



Sally's Summary

This regular feature will summarise the meetings and council work over the month.

Full Council meeting November 11th

- David Brown was co-opted as a member of Faringdon Town Council to fill the vacancy resulting from the resignation of Cllr. Julie Farmer. David is a historian and archaeologist, and previously stood in the 2019 election. He wants to promote the history and pride in the town.
- The Council agreed all documents necessary to apply for a Gold Standard Council award. The application will be judged by the National Association of Local Councils in January 2021.
- The Council resolved to investigate traffic problems in the town centre, including the bus lane and London Street.
- Meetings during the CV19 pandemic - It was agreed to:
 1. Postpone the Annual Meeting of Council to May 2021
 2. Encourage the public to participate in the budget setting meetings in December and January.
 3. Publish Town Council meetings on YouTube
- The Council agreed to circulate a survey to residents to encourage participation and find out residents' views. The Survey will be available on the Town Council website and in hard copy in the Information Centre. Please have your say!

Budget Setting 2020.21

The budget setting process has begun. The public are urged to attend to the virtual Finance and Audit Meeting on 17th December and the virtual Full Council meeting on 13th January to tell the council what the community needs.

Footpath and Snow warden scheme coming soon



We are looking for residents to volunteer as Footpath and Snow wardens. Footpath wardens will help ensure local footpaths are maintained to be enjoyed by the community. Snow wardens will help by monitoring salt

levels in local grit bins, spreading salt on local footpaths and reporting any issues with the roads. If you wish to join either scheme, please contact us:

office@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk

Meetings in December and January

Details, agendas and links are available on our website.

You can now join our council meetings via Microsoft teams. Please find links on our website.

If you can't join but would like to ask a question please email sally@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk.

If you miss a meeting, a recording will be available for one month on our YOU Tube Channel: 'Faringdon Town Council'

Full Council	16 th Dec and 13 th Jan
Planning and Highways	23 rd Dec and 27 th Jan
Community & Partnerships	2 nd Dec
Facilities	16 th Dec
Finance and Audit	17 th Dec

Covid Update

November saw the start of a second lock down and we sadly had to close the Corn Exchange to hirers and the Information Centre to visitors and residents. The foodbank has continued throughout with generous donations from the community and local groups and businesses. For further information on the Foodbank please visit:

<https://www.faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk/food-bank-in-faringdon-covid19/>.



The Place children and family project completed its move to the Corn Exchange and the staff and volunteers are working hard towards face to face sessions whilst

continuing online groups and facilitating the baby clothes library. For information about the Place please visit:

<https://www.theplace-faringdon.org/> or call Carole 07973678837



Faringdon Information Centre

We have a range of charity Christmas cards from Cards for Good Causes. The charities include British Heart Foundation, Cancer Research UK, Marie Curie, Mind, Stroke Association, RNLI Lifeboats, SSAFA the Armed Forces Charity and many more.



December's Artist of the Month is Teresa Mackenzie.

Teresa has lived in this area all her life and likes to try new handicrafts as well as returning to those she has enjoyed in



the past. Her favourite craft is making jewellery. She not only strings necklaces and makes up earrings, etc., but also creates the beads for these pieces. This involves hand rolling each bead, decorating and baking them, and then varnishing each one. Another

craft she has been working on is shuttle tatting- a form of lace making. She has recently been making some pretty snowflake earrings using this skill.

Come along to the Faringdon Information Centre during December to buy your charity cards and locally produced gifts, and to see Teresa's work. Faringdon Information Centre is open 9am to 12:30pm, Monday to Friday, and 9:30am to 1pm on Saturdays, from the 3rd of December 2020 after lockdown restrictions have been lifted.

Tidy Team

The Town Council Tidy Team can weed, pick up litter and cut back undergrowth on paths and in alleyways in the town. Let us know about any areas that need attention and if we can, we will! Contact: liz@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk or call 01367 240281. Did you know grant funding is available for shopkeepers and residents to use that help make the town centre look attractive? Why not find out if you are eligible?

Councillor Focus:

Deputy Town Mayor Cllr. Kiera Bentley

I was co-opted on to Faringdon Town Council (FTC) in 2016, then elected in 2019. I am Deputy Mayor and Chair of the Facilities Committee; I also sit on all the committees. I help various charities, so with all the voluntary work and the on-going training, I am almost too busy to run my own business and partake of my equine addiction! I moved to Faringdon a decade ago with my husband and varied menagerie. From the first time I visited the town, I noticed the friendliness of the community and, of course, the beautiful buildings steeped in history. We were warmly embraced by the residents. I love the way that residents take such pride in their properties and decorate them for the various festivities. I have been known to join in with this tradition and you may have seen me around town with my mule and carriage! I enjoy coming into the town to use local services; especially nice is supporting local producers and using artisanal, homemade items.



In this difficult year, Remembrance Sunday was marked by a small socially distanced gathering for wreath laying. You can see videos and photographs of what took place on the FTC website and Facebook page. Thank you to those that took part. We will remember them.

With the inevitable cancellation of Festive Faringdon, I wanted to assure you, the town centre will still be bright this Christmas. FTC is funding the lights and small Christmas trees. The feature tree is, again, kindly donated by Acorn Timber. Thanks to volunteers from The Rotary Club for their time and effort helping to put the trees up and to Faringdon Electrical for their hard work.

Covid -19 has made this year a challenge for everyone. People show stress and anxiety in different ways; sometimes it is the most unlikely people you think of that are struggling so try to be kind and considerate. It is my experience that the kindness will be repaid somewhere along the line.

Cllr. Kiera Bentley