

FARINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

The Pump House, 5 Market Place, FARINGDON, Oxfordshire, SN7 7HL

Telephone 01367 240281

www.faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk

Clerk: Sally Thurston



To: Members of Faringdon Town Council

You are summoned to attend an online meeting of Full Council on Wednesday 10th March 2021 at 7.15pm. Press & Public are invited to attend via this link:

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Questions can be submitted to office@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk

AGENDA

- 1. Roll call**
Cllrs. summoned: Bentley, Brown, Boulton, Burns, Castle, Famakin, Finn, Leniec, Martin, Morgan, Smith, Swallow, Thomas and Wise
- 2. Apologies for Absence**
- 3. Minutes of last meeting – Wednesday 10th February 2021 (attached)**
- 4. Declarations of Interest & requests for dispensations**
Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest which they may have in any item of business on the agenda no later than when the item is reached. Unless dispensation is granted, you must withdraw from the room when the meeting discusses and votes on the matter.
- 5. Public Participation Time**
This period is designated for public speaking accordance with Standing Order 3 (f). Members of the public are welcome to speak on any business itemised on the agenda for up to 3 minutes. Questions will be restricted to one from each member of public, or a maximum of 3 per meeting. Written notice of questions must be received by the Clerk at least 3 working days before the meeting.
- 6. Reports from Outside Bodies**
To receive and consider reports to include:
 - a) Thames Valley Police (to follow)
- 7. County Councillor's Report**
To receive a report from County Cllr. Judith Heathcoat (attached)
- 8. District Councillors' Report**
To receive a report from District Cllrs. Bethia Thomas and David Grant (attached)
- 9. Chairman's Activity Report**
To receive an activity report from Town Mayor, Cllr. Mike Wise (attached)
- 10. Reports from Committees and Working Parties**
To receive minutes and reports of the following committee meetings, including decisions taken under delegated authority:
 - a) CIL Working Party : 17th February 2021 (attached)
 - b) Planning and Highways Committee: 24th February 2021 (attached)

- 11. Clerk's Report & Schedule of Payments**
 - a) To receive and consider Clerk's activity report (to follow)
 - b) To receive and consider the schedule of payments up to and including March 10th (to follow)
- 12. CIL Working Party**
 - a) To consider recommended DRAFT terms of reference (attached)
 - b) To consider application forms for CIL bids (attached)
- 13. Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill**

To consider supporting the bill
- 14. Local Transport and Connectivity Plan Vision Consultation**

To consider a response
- 15. Covid Update**

To receive an update (to follow)
- 16. Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils Renewal**

To consider membership renewal
- 17. Oxfordshire Plan 2050**

To receive a request for thoughts on the ideas received during the consultation on how challenges facing us in the future might be tackled.
- 18. Items for Information Only (to follow)**
- 19. Correspondence**

To receive, for information only, a list of correspondence circulated by email from 4th February 2021 up to and including 4th March 2021 (to follow)
- 20. Agenda Items for the next meeting**

To suggest items for the agenda of the meeting to be held on 14th April 2021.



Town Clerk
4th March 2021

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Minutes of a Full Council meeting held on Wednesday 10th February 2021 at 7:15pm, via video conferencing.

Cllr. Wise welcomed everyone to the meeting held via Microsoft Teams Video Conferencing. Members were reminded that the meeting was being recorded.

1/2/21 Roll call

Cllrs. present: Bentley
Brown
Boulton
Burns
Castle
Famakin (arrived item 5)
Finn
Leniec
Martin
Smith
Swallow
Wise

In Attendance: 1 member of the public
C/Cllr Judith Heathcoat
PCSO James Pelling
Sally Thurston Town Clerk
Marzia Sellitti, Deputy Town Clerk
Jo King, Town Clerk's Assistant

2/2/21 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Thomas and Morgan.
D/Cllr Grant

3/2/21 Minutes of last meeting – Wednesday 13th January 2021

It was PROPOSED that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 13th January 2021 be SIGNED as a correct record. This was SECONDED and RESOLVED.

4/2/21 Declarations of Interest & requests for dispensations

None

5/2/21 Public Participation Time

None

6/2/21 Reports from Outside Bodies

Members NOTED Reports from.

- a) Thames Valley Police, PCSO Pelling updated members on police activities within Faringdon and the outer areas. Clerk to contact District Council who owns the pond in Faringdon regarding the arrival of the otters.

- b) Faringdon Partnerships Network

7/2/21 County Councillor's Report

Members NOTED a report from County Cllr. Judith Heathcoat

8/2/21 District Councillors' Report

Members NOTED a report from District Cllrs. Bethia Thomas and David Grant.

9/2/21 Chairman's Activity Report

Members NOTED an activity report from Town Mayor, Cllr. Mike Wise.

10/2/21 Reports from Committees

Members NOTED minutes and reports of the following committee meetings, including decisions taken under delegated authority:

- a) Finance and Audit Committee: 20th January 2021
Members received a recommendation regarding 0/1/21 Financial Risk Assessment 2020/21, it was PROPOSED by Cllr. Wise to APPROVE the Financial Risk Assessment for 2020/21. This was SECONDED by Cllr Leniec and RESOLVED.
- b) Planning & Highways Committee: 27th January 2021
- c) Planning and Highways Committee: 3rd February 2021

11/1/21 Clerk's Report & Schedule of Payments

- a) Members NOTED a Clerk's activity report.
- b) Cllr. Wise PROPOSED to APPROVE the schedule of payments up to and including 10th February (appendix a). This was SECONDED by Cllr. Finn and RESOLVED.

12/2/21 Strategic Working Party 3rd February 2021

- a) Members PROPOSED to APPROVE the revised short-term objectives in the Strategic Plan as follows. This was SECONDED and RESOLVED.
 1. Support the Town Centre to preserve retail space.
 2. Promote all town council good work and improve communication.
 3. Climate change – continue to tackle with active working party.
 4. Parking – revisit the parking survey.
 5. Achieve the Gold Standard award for local councils.
 6. Set up a post covid WP to support towns recovery,
 7. To set up CIL WP and compile list for spending to take to consultation with residents.

Trusts

 1. Install a multi-use games area in Faringdon – preferred location Tucker Park.
 2. Complete renovations on Old Town Hall
- b) Members elected Cllr Bentley, Burns, Castle, Finn, Leniec and Swallow to a Covid-19 Recovery Working Party, an Officer will be assigned.
- c) Members considered Town Centre regeneration, especially focusing on the ground floor of Town Centre properties that they remain retail/commercial. Members delegated Town Clerk to approach developers with current proposals and future ones. Also, to contact District Council to find out their vision for the Town Centre.

- d) Members elected Cllrs Bentley, Bolton, Brown, Castle, Famakin, Smith and Swallow to a CIL Working Party.
- e) Members received community survey results; it was NOTED that the Clerk had set up a meeting with OCC to discuss options regarding town centre traffic.

13/2/21 Licence Application

Members considered an application for a new premises licence for 7a Market Place, Faringdon and had no objections.

14/2/21 Old Town Hall Renovation

Following the withdrawal of the chosen contractor members reconsidered tenders as recommended by architect. It was PROPOSED to appoint contractor Imperial Restoration and Construction Ltd. This was SECONDED and RESOLVED.

15/2/21 Covid Update

Members NOTED a Covid-19 update.

16/2/21 Items for Information Only

- War Memorial flowers rota arrangements were NOTED as a success.
- High Sheriff's Awards are now open for nominations.

17/2/21 Correspondence

Members NOTED, for information only, a list of correspondence circulated by email from 8th January 2021 up to and including 10th February 2021.

18/2/21 Agenda Items for the next meeting

None

Meeting ended at 20:18pm

Appendix a. CLERK'S REPORT	Feb-21	
Salaries	Salaries	£ 12,859.08
HMRC	Tax and NI	£ 3,191.55
OCC Pension CONTS	Pension Contributions	£ 4,308.42
Bacs payments to pay		
Faringdon Electrical Services	Christmas Lights	£ 5,179.84
Caldecourt Carpets	CEX top office carpet	£ 501.00
Cloudy Group	Telephone access licence (2 months)	£ 9.48
AIS	Copier costs	£ 25.20
Oxfordshire County Council	Better ways to school	£ 15,743.22
MHL	Removal of cold-water tank	£ 792.00
SLCC	Practitioners Conference	£ 90.00
Lease plan	Van lease	£ 169.48
OALC	Cllr Training (JB Nov & Dec)	£ 120.00
S Thurston	Foodbank reimbursement	£ 164.00
Cards for Good Causes	Charity cards sold	£ 3,610.48
Barclay Card	Card fee	£ 21.67
HSQE	H&S training whole team	£ 391.20
Daglish	OTH Scaffold design and drawings	£ 1,104.00
Direct Debits		
Coop Bank	Credit Card repay	£ 196.84
VWHDC	PH Rates	£ 462.00
VWHDC	Tennis court rates	£ 99.60
CF Corporate	Photocopier Lease	£ 761.80
Fuel Card services	Fuel Card services	£ 8.40
British Gas	PH Gas	£ 475.16
British Gas	OTH Electric	£ 25.50
British Gas	Capped Meter	£ 21.01
Mainstream	Telephone and broadband	£ 207.66
Screwfix	Maintenance	£ 59.97
O2	Mobiles	£ 54.13
British Gas	CEX Gas	£ 748.45
British Gas	CEX Electric	£ 175.02
British Gas	PH Electric	£ 79.83
Total Town Council Invoices		£ 51,655.99

REPORT TO FARINGDON DIVISION (Buckland with Gainfield, Buscot, Coleshill, Eaton Hastings, Faringdon, Gt Coxwell, Littleworth with Thrupp and Wadley and Little Coxwell) February 2021

All that is detailed within my monthly report is in the public domain. The report provides local news and a wider picture of the strategic work that Oxfordshire County Council undertakes and thus involves me both as your local County Councillor and as Deputy Leader for the County Council. Much of the strategic work has implications locally and is “useful” for the local town and parish councillors.

Safety Message:

Mobile phone distraction highlighted in Oxfordshire road safety campaign

Drivers are being warned about the dangers of using mobile phones while driving in a campaign launched by Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service. Research has shown that using a mobile phone can impair driving ability more than being over the drink drive limit. **Andy Ford, Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service’s Community Safety Education Manager, said:** “Most drivers are responsible and do not use their mobile phone whilst driving. But the few that continue to take risks by texting, surfing the internet or making or receiving calls are putting other road users and themselves in danger of harm.”

Drivers on their mobiles are much less aware of what is happening around them and can fail to see road signs, maintain a proper lane position or a steady speed. They also end up feeling more stressed and frustrated and are more likely to tailgate the vehicle in front or enter unsafe gaps in traffic. **Press quote - Councillor Judith Heathcoat, Oxfordshire County Council’s Cabinet Member for Community Safety, said:** “Motorists are four times more likely to be involved in a collision whilst using a mobile phone or being distracted in a vehicle, and their reactions are 50 per cent slower. Think twice before answering a call using hands free, and never take your eyes off the road. It is not worth the risk.”

The campaign is in collaboration with Thames Valley Police. Their officers will be focusing on detecting and prosecuting drivers who use their mobile phones behind the wheel. Further advice on safe driving is available on the [365alive website](#).

Oxfordshire County Council Budget Meeting 9th February. The County Council approved the revenue budget of £485m budget for 2021-22 which gives an average increase on a Band D house of £45. The Council had the option as per Central Government guidelines of increasing the council tax by 4.99% in total and 3.0% of this would have been aimed a funding social care specifically. However, we chose to take only 1% of this figure this financial year with the option of taking the other 2% to fund adult social care in the next financial year, 2022-23. The debate became very acrimonious with the Liberal Democrats arguing that we should have taken the full 4.99%. In much discussion during the preparation of the budget we felt that we should be aware of the financial hardship(s) that folk have borne since March 2020 with the Covid Pandemic. The Labour Group proposed several amendments to our budget – diverting £500,000 from general youth services funding towards wellbeing support for children with a further £225,000 shifted in the adult social care budget to fund apprenticeships working in social care and to search for smaller companies based in Oxfordshire who could provide care to those in need. These cash movements did not increase the budget proposals and the amendments were accepted. The Liberal Democrats had not proposed a budget or proposed any amendments and they voted against the budget! The budget means that there will be funding for 20mph roads, more investment for domestic abuse services, £4m additional funding for adult social care, extra funding for potholes and drainage schemes, £150k for apprenticeships, £330k for children’s services and £1 for youth services.

Oxfordshire County Council is responsible for around 80% of local government spending in the county with the following services that it is responsible for:-

Adult Social Care, Public Health, Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service, Regulatory Services eg. Trading Standards, Roads and Transport, Waste disposal, Libraries, Museums, Coroners and Registrations Services – births and deaths.

Banbury shop owner guilty after fake cigarettes seized - A Banbury shop owner has been ordered to pay back £75,000 following a raid where counterfeit cigarettes were seized. Oxfordshire County Council’s trading standards team brought a prosecution of Narinder Singh Malhotra, the director of

Banbury Express Food and Wine Limited, which trades from 179 Warwick Road, Banbury. The case was heard at Oxford Crown Court. It came after trading standards swooped on the shop in June 2019, seizing nearly 3,000 illegal cigarettes following two earlier test purchases when Ukrainian Marlboro Gold cigarettes were sold for £6.50 a packet to undercover officers. The cigarettes seized were found behind the counter hidden in an empty box of Snickers chocolate bars and in the storeroom at the rear of the shop. Appearing before Judge Maria Lamb; Malhotra and the company pleaded guilty to 13 offences each. These included supplying cigarettes that were not labelled with the required picture or text warnings and possessing counterfeit Marlboro Red cigarettes with a view to selling them. It was the possession of the fake cigarettes that triggered proceeds of crime proceedings. Malhotra and the company were both sentenced to fines of £2,450 each and ordered to pay £75,000 within three months or face a custodial sentence of 12 months in default. He must also pay £6,220.70 in prosecution costs. All the seized cigarettes were ordered to be forfeited and destroyed. **Press quote: Councillor Judith Heathcoat, Oxfordshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Community Safety, said:** "Our trading standards team, working in partnership with Thames Valley Police and other agencies will continue to crack down on the sale of these illegal products. People can help us to stamp out illegal tobacco and create a healthier and safer Oxfordshire by being vigilant and reporting any suspicious activity using the illegal tobacco hotline." Anyone with information about the illegal sale of tobacco should contact **0300 999 6 999** or report it anonymously online at www.stop-illegal-tobacco.co.uk

Community Safety - People living close to Oxfordshire's fire stations are being encouraged to consider becoming paid on-call firefighters as part of the National Fire Chiefs Council's (NFCC) recruitment campaign in March. Oxfordshire County Council is looking to recruit local firefighters who participate in a wide range of activities in the local area, from responding to emergency calls to supporting safety needs. They also provide crucial prevention advice to help keep residents safe.

Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service offers a flexible work pattern to fit around individuals' studies, work and family commitments. On-call firefighters participate in a wide range of activities in the local area, from responding to emergency calls to providing prevention advice; all to help keep residents safe, reduce harm and ultimately save lives. There are currently 390 on-call firefighters in Oxfordshire. Anyone interested can visit www.oncallfire.uk – to find out what is involved in the role. For residents wanting more information or to apply to be an on-call firefighter, they can email fire.recruitment@oxfordshire.gov.uk using the subject title on-call week enquiry.

Stay at home and drive COVID cases down - Oxfordshire residents, together with the nation, are being advised to continue to stay at home and follow the existing COVID-19 rules, which will begin to gradually ease from 8 March as part of the government's roadmap to bring England out of lockdown. The number of COVID cases across the county is continuing to fall, but the week-on-week reduction is now much smaller than it was earlier this month. For the week ending 19 February, the number of cases across Oxfordshire fell by just 5% compared to a drop of 40% in the previous week, while in Cherwell cases actually rose.

There is excellent vaccination progress across the county, with over 95 per cent of those aged over 75 having had their first jab, together with more than 90 per cent of those aged 70 - 74. Let's not delay this progress by becoming sloppy about how we abide by the rules.

Please follow public health guidance this is as important now as it's ever been, from maintaining your distance to covering your face when you go out. Every facemask and the example of washed hands makes a difference. They are simple, effective things that everyone needs to build into their daily lives. They remain an important step in our route out of lockdown."

Reaching out to people in priority groups who have yet to have their COVID vaccine

People in the priority groups for the COVID-19 vaccine who have yet to respond to their invitation for a first dose are to be the focus of a new scheme set up by Oxfordshire councils, the NHS and GPs. This service being launched is to help support those people if they want to have the jab. There are a range of reasons why people may have not arranged a vaccination - from difficulties in booking an appointment or arranging transport, to hesitancy or misunderstandings about the vaccine. Outreach workers from the community hub teams of the city and district councils across the county will be visiting residents who have not had a COVID-19 vaccine and offering them support to get an appointment if they want one. The outreach workers are from experienced teams which have been

visiting residents who are shielding or self-isolating throughout the pandemic. They will be dressed in clearly identifiable clothing, carry an ID, and follow all social distancing guidelines. Residents will be visited by teams from their local council.

Smoke alarm testing promoted in new Fire Kills campaign

Residents are being reminded that smoke alarms save lives.

As part of its Fire Kills campaign, Oxfordshire County Council's Fire and Rescue Service is asking people to test their smoke alarms as part of a regular household routine. **Press quote: Councillor Judith Heathcoat, Oxfordshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Community Safety, said:** "Fire safety should be a priority for every resident. They should ensure they have enough smoke alarms in the home and that they work. Smoke alarms can give the vital extra seconds warning needed to escape a fire. Fire kills. Please take sensible safety precautions by fitting and regularly testing smoke alarms."

To keep alarms effective in working order:

- Make sure there is at least one smoke alarm on every level of the home.
- Test your smoke alarms by pushing the button at least once a month.
- Check that the smoke alarms are less than 10 years old.
- Change the batteries every year. Never remove them to use in other electrical items.
- Fit smoke alarms in the right place – on landings and hallways, as well as in rooms that are used regularly, such as rooms that are being used by a vulnerable person as a bedroom. Also consider fitting them in rooms that contain electrical appliances, such as a heater or a phone charger.
- Take a moment to check on loved ones who may need help to ensure they are fully protected with working smoke alarms.

For further advice on fire safety visit www.365alive.co.uk email community.safety@oxfordshire.gov.uk or call 01865 895999.

Hedge Cutting on Coxwell Road – Great Coxwell

I feel I should correct a presumption that the hedge on Coxwell Road has been cut back by Oxfordshire County Council this is not so! The landowner has undertaken this work. The hedge has been coppiced – a long standing method of hedge maintenance where an overgrown and in some places as in this case has become potentially dangerous and has been cut down to encourage new growth to sprout from the stumps and roots. Landowners have a responsibility to ensure boundary trees and hedges are safe. The landowner has also cleaned out the ditch which will keep the water out of the fields and reduce water on the Coxwell Road in the Parish of Great Coxwell. (Hedge coppicing is legal between October and the end of March)

During the Covid-19 Pandemic I have not been undertaking my monthly County Councillor surgery, however, I can be contacted on either 01367 241468 Judith.heathcoat@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Thank you so much for all that everyone is doing currently, our medical teams supporting the Covid vaccination programme, our shops for maintaining food stuffs for us to buy, all the volunteers within the Division who have supported so many in our communities and officers of the town and parish councils.

Judith Heathcoat
Deputy Leader of Oxfordshire County Council
Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Regulatory Services

3rd March 2021

District Council Report for Faringdon Town Council

Bethia Thomas and David Grant

10 Mar 2021

It's great to see how the vaccinations are proceeding at pace and that we can now see a roadmap out of lockdown. We still need to be so vigilant in following public health guidance as things open up with a large proportion of the population unvaccinated, so that we make sure we don't undo all the hard work and sacrifices we've all made.

Alongside our support for the vaccination programme, we are glad that our council has been able to offer up the Beacon in Wantage for additional symptom free testing. Around 1 in 3 people who have COVID do not show any symptoms but could be spreading it, so this is an extra tool to suppress the disease. To find out how to book a test if you are eligible, please see below.

It's also a natural time to look to the future and we are delighted to be kicking off Faringdon's green recovery by replacing the end-of-life gas boilers at Faringdon Leisure Centre with ultra-efficient air source heat pumps powered by solar panels. This work is part of our long-term commitment to local Faringdon infrastructure and to be a carbon neutral council.

Local Issues to Faringdon

- **Funding for leisure returning to Faringdon** – We are progressing towards the consultation with the town council and key stakeholders about how to spend the developer contributions for leisure infrastructure from developments in Faringdon that the previous administration had planned to put towards a leisure centre in Wantage. We were both pleased to speak for Faringdon at the latest district council meeting on this topic and received additional assurance from the cabinet member responsible that they want to see the funds spent where they were generated. Bethia had the opportunity to meet the consultant and show her around the sites of most relevance to this consultation, including Faringdon Sports Park, Faringdon Football Club, FCC and Faringdon Leisure Centre, as well as the development sites on Coxwell Road, and Great Coxwell.
- **Faringdon Leisure Centre** – Faringdon Leisure Centre is going green. As part of our drive to cut the council's emissions by 75% by 2025 we are replacing the end of life gas boilers with ultra-efficient air source heat pumps powered by solar panels. Air source heat pumps work like a fridge in reverse, separating out cold and warm air meaning you can get 4 times as much heat energy out as you put in.
- **Faringdon hedges** – We received reports from concerned residents about an extreme cut back of the hedge on Coxwell Road. One of our specialist officers has inspected the site and spoken to the landowner. We are reassured that the work is being done to allow the clearing of the ditch which has become overgrown and silted up and to prevent debris falling into the road. We are also reassured that the hedge should regrow healthily, and the landowner has promised to remedy it with replanting if this fails for any reason.

Following a request by Faringdon Town Council Planning & Highways Committee, we have also reviewed the application by Thames Water to carry out hedge works on Sands Hill to see whether replanting elsewhere can be sought. As this is not a planning application but a special permission for the water company, it is unlikely that we can do anything at this stage but should be able to include it as part of the wider calculation for biodiversity net gain for the whole Park Road Development.

We are also looking into reports of hedge damage near the development beyond Fernham Gate and will report back anything of note.

- **Coxwell Road flooding** – We have been assisting with investigations as to the cause of flooding on Coxwell Road at the edge of town. We understand this is now being followed up by the County Council with the developer as part of the S278 works to the highway.
- **The Place** – Bethia visited The Place this month to have a look around the new premises and find out more about the needs going forward. On a personal level she has been able to raise a small amount of money to support their outreach packs and has made a request to businesses to help them with photocopying. We are trying to find ways to support them using our COVID Support Grant, which is available to community organisations that are working to support residents during COVID.
- **Folly Park** – We are continuing in partnership between the town council and the Vale to progress all the issues that we are seeing there.
- **Swan Park** – We are working with the town council and hope to help create something new for the small park area opposite The Swan on Station St.
- **Garden waste** – We are pleased to say that the garden waste is now being collected again as of 15th February. Hopefully that has shifted any old Christmas trees!
- **Gloucester St Car Park** – We are pleased that the issue with the bins in the Faringdon car parks is being progressed between the town council with our officers, but we of course stand ready to support whenever needed.

District Update

- **Beacon becomes symptom-free testing centre** – The Beacon in Wantage is now up and running as a testing site for public-facing workers and volunteers who are not displaying symptoms. People who cannot work from home and do not have access to workplace testing can [book a test](#) via the County Council's online booking system. Tests only take 15 minutes and are available within the hour.
- **Support for vulnerable residents** – The South and Vale Community Hub continues to be available to help people access support and essentials during the lockdown if they have nobody else to turn to. We are encouraging individuals who need support to call 01235 422600 or email communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk

The Community Hub team is currently available from:

8.30am-5pm Monday to Thursday

8.30am-4.30pm on Fridays

Our Housing Needs team are available to help people who are at risk of being made homeless or who are sleeping rough – for more details visit www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/housing

Support is also available to those experiencing financial difficulties – to find out more please visit southoxon.gov.uk/benefits / www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/benefits

For those difficulty paying council tax can visit www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/counciltax or call 0345 302 2315.

- **Support for businesses** - To find out more about the various support and grants available, and to sign up to receive notifications about new grant funding, businesses should visit www.svbs.co.uk. Financial support for businesses affected by restrictions continues to become available from the government and is administered locally by us. We are aware the amounts available will not cover all losses, but our teams are working hard to ensure the help is distributed swiftly.
- **COVID Marshalls** – The council's advisory Covid Marshalls are on duty in our town centres and busy areas to engage, explain and encourage businesses and members of the public to adhere to COVID-19 guidelines to help keep everyone safe.

- **National planning policy consultation** – The government is seeking views on [draft revisions to the National Planning Policy Framework and on the draft National Model Design](#).
Among the changes, the government is looking to incorporate feedback from a report about the use of high-quality design for new developments, make updates to the definition of sustainability and to update the code that informs how we make and review documents like our design guide, which we are currently in the process of updating.
- **Oxfordshire Greentech** – As part of our commitment to help the whole district become carbon neutral, we've struck up a brand-new partnership with Oxfordshire Greentech to help local businesses reduce their carbon footprint. As Strategic Partners, we'll be working to help connect businesses with specialist suppliers, customers and support organisations, and access funding streams and networking opportunities to help them minimise their emissions and impact on the environment.
Being Strategic Partners also means Oxfordshire Greentech can offer businesses based in the South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse districts 10 per cent off the basic member rate for those wanting to join.
- **Elections** – Thursday 6th elections will be going ahead as planned, so our officers will be hard at work preparing for them to run as smoothly as possible.

Major Planning Developments

- Planning enforcement:
We would like to thank residents and town councillors for keeping us informed with any potential issues relating to conformance with planning conditions at new developments such as the land South of Park Road and South of Highworth Road. We are in continual contact with the team to ensure that regulations are complied with.
- Park Road Development:
We had reports from residents about a plastic mesh being deployed onsite which could have had damaging consequences for local flora. Due to the reports our team was able to take swift action and have it removed. If a replacement is needed it will have to be a sympathetic biodegradable version that will break down naturally.
- Land South of Steeds Farm Appeal:
Alongside the town council, we have made written representations on this case to the Planning Inspectorate arguing the importance of infrastructure for Faringdon. The date for the appeal to be heard has been set for 27th April.
- Volunteer Inn, 2 Gloucester St (P20/V3239/FUL)
An independent viability assessment on this application suggests that insufficient evidence has been provided to date to prove that the use of the building as a pub or other community use is not currently viable. We are therefore following up this up with officers as we want to ensure Faringdon has the opportunity to thrive.

Councillor Surgeries

We are still suspending face to face councillor surgeries for the time being but are, of course, happy to take phone calls and emails from residents and town councillors at any time.

Bethia Thomas, Bethia.Thomas@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

David Grant, David.grant@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Chair's Activity Report 11th February – 10th March 2021

Friday 12th February: had virtual meeting with Lisa Stead and Town Clerk regarding publicising the census on 21st March.

Saturday 13th February: assisted in the opening of Home Bargains on Faringdon Park.

Tuesday 16th February: took part in a virtual meeting regarding the new primary school on Sandhill with Faringdon Learning Trust.

Wednesday 24th February: submitted nominations for The High Sheriff's Awards.

Thursday 25th March: took part in a virtual meeting with the USAF regarding future developments at RAF Fairford. RAF Mildenhall is not closing so the RC-135 aircraft will remain there. RAF Fairford will be expanded with new building by 2024 and an increase in US personnel to 1,114 with 441 family members, most of whom will require accommodation off-base. It will create 124 local jobs.

Sunday 28th February: took part in the Lord Mayor of Oxford's virtual European Reception. 71 participants from across Europe and Oxfordshire celebrated Oxford's European links.

Thursday 4th March: had a tutorial with a Faringdon student undertaking a final year project on Neighbourhood Planning.

Local Transport and Connectivity Plan Vision Consultation

We are writing to you with regard to Oxfordshire County Council's Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP). The LTCP vision document is now out to public consultation and we would welcome your feedback on the document. The vision consultation runs from 15 February until the 29 March 2021 and can be found here: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ltcpvision>

The LTCP vision is the first step in developing our updated Local Transport Plan. The purpose of developing a transport vision is to set out the overarching direction for transport in Oxfordshire.

The vision ensures a clear long-term ambition for transport in the county and will underpin all the policies and schemes included in the full LTCP document.

The vision has been developed following analysis of the council's engagement activity conducted in March 2020, through engagement with stakeholders and through an analysis of transport data. We are consulting upon the draft vision document so that residents and stakeholders can feedback on the direction the LTCP is heading in.

What happens next

Once the consultation period is complete, a summary of the responses received will be produced and we will update the vision, key themes and policy focus areas accordingly. Work will then commence on developing the detailed LTCP which will include the specific policies, and proposed schemes.

A second consultation planned for later 2021 will cover the development of the full LTCP including an updated vision and themes.

Thank you for your interest and participation, please let us know if you have any questions.

Kind Regards,

Joe Kay
Strategic Transport Lead
Infrastructure Strategy Team
Planning and Place Communities
Oxfordshire County Council

Hi,

I propose we put this on the agenda (supporting the CEE bill) for the next full council meeting. Can this be done Sally and Cllr Wise?

Best wishes,

Liz Swallow

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Motion to Support the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill

Preamble

Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt in the UK and around the world. Global temperatures have increased by 1 degree Celsius from pre-industrial levels. Atmospheric CO₂ levels are above 400 parts per million (ppm) and continue to rise. This far exceeds the 350 ppm deemed to be a safe level for humanity.

Without more significant and sustained action, the world is set to exceed the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C limit between 2030 and 2040. Therefore the current UK target of net zero by 2050 is not satisfactory. It is too little too late.

The increase in harm caused by a rise of 2°C rather than 1.5°C is significant. This is described by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C published in October 2018. According to the IPCC, limiting heating to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector and local communities. The costs of failing to address this crisis will far outstrip the investments required to prevent it. Investing now will bring many benefits in the form of good jobs, breathable cities and thriving communities.

Council notes that

- (i) This council has declared a climate and ecological emergency;
- (ii) Many local authorities have established Citizens' Assemblies that are playing an important role in assisting them in their plans to achieve net zero by 2030 or before; and that

- (iii) There is a Bill before Parliament—the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill (published as the “Climate and Ecology Bill”)—according to which the Government must develop an emergency strategy that:
 - (a) requires that the UK plays its fair and proper role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions consistent with limiting global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees C above pre-industrial temperatures;
 - (b) ensures that all the UK’s consumption emissions are accounted for;
 - (c) includes emissions from aviation and shipping;
 - (d) protects and restores biodiverse habitats along overseas supply chains;
 - (e) restores and regenerates the UK’s depleted soils, wildlife habitats and species populations to healthy and robust states, maximising their capacity to absorb CO₂ and their resistance to climate heating;
 - (f) sets up an independent Citizens’ Assembly, representative of the UK’s population, to engage with Parliament and Government and help develop the emergency strategy.

Council therefore resolves to:

- (i) Support the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill
- (ii) Inform the local media of this decision;
- (iii) Write to local MPs, asking them to support the Bill; and
- (iv) Write to the [CEE Bill Alliance](#), the organisers of the campaign for the Bill, expressing its support (campaign@ceebill.uk).



Oxfordshire 2050 write:
"We asked you - our county's

residents, businesses and organisations - to give your views on how we might tackle some of the challenges facing us in the future.

And we received hundreds of submissions via online engagement tool [Oxfordshire Open Thought](#).

Now we are shining a spotlight on some of the most thought-provoking, bold and innovative ideas on how we should live, work, travel and tackle climate change - and asking for your views.

Organisations such as the Campaign to Protect Rural England Oxfordshire, VeloCity and Sport England are among those who are being profiled.

The submissions cover topics ranging from how to reconnect children with nature to preventing isolation in rural communities to encouraging wellbeing in our villages, towns and cities.

We want your thoughts on the ideas and for you to discuss them with other users on the website.

It is hoped these conversations will build on the work of the initial Open Thought engagement and help develop real solutions to how we live, work, move around and tackle climate change in the future.

You can view the highlighted responses and leave your comments at www.oxfordshireopenthought.org