

District Council Report for Faringdon Town Council

Bethia Thomas and David Grant

09 Mar 2022

We're delighted to announce that electric vehicle charging is coming to Faringdon with new charging points installed at the Southampton St Car Park owned by the district council. It will allow those without access to charging points at home to power up overnight and it gives passers by a reason to stop in town and have a coffee or lunch.

Alongside our investment in decarbonising the leisure centre and recognising Faringdon's special circumstances for car park charges we hope these projects show the district council's commitment to Faringdon.

Please help us publicise the new Climate Action Fund to any local groups you know that could make use of it to do some good for the planet. We know of some already but are keen to make sure nobody misses out on the chance to bid.

Local Issues to Faringdon

- **Carpark fees:** The Vale cabinet has confirmed that 2-hour free parking will remain in Southampton St Car Park in recognition of Faringdon's individual needs. Elsewhere in the Vale, the taxpayer subsidy for parking private cars will be reduced by moving to 1-hour free parking to address both the tight finances and the climate emergency.
- **Car Hire Pool:** Discussions will continue after the installation of electric vehicle charging points is complete when the car parks team will have space and availability confirmed.
- **Gloucester St Car Park:** The property issue that we reported previously needs to be resolved before new licensing actions can be taken, but officers are working to get this resolved as soon as possible. Actions to progress when we can move forward are:
 - Recycling & waste bins for town centre businesses
 - Pool hire car location
 - Lockable cycle storage
 - Safety railings outside Faringdon Junior School
- **Folly Park car park:** We are very pleased to report this has now been flattened to remove the dangerous potholes that had opened up.
- **Civil Parking Enforcement:** Tickets are now being issued in Faringdon and fresh double yellow lines painted. We are beginning to see the effect of the enforcement with less illegal street parking.
- **Adoption of Folly View estate:** We are discussing with council colleagues what the options are to encourage Bloor to meet their obligations to facilitate the adoption of the estate. We will update you when possible.
- **Funding for leisure returning to Faringdon:** The consultation for the reallocation of funds from the Wessex Leisure Centre has been slower going than we would have wished with several parishes involved, but we are pushing within the council to get this resolved so Faringdon's share of the money can be put to use.

Major Planning Developments

[Planning enforcement](#)

Recently we launched the new enforcement statement with a town and parish briefing explaining the differences we have made to the process. If you missed it there will be further information to explain the new statement going out to all town and parish councils in the near future. We still rely on reports from residents and have been following up on some of these lately, so please do let us know of any planning enforcement issues you are aware of in Faringdon. You can also direct residents to report matters directly on our website:

<https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/planning-and-development/planning-enforcement/>

[Red Lion Pub & Budgens \(P21/V3520/FUL, P21/V3542/FUL & P21/V3543/LB\)](#)

These plans have received a mixed response from Faringdon residents with people wanting to keep the Red Lion in community use but not everybody agreeing that a café is the ideal use. It is worth noting that the use class being sought would cover a wider range of uses than just a café. So there will remain some flexibility.

A viability report has now been submitted and given that the Town Council has lodged no objection and few objections have been made by local residents it seems likely that the Red Lion application will be decided by officers using delegated powers.

[South of Park Road Phase 2 \(P21/V0984/RM\)](#)

We understand officers are close to making a recommendation on this application.

Despite being unhappy with the explanation as to how the applicants intend to address Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan Policy 4.7B to minimise energy consumption we have had to remove our call in request as this could only have been used as a reason for rejection at outline application in 2017, unless a suitable condition had been added at that stage, which unfortunately it wasn't.

[Fernham Road \(P21/V0576/O\)](#)

We are pleased to report that, following our suggestions, the case officer has now indicated that she is minded to include a condition that the link to Fernham Fields should be 3m wide to allow a future shared cycle/pedestrian link to be made by upgrading the Fernham Fields end of the path.



District Update

Climate Action Fund

Our Climate Action Fund will soon be open for applications from 14th March. Grants up to £5,000 are available to local community groups, including town and parish councils, who want to get a green project started.

Please help us spread the word across Faringdon. For more details, please follow the link below:

<https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/climate-emergency/50000-fund-to-boost-community-climate-action-in-the-vale/>

Tree Planting Policy in Action

Abingdon Carbon Cutters have become the first group to make use of the district council's new Tree Planting Policy to plant 450 trees supplied by the Woodland Trust on council owned Rye Farm Meadow. More trees will follow there next planting season.

If you can think of any locations nearby that are owned by the Vale and could be an ideal spot for some trees, please let us and community action groups know.

Contact us

District and County Surgeries will continue with a presence at the first Saturday Market of the month from 11.00am. As ever, if you have any questions or want to let us know about anything, we are very happy to take phone calls and emails from residents and town councillors at any time.

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