



### Sally's Summary

This regular feature will summarize the meetings and council work over the month. Full minutes can be found on our website.

### Planning and Highways 25<sup>th</sup> November

- The location for the Welcome to Faringdon sign, on Park Road, was considered. It was decided to follow OCC advice and locate the sign slightly closer to the A420.
- Six applications were considered – no objections were made

### Community and Partnerships 2<sup>nd</sup> December

- Youth Grants have been made to Faringdon Brownies, Yoco and Faringdon Junior School
- The Place had the first face to face interaction in their new home at the Corn Exchange. Baby massage groups will start meeting this month.
- A draft budget figure of £16,885 was put forward
- The community survey has attracted 160 responses so far and will run to the end of December.
- Users of the Food Bank continue to increase; thanks were given to all the staff who have worked hard to operate the service throughout the pandemic
- The Community Snow and Footpath Warden schemes were approved. To volunteer or for further details contact [marzia@farindgontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:marzia@farindgontowncouncil.gov.uk)
- Welcome Packs for new residents in Faringdon have been created and can be collected from the Information Centre

### Full Council meeting December 9<sup>th</sup>

- A presentation was received from the 'Solar Streets' green energy scheme. This will be investigated further and a partnership to promote green energy use will be considered in January.
- Members considered a revision of the Neighbourhood Plan. It was decided that a full cost / benefit analysis would be needed from the Planning and Highways committee before this could be considered
- It was decided that a formal policy to name to new streets using names from the Faringdon War Memorial would be put in place. A clause would be included that other names could be used in exceptional circumstances.

### Budget Setting 2020.21



The public are urged to attend the virtual Full Council meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> January to tell the council what the community needs.

### Christmas lights

2020 saw a very different Christmas light switch on, due to CV-19 restrictions. However, it was wonderful to have Matthew, our community volunteer of the year, pressing the button! The Town Centre looked Beautiful.



If you have any ideas how you would like your Christmas lights to look in 2021 let the Facilities committee know by emailing: [office@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:office@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk)

### Meetings in December and January

You can now join our council meetings via Microsoft teams. Details, agendas and links are available on our website.

If you can't join but would like to ask a question, please email [office@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:office@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	13 <sup>th</sup> Jan
Planning and Highways	27 <sup>th</sup> Jan

### The Wilderness

Work has begun again on the Wilderness, after the project was halted due to the CV-19 pandemic. This is a wildlife area on the land adjacent to the Hobble.



Paths have been cleared and wildlife cameras have been installed. New hedging plants are being added, using plants donated by the Woodland Trust. A plan of the site will be published in early January and we will be contacting our volunteers to join us in the new year. If you would like to join our list of helpers please email [office@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:office@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk) You can also help by making bird boxes, bat boxes and hedgehog homes. You can find templates and follow progress on our Facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/faringdonwilderness>

### Faringdon Information Centre

The Information Centre hosts a local artist every month. Local artists can use this as a platform to promote their work. This could be anything from painting, jewellery, soaps, bags, felt work and much more. If you would like to be one of our artists, please email [adele@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:adele@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk)



Our Information Centre, in the Council Office, stocks a wide range of books, guides, maps, Faringdon souvenirs, wooden gifts, pottery, cards, prints and much more. We are currently open from 9am to 12:30pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 1pm on Saturdays.

### War Memorial Flower Arrangements



For 96 years the Faringdon Women’s Institute has placed a flower arrangement on the War Memorial, sadly this group is no longer running. The task as been taken on by the community and overseen by the Town

Council. Flower arrangements for next year will be provided by Faringdon History Society, Faringdon United Church, Folly Dollies WI, Rotary Club of Faringdon and District, Faringdon Allotment Society, Faringdon Community College, Flowers from Molly and Faringdon Town Council. We would like to thank these community groups for taking part in this very important community project. If you would like to take part in 2022 please email: [adele@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:adele@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk)

### Food Bank

If you are struggling, we can help. The food bank operates from the Town Council office on Monday and Wednesday from 10am to 12pm.



Please get in touch by emailing: [faringdonfoodbank@gmail.com](mailto:faringdonfoodbank@gmail.com) or calling 07548 535855 and leaving a message – this number is only accessed during operating hours. If you need urgent help please call 01367 240281

### Follow the Pigeons



Two favourite Faringdon walks starting in the Town Centre have been re-marked and new leaflets created. The Folly Pink walk



and the Badbury blue walks will help you start the new year in the fresh air. Leaflets are available in the Information Centre and further details on our website.

### Councillor Focus: Cllr. Liz Swallow



Happy New Year! Really, I believe we can make it so. We can look forward in hope to the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in November, for an international response to the climate crisis. I am your local Green town councillor. I initiated, and Faringdon Town

Council has acknowledged and declared, a climate emergency with local action points to seek to prioritize and help our town to respond. Supporting Vale and District plans to reduce car emissions (walk to school or turn off your engine if you pull up outside!), there are things that many of us can do to make a difference.

Our town’s young people deserve a future beyond the climate emergency we are all currently facing; please look at the Town Council Climate Emergency web page (and associated Facebook pages, including Faringdon Nature Action group) for ideas as to how you can help. The council have also created The Wilderness project and are looking for volunteers.

As a community, the last year has shown how we can pull together to amazingly support each other. I gave a lot of time to Faringdon Viral Kindness in setting up and supporting the behind-the-scenes technical support, as well as being website manager. On pause at the time of writing, the group are in touch and ready to step up again if needed. If you need help now, please check the Faringdon Town Council Covid-19 front page for helplines and support; or call the Information Centre for the helpline numbers during opening hours.

Here’s to a better year and a win for the climate and nature!  
Contact: [cldr.swallow@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.swallow@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk)

