to read music as I teach by ear and choose songs from all over the world and especially from traditions where learning aurally is the norm. It's fun, it's healthy and sociable so come and find your natural singing voice and enjoy it.

I start with gentle sitting stretches, some breathing warm-ups and some vocal exercises to get our voices ready.

I'll teach a short simple chant or round, when we're naturally singing in harmony with ease. Then I'll teach a song to sing in harmony involving parts with a little learning. Maybe a gospel song, a folk song or music from around the world. All are taught in a relaxed informal way, building confidence and where nobody is expected to perform or adhere to traditional choir parts eg. soprano/tenor.

I bring lyric sheets for a more traditional 'sing song' at the end, but work a cappella so there is no accompaniment (but I am learning the Ukelele!)

There is no pressure to be an excellent singer. I hope to create a supportive environment where I encourage people to lose their ideas that they can't sing. I want everyone to think their own voice is natural and connect with others and enjoy the experience.

I regularly find that having people with a complete range of experience creates a great sound. So there might be, say someone who often sings in a church choir next to someone who was told to mime the last time they sang at school! All are welcome.

COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING STARTING WEDNESDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER 9.30am-11.45am- 27/8/15

The Pump House Project on Swan Lane will be providing a community coffee morning for just £1.00 per person. Providing an affordable way for you to meet up with friends, socialise with new people or just come and try something new. Optional activities will be available most weeks such as crafts, board games or stalls.

Kealy Whenray

More kerbside recycling - 27/8/15

From 7 September in South Oxfordshire and 5 October in the Vale of White Horse, residents can put out small unusable electrical items such as toasters, kettles, irons and hairdryers out with their grey bin for recycling.

Any tired or damaged textiles or clothes that aren't good enough for charity with their green bin for recycling. Items can be put in a tied carrier bag next to the bin on the normal collection day. The service is for unusable and worn out textiles – residents should give anything that is reusable to charity shops.

Small electrical items are taken to a specialist site in Newbury for sorting, storing and processing into new items. Textiles are taken to a sorting warehouse in East London – any cotton and polyester gets cut into industrial rags, and any wool is shredded and made into felt or new yarn.

Until now there has not been a way for residents to get rid of their unusable textiles without taking a trip to the county council's waste recycling centres, meaning lots of residents were putting them in their grey bin.

A couple of years ago, the councils installed some pink bring banks for small electrical items in car parks across both districts. They've been popular but aren't as convenient, so the councils expect to recycle many more electrical items with the new service.

Cllr Tony Harbour, cabinet member for waste at South Oxfordshire District Council, said: "our residents are already the best in the country at recycling, and this is a great opportunity for them to recycle even more from the comfort of their own home. They've done us proud with their recycling efforts, so we like to think this extra bit of convenience will make life a bit easier."

Cllr Elaine Ware, cabinet member for waste at Vale of White Horse District Council, said: "We'd still encourage residents to give any wearable or just unwanted clothes to charity. Basically, if it's too tired or tatty for charity, pop it out on your green bin week – otherwise, see if you can find a good home. We're really keen to get this service up and running, and keep even more recyclable waste out of our grey bins."

Residents can visit www.morerecycling.co.uk for more information about the service.

Temporary Job- 26/8/15

I was sent this offer of temporary work from the Reed website for the weekend, I am not available, any takers?

"We are looking for 3 people to assist at a Country show based near Faringdon over the bank holiday weekend.

Working 8am - 5:30pm on Sunday 30th August and 31st August 2015, you will be working to promote my client - handing freebies to visitors and encouraging people to enter their grand draw.

The ideal candidate will be outgoing and confident to approach members of the public.

My client will supply a branded t-shirt and jumper.

It is essential that you have your own transport to get to the country show.

This is an urgent booking, If you are interested please reply back to my email.

Emily.Kent@reedglobal.com"

I have nothing to do with the event or the recruiter but thought i'd pass it on...

Have a good weekend!

Name Supplied

Esso Service Station- 26/8/15

I was planning to send a note saying I hope that the new management were going to sort the pumps out & actually have the pay at pump working more than 50% of the time. However it seems (via Facebook) that they are taking the pay at the pump option away altogether. If that's the case I'll be going elsewhere as I don't have 15 minutes to queue behind someone doing their weekly shop or needs to 'get' a coffee, each time I want to fill up.

Name Supplied

Aldi, Waitrose, Costs recommendation- 26/8/15

Extract from committee report

8.0 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that authority to grant planning permission is delegated to the head of planning subject to:

1. A S106 agreement being entered into with both the County Council and Faringdon Town Council in order to secure contributions towards local infrastructure and town initiatives; and

2. Conditions as follows:

- 1. Reserved matters (excluding access) to be submitted within three years.
- 2. Development to be begun within two years from approval of reserved matters.
- 3. Approved plans (access plan).

More conditions on committee

report. <http://democratic.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/documents/s27103/P15V0394O%20%20Land%20at%204%20and%20%20site%20Park%20Road%20Faringdon%20-%20report.pdf>

The report details 106 requested, and states 'a coach park is welcomed' amongst other things

Oxfordshire's 'unique' geological site under threat- 26/8/15

Natural England calls Wicklesham Quarry "one of Britain's richest palaeontological sites". It is an internationally famous SSSI, with over 150 species of fossils, many of which occur only at Faringdon. It is also a site of biodiversity, with eleven listed 'rare' plant species, and breeding colonies of smooth, palmate and protected Great Crested Newts. 'Faringdon fossils' have been recorded in museum collections since the 17th century, suggesting they played an important role in the development of evolutionary science.

In spite of its natural wealth, scientific importance and protected status, Faringdon Council supports its inclusion in the Neighbourhood Plan as an industrial warehousing site - even though FOUR independent reports have already judged it to be unsuitable, unsustainable, and 'far in excess' of Faringdon's present and future needs. Wicklesham Quarry is part of a working farm, it lies outside the town's development boundary, and planning conditions state that it must be returned to agricultural use.

Wicklesham's unique geological record and vulnerable natural habitat are an important test case for Neighbourhood Planning's power to potentially over-ride strategic national and local area policies. BBC South recently reported on the campaign to PROTECT WICKLESHAM QUARRY FROM DEVELOPMENT, which has hundreds of supporters across Oxfordshire and beyond, including leading environmentalists Jonathon Porritt and George Monbiot. You can read more about Wicklesham Quarry at: https://www.change.org/p/faringdon-town-council-the-vale-of-white-horse-district-council-and-secretary-of-state-greg-clark-protect-wicklesham-quarry-from-development?just_created=true.

Anna Hoare

Aldi, Waitrose, Costa - 25/8/15

I see that the following application:

Outline application (all matters reserved except highway access) for two class A1 retail stores, Class A5 drive thru coffee shop, coach parking, car parking, access, drainage, landscaping and associated works

On the site by the A420 roundabout is recommended for approval at committee on 2nd September. If the end users are who they say they are then Faringdon will have an Aldi, Waitrose and another Costa.

Name supplied

Wifi at the Health Centre - 25/8/15

Excellent. It will be helpful to those who have very busy lives and need to progress things at work or at home while they're waiting. I hope that this is all silent communication though, so others are not disturbed.

Name Supplied

Old photos of Faringdon 1905-1910- 25/8/15

James Morley has given permission for me to include his old photos of Faringdon on this website. There's Anns Garage, London St, Market Square. Have a look under Photo Collections on the [Photo and Maps section](#).

Maybe there are other places on <https://www.flickr.com/photos/whatsthatpicture/sets/72157657162387669> you can identify. I'm sure he'd be pleased to know.

Thankyou James

james@whatsthatpicture.com

Ed(GW)

Faringdon Cobbler - 25/8/15

I had some keys cut recently at Faringdon Cobblers, opposite the Corn Exchange.. The service was really good and the the young man serving me was very helpful. A lovely shop!

Jacqui Massey

Planning application behind regent mews- 25/8/15

I see another application has gone in for this wooded site. Instead of 3 medium size houses, they propose 2 large houses, which infact have a bigger overall footprint than before. Objections can be submitted until 3rd September, use your voice, write a comment on the application...

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P15/V1858/FUL> Name Supplied

WiFi at the medical centre- 24/8/15

Why oh why do you need Wi-Fi when you are waiting to see a Dr. or Nurse. Have we lost the art of just sitting still. You can talk to the person next to you or scan a magazine or just sit and watch people but please leave the iPhone or laptop in the car.
Old Faringdonian

Re: Wifi at the Medical centre- 23/8/15

The use of mobile phones in Medical Centre waiting rooms is not just greatly annoying to some, but interferes with delicate electronic equipment such as the ECG and EEG apparatus (ElectroCardioGraph and ElectroEncephaloGraph).
The "please switch off..." signs were placed there for more than one reason.
Now the Practice offers Wi-Fi which most people will want to access with their 'phone. Have the "please switch off..." signs been removed? Will we all be subjected to even more loud one-way conversations and the jangling sound effects as children (and older) play games on 'phones while we wait?
Name Supplied

Wifi at the Medical centre -22/8/15

- The White Horse Medical Practice provides free, unsecured, wi-fi which is available for use by its patients.
- The network is called OXON-NHS-GUEST
- Even if it shows 'connected', the user is required to accept the associated wi-fi usage agreement page by clicking the 'accept' button
- It is stressed that this is an unsecured service, with connection made at the user's risk.

WHMP Patient group

Faringdon Calendar 2016- 21/8/15

We are currently putting together next year's calendar and thought it would be a great idea to include photos of the local area taken by local people! We are of course looking for 12 different shots, one for each month. All photos used will be credited to the photographer who will receive a free calendar.
Please email any photos you would like to be considered to: tic@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk by September 14th.
Thank you, and we look forward to seeing all the wonderful photos!
The Community & Tourist Information Team.

Grants for Festivals VWHDC - 21/8/15

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/community-advice-and-support/grants/festival-grants>
Apply for up to £1000 now
Ed(GW)

See Whose dog is this? - 20/8/15

http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/13617108.Dog_rescued_in_Faringdon_after_muzzle_was_bound_shut_by_tape/?ref=lp
Name Supplied

Support grows for Protect Wicklesham Quarry campaign.- 19/8/15

In the past 36 hours a further twenty people have signed the petition on Change.Org to PROTECT WICKLESHAM QUARRY FROM DEVELOPMENT, perhaps having heard about it through recent media reports.
One Faringdon resident asks: ' If another industrial site is needed why has that one at the beginning of Park Road lain undeveloped for so long?'
Someone else wrote: 'A few years ago we were able to collect fossils with permission, while there we found plenty of outstanding ones ranging from coral to marine reptile bones and teeth, within a block of rock I even found a dinosaur tooth all of which have taken pride of place in my collection. It would be a shame for this land to be lost completely to future generations as that day we didn't just find fossils but also had the pleasure of stumbling across newts, toads, deer and foxes, turning this site into an industrial or warehouse site would be a real loss to Britain's natural history.'
Anna Hoare

Re: Steeds Farm- 19/8/15`

If the people who make the decisions mostly live far away from Faringdon, is it possible they will approve these new developments as they help the Vale meet their new homes requirement but means that they don't have their local area spoiled?. No I don't think it's possible either, but some may ask...
Names Supplied

re: Steeds Farm- 19/8/15

Unfortunately the people who will make the decision about this, Highworth Rd and made the decision about Fernham Fields are at the other end of the Vale and would need a satnav to find us. Only one or two of them will be affected by their decision.
Green Witch

Wicklesham Quarry- 18/8/15

It featured on BBC South Today. If you want a balanced, accurate summary of what's going on (and succinct - it's just two minutes long) follow this link to iPlayer. Clip expires at 10:40pm on Tuesday 18 August. Scroll forward on clip to 2:38
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b0663c4g/bbc-oxford-news-17082015>
Tom Allen-Stevens
Owner, Wicklesham Quarry

Lost from London Street:- 18/8/15

beautiful small female cat, Mina. White (mainly throat, face, belly and patches on her sides), brown and grey, dark brown nose, fairly flat face. Reward offered for return.
Call Sarah on 07821444174. Many thanks

Re- Steeds Farm - 18/8/15

Sadly not all the cars will be trying to get onto the A420. Plenty will be driving down Coxwell Road/Street making Fernham Road almost impossible to get out of, especially at school drop off time and it's bad enough now. Then we'll have the same problem getting out of Highworth Road and don't get me started on all the cars trying to get to the infant and junior schools.
Do planners and the people who say yes to these developments consider any of this? I don't think so, they just seem to have this idealistic attitude that everybody will walk or cycle!
Name Supplied

Re- Steeds Farm - 17/8/15

Isn't this development supposed to include the upgraded access to the A420 (new large roundabout on A420). That junction is death trap and has got to be improved, especially with the Fernham fields development going ahead. These two developments will add 400 houses. That's a lot of extra commuters in the morning, all trying to get onto the A420.

Regards

Grumpy Old Man

Internet Connection - 16/8/15

Anyone else having problems with EE/Orange connections?

This last week it has been very intermittent. Can be working on line then it just stops. Phoned them and they said I had a loose cable! Clearly not.

Name supplied

Ruth and Sarah's Shopping Evening - 16/8/15

12th November 2015 from 7pm – 10 pm (traders Set up 6-7pm)

We are delighted to announce that Ruth and Sarah's Shopping Evening will take place again this year. Last year this event raised over £2000 for local charities thanks to well over one hundred people who supported the event and used it to get ready for Christmas. It is the fantastic selection of stalls that makes the evening so popular and we hope to attract even more people through the door this year. We hope you can join us. This year we will be supporting Sobell House who provided so much support and care for Ruth and her family.

Entry £3 includes a glass of wine and entry to our raffle.

Stalls cost £10 or £15

To register your interest or reserve a stall please email: RuthandSarahShopping@gmail.com

Singing for the Brain - 15/8/15

Put your musical talents to good use and make a real difference to the lives and wellbeing of people affected by dementia and their carers

We run four Singing for the Brain groups across Oxfordshire, each one of which offers people affected by dementia the chance for social interaction in a safe and supportive environment.

We are now looking for a new volunteer to join our existing team to provide holiday and sickness cover for the leaders of these four groups.

In this role you will put together and then run a short programme of songs which suit the musical tastes of attendees.

We will provide you with all necessary training, reimburse your agreed out-of-pocket expenses and give you any support you require.

To find out more or apply, call Jane Penton on 01296 718956 or email jane.penton@alzheimers.org.uk

Community First responders needed in Faringdon - 15/8/15

Community Responding started in Oxfordshire in the year 2000 mainly with off duty staff in the rural areas such as Faringdon, Chipping Norton and Wantage. Volunteer responders were recruited in 2001 around mainly rural Oxfordshire. Since then we have grown and we now have 120 Community Responders in Oxfordshire. We work with other partners such as the RAF, they started in 2005, Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue who started in 2007, TVP PCSO's started in 2011 and Oxford Medical Students started in 2013.

Do you want to make a difference and give something back to the people in your local community when they need you the most?

You could make a difference by providing emergency life saving skills to a member of your community until an emergency ambulance arrives.

Community First Responders are volunteers that are trained and equipped by the ambulance service to answer certain types of medical emergencies in their local communities while the ambulance is on its way. There is good evidence to suggest that if people are trained to help someone while the ambulance is on the way, more lives are saved, and because the volunteers operate in their neighbourhoods there is every possibility they will arrive before the ambulance and these seconds and minutes can make all the difference.

Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) is the UK's single biggest killer. On average, 150,000 people suffer a SCA every year. Every minute that passes after someone has suffered SCA the chance of a successful resuscitation reduces by about 14%. The UK national average chance of survival is 4%. In areas where this is an active Community First Responder scheme, this increases to 20 to 25%.

When the ambulance service receives a emergency call in an area where there is a volunteer available and if the call suitable for a volunteer to attend, the responder receives a message on a mobile phone alerting them to this incident. They then make their way to the incident following communication from the control room. This means that help is on the way within seconds of a call being made. Responders can arrive at the incident while the person is still making the 999 call!

All you need to join is to be over 18, have a full driving licence and pass an enhanced criminal records' check and be willing and able to give up some free time to help your community.

We are currently looking for volunteers throughout Oxfordshire and the surrounding villages.

If you would to help in this literally life saving and very rewarding project please e-mail david.england@scas.nhs.uk for an information pack or call David

England, the local liaison and training officer on 07970 490 519 our web page is www.southcentralambulance.nhs.uk

Begging - 15/8/15

I have twice been approached in the town, by a woman about 5'6 slim with long brown hair asking for £1. not to buy anything in particular, I mentioned this to a friend who said that she also had been asked for £1 and also a friend of hers has been asked. By description It seems to be the same woman.

I support various charities and if someone was homeless and asking for cash I would buy some food or water, not give them cash.

Name Supplied

Planning application: Steeds Farm, 200 houses - 15/8/15

Residential development of up-to 200 dwellings of varying tenures and sizes.

The residential development would possess a density of about 30 dwellings per hectare on 6.7 hectares of land.

- Up-to 35% of the proposed dwellings would be for affordable housing purposes;
- Green infrastructure, extending to circa 4.55 hectares, which would be suitable for sustainable urban drainage features and biodiversity enhancements. The area also includes an equipped children's play area;
- The main vehicular accesses from Coxwell Road with the existing farm access maintained and used to access the surface water attenuation feature;
- A hierarchical road network within the residential development; and
- Potential new footpaths towards the south and north to link with the proposed allocation south of Highworth Road and the existing rights of way which provide access to Great Coxwell.

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P15/V1934/O>

Deadline for decision is November.

As far as I can see there is no money for infrastructure improvements except for schools and the library

ED

Advice centre in Faringdon - survey- 15/8/15

Wantage Independent Advice Centre (IAC) & South & Vale CAB are setting up a pilot outreach advice service to be held in Faringdon, in conjunction with South and Vale Carers and Oxfordshire Mind. In order to assess the need and likely demand for a permanent service, we would much appreciate [completion of this survey](#).

Ladies Silver Bracelet: - 14/8/15

Lost between 20.45 - 21.20, Saturday 8th August 2015 in Market Place at Folly Fest. Of great sentimental value to owner who would be immensely grateful for its return.

Please email if you have any knowledge of its whereabouts.

Thank you.

dionysia@hotmail.co.uk

re: Closure of Stanford recycling centre- 14/8/15

I've had a look around the consultation website, but I can't seem to see the "Reject our 19% pay rise" option...

On a serious note, it seems a bit stupid that they are looking to reduce these recycling centres at the same time that they seem to be on a mission to double the population of the county by building thousands of new houses - will the £350,000.00 be needed to enlarge the ones that remain? as I doubt they are running massively under-capacity at the moment.

Name Supplied

Back now- 14/8/15

Have been away- lots of new posts since 8/8

ED

Faringdon Art Society "Drop in/painting in company" - 14/8/15

"The Faringdon Art Society holds a weekly art session during term time on Wednesdays from 10.00 to 12.30, at the United Church in Faringdon. Members and non members get together to paint (bring own materials) and chat over a cup of coffee (please bring your own mug). Each session costs £3. For dates and more information please go to www.faringdonartsociety.org.uk/events.html or contact Karen Spence faringdonartsociety@gmail.com

VWHDC consultation on Sunday Trading Hours- 12/8/15

Local traders and residents are being asked for their views on proposals which could see Sunday trading hours extended for larger shops.

Under arrangements which were established over 20 years ago, large shops with more than 280 square metres floor space are currently only allowed to open for up to six hours between 10am and 6pm on a Sunday, while smaller premises can open all day.

In response to the changing way people do their shopping the Government has put forward proposals to devolve Sunday trading laws to local councils in order to allow greater flexibility over the hours that large shops can stay open for.

It is hoped that by allowing local flexibility for Sunday trading, consumers will be offered more choice when to shop locally, businesses will have more freedom on opening hours and staff greater opportunity to work on a Sunday.

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/news/2015/2015-08/sunday-trading-hours-could-change---how-will-affect-you>

[Complete the survey](#)

Consultation on Closure of Recycling Centres- 11/8/15

Oxfordshire County Council has opened a consultation exercise to hear people's views on its proposals to reduce the number of recycling centres and to reduce the opening hours of the remaining sites. They are also looking into charging for access to the sites.

The consultation document and online feedback form are available here: <http://tinyurl.com/nh6djt6>. The consultation ends on 5 October.

Apart from being a major inconvenience to Faringdon residents, it is also likely to increase significantly the amount of fly-tipping that takes place in the surrounding countryside.

Folly Man

Closure of Oxfordshire recycling centres- 11/8/15

You can read the information Oxfordshire CC sent to Faringdon Town Council (FTC) on <http://faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk/household-waste-recycling-centers-strategy/>

FTC

Closure of Stanford recycling centre - 10/8/15

Following on from the recent discussion surrounding the possible closure of the recycling centre at Stanford in the Vale, I thought it might be worthwhile mentioning that the council have set up a public consultation on how to achieve savings of several hundred thousand pounds. They are inviting comments from people in the county about how this saving can be achieved.

One of the suggestions is cutting the number of sites in the county from 7 sites to 3, another is to cut it from 7 sites to 4 but with limited opening hours for those still open.

The survey can be found by following the links from the council's site at: <http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/waste>

They say the consultation is open until October. If you have views on the matter they said that they'd like to hear from you via their survey.

Name supplied

Folly Fest- 10/8/15

I would like to thank everyone who was involved with the organisation of the fest including the bars cafes and stalls over the weekend. We were blessed with great weather which contributed to the enjoyment of the whole event. It was a real community gathering nice to meet new people and catch up with old friends. Faringdon set the pace this weekend for other communities to learn from. Well done!!

Donna Wesbrough

Follyfest- 10/8/15

What a fantastic weekend and congratulations to the organisers of the event, it was superb.

Jane Boulton

Scouts' stall at Follyfest- 10/8/15

Thank you so much to everyone who ran and supported the 1st Faringdon Scouts' stall on Saturday at Fabulous Follyfest. We all had a great time and made just over £100 for Scouting in Faringdon.

Faith Carpenter

Folly Fest 2015.- 9/8/15

Wow, the best yet?

Congratulations to the committee, a huge thank you to the volunteers, what more can I say?

Ah, forgot the musicians and the food vendors et al, all absolutely bloody brilliant!

Thank you for a wonderful weekend.

Mike & Rachel.

Follyfest.- 9/8/15

What a difference sound wise from the Party in the Park debacle. Nothing to complain about the noise overspill, the organisation for the Follyfest must be a darn sight better!

Well done to the organisers.

Colin Eddy

Allotment sheds broken into - 9/8/15

Not sure if anyone has seen on Facebook, but a few sheds were broken in to in the allotments on Saturday night, my mate had his stuff completely cleared out. I heard there were more break ins a few weeks before also. Just so everyone is aware, I'd recommend not leaving anything valuable in the sheds, if thieves want to get in, they will!

Name Supplied

Re: BBC Oxford Radio on the campaign to PROTECT WICKLESHAM QUARRY.- 8/8/15

I guess we don't need to listen to the radio now, having had what would appear to be the full transcript of Anna's contribution here.

Succinctness has its virtues.....

Richard King

Folly Fest Cycle Event- 8/8/15

I'm all in favour of cycling but this morning's mass "Tour De France peleton" start at around 8.30 was extraordinarily dangerous. Hundreds of cyclists all starting at the same time and then cycling down the Radcot Road, many 4 or 5 abreast, was potentially a recipe for disaster. Cars that were trying to get by when it was safe to do so couldn't because of the swirling mass of cyclists who seemed to think it was ok to pull out (without looking behind) and join others who were already occupying half the road, with no apparent concern for their own safety. Surely they should have been set off in small bunches and have been made aware that the Highway Code still applies to them (never ride more than two abreast, and ride in single file on narrow or busy roads and when riding round bends). I hope the organisers realise that there was a problem and can ensure safer starts in the future.

Moiria Marsden

BBC Oxford Radio on the campaign to PROTECT WICKLESHAM QUARRY.- 7/8/15

Oxford Radio will broadcast short interviews with quarry owner, Tom Allen-Stevens and myself on Monday 10th August some time between 7.00 and 10.00am. In response to the suggestion that this is all about 'jobs for Faringdon', I pointed out that Faringdon has over 18 acres of allocated, undeveloped land for B1, B2 & B8 employment already. All independent land reviews state this will easily meet the town's needs until 2031, together with Park Road, which is seeing a welcome revival as more units are being rebuilt, doubling existing floor spaces.

No one wants to see good local job opportunities lost, but the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group's obsession with developing more and more land has led them into serious errors. First, jobs and employment land are not the same thing, and around half of all jobs are NOT on 'allocated' land. Their assumption that all new residents (YES- they include EVERYONE aged between 16 and 64!) should work in yet-to-be-created manufacturing and warehousing jobs in Faringdon itself is obvious nonsense. Yet this is the basis of figures produced by the Steering Group, who want to justify more than DOUBLING Faringdon's independently-assessed B-class land allocation, by including Wicklesham Quarry. Obviously, this is all about profiting from development, not about what Faringdon residents need.

What are the dangers of excess development? For one thing, an unsustainable burden on infrastructure- especially the A420 where Oxfordshire County Council recorded a 35% traffic increase in the past four years. If Wicklesham Quarry is developed as a 20 acre logistics site (giant storage/ distribution warehouses) with 24 hour HGV traffic - which B8 use would allow - the A420 would rapidly be pushed beyond capacity. And no doubt, most of the jobs created would be filled by workers commuting into Faringdon anyway, not residents of the town itself. So how is this good for Faringdon?

Do the landowner/ developers who sit on the FNP Steering Group, supply the dodgy 'data', & have been pushing the town towards unsustainable development for the past seven years care about this? I leave you to judge. As Oxfordshire County Council Senior Planning Officer, Amanda Jacobs pointed out last year - Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan has NO transport strategy. Has anything been done about this? No! But if Faringdon Council continues to allow the town's development plans to be led by those who profit directly from changes of land use, then we should not be surprised to see the A420 soon become a 'second A34', as Yvonne Constance has warned. Of course, this might suit local landowners with an eye to a quick profit, but it would undoubtedly destroy the character of the Western Vale for ever. So please bear in mind what is at stake, and sign the petition while we can still make a difference!

https://www.change.org/p/faringdon-town-council-the-vale-of-white-horse-district-council-and-secretary-of-state-greg-clark-protect-wicklesham-quarry-from-development?just_created=true

Anna Hoare

The Hobble.- 6/8/15

I lived near the footpath for over 40 years and I can't say I ever remember a sign calling it Hobbs Lane. I've also checked on Oxfordshire County Councils website for fix my street and it's not mentioned there. On the OCC walking maps online it's just referred to as a path. I'm sure if they'd called it Hobbs Lane they would have referred to it as such. Also, with now having a road on the new estate called Hobbs Road it could cause confusion.

Perhaps the town councillors could consider calling it The Hobble or Hobble Path officially as more people seem to remember this name?

Name Supplied

Folly Fest- useful information - 6/8/15

I thought I'd take a minute to advise what the licence entails us to do in terms of holding the festival. We have been authorised to hold FollyFest within very specific hours. Live music MUST finish by 2300hrs on Friday and Saturday and 6.30 on Sunday. If we don't adhere to this then Environmental Health could revoke our licence. This is exactly the same law that applies to any licenced premises too so if you are routinely bothered by noise or anti-social behaviour anywhere you are entitled to report it to Environmental Health either online by following [this link](#) or out of hours by calling 01235 524886. The Vale Environmental Officer has always visited during FollyFest to check that we are maintaining the procedures we've agreed to as part of the licence being agreed in the first place.

We are not responsible for any noise or anti-social behaviour outside of our licensed hours however.

There is an Event Control Centre (ECC) which is in the Pump House throughout the FollyFest hours. Here you can go to report lost children or property, excessive noise, etc. The stage is professionally managed by a company who have to monitor the decibels throughout. If you pop by the sound desk the equipment will be visible. We've spent an awful lot of money (around £12,000 over 3 years) on this professional stage and sound crew and we've never had a noise complaint (touch wood so far) of music being outside of the legal limit or outside the hours. Indeed, we've never had a complaint to Environmental Health at all!

I'd like to remind everyone that this is a free event for the town, funds are raised by donations, sponsorship, grants and the whole thing is managed by a group of people who all live in the town, who all work full time and by this stage in the year, we're hovering between excitement and total fear that it will rain! For as long as I'm Chair of FollyFest, I continue to undertake, along with the committee, to run a not for profit event, in line with the instructions I'm committed to by the Vale for the benefit of Faringdon, its people, businesses and groups.

We try to be all things to all people which is why we have an open air church service on Sunday morning, a children's fancy dress parade, a war memorial decorated at FollyFest cost by the WI, market stalls and a dance music type band alongside folk singers, hula-hoopers and a clown. You may not like all of it but you will like some/most of it!

Come and say hello to the committee if you see us about in our yellow polo shirts. We'll be tired, running on empty, snapping at each other and wanting to get home for a shower and put our feet up probably but those times when we see the market square packed full of happy faces, fabulous music in the air, busy shops, bars and pubs, the smell of burgers wafting from Pat Thomas and children drawing on the pavement while bunting flaps in the gentle breeze are what its all about for us and what keeps us going. I hope it will be for you too!

Love light and peace Faringdon!

Mel Lane

FollyFest Chairman

Follyfest on local radio - 6/8/15

'Swindon Live and Local' our latest show promoting Faringdon's FollyFest - music from bands playing at this weekends festival and an interview with Mel Lane <https://soundcloud.com/sean-hodgson/l-i-follyfest-2015>

Sean Hodgson

Graffiti and dog poo - 6/8/15

I was on a nice jaunt around Faringdon today with my two year old son. We took in a trek up to the Folly Tower to be utterly dismayed at how moronic and stupid some folk are. First we came across a couple of dog poo bags flung in the hedge and one dropped by a bench seriously people! You have gone to the effort of bagging it up why oh why then ruin that good work by leaving it strewn around the place? If anything this is worse as at least with dog poo on its own it will degrade but now you have blighted our beautiful area with black bags of poo! It just beggars believe.

Since I am on a role with being despondent from our walk I lament the fact that some idiots have now taken it on themselves by appointing the large felled tree log as a great source of puerile graffiti. On one hand I admire the fact these scroats have managed to haul their burger filled bodies up the hill than stay in doors playing computer games.

This is an area of beauty and great views now that log, which my sons would love playing on, now is an eyesore and needs sanding or chipping. The more gratuitous swear words and some other elements I have managed to scratch off with a stone.

What posses idiots to take time to visit a lovely outdoor area to then tarnish it for others?

Moan over. I feel calmer again now.

Name Supplied

Curious Signs. Have you seen them?- 6/8/15

Find out about them in the [Leisure and Tourism](#) section of this site. Click on FUN trail ED(GW)

Re: Signs- 6/8/15

To Curious: They are anagrams.

To Old Faringdonian et al

When I lived in Liddiards Row about 20 years ago there was a road sign on the path between Southampton St and Park Road that called the path Hobbs Lane. I assume it was put there by OCC. So it was me that mentioned it to the FTC as we couldn't really refer to it in reports by its commonly known name of Dog... alley.

Jane Boulton (FTC)

DONGEONS AND DRAGONS - 6/8/15

"Curious" asks what "INFRA DONG" might mean. Aenaone (my labradoodle) wonders the same. We first thought the DONG meant it was like the twelve bells of London (Old Bailey, Fleetditch, Stepney, St Pauls etc) - but now I'm not so sure. We found DRAGON FIN and IRON FANG'D yesterday. This suggests that we're talking Tolkien & fiery dragons. In "Farmer Giles of Ham" JRR mentions that Worminghall is where "the worm" was locked up, and Thame is where it was finally brought to order. And as we all know, "Lord of the Rings" deals mainly with the most powerful ninth "Ring To Rule Them All", but it really doesn't make much mention of the sixth ring : the "Fair Ring" . When you think about it, it's really quite likely that Smaug did also try to do his worst on "Fair-Ring-Town" - or Faringdon as we now know it. DRAGON FIN and IRON FANG'D definitely suggest that these signs are to ward off dragon attacks. Well - has it worked? When WAS the last dragon attack?

Mrs Persephone Featherstonehaugh - Fair-Ring-Town

INFRA DONG - 4/8/15

The sign is outside Boots. What does it mean?
Curious

Faringdon FUN Trail - new leaflet- 4/8/15

Have you seen the signs that have been appearing around Faringdon over the past few months?
There's about 12- I wouldn't be surprised if you hadn't seen them all.
Now there is a FREE leaflet that you can get from Faringdon Tourist Information to help you find them all- and more.
You'll be able to read the story about them too- Lord Berners had something to do with it.
Ed(GW)

Ref - Friday 7 August sees the opening of the Faringdon Advice Cafe in the Town. - 4/8/15

The Cafe is based in the old Barclays Bank building in the Market Square.
This is a three month trial project to provide a free advice and information service point involving the local Citizens Advice Bureau, South and Vale Carers, Wantage Advice Centre and Age UK.....
Nice of my bank to let me know it had closed my local branch BUT what a fabulous Pop up resource & I will be one of the first one through the door on Friday to get some essential advice and help for an elderly parent that is moving to be near me in Faringdon..... All these resources under one roof - Hope it outlives its 3 month trial! Great News
Teresa Reynolds

Dangerous tree - 3/8/15

I wonder if anyone else on the Orchard Hill estate is as concerned as I am about the overhanging tree on Orchard Hill just about dead opposite the end of Elm Road.
IT seems to get lower and lower day by day and I think it could well pose the risk of collapsing onto a passing car with serious consequences for the occupants.
I am told that the County Council were told about it much earlier this year and did nothing much about it and people were fobbed off by buckpassers who could not establish who owns the tree.
I think it is time to rekindle this one before someone gets badly hurt and would be happy to organise a petition if I can get sufficient support.
If you will sign please leave a message on my home phone -stating name address and phone no please The number to call is 01367 240711
Peter Hawkins
ED(GW) You could try reporting it on <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/roadside-trees-hedges-and-ditches>

Thames Valley police Have your say meetings- 3/8/15

The following Have Your Say Meetings are being held in your Neighbourhood:

Date: Saturday, 08 August 2015

Time: 2pm - 3pm

Venue: Faringdon Market Place

Contact: PCSO Kerry Davis

Date: Sunday, 09 August 2015

Time: 2pm - 3pm

Venue: Hinton Waldrist Church

Contact: PCSO Alex Hill

Please come along, this is your opportunity to speak with your neighbourhood officers to discuss any local issues of concern you may have. If you are unable to attend but wish to speak with your neighbourhood officers, please call 101.

Decision time for Faringdon Council.- 3/8/15

In the run-up to Faringdon Council's decision on whether to support the Neighbourhood Plan's (FNP) plan to turn Wicklesham Quarry into a 20 acre industrial warehousing site, Faringdon Town Councillors have received individual copies of all the comments left by people who have signed the petition to PROTECT WICKLESHAM QUARRY FROM DEVELOPMENT.

- *Councillors KNOW that the quarry is part of a working farm, and due to be returned to agricultural use as part of its planning conditions.
- *They KNOW that it is not a "brownfield site", as the FNP Basic Conditions Statement wrongly claims.
- *They KNOW that the National Planning Policy Framework sets out environmental policies for the high-quality restoration of former mineral workings.
- *They KNOW that the quarry lies within a landscape accorded high environmental protection by the Vale of White Horse District Council.
- *They KNOW that it is a SSSI of international importance as a unique site of geodiversity, whose fossils have been studied since the 17th century.
- *They KNOW that it is also a site of rich biodiversity, with breeding colonies of toads, 3 species of newts including Great Crested Newts, and that the Wicklesham tetrad is home to 11 rare plant species.
- *They KNOW that this site has been rejected for industrial use by 2 independent Employment Land Reviews (most recently in 2013), by the Vale of White Horse (Preferred Options Report), and that it came out BOTTOM of ten possible employment sites in the Neighbourhood Plan's Sustainability Appraisal.

If they did not know any of this before, Faringdon Councillors can no longer claim ignorance of the National Planning Policy Framework, Wicklesham's restoration plan (passed in 2013), and the environmental importance of the quarry's bio and geodiversity and landscape setting. From the latest Council Minutes, it appears Faringdon Councillors are preparing a Q&A sheet to make sure they have answers to the many questions now being asked about Wicklesham Quarry. We can only wish that they had informed themselves about Wicklesham Quarry three years ago when the Neighbourhood Plan process began, rather than taking at face value steering group members' claims that it was a 'prime employment site', and the landowner's statement that it was nothing more than a 'hole in the ground' that he once planned to use as a landfill site.

Sincere thanks to everyone who has taken an interest and supported the petition. Please keep it in people's minds by sending the link to anyone you know who would wish to help PROTECT WICKLESHAM QUARRY.

<https://www.change.org/p/faringdon-town-council-the-vale-of-white-horse-district-council-and-secretary-of-state-greg-clark-protect-wicklesham-quarry-from-development/u/11609632>

Anna Hoare

BERNERS CONCERT & DINNER - 3/8/15

This Friday, 7th August - in the Barber Rooms behind All Saints Church.

We don't often get the opportunity to enjoy the music of Berners performed by very accomplished professional musicians. The dinner should be good too. We're trying to emulate the style of entertaining that took place at Faringdon House in the 30s

Tickets from Mustard Seed or Hare in the Woods (Lesley is doing the dinner!) - or by emailing (wow@pinkpigeons.info) or phoning (01367-241707) .

Full programme & more details here: http://pinkpigeons.info/html/berners_soiree.html

Sjoerd

Hobble Path - 3/8/15

Would Faringdon Council confirm name of path and source of information?

Old Faringdonian

Hobble Footpath - 2/8/15

When I was a very young man my Grandfather Harold Davis, had a allotment on Hobble allotments, these allotment were situated between the top of Southampton Street and the railway line where Peter Kinch tool hire is now, and on the land to the left of Hobble footpath as you walk along toward Park Road. As far as I am concerned that path is and always has been called Hobble path, so where this Hobbs name came from I have no idea but it needs nipping in the bud before we lose another old name from this very old town heritage.

On another subject, as a very young boy I used to sit on the grass bank of the railway line by Hobble allotments, and watch the steam trains come a go from Faringdon Station and remember when my parents took me from Faringdon Station all the way to Paddington London by steam train to visit my fathers parents, and I was wondering if there was anyone else still around who has made that journey.

Ray Wood.

Faringdon Advice Cafe - 1/8/15

Good news that these services are to have a presence in Faringdon. I do hope people use the Advice cafe so that it stays.

Name Supplied

Thankyou Trevor and Donald - 31/7/15

i would like to thank Trevor and Donald for the great service they have provided at The Nut Tree gift shop . It was a sad day when they closed their doors for the last time.

Trevor where do I buy my hand bags now?

name supplied

Friday 7 August sees the opening of the Faringdon Advice Cafe in the Town. - 31/7/15

The Cafe is based in the old Barclays Bank building in the Market Square.

This is a three month trial project to provide a free advice and information service point involving the local [Citizens Advice Bureau](#), [South and Vale Carers](#), [Wantage Advice Centre](#) and [Age UK](#)

SUPERFAST BROADBAND - WiFi codes- 31/7/15

Mrs F asks about the dog-height signs. Yes - apparently they are the WiFi codes for the superfast broadband.

Name supplied.

Free Wellbeing checks available for carers at Boots in Faringdon from 1st August. - 31/7/15

Carers often neglect their own wellbeing while caring for someone so this is a great opportunity for them to think about themselves too.

You do need to book an appointment.

Statistics show that carers are twice as likely to suffer from health problems than non-carers. Carers say that they just don't have time to look after their own wellbeing.

www.carersoxfordshire.org.uk

Dr Lee.- 30/7/15

Really pleased to hear Dr Lee is back.

She was so kind to me when my mother had to go into a care home, a brilliant doctor and a wonderful human being, I know mum appreciated all the hard work and care Dr Lee put in to make sure she was properly taken care of.

Dr Lee went over and above what was expected of her to help with what was a bewildering time for all.

A great asset to the White Horse practice and to the people of Faringdon.

Jim Horton.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES?- 30/7/15

Please explain. Aenaone (the dog) was doing what dogs do yesterday in the marketplace. I then noticed she was sniffing a small greenish sign. GRAND INFO - I think. Amazingly I then came across another one a little further on - also low down. RIND OF NAG -- if I remember correctly. Do you think these are something to do with the superfast broadband perhaps? A hotspot code? Or have they been there a long time? It looked quite old.

Mrs Persephone Featherstonehaugh

Superfast Broadband - 30/7/15

We are very happy to announce that Super Fast Broadband is now available in many places in the Town Centre. This is real evidence that our community can take action and get results. We were told that businesses were suffering in our town because they were unable to get super fast broadband so we contacted the relevant people who were happy to help and get this result.

Thank you for telling us what you needed!

More information on: <http://faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk/super-fast-broadband-now-available-in-many-places-in-the-town-centre/>
Faringdon Town Council

Dr Lee- 30/7/15

I saw Dr Lee on Tuesday for the first time and she was absolutely delightful, so yes, she is back! I was concerned about having to transfer to a new practice and a new doctor, but the whole experience was so much more positive than for the past few years at Fern Hill, my faith in humanity was restored! I phoned in the morning for an 'emergency' appointment, was asked no probing questions (wasn't made to feel like a third rate citizen as used to be par for the course!) and got to see Doctor Lee a couple of hours later.

It can't be easy for her to return to work in such circumstances but I am certainly very glad that she is there!

Name supplied

A step to better funding. - 30/7/15

Go to ocva.org.uk/data and take a few minutes to complete an online census.

This census of not-for-profit groups in Oxfordshire will help OCVA and OCF to connect groups to funders. By knowing more about your group we will be able to put you in front of Oxfordshire's most generous who have an interest in helping your cause. Whether your group is a registered charity or not; however big or small; whatever your cause, please fill in the form and help us to help you.

The census runs until 31st October 2015.

*This is a joint venture between OCVA, Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action and OCF, Oxfordshire Community Foundation. Read about OCF at www.oxfordshire.org.

Once you have added your own groups, please do consider forwarding this email message on to any other groups you know of.

A poster is attached just in case you know people with access to community notice boards. Everyone knows different groups. Full details about the [census](#), the [Data for Good tool](#), some [questions and answers](#) for completing the form, and other [related matters](#) are all on our website. The website also explains why, even if you were in our public directory before (or updated your details with us recently), you may still want to do this.

OCVA and OCF

Parking - 29/7/15

Who owns a small red car parked in the flats car parking spaces opposite the church blocking 3 parking bays. totally stupid way to park a car

Yazmin Balom

White Horse Medical Practice - 28/7/15

Does anyone know if Dr.Lee is coming back to our practice, all appointments that I have had with her have been so positive, she is so human and lovely and so professional, we feel she is a great asset to our community, she always gets it right. Really hope that her husband is making a good recovery. I wasn't sure that the two practice's were going to work but with Dr.Lee on board along with Dr.Dickson I feel safe.

Name supplied

Hobbs Lane - 28/7/15

There used to be (still might be under the weeds) a road sign with that name on it. However, that might be what OCC Highways have called it where it's local name is something else.

Green Witch

Accident on A420- 28/7/15

Thames Valley Police is appealing for witnesses following a fatal collision on the A420 at Faringdon.

Shortly after 9am today (28/7) four vehicles, a Ford Focus, a Toyota Auris, a Ford Transit van and a Ford Transit flatbed lorry were involved in a collision.

The driver of the Ford Transit van, a man aged in his seventies, died at the scene. His next of kin has been informed.

The male driver of the flatbed lorry was airlifted to the John Radcliffe Hospital with life-threatening injuries.

Three other people sustained minor injuries.

The road has been closed while officers investigate the circumstances of the collision and it currently remains closed in the Faringdon area while the vehicles are being recovered. Diversions are in place in the area.

Senior investigating officer PC James Lovell, from the Serious Collision Investigation Unit, said: "I would like to speak to anyone who saw the collision or who saw the vehicles travelling prior to the collision.

If you have any information which could help with our enquiries please contact the police.

Anyone with any information which may assist the investigation should call the 24-hour Thames Valley Police enquiry centre on 101, quoting URN 301 28/7.

If you do not want to speak directly to the police you can contact the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111. No personal details are taken, information is not traced or recorded and you will not go to court

The Hobble - 28/7/15

I'd also wondered why The Hobble was being called Hobbs Lane as it's been known as The Hobble for as many years as I can remember. From reading posts on facebook it seems that many others agree it's The Hobble. Apparently there were cottages along there called Hobble Cottages.

If you search the internet for The Hobble, Faringdon you can find references to it on .org over the years. If you search for Hobbs Lane it comes up as Hobbs Road on the housing estate.

I understand that new estates in the town are named after local people who lost their lives during the two world wars and have their names on the war memorial, it's a lovely thing to do. However this path isn't new and I think it should stay as The Hobble and be named officially.

It's part of the town's history and if it loses its name then the stories and Hobble Cottages are lost forever.

Name Supplied

Is Hobbs Lane the Hobble? - 28/7/15

The Town Council calls the footpath that runs from Park Road to Southampton Street 'Hobbs Lane'.

I think this is the path called the Hobble?

What do others think? Where did Hobbs Lane come from?

Ed(GW)

Dog fouling - 28/7/15

Faringdon Town Council have been working with the [Environmental Warden at VWHDC](#) to focus on the increased dog fouling issue. Areas that have been brought to our attention are Tuckers Park, The Church Yard, Coxwell Rd and the Footpath that runs from Tesco to the Town Centre (Hobbs Lane).

Two fines have recently been issued in the district largely thanks to the support of the public that provided information of persistent dog walkers that did not pick up. They were identified and issued with a £50 FPN. Lets keep working together to stop this horrible problem.

[Faringdon Town Council](#)

Folly Fest Sportive - 28/7/15

This festive event is for those people who want to combine cycling with a bit of fun. Definitely no pressure. Travel at the pace you want while enjoying the gorgeous countryside surrounding Faringdon. There will be a Lycra (swear) box with a pound penalty for each body hugging garment (at the leader's discretion).

For those who like a little bit of competition, there will be an observational "treasure hunt" with clues to spot objects of interest along the way. Desirable bike-related prizes will be awarded for the first correct entries out of a hat. There will also be a prize for the oldest or most disreputable bike, so long as it is safe to ride, once again at the leader's discretion. All the fines for full-on cycling wear will be handed to the most inappropriately dressed rider according to popular vote.

So, if you have that bike in your shed that you've been meaning to dust off and ride or if you're a cyclist who just feels like riding for a bit of innocent fun, come down to the FollyFest and have a go on Sunday the 9th of August at 11 am. The leader will be waiting in the passage alongside the Red Lion pub.

The course will be easy and the ride will take about 2 hours so that it will be achievable by all-comers and will deliver participants back in time for lunch.

No entry fee. Course will be for hybrid bikes so potentially a little gentle off road.

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

Re: Wicklesham Quarry- 27/7/15

So it would appear that the present Wicklesham Quarry was started in 1987 and the original planning permission did require it to be used for landfill when worked out, so how can the information from 1964 onward be relevant to it? Surely that information relates to the excavations now occupied by Rogers Concrete.

Name supplied

Wicklesham - 26/7/15

The person who posted about the landfill is correct – the terms of how the site was going to be filled are detailed in the 1987 lease when Grundons took over the quarry. But when they started quarrying, and found the wealth of fossils that have shaped our understanding of life all those millions of years ago, that's when the site became an SSSI, with the requirement to leave the sides open, I believe. That's also when plans to make it a landfill site were dropped. Personally I'm rather glad that happened.

I've no record of the 1964 agreement, indeed I'm not sure the quarry was all that active at that stage. But I know the other two quarries, nearer the town, were active back then, so maybe these conditions relate to them. There was never any requirement for 'progressive restoration' at Wicklesham, although there may be with the quarry extension.

I've farmed Wicklesham for 25 years and haven't found any Grade 2 land yet – the land around the quarry would struggle to reach Grade 3A. But Anna clearly knows where it is – perhaps it's with the rare arable plants – so that's good.

Tom Allen-Stevens

Owner, Wicklesham Quarry

Re: Stanford recycling- 26/7/15

Hopefully Folly Man is correct about 2019, but a quick google shows why people are asking;

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-33520050>

http://www.oxfordtimes.co.uk/news/13489178.Recycling_closures_plan_is_defended/

Name supplied

Re Stanford recycling centre rumoured closure- 25/7/15

At present I have a punctured 200 litre rain water butt, a large obsolete computer tower with its screen and keyboard, two broken printers, two obsolete paraffin heaters and five large fuschia bushes at the end of their lives. All of these will have to be taken to a recycling centre, the weekly refuse collection service cannot be expected to take them. We are encouraged to recycle but if we have to drive scores of miles to do it, surely this defeats the object of the exercise. So, local councillors, the Stanford recycling centre really is an essential facility please make every effort to preserve it.

Dennis H.

RE: Stanford Recycling Centre- 25/7/15

In October last year Oxfordshire County Council approved an extension to the closure date of the Stanford site to allow it to continue to operate as a household waste recycling centre until 31 December 2019. (<http://tinyurl.com/qjjhqqs>)

I've not seen anything since that has changed that decision and nobody who has posted on the subject has given any details on where they found about any plans to close it early. Until they do I think it's reasonable to assume there is no imminent threat.

Folly Man

Trolley dumping - 24/7/15

I see the mystery Tesco shopping trolley thief has been busy again with yet another trolley dumped in Gloucester Street-the third one in as many months-and once again dumped in someone's driveway.

Name supplied

RE: Re: Stanford recycling centre, - 24/7/15

The OCC plan is that it will not matter closing centre like Stanford as they are doing such a top job at stopping all cars travelling anywhere around Oxfordshire that you wouldn't be able to dump anything anyway.

Joking aside at present Stanford has not been shut down just yet so we all need to remind the Council how vital it is. Every time

I have been over there it is always busy and well managed it would be such a mistake to close it. Let us all contact the OCC to voice our opinion. It may fall on deaf ears but better we try.

Rob Perkins

Re: Stanford recycling centre- 24/7/15

There's no problem if Stanford shuts - all the waste can go in one of the tunnels they are going to dig under Oxford to replace the roads. Either that or after years of pushing recycling they would now rather pay for an army to clear up all the fly tipping when a large percentage prefer that route to a 40 mile round trip.

Today in the news NASA have found a distant planet like Earth - at last we have a clue as to where OCC recruits, as it doesn't seem to be on this planet

Name supplied

Comedy sketch show - 23/7/15

....featuring 3 members of Faringdon Dramatic Society Jeff Barry, Amanda Harvey and Sean Hodgson

www. SoundsOfSwindon.com by The Institute of Complementary Comedy. Brand new radio sketch show - as first heard on Swindon 105.5

All shows and sketches are now free to download, devour and share.

Sean Hodgson

Re the possible closure of the Stanford recycling centre - 23/7/15

I saw the smart Alec from the council say that when he purchased a new tv the firm he bought it from took the old one away so he could not see a problem as most firms will do that for free. Also most recycling could be disposed of in the bins the council provide, well bully for him.

What about all the other stuff that won't fit in the bins IE carpet, old beds, old linoleum and whatever else that will be dumped at the roadside if they close the tip.

I don't think these people have a clue what goes on in the real world.

Name supplied

Stanford recycle centre- possible closure - 22/7/15

Once again we are being informed that the Stanford Road Recycling Centre may have to be closed and the public will have to find another site maybe the other side of Oxford. Will the County Councillors monitor the Highways and Byways to ensure that there will not be any Fly-tippers about.

Old Faringdonian.

Thames Valley Police is appealing for information following a burglary in Faringdon. - 22/7/15

On Saturday (18/7) at around 1.20am, offenders forced entry to Tesco Metro in Park Road.

Offenders forced open a cabinet and stole cigarettes.

If you have any information relating to this message, please contact PC Simon Charlton, at Abingdon Police Station via 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.

WICKLESHAM QUARRY- HISTORY, PLANNING CONDITIONS & RESTORATION- 22/7/15

A 1986 article (Paleontology 24 (4)) states "Faringdon fossils have attracted scientific attention for centuries. The first published reference to them is.. by Llwyd (1699)". The uniqueness of the 'Faringdon Sponge Gravels' is due (I believe) to several factors: the rarity of sponges forming fossils at all; the presence of invertebrates "in life positions within the cavities and on the outer cobble surfaces", and their sheer diversity, with many species that are found only at Faringdon. This is why this SSSI is internationally important & deserves to be preserved under the best possible circumstances in its natural, rural setting.

Recent posts regarding Wicklesham Quarry's planning conditions have suggested there was once a plan to use it for landfill. I have found no record of any such plan. In 1964 when the first (modern) pit was permitted at Wicklesham Farm the conditions stated: 'The face of the excavation shall be left exposed and accessible for scientific examination'. This rules out any plan to use it for landfill.

When the quarry was extended, the 1983 Structure Plan for Oxfordshire contained a Minerals Policy which includes (Policy M.2A) 'There will normally be a strong presumption against the extraction of minerals:- (A) From Grade 1, 2 or 3A agricultural land; (B) In an area of outstanding natural beauty or of high landscape value.' Policy M.5 states: 'All applications for mineral working should be accompanied by a scheme for restoration wherever possible to be undertaken progressively, to allow beneficial afteruse of the site. If land cannot be fully restored to agriculture, forestry or woodland, any other use found for it must be appropriate to its location and its immediate area.'

Wicklesham Quarry was permitted under these conditions, even though it is Grade 2 (& some 3A) agricultural land, presumably because some quarrying had already been carried out on the farm. The policy presumption was already against it because of the quality of the land and its location in an area of 'high landscape value'. The planning conditions have ALWAYS required that it must be returned to agriculture, by creating a soil bed in the base using the original, preserved topsoil, and preserving the fossil record for posterity. It is very clear that 'the location and immediate area' of the quarry is farmland and rural landscape. The National Planning Policy Framework Section 13 FACILITATING THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF MINERALS includes

precisely the same requirement to restore landscape to a high quality following mineral extraction. Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan, which is legally required to be in conformity with NPPF, wrongly calls Wicklesham Quarry a 'brownfield site'. It is not. It is farmland in temporary use for mineral extraction, and the policies that properly apply to it are those for farms, quarries & open landscape, NOT those for previously developed urban land. Quarrying is NOT a backdoor for industrialising the countryside, and when Wicklesham Farm's owner sought permission to quarry on his land, he clearly promised to restore the land to agriculture, on each and every occasion that the quarry was enlarged. Although the quarry remains part & parcel of a working farm, it is clear that the owners have long had other ideas about what they wanted to do with it, because no 'progressive restoration' has ever been carried out, and it is now being used for storing imported gravels.
Anna Hoare

SUMMER HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS in Faringdon - 21/7/15

A fun packed summer holiday at The Pump House Project. Please see details of our workshops.
<http://www.thepumphouseproject.co.uk/#!/holiday-workshops/c11sv>

Junior Book Club Volunteer wanted. Faringdon Library - 21/7/15

Starting September 2015

Second Saturday of the month from 11.00-11.45 for 8-11yrs

Reading for pleasure is more important to children's successes than education or social class. Book clubs help children build a lifelong reading habit. *Because everything changes when we read.*

Running the Junior Book Club, you will be encouraging reading enjoyment and a passion for books. At each Book Club session children talk about what they are reading, take part in fun activities inspired by the best children's books, and choose new books to take home and read.

Contact Sheena Gutteridge at Faringdon Library. Sheena.Gutteridge@Oxfordshire.gov.uk

LORD BERNERS MUSIC CONCERT AS PART OF FOLLY FEST- 20/7/15

We're very fortunate to have been able to book <http://www.consensusopera.org/> - to put on a Concert of Berners songs and piano pieces. This is a real treat - and definitely not one to be missed. Quirky Buffet Dinner included in the ticket price. Full info on www.pinkpigeons.info .

Tickets from Hare in the Woods or Mustard Seed or email wow@pinkpigeons.info .

Sjoerd

Bizarre Magical Walk, Friday 24th- 20/7/15

Good afternoon Gentle Folk of Faringdon and District.

Lord Berners will be performing his Bizarre Magical Walk of Faringdon on Friday 24th July. The Walk starts under The Old Town Hall in the Market Place at 6.30pm and costs just £5 per person payable on the night. The Walk takes just a little over an hour and we stop 10 times and I perform a magical trick linked to our stopping point.....and I am sure that you will see magic that you won't see anywhere else in the country!!!! We end with a public hanging in the Courtyard of the Crown Coaching Inn!!! If the weather is inclement then do bring a brolly along to keep dry. If you want to know more then please don't hesitate to contact me on 01367 240925 or by email to peter@milehighmagic.co.uk. I look forward to seeing you all!!!!

Re: Wicklesham Quarry- 20/7/15

My understanding is that the original planning permission for the quarry site was to return it to the original level, which would have meant that it would have become a land fill site for domestic waste, does anyone really want that to happen? I also understand that the permission has been varied twice already!

Name supplied

Wicklesham Quarry- 19/7/15

Surely most of the questions about Wicklesham Quarry have been answered so why have another survey. Most Quarries are filled in and returned to the Land owner Wicklesham is no different. It has been looked into and has no reason to stay as an open Quarry. I would like to see more development in the Town but that is down to the Council so maybe we should petition them and leave the Quarry alone.

Old Faringdonian

Swan Shanty Night Thurs 23rd- 19/7/15

Hi everyone!

In case nobody has seen on the What's On page, this Thursday is the first Swan Shanty night!! After the success of the Hastings Shanty singers in June I'm trying to get a shanty crew started here in town.

If the night is a success it will be a monthly event, and if we have enough singers that are interested we can then do other practice nights so that we can perform at all sorts of events, as a true shanty crew should!

It doesn't matter if you can barely carry a tune, as long as you have timing, are willing to learn and can read chorus sheets (a fondness of beer and rum always helps too).

So yes chorus sheets will be provided, if there are other singers it would be much better, so it's not going to be a one man show!

The Swan, Thursday 23rd, 2030. Be there or be... um.. normal :D

Name Supplied

Re: Wicklesham Quarry- 19/7/15

It's good to get the other point of view regarding Wicklesham Quarry, things are never as black or white as they first appear.

Employment land is certainly needed given the housing developments that will be built in the near future. I don't understand why the possibility of using the quarry for employment land is seen as some sinister plot by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group; I believe they have the best interests of the town at heart, Newts and the SSI are protected and any development would have to respect that.

Name Supplied

WICKLESHAM QUARRY- 17/7/15

As the owner of Wicklesham Quarry, I can't speak for the 4&20 site as I don't own it nor have ever owned any part of it. But I can say there is demand for development within Wicklesham Quarry because I've received enquiries for the past nine years. These things are not straightforward, however, and generally take a long time to come to fruition.

As I understand it, one of the central aims of the Neighbourhood Plan was to agree potential development sites. It's a plan to ensure Faringdon grows sustainably with the increased housing requirement that had already been earmarked for the town, and the steering committee worked hard to identify suitable employment sites. It doesn't have to be Wicklesham Quarry, but are there actually any more suitable sites that would provide the amount of land needed to balance the scale of house-building Faringdon faces over the next decade?

Much has been said in the petition and various other posts about my responsibility as a landowner, 'divisive' claims I've apparently made and what my only interest is in offering the quarry as a potential development site. Anyone who knows me will question these assertions. For anyone who doesn't, I'd welcome them to come to Wicklesham, use one of the public footpaths, and see for themselves how we aim to balance the needs of the community with those of the environment and the wildlife the farm supports. Or you can just call me to discuss or email me your concerns (243562 tom@wickleshamlodge.com). There's more information here: http://www.wickleshamlodge.com/Wicklesham_Quarry.htm. I have tried to discuss these matters face to face with Anna, but she refuses to do so.

We've been at Wicklesham for three generations, and I'd hope that I'm carrying on a tradition of responsible land ownership. If the quarry is developed, it'll be on my doorstep, and that of many generations of my family to come, I'd hope. I can tell you, I don't want to be the one who's remembered for getting it wrong.

Tom Allen-Stevens

Owner, Wicklesham Quarry

Dignity in care survey - 17/7/15

Over the course of our work with local groups, several concerns about dignity in care have been raised with us. We also know that dignity in care is an area that people are working to improve nationally, and we want to understand what's working well, and what can be improved in Oxfordshire.

See <http://healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk/DignityinCareSurvey>

Information needed- accident in Marlborough St Saturday 11/7- 17/7/15

Thames Valley Police is attempting to trace a driver of a vehicle which collided with an elderly man in Faringdon and then failed to stop at the scene.

Between 10am and midday on Saturday (11/7) the victim was in Marlborough Street near Budgens when a vehicle reversed into him. He sustained serious hip and leg injuries. The driver of the car failed to stop at the scene or report the collision.

The victim, a local man in his eighties, was taken to Great Western Hospital in Swindon where he has undergone surgery for his injuries and is currently still in hospital.

Officers are very keen to speak to anyone who was in Marlborough Street on Saturday morning and has any information about this incident.

Anyone with information is asked to contact 101 quoting URN 978 12/7/15.

If you don't want to speak directly to the police you can contact the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or online at 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

NHS111 Workshop - 17/7/15

We are running 4 workshops across the Thames Valley region at the end of July.

The workshop will give you the opportunity to feedback your thoughts, ideas and opinions on the effectiveness and efficiency of the NHS 111 service.

This important work forms part of the strategy development of the service in Thames Valley area and will assist the commissioners of the service to establish patient and public opinion moving forward.

Please respond with which workshop you would like to attend and we will allocate you a space. TVHUB.111patient@nhs.net

Conference Room A and B, Jubilee House, John Smith Drive, Oxford. OX4 2LH

Thursday 23rd July 2015

5.30 – 7.30pm

Boardroom, King Edward VII Hospital, St. Leonards Road, Windsor, Berks. SL4 3DP

Wednesday 29th July 2015

4.30 – 6.30pm

57-59 Bath Road, Reading, RG30 2BA. Room G29/30
Thursday 30th July 2015
7.00 – 9.00pm

Aylesbury Vale CCG Boardroom, The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, HP19 8FF
Friday 31st July 2015
1pm – 4pm
Oxford Clinical Commissioning Group

Test Call

If you are not familiar with NHS111 then we are offering the opportunity to dial in on a test call to the service before attending a workshop. This will give you enable you to have some understanding of the service, and how it is accessed, and to experience the service first-hand.

Please respond with whether you think you would like to take this opportunity. (it is not an essential pre-requisite – if you already understand the service it is not necessary to take this step)

We will get in touch with an itinerary in line with your requirements including information on car parking, directions and any other information.

(You will be reimbursed for your travel expenses and will be given a form to complete at the end of the workshop.)

From your local NHS111 Team

TVHUB.111patient@nhs.net

A second leading environmentalist supports campaign to PROTECT WICKLESHAM QUARRY FROM DEVELOPMENT. - 17/7/15

Jonathon Porritt, founder of Forum for The Future, has been joined by another leading environmental advocate, George Monbiot, in backing the campaign to PROTECT WICKLESHAM QUARRY FROM DEVELOPMENT. They clearly disagree with the landowner's claims that it is nothing more than a 'hole in the ground' and 'ecologically barren'. Local geologist Norman Snelling - active in promoting Faringdon's rare geology for many years - has also signed the petition, opposing Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan's proposal to fill Wicklesham Quarry with 20 acres of industrial warehouses.

Claims by the landowner of 'inaccuracies' in the online petition are 'inaccurate': nowhere is it stated that Wicklesham is not in Great Faringdon Parish- the petition correctly states that it is 'outside the town', in an area of 'high landscape value'.

The survey of rare plant species that he also claims was carried out elsewhere was of the Wicklesham 'tetrad' - an area most of us have never heard of- a 2km sq area (i.e. 4sq Km) that includes the quarry. No one imagines that living plants survive being yanked out of the ground by active quarrying, but when the original top soil is replaced there will be a natural regeneration of indigenous plant life, including any rare species that favour its warm, sheltered environment. That is what the petition states.

As for the landowner's recent claim that great crested newts accidentally 'fell into the quarry' - it deserves a round of applause for inventiveness! Newts actively seek water to breed and so they climb downward wherever the landscape offers the opportunity. The presence of breeding colonies of rare newts in the quarry for many years is because it is an ideal habitat, as the Enzygo photos clearly show- not because they can't climb out!!

More than 370 people have signed the online petition and one made available at Faringdon Market - and many have made moving and forceful comments about the responsibility to protect and restore this unique site of geo- and bio-diversity, which is surrounded by much-loved footpaths and viewing points. The landowner's divisive claim that this campaign sets Faringdon residents' interests against those of Little Coxwell is belied by the widespread support for restoring Wicklesham Quarry among residents from the whole Faringdon area, and mostly from Faringdon itself. Being a market town means that the town and all the nearby villages are connected and our interests are in common. The Neighbourhood Plan process should not lose sight of that fact: schools, jobs, services, businesses, GPs, shops, roads and countryside are used, needed and valued by all of us, and the town's future depends on its synergy with the wider area.

Wherever we live, people care about local jobs, housing, roads and infrastructure, and the environment. And most people recognize the value of having a unique place like Wicklesham on our doorstep, both for its own sake and for what it could offer to the town's future and unique identity. The restoration plan (already approved) includes preserving rock faces and leaving piles of quarry spoil, where people can hunt for fossils. For many years Wicklesham has been a working quarry- it is now time to restore it in accordance with its planning conditions, and to improve the safety of the A420 so that local people can actually get into the countryside around Faringdon and enjoy it without risking their lives.

We also don't want to be conned. Let's just remember, when the landowner argues that Wicklesham Quarry is needed for employment- that he made the same claim back in 2008 for the 4&20 site, and what happened? After selling it with planning permission as employment land it has lain empty for the past 5 years, making it vulnerable to alternative planning uses. There is currently an application to put supermarkets on this site- which Faringdon Council has not opposed- which will further undermine the economic viability of Faringdon's existing shops and historic town centre if it goes ahead.

It is time to stop Faringdon's development being driven by developers whose only interest is to profit from lucrative changes of land use. The petition to Protect Wicklesham Quarry from industrial development can be found at:

https://www.change.org/p/faringdon-town-council-the-vale-of-white-horse-district-council-and-secretary-of-state-greg-clark-protect-wicklesham-quarry-from-development?just_created=true

NHS111 service- your feedback is needed - 15/7/15

You can find the survey on:

<https://consult.oxfordshireccg.nhs.uk/consult.ti/NHS111/consultationHome>

Closes end July

Neighbourhood policing Faringdon - 15/7/15

<http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/yournh/yournh-tvp-pol-area/yournh-tvp-pol-area-soxon-vowh/yournh-tvp-pol-area-n378>

FARINGDON TOWN COUNCIL: NOTICE OF A CASUAL VACANCY- 13/7/15

Notice is hereby given that there are two vacancies on Faringdon Town Council.

If you would like to know more about becoming a Town Councillor please contact Sally Thurston on the number above or email sally@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk

Applicants must meet *one* of the following criteria:

- Be registered as a Local Government Elector in Faringdon
- Occupy as owner or tenant land or premises in Faringdon
- Have resided in or within three miles of Faringdon for at least 12 months
- Have worked in Faringdon or within three miles for at least 12 months – must be main place of work

The applicant must not be disqualified from standing as a Councillor.

PUBLIC elections cannot be held until the year 2019 but for the interim period the present sitting Councillors may co-opt to fill the vacancies.

Co-option will take place at the next council meeting on 9th September 2015, when applicants will be invited to make a short presentation.

Any one interested in these vacancies should apply, to the Clerk, in writing on or before the 31st August 2015.

Sally Thurston

Town Clerk

www.faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk

ED(GW) You can find links to further information (Job Description, Good Councillor Guide, Code of Conduct on <http://faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk/council/become-a-councillor/>

Dog Fouling, Coxwell Road- 13/7/15

I am an enforcement officer for the Vale of White Horse District Council and I just want to bring this issue to your attention as a you may receive information from your circle of contacts on who may be causing the issue.

Along Coxwell Road in Faringdon, as you walk towards town on the left hand side of the pavement where the vets is, there is a regular occurrence of dog fouling where someone is leaving large piles of dog mess on the road where the cars are parked. The dog mess appears to be from a large dog and is happening on a regular basis. It looks like the dog mess is being pushed into the road by the dog walker and cars parking along this side are having to drive through it. As a route for a school run, it also looks very unsightly and the residents & general public who pass this area are not too pleased as you can imagine.

Please circulate this around your network of contacts so that the more eyes we have looking out for this issue, the more chance we have of identifying the subject.

Colin Marshall

Environment Warden

Email: colin.marshall@southandvale.gov.uk

Tel: 01235 547641

LATE NIGHT FIREWORKS- 13/7/15

It's against the law for anyone to set off fireworks between 11pm and 7am, except on certain occasions.

Adult fireworks are category 2 and 3 fireworks - they don't include things like party poppers.

Category 4 fireworks can only be used by professionals.

The law says you must not set off or throw fireworks (including sparklers) in the street or other public places.

You must not set off fireworks between 11pm and 7am. The exceptions are:

* Bonfire Night, when the cut off is midnight

* New Year's Eve, Diwali and Chinese New Year, when the cut off is 1am

Name Supplied

Archery Course: BUSCOT PARK ARCHERS- 13/7/15

.. are running a six-session beginners course over the following dates: Mon 10 Aug, Thur 13 Aug, Mon 17 Aug, Thur 20 Aug, Mon 24 Aug and Thur 27 Aug.

All six sessions run from 6:30-8:30 PM. The cost is £60 per adult or £40 per junior (8 years and over, but under 18 years of age). We'll provide all the necessary equipment, so please don't buy any beforehand.

For further information or to book your place, please contact the Club Secretary, Pete Wright,

at secretary@buscotparkarchers.org.uk or 01367 240 095. Our website is at www.buscotparkarchers.org.uk

LATE NIGHT FIREWORKS- 12/7/15

I assumed that letting fireworks off late at night was breaking the law, last evening (Saturday 11th July) someone in the area of Leamington Road or Tollington School were letting off fireworks at 11-30 p.m. It ended with a very loud bang which shook the house. I can accept this on new years eve but not at any other time of the year at such a late time. Could someone tell me if this was breaking the law or otherwise.

Ray Wood

Folly View Road.

Faringdon Free Food - 11/7/15

The next Faringdon Free Food sessions will be from 10.00 to 12.00 and from 13.00 to 15.00 this Sunday (12th July). Everyone (adults and children) is welcome to come along to either or both sessions.

This month we'll have a go at a variety of jobs to help prepare the town centre for FollyFest. We'll start by sprucing up the Town Centre planters and then work out from there to make sure that all our current plantings look good for August. We'll meet in the Market Square at 10.00 am and 1 pm on Sunday.

Mark Crane,

Alien prank? - 9/7/15

Sign on road as you enter Faringdon from Lechlade indicates Faringdon is twinned with Roswell, New Mexico

Is this an alien prank?????

Frank Sheehan

Faringdon Car Cleaners - 9/7/15

I have just had my car cleaned at Faringdon's Car Cleaners off Park Road. For £10 my 4x4 car received the best outside clean it has ever had by three friendly staff who worked brilliantly as a team. In my opinion it was excellent value for money. Smaller car cleans are only £6.

Since Sainsburys Swindon have not renewed the contract with their team of car cleaners, I strongly recommend that those who used to go there should try out the Faringdon team.

Gof Smith

Faringdon Singers Concert- 8/7/15

Saturday 11th July, 7.30 pm.

Catholic Church of Blessed Hugh, Marlborough St. Faringdon.

Elgar's Choral Songs 'From the Bavarian Highlands', numbers 1 to 5.

Brahms 'Liebeslieder' Opus 52, for 4 voices and Piano Duet.

Piano Duet: Schubert's Fantasia in F Minor, D 940.

With readings and songs for all to join in.

Pianists: Lynette Stulting and Magdalena Nasidlak.

Conductor: Terence Carter.

Free entry. Donations for 'Wells for India'. Refreshments.

For more details contact Karen Vogt: 01367-241707 or karen@vogt.org.uk

Petition- Improved safety measures for pedestrians and cyclistst crossing A420 at Fernham Road to Little Coxwell crossing near Faringdon.- 8/7/15

Many pedestrians and cyclists cross the wide, fast stretch of the A420 at the Little Coxwell junction who use the footpath from Fernham Road, particularly during evenings and weekends. The A420 has a high volume of traffic and vehicles travel fast on this stretch of road, which is wide and difficult to cross safely on foot. It is only a matter of time before someone is injured or killed. It is proposed that the Highways authority provide an illuminated, safe island for pedestrians, which would also improve the safety for North-bound vehicles turning right onto the Little Coxwell Road.

[Sign the petition](#)

Buscot Run – Results - 8/7/15

The annual Buscot Run organised by Faringdon Rotary took place last Sunday in the beautiful setting of Buscot Park whilst the park was closed by kind permission of Lord Faringdon.

A sunny and warm morning saw 47 runners in the 5k including young children running with mums and dads and a field of 80 in the 10k.

Thank you to all the runners who turned out to make this another hugely enjoyable event.

Results, times and photos are now available to view at: www.faringdonrotaryclub.co.uk and more photos at www.facebook.com/faringdon.rotary

Help get rid of Himalayan Balsam - 7/7/15

Help get rid of Himalayan Balsam on verges around Faringdon. Himalayan balsam tolerates low light levels and also shades out other vegetation, and so is killing off our native plants. It needs to be pulled or cut down before it goes to seed.

What is needed is a band of volunteers with gardening gloves, wellies, garden forks, and lashings of good humour, Tuesday 7th, 7.30pm in the Market Place. Do come and help

Howdens Joinery. New Business- 6/7/15

Opens Monday 6th July

HOWDENS JOINERY FARINGDON opens 7.30. TRADE ONLY feel free to pop in for a look around. Great new account offers so if your in the trade, don't miss out. See you tomorrow. Paul Nelson

Competition for Berners- 5/7/15

I have just found a Thomas de Faryngdon who was pardoned after the Peasants Revolt. (Terry Jones Medieval Lives - not a joke book)

Mary Beck

A JEWEL ON OUR DOORSTEP- 4/7/15

Joanna Layton just posted the following very moving comment to the petition SAVE WICKLESHAM QUARRY FROM DEVELOPMENT:

"If SSSIs are to mean anything at all, they must be guaranteed protection. Such places are precious, and their flora, fauna and geological richness are delicate.

Wicklesham Quarry is a prime example of such a site. As custodians of its natural and cultural heritage, Faringdon Town Council is in a position of trust. It must demonstrate that its Councillors are worthy of that public trust, by respecting the conclusions of the independent reviews which have clearly stated that it is neither justified nor sustainable to allow industrial use at this site.

It should be superfluous to point out that landscapes such as Wicklesham Quarry have significance for human beings beyond their short-term instrumental economic value (from which a relatively few people profit, to the detriment of wider community value).

I hope Councillors will understand that they have a jewel on their doorstep here.

Not just current residents, but the children and grandchildren of Faringdon people are much more likely to look back with thanks to whoever actively protects this site in the name of their heritage, enjoyment and learning about this unique landscape, than they are to those who seek to let it slip through their collective fingers and ensure its destruction. You can only destroy such places once - and it's for ever. Don't let it happen on your watch!"

Thanks Joanna. You said it all. The petition can be found at:

https://www.change.org/p/faringdon-town-council-the-vale-of-white-horse-district-council-and-secretary-of-state-greg-clark-protect-wicklesham-quarry-from-development?just_created=true Anna Hoare

Newsletter from Oxfordshire County Council- 4/7/15

[July Newsletter](#)

Petition re Fernham Road and A420- 3/7/15

Many pedestrians and cyclists cross the wide, fast stretch of the A420 at the Little Coxwell junction who use the footpath from Fernham Road, particularly during evenings and weekends. The A420 has a high volume of traffic and vehicles travel fast on this stretch of road, which is wide and difficult to cross safely on foot. It is only a matter of time before someone is injured or killed. It is proposed that the Highways authority provide an illuminated, safe island for pedestrians, which would also improve the safety for North-bound vehicles turning right onto the Little Coxwell Road.

https://www.change.org/p/oxfordshire-county-council-highways-department-improved-safety-measures-for-pedestrians-and-cyclistst-crossing-a420-at-fernham-road-to-little-coxwell-crossing-near-faringdon?recruiter=44367166&utm_campaign=signature_receipt&utm_medium=email&utm_source=share_petition

Faringdons Ariat Boots go to Hollywood - 2/7/15

Did you know that Faringdon's Western-boot brand Ariat has gone Hollywood with a lead role in the upcoming film "The Longest Ride."? The film arrived in theatres on April 10 2015, and stars Scott Eastwood as professional bull rider Luke Collins, who hits the riding circuit wearing Ariat boots. Based on the best-selling novel by Nicholas Sparks, the story centres on a star-crossed love affair between Luke, a former champion bull rider looking to make a comeback, and Sophia, a college student about to embark on her dream job in New York. According to Susan Alacala, VP of partnership marketing for Ariat, the film's producer, 20th Century Fox, approached the Professional Bull Riders Association and Ariat, its official boot partner, for direction when it came to performance riding as well as wardrobe. In fact, said Alcala, Ariat-sponsored riders worked as stunt doubles on the film.

<http://www.ariat-europe.com/uk/home>

Faringdon in the News- Eccentric's dalliance with the great Dali - 1/7/15

..... We all love them: Great British Eccentrics. And they didn't come any more off-beat, unconventional or amiably crackpot than the man whose acclaimed biography was entitled The Last Eccentric... Gerald Hugh Tyrwhitt-Wilson, 14th Baron Berners.

http://www.swindonadvertiser.co.uk/news/13361515.A_eccentric_s_dalliance_with_the_great_Dali/?ref=rss

Calling all residents... HERITAGE DAY IS BACK!!- 1/7/15

We are delighted to announce that, on **Sunday 13th September 2015**, Faringdon shall once again participate in England's biggest heritage festival, providing people with a unique opportunity to learn about our rich history and culture through re-discovering the often hidden or forgotten gems on our doorsteps, along with a range of tours, events and activities.

Free of charge, Heritage Open Day is an event for everyone whatever their background, age or ability. It is a time to celebrate our town, our people and our history, but it wouldn't be possible without a network of local people who are willing to share their time and enthusiasm.

Faringdon Town Council, organisers of this year's Heritage Day, are currently seeking any local artisans willing to demonstrate their skills to the public, along with any individuals or organisations that would like to participate.

Please contact Faringdon Community and Tourist Information Centre on 01367 242191 or

email beth@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk, if you would like to join us in providing an interesting, informative and fun-filled day for all!

Jonathan Porritt backs local campaign to Protect Wicklesham Quarry!- 1/7/15

Leading environmentalist Jonathan Porritt has given his backing to the campaign to PROTECT WICKLESHAM QUARRY FROM DEVELOPMENT. He states: 'Our countryside faces death by a thousand cuts, and protecting special places like Wicklesham becomes a more and more important priority for all those who care about the environment.'

The petition can be found at https://www.change.org/p/faringdon-town-council-the-vale-of-white-horse-district-council-and-secretary-of-state-greg-clark-protect-wicklesham-quarry-from-development?just_created=true

Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan seeks to turn Wicklesham Quarry into an industrial/ warehousing site, offering the landowner a shortcut through the planning system. This site has been proposed for industrial development since 2008 and repeatedly rejected by independent Land Reviews and by the Vale itself. In FNP's Sustainability Appraisal it came out as the worst (i.e least sustainable) of ten possible employment sites. Why then is it still included in the Neighbourhood Plan? Could it have anything to do with the 'local stakeholders' who sit on the Steering Group and declare financial interests in the quarry by any chance?

Anna Hoare

Supported Transport (subsidised buses and Dial-A-Ride) consultation- 1/7/15

Oxfordshire County Council would like your views on its service change proposals for subsidised bus services and Dial-a-Ride. The council needs to save more than £6 million on supported transport services. We can save money by running existing services more efficiently, however that is not enough. Savings will also have to come from reducing the current £4 million a year the council pays in bus subsidies and to run the Dial-a-Ride service.

Currently Oxfordshire County Council subsidises over 100 bus services in Oxfordshire, which makes up around 9% of the bus network. This means that more than nine out of ten services run without any public subsidy.

The proposals in this consultation will affect some bus users and all Dial-a-Ride users. Read the consultation document and complete the online feedback form to register your views. by 14 Sep 2015

Find out if a bus service on a route you use may be affected using the online map [here](#) or download the full table of routes listed in [Annex X](#) (at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/stconsultation).

ED(GW)

Faringdon Community Bus is one of the subsidised services

House clearance - 1/7/15

Many items of furniture large and small White goods

Bedroom furniture book shelves single bed double bed

Large trailer

Mobility scooter

Many more items Must clear the house

Contact Dee England 07872 955355

Live at the Park 2015- 30/6/15

Well that's us done and dusted for another year. So to everybody who came along, joined in and supported us over the weekend, to all the bands and performers - all of who are local and gave their time for free, the sound & lighting team, the stall holders, to the volunteers who helped on the bar and stalls, our sponsors and to the small but very determined committee who make this event happen. We send out a massive THANK YOU.

Saturday was probably the most supported of any the LATP events we've held. With the children's football, tug of war, the fun fair, stalls and the bands. But what made it a great day were the things you can't control!! - the weather was fantastic and the atmosphere this created made the day one to remember.

We are aware of the issues Friday nights event caused and are already working on ways forward. The music itself may not have been to everyone's taste, but it is our aim to offer a contrast to the band based music provided on the Saturday. The amount of noise travel took us by surprise, due to the wind conditions on the evening. We worked hard with Environmental Health prior to the event to cover as many eventualities as possible, but unfortunately weather is beyond our control. We will continue to work with them and offer our apologies for any inconvenience or upset which may have been caused.

When we have all the figures in we'll let you know how much you help us to raise and to which local charities it will be given.

Joel Francis

A420 junction- Little Coxwell and Fernham Road.- 30/6/15

I agree that it is a dangerous junction, and someone was killed there 3 years ago. It needs redesigning with safety in mind, but I don't think a traffic island is the answer. In my view we probably need a small roundabout, solid white lines to prevent overtaking, and speed restrictions along the whole stretch of the A420 from the other side of Great Coxwell to Park Road. A new roundabout is planned for the A420 Great Coxwell turn, but as far as I know nothing for Fernham Road, which is also about to become the main entrance for Grundon's lorries. Lorries turning right across the carriageway will increase the visibility problem at this junction, making the junction even more dangerous.

Anna Hoare

Re: Party in the Park- 30/6/15

Are the rumours true that Metallica are headlining next year?

Name Supplied

Thankyou- 30/6/15

I have lived in our lovely town for 38 years now. Over those years so many social events have been organised. The majority of people have enjoyed them, some people have moaned about them. But regardless I would like to say a huge Thank you to all the people who over the years, have worked so hard to try and make our town a fun place to live.

Jacqui Massey

Ref. Gail and party weekend.- 30/6/15

I work in a very stressful environment to and 12 hour nights so something like last weekend was a nice relief for me and my family when i woke up.

Come on join the party next year and smile its easy to do.

David Dennison

Party in the Park. - 29/6/15

Congratulations and well done to all the organisers of Party in the Park. Maybe in didn't suit everyone in the town, but it was only a couple of evenings so surely people can be a little tolerant. Do hope all the criticism will not have a negative effect on the band of hard working people who organised it. keep up the good work.

Name supplied.

Faringdon Rotary-29/6/15

Faringdon now has all parts of the Rotary family with the exception of Rotaract (age 18 - 30). We are holding an exploratory meeting on

Sunday July 12th in Costa Coffee at 11am.

Do you want to be part of a global community of young adults taking action for positive change? Are you looking for the chance to share your ideas and look at the world's challenges in a new way? Join a Rotaract club and find all this and more, including

- Hands-on service projects
- Fun networking and social activities
- Professional development opportunities
- An international network of young leaders

Please, please share and encourage people you may know to join us for a coffee and find out more about this exciting opportunity.

Party On, Party in the Park! - 29/6/15

we only live across the street and could hear it clearly but we don't expect everyone to sneak around like ghosts when such an event is on. And it wasn't THAT warm Saturday evening that we DID sleep with the windows closed.

"Play anything, just play it loud!" - Robin Williams, Good Morning Vietnam.

Counting down to FollyFest:)

Name supplied.

white Horse medical practice - 29/6/15

The Practice needs a FRONT DESK as you walk through the door to communicate the new changes and information More communication needs to be distributed to patients. The website online repeat prescription system is far to long winded and complicated.

Moving forward is one thing but the whole site is not very user friendly.

Especially for the older person.

Name supplied

Noise- 29/6/15

Noise was ridiculous over the weekend. Children unable to sleep. Having to shut all windows on a warm night.

Organisers should find a field Good distance from the Town next year

Name supplied

Re - Party in the park- 29/6/15

Live in the park was well organised friday was loud but it was only 4 hours out of the year so think of the young ones who had some thing organised for them

Jan Francis

Re - Party in the park- 29/6/15

My wife and I were a little surprised with how the noise reverberated around Folly Park View and certainly seemed akin to someone having a party. Despite this though I say it was not the end of the world and they were very good at stopping on time. The events seemed well organized and a lot more attractions in the park this time. It is not something that happens all the time and it is good for the town so please everyone just calm down and just enjoy the summer.

Rob.

A420/Little Coxwell/Fernham Road junction - 28/6/15

Many pedestrians and cyclists cross the A420 at the Little Coxwell junction from Fernham Road. This stretch is busy, vehicles travel fast and the road is wide at this point. It is only a matter of time before someone is injured or killed. I have set up an on-line petition at the link below to petition the Oxfordshire Highways Department to provide an illuminated traffic island at this junction, which would also improve safety for north-bound traffic turning right into the road to Fernham. If you would like to sign the petition it can be found at:

<https://www.change.org/p/oxfordshire-county-council-highways-department-improved-safety-measures-for-pedestrians-and-cyclists-crossing-a420-at-fernham-road-to-little-coxwell-crossing-near-faringdon>

Name supplied.

Ref Gail Party in the Park. - 28/6/15

Get a life or go on holiday? Why should I! The event in the Market Place happens each year and is far better than this shambles. Hardly any noise complaints or other problems. I work early mornings and nights and this week for 2 days hardly any sleep due to the selfish actions of a few people "enjoying" themselves due to not being able to sleep till a lot later than usual.

You try working in a stressful environment when tired and irritable due to lack of sleep? Not the best. If Faringdon must have a "party", have it away from housing. How many people on Park Road and in Marlborough Gardens got decent sleep those 2 nights? How many children couldn't sleep.

As for the quality of the music, that is questionable too.

I work for a living and so does my wife and why should we suffer for the sake of a few "musicians" and their followers.

Colin Eddy

Events at Buscot Park - 28/6/15

Who stayed in Buscot House? Monday 29th June

Buscot Park's Theatre seats 60 in a raked auditorium beside the main house. We are offering a series of illustrated lectures

as Monday Matinees from 3.30 - 4.15 pm. £5.00 entry fee (pay at door.)

For further information phone 01367 240786, or visit our website www.buscotpark.com

Party in the Park- 28/6/15

I think the wind was in the wrong direction for those who have been complaining about the noise. I couldn't hear anything in Coxwell Street, to the extent that I thought it had been cancelled! I could hear it clearly last year when I lived elsewhere in Faringdon. But really folks, can't we all calm down a bit. It only takes place once a year.
Name supplied.

Party in the Park- 28/6/15

Yes we heard it loud and clear, in Littleworth, but don't let's spoil the fun, maybe just have it turned down a bit next year, after all it's not all night every night or Glastonbury.
Ann Lewis

Party at the Park - 28/6/15

Oh here we go again!! Something else to moan about.. yes i do agree that the music was loud but hey its only once a year and this year we were blessed with great weather so let those who people who support this type of event enjoy themselves especially the younger generation after all there isnt much else goes on here for youngsters. I also know that families attended which is also great for community spirit. Perhaps next year hold the event on the folly hill so it brings in more people. Any way to all those that moan about this get a life or go on holiday next time.
Gail

VWHDC and Homelessness - 28/6/15

VWHDC would like your views on their strategy which proposes measures to prevent and relieve homelessness. https://consult.southandvale.gov.uk/public/southandvale/health_and_housing/hous/joint_homelessness_strategy_2015-2020 End date is 14th July

Party in the Park- 27/6/15

So day two of "fun in the park and it's just as bad. Where do I complain to regarding how to stop a music performance as this is intolerable. Faringdon is an insignificant little town in the Vale with very little going for it and annoying a lot of people is good pr!
Must ensure this doesn't get to the starting blocks next year.
Colin Eddy

Party in the Park- 27/6/15

I thought I was getting old but, I love people to have fun. However the second night with noise reverberating off our house on the Berners Road area from the event in Tucker Park is just not fair.
I love Faringdon but this weekend has sicken me that other townfolk should comment on the fact that 'we' don't have a right to a peaceful weekend. Have fun in the park but don't involve us all!!! I hope you did not pay because we have it for free here!!
Name supplied.

Party in the Park- 27/6/15

I was surprised about the volume of noise and wondered whether I would, however reluctantly, join the ranks of the Faringdon Moaners. However, I do wonder how much was due to the weather. Last night was humid and still, with what wind there was coming from the west, and it was uncanny the way the house seemed to be surrounded by noise. Today the noise is coming and going according to the strength of the wind. What was it like in Tucker's Park itself? (I live near the Stanford Road). What was it like on the west side of Faringdon?
Mary Beck

Party in the Park- 27/6/15

As a musician, I hate to complain about live music events, but agree with others commenting that the noise levels from 'Party in the Park' last night were ridiculous. The volume level in London St was akin to the music being played by an antisocial neighbour, and we were surprised to discover it was in fact coming all the way from Tucker's Park. We experience far less noise from the Folly Fest held in the Market Square.
Unfortunately not everyone gets a lie in on Saturday mornings, and I did not appreciate being unable to get to sleep before my 5.30am alarm! On the plus side, the music did stop promptly at 11pm but I wonder how many other families and residents were disturbed before then...
Name supplied

Noise - 27/6/15

Goodness me loud music, people enjoying themselves on a Friday night in Faringdon whatever next.
Name supplied

Party in the park. - 27/6/15

I sincerely hope this is the last one as the "music noise" is dreadful. Very loud and seemed to get louder as the evening went on. I live more than 1/2 mile away and yet it was if it was over the wall!
I work early mornings and trying to sleep was a waste of time. Please no more.
Colin Eddy

Noise- Party in the Park- 26/6/15

Why does the Party in the Park have to be so loud? It has been more noisy here in Gloucester Street than anything we have had in the Corn Exchange or the Market Square, and not even enjoyable music. Events in the Corn Exchange have been excessively muffled with the sound limiter system - why aren't the same rules applied to Tucker Park? The noise is as if coming from next door's window, not half a mile away, and was loud on Folly Hill. It is not exactly Glastonbury standard so please spare us and let us enjoy some quiet in the garden at the weekend.
Rachel Kenward

Wicklesham- 26/6/15

To the correspondent who asked for details of FNP's 'brownfield site' argument re Wicklesham Quarry, the Neighbourhood Plan documents include the Basic Conditions Statement plus a load of Appendices etc, few of which (the Appendices) were publicly available during the 2014 public consultation. (Nearly all can now be downloaded from the town Council website.) Particularly important are the Appendices to the Evidence Base Review: for anyone interested in 'facts', take a look at 'Our Faringdon Our Future', which is cited as the source of the claim (FNP Evidence Base P. 15) that only 27% of the working age population of Faringdon is able to work in the town. This claim forms a key argument for more than doubling the independently assessed B2/B8 land allocation for Faringdon. The 'calculation' involved here has more holes than a sieve, as do the statements based on this document in the Evidence Base. We should give it our 14 year old maths classes in Faringdon so they can tell the Council what's wrong with it! Incidentally none of these critical Appendices were available to the public at the start of this consultation either, until I made a complaint & finally got to see this stuff.
Anna Hoare

Wicklesham - 26/6/15

Thanks for the question. The Neighbourhood Plan Basic Conditions Statement, Page 9, cites National Planning Policy Framework Core Planning Principle 8: "Planning should encourage the effective use of land by reusing land that has been previously developed (brownfield land), provided that it is not of high environmental value", and offers as FNP's response :

"Although housing site allocation is not considered in the FNP, Section 4.2 and specifically Policy 4.2A Residential Development Within the Development Boundary, that apart from the proposed strategic site allocations set out in the Local Plan 2011, and the emerging Local Plan 2031, further residential development should be within the existing development boundary. As there is little undeveloped space within the development boundary, apart from protected green spaces, this implies that development will require the re-use of existing sites as in the former factory site at 5 Lechlade Road.

Of more importance in Section 5 Local Jobs is the allocation of two worked out quarries for employment use. Rogers Quarry is allocated as employment land as is Wicklesham Quarry. The latter is specified in Policy 4.5B: Wicklesham Quarry for B2/B8 use with various caveats (the quarry walls are a SSSI) rather than returning it to agricultural use." My argument is that FNP has cited an irrelevant policy as this site has never been developed, i.e. built on. The proper policy context for Wicklesham is NPPF Core Policy 13, as cited in my earlier post.

Anna Hoare

SUDBURY HOUSE PUBLIC NOTICE- 25/6/15

Please be aware that there will six minute private firework display at Sudbury House on Saturday 4th July 2015 @ 21.45. This is a private function.

Apologies for any inconvenience this may cause. Please direct any enquiries to the hotel on 01367 241272

RE: Wicklesham Quarry- 25/6/15

Could Anna Hoare please be more specific about where the Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan describes Wicklesham Quarry as a 'brownfield site'. I've read through both parts of the Plan and can find no such reference.

The section on potential future development of the quarry does require that 'appropriate ecological mitigation and enhancement measures are incorporated into the proposal' (Policy 4.5B section iii).

I'm not keen on seeing the area developed into industrial use, but let's make sure the debate is based on facts.

Name Supplied

'La Bobina' new Tapas Bar and Restaurant opening in Faringdon at the end of July.- 25/6/15

We are extremely excited to share our news and introduce ourselves as 'La Bobina', a Spanish Tapas and Wine Bar opening in July in the market town of Faringdon. We are a family business and lovers of tapas, cerveza, gins, fine wines and excellent food.

'La Bobina' located in the former 19th century haberdashery is set to become an exciting new attraction to the area as a fantastic Spanish tapas and wine bar. The venue distinguishes itself by having a relaxed Spanish feel and atmosphere whilst keeping the traditional haberdashery theme. It is a beautiful building offering an abundance of character, charm and quirkiness as well as incorporating an amazing gallery feature.

Our vision is simple; an informal but smart place to visit day or night.

In the daytime we will be open as a Spanish café offering pastries; famous chocolate con Churros; freshly cooked Spanish inspired bread, delicious olives and of course tapas! This will be somewhere to meet for coffee or lunch or just to grab an hour to relax.

Late afternoon we will offer an attractive children's menu of 'Tiny Tapas' inspired by our son's favourite Spanish food. By night friends and family can meet up to enjoy a relaxed Spanish evening with a buzzing atmosphere. Perfect for celebrating a special occasion or popping out for an adhoc evening to relax at the bar with a glass of beautiful Spanish wine and exquisite tapas made by our highly experienced Chef (renowned for his culinary skills and Spanish dishes). We will also be following a traditional Spanish custom, 'Paella Sunday', this is a family day to come along and experience; observe the making of and to taste and enjoy a variety of impressive traditional paellas. We will have occasional nights of live Spanish entertainment including guitarists, singers, jazz and flamenco dancers.

Our ever changing fantastic authentic tapas menu will comprise of dishes with a fusion of flavours from all over Spain. The menu embraces outstanding quality freshly cooked food; including the chef's Spanish bread selection, traditional tapas dishes bursting with Spanish flavours, an array of seafood, the famous patatas bravas, the traditional Spanish ham stand on the bar with beautiful olives, and an awesome special 'Tapas of the day'.

We only use the best quality ingredients which have been sourced and carefully selected from a variety of Spanish suppliers; and local suppliers for fresh produce. Our wines are sourced from highly popular and respected vineyards across Spain and also include of couple of hidden gems. We have great Spanish Cavas and as gin lovers, we will have a selection of great Spanish gins, along with Sherries, Ciders, homemade jugs of Sangria and of course the best Estrella!

We look forward to welcoming everyone through our doors from Faringdon and the surrounding area to become part of our story at 'La Bobina'.

We have already started taking bookings; please find as follows our contact details;

Email us hola@la-bobina.co.uk

Call us 01367 240578 / 07825 050986

'Like' and 'Share' us on Facebook, and follow us on Twitter for future updates.

La Bobina, 1 Bromsgrove, Faringdon, Oxfordshire, SN7 7JF.

Community Defibrillator Launch and Training. Saturday 4th July - 24/6/15

Jubilee Room, Pump house

Launch 10am, followed by training and information drop in until 12 noon

Two public access defibrillators installed in:

Southampton St Car Park SN77AZ

Faringdon Community College, Fernham Road, SN77LB

Funded by Girl Guides,

Oxfordshire GP pilot scheme Prime Minister's Challenge Fund News- 24/6/15

[Find out about projects to change and improve Oxfordshire GP services](#)

WHMP Patient group

Wicklesham Quarry - 24/6/15

Some correspondents hold that Wicklesham Quarry's address, or whether it is 'part of' the town, is decisive in what can be done to or with it. It is not. (Of course it is in Great Faringdon Parish & it is also outside the development boundary- the A420.) There are a couple of relevant points from a planning perspective. (1) It is in open countryside, agricultural land with planning use for gravel extraction on condition that it is returned to agricultural use when extraction is finished. The National Planning Policy Framework is clear:

NPPF Policy 13: 'Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals', states:

"local planning authorities should put in place policies to ensure worked land is reclaimed at the earliest opportunity, taking account of aviation safety, and that high quality restoration and aftercare of mineral sites takes place, including for agriculture (safeguarding the long term potential of best and most versatile agricultural land and conserving soil resources), geodiversity, biodiversity, native woodland, the historic environment and recreation."

(2) Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan seeks to justify creating an extra 20 acre industrial/ warehousing site in open countryside by describing it as a 'brownfield site'. According to Ox County Council Head of Minerals & Waste Policy this is a fundamental 'misunderstanding' of the policy context of quarrying. It is NOT a brownfield site that can merely be re-used for any purpose the landowner and council choose. This policy (4.5B) is a breach of the FNP's 'Basic Conditions'- the requirement to be in conformity with Core Policies of the NPPF, the Local Area Plan etc.

There are, of course, many other compelling reasons to protect & restore Wicklesham Quarry: it lies in an area of high landscape value classed as a Nature and Conservation Target Area (VWH Core Policies 44, 46). And it is an exceptional, unique geological site and natural habitat of protected species. The many rare plant species recorded in the Wicklesham tetrad will naturally recolonize the quarry once its original topsoil placed in the base. Many are no doubt flourishing in the dense shrubbery of the quarry margins.

Check out the petition on Change.Org for more information and the links I posted a few days ago with recent photos of the quarry's ponds and newt habitats by Enzygo Ltd. & Grundon's Restoration Plan.

Anna Hoare

RE: Wicklesham Quarry- 23/6/15

The extension of the quarry lies outside Wicklesham Farm and outside Faringdon Parish. It will up to Little Coxwell Parish to decide if the land is ever developed.
Tom Allen-Stevens

Filing Accounts - help wanted - 23/6/15

Is there anyone local or does anybody know someone that can help me file annual accounts to Companies House for a flat management company? The job of company secretary has been foisted upon me and the accounts need to be filed by July 31st.

Willing to pay anyone that can help.

Please phone Bev: 07505149390

Special constables- recruitment - 22/6/15

Thames Valley Police are running a series of information evenings for those interested in becoming a Special Constable.

Volunteering as a Special is a good way to take a stand against crime and anti-social behaviour in the community. Special Constables have the same powers as a regular officer and will work side-by-side with them to police the streets.

Come to our information evenings and find out more about the recruitment process, training and role of a Special Constable. This is a great opportunity to hear from serving Special Constables about what the role involves. There will also be an opportunity to talk to the recruitment team and ask any questions you may have.

If you want to find out more and attend an information evening please visit our [recruitment website](#) to register or contact us on 0845 2 66 66 77 (option 4) or email us on RecruitmentSpecialCo@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

- Monday 29 June 2015, 7pm at TVP Headquarters South Oxford Road, Kidlington, Oxon, OX5 2NX
- Thursday 9 July 2015, 7pm Milton Keynes Police Station, 302 North Row, Witan Gate East, Milton Keynes, MK9 2DS
- Tuesday 28 July, 7pm at the Police Training Centre, Sulhamstead, Berkshire, RG7 4DX

For more information on Specials please visit our [website](#).

Thames Valley Police

re Wicklesham Quarry- 22/6/15

'If such a venture were needed to provide work for people currently living in Faringdon then any new build should in Faringdon itself, travel to the quarry would necessitate use of the A420 at the very busy Park Road junction'.

Ah so everybody living in Little Coxwell works in Little Coxwell then, or as I suspect, the majority use the A420 joining from the very nasty Little Coxwell junction.

Last time I checked Wicklesham had the address of Wicklesham, Faringdon, Oxon and always has done. It was cut off when the bypass went through but it's still part of the town and the Allen-Stevens family have always provided employment for people of Faringdon.

Name Supplied.

RE: Wicklesham Quarry- 22/6/15

The justification for Wicklesham Quarry's inclusion in the Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan as a potential site for future employment development seems to be because it "... is considered by local stakeholders to be a significant opportunity site that would expand the provision of local jobs." (page 32, Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan for consultation, May 2015).

Who are these stakeholders and what interest might they have in seeing the site developed? Surely these decisions should be made by the people of Faringdon, based on what's best for the town, not by a small group of 'local stakeholders'.

It is also interesting to note that Wicklesham Quarry has already expanded westwards across more farmland, with a new access road opening onto Fernham road yet no mention of this is made in the recently reissued Neighbourhood Plan. Why not I wonder? And if the proposed industrial estate in the existing quarry goes ahead will this be the basis for a future extension?

Name Supplied

Health Services- 22/6/15

Dignity in Care survey. Tell Healthwatch what you think

<http://www.whitehorsepracticeppg.org.uk/news--your-views.html>

Survey ends 24th July.

WHMP patient group

Wicklesham Quarry - 22/6/15

For anyone who would like to see some great photos of what Wicklesham Quarry looks like from inside, here's a link to the 2013 Great Crested Newt survey by Enzygo

Ltd.<http://myeplanning.oxfordshire.gov.uk/swiftlg/apas/MediaTemp/205015-18168.pdf>

This was the second survey- the first was 5 years before. This shows that the the naturalised habitat of the quarry's protected species is quite stable and mature. Here is another link to Grundon's excellent restoration plan for the quarry.

<http://myeplanning.oxfordshire.gov.uk/swiftlg/apas/MediaTemp/205015-18284.pdf>

For anyone in doubt, the online petition clearly states that Wicklesham Quarry lies outside the town's development boundary: which is the A420. The A420 remains Faringdon's development boundary in the Local Area Plan 2031. No inaccuracy there. The petition is still available to read and vote for at:

<https://www.change.org/p/faringdon-town-council-the-vale-of-white-horse-district-council-and-secretary-of-state-greg-clark-protect-wicklesham-quarry-from-development>

Anna Hoare

Concert at All Saints - 21/6/15

Celebration of Life - an evening of classical live music with choral pieces and reflective readings to celebrate life

Saturday 25th July , All Saints Church, 8pm, £10 to include a glass of wine

In aid of Prospect Hospice, Swindon and MacMillan Cancer Support

Tickets from Tesco or 01367 242327 traceygreengrass@hotmail.com

RE Wicklesham quarry- 21/6/15

I don't live in Faringdon, I am a Little coxwell resident and my motives against this proposal have nothing to do with fear of future building encroachment onto Little Coxwell. What does concern me is the destruction of more countryside and the creatures that depend upon it.

If such a venture were needed to provide work for people currently living in Faringdon then any new build should in Faringdon itself, travel to the quarry would necessitate use of the A420 at the very busy Park Road junction.

In addition, what proportion of Faringdon residents are applicable for the industry sector offered by the proposed industrial development of WQ? Not enough and I suspect that more people will move to the area to fill these jobs and thus initiate the building of even more new houses.

Nicky Harris

Lord Berners' Bizarre magical walk - 20/6/15

Good day Faringdon, the Lord Berners Bizarre Magical Walk is on for Friday 26th June 2015. It starts at 6.30pm under The Old Town Hall in the centre of town and costs £5. The Walk takes just a little over an hour and we stop 11 times and I perform a magic trick linked to our stop. BUT...regretfully I can't do the Walk in the rain!!! Please tell you friends and ask them to come and Walk The Walk and have a great, unique, fun time!!!

Peter Wentworth

Parking Survey - 20/6/15

'Decriminalising parking' ie VWHDC would take on responsible for on street parking enforcement from the Police (as has been done in almost every other part of England). This is needed to radically reduce the instance of illegal parking in the town.

The report does make other suggestions, and points out where the yellow lines are unenforceable (even by the Police).

Maybe the councils (ie Oxfordshire CC, VWHDC, FTC) and the Police are getting together to produce an action plan to improve the situation in advance of VWHDC taking on the responsibility(if they ever do)

Optimist

Parking survey- 20/6/15

i am a new resident of faringdon and have read past information regarding residential parking around the town. All i can say is get a life people have to use cars and cars belong on the road. People live in towns who have cars so its simple they park on the road.

Name Supplied

Parking and Poo.- 19/6/15

For a small town, Faringdon has too many illegally parked cars and too much dog poo everywhere.

Such a shame don't you think?.

Name supplied.

White Horse Medical Practice- 19/6/15

"We are sorry to announce that Dr Lee's husband collapsed on 11 June and suffered a major stroke. He remains very unwell in hospital and naturally Dr Lee left work immediately to be with him.

Due to the national shortage of GPs it has not been possible to find a doctor to fill in for Dr Lee while she is absent. Unfortunately her absence also follows the Bank Holidays in May when the surgery lost about 240 appointments due to the national holidays.

All the doctors are working as hard as they can to try to cover Dr Lee's surgeries and where possible they are working extra hours but it is not possible to fully cover the absence of a full-time doctor. Inevitably we are unable to offer all the appointments we would like and this means you may have to wait longer for an appointment than is desirable. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause. We are all thinking of Dr Lee at this difficult time for her and are doing our best to maintain as good a service as possible to all our patients."

WHMP

Live at the Park - 19/6/15

Dear Faringdon Resident

You may be aware that Faringdon Town F.C. will be holding Live @ The Park in Tucker Park to raise funds for local charities on Friday evening June 26th from 7pm until 11.00pm and Saturday June 27th from 12.00pm until 11.00 pm. There are many activities for both adults and children taking place during the day on Saturday and local bands playing live music both Friday evening and Saturday so there will be something for all the family to enjoy.

As your property is adjacent to the park we understand that this event may cause some disturbance to your normal weekend routine. We have been working closely with the Vale of White Horse environment team to keep this disturbance to a minimum and ask you to bear with us for this charity event.

You are of course welcome to attend and entry is free.

We look forward to seeing you and hope you enjoy your day.

If you have any questions or concerns before or during the event please contact Simon Harrington on 07789437227

Re: Parking Survey - 19/6/15

I realise it was just a survey, but given the solutions were nothing radical like building a multi-storey on the United church but more "the rules are there they just need to be enforced" it just seems to have been a bit of a waste of time & money for all concerned.

If there was no funds to do anything at all it seems a bit strange to have bothered commencing the process. The money would have been better spent funding a traffic warden one afternoon/evening a month for a couple of months which would have either improved the situation or made it self-funding enough for it to continue.

Name Supplied

Parking Survey- 18/6/15

I think the clue is in the word "survey" as far as I know that doesn't include implementation which is in the hands of our District Council who say they can't afford it.

Green Witch

Parking Survey: - 17/6/15

Sorry to drag this up again, but does anyone know how much the famed parking survey cost?.

I know one of our many housing developers paid for it, but the money would have been better spent on a chocolate teapot as nothing happened & the situation is now worse than ever. In Coxwell Street & Park Road it's the same cars that are always parked on the double yellow's/most obstructing places, so it's not like it's accidental.

Name Supplied

Wicklesham Quarry- 17/6/15

There's currently a petition on Change.org that's been organised by a resident of Little Coxwell who opposes the inclusion of Wicklesham Quarry as a site for potential employment. While it's good to have a range of views on this subject, there are a number of inaccuracies in the emotive wording of the petition that ought to be highlighted. There's more info about the quarry at http://www.wickleshamlodge.com/Wicklesham_Quarry.htm.

Wicklesham Quarry actually sits wholly within Faringdon parish. In 2006, Faringdon Town Council started a drive to promote it for employment use. This to address a jobs shortage in the town, as detailed in the Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan Evidence Base.

Following years of excavation, the quarry now has little "naturalised plant and wildlife", as suggested by the petition. The survey of rare arable plants was conducted over the rest of Wicklesham Farm – none were found in the quarry.

The geological heritage of the quarry is by no means under threat – this will be preserved under the statutory restoration plan, whatever the future of the site. Access for those wishing to study the site will actually improve if the quarry is safeguarded for employment use.

While current planning permission requires the quarry is reinstated to agriculture, it will take decades to bring it to a respectable level of farming productivity. Suggestions to create a wildlife haven will involve importing flora and fauna to a site that is pretty much ecologically barren at present. If a wildlife haven is required by Faringdon, let's choose an area within the surrounding farmland that's already rich in native species.

This is why this site, already shielded by trees and with good access off the A420, can readily provide those much-needed jobs for Faringdon – anyone who lives in Faringdon and is forced to commute to more job-rich areas of the district will know these are needed.

If this is something you have views on, you can officially register these by downloading and filling in the public consultation response form of the FNP before June 26 – go to <http://faringdonplan.webs.com/the-neighbourhood-plan> for more.

Tom Allen-Stevens.

Owner, Wicklesham Quarry

Faringdon Writers' Group - 17/6/15

We are a friendly group of writers of fiction, fact, poetry and prose. We meet once a month to develop and share our writing, give and get feedback, and exchange ideas. Everyone is welcome, whatever level your writing is at, beginner to published author. Bring a notebook and pen, laptop, iPad, whatever you write on!

Meetings are on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7-9pm at Faringdon Business Centre, Volunteer Way.

Next meeting is Tues 18th August: Journaling Workshop

Come along on the night or call Alison on 01367 888229 for more info.

The Portwell - 15/6/15

You forget how grubby the Portwell used to be: [Article in Oxford Mail June 15th 2015](#)

Sjoerd Vogt

Fernham Fields seeking to reduce the number of Social houses- 15/6/15

Application to reduce Affordable Housing Obligations under Section 106BA in connection with plan ref: P13/V0139/O
Erection of 200 dwellings.

[Details are in the Viability report](#)

ED(GW)

Health Services - 13/6/15

You can find out about the significant changes to the help and support available to carers on <http://www.whitehorsepracticeppg.org.uk/useful-links.html>

There is also information about the 2015/16 GP contract

Ed(GW)

Sat 13th June. TODAY. Live At The Tithe 3 taking place at the Tithe Barn in Great Coxwell.- 13/6/15

An all-day family festival for local folk by local folk!

Have a look at our website www.liveatthetithe.co.uk to see what's on.

FREE entrance and FREE parking.

There is also an evening concert in the barn headlined by Martyn Joseph - tickets on sale, ring 01793 762070.

Berners' Bizarre Magical Walks- 12/6/15

Top of the morning gentle Folk. His Lordship may soon be on the trail again!!! I have been asked by several people if I can resurrect the Lord Berners Bizarre Magical Walk. So here is the plan....I will Walk the Walk for groups - I suggest a minimum of 5 people at £5 per head with a maximum charge of £50 for groups over 10 people. The Walk take a little over an hour and wherever we stop I perform a magical item linked with that location. So you may call me on 01367 240925 to discuss or email me peter@milehighmagic.co.uk . The Walk can't take place in the rain so if the weather is inclement I would call the leader of the group to postpone to another evening. I look forward to hearing from you!!

Faringdon Free Food - 12/6/15

The next Faringdon Free Food sessions will be from 10.00 to 12.00 and from 13.00 to 15.00 on Sunday 14th June 2015. Everyone (adults and children) is welcome to come along to either or both sessions.

This month we'll have a go at the empty bed next to the Budgens car park (the one just across from the toilets). We'll prepare the soil by mixing it with fresh topsoil and then sow wildflower seeds to get some instant colour in time for FollyFest. Later in the year we'll plant some perennial berry-bearing shrubs. We'll meet at the Budgens car park at 10.00 am and 1 pm on Sunday.

<http://faringdonfreefood.org/>

Re the ukulele - 10/6/15

I think Rob the Cheese (of the Manna Shop) plays the uke, so if he is not a member of the group he may be able to refer you.

Mary Beck

Keys found - 10/6/15

We have now had 2 keys handed into the Tourist Information Centre, a house key and a car key
Faringdon TIC

Ukelele group- 9/6/15

I had heard that there was a ukulele group in Faringdon. I would love to join in. Please give details.

Eve John

NHS111- 8/6/15

The NHS want your views on the [111 service](#) in this area. See the poster on [WHMP patient group website](#) for information and how to make contact
Ed(GW)

PROTECT WICKLESHAM QUARRY FROM DEVELOPMENT. An online petition- 8/6/15

An online petition has been launched on Change.Org.
https://www.change.org/p/faringdon-town-council-the-vale-of-white-horse-district-council-and-secretary-of-state-greg-clark-protect-wicklesham-quarry-from-development?just_created=true
Please have a look and sign it if you want to prevent Wicklesham Quarry from becoming an industrial warehousing site!
Thanks.
Anna Hoare

A PINK PIGEON IS NOT JUST FOR CHRISTMAS....- 8/6/15

The cover photo of the "I live in a Town Called Faringdon" (<https://goo.gl/iDs00l>) also includes a well-behaved house-trained pink pigeon - especially bred (Columbidae Faringdonensis) so as not to crap on passers-by.
Do YOU think you would make a good owner of such a quintessentially quirky bird? A new batch has just hatched out - and these cute little critters are looking for homes - in time for Folly Fest. They absolutely LOVE it in prominent places. £5 for UNpainted. Can you think of anything more fun than painting & perching your very own perky pink pigeon?
Email me (sjoerd@vogt.org.uk) or message me on facebook!
Sjoerd

Step in time -two. Ballroom and Latin dance classes- 8/6/15

New dance classes starting for Adult beginners Ballroom and Latin. August 2015, At the Corn Exchange, Faringdon.
For more information please contact 01367 820622.

Huge increase in allowances. MP's getting big pay rises.- 6/6/15

No wonder our taxes keep going up. Thought there were huge cuts to be made in these austere times. Seems that some of the cuts are in the wrong place.
I have no time for councillors and other politicians whether local or national who bleat on about cuts, pay restraint and lack of money, whilst they line their own pockets.
Many of us are earning no more now, than we were five years ago and I personally know, people in very important front line roles (Nurses) whose take home pay is less now than five years ago.
No wonder I have given up voting for these self serving people.
Grumpy Old Man

News from The Rookery.....- 6/6/15

We had confirmation from Salon Business Awards that cm Hair @ The Rookery are finalists in the UK category of Local Salon of the Year. The award ceremony is on Monday 13th July in London and we are up against some of the top salons in England. The award is not for just how the salon works and what it offers, but what it does for the local community and surrounding areas. This is a great honor for us and we are proud to fly the flag for The Rookery and for Faringdon at such a prestigious event.
Shane Evans

District and County Council allowances.- 6/6/15

So good to see that its not just our MP's who firmly have have noses in the trough of ripping off the public purse. I may be lucky enough to get a 2% pay increase soon, but some of these increases beggar belief. What do they actually do again?
I have to work 48 hours a week with 4 weeks off a year and NO expense account or dubious title to justify my existence. Plain Mr does for me.
Colin Eddy

Increase in District and County councillor allowances - 6/6/15

This was agreed in Dec 2014. There are 38 District Councillors
Councillor's Basic Allowance increase from £3,984 to £4,575 (14.8%)

Special Responsibility Allowances(2%) These are in addition to basic allowance. 2nd figure is from 1/5/2015

Leader of the Council	£17,795	£18,151
Deputy Leader	£13,050	£13,311
Ordinary member of cabinet	£8,304	£8,470
Chairman of Council	£4,745	£4,840
Vice-Chairman of Council	£1,186	£1,210
Chairman of Scrutiny Committee		£2,373 £2,420

Vice-Chairman of Scrutiny Committee	£1,186	£1,210
Chairman of Planning Committee	£4,745	£4,840
Vice-Chairman of Planning Committee	£2,373	£2,420
Chairman of Audit and Governance Committee	£1,186	£1,210
Leader of Major Opposition Group	£1,186	£1,210

[Rationale in pdf](#)

Oxfordshire County Council 63 councillors

Basic Allowance payable to all councillors increase from £8,376 to £10,000(19%)

Plus for those with special responsibilities:

Leader of the Council	Now £29,000 from £25,131 (15%)
Deputy Leader of the Council	now £20,000 from £16,754 (19.3%)
Cabinet Members	now £16,000 from £12,565 (27%)
Chairmen of Scrutiny Committees	now £6,000 from £5,050 (19%)

Link to [Report from Remuneration panel Dec 2014](#)

Faringdon Town Council

No allowances. Wholly voluntary
ED(GW)

Poppies - 3/6/15

So sorry to see the emerging poppies and other flowers in the field at the bottom of Folly Hill have been cut back. I do hope that prior year trespassing hasn't resulted in the loss of this spectacle to everyone else.

Gutted

Name Supplied

Beautiful Garden - 2/6/15

Who made the beautiful garden opposite the roundabout which leads into the health-centre car park. It's lovely.
Mary Beck

Ferndale Community Choir - 2/6/15

Wednesday June 3rd

7 – 8.30 pm in the School Hall at Ferndale House Preparatory School, 5 - 7 Bromsgrove, Faringdon,SN7 7JF

Entry by the front gate in the evening. £2.50 per session.

Male and female singers welcome. No auditions, no previous experience needed.

Run by Louise Woodgate, singer and singing teacher. Huge fun

Louise will be introducing a wide repertoire ranging from musical theatre, classical, pop, folk, through to jazz and the main aim is to promote the enjoyment of singing.

For further information call 01367 242222

New cycle trail proposals at Badbury Hill - 2/6/15

New scheme to keep National Trust's Badbury Hill safe for walkers and cyclists

Two, new, permanent cycle trails are being proposed by the National Trust at Badbury Hill in Oxfordshire. There will be a family cycle trail and a 'blue' route for proficient cyclists with 'red' loops for experts. The trails have been designed with British Cycling to competition standards.

The cycle trails will draw bikes away from walking routes and the precious Iron Age hill fort to make the site safer and protect the fort from erosion. Walking routes will remain unchanged and will become 'quiet zones' within the woodland.

'Badbury Hill has been used by increasing numbers of walkers and cyclists over the last five years,' says Richard Jackson, Rural Surveyor for the National Trust's Buscot and Coleshill Estates. 'Separating cyclists and walkers will make Badbury Hill safer, but the proposals are also about improving facilities for visitors and enhancing the site.'

The car park will be improved and extended and dog poo bins installed. A car parking charge will go towards looking after the National Trust plantation and gradually restoring it to native British broad-leaved woodland. National Trust members are already actively supporting the work and will not have to pay to park.

The National Trust is holding three public information days to answer questions about the proposals.

- 5 June - Great Coxwell Village Hall 4-7pm
- 6 June – Badbury Hill, Car Park 11am-1pm
- 8 June – Coleshill Community Shop 6-8pm

Press contact: Katy Dunn: katy.dunn@nationaltrust.org.uk 07901 811375

FARINGDON KNIT & KNATTER LADIES COFFEE MORNING - 2/6/15

Our coffee morning is being held on Friday 5th June 2015 in the Old Town Hall between 10am and 12 noon and NOT Saturday 6th June as per the Faringdon Advertiser. Also entry is FREE.

We are raising money to fill and transport Christmas shoeboxes for Families and the Elderly in Romania, Moldova, Bulgaria and Ukraine.
Name supplied

White Horse medical Practice Newsletter. May 2015 - 1/6/15

The patient group produces regular newsletters for WHMP. The latest can be found on <http://www.whitehorsepracticeppg.org.uk/news--your-views.html>

You can find out about: the Merger, where to get information about Dementia care, legislative changes for Carers, Pre pay prescriptions, Repeat prescriptions

Maternity services report and how to make Drs appointments online.

There's information about the practice patient group too and how you can join in.

If you prefer a paper copy of the newsletter, you can pick one up at the medical centre

WHMP patient group

NEW CLASS STARTING AT FARINGDON LEISURE CENTRE! - 1/6/15

Tai chi 16 years plus

Every Thursday from June 4th 8.15pm-9.15pm With Rachel £6.50 or free for members.

Every Monday 3.15pm-4pm Student Spin Term time only 16 years plus

Starting every Wednesday- 3.15- 4pm from June 3rd at Faringdon Leisure centre Junior class 11-15yrs! £3.50 or free for Junior members. Term time only- different class every term- starting with Group cycle!

Call or pop in to book (01367) 241755

News and Views May 2015

Medical Practice - 30/5/15

While I am sure that the White Horse Medical Practice is superb, can I point out that so was Fernhill, and that a good number of the staff from Fernhill have 'moved over' along with the patients. So the problems and work associated with such a move will have been equally shared. That work must have mainly happened over the Easter weekend and required a great deal of extra work. So well done BOTH practices, and thank you.

As for those who DIDN'T KNOW! Where have you been? There were notices in the media, at the surgery and a great deal of talk amongst people. However I do think a letter to all patients of the old practice would have been nice with the new contact numbers etc.

Sylvia Bowley

Footpath from Park Road to Southampton Street. - 28/5/15

Noticed today that at least two of the Street lights are now out of action due to mindless vandalism as the globes and bulbs have been smashed. Glass all over the path. Pity the poor devils who walk their dogs along there as that will no doubt encourage more dog fouling!

Why do people do this though?

Colin Eddy

Support Groups within Faringdon and local area - 28/5/15

Faringdon and area lacks support Group for Mental Health Patients.

Realise this cost money as its a difficult area of illness but Mental Health is not self inflicted and therefore more support should be set up.

Around the area there are plenty of groups for people who have Drug and AA issues but nothing for Mental Health.

If anyone is willing to set up working group to try and get Professionals to listen and get something set up please ring

07872955355

Name supplied

White horse medical practice - 28/5/15

White Horse Medical Practice needs to be commended for its excellent service to faringdon and wider area. They have devoted GPs nurses admin staff that are always pleasant always willing to help at the end of the phone.

They have taken on Fernhil practice without the public seeing the difficulties that must have incurred during the change.

The Practice is always clean and tidy.

Folks are always moaning. If we had enough GP nurses and admin staff folks would still moan about something.

Let's embrace our Practice and be grateful we have such dedicated staff.

Name supplied

Medical Practice - 26/5/15

What Faringdon needs is a second medical practice

John King

Faringdon Knit and Knatter Ladies- 26/5/15

Have a Coffee Morning on Friday 5th June 2015 at Faringdon Old Town Hall, 10am - 12 noon, Tombola, Raffle, Cakes, Plants, Hand-knitted Toys etc.

Raising funds to fill and transport Christmas Shoeboxes

Closure of Fernhill Medical Practice- 23/5/15

As a patient of this practice I received notification of the proposed merger months ago. And I'm sure it was posted on Talking Points too. On reflection, I wonder what the cost was/would have been to informing everyone individually?

Sheila

Re Compost- 23/5/15

I'm sure Thomas Tankengine meant his comment in a humorous vein. That's how I read it, and I had a chuckle at it, as I'm sure others did.

Fiona Merrick

ARTWEEKS - 22/5/15

continues in Great Coxwell this weekend 11am - 5.30pm Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

There are various venues around the village including green woodworking demonstrations at the Great Barn each day. Do come and have a walk around, followed by lunches, coffees & teas in the Reading Room (proceeds to the upkeep of the Reading Room and to St. Giles Church).

Margaret Townsend

Compost - 21/5/15

Actually Dennis, we can post critical as well as non critical news on here. You are not the arbiter of what is suitable for posting on this site. The Editor is. It is called freedom of speech.

Personally I agree with him.

Regards

Grumpy Old Man

Compost - 20/5/15

If Thomas Tankengine feels he needs to make offensive observations about others can he at least use his own name instead of hiding behind a pseudonym. Can I also remind him that contributors to Good News are asked not to post rude or negative remarks.

Dennis Haynes

Re: Free compost! from VWHDC- 19/5/15

Makes a change from them talking it I suppose!

Thomas Tankengine

Free compost! from VWHDC- 18/5/15

Find out more about our compost giveaway day. <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/news/2015/2015-05/free-compost>
13th and 14th June. Abingdon and Wallingford

Dress alterations- 16/5/15

Can anyone recommend anyone locally who does dress alterations?

Thanks

Katy R

Housing application Land South of Highworth Road - 16/5/15

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P15/V1156/SCR>

Screening opinion request for approximately 200 homes of varying type, size and tenure including 40% affordable housing.
VWHDC

Public exhibition of the Neighbourhood Plan - 15/5/15

16th May, Jubilee Room, the Pump House, Faringdon from 9.00 am to 12 noon.

FTC

Key Handed In - Friday 15th- 15/5/15

Lost a key? We've had one handed in to us at the Community & Tourist Info Centre, Gloucester Street. It was found in the Southampton St car park. Please pop in or ring 01367 242191. Opening hours Mon-Fri 9am-4pm and Sat 9.30am-1pm.

Closure of Fernhill Medical Practice - 15/5/15

I was quite astounded when I learned from an ex-resident of Faringdon (who currently lives in Yorkshire!) that the Fernhill Practice was merging with the White Horse Practice. I think it is quite appalling that current patients were not informed individually. I note the comment that it was "front page news" in the Folly and in the Oxford Mail. I read neither on a regular basis. When I looked at the Fernhill website there was very little information, and I couldn't even find the telephone number we are now supposed to use - though I have now acquired this.

For an issue as important as this, patients should have been notified individually. Common courtesy demands this, let alone anything else. What was the practice management thinking of?

Charmian Martin

Elections 2015 – how well did we did we manage things- 15/5/15

Members of the public are being asked to comment on how they feel the national and local elections were managed in southern Oxfordshire.

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/news/2015/2015-05/elections-2015---how-well-did-we-did-we-manage-things>

Route 66 peak bus services- 15/5/15

There is no reduction in the 66 route bus services. In fact from 31 May there are going to be more journeys! The two journeys per day in each direction that were subsidised by Oxfordshire County Council to run via Fyfield, Appleton, Eaton and Cumnor are being re-routed to travel on the regular 66 route along the A 420. These 4 journeys via the villages are being withdrawn as the level of patronage is so low.

Name supplied

Thames Valley Police Have your say meeting- 15/5/15

The following Have Your Say Meeting is being held in your Neighbourhood:

Date: Saturday, 16 May 2015 **Time:** 2pm - 3pm

Venue: Outside Tesco, Faringdon. **Contact:** PCSO Kerry Davies

Please come along, this is your opportunity to speak with your neighbourhood officers to discuss any local issues of concern you may.

[Faringdon Neighbourhood Update](#)

Wicklesham Quarry - 15/5/15

A public meeting will be held on Wednesday 20th May at 7.30pm at the Friends Meeting Hall in Faringdon to discuss the future of Wicklesham Quarry. The Quarry is 'safeguarded' for industry/ storage and distribution uses in Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan, in spite of the fact that the Plan allocates its independently assessed target of 7.38HA (18 acres) of employment land within the development boundary, without Wicklesham. Four independent reports have failed to support the case for turning Wicklesham into an industrial site. Please come to take part in this debate and find out more.

Anna Hoare

NEPAL EARTHQUAKE DISASTER EMERGENCY APPEAL- 15/5/15

The immediate requirement is to send money to help provide clean water, food, shelter, clothing, sanitation and essential medical supplies. A little help can go a long way.

Nepal, the home of the brave Gurkhas who have proudly served with the British Army for 200 years need help in their Hour of Need

Would you like to Help?

You can choose your Local Rotary Club to channel your donation to Nepal. We have already established links with Rotary Clubs in Kathmandu Mid Town and Kuponjol and will make sure your money is channelled to where it is most needed. With 86 clubs the Nepal Rotary network is extensive and strong and very well connected to local communities. Faringdon Rotary has already made an impact on the ground. We have sent funds through ShelterBox and also some immediate support to The Home for Rescue of the Afflicted Children (HORAC/Nepal)

You can Support this Appeal by

1. Donating direct through Faringdon Rotary **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**
2. Writing a cheque made payable to Faringdon Rotary Club
3. Giving your donation to a Faringdon Rotary member

Bjorn Watson, President 01793 782748

Colin Holman, Chair International Committee 01793 783993

Gordon Hughes, International Team (Nepal) 01793 782521

Faringdon & District Rotary Club can be found at: www.facebook.com/faringdon.rotary

Website: www.faringdonrotaryclub.co.uk

Rotary – the world's leading service organisation for men & women of all ages

Christian Adventure Camps- 14/5/15

Total Adventure Peak

27th -31st of July Residential

Christian Activity Camp for 12-17year olds from £220 to £300

Total Adventure Witney

10th - 14th of August Residential

Christian Activity camp for 8-12 year olds from £155 to £230

Both at Windmill Farm Conference Center, Main street, Clanfield, OX18 2SN

Find out more at totaladventure.org.uk , email ta@adventureplus.org.uk or phone 01993703308

25th Twinning Anniversary- 14/5/15

We are looking forward to our 25th Twinning Anniversary this weekend with lots of friends over from Le Mele. If anyone wants to get involved in the Youth Twinning in July please do get in touch. faringdowntwinning@gmail.com

Carolyn Murphy

Route 66 bus peak services being withdrawn.- 13/5/15

http://m.oxfordtimes.co.uk/news/12946673.Major_changes_in_Oxfordshire_bus_services___find_out_in_our_list_if_yours_is_affected/

Name supplied

Lechlade Festival - See Status Quo- 12/5/15

Discount Tickets from Swindon Live & Local on Swindon 105.5 See Status Quo at Lechlade Festival (22-24th May) - full weekend ticket for £10.50 (save £66) if you use the promo code 105.5.

Listen to last weeks show here for more info about Lechlade Festival and Matt Midgley in session <https://soundcloud.com/sean-hodgson/l-l-matt-midgley>

Sean Hodgson

Neighbourhood policing report - 10/5/15

<http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/yournh/yournh-tvp-pol-area/yournh-tvp-pol-area-soxon-vowh/yournh-tvp-pol-area-n378>

UK as a member of the EU - 10/5/15

Now the dust is beginning to settle after the General Election a number of things have become clear about the future direction of British politics. One such is that we now face a referendum on the future of the UK as a member of the EU. Personally, I am in favour of our continued membership of the EU but recognise that many of my fellow Faringdonians will be of the contrary view or undecided and wanting to become more fully informed of the pros and cons of EU membership. I would like to suggest that a forum of some kind is established to provide a space for discussion and debate about EU membership. I would welcome contact from others who might be equally concerned to promote reasoned reflection in an hopefully non-partisan way.

Peter Pettit (tel.no 242019)

Vale WHDC Elections Result Faringdon: - 9/5/15

Cox (Con) 1619;

Curd (Gre) 582;

Harrison (LD) 797;

Kainth (Con) 1428;

Leniec (Lab) 870;

Meredith (LD) 1105

Elected: Roger Cox (Con) and Mohinder Kainth (Con) are again district councillors for Faringdon

1st Faringdon Scouts - 8/5/15

We are thinking of organising a small pet show in October. We wanted to gauge interest levels before we did this as we've not done it before. This is your chance to show off your beautiful pet - how well you've tamed it, how happy (or hoppy) it is - and to meet other local owners.

The show would be for small animals (no cats or dogs) and would be based around healthy, happy pets rather than pedigrees.

We'd be holding fun classes like 'Best Tricks' and 'Most tame reptile', 'Hoppiest Rabbit' and 'Longest Haired Guineapig' 'prettiest pet' and would probably also have a Best in Class if there was enough interest to do so.

Would you come along to see? Would you bring a pet? Please let us know if you'd be interested in in any capacity, especially if you'd like to volunteer to judge.

Faith Carpenter

Tesco baskets - 8/5/15

If you are the lady who is 'borrowing' the little wheeled shopping baskets from Tesco, please can you kindly return them. People who can't push trolleys or lift heavy baskets need them to do their shopping. Thank you

Faith Carpemter

Friday 8th May 70th anniversary of VE Day - 7/5/15

Please come to the VE day Beacon Lighting event on Folly Hill

The event is FREE and has been organised by Faringdon Town Council, Friends of the Folly, Royal British Legion and Rotary Club with the help of the Saunders Family.

The programme is as follows:

o Slack liners Demonstration 6.30pm

- o Folly open 8pm- 10pm
- o Wantage Silver Band 8.05 to 8.45pm
- o Folly Singers 8.55 to 9.15pm
- o Ceremony 9.20 to 9.35pm
- o 9.20 congregate
- § Beacon lighting party at PA
- § Uniformed attendees together to left of beacon
- o 9.25 Bugle salute
- o 9.28 Tribute reading
- o 9.32 Beacon Lighting

Please tell your friends

There will be tea/coffee/drinks you can buy, and food from Snooty Mehman, or bring your own

Faringdon Town Council

Further improvements to Stagecoach route 66 - Oxford/Swindon - 7/5/15

From the end of May, the Saturday timetable will have a major enhancement to provide a service up to every twenty minutes. Most of the Monday to Friday morning and evening peak journeys will be adjusted to improve punctuality, and all journeys will now operate along the ordinary off peak route with the exception of one morning journey which will continue to go to New College. In the evenings service 66 will operate a regular hourly service, with an additional journey from Swindon to Faringdon at 2300 on a Saturday and Monday to Saturday there is a journey from Oxford to Faringdon at 2225 and at 2320, which will hopefully be valuable to any theatre goers.

Full details of the upcoming changes will be available on the Stagecoach West website soon.

Marcus Laphorn

Raw Planet, 9 & 10 Cornmarket- 7/5/15

Last night, one of our fellow Faringdon business owners kindly pointed out that there has been some discussion here as to the opening hours (or lack thereof!) of our new shop 'Raw Planet'.

I would very much like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their interest in our new venture and clarify the situation for you.

The new shop is, indeed, the extension of an existing business that has been operating largely online and by direct delivery in the local area for the past eight years (you may have seen us at events such as Paws In The Park and Festive Faringdon too). We are hoping that having the shop (and making it look inviting!) will mean that we get to meet lots more local people, and their dogs of course, and supply many more of our handmade goodies to you all.

As well as running the business I am also the primary carer for my seventeen year old son, who is affected by multiple disabilities, and, for this reason, I am unable to commit to longer opening hours than the current three or four hours five days a week, until the business, hopefully, becomes more established and we can afford to pay someone to help out.

I do hope you can all understand and support this approach. We are extremely committed to being a part of the local community here in the town and source all our ingredients for our food and all our handmade healthcare products from Faringdon and the local area. We are proud to have been invited to become a member of the loyalty card scheme and offer our own discount scheme for local customers too.

We will ALWAYS display our opening times for the coming week in our display window, on our Facebook page and on our newly constructed website (rawplanet.co.uk), but we are also very happy to come down and open up the shop at other times, by arrangement, for any local customers who either wish to make or collect a purchase or who need informal canine nutrition advice.

Once again, may I thank you all so very much for your interest in our new shop, it really is appreciated, and I look forward to meeting more and more of you as time goes by.

With best wishes

Carol Hunkin

Raw Planet

9 & 10 Cornmarket

RE: Poor TV reception?- 6/5/15

Yes, we experience the same problem with Freeview. Initially I thought it was due to the weather.

But it looks like it is due to the 4G switch on.

If you have not received a filter for this I advice you to contact at800 who is responsible for the 4G switch on.

<https://at800.tv/contact-us/>

I have contacted them and they are sending me another Filter.

Also if you have more than 1 TV in the house, each TV should have a filter or if you have an amplifier box installed you need to install the filter before the amplifier box.

Raoul.

Re: Roadworks- 6/5/15

Yes - the council are going to resurface all of Park Road, Gravell Walk, Gloucester Street, Church Street and Marlborough Street. Oops! Sorry, I've just woken up. It was all just a dream. However, I would like to take this opportunity to apologise to all drivers and pedestrians - if driving through Faringdon is unavoidable for me, I will be going slowly and swerving a lot to avoid the pot holes, lumps, cracks, dips and 'ploughed field' effects. I've already had to replace my car suspension and I'm not doing it again. What a terrible state the roads in. Are the council going to fix them to be like London Street and the Cornmarket? In your dreams.

Name supplied.

Re: Poor TV Reception. - 6/5/15

The joy of many channels through digital TV is tempered by the fact that reception can get dodgy if air pressure is high... or low, the temperature is high... or low, if the wind is strong, especially in the wrong direction etc. A bigger aerial is the only solution I think.

Name Supplied

TV Reception - 5/5/15

We have that problem in Coxwell Gardens and understand that it is the communal aerial that is at fault. They are coming to fix it next Tuesday!

Denis Wright

Tv reception - 5/5/15

We have had no signal since 4g signal went live on Saturday. I have contacted Digital UK to today they are sending engineer on Thursday to fix it. Contact number 08081313800 I think a lot of people are having issues.

Sue Crook

Roadworks- 5/5/15

Does anyone know what the 'major works' starting 25/5 for 10 weeks in regards to? Is this for Coxwell Road?

Name Supplied

Poor TV reception? - 5/5/15

Has anyone else had trouble with television reception in Faringdon over the last few days? We have Sky OK but freeview reception is non existent. BBC channels occasionally appear but badly pixillating.

Name supplied

Plant sale - 4/5/15

Outside 14 Fernham Road for 2 weeks starting later this week (w/b 4/5). I have a number of lovely strawberry plants which should yield fruit this year. Various cottage garden plants, etc.

If anyone has spare seedlings (potted up) or other plants surplus to requirements, please bring them.

I also have peas, beans French and Runner and broad seeds to try and grow your own.

All profits this year will go to HELP FOR HEROES

Val Hudspeth

Painting Street Lights A420- 1/5/15

Over the past few days there have been delays around Park Road, roundabout, and the A417 roundabout due to Southern Electricity painting the street lights. Thursday having struggled to get out of Faringdon the queue along the A420 was back as far as the Watchfield. Trying to get back was interesting to say the least.

Today Friday, not so bad but to get to Wantage the easiest route was via Fernham.

I rang the Oxfordshire Highways department and discovered that because it was not a road closure the Electricity board did not have to let anyone know the work was going to take place. I would have thought at least courtesy from the company should have informed Faringdon townsfolk that there would be delays through the local newspapers and radio stations.

Name supplied

Fern Hill Medical Centre merger with White Horse Practice - 30/4/15

The merger was the lead story on the front page of the recent Faringdon Folly newspaper and in the Oxford Mail. It was also publicised at the two surgeries and on the [Fernhill Practice web site](#) and the [Patient Participation Group web site](#).
Name supplied.

District council Elections - 30/4/15

I have seen very little about these. It amazes me that we have a district council as well as the town and county and all the more amazing by being in control of planning the district council is probably the most important of all. It is therefore important who is elected. The biggest problem is that we are represented by political parties. I don't want a politician representing me I want someone who will represent the electorate irrespective of what their political group wants. I want someone who is strong enough to stand up to the other District Councillors and say no that is not what me electorate want, this is what Faringdon needs and this is what I am going to fight for.

Have we had this for the last 5 years? everyone will have their own view but before voting I want to know who our elected councillors voted. For example in planning did they follow the views of their town council and other parishes and many of their electorate, or did they vote as their political party asked? If the latter where is our voice? If the Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan is adopted can we be confident our district councillors will follow it?

What are their individual plans for the town and its economic growth or are their plans just the dull party plans for the whole of the Vale. Faringdon needs strong representation over the next few years not only in planning but also for employment and infrastructure.

Let's have some views - have our existing councillors done a good job over the past few years? Is there an alternative or are we left with more of the same?

Interested voter

Name supplied

10 more houses given approval - 29/4/15

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P15/V0154/O>

Off Fernham Road

Neighbourhood Plan Progress - 29/4/15

Public Consultation 6 weeks commencing Friday 15 May 2015

Why do we need another public consultation?

The Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan, approved by the Town Council and endorsed by Vale of White Horse District Council, was originally submitted for inspection by an Independent Examiner at the end of 2014. Whilst this plan was recommended by the examiner to proceed to referendum, the Town Council(FTC), mindful of public comments, has amended the plan to include new proposals for designating a number of sites within Faringdon as areas of 'Local Green Space'. This will help to secure them for their continued public use.

The plan responds to extensive local consultation and makes a number of important proposals for the future of Faringdon. One of the most important issues was the need to deliver new jobs and the plan makes provision for new employment land particularly to help reduce the need for out-commuting. It also aims to protect the historical heritage of the town, to extend the retail offer, to improve cycling and walking links, to ensure that new housing meets good design standards and the needs of local people, and that the infrastructure is improved in line with the growing population.

A 6-week public consultation will be held from Friday 15 May to Friday 26 June. An exhibition showing the updated Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents will be held in the Jubilee Room, the Pump House, Market Place, Faringdon on Saturday, 16 May 2015 from 9.00 am to 12 noon.

From 15 May 2015, copies of the Neighbourhood Plan together with relevant accompanying documents can be viewed online at www.faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk and comments can be lodged by using the online form. Hard copies will also be available to view in the Town Council offices which are open Monday to Friday, 9.00 am - 4.00 pm and Saturday, 9.30 am - 1.00 pm, as well as in the Public Library in Gloucester Street. Sheets for comments will also be available. Any queries can be sent to hilary@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk

After consideration of any comments made by the public during this consultation period and any amendments agreed by the Town Council, the Neighbourhood Plan will go forward to the Vale of White Horse District Council, then onwards to an Independent Examiner for consideration.

FTC

Re: Medical Centre merger - 29/4/15

I was told by a nurse at the JR about this. When I went for my ultrasound in February she asked me who my GP was. When I told her she said that White Horse practice was merging with Fernhill. If she hadn't told me, I wouldn't have known.

Name supplied

FARINGDON FUN RUN Sunday 17th May 2015 - 10.30am - 28/4/15

All Welcome (under 14's must have adult supervision)

5K - Start Tucker Park, through Marlborough Gardens, Fernham Road, Around FCC Field, Coxwell Street/Road, Park Road, Finish back at Tucker Park.

Money raised will shared amongst local charities.

Individual runner - £5 donation

Family of 5 - £15 donation

<http://www.liveatthepark.co.uk/faringdon-fun-run.html>

On-line Registration will close on the 10th May

A registration form can also be downloaded from this link. Once filled in can be handed in along with your donation to Faringdon Town FC, or 31 Elm Road, Faringdon.

Joel Francis

Photos of Faringdon Branch Line- 28/4/15

I hope to travel out from Swindon on Wednesday, to the Uffington/Faringdon area to take photos of remains of the old railway Branch line to the town. I have downloaded OS maps for the area, but wondered if you knew if there were any remains of the old track out of the old station at Faringdon, to the now roundabout A417/A420, where I believe the railway would have crossed. I believe the old station at Faringdon is a children s nursery, but I see no remains on maps for the route to the main runabout area A417/A420. Some of the A417 into the town could have been part of the trackbed of the old railway.

I will try to picture the route to Uffington, using public footpaths and roads, but secondary to the above, would be grateful for any additional information on the route onwards to Uffington.

Regards,

Graham White

Fern Hill Medical Centre merger with White Horse Practice. - 28/4/15

Are readers aware this has happened? There has been no letter to current patients and as far as I am aware no attempt to raise awareness by any other means. Calling the health centre last week for my son for a non urgent appt, the line just rang and rang. Assumed was a fault with the usual recorded system. Had no idea the number was suspended. Full info here. (such as it is) <http://www.fernhillpractice.co.uk/>

How can an NHS practice close and patients not be told?

Mary Cook

Skating with Faringdon artistic skaters - 24/5/15

Saturday 8 am to 9.30

Tuesday 5 pm to 6 pm

All ages Inliners or quads (4 wheels)

£3.50

Come get fit have some fun

Come as a family

Dee England

Town Council - 24/4/15

We need a town council to defend our rights. Without them Faringdon could be in a worst state. We need people who are intersted in the town and the history that goes with it, who care about the growth of the community and will support business in the town center. Thats the council we need.

Gavin West

No Town Council election - 23/4/15

I was saddened to see that once again Faringdon Town Council are not able to have an election, because too few people are prepared to make the commitment that this involves. It means that the people of Faringdon don't get the choice. I have complete admiration for all who put their names forward, I may not always agree with what they say, but at least they have the courage of their convictions and get on with doing things instead of moaning.

They say that we get the government that we deserve, everyone should go and vote on polling day if you don't then you have no right to complain.

Stand up and support our local council and the officers who work hard, instead of doing your shopping elsewhere use our local shops and amenities. Stand up for Faringdon.

Alison Moore

What has happened to the Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan timetable? - 23/4/15

The Council website is still showing a list of dates from 2014, which are now all redundant because of the work to protect the town greens. Is a further consultation due, and if so, when? Is a further inspection needed? Or is it going straight to referendum? Some up to date information would be much appreciated.

Name supplied.

A Renewable Energy Event on Tuesday 12th May 2015 - 23/4/15

08:00am to 10:00am at New House Farm, Southmoor, Abingdon, OX13 5HY

T H White have teamed up with CLA to give expert insight from our specialists in renewable energy.

You will see commercial scale solar and biomass in action with the site owner on hand to answer questions. This is a fantastic chance to learn about the technology and how you could benefit from it. Expert speakers, tour of the systems with hot breakfast rolls provided. Places will be limited, so if you are interested in coming along, please contact the Energy Desk at T H White Installation on 01380 723040 or email:energydesk@thwhite.co.uk

Petition: Speak out for the countryside you love - 23/4/15

Support of our Charter to Save our Countryside. People have been spreading the word among their friends to help demonstrate the strength of public concern for the countryside they love. The Charter promotes the reuse of brownfield land before building on open countryside, giving people a fair say in planning for the places where they live, and providing the housing we need but in the right places.

<https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/help-us-save-our-precious-countryside-from-unnecessary-development>

Posh Pooches- 25/4/15

I've heard it said that this business is largely online. If you live locally the shop will be opened by arrangement so you can collect your dog food.

Seems odd, but that's what I've heard

Local Yokel

Councils- 22/4/15

The point being made was not about the Faringdon Councillors but the District Councillors. District ignores the wishes of local councils.

Old Faringdonian

LIFE'S IMPONDERABLES.- 20/4/15

Life is such a worry don't you think, I often wonder about things like, what does an occasional table do when it's not occasionally a table?.....or....why is abbreviation such a long word?, and why is there only one monopolies commission?, and of course my personal favourite what colour does a Smurf go when you strangle it?.....more closer to home why is our new posh dog food shop remaining closed? do we not have posh pooches in Faringdon? and when did the Red Lion pub become a hotel?....oooh my head is starting to hurt.

Auguste Rodin

Re: Town Councillors- 20/4/15

I really do feel that before anyone criticises Town Councillors they should find out what the Town Council is responsible for, then they will realise the huge limitations that it works under. Town Councillors give up their free time for no financial reward in an effort to do what they think is best for the people and the Town, because they live in the town too.

Name supplied

Councils- 19/4/15

The Town Council looks after the Corn Exchange, Old Town Hall, play areas. More on <http://faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk/council/>

You can see what sort of things The Vale District council do on <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice> eg rubbish collection, street cleaning, housing

Oxfordshire County council has responsibility for roads and transport, social and health care, education. More on:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/>

ED(GW)

Re: Town Councillor's- 19/4/15

Town Councillor's receive no pay. Their role is entirely voluntary although the mayor receives a small allowance to attend events on the towns behalf. Most of our mayors in the last few years haven't taken this allowance but have donated it to other things for the benefit of the town.

We are also residents of this town and feel exactly the same as other residents. Becoming a Town Councillor doesn't suddenly make us change our mindsets.

As far as I know no funds were raised or asked for to turn Humpty Hill into a village green and the proposed development was turned down by the Secretary of State as a result of the visual amenity impact and also because of the emerging Neighbourhood Plan which has been held back as a direct result of the fight for Humpty Hill not to be developed. The decision to resubmit this plan was made by those very Town Councillors you are denigrating.

All Town Council Meetings are open to the public and if you choose to attend them you will see how we work. We aren't sheep, however, and we don't always agree with each other.

This post is my opinion and not that of the Town Council in general although most of its members would probably agree with me :-). I can't speak for the District Councillors who are also unpaid but receive allowances, the details of which are on the District Councils website.

Jane Boulton (FTC)

ED(GW) For VWHDC councillor allowances see <http://democratic.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/documents/s16551/2013%20April%20-%20Allowances%20for%20201314.pdf>

Basic allowance is £3906pa with anything from £1186 to £17k for special responsibilities. Overall costs will be less now because instead of 51 councillors there are 38.

Oxfordshire County council allowances can be seen

on <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/sites/default/files/folders/documents/aboutyourcouncil/corporateovernance/constitution/Part10-1MembersAllowances.pdf>. There's a line in the Budget document that indicates the cost of Democratic services and Management(the councillors) was £2.7m in 2013/14. For 2015/16 a report recommended that many allowances were some significantly eg 10%, 15%. A few decreased.

Town councillors - 18/4/15

Yes i agree with previous comments and more. They are just there for their own self importance and benefits of their title. None seem to want to really challenge the way this town is actually becoming ..a builders yard. All the vacant green land now filling with houses. Pointless parking surveys which in the end cost money which would have been better put towards the community. If these people do want a better Faringdon talk / listen to the people of Faringdon and grow some to fight the hierarchy of government.

Rose Evans

Town Councillors :: What is the point !! - 18/4/15

I personally dont see the point of any councillors weather at Town or District level ..

Town Planning is a perfect example of what a waste of time they ALL are .

Humpty Hill development was overwhelmingly rejected by the town residents and so are some of the other planned developments .

Yet time after time the councillors ignore the wishes of those who have put them their which results in residents having to raise funds to re-label fields into Village Green status in order to stop the developers ..

It is so ridiculous and shows what a complete waste of time and money these people are ..

As for the Members of Parliament i could be on here all day !!

Name Supplied

Oxfordshire Swim Campaign - 18/4/15

The GO Active and Active Women Team in partnership with GLL, will be offering all residents in the Vale of the White Horse, West Oxfordshire and South Oxfordshire districts the chance to enjoy one month of unlimited swimming for only £5.

Why? Because we know everyone needs a little encouragement to get more active!

Just complete the form on our website: www.getoxfordshireactive.org/swimcampaign and we will e-mail you a unique promotional code.

Give your unique promotional code to reception staff at a Better Leisure Centre near you, then pay your £5 and you will receive your One Month Swim Membership card. Please remember, you only have until 31 May to register for this offer, limited number of codes for each centre available

Information Fair- Free Event Tuesday 21st - 16/4/15

A chance to meet with your local networker for tea and biscuits!

Other agencies also on hand include Trading Standards, Thames Valley Police and Generation Games.

Tuesday 21st April 2015: 10am to 12pm

Corn Exchange, Gloucester Street, Faringdon, SN7 7JA.

A wealth of information and advice on hand.

Call Sonia on 07827 235 414 or email: soniarobinson@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk

Faringdon Artistic skating club. - 16/4/15

Saturday morning lessons 8am to 9.30. Adults and children inline or quads (4 wheels)

£3.50. Pay as you skate.

Come along with your own skates.

From sat 25th APRIL

Dee England

Box Fit starting at Faringdon Leisure Centre next Thursday 23 April 11 - 12pm. (Creche Available) - 16/4/15

£2.50 for non members, FREE to Leisure Centre Members

Please contact myself for more details- 07801 203550 or email Emma.Freeman@southandvale.gov.uk

You will be able to book a place tomorrow (Friday 17 April) if you call the Leisure Centre on - 01367 241755

Emma Freeman

A sort of "hustings". - 16/4/15

I've just been told about this:

The idea was that people might prefer to have their political debate served on a different plate so that this one be saved for everyday goings on in our town. The link to the election group is below and everyone is welcome to join. Nothing like a good debate :)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/845726098828369/>

ED(GW)

For those who don't use facebook, do put relevant points and questions on this site

AUDITIONS for NIGHTHAWKS for Oxfordshire Drama Network Festival.- 16/4/15

THURSDAY 16TH APRIL!

United Church, Faringdon. 8pm

All Welcome.

If you weren't at the reading but would like to audition, get in touch with us and we will arrange something. Similarly if you are unable to get to the audition, please get in touch either on our Facebook page, or through the website www.faringdondramatic.org.uk.

Council decisions- 16/4/15

What is the point of Town Councillors coming to a decision if District Councillors overturn that decision. Are we so stupid that we cannot be trusted to know what is best for Faringdon.
Old Faringdonian.

VWHDC District Council Candidates - 16/4/15

Conservative

Roger Cox
Mohinder Kainth

Green Party

Stephen Curd

Liberal Democrat

Mark Harrison
Alex Meredith (Town Councillor, Parliamentary candidate)

Labour

Steve Leniec (Town Councillor)
All live in Faringdon or a nearby village

Roxy has gone AWOL- 16/4/15

I have just moved to Faringdon into Coxwell Gardens together with my cat Roxy. She has managed to escape and not returned home. I am a little concerned as this is new territory to her and it was my intention to keep her indoors for at least 14 days to acclimatise to her new surroundings. She is black, semi long haired with a small patch of white fur under her chin. She has a grey plastic collar on and is microchipped. If you have seen a new cat in your garden or have any news, good or bad, please call 07891 265 881. Many thanks. Sue P.

SSSI in Fernham Road - 15/4/15

Builder Ede agreed to transferring the SSSI, some additional land and £20k when he applied for building houses at Fernham Gate (2005 ish). This was never delivered. Initially FTC asked that this commitment should be honoured in Builder Edes application for further houses adjacent to Fernham Gate.

See [Committee Report for 22/4/15 VWHDC meeting](#). This report recommends that planning permission for 10 houses should be given. It also indicates that the transfer of the SSSI is not required.

It seems that FTC agreed at a Planning Meeting in December not to take ownership of the SSSI

207/14 Transfer of SSSI, Coxwell Pit, Fernham Road by Builders Ede

Members discussed the following recommendation: Planning & Highways Committee recommends this project should no longer be pursued by Town Council on the following basis, and that Builders Ede and the solicitor should be advised accordingly:

(a) the length of time that Builders Ede is taking to fulfil their commitment to transfer ownership of the site together with the £20,000 for future maintenance costs to Town Council is unacceptable. Responsibility for maintaining the site should therefore remain with the owners, Builders Ede;

(b) geologists have advised that there are other appropriate SSSI sites in Faringdon;

(c) Natural England, through its Enforcement Policy, would ensure that the site was managed properly by the owners at all times. It was proposed that this recommendation be accepted. This was seconded and CARRIED.

ED(GW)

Town Meetings - 15/4/15

Is it possible someone could post on here when there is a public town council meeting coming up in the next week or two? I know this happens sometimes and I know that they are on the FTC website but that is quite a complicated schedule and not immediately apparent that the public are welcome.

Appreciated, thank you

Mel

ED(GW) *The recent meeting was posted on this site in 2 places and I think FTC put it on I live in the town of Faringdon facebook page*

All FTC committees and meetings are on <http://faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk/council/meetings/calendar-of-meetings/> The Town Meetings are not formal committee meetings. Anyone can go to these or Committee Meetings (there are rules about public speaking/question time at Committee meetings)

Carer Act 2014 - 15/4/15

There are significant changes to the legislation that supports carers. Anyone looking after someone over the age of 18 is entitled to use this service.

You can find out about it on <http://www.whitehorsepracticeppg.org.uk/projects--reports.html>

WHMP Patient group

Health Matters - 15/4/15

Hearsay! Event:

Thursday 7 May, 10am until 1pm, Cornerstone Arts Centre, Didcot

Organised by Healthwatch Oxfordshire, the county's independent health and social care watchdog, Hearsay! events help Oxfordshire County Council continue to deliver improvements to their services based on your feedback. You are invited to comment directly to senior staff from Oxfordshire County Council, the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group and the Oxfordshire County Council Cabinet Member involved with Adult Health and Social Care. The event is FREE and transport can be provided by Oxfordshire County Council. If you select YES on the booking form, the council will contact you directly to arrange transport. If you would like to attend, you can book by phoning 01865 520520 or emailing hello@healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk If you are unable to attend any of the events but would like to share your comments, please contact Healthwatch Oxfordshire or visit <http://healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk/content/speak-out>

Town Meeting - 14/4/15

Disappointing turnout. Apart from representatives of local organisations (Twinning, Folly, Farcycles, South and Vale Carers, Independant Advice Bureau, All Saints, Chamber of Commerce) and councillors there were about 6 residents. David Price, the Mayor, could not attend. Mike Wise chaired the meeting and read the Mayors report.

FTC Achievements for 2014/15

Neighbourhood Plan, about to go out to referendum.

Cinema at the Corn Exchange

Community Room at Pump House demolished and area grassed

Youth services, Faze now managed by Town Council. FTC aim to buy the property from OCC

New Town Clerk, Sally Thurston

Parking Survey- informal reponse from VWHDC that they will not implement it. To be pursued by Roger Cox

Various reports and information (some can be found on [FTC website](#))

Oxfordshire County Councillor Judith Heathcoat did not attend, but submitted a report

Other written and verbal reports from District councillors and FTC committees.

Mark Blatch, Cellar Bar, now has the franchise for the Corn Exchange bar

Each FTC committee will be producing a 3 year plan of activities

Youth services committee is working with other Youth organisations(Faze, Scouts, Pump House project, Rotary)

Heritage Open Day Sun 13th Sept (Town Team)

There will not be Town Council elections this year. Some councillors have stood down, others have joined. There is a total of 13, so 1 place remains.

The new council will meet for the first time during May.

ED(GW)

Reminder about Tomorrow's New Beavers, Cubs and Scout Group Meeting - 14/4/15

We have over 100 children on our waiting list who need YOU!

1st Faringdon Scout Group are looking for more volunteers to help start a new section for each age group, Beavers (6-8 yrs), Cubs (8-10.5 yrs) and Scouts (10.5-14 yrs). We had a successful open meeting on 26th March and we nearly have enough people to achieve this vision – but not quite! If you have a few hours to spare each week, whether a parent, teenager, retired person or just someone who wants to get involved in their local community we'd love to hear from you.

We have leader's positions helping with the children most weeks and a number of administrative positions which can fit around you and your busy life. You'll get plenty of support from the existing team to guide you through the already well-established routines . Scouting is about flexible volunteering to fit around your skills and your time, it's fun and rewarding!

Come and find out more on 14th April at the Pump House Project on Swan Lane at 7.45pm or email

scouting.faringdon@gmail.com

Debbie Pickford

Live at the Park stall application - 14/4/15

Faringdon Town Football Club is once again hosting the very successful Live at the Park music and family event on Saturday 27th June 2015. You are cordially invited to have a FREE stall at the event. You will be allocated a space of 3m x 3m (if you require more space, please let me know and we can negotiate).

[The stall application form is attached](#). If you would like to attend please complete and return to the address on the form.

If you prefer, you can email your completed form back to me.

sarahharries74@gmail.com

NOTICE OF A TOWN MEETING - 13/4/15

This is a meeting of the electors of Faringdon, not a meeting of the Town Council.

ALL residents are welcome and may speak and vote on any item detailed in this agenda.

MONDAY 13th April 2015 at 7.30 p.m. in the Corn Exchange, Faringdon

[Agenda](#) and reports

Sally Thurston, Town Clerk

Faringdon Dramatic Society Readthrough of NIGHTHAWKS By Peter Webster- 11/4/15

(Entry for Oxfordshire Drama Network One-Act Play Festival)

Monday 13th April United Church Hall, Faringdon 8pm to 9.30pm

See website for synopsis, festival dates, etc

www.faringdondramatic.org.uk

RE- Pink Pigeons- 11/4/15

I got a mating pair from Sjoerd Vogt which we will put in our trees on the front garden.

Sjoerd or his wife Karen can be contacted through the Mustard Seed shop - sorry, I don't have a telephone number for him.
Fiona Merrick

Well attended Hustings - 11/4/15

Could I express my thanks to the Peace Group for organising the hustings held last night. A crowded Corn Exchange betokened an admirable level of interest in hearing the candidates make their varying responses to the questions posed. It was good to see that the one instance of somewhat petulant and boorish behaviour on the part of one of the candidates was met by a chorus of voices inviting this person to 'sit down and shut up'. Popular democracy at work !

Peter Petit

Scouts in Faringdon, volunteers wanted - 11/4/15

We have over 100 children on our waiting list who need YOU!

1st Faringdon Scout Group are looking for more volunteers to help start a new section for each age group, Beavers (6-8 yrs), Cubs (8-10.5 yrs) and Scouts (10.5-14 yrs). We had a successful open meeting on 26th March and we nearly have enough people to achieve this vision – but not quite! If you have a few hours to spare each week, whether a parent, teenager, retired person or just someone who wants to get involved in their local community we'd love to hear from you.

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Come and find out more on 14th April at the Pump House Project on Swan Lane at 7.45pm or

email scouting.faringdon@gmail.com

Debbie Pickford

News from Vale of White Horse District Council - 10/4/15

Title: Market towns continue to benefit from free parking

Description: Three market towns across the Vale of White Horse continue to benefit from visitors being able to take advantage of two hours free parking.

You can see details on our website by clicking [this link](#)

VWHDC

ED(GW) No prizes for spotting the mis spelling of Faringdon.

Re: Bluebells at Badbury Clump- 11/4/15

We were there yesterday, bluebells not out yet. Looking at photos from last year it was more like the end of April. Incidentally there is a sign saying the car park is closed on Tues/Wed (14/15) next week for tree felling.

Guy Goodwin

County Transport Strategy - 10/4/15

I see from your website that you have encouraged people to respond to the County's Transport Strategy (LTP4) consultation. I wanted to let you know that Oxford Futures (an initiative of Oxford Civic Society) is hosting responses – or links to responses – to LTP4. We understand that the County won't be publishing the responses they receive, and having discussed it within the Civic Society we think it is in everyone's interests to promote as wide a debate as possible and for people to be informed about the strength and range of opinions on this extremely important topic.

As you will see if you visit the web page

<http://www.oxfordfutures.org.uk/ltp4-consultation-responses-april-2015/> we already have several responses listed, including the Civic Society's own.

Could I ask you to circulate this information please, and if anyone - or organisations they represent - would like to share their responses we would be very happy to host them or link to them. If you have any questions I would be happy to answer them.

The email link on the web page will reach me.

Many thanks, and best wishes

Tony Turton

Oxford Civic Society Communications Group/Oxford Futures

General Election Question Time - 10/4/15

Fri April 10th 7.30 pm Corn Exchange (doors open 7pm)

Candidates for Green Party, UKIP, Conservatives, Labour, Liberal Democrat

Present your questions between 7pm and 7.15

www.faringdonpeacegroup.org.uk

012367 710308

Inside Out Less than one week to go - Writing your Heart and Soul - 10/4/15

Inside Out Creative Writing workshops give you a space to reach into your imagination and create.

Taking a day out of the busyness of everyday life to write, in a space of shared intent and good company, is delicious.

It gives space for listening, for play and invention, remembering what's touched us, surprised us, made us laugh and to discover what we haven't yet discovered.

Wednesday 15th April 2015 10am - 3.30pm

£50 including lunch and refreshments
Booking essential
Call 01367 242030 for tickets.

HUMPTY HILL PUBLIC INQUIRY - 9/4/15

It is now 3 weeks since the public inquiry ended, and although there is no timetable for the decision, we hope to hear in the next 2 or 3 months.

I want to emphasise the massive amount of work done by Rob Stewart. I'm sure that you will agree that he did a brilliant job as our barrister in preparing and delivering our case, examining witness and presenting our closing statement. He also did all of the research on Town Greens, prepared and printed 6 copies of 646 pages of our evidence, liaised with Oxford County Council, and negotiated with the Objector's solicitors,

Whatever the outcome, we can be assured that Rob presented a very strong case and couldn't have done a better job.

WELL DONE ROB! Many thanks for all of your hard work.

Thanks also to everyone who made a witness statement, especially to those who volunteered to read their statements at the inquiry and be examined by the objector's barrister.

Eddie

Faringdon Free Food session - 9/4/15

The next Faringdon Free Food sessions will be from 10.00 to 12.00 and from 13.00 to 15.00 on Sunday 12th April 2015.

Everyone (adults and children) is welcome to come along to either or both sessions.

This month we'll be finishing off preparation of the raised beds in the small park along Park Road, opposite the Swan Inn. The soil is now in the beds (thanks Sjoerd!), but we need to remove some of the excess soil and take it to a new project site near Budgens. We'll meet at the park at 10.00.

In the afternoon we'll be replanting the town centre planters with perennial herbs and other suitable plants, and tidying up some of the growth around our tool store at the Catholic Church. We'll meet in the Market Square at 13.00.

Mark Crane

Give Golf a Go - 9/4/15

Free golf taster sessions at Carswell Golf Club for adults 16 +

23 April 6.30 pm

25 April 10 am

Sign up for 6 week beginners courses afterwards for only £7 per session

Attend all 6 sessions and receive your own golf club and GO Active goody bag!

To book contact Hendriette Knouws on 07717 836750, Hendriette.knouws@southandvale.gov.uk

Neighbourhood Policing Report - 9/4/15

<http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/yournh/yournh-tvp-pol-area/yournh-tvp-pol-area-soxon-vowh/yournh-tvp-pol-area-n378>

Ed

General Election - 8/4/15

Find out which party agrees with you- a few questions to answer

<http://www.lbc.co.uk/lbc-election-computer-which-party-agrees-with-you-106706>

Parking Survey - 9/4/15

I see in the Planning & Highways Report for the upcoming Town Meeting it says:

"The [Planning & Highways] Committee appointed Gary Kay Smith Ltd to undertake a parking survey as part of the S106 agreement for Folly Park View.

The report was accepted by the Town Council, on 11th March 2015 and recommended to the White Horse District Council.

However, it has no plans to implement its findings."

So not only a waste of time and money but we are still no further in tackling the dire parking and traffic problems in various parts of our town, soon to be made worse by the developments foisted on us by the same council!

I wonder if somebody from VWHDC be there on Monday to explain why this decision was taken?

Name supplied

Pink Pigeons - 9/4/15

Do you know where you can purchase the pink doves that is around Faringdon

Jinny Durham

Re. Good news- 7/4/15

Nice to see Simon was so popular in town

Good luck

NOTICE OF A TOWN MEETING - 7/4/15

This is a meeting of the electors of Faringdon, not a meeting of the Town Council.

ALL residents are welcome and may speak and vote on any item detailed in this agenda.

MONDAY 13th April 2015 at 7.30 p.m. in the Corn Exchange, Faringdon

[Agenda](#) and reports

Sally Thurston, Town Clerk

Bluebells at Badbury Clump? - 7/4/15

Are the bluebells blooming yet at Badbury Clumps?

Jill Deane

Neff oven repair - 5/4/15

Can anyone recommend a reliable person to repair a Neff oven?

Thanks

Caryn Onions

Some good news - 4/4/15

i hear budgens is taking over simon tiensa (tiensa and co)

hopefully they will keep the staff they have rather than what simon done and cut there hoursto a minimum.

perhaps budgens will help the community when asked for donations to local charities .

all we ask in faringdon is for stock on the shelf when we need to use the store as the last 4 weeks we had to go to tesco and mcolls to get basic items like bread,milk

i wish simon the best of luck whatever he does

(dont run a ssupermarket)

all the best m.b

SALE of This and That and the Other- 4/4/15

You never know what you might find.

Many items all Brand New

Saturday 11th April Faringdon United Church Hall 10am-1pm

Sale due to family bereavement and subsequent House Clearance

In aid of Renal Research, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham

Re Wards - 4/4/15

I wonder if this is one of the reasons why Roger Cox, one of our district councillors and on the VWHDC Planning committee did not support local people by objecting to the housing developments on Coxwell Road.

Name Supplied

Re: VWHDC wards - 4/4/15

As the major housing developments at Steeds Farm and Fernham Fields are both in the parish of Great Coxwell yet are clearly reliant on Faringdon for services and amenities, it seems a strange decision to move Great Coxwell out of the VWHDC Faringdon ward.

Perhaps this is an indication that VWHDC expects Great Coxwell to develop in size and offer its own range of services and amenities to these new inhabitants of west Oxfordshire.

Name Supplied

CAST REQUIRED for Faringdon Dramatic Society's Entry for the ODN One Act Play Festival- 4/4/15

Nighthawks By Peter Webster

Readthrough - 13th April, 8pm – 9.30pm

Auditions - 16th April, 8pm – 10pm

New members welcome.

United Church Hall, Coxwell Street, Faringdon.

'Nighthawks' was awarded first prize in the Oxfordshire Drama Network One Act Play Competition 2013.'

www.faringdondramatic.gov.uk

Flights of fancy, fun, fame and a Fantastic Folly at Faringdon- 3/4/15

Super article in April edition of Cotswold Life.

"Faringdon, with it's feet in the Upper Thames Valley and its heart in the Cotswolds, has an outstanding landmark. Faringdon Folly is the last of the great follies to be built in the United Kingdom."

<http://www.sofkazinovieff.com/?p=1694>

Folly Friend

VWHDC wards - 3/4/15

You may have noticed that Faringdon now only has 2 District Councillors standing for election in May. (3 previously). Alison Thompson seems to have stood down

Also Great Coxwell is no longer in the Faringdon Ward.

See the Ward map. <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Vale%20Ward%20Map%202015.pdf>

Great Coxwell is now in Watchfield and Shrivenham Ward.

ED(GW)

Party policies - 3/4/15

If you want to find out about the policies of each political party have a look at

http://www.pocketpolitics.co.uk/party_select.php?&state=BRIT&election=wm15

You can choose the party as well as the subject, and compare:

The Home page states:
A couple of things to note:

- Pocket Politics does not have a political bias; each party is to be equally represented.
- As the policies have been paraphrased, there may have been something lost in translation. We're not talking about specifics (like examples of budget amounts), but where the meaning may have changed. If you feel this is the case with anything in the following pages, please contact us and we will review your concern.

ED(GW)

GENERAL ELECTION QUESTION TIME - 3/4/15

FRIDAY 10th APRIL FARINGDON CORN EXCHANGE

Meeting starts at 7.30pm

Present your (written) questions to be asked of your Parliamentary Candidates from 7-7.15pm

Alex Meredith - Lib Dems

Kate Prendergast - Green Party

Lee Upcraft - UKIP

Ed Vaizey - Conservative

Stephen Webb - Labour

Opportunity to speak to the candidates over Refreshments

Sponsored by Faringdon Peace Group

www.faringdonpeacegroup.org.uk

01367 240929 / 710308

12 bags of rubbish collected - 3/4/15

Half a dozen of us collected 12 bags of rubbish from around the skatepark, cricket pitch and Stanford Road. Not just 'the old stagers' turned up but some young people who responded to the call for help. Super

Maybe you were busy, maybe there's a place near you that needs to be litter picked. All you need are gloves and bags. Go for it
Ed(GW)

TIC Closed over Easter - 2/4/15

Hope you all enjoy the Easter break. Just to let you know that the Town Council offices and the Community & Tourist Information Centre will be closed on Good Friday and Easter Monday. However the Community & Tourist Info Centre will be open on Saturday 9.30am-1pm.

Good job we don't get many visitors

Name Supplied

The Crowmarsh Fire – how did we do? - 2/4/15

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils would like to hear what people thought of their response in the hours, days and weeks after a fire effectively destroyed their offices

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/news/2015/2015-03/crowmarsh-fire---how-did-we-do>

VWHDC

Dog Mess - 2/4/15

To the lazy person who walks their dog down Coxwell Street. I'm not sure what universe you occupy but, in this one, people clear up their dog mess, even if their dog has chosen to dump on the road. Do you think people only walk on the pavement? Funnily enough, I have to leave the pavement and walk on the road to get to my car door. I shouldn't have to navigate around a small mini roundabout of dog mess. Have some thought, lazy bones.

CLEAR UP AFTER YOUR DOG.

Name Supplied

re VWHDC Call Centre - 2/4/15

Strange - I've paid my council tax in instalments for as long as I can remember (probably since the start of council tax) and only has to apply the first time - since then, my council tax advice statement each year automatically shows the instalments for the coming year, which duly gets taken.

Name Supplied

Information Fair Tues 21st April- 1/4/15

Corn Exchange, Gloucester Street, Faringdon, SN7 7JA. 10am-12pm

Many organisations will be present, including:

Oxfordshire Falls Prevention Service

OxBEL (Oxfordshire befriending for Life)

Generation Games activities

Wiltshire Farm Foods - with sample meals

Sovereign Housing

White Horse Practice Patient Group

Trading Standards

Thames Valley Police

Organised by Age UK

More volunteers wanted for the Folly Tower- 1/4/15

For the Tower to be open twice a month we need many many volunteers.

Many lovely people in Faringdon have already volunteered, but we need a few more.

Do you have two hours to spare on a Sunday- of your choice.

It's a pleasant job chatting to visitors who have enjoyed the Tower and woodlands.

If yes, please contact enquiries@faringdonfolly.org.uk

Thankyou

Folly Friend

Skate Park Spring Litter Pick - 31/3/15

Meet at the entrance to Folly Park by Skatepark. Thursday 4pm.
Bring garden gloves and grabbers if you have some. Bags will be provided
We're hoping that some of the skaters will come along, maybe their parents too.
Not the most glamorous of jobs- but it is therapeutic. Makes you feel good

VWHDC Council Tax Call Centre- 31/3/15

Has anyone tried calling the Vale of White Horse about council tax? Calls go to a call centre. I've just had an uninspiring call trying to change my payments to monthly. Staff bordering on aggressive, and it's left me feeling perplexed and annoyed. Apparently I've missed the deadline – I had to write to them by 24 March...Who works like this? Who sets such silly rules? This is plain bonkers. The Utilities don't operate like this, I don't have to ask them every year to carry on supplying services as per the previous yearand they are never rude. So why should publicly-funded staff be like this - just plain rude – to us their public pay-masters? I have paid by 12 instalments every year since we've been allowed to - but I have task for this every year? Yes happy to if it's a phone call or e-mail – but who has time to write? And please can we have helpful, polite staff.
Name supplied...

Health Service News. Better Care for Skin Conditions - 31/3/15

GPs in the Oxfordshire South East and South West localities are set to pilot a new service using dermatoscopes, which are devices for taking well-lit, magnified images of skin growths known as lesions. Images will be emailed securely to specialist hospital consultants who will advise GPs on treating the conditions, and whether the patient needs to be referred to hospital. This will save trips to hospital for many patients. GPs taking part in the pilot will be given training on using the new equipment this month, and the service is expected to be launched in April.
For more information contact Jackie Masters, Locality Co-ordinator email: jackie.masters@oxfordshireccg.nhs.uk

Cleaner wanted - 31/3/15

Does anyone know of any good domestic cleaners who might have some capacity to do 3 hours a week. Faringdon - Nursery View area
Name supplied.

Election debate - 31/3/15

If you want to air your views or engage in the debate leading up to the election on May 7, why not have a look at the forum established specifically for FARINGDON at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/845726098828369/>
Mark Harrison

Folly Fest donation- 30/3/15

I am proud and delighted to announce that the FollyFest committee voted fully in favour once again of donating £100 to the W.I to dress the War Memorial again during FollyFest to support and remember the sacrifice Faringdon's armed forces (and their families) made and continue to make for our town.
FollyFest 2015 is Friday 7th to Sunday 9th August.
Best Wishes
Mel Lane
FollyFest Chairman

Architect needed - 30/3/15

We are thinking of having a kitchen extension and refit and need the services of an architect, but we are not sure who to use / who might be good. If anyone has recently undertaken a similar project in the Faringdon area, I would be very interested to hear any recommendations anyone might have. Similarly recommendations for good builders would also be gratefully received!!
Name supplied.

Sign of Spring- 30/3/15

My pond life has emerged from hibernation. 3 clumps of spawn, 16 fine frogs but sadly none of them a prince. Is this a sign of Spring or the election campaign?
Cassandra

Action for Children relaunch 1st April. - 30/3/15

On 1st April, Action for Children in Conflict is becoming ACACIA UK. Acacia UK stands for Action for Children and Communities in Africa. We will be the same charity working hard, with your support, to help some of the most vulnerable children in Africa to

go to school.

We're getting excited and we want you to be a part of our re-launch. So please join us on April 1st to celebrate our new name and find out more about our projects.

Drinks, Cakes, Promotions and more

4 Cornmarket

Daffodils- 30/3/15

As I remember, Elsie Nichols, who was Town Mayor and did so much for Faringdon, organised the planting of lots of daffodils around the town.

Thank you Elsie, RIP.

Christine Moorhouse

PLAY READING - Monday 30th March, 8pm to 10pm - 30/3/15

Free - In the Old Town Hall, (building on legs in the Market Place), Faringdon.

All welcome. Just turn up and help read one of the plays Faringdon Dramatic Society is considering for a future production.

Harvey by Mary Chase

Elwood P Dowd, an endlessly pleasant and delightfully eccentric bachelor, makes friends with a spirit taking the form of a 6 foot invisible rabbit named Harvey that only he sees (and a few privileged others on occasion too). After his sister tries to commit him to a mental institution, a comedy of errors ensues.

Fiona Merrick

Litter Pick Thursday 2nd April, 4pm- 29/3/15

We're meeting at the entrance to Folly Park, near the Skate Park at 4pm. Do come and help. It's unlikely to be for more than an hour- even less time if there are lots of us.

Bring garden gloves, and grabbers, if you have them.

Bags will be provided

It would be great if some of the skatepark users (or their parents) helped out.

The whole of London Road has been done now- about 10 bags of litter were collected- mostly food and drink packaging.

Re: Daffodils- 28/3/15

They were planted by our ex mayor John Gilman who made a point of planting many bulbs at his own expense every year.

Sadly last year was the last time. I look at them as a memorial to my very good friends John and his wife Meriel.

Jane Boulton

Public Tennis Courts - 28/3/15

Are you interested in playing tennis for fun and on a casual basis without joining a club? The Faringdon public tennis court may be for you. See facebook for information

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2215583620/10152888471353621/>

Carolyn Murphy

White Horse Medical Practice and Fern Hill merger News - 28/3/15

Find out about booking an appointment, dispensary times, repeat prescriptions and the change over timetable.

<http://www.whitehorsepracticeppg.org.uk/projects--reports.html>

Produced by WHMP patient group

Daffodils - 28/3/15

Every year the daffodils at the top of London Street lift my spirits and I thank whoever had the idea of planting them.

A lovely welcome to Faringdon.

Mary Beck

Infinity - The Broadband version - 28/3/15

Sadly well apparently not in my lifetime It's apparently a Cabinet Issue - No Not the Government One - The "Cabinet" is one that might suddenly appear in my road one day never - a bit like a random Tardis visit really - You can walk to the telephone exchange in a couple of hundred yards and they can get fibre cables much further up the road towards Great Coxwell - but for some bizarre reason not here in the Bermuda triangle - here in the middle of Coxwell Street - NO HOPE!

I went to see the Minister for Broadband - Ed Vaizey AKA our local current MP at his local surgery - He could not give me an answer or a reason - He delegated the response to a minion who was kind enough to tell me he could not give a reason either. I check the BT website weekly and get "The computer says NO!" - Compare the difference to an isolated cottage on that leggy thing that sticks out of the Top of Wales called the LLyn Peninsula - My 90 - 94 r old parents live in the middle of absolutely

nowhere - no commercial reason there for anyone needing Infinity Ultra Fast Broadband - But guess what - 1 phone call later my parents have INFINITY being installed at £5.85 less per month than I still have to pay for my creaking antiquated NON fast broadband connection - Apparently it is to do with infrastructure investment & local political pressure and grants ...
How do I vote Plaid Cymru in the upcoming elections in Faringdon - Wales can make it happen - Sad that the Minister for Broadband could not make it happen here in his OWN constituency - Grumpy - Hell Yes!
Teresa Reynolds

LIVE AT THE TITHE - June 13th - 28/3/15

Following the great success of Live At The Tithe 1 & 2 we are pleased to announce that there will be a Live At The Tithe 3! It will be held on Saturday June 13th in Great Coxwell. Entrance and parking is FREE for this wonderful family day which includes local arts, musicians, singers, dancers, artists, crafts people, and storytellers.
The evening concert (ticket only) will be held in the Tithe Barn and headlined by the fabulous Welsh singer/songwriter Martyn Joseph, supported by Dave Ellis & Boo Howard.
Find out more about the free day and the ticketed evening concert by checking the website <http://www.liveatthetithe.co.uk/> and by following us on facebook & twitter.
Val Sansford

Litter Pick - 26/3/15

On roads leading to Faringdon
Meet 28th March at 3pm in the Market Place

Obstruction in Ferndale St - 25/3/15

There was a huge shipping container on Ferndale St immediately opposite Goodlake Ave this morning. It was positioned so that its opening was adjacent to Oxford Architectural Antiques, so I presume it was the responsibility of the owner there. It's a massive obstruction to the road, and makes it very dangerous trying to pull out onto Ferndale St. As it is, The OAA van is also regularly obstructing the view down Ferndale St, and/or parked on double yellow lines. This causes danger on the road, and it would be useful if the owner could be more considerate when parking.
Name supplied

Re:Costa/Aldi/Waitrose - 26/3/15

There was a meeting between representatives of Faringdon Town Council, Great Coxwell Parish Council, Judith Heathcote (Our County Councillor) and officers from Oxfordshire CC Highways several months ago. We pointed out that the plans for the A420 could not be taken in isolation and that all the developments in the pipeline had to be considered as a whole.
They did take this on board at the time. Nothing is set in concrete though as the funding comes in the form of S106 money from the developers.
Jane Boulton

Become a Faringdon Town Councillor - 25/3/15

The nomination window opens today. You have until April 9th to get your nomination forms to the District Council Offices for more details see:
<http://faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk/council/become-a-councillor/>
Sally Thurston

Missing hat - 25/3/15

I have since been informed that my missing hat was last seen at the traffic lights in gravel walk on the crossing box and then at 6pm on the floor (24/3/15). If anyone has taken it to keep safe or just moved it about for fun please could they let me know. As it is really missed by the little boy that owned it. Tel: 07515 959227.
name supplied

Costa/Aldi/Waitrose - 25/3/15

I'm in favour of the new Costa/Aldi/Waitrose development but unless they change it to include a new (or rebuild the existing one) junction with A420, the traffic flow will really suffer.
Don't forget that there is an already approved application for a new estate (and a school!) on the opposite side of the Park Road, which includes adding a new mini-roundabout on Park Road. The new estate will add to daily traffic (which during the morning rush is already more than Park Road can cope with) but it will also affect traffic from A420, coming into Park Road to turn into Costa/Aldi/Waitrose - cars will have only a few hundred yards to queue before turning right to Costa etc. - and this may block A420 both ways, especially during the morning and afternoon rush hours, when Park Road is solid.
It appears that each application is considered on its own rather than being seen as a part of a bigger picture, unfortunately.
Tom Blackmoore

EASY CYCLING EVERY SUNDAY - 25/3/15

Meet at 11am under the Town Hall in the Market Place

This is cycling at a gentle pace, no-one gets left behind.

Families are most welcome, we've had 9 & 11 yr olds with us the last few weeks.

Quiet lanes around our beautiful local countryside for 10-15 miles, and often with a pub or cafe stop.

Just turn up

Saturday Market in Faringdon on 28th. - 25/3/15

In the Market Square. Quirky bags will have a stall and we hope to see a lot of people.

Missing hat. - 24/3/15

Just posting to see if anyone found a striped multicoloured beanie hat which was lost on the afternoon of 24th March between the Market place and Faringdon infants school. I would be grateful if you have found one if you could let me know as it has sentimental value as has been handed down through my children and was bought for them by a grandparent. And is much missed. I can be contacted on 07515 959227.

Name supplied.

Pokemon Community in Faringdon - 24/3/15

Find out about it on <https://www.facebook.com/FaringdonPokemon>

Richard Greenwood

A417 @ Challow. - 24/3/15

Sorry to bring this up again, but it serves as a reminder to ask our politicians quite where Faringdon sits on their priorities as they come calling (or is that crawling?) over the next few months...

"DRIVERS will not have to take a 24-mile diversion around railway works in Royal Wootton Bassett after Network Rail agreed to build a temporary road."

Thomas Tankengine

Humpty Hill Appeal - 23/3/15

The hearing is now over. The inspector/adjudicator will write a report with recommendations for Oxfordshire CC to either accept or reject the application for Town Green status.. He gave no indication of timescales.

At some stage the report will be in the public domain.

Rob Stewart stated the case and questioned the objector's barrister very well. He has done a superb job in gathering the information, researching case law, writing up his/our case and then presenting at the hearing in a clear and straight forward manner.

Thankyou Rob

Ed

Design your own pennant - 23/3/15

Folly Dollies WI stall at the Saturday market this weekend will be offering the chance to design your own pennant to be sewn into the bunting which will be hung around the town during Folly Fest.

Your chance to be a part of the festivities!

Sheena Florey

1 WEEK TO GO BEFORE THE KIDS BREAK UP... - 23/3/15

Premier Sport is running its EASTER camp!

Faringdon Infant School Monday 30th - Thursday 2nd April.

We are running Multi-Activity with a wide range of sports. Dodgeball, Volleyball, Fantasy Football, Running Styles, Rounder's, Cricket, Basketball, Handball, 'On Guard' Fencing and much much more.

Prices: Full Day 9am-4:00pm £15.00 Half Day 9am-12:30pm £8.00

Extra time £5.00 if needed 8:30 start and a 4:30 finish.

Additionally we are excited to announce we have added Street Dance and Cheerleading to our Easter Camp. Monday 30 – Tuesday 31st

Cheerleading is running 9:30-12:30pm for KS1 ages 5-8. £8 a session Street Dance is running 1:00pm-4:00pm for KS2 ages 8-11. £8 a session.

Please contact myself on 07954138599 or email me for more details. <http://sport.premier-education.com/>

Love the Faringdon countryside? Hate the litter on the verges leading to the countryside? - 23/3/15

Be part of the solution and act now. We have a window of opportunity of a few days, before the rubbish gets buried amongst the spring vegetation.

Becky Ross, Lyn and David Williamson spent an hour on Sunday morning clearing the verges from Sudbury House towards the A420. The vast majority of rubbish was discarded food and drink packaging and cigarette packets. Notably about one third of the debris came from MacDonalds.

If it took 3 people one hour, then it should take 6 people half an hourand 60 people one minute.

Alun Watkins is leading another litter-pick next Saturday 28th March. Meet at the Market Place at 3pm

It will really help if everyone does a little bit before then. Gardening gloves are ideal and if you would like to borrow a long handles pickup, phone Alun on 01367 358169.

Dog walkers and runners can you help please?

Lyn Williamson

Anne Dowell - 21/3/15

I would like to thank all of Anne Dowell's friends for all the lovely cards and get well wishes since she has been in hospital. She had a stroke on 22nd February and is still in Gloucester Royal hospital. She is waiting for a bed to become available at the JR. Recovery will take a long time, but with all your good wishes and prayers I am sure she will make a good recovery.

Thankyou all from the bottom of my heart.

Gordon Dowell

Elections 2015 - your step-by-step guide - 21/3/15

With the 2015 elections just around the corner, it's time to make sure you are ready to cast your votes.

This May, if you are aged 18 or over, you will be able to have your say in parliamentary and district council elections and, depending on where in South Oxfordshire you live, you could also be able to vote in town or parish council elections.

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/elections/elections-2015/elections-2015-your-step-step-guide>

VWHDC

VE Day (8th May) beacon - 21/3/15

I saw this link on the Folly Radio email today, and what a great idea this could be up on the Folly Hill to remember VE Day.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/414512/VE_DAY_8-page_hi_res_v4_b.pdf

Paul Constable

re- dog mess - 21/3/15

The dog mess that was also left in my front garden and ended up over my children playing outside and has also previously gone over my shoes and legs whilst cutting the grass, has left me with the same displeasure as irate name supplied. Yes, they certainly will be wearing it if I catch them. See how they like it.

Grumpy Old man

Dog Mess - 20/3/15

To the person(s) who allowed there large dog to leave a pile of dog's mess on my front lawn early this morning. A word of warning, if I catch you, you will be wearing it.

You are disgusting.

Irate Name Supplied

Re: SODC & VWHDC moving to Milton Park.- 19/3/15

I hope the highways & planning departments have moved there as well, that way they can see what effect adding lots of housing without improving the roads have whilst they sit in the traffic jams with everyone else trying to get in or out of Didcot.

Thomas TankEngine

A new home for South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils- 18/3/15

South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse District Councils have agreed a deal to move into 135 Milton Park.

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/news/2015/2015-03/new-home-south-oxfordshire-and-vale-white-horse-district-councils>

Thames Valley Police survey . 18/3/15

It's about how you'd like to contact them- phone, text, face to face etc

<https://www.neighbourhoodalert.co.uk/9D0E6072-5AA0-4C49-A713-9F906EC52602/QuickRegister>

You can respond anonymously

Ed

FARINGDON TWINNING QUIZ NIGHT.Friday 20th March - 18/3/15

Always a friendly, interesting and challenging quiz
7 for 7.30 at Catholic Church hall (behind Budgens car park)
£10 for team of 4, but we can make up teams on the night
Drinks and snacks - donations welcomed to support Youth Twinning events
email Faringdontwinning@gmail.com or 01367 241893
or just turn up!

Cakes at the Folly- 17/3/15

The Nasio Trust will once again be selling **CAKES** at the bottom of the Folly Tower on Open Days (1st and 3rd Sundays April to October).

Climb the tower, eat cake and make a donation to help The Nasio Trust complete and equip its first **Medical Centre** in rural Western Kenya.

The Nasio Trust supports nearly 400 children living in deep poverty in Western Kenya. Many have lost their parents to the HIV pandemic. The Nasio Trust provides them with meals, education, medical treatment, clothing and opportunities to play as well as learn.

The new medical centre will provide accessible health-care to this extremely vulnerable community.

Jane Rennells

Volunteer

Ed: 1st 2015 tower opening is Easter Sunday, 5th April

Thankyou - 17/3/15

I would like to thank the Faringdon Cobblers for the great job they did in engraving the medals for Buscot Park Archers.

Anne-Marie Wright

Community Ball date for your diary - 17/3/15

The Faringdon Community Ball will be held on Saturday 21st November 2015 at The Sudbury House. Further details to follow.
paul.brame@virgin.net

Scouts Barn Dance- thankyou - 16/3/15

Thank you so much to everyone who attended, organised, ran, played at, sold tickets, took phone calls, donated advertising, opened up, closed down, tidied up, baked lovely cakes, donated raffle prizes, ran bars and sat down happy and exhausted after 1st Faringdon Scouts' Barn Dance this past Saturday. We had a great attendance and the dance floor was full to capacity for each of the fabulous dances played so beautifully by Horseplay. It was a brilliant evening and we hope to do it again next year. With raffle, entry tickets and tea and cake sales we raised about £200 for Scouting in Faringdon, so once again, thank you!

Faith Carpenter

RE Aldi & Waitrose & Costa - 16/3/15

Personally I feel that this is actually a good thing for Faringdon and support it. Granted the drive through Costa seems a bit overkill but the Costa in town gets quite a lot of use and the staff are always helpful and polite. The area of land does need development and this proposal looks quite a good idea for the area. I am more in favour of it if the plans include sorting out better exiting out onto the A420. In the mornings it gets a bit clogged up getting out of Faringdon.

An Aldi & Waitrose will be great to use and having it on the outskirts of the town is the right place that kind of thing. In the town you need more personalised shops not supermarkets.

Name Supplied

Lost ring:- 16/3/15

My daughter lost a ring up near the folly a couple of weeks ago, I wondered if the 1 found was hers?

Caroline Webb

Outline Planning permission Aldi & Waitrose & Costa - 16/3/15

Well we knew the town would hit problems as soon as Tesco got the go ahead to build away from the centre, it happens all over the country so no great surprise. The loss of Barclays has had an impact as well. We are now in a situation though where the car parks can't take the number of potential shoppers and visitors anyway as the houses and cars have increased so much. I couldn't park in either car park on Friday as both were full so I headed up to Costcutter. I think the town centre ones were extra busy due to a funeral but it shows that we need more car parking. What a pity the big car park in Gloucester Street didn't happen, a supermarket there was turned down in favour of Tesco out of town.

Unless people can park in the town centre they won't bother coming which is why towns like Wantage are succeeding. A council run car park and two big supermarket car parks just a minutes walk away from the market place has really seen Wantage perk up. It was buzzing yesterday afternoon.

As for the proposed Aldi, Waitrose and drive through Costa on the 4&20 site I really don't think they'll bother the town centre. The shops will be very small and are obviously aimed at passing trade. Between Oxford and Swindon the only place to stop for a quick snack is McDonalds in Watchfield. People in Faringdon will need to drive to get to this site anyway. If I'm getting in the car to go food shopping why bother to go to a tiny shop with a small range of goods? I'm driving anyway, I'll carry on and head to Wantage or Abingdon.

Name supplied

Public Enquiry Humpty Hill - 15/3/15

The Public Inquiry will start at 10 am on Monday 16th March 2015 in Sudbury House Hotel, 56 London St, Faringdon, Oxfordshire SN7 7AA and continue until 27th

March 2015 (excluding weekend), unless there is insufficient business. If those days prove to be insufficient, a further session or sessions will be arranged as necessary.

Notice and map can be found on <http://faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk/council/news/>

The Inspector will hold daily sessions of the Public Inquiry between 10 am and 1 pm (approximately) and 2 pm (approximately) and 5 pm and an evening session may be held from 6pm to 8:30pm on the first or subsequent days of the Inquiry session at the direction of the Inspector following a request from the Applicant or the Principal Objectors. Members of the public who are neither witnesses for the Applicant nor Principal Objectors may give evidence at the discretion of the Inspector and are invited to make themselves known at an early stage in the Public Inquiry either to the Inspector or to the County Council representative attending the Public Inquiry.

Outline Planning permission Aldi & Waitrose & Costa - 14/3/15

Are we trying to stop all footfall in Faringdon?

Tescos already has had an impact on the town, I am not saying that some people would like the proposed shops Aldi and Waitrose, they will take more trade from the town and having a drive through Costa Coffee when we have one at the garage and in town seems a bit over the top. We should be supporting the shops in town not move everything onto the edge.

Name supplied

Ring found - 14/3/15

We found a ring on the path while walking round the Folly Friday March 6th pm

If you think it's yours, contact me via the website

Name Supplied

Starting tomorrow in The Crows' Nest at The Rookery: 13/3/15

Alan Glasspool: New and Earlier Works,

An exhibition of both new and retrospective paintings, drawings and prints.

The Rookery, Arthurs Hill, 35 Marlborough Street, Faringdon, SN7 7JL, 01367 242030

www.therookery.me.uk

www.alanglasspool.com

Mon - 10-4.30; Tues - 9.30-5.30; Weds - 10-4; Thurs - Closed; Fri - 9-8; Sat - 9.30-6.30; Sun - 10-4

Shane Evans

Student bus pass found- 13/3/15

Emily Fs found nr Motorist shop. . Contact this website

Ed

Updates - 13/3/15

I think I've caught up now. But maybe you know different- if yes do email me.

I've updated Whats on, ForSale/wanted, News and Views and some other bits and pieces.

Ed

Housing design guide - 13/3/15

VWHDC have produced a design guide for housing developers.

A new guide has been launched by Vale of White Horse District Council to help ensure that new homes and developments are well designed to maintain the quality of life for people living and working in the district.

The Vale of White Horse Design Guide sets out clear principles to guide the design of future development within the district and aims to inspire designers to rise to the challenge of delivering sustainable high quality, well designed buildings, streets and

spaces that are in keeping with the character of the Vale environment.

See http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/local-development-framework/supplementar-2?utm_source=Leaflet&utm_medium=Posted&utm_campaign=Design%20Guide%20consultation
I wonder if this means that housing developments on the edges of small towns like Faringdon will have sufficient off road parking, wide enough roads and pavements, adequate outside space, be no more than 2 storeys, eco friendly. ie these will be higher priority than high density
Ever hopeful

Outline Planning- Aldi, Waitrose, Costa - 13/3/15

Outline application (all matters reserved except highway access) for two class A1 retail stores, Class A5 drive thru coffee shop, coach parking, car parking, access, drainage, landscaping and associated works, on land by A420.
<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P15/V0394/O>
Plans show and Aldi, Waitrose and Costa.

To: Moral Dilemma, - 13/3/15

Thank you for the kind words.
No we did not undercharge you for the monitor.
We try to find the best products for the most cost effective price. In your case we found a great deal.
Raoul.
Quidne IT Ltd.
Tel: 01367 700092
www.quidne-it.com www.facebook.com/quidneit

Community Policing

Neighbour hood update for Faringdon on
<http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/yournh/yournh-tvp-pol-area/yournh-tvp-pol-area-soxon-vowh/pub-pg-nh-upds-N378?id=302882>

Maybe of interest to readers of this site:

Anti-social behaviour (ASB)

Faringdon has had a problem with a small number of persistent offenders committing ASB particularly in the town centre. This continues to be tackled by the team. The team is working hard on bringing this issue to a close and we will be bringing you further updates next month. It is important that the community and the police work together to tackle this issue. If you witness any ASB please call us on 101, and make a note of who is involved, what they look like and what they were doing.

Community Speed Watch

The team are currently looking for volunteers to help with the Community Speed Watch programme. Volunteers have been forthcoming but, if possible, we would like some more volunteers from **Faringdon and surrounding villages**. Volunteers will be able to use a speed indication device to monitor specific roads that have been highlighted by the various communities as having a speeding problem. Eight Speed Watches have been carried out by the team at various locations over the past few months with varying results.
Thames Valley police

New Zumba class - 13/3/15

The Corn Exchange, Cornmarket, Faringdon, Oxfordshire SN7 7JA
Starting on Wednesday 15th April 2015 Wednesdays 9.45am - 10.30am
£4.5 per session or £12 - 3 sessions
Zumba_Faringdon@outlook.com
www.facebook.com/EugenieZumba

Come and join Zumba®, unlike a dance class, you can't get it wrong. There's no right, there's no left, there's no right, there's no wrong, there's only fun! We shake and shimmy, we get fit and keep active in the process. You don't need to be a dancer, or coordinated in anyway to still get a great workout. But you will also be challenged by some new steps and get your brain working.

I use a lot of Latin music, but I also love to include lots of other international rhythms and even chart music. My goal is to make you smile and make you sweat - because that's what we believe makes a great Zumba Fitness® class.
Eugenie

THE FIRE FIGHTERS CHARITY NATIONAL CAR WASH 2015- 12/3/15

Help your local fire fighters make a splash at Tesco!

Let's face it, washing the car is nobody's favourite job. So why not take the hassle out of it and head on down to Tesco Faringdon between 10am-4pm for the National Car Wash, raising vital funds for The Fire Fighters Charity?

On Saturday, 28th March 2015, fire fighters up and down the country will be on hand to make your car sparkle. Your valued donations will go towards The Fire Fighters Charity – the leading provider of support and rehabilitation to the fire and rescue community.

Tesco Faringdon have kindly agreed to let us use the car park for this year's event where there will be fire fighters on-hand to give fire safety advice throughout the day and we hope to have our ever-popular fire fighter helmets available to buy for the kids too!

Please spread the word and we look forward to seeing you on the 28th!!

Grand Jumble Sale, Saturday 14th March at 11am at Faringdon Corn Exchange. - 12/3/15

50p admission. Plus tombola, cakes, bric a brac, toys, white elephant stall.

All proceeds to Wiltshire Air Ambulance.

Updates to this site being done- 12/3/15

I've been away- have caught up a bit- more to be done- probably by end of tomorrow

Ed

Is Budgens closing?- 12/3/15

Not as far as I know, just a change.

But another part of old Faringdon is, the Nut Tree.

A small cave of delights comes to an end, it has been for us a wonderful establishment with an eclectic mixture of goods, we will miss it.

But hey, look on the bright side! It could become another Charity Shop!!

Mike Perks

Dogs Mess AGAIN- 12/3/15

To the person(s) who are picking up there dogs mess from the alleyway in Chestnut Avenue in black bags.

You have almost got it right but not quite yet. NOW YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO PUT THE FILLED BLACK BAGS IN A BIN AND NOT LEAVE THEM IN A HEAP IN THE ALLEYWAY.

Not too difficult is it

Name supplied

Jewellery found - 11/3/15

I have found a small pouch containing some jewellery in Folly Park by the lake, I was wondering if you could announce this on the website? It is costume jewellery and I wouldn't think of any great value but could be valuable to the owner.

Name Supplied

ED(GW) Email this site if you think it's your and I'll contact the person who posted the message

Re- Budgens - is it closing down?- 9/3/15

No.

Budgens Employee

Moral Dilemma - 6/3/15

Yesterday morning my computer monitor seemed to be sulking . So I took it to Quidnet where Raoul made me sit down then told me, very sympathetically, that it was very much like the parrot belonging to John Cleese....It was dead.

This afternoon he brought me a replacement and installed it.

He told me what I owed him and I paid him what he asked of course.

Raoul's charges are always very reasonable but in this case I'm sure he undercharged me by quite a lot

My problem ?

Should I tell him ?

Name Supplied

Box Fit Thursdays from 23 April at the Leisure Centre - 4/3/15

Come and join us for a fun fitness circuit with a Boxing theme.

A workout that tones the whole body, all abilities welcome

11am – 12pm (Crèche available) £2.50

FREE to Leisure Centre Members

Faringdon Leisure Centre, SN7 7LB

Contact Emma 07801 203550 Email Emma.Freeman@southandvale.gov.uk

Rumour - Budgens- 3/3/15

Is it closing down?

Name supplied

Teenagers- 3/3/15

I would have reported an incident to the police about these youths had they not scared my wife to the point of tears. It was an incident where they were dashing across the road on purpose to halt traffic and throwing abuse at drivers and frightening their passengers. Well next time this driver wont stop he will run the blond gobby one over and take one of his sidekicks too. This town needs rid this nuisance before more come into the town.

The police just try and be best friends with them instead of taking the matter seriously by arrest and charge.

Angry patron

Considerate driver- thankyou - 3/3/15

It's nice to see there are some very considerate drivers out today in Faringdon as during one of my driving lessons today we managed to make a right dogs dinner of the roundabout at the end of Coxwell Street and failed to give way to the driver coming from the right who had to make a rather quick stop...this driver gave my pupil all the time to get the car going again after it had stalled and move off from half way around the roundabout...all credit to him as it helped reduce the fear of panic in my pupil who was able to compose herself and not have her confidence destroyed by someone who might have acted differently....normally I'm quick at preventing this by encouraging all pups to look ahead, anticipate and plan.....today was an error on both our parts with the shared responsibility that instructor and pupil haveonce again apologies to the driver who was so considerate.

Allan absm

If all these new houses get built will we get our police station back?- 3/3/15

A lot of the things that seem to upset people on here, bad parking, dog mess, bad behaviour etc. - seem to be on the increase because those concerned have little chance of being caught & so the risk is worth taking, almost to the point of there being no risk.

Name Supplied

Help! - 3/3/15

Can anyone recommend a TV/recorder repairer in the local area ?

HGM

Ukeles wanted - 3/3/15

New ukelele group starting at the Catholic church.

If anyone has an old, unwanted uke they're willing to donate or barter, please contact .

dllm.williamson@btinternet.com

Re: Market Place Anti Social Behaviour - 3/3/15

..... and to add to my previous point of view, I see, tonight, that the Portwell Diver has now been graffiti-ed!!!!!!!!!!

Name supplied

Re: Unruly Teenage problem - 3/3/15

We, too, have been experiencing several issues spanning at least a year now. We kindly ask all those that have crossed the path of this nuisance minority to please report it to the Police tel: 101 logging the complaint. More loggings will result in more Police Action and the need for the Town Council to resolve this negativity for Faringdon.

Let's get Faringdon back to where it used to be.

Name Supplied

Become a Town Councillor. Town Council Elections May 2015 - 3/3/15

Your Town needs you – If you care about Faringdon and would like to be involved in council and community issues then please stand for council and become part of making a difference!

As part of Faringdon Town Council you will be the voice of the Towns people by representing their views. As well as ensuring the Towns wishes are voiced at other levels of government the council provides many local services which include several venues and open spaces as well as the Community and Tourist Information Centre, Cinema, Christmas Lights and Faze Youth Centre. These services are operated by 5 different committees: Venues, Recreation and Open Spaces, Youth Services, Planning and Highways, Finance and Working Parties. The Town Council also acts as a statutory consultee for all planning applications in Faringdon and provides grants to local organisations. Our Town Clerk, Sally Thurston, is happy to meet with

prospective candidates and talk through what being a councillor involves. Please contact her on 01367 240281 or sally@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk for an appointment.

More information and how to stand on <http://faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk/become-a-town-councillor/>

Re: Teenage Gangs- 2/3/15

There were 2 lads running up Marlborough St yesterday grabbing rubbish bags put out for collection and chucking them all over the place. My friend tried to stop them and grabbed a camera to photo them but they ran away up Gravel Walk.

I also have problems with school children who have fun ripping the mains electrical cable off the wall and swinging on it, one day they'll rip it right out of the wall and I dread to think of the consequences.

I'm also on my 4th doorbell in 10 years as on their way to/back from school they stub their cigarettes out on the bell push.

Why?

Green Witch

Teenage Gang ..- 2/3/15

Has anyone else noticed the increase in teenagers who gather in the Town Centre every evening ??

I dont have a problem with them meeting and hanging out together , after all this is what the town is for ..

I do have a problem with them throwing litter everywhere , chip wrappers and drink bottles every night , i have observed them throwing their litter on the ground on many occasions ..

Also the other evening running about all over the road chasing eachother and bringing all the traffic to a stand several times ..

I even saw one of them trying to pull the electric cable off the side of the piano shop whilst the others watched and laughed ..

It is vandalism and anti social And always the same group ..

They also gather in the back of the church yard and jumping on the tomb stones , most of these stones are quite old and fragile and easily damaged ... Its a shame that they are being ruined by a few mindless people ..

Name Supplied

Hustings for Business - 2/3/15

The Faringdon Chamber of Commerce is pleased to present a special "hustings for business" to be held on Monday 9th March at 7pm. Sudbury House

Come and hear what local and national policies the various political parties standing for election in May have for businesses and what they will be doing to promote commercial activity. Be it business rates, broadband or red tape, now is your chance to influence the policy makers. We have representatives from all five political parties standing in our constituency or seeking election to the local district council.

The event is free and open to all, but places will be limited. Drinks and nibbles will be provided. Please call 07971 512794 for more details or e-mail president@faringdonchamberofcommerce.co.uk

OCC Transport strategy - 1/3/15

When you fill in the form asking for your opinion you can mention the fact that we need better access onto the A420 from The Great Coxwell slip road and transport to Witney and Abingdon.

Old Faringdonian.

Oxfordshire CC Transport Strategy - 28/2/15

Have a look at:

https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/CO_LTP4/consultationHomehttps://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/CO_LTP4/consultationHome

Faringdon is mentioned in Vol 2 sect ii under A420 corridor (no idea why we don't warrant a specific section as Carterton, Witney etc do)

In item 9 Mentions changes to junctions at Gt Coxwell and Park Road and

'Enhancement of the A420 premium bus route, focusing on enhancing service frequency initially to three, and then to four buses per hour per direction'

No mention of capacity/utilisation of current off peak buses. No mention of how we get to Witney or Abingdon if you don't have a car. (Perhaps no 66 will link with the Witney:Abingdon route)

There's an online questionnaire, or you can send your views by sending a document

ED(GW)

Coxwell St - 28/2/15

Does anyone know what the plans are for the small patch of land in Coxwell Street, where the huge billboard has been removed within the last few days? It really nice to see that horribly tatty and unused billboard gone but I'm curious to know whether it's just going to be replaced by another unnecessary hoarding.

Name supplied.

ED(GW) Planning permission has been given for a 4 bedroomed house

Faringdon's First Charity Market is to be held this Saturday from 10.00am in the Town Centre.- 27/2/15

We have stallholders of all ages representing their favourite charities, and some of our best businesses sponsoring them. There are local and national charities of all sorts, from Sunshine Cat Rescue to the Dog's Trust and Guide Dogs, The Folly Trust, Help the Heroes, The Nasio Trust and The Mustard Seed among others - so come along and show your support for some great people this Saturday!

Bethia Thomas

No Virgin Media in Faringdon? - 27/2/15

Fibre broadband is available in some of Faringdon. We have it through talktalk.

Name Supplied

Regent Cinema - Corn Exchange- 27/2/15

We have a great film to show you this Friday 27th Feb at the Regent Cinema - 'Chef'(15). Doors open at 7pm so plenty of time to grab your tea/coffee, sweets, popcorn and visit the bar before the film starts at 7.30pm!

Tickets are £4 adult, £3 under 18's and £10 for a family (2 adults & 2 children). Ring 01367 242191 for more info.

Re.- Recommended Builder- 26/2/15

I have no hesitation in recommending the Darren Dancey. Darren and his brother have done excellent work for me in the past and only work locally. Most if not all their work is through Recommendations.

Regards Grumpy Old Man.

Recommend a builder - 26/2/15

Marc Ball 07717 504931 def one of the best in far

Gerry Anderson

Recommend a builder? - 26/2/15

I am wondering if anyone can recommend a local builder who would be able to convert a garage and add some French doors.

Many thanks

Ray Philpott

No Virgin Media in Faringdon? - 26/2/15

They are expanding all the housing and opening up the town to outsiders but not joining the 21st Century. Do we know if or when Fiber Optic Broadband will come to the town?

Very Angry Towny

Vale freezes council tax and pledges support for communities in 2015/16 budget- 25/2/15

Vale of White Horse District Council has agreed to freeze the amount of council tax people pay for services it provides in 2015/16.

The 2015/16 rate, which was confirmed at the full council meeting on 18 February marks the fifth year in a row in which taxpayers in the district will see their contribution to the council's costs stay the same.

The council tax freeze means that for 2015/16 people living in a band D property in Vale will again pay just £116.69 for the services provided by the district council.

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/news/2015/2015-02/vale-freezes-council-tax-and-pledges-support-communities-201516-budget>

Fun survey - 24/2/15

Just for fun and because someone is commenting about mobile service quality in the local area, can you take a min to complete this little survey?

I'll publish the results when done

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/69V6JCL>

Mel Lane

Did you know that it is Faringdon's First Charity Market this Saturday? - 24/2/15

There will be lots of different individuals and groups supporting their favourite charities, local and national, and they are being sponsored by some of the town's best businesses so all the stallholders' profits can go straight to the charity they support.

The Mustard Seed will be there celebrating Fairtrade Fortnight, as well the Dog's Trust, Sunshine Cat Rescue (better not put them next to each other!), Friends of the Folly Tower and others. Come along and see what's happening!

Faringdon's First Charity Market, Saturday 28th, 10.00am-1.00pm.

Bethia Thomas

Vodafone Issues - 23/2/15

I, in common with most people locally started having issues with Vodafone during the time when they were building Tesco. I vaguely remember something about the mast being damaged during the construction.

Lots of people complained, including Sue Lund who managed to get it onto the local news and Paul Brame from the Chamber of Commerce and eventually, we got some service back but it remained patchy and poor quality.

I moved to EE as I was fed up of being ignored by Vodafone and being self employed, couldn't afford to be uncontactable. The call and data quality is improved but not great but still better than Vodafone.

I might knock up a quick online survey to see what people's experience is locally so we might get a view on the best provider. Hope this helps.

Mel Lane

Vodophone issues - 21/2/15

I'm having countless issues on Vodafone. I can't use Internet Anywhere in Faringdon at all. My call quality is really bad as well. People can't hear me and I can't hear them. Has anybody else got these problems with Vodafone?

Clark Kent

RE: Humpty Appeal refused - 20/2/15

Excellent news about Humpty Hill. I assume that means that the public enquiry at Sudbury House starting on 16 March will now be cancelled.

Name supplied

ED(GW) As I understand it the public enquiry is about the Town Green application for that field. It is separate from the housing development appeal/refusal. It's an important occasion. Getting the field designated as a Town Green will protect it from development in the future.

Humpty Appeal refused - 20/2/15

The Secretary of State has rejected the Gladman appeal. Planning permission is refused

Read all about it!

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/405445/15-02-19_DL__IR_Highworth_Road_2210891.pdf

Ed

Lost phone - 19/2/15

I lost my phone last night (18/2/2015) somewhere between Pye Street Park and Tesco, it's a yellow iPhone 5C with blue bubbles as the background picture. If anyone's picked it up or seen it could they please call 07917157187 or drop it through the letterbox at 54 Walker Drive, thanks

Another Family Board and Card Games Evening - 18/2/15

With Jacky, Nik, Joanne and Andy at The Rookery, Arthur's Hill, Marlborough Street, Faringdon

Friday 27th February, 6pm to 9pm.

Some of the games played last month were Splendour, Jaipur, San Marco, Jamaica, Qwirkle and Carcassonne

Never heard of them? Fancy finding out what they are like? Then come and join us for a fun evening of games for all the family.

We'll provide the games and explain all the rules so all you need to do is turn up and play.

Stay as long as you like. Refreshments will of course be available for purchase (until 8.30pm).

Second2none- 18/2/15

I to have used Bob and the team over the past 10 years and find them honest and value for money, but most of all I know they tell me the truth and I have never felt being palmed off with work that is not needed!,

Keep up the good work second2none and I know you will be around for many years to come when you do a great job as you do and with people going out there way to spread the good word!

Mike Okeefe

Pcirepairs Faringdon

Re: Second2None - 18/2/15

I too have nothing but praise for them. It's a rare thing (in my experience) to find a vehicle repair/MOT/etc. place in which you feel you have 100% trust.

Helen Gilbert

FAB- Faringdon Appreciation of Berners - 17/2/15

This group has been reading and reviewing Lord Berners' books. You can read their reviews [on this website](#)
ED

Piles of mess.- 17/2/15

I think many of us are suffering from these ignorant nasty dog owners at the moment.

I have dogs and as a responsible owner I always clear up after them but I've just had to pick up mess from another dog which for the third time has been allowed to leave a large deposit on my front grass. On Saturday morning I had to pick up mess from the pavement outside my house.

This is on Fernham Road but the whole town seems to be suffering at the moment.

If anybody notices owners not clearing up after their dogs then please report them. It's so disgraceful that these owners care so little about the rest of us.

This is from the VWHDC website -

We take dog fouling very seriously as dog mess is not only unpleasant but it spreads diseases, which can cause illness and even blindness.

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 therefore a crime to allow a dog to foul in any public area without clearing it up. Those that fail to do so could face a fixed penalty notice of £50 or prosecution.

You can email them on env.health@southandvale.gov.uk or call on 01235 540555

Lets embarrass these owners and get the town cleaned up.

Name Supplied

Southampton street loos - 17/2/15

The location for these toilets are about right for every one central to the town center perhaps just need identifying with signage in streets and a bit of a makeover. I have used these and know my daughter finds it useful for her children when in the town.

Perhaps there should be a central point for dog owners too so they dont get complained about so much.

While on the subject of central points why not consider some land to park up camper vans to save clogging them getting complaints for hogging the streets.

Well just a few thoughts best regards Frank

Second2None - 17/2/15

I endorse the comments made by HGM about the service provided by Second2None. They have carried out my work for some time now and every problem is discussed constructively and sympathetically and put through with the minimum of fuss and bother. Well done Bob and staff.

DEH

Wantage Counselling Service on "Pragmatism and Principle"- 16/2/15

This year's Felicity Madden Memorial Lecture is titled "Pragmatism and Principle" and is to be held on Saturday 28th March in the Loyd Lindsay Rooms, Ardington. The presentation aims to outline how counselling young people goes on to help counselling adults, no matter how many sessions or how much support a client requires. Nick Luxmoore – who writes a blog for *Psychology Today* – will be leading the presentation and discussion.

The event will run from 10am until 1pm and tickets are available now from the Wantage Counselling Service page. Standard tickets are £45, and student and Wantage Counselling Service member tickets are £35.

This is also a chance for the Wantage Counselling Service to highlight keys areas of their services and the wider benefit to the community's mental health, something which is often left out of the public eye. With a long service career, the charity has been described as "particularly valuable as a voluntary addition for patients in need of long term care beyond whatever the NHS can provide" by GPs and psychiatric consultants alike.

Everybody is invited to the Felicity Madden Memorial Lecture and the audience will be actively encouraged to ask questions, no matter how small. It is hoped that, by inviting more than just GPs and other professionals, the Wantage Counselling Service will receive more attention in the long run and hopefully be able to secure more funding in future, vital to keeping this well-established charity on its feet.

To book tickets for the event please go to: <http://www.wantagecounselling.org.uk/training/training.html>

Contact – for information on **Wantage Counselling Service** – Helen Carter (Trustee) 01235 764810 or Email: helen-carter@ntlworld.com

Details regarding event – Shaun Galloway 07736310443 or shaun@wantage-couriers.co.uk

Southampton St Toilets- 16/2/15

Yes, leave them were they are, perfect location, most importantly they have easy access and parking for the disabled. Why not refurbish what there is, any money saved could be spent on refreshing the scruffy shrub beds around the car park.

Ann Lewis

Piles of mess - 16/2/15

It appears that the idle person(s) who are allowing there large dog to leave piles of mess in The Pines, and the surrounding alleyways and the children's park need to be caught and reported to the dog warden.

They need to be educated in being a responsible dog owner and not a complete moron.

Name supplied

Second2None..Well Named - 15/2/15

I've just had my MOT done by Second 2 None in Park Road, Faringdon. As usual I received a very friendly welcome.... from the dog.

But all the Staff are equally pleasant as well as being very efficient

The charges are very reasonable and, unlike some dealers, I don't feel that I am being ripped off to pay for a luxurious waiting room.

Thank you Bob and co.

HGM

RE- Southampton Street Toilets - 15/2/15

I agree the toilets are in a good place. If you come into a town and go to the most central car park and you need a loo, it's comforting to look across from your car and see the toilet block.

I agree they are a bit scruffy from outside, but whenever I've gone in, the toilets have been clean, well stocked with toilet paper, there is soap in the dispenser, the taps on the sinks work and the dryer works. If I'm caught short, those are the things I need and they are there.

Fiona Merrick

Southampton St Loos - 15/2/15

Yes they've needed replacing for a while now but why elsewhere? They are in the most useful place, near the town centre and like most towns they are in the car park which is where visitors expect them to be.

Name supplied.

ED(GW) VWHDC have refurbishment of the Public Loos in hand. FTC are trying to ensure that the best possible solution is put in place.

Southampton St Loos - 13/2/15

After the tragic death in the Southampton Street car park toilets on Monday, shouldn't the latter be pulled down, as the Vale had planned about 2 years ago? Who would want to go in there again? For a long time they have looked awful, and it's embarrassing when tourists come into town and want to use them. Now there is an extra reason to get rid of them and situate new ones elsewhere. I have heard that the local council opposes the Vale's plan, but, like many things this week, that might just be a rumour.

Carolyn Williams

LOST WALLET - 13/2/15

Has anyone found a wallet lost last Friday 6th February in or around the market place? This was lost by a visiting Welshman after their defeat at the Six Nations. He has stopped his credit cards but has other items of no value to anyone else but very hard to replace.

Please contact 241365. Thank you.

Helen Drawbridge

MIXED NETBALL TOURNAMENT RAISES OVER £800 FOR LEUKAEMIA & LYMPHOMA RESEARCH - 12/2/15

On Sunday 8th February at Wantage Leisure Centre over 100 people gathered to compete in a mixed netball tournament with 10 teams of mixed genders and abilities, to raise money for leukaemia and lymphoma research.

Predominantly a female sport, netball is a challenging and rewarding game which requires specific skills, strength, team work and discipline. The event provided members of the public with the opportunity to help raise money for an extremely worthy cause, whilst also being part of a friendly and fun competition and for many, to play a new sport.

Along with competing for 1st place, teams which consisted of up to three competitive netball players and a minimum of three of each sex, were also encouraged to dress up. Prizes for the top two teams and best dressed team were up for grabs. Outfits ranged from doctors, onesies, zombie lifeguards and animals to a collection of Where's Wally's, with the latter claiming the best dressed prize.

Many attendees helped further and made cakes to sell at the cake stall and the below local charities helped boost the charity donations by contributing some generous prizes for the raffle.

Wantage Leisure Centre

Wildwood Restaurant Wantage

Miele

The Eagle Tavern, Great Coxwell

Hair Studio, TFD

House of spice

Team Bath Netball

Calber Facilities Management

Bellingers

Sainsbury's

Waitrose
Kelly cook's cakes
Corinne Jones

Tuckers Park - 12/2/15

You are right, Tuckers Park does not exclusively belong to the Football Club it belongs to all residents of Faringdon for use and recreation but It is the Club that puts the most into looking after the grounds. Children breaking up for half term has nothing to do with Scarrott's Fair being granted permission to use Tuckers Park in June apart from the fact that they use it more because the Football Club puts on activities for them. Maybe we should just ask the club why they found it necessary to restrict the Fair to only a small part of the ground.
Old Faringdonian.

Persuade our local MPs to protect rural Oxfordshire.Petition- 11/2/15

CPRE Oxfordshire and ROAR – the Rural Oxfordshire Action Rally, are petitioning Secretary of State Eric Pickles and local MPs to protect rural Oxfordshire from unsustainable development.

We believe current planning rules are unfairly penalising particular villages and greenfield sites, a situation which is likely to get worse with the proposed 40% increase in housing in Oxfordshire by 2031. Whilst many would welcome more affordable housing for local people, developers are frequently bringing forward large and inappropriate developments that threaten to swamp existing communities and infrastructure. Unless we stand together, the rural nature and beautiful countryside of Oxfordshire will be at risk.

By signing our e-petition you can help us to persuade our local MPs to protect rural Oxfordshire.
Please add your signature and make your voice heard!

Sign here: <http://chn.ge/1IJvYUA>

For more information go to: <http://www.cpreoxon.org.uk/>

Dr Helena Whall

Campaign Manager

Protect Rural Oxfordshire (PRO)

To find out more see our website (www.cpreoxon.org.uk) or follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/CPREOxfordshire) or [Twitter \(@CPREOxfordshire\)](https://twitter.com/CPREOxfordshire) and sign up to our monthly e-news bulletin (E: administrator@cpreoxon.org.uk / T: 01865 874780).

Card Games - 11/2/15

Hi Richard, please contact me at bubbascouse@gmail.com to discuss the use of some free space for your card game club.
Regards, Paul

Appeal for witnesses after unexplained death – Faringdon- 11/2/15

Thames Valley Police is appealing for witnesses after an unexplained death in Faringdon.

At about 1.55pm yesterday (9/2), Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service called the Force to report a fire at the public toilets in Southampton Street, Faringdon.

A 49-year-old man was pronounced dead at the scene. His next of kin has been informed, although a date is yet to be scheduled for formal identification.

A post mortem is planned to take place today (10/2).

Senior Investigating Officer, Det Chief Insp Kevin Brown said: "I would appeal to anyone who saw a white man wearing a light green and grey jacket and dark trousers in the vicinity of Southampton Street, or who may have used the public toilets themselves, which is situated close to Budgens, or was in the vicinity of the nearby car park between 10am and 2pm yesterday, to contact me via 101 quoting URN 765 9th Feb.

"Further, it has been reported that members of the public saw the fire and tried to help the man out of the toilet block. I would also like to speak to these people because they might have vital information that can aid our investigation.

"I appreciate that some people do not feel comfortable speaking to police directly, so alternatively you can contact the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or online at 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 officers are currently carrying out house to house enquiries and a scene watch is likely to be in place for the rest of today (10/2). I would like to thank local residents for their assistance and patience while we continue our thorough investigation into this unexplained death."

Thames Valley Police

Card games- 11/2/15

I have recently moved to Faringdon, I am a student teacher looking for a way to continue one of my hobbies. I would like to enquire about the possibility of using any free space, like the hall, to hold a weekly card game club, specifically the Pokemon Trading Card Game. It is a hobby of mine and unfortunately there is nowhere local that holds a league for players (closest is Bristol). I think it would be a great way to bring people together. It is a fun and educational game and would be officially supported by the pokemon company. Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards, Richard.

Tuckers Park- 11/2/15

I fail to see how the children breaking up at half term next week and a fair at the end of June have anything to do with each other.

I agree that the football club do a fantastic job but the ground was given to the whole town not just those who play football.
Green Witch

Tucker Park- 10/2/15

I think Faringdon Football Club reached the right decision

The schools will be breaking up for half-term in about a weeks time and you don't want them to be up to their knees in mud. Having the Fair on Tucker's Park is a great idea but it does churn the ground up. One thing we must remember The Football Club does a good job of looking after Tuckers Park
Old Faringdonian.

Far Runners - Saturday Beginner Sessions - 10/2/15

If you've ever thought about jogging/running but been put off because you don't have anyone to go with; everyone else who does it seems:

Younger

Fitter

Thinner etc etc

THINK AGAIN

Our very sociable beginner sessions are aimed at those who haven't run since school PE. There is always a Run England trained leader on hand to encourage and motivate you and no-one EVER gets left behind on their own.

We meet at Faringdon Leisure Centre Car Park at 9.30am and the best bit - Its totally FREE.

Please contact me if you have any questions:

Linda Woodward - woodwardj@btopenworld.com or take a look at our Facebook page Far Runners

Letter in the post- 10/2/15

This morning Tuesday 10th about 10.30, I found a letter dropped in the Southampton Street Car park. It was addressed to someone in Lancing, Sussex with a stamp attached.

With no other details on the envelope I hva put it into the post box. I only hope this was OK

Name supplied

Re Tuckers Park- 10/2/15

And more. I'm a little frustrated that the Football Club seem to have taken it upon themselves to restrict Scarrots Fair to a very small area citing the Town Council as the authority for this restriction. As far as I can find out they've done nothing of the sort and the whole of the field should be available.

Green Witch

Re Tuckers Park - 10/2/15

Mike Wise has looked up the original Trust papers for Tuckers Park. I'm sure that if you contact him he will give you the information you are looking for.

Green Witch

Regards Tucker park - 9/2/15

Somewhere on talking point in an old post the general rules of the park are that it was donated to the people of Faringdon for recreational activities, Not just the football club which seems to dominate the space today. It was donated to commemorate Michael Tucker who died in the war by the Tucker family. It would also be interesting to hear how the rules apply to the public space generally and what other clubs have the right of access. (Not that I need access, Just interested). Or anything about the man or family who left this legacy. The history society could organise a talk on the Tucker family.

You can google it but it links to the talking points page rather than the specific post and I can't find that in the archive here. Perhaps someone in the council could dig out the original documents and publish them afresh for a new generation to make best use of the ground for more than football, its not used most days apart from dog walkers. If it was more populated with other sports as well there would be less room for dog walkers and I think that would be a positive solution...

Run a campaign in the town to make better use of the space but please stop moaning about dog mess all the time!!! we need alternative solutions not more signs and rules... Get creative...

Name supplied

Lazyness - 9/2/15

Continuing on from the parking theme, can't help but notice that people in the town really are getting lazy. Parking on the pavements all around the town, taking their cars down Canada Lane to pick up the kids even though a few minutes walk would benefit them, parking overnight on the lower end of London Street overnight has returned.

Also the camper vans on Coxwell Road and some appear unroadworthy but I am no expert, the overnight parking by Coach Lane Cemetery. Now that really is laziness. Tis a pity that not one agency in the Vale is interested in getting it sorted. Why aren't our elected officials at the VWHDC and the OCC not doing anything about it?

Are they also lazy?

Name withheld

Faringdon Market - 9/2/15

We've been working hard over the last few weeks - and now we are delighted to announce the Tuesday Weekly Market is going to have a whole new look.

With new traders coming to town, there will be much more to it than what we've been used to, so check it out tomorrow from 9.00 am to 3.00 pm in the Marketplace!

Bethis Thomas, Town Team

Skittles evening to raise money for Faringdon Day Centre - 9/2/15

Saturday 28 February at Faringdon Bowls Club, Gravel Walk. 7.00 p.m.

Tickets £10 to include a two course supper, a Ploughman's and a choice of hot and cold puddings.

There will be a Bar and a Raffle. All Welcome. This is a fun evening and not a serious competitive one. Same prize for best and worst.

Tickets from Eve 01367 241927 or Gill 01367 244176

Photography exhibition - 8/2/15

Hi, I am an amateur street photographer from Faringdon and I have a Crowdfunder.co.uk project just gone live to help raise enough funds to hold my first exhibition. I am hoping to exhibit in The Portwell Angel in April, May or June.

I would like some help in promoting this via the local community (and wider arts community). Please visit: @danjamesphotogs on Twitter, or search 'Street Photography Exhibition' to view details on the project. Many thanks.

Dan Homewood

Tabby home again - 8/2/15

Lost male tabby cat from Lechlade road area now thankfully home.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to help us.

Gina

Dog walking and fouling - 8/2/15

I wonder if someone could clarify the dos and don'ts about taking dogs into Tucker Park?

My understanding, from the notices placed in various locations round the field, is that:

- a) Dogs must be kept on a lead at all times
- b) Dogs and owners must keep to the perimeter of the field; i.e. are not permitted on the pitches
- c) Owners must pick up after their dog
- d) There is a fine (of up to £1000?) for failing to do this

As someone who often walks their dog in this field, from my experience the vast majority of other dog walkers totally ignore items a and b, and a significant minority also ignore item c. (Try walking round the perimeter - it's disgusting!)

These are football fields. Dogs are permitted only if their owners/handlers abide by these perfectly reasonable requests. I would LOVE to allow my dog to run off-lead in this field - he'd have a whale of a time! But if these are the rules, then they need to be enforced. Or perhaps more notices put up, since apparently those that are already there are invisible...!

However, if the rules have changed, please could somebody confirm it? I would love to be able to let my dog off the lead here. And while I'm on a roll (!) has anyone noticed that dog fouling throughout the town is on the increase? There are lots of bins, and for a while it seemed threats of fines and "area under surveillance" notices were working. However, these appear to have been no more than threats, and some owners (more and more) are now ignoring the notices, apparently safe in the knowledge that nothing will happen.

As a dog owner myself, the situation is becoming embarrassing. The old 'railway lines' path and the path up to the Health Centre, grassed areas, Tucker Park, alleyways and footpaths – all are areas where it's not safe to walk when it's dark for fear of what one could tread in. Even in daylight one often has to pick ones way carefully, particularly across grassed areas.

I know it would cost money, but how about a proper patrol, at least for a while, (or CCTV cameras) with actual prosecutions? Perhaps if people thought they WOULD be prosecuted/fined, they might start picking up and these areas would be nicer for all again.

Name Supplied

Video of Fire damage at Council - 7/2/15

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/news/2015/2015-02/fire-damage-video-released-councils-declare-its-nearly-business-usual>

The Town - 7/2/15

So the Vale is to be given funding to help in certain areas with Housing and the Infrastructure need to cope with all the new growth. How do you apply for help. Can our Town Councillors just apply or do we have to wait until Abingdon. Didcot and Wantage have had their share and if there is anything left it's ours. Faringdon Town and its needs have been forgotten for far too long. The Town Centres in other towns thrive and ours slowly dying. We see plan after plan put forward and discussed and then not a thing happens.

The design in the middle of Town is not inviting enough to attract visitors. Tourist Buses stopped coming into Town When we took away the Parking and put a large apron in front of the Old Town Hall. Come on Councillors. We need Aldi's and Waitrose but we also need a Town again.

Old Faringdonian

London Street Parking Again - 6/2/15

My Partner was nearly run over Saturday 7th Feb while walking the dog on the PAVEMENT on London street. A driver in 4 x 4 pulled in front of him and then started reversing. Luckily no one was hurt but it was very close. There is plenty of road for vehicles to use. Maybe those parking on pavement could park on Stanford road. I am sure there room on this road closer to cricket club. Maybe the little walk would do everyone a bit of good and hopeful being pedestrian for a change you would understand the dangers you are putting others in.

Name Supplied

Vale welcomes growth deal- 6/2/15

Vale of White Horse District Council has welcomed news that government investment will be going towards a project the Vale as identified as crucial to support growth in the district.

As part of the Growth Deal announced in Oxford by Grant Schapps support will be given for *further improvements to the A34, including the Lodge Hill Junction*. This will relieve some of the significant congestion and improve local infrastructure, which will support future housing and economic developments.

As part of the Growth Deal, infrastructure, housing and other funding has been brought to together in a single pot, and is given to local authorities and businesses to invest in what is needed in their area to maximise potential economic growth.

Councillor Matthew Barber, leader of the Vale of White Horse District Council, said: "This is excellent news for the Vale, and we welcome the government support for the project to open the slip roads at Lodge Hill in Abingdon. In our Local Plan we've stressed the importance of this project and other crucial infrastructure to support the growth we have to provide."

Another Planning app for Fernham Road - 6/2/15

12 dwellings and associated parking and landscaping, new access onto Fernham Road.

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P15/V0154/O>

This replaces an earlier application for (I think) 22 houses.

It includes transferring the SSSI land to the Fossil Trust (promised when Fernham Gate was built)

Ed

Humpty Public Enquiry - 6/2/15

Sorry folks, but a Public Inquiry is not designed for the attendance of the Public! Its for the Inspector to hear the appellant's case appealing the refusal. The district council and anyone who is registered as a Rule 6 party can also present evidence which has to be submitted in advance. The Inquiry is held in open forum and the public can attend, and will be allowed to present their own evidence but in my experience local opinion is largely ignored. The best chance is a coordinated presentation from the Parish Council or action group that presents the public evidence and local opinion in a professional and coordinated manner. Individual presentations are usually unfocussed and misguided. At a public Inquiry I attended, the legal teams of both the appellant and the district council actually chatted amongst themselves while the public were presenting their evidence! Humpty Hill Inquiry might be better, but I doubt it.

A Cynic

Name Supplied

Re Humpty Hill - 6/2/15

name supplied- I have read the notice and a vague line stating "an evening session may be held from 6pm to 8:30pm on the first or subsequent days of the Inquiry session at the direction of the Inspector following a request from the Applicant or the Principal Objectors" is not good enough. They can easily hold the enquiry over a weekend and or in the evenings, after all it's a public enquiry where they are supposed to be gauging the locals opinions. It should be at a suitable time for most residents to attend. If a planning inspector doesn't want to work evenings or weekends, then perhaps they should find alternative work. I have worked 7 days a week, 40+ weeks a year for two decades, because my work deemed it necessary. I hope I am wrong, but I think you will find the enquiry sparsely attended. Which will be a shame.

Grumpy Old Man

Ref. Rosalind Hurford. 3/2/2015 Tucker Park- 6/2/15

I have always been given to understand that Tucker Park was given to the Town for recreational activities by the Tucker Family as a Memorial to a member of the Tucker Family, Michael Tucker who was killed in world War Two. Michael Tucker was serving in the 5th Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment and died on the 10th June 1940 and he is buried in All Saints Church Yard plot number 807.

Before the Second World War Mike Tucker was a member of the Faringdon Fire Brigade, the attached photo (click to enlarge) was taken in 1937 and Mike Tucker is the Fireman standing on the right.

Bill Law.



Lost male long haired tabby cat - 6/2/15

...from around the lechlade road area in faringdon opposite the infant school. Please could people kindly check sheds and outbuildings. Please contact us with any info or sightings on 07736302901

many thanks.

Gina Kirby

Faringdon Free Food - 5/2/15

The next Faringdon Free Food session will be from 14.00 to 16.00 this Sunday (8th February 2015). Everyone (adults and children) is welcome to come along to this session.

Because of the cold weather this month we'll work indoors, grafting apple trees for growing on and planting out later in the year. We'll meet at 23 London Street, Faringdon, at 14.00.

Mark Crane

HUMPTY HILL PUBLIC ENQUIRY! - 5/2/15

For the Public Inquiry in March we need to have evidence in the form of witness statements documenting the usage of Humpty Hill by local people. This needs to be ready by Monday 16th February. If you are able to provide a statement we would be very grateful.

We are looking at the period from 1990 to present. This is not to say that users before this won't add weight.

The statement needs to include:

- 1) Your own activities in the field, especially if these involve the general use of the field rather than just the perimeter path.
- 2) Any activities that you have seen other people indulging in. (adults, teenagers or children)

If you would like to give a statement please contact by email, savehumptyhill@gmail.com. I will let you know what we need and give you and a map to sign.

Rob Stewart

4&20 Retail Development – Public Exhibition - 5/2/15

Some feedback from the exhibition at the Pump House on 4 Feb:

The plan is to develop just over half of the site as a retail park with a large Aldi, a small Waitrose (6000 sq ft - similar to those at motorway service stations but larger) and a drive-through Costa.

The developers expect the outlets to generate up to 120 new jobs and stop more people leaving Faringdon for their grocery shopping. They also hope to encourage passing trade and out-of-towners to visit the town centre (a tall order I suspect)

The remaining half is to be housing and an office block and is a separate development, i.e. it's a different developer and the retail development is not dependant on its approval. The timeline for the retail park is late 2016, early 2017 (with a following wind...)

I'm not sure this will do as much for Faringdon's existing retailers as the developers are hoping, but in the context of what else is happening in Faringdon - 380 houses on the other side of Park Road, 200 houses at Fernham Fields, 200 houses at Steeds Farm, 70 houses behind the youth centre and possibly 94 houses on Humpty Hill – the arrival of both Aldi and Waitrose is arguably both necessary and welcome. It will also bring some much needed employment to the area.
Folly Man

Petition- possible cuts to bus service - 5/2/15

I've started the petition "Oxfordshire County Council: STOP CUTS to VoWH subsidised Public Transport" and need your help to get it off the ground.

Will you take 30 seconds to sign it right now ? Here's the link:

<http://www.change.org/p/oxfordshire-county-council-stop-cuts-to-vowh-subsidised-public-transport>

Here's why it's important:

Oxfordshire County Council are currently reviewing our subsidised bus services for 2015/16. Some services may be under threat of being reduced or even cut in our area. The review includes the **61/63, 65, 66, 67/67A/67B**, including the **Wantage Independent Advice Centre Community Transport Service**, as well as others. I believe our existing services should remain untouched and, in fact, expanded. Approximately 950 new homes are to be built in our area over the next few years with the possibility of many of those new residents being non-drivers. Connectivity via Public Transport will be vital for those residents to travel to Family, Hospitals, Colleges, Work and Entertainment. Reduction of services in my opinion, and those of the signatories of this petition, are retrograde and make no sense of future planning. Please reconsider the review.

You can sign my petition [by clicking here](#).

Thanks !

Ian Gillies Bell

Mobile Youth Centre, coming to Faringdon - 5/2/15

..... next Tuesday evening- starting at Berners Way around 7pm and moving to Marlborough Gardens around 8pm

Stephen Martin

Re Humpty Hill enquiry - 5/2/15

People moaning that they will be at work and can't get there obviously haven't read it properly.

'an evening session may be held from 6pm to 8:30pm on the first or subsequent days of the Inquiry session at the direction of the Inspector following a request from the Applicant or the Principal Objectors'

Name Supplied

New Traders- Tuesday market - 5/2/15

There will be new traders at Faringdon Market next Tuesday including jewellery, scarves, bags, Forever Living, Kitchen & Vine hampers, gifts so please support them. More to come. If you wish to trade at Faringdon Tuesdays, Wantage Wednesday and Saturday or Didcot first Sunday each month then please message me. Lets make our market towns great markets

Jeanette Howse

Humpty Hill - 4/2/15

The FTC fought to get these hearings held in Faringdon so that local people could attend. They can't make them be held in the evenings and to be quite honest those involved also have a life. I'm retired so technically I could see the whole thing through. In reality, I have a life and whether I'm in work or not I can't attend the whole hearing although I will be there as often as I can.

Green Witch

Re- Humpty hill and other plans related to Faringdon - 5/2/15

Never before has Douglas Adams got it summed up so well:

ARTHUR DENT:

It's not exactly a noted social venue is it, The local planning office? And even if you had popped in on the off chance that some raving bureaucrat wanted to knock your house down, the plans weren't immediately obvious to the eye were they?

MISTER PROSSER:

That depends where you were looking.

ARTHUR DENT:

I eventually had to go down to the cellar!

MISTER PROSSER:

That's the display department.

ARTHUR DENT:

With a torch!

MISTER PROSSER:

The lights, had... probably gone.

ARTHUR DENT:

So had the stairs!

MISTER PROSSER:

Well you found the notice didn't you?

ARTHUR DENT:

Yes. It was on display in the bottom of a locked filing cabinet, stuck in a disused lavatory with a sign on the door saying "Beware of the Leopard". Ever thought of going into advertising?

Rob Perkins

Cleaner wanted - 4/2/15

Can anyone recommend a local cleaner please? Struggling to find one and need some help due to ill health. Thanks friends. Name supplied.

Tuckers Nursery? - 3/2/15

Wondering if anyone has memories of the nursery run by the Tucker family or the history of Tucker Park?

Rosalind Hurford

Humpty Hill Public enquiry- 3/2/15

Oh how convenient to have a "Public" enquiry when most of the "Public" are at work. 10am start?- well I will already have been at work two hours. I suppose having a hearing at a weekend when most people can attend would be far too sensible. At least the Town Council Meetings I went to were held in the evenings.

When I get home in the evening, I assume the people holding the "public" hearing have long gone home. I suppose it's an easy way of stifling any dissenting voices.

Grumpy Old Man!.

Barn Dance update: 1st Faringdon Scouts have an Early Bird Offer for families! - 2/2/15

A family ticket for the Barn Dance will be just £15 if bought on or before Saturday 28th February. During March and on the door family tickets will be £20. Adult tickets are £7.50 and child tickets are £5.

The Barn Dance will take place on Saturday 14th March at 7.30pm-10.30pm in Faringdon Corn Exchange. We'll have a bar throughout and tea, cakes and a raffle in the interval. The fabulous three-piece band Horseplay will play Irish Music to get you going and make it a night to remember. All funds raised will go towards 1st Faringdon Scouting costs. Call Faith on 01367 241237 for tickets.

Faith Carpenter

Public Enquiry Humpty Hill - 1/2/15

The Public Inquiry will start at 10 am on Monday 16th March 2015 in Sudbury House Hotel, 56 London St, Faringdon, Oxfordshire SN7 7AA and continue until 27th

March 2015 (excluding weekend), unless there is insufficient business. If those days prove to be insufficient, a further session or sessions will be arranged as necessary.

Notice and map can be found on <http://faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk/council/news/>

Fixing the Light - 1/2/15

Working hard to get the light back in action!
Replaced the bulb but still not working. Will try again tomorrow.



01/02/15 Dog found - 1/2/15

...approximately 5.15pm on Highworth Road. There were two dog, this is the smaller of the two, couldn't catch older one. Will be taking to Elms Vets first thing in morning to check for ID chip.

Stephen Bint

Coxwell street even better news - 1/2/15

Knowing that there is a dog loving lady living in coxwell street gives me reassurance now that I will not feel guilty when walking my pup along this road in future. I assume she must inhabit one of the camper vans.
graves nd

Good News about Coxwell Street (for a change!) - 1/2/15

I think they've just changed route and use Fernham Road now!
Name supplied

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Name supplied

Fernham Fields - 31/1/15

Has anyone fully looked at the decision notice about (now approved) the Fernham Fields development? DESPITE concerns about flooding, Nickel Contamination, Sewage, & Gas contamination, tree conservation, nesting birds etc etc - OUR district council said YES anyway - What is the point of having any say in electing local or national political representatives when they obviously DON'T represent the views of the people they are supposed to represent - SO looking forward (NOT) to my House & Contents Insurance renewal over the next few years when a computer decides that I live near enough (postcodewise) to this already blighted development to sting me for increased premiums for all this estate's issues relating to flooding, nickel, sewage, & methane gas! This is the direct link to the decision

.....http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/dynamic_serve.jsp?ID=378796542&CODE=E8B2E978FA24281A69666005C7E09130

Teresa Reynolds

Fernham Fields - Planning permission approved - 31/1/15

Doesn't that say something just in the name - "Fields" WE obviously don't matter and our MP could not help despite being photographed next to a flooded area on which they propose to build houses (good luck by the way in getting House Insurance should you buy a house there!) & despite our local councillors strong objection - it meant ZIP! So if a councillor & an MP is ignored why do we have

them? ihttp://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/dynamic_serve.jsp?ID=378796064&CODE=549690F4166A864D389EDE252B4CD581

Teresa Reynolds

Ed(GW) *Just to clarify- Faringdon Town Councillors objected. Our District councillor on the VWHDC Planning committee supported the application*

Good News about Coxwell Street (for a change!) - 31/1/15

The inconsiderate dog owner that has allowed their pooch to poop on a regular basis outside my house seems to have either adopted a more responsible attitude to pet ownership by now clearing up the mess (unlikely) or sadly now has an ex pet. So sorry for your loss, but at least I won't have to clean my carpet on a daily basis any more & buy new car mats to get rid of your beloved animal's disgusting mess. I work long hours and leave home before it is light and get home long after it is dark. As you were not feeding your dog Phosphorescent food which might have made the resulting poop glow-in-the-dark & visible, sadly I had no option but to wade through the hidden excrement.....

Teresa Reynolds

Banish the Bitingly, Bitterly Cold Blues- 31/1/15

Join us at The Bell Faringdon

Jamie's Foodie- Fusion- Feast Friday 6th February 2015

It's Faringdon's very own rising star. Chef - Jamie New Now on his 2nd year apprenticeship,

Jamie has created a menu of fusion flavours to tantalise the most discerning of tastes.

Jamie has devised and created this menu himself and will produce all dishes from scratch using only fresh, locally sourced ingredients.

Showcasing his improved knowledge and culinary skills that match any 'celebrity' Chef!

So come and join us for an evening not to be missed!

This popular event is booking fast to avoid any disappointment

Please call the Bell on 01367 358050 to reserve your table

Parking - 30/1/15

Having lived here most of my life 57yrs from childhood ive seen many changes to this lovely old town some good but im afraid now the town and most of its beauty is being squeezed out by our so called public minded local councillors

who just like the idea of the power they have representing us. It is all about the money we dont need more retail outlets or houses as for the parking we do have ample spaces if the car parks were used and no charges people would use them more as they are convenient to town center. The focus for faringdon commerce should be bringing business back to the town center and empty premises not the open green fields.
eric

Local singer on local radio - 30/1/15

Local singer Mark Chilvers regular at the Swan and the 15 Minute Club was on 'Swindon Live and Local' on Swindon 105.5 on Wed. Hear Marks interview and singing his own original songs on the podcast version of this weeks show.
<https://soundcloud.com/sean-hodgson/l-l-mark-chilvers>
Sean Hodgson

Camper vans? - 30/1/15

Could there be a poor long lost traveller inside who sadly passed away on there first visit to faringdon? As good neighbours should we break in and check.
MW

Fernham Fields - 29/1/15

Once again the Vale of White Horse District Council knows better than the residents of Faringdon. The Developers of Fernham Fields has been given planning permission to go ahead with building of countless houses. What is the point of objecting to Plans that we feel are not right for the area when District in the end ignores every single thing we say. Now some one wants to build more houses on the corner of Park Road and the A420.
Fed up Old Faringdonian

Waitrose in Gloucester St - 29/1/15

Waitrose v Tesco became a class war as reported in many newspapers if you look online. People wanted Tesco because it was cheaper and they were wrong.
A supermarket, any brand, in Gloucester Street could have worked. Budgens is on a one way street and the deliveries do cause an obstruction. The plans in Gloucester Street would have taken deliveries away from the road. With the 140 extra car park spaces we could have seen a better, tidier town centre.
Originally the Tesco plan was turned down by VWHDC because it was too far from the town but enough people moaned and moaned and they eventually won but now they still moan. If it's not the broken freezers and the staff attitude then it's the higher than promised prices.
Too late to change.
Name supplied

Fernham Fields- Permission given - 29/1/15

VWHDC have agreed that this development should go ahead. See
<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=FolderView&ID=377801736&CODE=27CF360D14A98B7194B67BFD98F6BE81&NAME=Decision+Notice&REF=P13/V0139/O>
Some time ago I heard it said that permission wouldn't be given until the S106 (Planning gain) agreement had been reached. I've only had a quick look at the decision notice- can't see anything.
ED

Photos of Faringdon - 29/1/15

Don't forget that our display of old Faringdon pictures will be ready for you to see from next Monday 2nd February and will be here for the whole month. We hope it will bring back happy memories for some of you and show newer residents how the town used to look many years ago.
Please pop along to the Community & Tourist Information Office in Gloucester Street during Feb and have a look!

Waitrose in Gloucester St - 29/1/15

Waitrose in Gloucester Street was turned down as it was a terrible idea - having a supermarket where people & deliveries have to go around a one-way system is a recipe for no end of congestion. Big stores in the centre of town would be nice, but the simple fact is there isn't the room for them there. Like every other town in the UK any big retail development has to go where there is a)space & b) enough transport access to make it viable.
Name Supplied

Plans for the town- 29/1/15

How short sighted the objectors to the plans by Waitrose were when they turned down the Gloucester Street plan in favour of Tesco's. People expected a huge Tesco's store with cheap prices and it's neither and on top of that when you leave you often struggle to turn right onto Park Road as it's so badly designed.
Waitrose would have given us a town centre store, no more expensive than any other (just options if you want a different range). We would have had a lovely big car park which I imagine would have given us at least two hours free parking like Wantage and Abingdon so enough time to shop and then pop to the town centre.
Gloucester Street residents have wanted permits and now may regret it especially if it's only one per household. A

new car park would have eased many of the problems, given the school drop off more space, shoppers would have been far more likely to park in the car park so would have eased Glos Street etc.
The town centre desperately needs more parking but sadly the chance may have been lost.
Name Supplied

Humpty Hill- 29/1/15

We applied to Oxfordshire County Council to have Humpty Hill registered as a Town Green under the Commons Act 2006 in April 2013. This would protect Humpty from development forever!
The application will be decided by public enquiry starting on the 16th March 2015.
We need to raise £300 for printing, stationary, Ordnance Survey maps, postage etc.
Any left over funds will be donated to charity.
link: <http://fnd.us/c/dvxfb/sh/c4SKDd>
Rob Stewart

Re: Parking. - 29/1/15

Most of the things related to the Parking Survey seem to have the same solution/problem - the rules are largely there but no-one is enforcing them. Issuing permits, double yellow lines & the like are all very well but until either the council or the police take responsibility for maintaining that these things are enforced I can't see much changing.
Thomas Tankengine

Here we go again. - 29/1/15

Would the idle person who allows their dog to leave piles of mess in and around the alleyways in The Pines, Beech Close and Maple road STOP.
Obviously a large dog who is not at fault, the owner knows better so PICK IT UP.
Name supplied

4&20 - 29/1/15

Brill. The more retail outlets the better, office space excellent. Tesco is very expensive they only stock a few lines and expensive. More competition the better.. Aldi would be brill the fruit and veg price half the price and better quality. I'm sure the owners will make that corner look good and give passing travellers something to come into Faringdon for.
Name supplied

Breaking News - 29/1/15

Just in case you haven't heard on the grapevine, a local developer has put forward a proposal for the vacant 4&20 site on the corner of A420 and Park Road. It includes an Aldi, a "Little" Waitrose, a drive-thru Costa and some residential and office space.
The plans will be on show at Jubilee Room of Pump House next Wednesday 4th February between 1-8pm. This is going to have a radical effect on our town. Please try and make some time to come and have a look and let the developers know what you think.
Please also let us know what you think of these proposals as we intend to feed back the views of the Chamber of Commerce (if a consensus can be reached). It must be good news that this site is now viable and that employment land forms part of the proposal, but how many more supermarkets and coffee shops do we need?
What do you think?
Please let me know.
Paul Brame. Chamber of Commerce
president@faringdonchamberofcommerce.co.uk

Developments in Faringdon- 28/1/15

At the Town Meeting we were reminded of the time The Folly woodland was under threat. My recollection was that this was to allow replanting to take place, with the new trees now some 30 years old. But how many remember the more serious threat from Hills Aggregates proposal to quarry part of the hill? How many remember that where the sports field now stands used to be a hill only 20 feet lower than Folly Hill called Jespers Hill. The plan was to extend the quarry across the road and take off the shoulder of Folly Hill, using the top soil to partially restore the Jespers Hill site. Fortunately a campaign stopped this. Worth remembering that all these new houses require sand and lime for construction.
Cassandra

Parking - 28/1/15

I attended the Town meeting on the Parking Survey outcome and found it at odds with the assurances I was given when I met the team in the Market Place. I was told then that resident parking permits were not being considered as they were a disaster but now it appears that they will underpin the reformed and enforced parking in the town. There are apparently more than sufficient parking places for everyone if only we'd use the car parks. All we need are lots of new double yellow lines and a one hour limit for non resident permit holders. Am I the only one who has found the street and car park full on a night with residents' cars? And if we make the town center so hostile to visitors, who will come here to shop? Is the idea to turn it into a ghost dormitory town? At present there is a tidal flow as commuters

leave, vacating spaces for visitors who later leave in time for the returning residents. Seems to me we are to be a cash cow for the council charging £50 or so per vehicle for more of the same lack of space to park. Yellow lines won't stop inconsiderate parking on pavements or across entrances, or make people park in one space not two. Council have been after a permit scheme for years because of the revenue raising it brings. For us, we may be able to park within 400 yards of our homes, a long way when burdened by shopping, children or age.
Cassandra

4&20 site - 28/1/15

The 4&20 site has permission for office/ light industrial use and that is what it should be used for. Why exactly does its owner, knowing this, want to create a retail / residential site 'with some office space'. Couldn't be profit by any chance??? The last thing Faringdon needs are retail outlets creeping out along the A420/ Not only will this jeopardise the viability of our town centre, it will destroy the existing designation of land use, and ultimately ruin the landscape setting and character of Faringdon. There were objections to siting Tesco on Park Road, & it now seems they were justified, having created a precedent for retail in this part of Faringdon! Why are these plans only on show for one day? People need to see them & comment and this is too short a time.
Name supplied.

4&20 Development- 28/1/15

Potentially good and bad news for Faringdon if this site finally gets developed. It would create some much needed local jobs as well as adding welcome alternatives to Tesco. But I'm concerned about the mention of residential development being included in the plans. It will be interesting to see what the developers have in mind but we have enough (too much) new housing to deal with already and this area is not designated for residential development in the Local Plan. I suspect it may be a case of 'We'll build you an Aldi, Waitrose and some office space...but only if you let us make some money by building houses as well!'
Folly Man

Re: Motorhomes on Coxwell Street- 28/1/15

I was sorry to read of Julie Griffiths' experience of the dangers posed by the inconsiderate parking of campervans and motorhomes near Danetree Vets. Unfortunately she is not alone; there was another near miss before Christmas in similar circumstances where a delivery van travelling up Coxwell Road nearly took the front off a car trying to exit the vets. I'm surprised they haven't done more to prevent this hazard to their customers. With increasing amounts of traffic using Coxwell Road it's only a matter of time before a serious accident happens as a result of these vehicles. I just hope it's not when kids and mums are walking to and from school.
Name supplied

GO Active - 28/1/15

Earlier this month we told you about our one month unlimited swim offer starting in February. Due to the recent fire at South Oxfordshire District Council, our IT system has been affected and we can therefore not register anyone for the swim offer at the moment.

However, we are in the process of getting this all sorted and will let you know when we are ready to launch this offer once again.

In the meantime, visit our website to find out about other activities taking place near you.

www.getoxfordshireactive.org

Tescos Freezers.- 28/1/15

I would be interested to know who supplied and installed the Freezers and their power supplies for Tesco's as they are obviously not fit for purpose.

Grumpy Old Man!

Re: Tesco Freezers - 28/1/15

Something is undoubtedly wrong with the freezers for them to break down as often as they are doing & something needs to be done to stop this happening, but I doubt the staff working there think it's a laugh with it happening so regularly either. The idea of giving the food away is nice, but with our U.S. inherited culture of "accidents don't happen & someone is to blame for everything" the risk (however minor) of being sued by someone receiving something for free, getting ill & then seeing £ signs, no-one will take that risk.

The Aldi/Waitrose idea sounds interesting - will they be situated next to each other so that Waitrose customers can look down their nose at those going into Aldi & the Aldi customers can wonder why those in Waitrose need slow baked focaccia with fennel & pine nuts? ;-)

Thomas Tankengine

Aldi? Waitrose? in Faringdon - 28/1/15

A proposal has come forward for the 4&20 site on the corner of A420 and Park Road. It includes an Aldi, Little Waitrose, Costa and some residential and office space. The plans will be on show at Jubilee Room of Pump House next Wednesday 4th Feb between 1-8pm. Come and have a look and let the developers know what you think.

Alex Meredith

School Kit - 28/1/15

A change to the news item re new FB group for selling school kit.

Due to popular demand I have extended it to include all the Academy of Schools. The new FB group is now called Faringdon Academy of Schools Kit for Sale or Wanted

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/391863270980849>

Thames Valley Police is appealing for witnesses after a burglary in Faringdon. - 27/1/15

The burglary took place between 4.15pm and 9pm Sunday (25/1) in Marlborough Close.

Offenders forced open rear patio doors. Jewellery and electrical equipment were stolen.

Anyone with information about this incident should contact investigating officer DC Chris Leech, of Abingdon police station, via the 24-hour enquiry line 101.

If you do not want to speak directly to the police you can contact the independent charity [Crimestoppers](#) anonymously on 0800 555 111. No personal details are taken, information is not traced or recorded and you will not go to court.

Re Daffodil:- 27/1/15

Don't worry about the solitary daffodil - one will soon turn into many... a bit like a camper vans ;-)

Name Supplied

Tesco Freezers - 27/1/15

For the second time in four days, Tesco is piling the total contents of their freezers into rubbish bags and dumping it today, because of freezer breakdowns. Only last Friday the TOTAL stock of fresh and frozen food was dumped for the same reason. This is, I believe, the EIGHTH time since last summer that Tesco has been responsible for mass food dumping. A smirking assistant calmly informed me today that they were 'insured anyway', so, by implication, it's no loss to them!

Am I the only person that finds this obscene in an age when people are starving in many parts of the world, and even in the affluent country we live in, thousands regularly have to use food banks in order to eat? When I suggested that local care homes, hostels, night shelters and food banks might be keen to take this food, which was still visibly frozen, I was told that they wouldn't take the risk 'in case someone got sick'.

The sickest thing of all is Tesco themselves who ought to be utterly ashamed of their corporate irresponsibility and waste.

Name supplied.

Re: Motorhomes on Coxwell Street - 27/1/15

Further to earlier comments, having visited Dantree Vets the other evening I was very nearly involved in what could have been an horrendous accident.

Due to the campervans/motorhomes being parked on either side of the clinic's driveway entrance I had to edge out very slowly in order to be able to see whether the road was clear for me to turn right. It was only down to pure luck that I did not have the front of my car taken off by another vehicle coming along the road towards town. Yes the oncoming car was speeding so was completely at fault but thankfully he was able to slam his brakes on & stop just in time, ending up only a couple of feet away from me. It scared the life out of me as I really thought he was going to hit me and there was nothing I could do about it.

My point is though had the campers not been there I would have seen him coming and not put myself in harm's way. I couldn't even see his headlights so how was I supposed to know he was even there? The owners of these vehicles should really think more carefully about where they park and consider the impact on other road users.

Julie Griffiths

Folly Light- 27/1/15

You might have noticed that the light at the top of the tower was off last night. It looks like the lamp needs to be replaced.

We have a new lamp on order and will be replaced ASAP.

Regards,

Raoul van Eijndhoven

Folly Tower Team

Parking on pavements - 27/1/15

Please, please, please can people stop parking on the pavements in Faringdon. It is becoming increasingly popular form of 'parking'. If I had a £1 for every time I've had to walk in the road (with small children) because some lazy driver hasn't bothered to take the time and park considerately I'd be rich!

Think before you park please, can someone in a wheelchair or with a pushchair walk past your car on the pavement?

Name supplied

Parking Survey- 27/1/15

I was unable to attend the Town Meeting on Monday night due to a family emergency. Would someone who was there be kind enough to post a summary of the main points regarding the parking survey?

Many thanks
Name supplied

Radcot Road Junction - 27/1/15

Yet another very near miss last evening at the junction of Radcot Road and Church Street. When will anyone in authority take seriously the notion that the prominent black-and-white chevrons facing Radcot Road indicating a sharp right turn are misleading. There is no need for this sign as the 'T' junction is obvious, and despite the Give Way sign at the junction, motorists unfamiliar with the geography are often led to believe - because of the chevrons - that Church Street is one way, and pull out in front of vehicles going straight on past the junction in the opposite direction.
Name Supplied

The Snow Queen - A Winter's Tale- 26/1/15

I went to rehearsals to have a sneaky peek at how the panto is going and boy, is it a good one! Tickets are still available for the evening performances, but the matinees are sold out. Tickets are available online, at the Nut Tree, or on the door if there are any left. Special Family Ticket - available online only for Friday night performances. £21 instead of £28.
Fiona Merrick

Daffodil - 25/1/15

I can't help thinking about that daffodil alone up the Highworth Road. It's like someone who turns up early at a party, only to find that there's no yet there and having to leave before any of the other guests arrive.
Name and address supplied.

Friday 30th January, 6pm to 9pm

FAMILY BOARD AND CARD GAMES EVENING with Jacky and Nik
The Rookery, 35 Marlborough Street, Faringdon SN7 7JL
Tel 01367 242030

Email - therookeryshop@gmail.com

Bored with the same old TV programmes? Why not try something different instead and join us for a fun evening of games for all the family?

We'll provide the games and explain all the rules so all you need to do is turn up and play!
Stay as long as you like - refreshments will, of course, be available for purchase (until 8.30pm).

Camper Vans- 24/1/15

There is guidance on when it is an offence to park a vehicle on the public road in the DOE website:
http://www.doeni.gov.uk/vehicles_guidance.pdf

One of the categories is that it's an offence to abandon a vehicle.

The definition of such a vehicle is if it satisfies one or more of the following:

- (a) untaxed;
- (b) no current vehicle keeper on the Driver and Vehicle Agency's (DVA) record;
- (c) stationary for a significant amount of time;
- (d) significantly damaged or vandalised, run down or unroadworthy;
- (e) burnt out;
- (f) lacking one or more of its number plates;
- (g) containing waste

At least one of the motorhomes in Coxwell Road falls into categories (c, d, g and probably a), so appears to have been abandoned.

Name and address supplied.

Unable to visit your library because of limited mobility or special circumstances? - 24/1/15

Talk to the Faringdon library. They will be able to arrange for someone to visit you, and bring and return your choice of books, videos, CDs
01367 240311

A daffodil- 24/1/15

Spring must be on the way, there is one solitary daffodil on the side of the Highworth Road near the viewing area. So nice to see this early in the year.
Name supplied

School Kit for sale/wanted on Facebook - 23/1/15

A new Facebook group has been set up called Faringdon Schools Kit for Sale or Wanted.

It is dedicated to selling or requesting school kit etc for all the Faringdon Schools. This has come from feedback from lots of people who have been trying to sell school kit on the other For sale sites but their things seem to be overlooked among the myriad of other stuff for sale. Here's hoping that the new page called Faringdon Schools Kit for Sale or Wanted will provide a one stop place to exchange school kit/uniform/P.Ekit/residential and ski trip kit/ musical

instruments/afterschool sports kit etc. Please spread the word and find it here....

www.facebook.com/groups/391863270980849

Nicola Brown

Rally in Witney - 23/1/15

Rural Oxfordshire Action Rally <http://www.roartoday.co.uk/witney-rally.html>

Rally organised in Witney against unsustainable developments in Oxfordshire.

Church Green Witney, OX28 4AZ 11.00 til 12.30

Low flying? - 23/1/15

Over the years we've had a history of Chinooks and other helicopters "homing in" on The Folly.

Recently this seems to have got worse. Larger aircraft have started to swoop around the town. Are the pilots trying to impress their families or is this part of the parking survey?

Either way, these guys could cause a safety issue by flying so low. Justified?

Name supplied.

The Snow Queen - A Winter's Tale - 23/1/15

Matinee shows are now SOLD OUT!

We still have tickets for the evening performances and we have extended the special Family Ticket price offer for the first night to the second Friday as well! This ticket is only available from our website.

Although this is not your 'usual' traditional panto, it has humour and playfulness, the usual struggle of good and evil ... but it's full of sparkle lovely costumes and songs galore!

Tickets available from our website, The Nut Tree, Corn Exchange, Faringdon, and (evening performances only) on the door.

www.faringdondramatic.org.uk

TOWN MEETING 26th January 2015 - 22/1/15

This is a meeting of the electors of Faringdon, not a meeting of the Town Council. ALL electors are welcome and may speak and vote on any item detailed in this agenda.

MONDAY 26th JANUARY 2015 at 7.30 p.m. in the Corn Exchange, Faringdon

You can see the Agenda on <http://faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk/town-meeting-26th-january-2015/>

Camper vans - 22/1/15

Allan- I have anticipated that the vehicle coming down Coxwell Road on the wrong side of the road (due to the Camper Vans) is not going to slow or move over, so I have been as far into the kerb as possible. This still hasn't stopped my car being hit twice by said oncoming van/ car even though I have been stationary!.

Grumpy Old Man!.

Yet more on Motorhomes... - 22/1/15

I see this morning that the plague seems to have spread into Highworth Road. To say that you can drive round them seems to be missing the point somewhat - it's more the number that have appeared & that whoever is parking them there doesn't seem to live anywhere close by, so they want the vehicle but without the hassle of having to look after it. They alone are not solely responsible for the issues on Coxwell Road/Street (e.g. whoever it is who thinks it's sensible to park on the opposite side to everyone else, where Coxwell Road meets Coxwell Street & the road is at it's narrowest), but they are making a bad situation worse, like the decision to make a lane for pedestrians where they are digging the pavement up when 90% of people are walking on the other side anyway.

Name Supplied

Purple hooded top found - 22/1/15

After fireworks night last year I found a purple hooded top with white drawstrings and yellow writing on the front. I haven't been able to find out who it belongs to and so now I'm putting it up on here.

Email faringdonscouts@hotmail.co.uk with the size if it's yours!

Faith Carpenter

Parking - 22/1/15

It's interesting that the Parking Study proposes to stop inconsiderate parking outside the Leisure Centre/College site by introducing Double Yellow Lines, while at the same time working on a parking study focused on the current problem of people ignoring and parking on double yellow lines. I would hope that double yellow lines will help, but they don't seem to anywhere else in the town.

Faith Carpenter

The Sun - 22/1/15

Now that The Sun has dropped its fine tradition of displaying semi naked women on page three, might I propose that Faringdon Online takes up the challenge? I suggest that tasteful photographs of nude or nearly nude citizens be displayed on its pages. Entries to FO, anyone?

Bystander

Back to parking- 22/1/15

Re: the difficulty of visibility with the camper vans. It is no more difficult than the numerous times I've tried to get out of a normal parking space but the vehicle next to me is a van or a 4x4 which I can't see through so I have to take pot luck.

Jane Boulton

Re:Motorhomes Coxwell Road,- 21/1/15

.. putting aside the emergence on this site of Highway Code Parking experts versus camper van parking you might want to consider that it is still the responsibility of the driver to look, assess, decide & then act!...irrespective of either emerging onto a major road or assessing safe & adequate clearance on parked vehicles...why would you treat them any differently than a refuse vehicle that is stationary & positioned in a parked position whilst working...I drive down & up Coxwell St/Rd with my pups(pupils) and we make decisions based on assessing everything around us...if I published my in car camera footage of local residents up and down this road you might find they would be embarrassed at their own actions....don't blame the parking for your own lack of awareness and anticipation...however until the experts decide what should be done then drive carefully and you won't come to harm...you cant miss me & my pups as we have a great big L sign on the roof of the car

Allan Barrow

Re the motorhomes on Coxwell Road- 21/1/15

This is an ongoing saga. I understood all the relevant authorities had been contacted and are unable to do anything about this. Unfortunately an out of date tax disc is no longer an indication of an untaxed vehicle - it's all done online now and there's no requirement to display a current disc on your windscreen.

Two things spring to mind.

There is an offence of leaving a vehicle in a dangerous position: It is an offence to leave a vehicle or trailer in a position on a road where it could cause injury to someone using the road. I think it could be successfully argued drivers trying to enter Coxwell Road from the numerous entrances and driveways are putting themselves in danger of injury due to the obvious obstruction to visibility these camper vans cause.

Secondly, and I think this has been mentioned before on here, do the vehicle insurers know the owners casually abandon their vehicles on this street - and not outside their own addresses? Are they technically uninsured? I note the local Police are at Tescos on Sunday fm 1200 -1300hrs - as below. I suggest as many people as possible moan about these vans to the neighbourhood team in person to push it up the agenda,

Name supplied

The Snow Queen - A Winter's Tale- 21/1/15

Fri 30th Jan, 7.30pm

Sat 31st Jan, 2.30pm and 7.30pm

Fri 6th Feb, 7.30pm

Sat 7th Feb, 2.30pm and 7.30pm

Tickets are going well at the Nut Tree. Remember to get yours soon, to avoid disappointment.

We have a specially priced Family Ticket, only available on our website for Friday 30th January - £21 instead of the normal price of £28 for 2 adults and 2 children.

www.faringdondramatic.org.uk

Parking - 15/1/15

The motorhomes parked on Coxwell Road are owned by different people. (I talked to one of the owners). They are doing nothing illegal even though, I agree, they don't look good and are a nuisance. As Tax Discs have been abolished, the display of an out-of-date one doesn't signify that the vehicle is untaxed.

The owner I spoke to uses his quite frequently mostly at weekends, so that one does move.

Perhaps we need somewhere in Faringdon where people who have motorhomes, large vans, builders lorries etc can park. They then wouldn't park on pavements on our narrow streets.

We could ally that with parking for coaches!

Green Witch

Mobile Homes/Camper Vans on Coxwell Road - 21/1/15

Vehicles no longer have to display a tax disc but you can check if a vehicle is taxed by going to -

<https://www.gov.uk/check-vehicle-tax>

Name Supplied

Mobile Homes - 21/1/15

Re. Mobile Homes, or Camper vans as I call them. Yes they are a pain in the backside parked there. I would suggest that the owners park them on their drives or outside their own houses, rather than cause obstruction to traffic where they are,

As of Nov. 2014 Tax Discs no longer have to be displayed on Vehicles as the system is all electronic. You can check

whether any vehicle is currently taxed by entering its registration on the DVLA website.
Regards Grumpy Old Man!

Parking - 21/1/15

Why all of a sudden has the parking interest switched from Coxwell street to Gloucester street. Coxwell is not wide enough to cope with 2 way traffic which is surely unsafe. Gloucester street is a One way street which functions really well apart from when the bin lorries hold up the traffic. Why should there be parking charges anyway if the first 2 hours are free it seems adequate time for shoppers to use. As for employees parking in the side streets whats new?? this happens in most most towns the incentive though to encourage them to use the car parks should be no charge apart from a cover note from their employers. If you want people to use the car parks do not put charges in place.
Kevin Collins

Mobile Homes parked on Coxwell Road - 21/1/15

Who is it that takes the liberty to permanently park four mobile homes on the west side of Coxwell Road near the Old Surgery? One of these at least hasn't a valid tax disc and appears to be unroadworthy. These vehicles are never moved and appear to be either abandoned or permanently stored on the public highway, obstructing the road and making the town look more like a scrap heap. The police are to be informed of this and asked to check whether these vehicles are road legal and whether the owner(s) could be traced and asked to move them to a more suitable location.
Name supplied.

Parking survey - permits- 20/1/15

I wonder how this will work, Glos Street residents having permits to give them priority to park along the road. Will it be one per household? I imagine many of the houses along there have more than one car. If there are permit holders only and some short stay visitor and shopper spaces as well then won't it be even harder for residents to park there in the future if they have multiple cars?

At the moment I understand some residents from Lechlade Road and Gravel Walk also park in Gloucester Street. The knock on effect is a worry, presumably these cars will just end up in other areas and we'll be back to where we started! A Glos Street resident permit in the car park is just £119 per year or £324 for non residents. I think if we were all offered the lower amount then there would be more takers but then I wonder if the car park is big enough!
Name Supplied

Thames Valley Police - 20/1/15

The following Have Your Say Meetings are being held in your Neighbourhood:

Date: Saturday, 24 January 2015

Time: midday - 1pm

Venue: East Hanney Village Hall

Date: Sunday, 25 January 2015

Time: midday - 1pm

Venue: Tesco, Park Road, Faringdon

Please come along, this is your opportunity to speak with your neighbourhood officers to discuss any local issues of concern you may have. If you are unable to attend but wish to speak with your neighbourhood officers, please call 101.

Parking Report - feedback from the consultant - 20/1/15

The First Draft report is based on the responses of over 400 completed questionnaires, two engagement event days attended by over 200 people, a complete visual and photographic survey of the whole of Faringdon, and five days of parking accumulation surveys. The First Draft Report has been issued for your comment and we will be presenting our findings on Monday 26 January. We have already received comments and the report will be updated and amendments will be made based on the comments received on this site and those made at the presentation on Monday 26 January. Clearly we have some confusion which is understandable and we will try and clarify these as follows:

Gloucester St Parking - 18/1/15 Name published

The proposals for Gloucester Street would allow residents a priority to park with a permit, but would also allow visitors to park for a limited time or to use the car park.

Parking Survey - 17/1/15 Name Supplied

Much of it says what we all knew anyway. Yes, the report is based on what you have been saying to us on the questionnaire and at our engagement events.

Current permit rules and charges are available on the Vale of Whitehorse's website, these should be taken as a guide. The proposals for the College are not covered by this report as they are covered by the recent planning permission.

Parking Survey- 17/1/15 Local Yokel

Yes, we have a balanced set of proposals which will allow your Town to function and will protect it from the developments that are coming.

Parking survey- 16/1/15 Name supplied

The biggest issue raised was the lack of enforcement.

Parking Survey - 16/1/15 Grumpy Old man!

We are proposing one bus stop to be moved, we have a lot of other proposals that will benefit and protect your Town. You are correct that the lack of enforcement is the biggest issue.

Parking Survey- 16/1/15

When we wrote the report we were unaware that the "unused" bus stop outside the Bell was a taxi rank as it was not signed or marked. Our recommendations have been amended to reflect this amendment.

Re: Faringdon Parking Survey- 16/1/15 Folly Man

The Parking Survey recommendations are simplistic in order that everyone can understand them, we have prepared displacement figures for each proposal and Faringdon as a whole, these will be presented on the 26 January and included in the Final Report.

Parking Study: - 16/1/15 Name Supplied

Yes a key recommendation is that existing parking restrictions "need to be enforced consistently", Oxfordshire County Council need to take up the powers to enable this to be rectified.

Why recommend relocating Coxwell Road bus stops closer to Highworth Road? Happy to discuss this one, as this proposal assists with issues near to this junction.

No bus stop is actually marked outside the Coaching Inn, this is where the 66/67 stop. The bus stop is marked out on the Market Island opposite the Coaching Inn, the Community Bus uses this bus stop in the mornings. The proposal has been revised to be a shared bus stop and loading bay.

Re: Parking Survey - 16/1/15 Name Supplied

Yes a key recommendation is that existing parking restrictions "need to be enforced consistently", Oxfordshire County Council need to take up the powers to enable this to be rectified.

Re: Faringdon Parking Survey - 16/1/15 Name Supplied

Yes a key recommendation is that existing parking restrictions "need to be enforced consistently", Oxfordshire County Council need to take up the powers to enable this to be rectified.

No bus stop is actually marked outside the Coaching Inn, this is where the 66/67 stop. The bus stop is marked out on the Market Island opposite the Coaching Inn, the Community Bus uses this bus stop in the mornings. The proposal has been revised to be a shared bus stop and loading bay.

The cost of the whole study is included in the Town Council meeting minutes, the report is not finished. It is currently a 65 page First Draft with over 200 pages of evidence in the Appendices, We are presenting our findings on the 26 January and it is subject to change based on the comments received. All comments received are most welcome. Please keep the discussion alive and try and attend the presentation on Monday 26 January, it's your Town you need to get it protected and safe for all users.

<http://www.garykaysmith.co.uk/faringdon-parking-study/>

The pictures of old Faringdon are certainly interesting. - 19/1/15

Ann's Garage had several premises in Faringdon in the first half of the 20th century. The picture taken through the Town Hall is of the offices and show room built in 1912 to replace a former garage situated between what is now Perry Bishop and what was Barclay's Bank. This showroom had petrol pumps and even a hoist to lift cars up to the first floor. The main workshop was situated behind the Red Lion in what is now the lower Southampton Street carpark. There was also an Ann's Garage garage as shown in the picture of Marlborough Street and yet another with petrol pumps at the top of Marlborough Street where the show room of the Faringdon Garage now stands.

I think the tall man in a cap and long coat in the workshop picture is probably Charlie Smith who was foreman at Ann's Garage and also Captain of the local Fire Brigade.

The isolation hospital was on the left of Highworth Road just past the entrance to Westland Road. I understand food and coal were left at the entrance while the patients served out their quarantine period.. Notice the sparkling white aprons.

The market pictures are interesting. Hundreds of men but not a woman to be seen.

The saddest picture to me is the picture of Dr. Pulling's residence Overton House opposite Arthur's Hill. I felt it was a crying shame when that beautiful house was pulled down to make way for the Faringdon Garage forecourt.

Finally, the Duke of York, the old "Drum and Monkey" with Michael Giannadrea stood outside. Happy memories and many thanks for showing them
Dennis Haynes

Parking at Community College- 19/1/15

I've heard that there is parking at the school for students who drive to school. I hope that it's only those who live out of Faringdon who are allowed to park
Name Supplied

Gloucester St Parking - 18/1/15

Any Faringdon resident can buy a permit to park in the Gloucester Street car park but and many residents do. Like many of the residents of Gloucester Street, I don't expect to be able to park outside my house but very much resent commuters and casual shoppers who park along Gloucester street when THEY could easily access the car park and 2 hours of free parking, and the semi-permanently parked camper vans! Day to day it would be great not to have to haul my shopping and children up and down from the car park. I think a residents parking scheme seems like a fair compromise

Name published

Parking Survey - 17/1/15

Much of it says what we all knew anyway. People park illegally and stupidly and lots of people buy homes without parking but then expect to be able to park outside.

Until I read it I didn't realise parking permits for the car park were available for Gloucester Street residents already, I think at about £120 per year. If they are to be given the opportunity to have permits to park outside their homes then presumably this will be the approximate cost? People who park along the road during the day for work, perhaps a discounted permit for the carpark would be fair?

Also I notice that the College may have to put double yellow lines 45 metres either side of the turning to enable buses to get around easily. The school may be having 10 extra spaces on site when a proposed new building goes ahead. Now last time I drove along that road there were many more than 10 cars parked outside the school, some in Carters Crescent and some along Fernham Road. I'm guessing then that these cars will just park further along, making the narrow end of Fernham Road (towards Fernham Gate) even more tricky?

Name Supplied

Re New/Old photos of Faringdon and the Folly - 17/1/15

Fascinating! Could the garage interior photo also be Ann's Garage? If you look to the right of the shot behind the man standing you can see part of a sign which appears to be for Ann's Garage. But whether that's the premises or just part of a vehicle in for maintenance who knows?

The other photos show Ann's Garage as in 'the narrows' (where the McColls newsagents is now sited) and up Marlborough Street (near where the Police Station is now).

If this workshop was at the back of the town centre site the walls could be the rear of the Crown Coaching Inn?

I'm sure a local expert will know.....

Nigel.

New/Old photos of Faringdon and the Folly - 17/1/15

Have a look at [Early 20th century](#) on this site

It seems there was a scarlet fever unit in Faringdon!

If anyone knows which garage is pictured, I'd be pleased to know

Ed(GW)

Parking Survey- 17/1/15

It's not surprising that parking enforcement is frequently mentioned in the report, we all know that enforcement is minimal in Faringdon. In most other parts of England parking enforcement has been taken over by Councils, so the on street enforcement is carried out with the car park enforcement- makes sense. Oxford CC and VWHDC have been resisting doing this- they say it will not be self funding. A bit surprising, given that other councils don't seem to think this as issue.

The recommendation in the report for changing the parking regulations on some streets, so that people can't park all day, seems to make sense to me. This may be of benefit to the shops and businesses. However, my guess is that it is the employees of these shops and businesses that park all day.

Whatever is done, without effective enforcement, there will be little improvement.

Just think- it's bad now, what will it be like when another 1000+ houses are built, most more than 1 mile from the Town Centre

Local Yoke!

Parking survey- 16/1/15

Some very sensible and well thought through recommendations in this report, particularly regarding residents parking and the use of existing private car parking, and most importantly the need to reinforce the current parking restrictions!

Name supplied

Parking Survey - 16/1/15

I have to agree with the general consensus that the parking survey has been a waste of money. Moving bus stops a couple of hundred metres???- what a waste of valuable money. Just ticket the illegally parked vehicles and fix the pot holes, sunken drains and split carriageways.

name supplied. (Grumpy Old man!)

Parking Survey- 16/1/15

This is a draft copy which is why it is going to be on the Town Meeting Agenda on 26th January. This meeting is

usually intended for the Town Council to put their proposal for the precept to the towns residents but the Survey has been added this time.

The "unused" bus stop is the one outside the Bell. It has been pointed out that this is in fact a joint bus/taxi stop and is used by taxi's, the Community Bus and the school bus that takes children to school outside of Faringdon.

Please come to the meeting to express your views. Then towns residents opinions are important and can often bring up ideas that no one else has considered.

Re: Faringdon Parking Survey- 16/1/15

The Parking Survey recommendations are overly simplistic in that they take no account of the knock-on effect on surrounding roads of enforcing existing parking restrictions.

As soon as we have a warden slapping £100 parking tickets on offending vehicles, people will start to move their cars to other areas of town which have not traditionally had a parking problem and which are not included in the report's recommendations.

I'm not suggesting for a moment that owners of cars parked on pavements and double yellow lines should not be fined for their thoughtless (and illegal) behaviour, rather that any recommendations should take into account the impact of car parking on Faringdon as a whole. Otherwise the parking problems affecting, say, Coxwell Street today will simply become a headache for drivers, pedestrians and residents in Coxwell Road tomorrow.

Folly Man

Parking Study: - 16/1/15

The much awaited report is one of the thinnest reports that I have ever seen! I think that it may have been written by a schoolchild as it woefully fails to come up with effective solutions. There are 20 references to enforcing restrictions consistently. Who is going to do this? The Police do not have time to be there all of the time. Why recommend relocating Coxwell Road bus stops closer to Highworth Road? They are pretty close already and to move them closer would create a traffic hazard. Why recommend relocating the bus stop in the Market Place? This is the busiest bus stop in Faringdon but the reports authors are clearly unaware of this. The bus stop outside of the Bell Inn is NOT "unused". It is where the community buses from Stanford, Baulking and Hinton Waldrist park. This report has been a complete waste of money.

Name supplied

Fire at South Oxf Council Office - 16/1/15

The message below is sent out on behalf of South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse District Councils:

Due to a major fire at South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils' offices there's disruptions to some services.

For the latest update and information please click on the link below:

www.southandvalecouncils.wordpress.com

The following services are running:

- Waste collections and street cleaning
- Leisure centres
- Housing benefits (payments aren't affected)
- Council tax payments by phone: 0845 303 8506 (South residents) or 0845 372 3201 (Vale residents)
- The Beacon in Wantage
- Cornerstone Arts Centre in Didcot
- limited Food and safety and building control services

In an emergency call 01235 520202.

Services affected by the fire include, planning, environmental health, finance and housing.

We will provide more updates next week.

We'd be grateful if anybody with any day to day enquiries can wait until fully we're up and running again.

Re: Parking Survey - 16/1/15

money well spent it seems? existing parking restrictions "need to be enforced consistently" - we can leave that to the near constant police presence in the town in that case.

Does the "news" that most of VWHDC work around 30 miles from Faringdon begin to explain their lack of focus on the town & surrounding area.

Name Supplied

Re: Faringdon Parking Survey - 16/1/15

Interested to read the draft recommendations from the Parking Survey. So after months of consultation, the key recurring recommendation is that existing parking restrictions "need to be enforced consistently". Right, so that wasn't obvious then. Further in the report another recommendation is to "Remove the unused bus stop outside the Coaching Inn, and replace it with a loading bay" That would be the bus stop outside the Crown Coaching Inn presumably? The one that the 66, 67, community bus etc all stop at... How much did this report cost the Town Council?!

Name supplied

District Council Offices - 16/1/15

I see on the news this evening that someone has burnt down the South Oxfordshire District offices. This will have a major effect on the Vales residents as the most of the administration was done from those offices.

Jane Boulton

See <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-30843089>

Looking for a fitness buddy. - 16/1/15

Beginner level. Interested in running, swimming, gym, yoga, classes etc. keen to get fit, lose weight and tone up. Want to set realistic goals but have a fitness buddy to get inspiration from.... Please do get in touch.

Tori_toriray1@googlegmail.com

Sport camp at Faringdon Infant School - 16/1/15

February - Monday 16th - Wednesday 18th.

We are running football 9am-4pm, Fencing 9am-12:30pm, Tri golf 12:30pm-4pm.

Prices:

Full Day £15.00

Half Day of Fencing or Tri Golf £7.50

Extra time £5.00 if needed.

Early Bird Discount Available if booked 2 week before camp due to start.

please contact Alana on 07954138599 for more details.

<http://chewits.premiersport.org/>

Faringdon Parking Survey - 15/1/15

Faringdon Residents will have the opportunity to discuss and comment on the first draft of the Parking Survey. [The documents are available on the FTC website](#)

Please come to the Town Meeting on 26th January at 7.30pm in the Corn Exchange and share your views.

At the meeting residents will also have the opportunity to hear about the Town Council precept plans for the coming year.

The Agenda will be available on Wednesday 21st January.

A417 flooded - 15/1/15

Reassuring to see that the A417 is still flooding at Challow after the road having been effectively closed for 3 months.

Thomas Tankengine

Bad driving - 15/1/15

This comment is directed to the male driver who verbally abused me in Market Square this morning in the hope that he sees my response:

Your presumption of superiority over all the other drivers in the vicinity and the loss of right of way over traffic coming down the road did not justify your appalling language. I hope you felt some remorse once you realised that there was a medical emergency blocking the road ahead. I also hope that you aren't a Faringdon resident as it wasn't your proudest moment.

Name supplied

Faringdon Regent Cinerma - 13/1/15

Help the Regent Cinema provide a better service!!

Please spare just a few minutes to complete our short survey to leave us all your feedback and any suggestions.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BZ3Z29M>

Creative Computing- 12/1/15

Science Oxford are running two taster days and one creative project day for 11-16 year olds in creating and building your own computer-controlled creations.

Taster Days: Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th of February

Project Day: Friday 20th of February*

Cost: Free

Location: The Old Town Hall Faringdon, Market Place, Faringdon, Oxfordshire, SN7 7HL

*attendees at the Project Day must have attended one of the Taster Days

For more information and to reserve a place, see www.scienceoxford.com/live

Email: creativecomputing@scienceoxford.com

Tel: 01865 810022

Pool - 12/1/15

this is comment for rob if you go to the wheatsheaf pub and ask brian or ally they will advise you how to go about finding a pool team phone number is 01367 244219

Jane Lewis

Youth Exchange Programme- 12/1/15

Tuesday 14th July to Monday 20th July 2015

A group of French children from our twin town of Le Mele in Normandy will visit Faringdon (age 12+).

Monday 20th July to Saturday 25th July 2015

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. This is a great experience to develop confidence in speaking French and gaining Leadership Skills. If you know of anyone interested then please ask them to get in touch.

Carolyn Murphy

(Faringdon Youth Twinning Association Volunteer Organiser)

cmurphy@brookes.ac.uk

Play Pool - where? - 12/1/15

Does any one know where there is a good place to play pool in or very near to Faringdon? I used to play extensively for various teams in Abingdon and Oxford years ago but now the kids are a bit older I'm keen to play once more. Snooker would be nice too. I'm just wondering what is available where it is reasonable to play on and as local to Faringdon as possible.

Thanks in advance for any help

Rob.

Development behind Regent mews and Volunteer - 11/1/15

The application says

3.1 Access would be taken from a modern development through Regent Mews. Visibility splay on to the main road from the existing access are good, especially given the relatively slow moving traffic, which is moving one way only.

Presumably the Regent Mews road will be 2 way. Is it wide enough?

Name Supplied

Development behind Regent Mews- 11/1/15

Looking at the plans it seems that a number of parking spaces belonging to Regent Mews will be lost, unless I'm missing something and the spaces will be included in the new development.

Don't suppose Dr Scott-Brown wants the cars using the access by his house then!

I like that they've taken the photos of the car park when it was nearly empty, waiting for residents to go to work. Some of them park in Gloucester Street anyway so can we expect even more parking issues along this road?

Name Supplied

Another planning application, this time in conservation area.- 11/1/15

I see another housing planning application (see <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P14/V2892/FUL>) is submitted, this time for the woodland area behind Regent Mews and the Volunteer pub. Given that notification to local residents seems rather patchy. Please have a look to see if you are affected and if so make an objection before 28th January.

This is a conservation area, and outside of the development boundary which was so carefully included in the Faringdon Development Plan,

If you need background documents to support your arguments on material planning considerations, please do contact planingobjection@hotmail.com and I will send what I have.

Name Supplied

New Libdem prospective parliamentary candidate from Faringdon - 10/1/15

I am very pleased to announce that I have been selected as the Liberal Democrat prospective parliamentary candidate for Wantage constituency for the general election on May 7th.

I live in Faringdon so I want to use the opportunity of the campaign to raise our town's profile as well as tackling the key issues we face in Faringdon - maintaining and improving sustainable housing, transport, jobs and public services. I'll be out and about around Faringdon and across the constituency over the next four months so hope to meet as many people as possible. In the meantime if there are any issues that I can help with on the campaign or if there are local groups that I can attend to hear more about how I could help please email me: alex@brightgreendragon.com or call me on 01367 243450 or 07592447794

You can keep right up-to-date on the campaign at my website: www.alexmeredith4wantage.com, on Facebook - www.facebook.com/alexmeredith4wantage, or on Twitter www.twitter.com/faringdonlibdem

I hope that by standing I can provide a positive alternative choice for people on May 7th and do some good for Faringdon and other communities in the constituency along the way. If you would like to help in any way, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Alex Meredith

One month unlimited swimming for £5 in South and Vale - 9/1/15

<http://www.getoxfordshireactive.org/class-news/2015/01/one-month-unlimited-swimming-for-gbp5-in-south-and-vale>
VWHDC

Re- Dog Toy Found- 9/1/15

We named him Floppy, and last night he was wearing a hat that someone left behind in the shop!

We don't think Floppy really likes the hat though, so maybe the owner of the hat, or their mummy, should go into Budgens to the tills at the car park end and see if the hat belongs to them.

Fiona Merrick

Old Bras - 9/1/15

Birdy's Underwear Shop 54 High Street, Witney, Oxfordshire OX28 6HJ 01993 703806

Collect used bras

Monica Graham

Soggy dog toy found - 9/1/15

Found yesterday morning 8 January, in Budgens car park a rather soggy cuddly dog. Hes two tone brown very soft. He is waiting on the tills in Budgens for his owner.

Carol Townsend

Free Food Planting Session - 9/1/15

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

As it's a chilly and wet time of year we'll only have one session this month.

The next Faringdon Free Food session will therefore be from 14.00 to 16.00 this Sunday (11th January 2015).

Everyone (adults and children) is welcome to come along to this session.

We can't yet finish the raised beds opposite the Swan Inn because the soil that we need to fill the beds is too wet for delivery. Instead, this month we'll tidy up the Town Centre planters and prepare them for future planting.

We'll meet in the Market Place at 14.00.

Best wishes

Mark Crane

Time to get in your attics, check in the backs of cupboards and blow the dust of the old photo albums! - 8/1/15

Here in the Community & Tourist Information Centre we are putting on a display of old Faringdon photos during February. We noticed the subject has been so popular on Facebook that we thought it would be great to have them all in one place for people to see,

Ideally photos as old as possible and up to the 1970's.

If you don't want to leave your photos with us then we can scan or photocopy them here.

Anything else you think of that may be of interest then we'd love to know about it.

If you could get to us by January 30th we'll have it all ready for Monday 2nd February!

Thank you,

Faringdon Community & Tourist Information

Glos Street.

01367 242191

Message for Joan - 8/1/15

A Naomi Gratton left a message on my answer phone (landline) over Christmas for "Joan" and her husband.

Unfortunately Naomi left no contact number so I am unable to tell her that she left the message at the wrong number - no Joan has lived here in recent years.

The impression left by the message was that Joan and Naomi lived fairly near each other, but hadn't been able to see each other recently, therefore I think they are probably local and maybe just a wrong digit in the telephone number.

If anyone knows Naomi Gratton please could you let her know that her message did not reach Joan.

Many thanks

Miranda Boscawen

Faringdon Parking Survey- 7/1/15

Following a major consultation, the recommendations to improve parking in the centre of town are in the process of being finalised. This could be the start of major changes to parking in Faringdon. If you park regularly in Faringdon Town Centre, or are a resident or business owner on one of the central streets - Market Place, London St, Church St, Marlborough St, Gloucester St, Coxwell St - this could affect you!

There will be a public meeting on the recommendations at the Corn Exchange on **Monday 26th January at 7:30** or, if you want a preview, the draft report will be discussed at the Town Council meeting next Wednesday 14th at 7:15. It would be great to see as many people as possible at the meetings so we can get a clear sense of opinion about the proposals before they are sent to the Vale.

Alex Meredith

Old Bras - 7/1/15

I know that Sue in Cariad Bride used to collect old bras to be recycled. Does anyone know where we can take or send old bras now that the shop has closed?

Thanks

Ann Jerome

Re: Parking Survey- 7/1/15

Will there be any outcome/response to the things mentioned on the survey? as parking issues seem to have got worse since the survey ended.

Name Supplied

ED *I think the report is being finalised. Whatever is recommended, getting it implemented by Oxfordshire County/VWHDC will be the next task*

Faringdon Community Bus AGM - 6/1/15

The Annual General Meeting of Faringdon Community Bus Ltd will be held on Thursday 5th February 2015 @ 4:00pm in the Jubilee Room, The Pump House, 5 Market Place, Faringdon. Everyone is welcome!

Steve Wright

Re parking in disabled bays at Tesco - 5/1/15

Not just the disabled bays but also the mother and child ones. I've seen work vans, cars full of teenagers and drivers with no children parked there as well.

Name Supplied

Volunteers wanted - 5/1/15

Oxfordshire Befriending for Life (OXBeL) is seeking volunteers who live in and around Faringdon to help raise awareness about the support available to families where someone is living with a serious life threatening illness. Help needed designing and producing leaflets and posters, arranging meetings and contacting local community groups. (OXBeL) supports anyone over the age of 18 who is living with an advanced life threatening illness. The service is commissioned by the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning group. We are part of Age UK Oxfordshire. Please see www.oxbel.org.uk

Get in touch to find out more.

Joan Gardner

Parking in disabled bays at Tesco. - 4/1/15

I had to get some last minute items from Tesco this Sunday around 15:45 and I appreciate the car park and store was quite busy but why do people insist on using the disabled spaces when there is absolutely nothing wrong with them and they have no blue badge! I counted three when I went into the store.

Why also does Tesco not do anything about this?

Name Supplied

Glos St parking - 4/1/15

So tired of trying to find parking along Gloucester Street when there are so many permanently parked camper vans etc. I understand that no parking laws are being contravened but you'd think that owners who need to park their cars for longer periods of time could play fair! A number of these vehicles do not belong to Gloucester Street residents and the situation is further compounded by the number of commuters parking up for the day before heading off to Oxford for work. I don't think a residents parking scene is the entire answer but it would go some way to ensuring a more equitable arrangement for all.

Name supplied

Ferndale Community Choir. First session January 7th, 7pm - 3/1/15

Term starts 7th January 2015 7pm, Ferndale School, Bromsgrove, Faringdon, SN77JF.

Free Parking in Southampton St car park, less than 5 minutes walk away.

£2.50

Louise Woodgate, a professional singer and singing teacher, leads the choir.

No auditions, no need to read music, no experience needed- everyone welcome.

You can find out about the songs we will sing and get the words and listen to some of them on

<http://ferndalehcc.weebly.com/index.html>

If you need more information do phone 01367 242222

Gene Webb

Stamps - 3/1/15

The Sunshine Cat rescue collect stamps. You can read more

here <http://www.sunshinecatrescue.org.uk/version2/news.php?showarticle=1000052>

Louise D

Pie Maker - 2/1/15

I read about a piemaker from Faringdon, but lost the article and I now cannot find any info about him. Any ideas?

Regards

Patricia Walker