

FARINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

The Pump House, FARINGDON, Oxfordshire, SN7 7HL

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www.faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk

Clerk: Sally Thurston



The Parish of Great Faringdon in the County of Oxfordshire

NOTICE OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING and Community Awards Presentations

Wednesday 18th May 2022 at 7pm in The Corn Exchange, Faringdon, SN7 7JA

THIS MEETING IS ONLY FOR THE ELECTORS OF FARINGDON AND RESIDENT IN THE PARISH UNLESS BY INVITATION. THIS IS NOT A MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

ALL ELECTORS ARE WELCOME, AND MAY SPEAK AND VOTE ON ANY MATTER DETAILED IN THE AGENDA

- 1. Community Award Presentations**
- 2. Mayor's Address**
- 3. Apologies for Absence**
- 4. Minutes of the Town Meeting held Wednesday 5th May 2021**
- 5. Matters Arising**
- 6. Reports**

The following reports will normally be in the form of a written report and will be discussed only if townspeople have questions or comments.

 - 1) Reports from Town Council Committees
 - a. Finance and Audit
 - b. Planning and Highways
 - c. Facilities
 - d. Community and Partnerships
 - e. Working Parties
 - f. Chairman's activity report
 - 2) Reports from
 - (a) Tucker's Recreation Ground Trust
 - (b) Faringdon War Memorial Trust
 - 3) County Councillor's Report
 - 4) District Councillors' Report
 - 5) Reports from Local Organisations
 - 6) Reports from Grant Recipients
- 7. Climate Change**

To discuss climate change initiatives including:

 - a) Co-Wheels – Car share scheme
 - b) Green Day Event
 - c) Plastic Free Community Status
- 8. Parking in Faringdon**
 - a) To discuss parking in the town and the implementation of civil parking enforcement
 - b) To discuss the need for residents permits
- 9. United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons**

Following a motion to the Town Council by Cllr. Burns it was agreed that it should be the Towns people who decide if the Town Council declares support. To discuss Faringdon declaring support.
- 10. Street Cleanliness**

To discuss what needs to be done to make Faringdon greener , cleaner and even more attractive.
- 11. Public Speaking Time and General Discussion**


Cllr. Kiera Bentley

Finance and Audit Committee Report 21/22

As we start to move forward following two years of Covid we have had to be flexible in meeting the challenges thrown up.

Throughout the different levels of lockdown our staff have worked hard to provide vital services including the Food Bank, Citizens Advice and Information centre and as we move on we now need to be prepared for the cost of living crisis.

The income generated by sales at the Information centre and our venues has bounced back surprisingly well.

The Finance Committee is responsible for recommending and overseeing the annual budget together with all aspects of Staffing, Grants and the operation of the Information Centre. The committee works closely with the Town Clerk and Chief Financial Officer, Sally Thurston, who reports to the committee directly, and together we continue to review services and bear down on costs.

Finance:

The committee is responsible for the overall financial security of the Council, setting and monitoring the annual budget. For 2021/22 the budget was set at £455,612 giving a Band D council tax rate of £145.50

We have been able to deliver all our commitments through the year and end the year with reserves at £476,733. This figure includes £170,169 in earmarked reserves.

An Asset Replacement fund is held as a ring-fenced reserve for the renewal or repair of assets. This is currently £41,825 held as part of the earmarked reserve.

No additional borrowing was required in the year and FTC continues to pay down PWLB loans which were taken out to refurbish the Pump Rooms and the Corn Exchange. Our debt currently stands at £71,1233

During the year, the committee has also:

- Maintained financial records and received clean audits.
- Maintained sufficient reserves to meet possible contingencies.
- Maintained and reviewed the Council's asset register.
- Continued to fund staffing time for the Tidy Team initiative.
- Reviewed Council bank accounts and investments.

Staffing:

Finance are responsible for overseeing the terms and conditions of council staff. We currently employ 15 members of staff both full and part time giving a full time equivalent of 8 staff. Staffing accounts for 60% of the annual budget and has increased following the town's decision to support The Place. FTC is a living wage employer with all staff currently on hourly rates on or above the living wage rate of £9.90/hr.

Where appropriate we have enabled homeworking for our staff during the year, with a return to customer facing whenever it has been assessed as safe.

During the year we also oversaw

- Annual Staff appraisal recommendations.
- Staff training requirements
- The Information Centre operation
- Staff recruitment and redundancy.

Grants:

The Grants subcommittee awarded grants to organisations providing benefit to Faringdon Residents.

GRANTS AWARDED 2021.22

Name of Organisation	Amount
Faringdon.org	£54.00
Pump House Project (Cogs)	£1,800.00
Root and Branch	£1,800.00
Vale Community Impact	£2,000.00
Folly Fest	£3,500.00
Citizens Advice	£3,000.00
Folly Trust	£3,000.00
May Messy	£2,450.00
Friends of Wilderness Benches	£800.00
Total Grants Awarded 2021.22	£18,404.00

YOUTH Grants Awarded

Name of Organisation	Amount
Ox. Play Association Youth Club	£5,000.00
Ox. Play Association open Street	£1,000.00
Total Grants Awarded 2021.22	£6,000.00

Painting and planting bursary £735.00

The Committee also allocated monies for:

- Community Awards.
- Platinum Jubilee celebrations

Finally, I would like to thank staff, volunteers and councillors for their support and dedication, in maintaining services and planning future improvements in challenging times.

Cllr. Steve Leniec, Chair of The Finance and Audit Committee

Cllr.leniec@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk

Planning and Highways Committee

Land at Volunteer Way. Originally designated as Commercial use. Overturned by Local Planners despite objections from FTC.

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Positively encourage biodiversity across the parish especially when concerned with new developments.

Land South Of Park Rd.

- 10 bat boxes, 10 bird boxes on buildings
- New school currently being built on the. The original plans have been amended from conventional boilers for heating to a more sustainable system.
- Rogers Concrete. This was originally intended for commercial development and was the only designated site left in Faringdon. Despite our objections this has now been approved for housing. We have lodged a formal complaint. This complaint has been dismissed and we cannot take it any further.

Steeds Farm.

- This is the part of the site originally intended for a pub, football field, playground, shop and allotments. Again the appeal from the developer has been upheld. The only mitigating factor in this is that the town gets the development surcharges and affordable housing that the developer originally said they couldn't provide.

Pavements

These were intended to be resurfaced when the roads were done. They are an utter disgrace but are now scheduled to be fixed in August.

20mph restrictions

for the centre of town. These should be in force later this year. Speed indicator devices (smiley ones) are being purchased.

Civil Parking enforcement

You will have noticed this has now started. It has caused problems of its own. A reassessment of the current parking restrictions is underway.

Faringdon Gateway

The stone gateway on the north side of Park Rd was removed when Stickley Court was built. Somehow the developers have lost it. A new one cannot be built in Park Rd as there is nowhere to put it without blocking visibility. They have now agreed to pay for 2 new gateways on Coxwell Rd and London St.

Thames Water

There continues to be a problem with water pressure and disposal of sewage. Thames Water asked that the new builds not connect to their system until it's upgraded, which should have been done at least 4 years ago.

Community Assets

FAZE & Infant School have been logged as Community Assets which gives us a say in what happens to them..

Town centre loading

This has been a problem for the markets on Tuesdays and Saturdays. We have asked for an official restriction on those days. A bit of a moot point with regards to McColls at the moment.

Safe crossing A420.

Apparently OCC are putting in a “central Refuge” at Little Coxwell junction that they seem to deem a safe crossing. A bridge for pedestrians, cyclists and horses across the road would be a much better option but is regarded as too expensive.

Folly park carpark

This is an ongoing issue as it is partly owned by two different people.

Budgens site

Due to be turned into flats with commercial premises on the ground floor. The developer has also bought the Red Lion which will be part of the development, with the bar area turned into a café.

Opening up Stanford Rd from A420 for access only to Folly Park sports facilities. We think this would aid the traffic flow through town and encourage more people to use the facilities.

Traffic lights at A420/Coxwell Rd junction. Should go ahead when construction of new Steeds Farm Development commences.

FTC are trying to ensure there are safe pedestrian and cycle ways linking the new estates to FCC and the new primary school.

Reports for Town Meeting 18th May 2022

Facilities Committee

The committee has met regularly throughout the year, either online or in person once this was possible.

We have noted that the buildings and open spaces which are our responsibility, namely The Pump House, The Corn Exchange, Tucker's Park, Elms Tennis Courts, Town Park, Oakwood Park, Eagles Park, All Saints Churchyard and The Wilderness have all been affected by the months of lockdown. In the case of venues, this has meant a loss of revenue as well as a lack of opportunity for events to take place. However, both indoor and outdoor spaces have benefitted from maintenance work being carried out and all places are now back in full use, with the exception of The Wilderness which, as a new venture, is still being developed.

All work completed has been kept well within budget, as has the work on minor facilities such as bus stops, salt bins and the telephone box book swap library. The Tidy Team has also been busy responding to requests to clear litter where problems have been highlighted.

A major investment has been in much needed mower for the Tidy Team; there have also been new bins installed in Town Park, with others due for Tuckers Park. In The Pump House a new screen and audio equipment have been installed.

Future plans include a PA system for events in the Marketplace, the possibility of live music returning to The Corn Exchange and updating of the noticeboards around the town.

Cllr. Burns

Climate Change Working Party

Tree Planting

From early 2021 we worked with the Earth & Faith Group, helping to promote and support their 'Faringdon Trees Branches Out' campaign, in order to get more trees planted in Faringdon. This project ran the course of a year, giving out information to residents on how to plant appropriate trees and where to source them from. FTC supported the promotion (articles in the Advertiser, social media and posters) and some funding for the project. It finished with the support of Kiera Bentley's mayor's fund to enable Earth & Faith to give away 'Trees for Free' during their big plant giveaway event on Saturday 9th April this year. We are very grateful for the work Earth & Faith and in particular Pam de Wit put into this project over the course of the year.

Faringdon Town Council is currently looking at appropriate land around Faringdon owned by the District Council for planting trees this winter.

Green Day 2021

To run alongside Oxfordshire's Big Green Week (organized by Friends of the Earth), we ran Faringdon Green Day on Saturday 25th September 10 am - 1pm. The event was held at the Corn Exchange with a number of local groups and businesses hosting stalls (free of charge) to promote everything green and environmental. It was such a success and well received we are planning to host another Green Day at the Corn Exchange on Saturday 1st October (this will also coincide with Oxfordshire's Big Green Week 2022) with a vegan cafe. If anyone is interested in taking part in Green Day in any way please do get in touch with Councillor Liz Swallow or the Information Centre, we would be delighted to have you on board.

Solar Streets

Faringdon Town Council had been working with Solar Streets in order to encourage renewable energy installations in Faringdon. Faringdon Town Council with Solar Streets launched the scheme last summer. Faringdon Town Council has been investigating solar panels on the Pump House project roof and are awaiting a visit from Solar Streets.

Solar Streets is a way of getting solar panels for your house or business at discounted prices. You can directly help in the fight against climate change, as well as helping your local community, as a donation to the Faringdon Community Fund is given on every install – £50 for a domestic installation and £100 for a commercial one. If you live in one of the surrounding villages then the Faringdon scheme is also open to you.

Check your roof is suitable or get a Free Quotation – email info@IDDEA.co.uk or call 01380 726999 with your name, address and phone number and say you're from Faringdon Solar Streets. IDDEA will do a desktop search via Google Earth and get back to you with the details

You can also look up more information on their website:

<https://solarstreets.co.uk/faringdonplus>

Co Wheels Car Club

As part of our commitment to promoting greener lifestyles and energy, Faringdon Town Council is looking to promote a car club in Faringdon. Members would join the club and pay

a monthly fee to have access to two hybrid or electric (as we now have charging points in Southampton St car park) cars in the town. Details of the scheme which already operates across the country are: <https://www.co-wheels.org.uk/> Let us know what you think - or if you would like to be involved in investigating this further please get in touch with Sally@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk.

The council believes this scheme could reduce the need for some to have two cars and so reduce the number of cars in Faringdon. It would also help residents get to try out an electric car before purchasing their own in the future, thus helping residents to make green choices.

Working towards Faringdon achieving Plastic Free Community status with Surfers Against Sewage

Councillor Liz Swallow is just in the process of setting up a 'Community in Progress' for Faringdon, where all parts of the community can work together to achieve this status against single use plastics.

Plastic Free Communities is a grassroots campaign that empowers and connects people in a shared journey to free where they live from avoidable, throwaway plastic; from beaches, rivers and green spaces, all the way back to the brands and businesses who create it.

It centres on five objectives to achieve the Plastic Free Communities award:

1. Working with the local council
2. Encouraging local businesses to reduce single use plastic
3. Signing up community groups, schools and organisations
4. Holding events and actions (will be part of our Green Day)
5. Setting up a steering group to drive the movement

For more information on this see the plastic free website: <https://plasticfree.org.uk/>

If you are interested in getting more involved on this project please get in touch with Councillor Liz Swallow (cllr.swallow@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk).

Once the community is live, we will communicate this through our social media and other channels (The Advertiser).

Other projects / ideas the climate change working party has been considering:

What can be done is limited due to the amount of officer time that is available (with Faringdon Town Council running the hugely successful Community Larder and overseeing the running of Faringdon Foodbank amongst their normal officer duties with a small staff). The following is what is being considered by the climate change working party, but not yet being actioned or put forward to the main council:

Nature Corridors:

- Sustaining existing nature corridors in Faringdon - without them there will be no nature or biodiversity, essential for the future wellbeing of our planet and food production.

- All council land (including the town park, humpty dumpty hill (our town green), FTC play parks, tree bases around town) should have a border of wildflowers and ideally pollinating trees to provide a corridor and home for insects and other wildlife.
- Hedgehogs are now critically endangered yet around Faringdon (i.e. Westland Rd) they are still being squashed on the road (reducing the speed limit would help). We could run a campaign to care for our wildlife and plant wildflowers in the garden - everyone's garden can be a home to wildlife!!
- Encouraging people to do vertical gardening, local businesses could do this as well.
- More ponds and log piles in gardens...
- More bird and bat boxes going up. With bat boxes they need to be at least 4m up and on the SE side to be sheltered from the elements. Also once bat boxes are up you need special permission to take them down or mess with them as bats are protected species.
- Encouraging people to plant more hedges instead of putting up wooden fences for nature habitats - CPRE are running campaigns at present for this.
- Ensuring we are not using harmful pesticides or insecticides (don't think we are) that could also harm our children as well as wildlife about town.
- More litter picks and campaigns to respect our town and not drop litter - Bethia's monthly litter pick

Local resourcing for food and products:

- Making the best of what we have locally (farms, local butchers, Smart Greens etc) than products transported in from far away (i.e. London)
- Asking local food hostilities in town to support local farms for produce etc
- Community Larder now in progress for reducing food waste.

Green transport:

- Reducing the speed limit of the town to 20mph (in progress)
- Encouraging more cycling, helping to feel safe to cycle around town - Farcycles do a lot on this...
- More electric charging points etc (Southampton St Car Park; Co Wheels Car Scheme).

Recycling:

- We need more recycling bins around Faringdon (not just waste bins).
- Promote recycling of soft plastics (crisp packet recycling at the information centre).
- Encouraging local eateries to not use plastic or polystyrene for their takeaway food and biodegradable packaging instead.

Green energy:

- Could the local gyms provide power to the grid with kinetic energy generated from their equipment?!
- Converting our homes to green energy needs to start asap. Infrared indoor heaters are a lot cheaper and effective replacement for gas heaters (possibly better than electric storage heaters). There are a number of ways to heat water without using

gas. It is plausible soon the government will be offering cash incentives to convert to green energy but we should at least recommend to our residents not to replace their current gas boiler with another gas boiler (or helping them with greener choices - Solar Streets).

Other business ideas:

- If we get the school as a community building, running something like a community project that involves local businesses and a forest school like they do at Hogacre Common Eco Park in Oxford maybe?
- Can we host on our website an eco directory of local businesses producing food and green services to help our residents and local businesses shop local and green? Sustainable faringdon website/facebook page?

Community Engagement:

- Hosting a monthly green talk session, where like minded people can meet up and talk and green ideas, or a guest speaker etc.
- Maybe a Market Stall now and again - to promote/inform/get volunteers etc.

A lot of these ideas residents of Faringdon and groups can take upon themselves to action; but the working party is always looking for ways as a council we can promote them further, to further action Faringdon Town Councils declaration of a climate emergency.

If there is anything further you feel we should be looking at as a council towards our declaration of climate emergency, please do get in touch with cllr.swallow@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk.

Town Regeneration Working Party

We have worked with enthusiasm throughout the year in the hope of allowing Faringdon to recover from the challenges of changes in consumer habits and lockdown.

The Marketplace as a centre for socialising has been encouraged by cafes and restaurants being granted pavement licences to create a cafe culture. Added to this have been the provision of extra benches, the bollard project, the encouragement of live music (thanks to Al Cane), bursaries for decoration of buildings within the conservation area and encouragement of regular weekly markets. Central to this has been the refurbishment of The Old Town Hall, which, although it was long-winded, due to lockdown restrictions on the contractors, is now looking better and has been refurbished inside, with internet due to be installed, for the benefit of town groups – such as the Art Society.

Another important building to which we have turned our attention has been The Volunteer. We are in the process of purchasing this, with the intention of the ground floor being used as a community space and the upper floor being rented to raise income. We are also in consultation over the Budgens and Red Lion sites with the aim of retaining these as retail spaces.

Refurbishment of the Southampton Street Carpark has been undertaken, with benches and maps of walks and cycle routes being put in place. A group of volunteers have also spent time planting and maintaining the flowerbeds. Soon to come is a Pink Pigeon recycling collection feature soon.

A recent project has been to research the tunnels under Faringdon. A leaflet reporting on this will soon be available in the Tourist Information Centre.

A forthcoming project is for Pink Plaques to be put up to commemorate interesting people who have lived in Faringdon. This is being driven by a group of volunteers from the town.

Events in town have again been affected by lockdown restrictions, however there was a successful Pride Month in February 2020, just before Covid struck. Now we are in the throes of the Jubilee celebrations and looking forward to the return of Folly Fest.

Cllr. Burns

This year has been quite a whirlwind for me. With the successful election in May 2021, I was plunged into the deep end, and with no handover period, had to learn the job from scratch from day one. This is quite an experience, and I am thankful to everyone for bearing with me with patience as I learn the ropes.

The election last year saw a political shift in the county council with a progressive alliance of Liberal Democrats, Greens and Labour in administration for the first time. This has meant a concurrent shift in focus with new priorities at the forefront. Public consultation showed a need to address nine key issues and a new strategic plan was drawn up with this in mind to address those priorities, which include tackling inequalities in Oxfordshire, prioritising the health and wellbeing of residents, and supporting carers and the social care system. Obviously we put the climate emergency at the centre of all activities and hope to be in a position to invest in an inclusive, integrated and sustainable transport network, including the introduction of the 20MPH Scheme across the county.

These priorities were drawn up last year, before the current cost of living crisis has hit hard, and we are particularly sensitive to the ongoing welfare of our most vulnerable residents. Alongside this, and the recovery from the pandemic, we are managing an additional concern, as we work to settle incoming residents from the war in Ukraine. Resources have been stretched once again as officers work to find homes, medical cover and school places for refugees finding homes in the county.

Taking all this into consideration, the last twelve months have been an eye opener for me. For the moment I am content in my position as a simple backbencher. While I do sometimes think I would be able to make a positive impact further up the chain of command, I prefer to learn the ropes from a distance, sitting on various committees to broaden my experience and play my part in holding the administration to account, on scrutiny panels, and at times, when I do not necessarily agree with the 'party line'.

My priority has always been to represent the residents of my division, and I hope that I have started to achieve this over the last year. I would like to remind you that I am always here if you have any concerns that I can help with, and I hope my contact details are readily available to all. I am always happy to bring an issue to the attention of officers and see if action can be taken. Much of my time is taken up with concerns I would not report here, however we have worked together to achieve significant change, lobbying for the resurfacing of footways in the town centre, investigating the future of significant properties including the infant school site, meeting with officers to introduce the reduced speed limit in the town centre and investigate safety improvements around our schools, helping to coordinate the delivery of the new school due to open later in the year, and continuing to monitor and process the changes that have been introduced with civil parking enforcement. On a day-to-day basis I monitor and report many different issues through the Fix My Street application and have had some wins using this system, including the recent work on the A417 outside the Thames Water facility to improve surface water drainage.

In closing I hope that we will become increasingly productive as we strengthen the relationship we have established over the last twelve months between the county and town councils, and I welcome any opportunity to get more involved in the community in Faringdon.

Bethia

Committee Appointments

- County Council
- People Overview & Scrutiny Committee
- Constitution Review Group Working Party
- Adoption & Permanency Panels & Fostering Panels (Fostering)
- OCC Joint Consultative Committee for Uniformed Members of the Fire Service

Applications to Councillors Priority Fund

The priority fund is there for projects that directly benefit the community; the following are applications that directly affect Faringdon specifically, other applications have been made by parishes across the division. Figures are approximate, for further details please contact me directly.

- Oxfordshire Play Day (£1000)
- Mobile Speed Monitoring Sign (£2500)
- Contribution Towards Resurfacing Tennis Courts (Processing)
- Support for The Place (Processing)

The last year has been an eventful one for everyone and a busy one for the district council. For most of 2021 we were dealing with recovery from the pandemic, and now sadly, with the repercussions of the conflict in the Ukraine, we are also playing a significant role to rehome incoming refugees, alongside the continuing care of refugees from Afghanistan, Syria and other asylum seekers. Our housing and homelessness prevention team are highly thought of amongst other councils and have worked hard with these extra pressures upon them to reduce our rough sleeping rates to zero earlier in the year.

Business as usual must continue, and we are proud that, despite it all, we have maintained key services throughout the year, with our recycling rates still in the top five in the country. David has continued to chair the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee and we were very happy to create the Climate Action Fund and support other climate and biodiversity projects throughout the district. Our work on the climate emergency has touched Faringdon directly with the investment in air source heat pumps and solar panels at the leisure centre, and the ongoing installation of electric vehicle chargers in our car park.

Coming out of the pandemic we are concerned about residents' physical and mental wellbeing and have started many different programmes to promote good health and fitness through "Move Together" and other schemes run by active communities. Our parks and open spaces are equally important, and we have been working on ways to enhance them with community arts projects, a new tree planting policy and an increased commitment to rewilding suitable areas across the district.

While planning might not be the most popular topic, we were happy to see that, due to a review into our housing number set out in the local plan, we were able to reassess the number of houses required to maintain the 'five-year land supply' required by the government and are now in the best position we ever have been, with less pressure on us to build than ever before. David has worked hard with members and officers of the town council to feed in any comments made on the developments within Faringdon and, wherever possible, fights hard for the best solutions for the community.

All of this has been done under intense financial pressure. The pandemic was costly to the council and the amount of compensation from the government was inadequate to account for the increased services we have had to offer. We are unable to raise the level of council tax, and while we would be reluctant to do so, find it difficult to offer our high level of service on such a tight, but balanced budget. On a ward level, we were happy to fight to retain the two hours of free parking in one of our car parks while all others across the district were reduced to a single hour, as we are committed to encouraging visitors to the town centre.

We are continually working to improve communications between the district council and town and parishes, and in part of her role as cabinet member for community engagement, Bethia has been working on a new strategy to renew the relationship between the two levels of council. Bethia was also elected to the position of deputy leader of the council in the past year, which we believe allows for a broader geographical focus across the leadership team representing the western part of the district.

In other updates specific to Faringdon, we can report that:

- Elmside Temporary Accommodation has had improvements to the internal structure of the building with essential improvements and now is scheduled for internal refurbishment to bring living conditions up to standard; ultimately the future of this building is being considered as it is not an ideal solution for temporary accommodation in the district.
- Folly Park car park has been repaired after we lobbied to get this done. Other improvements, including the removal of the statues in the lower field, have also been made.
- We have been working with the rugby club and others to improve the infrastructure available on Folly Sports Park as well as securing the funds needed to build the ATP on the community college's playing fields; the needs assessment for monies returned to the town after cancelling the Wessex project is now complete, and we are working hard to identify suitable projects within the town on which to spend these funds.

Our work as councillors is broad ranging and we often cannot disclose much of what we do but would like to assure you all that we will continue to work hard for the community and individuals throughout the year. We have specific aims to:

- Begin spending the monies from the cancelled Wessex project by identifying suitable projects. These may include improvements to the rugby club, football club or skate park, but we are looking for further suggestions and would welcome the views of councillors.
- Work to set up a Folly Sport Management Committee with user groups
- Make improvements to the car parks in Faringdon, in particular to work with the new Elms Primary School on Gloucester Street to install safety railings outside the school's main exit.
- Continue work to deliver infrastructure projects that are underway and monitor planning developments within the town.

As always, we want to continue to work closely with the town council to ensure that Faringdon gets the best services it is entitled to, and enhance the lives of our residents.

FARINGDON TWINNING ASSOCIATION

ASSOCIATION DU JUMELAGE



FARINGDON - LE MÊLE SUR SARTHE



Nearly 3 years since the last organised exchange, we are eagerly anticipating the visit from our friends from le Mele sur Sarthe on 26 May for a long weekend. Mayor Kiera Bentley will be welcoming our visitors, including the Mayor and Deputy Mayor from Konigstein, near Frankfurt (who are themselves twinned with le Mele) at a reception in the Corn Exchange. Friday is a trip to Cirencester and Chedworth, then a Saturday Garden Party. The guests leave on Sunday after meeting at the proposed boules court.

We are making plans for a trip to le Mele later in the year.

We are very grateful that Faringdon Town Council have been generous over the years in their support of Twinning, with grants to support the Youth Exchange, and to help with hospitality for the postponed 30th Anniversary.

David Williamson

Chair, Faringdon Twinning Association

FARCYCLES LIMITED

Enabling cycling to thrive in our community



2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT

The past year has been one of many achievements for FarCycles, the Faringdon-based cycling organisation.

The Cycle Park continues to be very popular with families travelling significant distances to avail themselves of the facilities. We also now have a bank of qualified trainers to teach children and adults, from beginners through to road safety, to leading rides. We have run several teaching weeks during school holidays which have proved immensely popular. Our Sunday morning teaching sessions become fully booked some weeks in advance and we are training new trainers to help cope with the demand.



The exercise equipment financed by FTC is also well-utilised.



Our regular Saturday rides are now running normally. Typically, 30-40 choose between the 3 different length routes, all supported with a leader. We have had younger riders joining us

as well, which is encouraging for the future.

Our biggest venture in the last couple of years has been the opening the FarCycles bike shop. Initially intended to be a pop-up shop to move on some donated bikes, the concept just grew and grew. We continue to be amazed by the generosity of the public to donate bikes to us, and our

fantastic group of volunteers who refurbish the bikes and staff the shop. We are now repairing bikes too.

Farcycles will be involved in decorating the town in June for the International Women's Bike Race which will pass through Faringdon again – no doubt the route was chosen to include Faringdon because of the welcome the town gave the riders in 2019 when we 'Turned the Town Pink'.

Our annual 'Tour de Farcycles' sportive had record numbers of more



than 300 riders in 2021, with family-friendly through to seriously challenging routes in our glorious countryside. The whole event is run by volunteers from the club and the surplus goes to funding local cycling projects. The

following day we ran a very popular family bike ride.

Farcycles achieved the ultimate accolade for a voluntary organisation of a Queen's Award last year and we had a wonderful presentation of the award by the Lord Lieutenant in September. Some 50 volunteers were honoured in the course of the evening.



Coming up

Sat 4th June – vintage bike rides 9am and 10.45am

Sun 5th June – family bike ride 10.00am ending at Tucker Park 11.30

Sat 11th June – Women's International Bike Race passes through Faringdon

Sat 9th July – Tour de Farcycles sportive – 30, 50 and 80-mile rides

Sun 10th July – Family Bike Ride

OUR VISION

Our vision is of a less car-dependent society, for all the well-established reasons of personal physical and mental health, reduced air pollution

and climate change. We continue to press for improved infrastructure to make it easier and safer to get around the town by bicycle:

- The Faringdon Cycle Network, which is awaiting permissions from District and County councils, to link the schools, town centre, health centre and the sports park. Farcycles is preparing a LCWIP which shows where walking and cycle routes are planned.
- Progress towards a 20mph zone in the Town Centre is being made.
- A 'Bike Hub' has been created in the Southampton St Car Park with a Bike Repair Station (funded by District Council) and local walking/cycling maps.

Thank you once again to Faringdon Town Council for your support.

2021-2022 Brief Report from Faringdon Fire Station

Incident to date

Since our last report April 2021, Faringdon have attended 182 Incidents consisting of:
Alarms actuating at Residential and Domestic Properties.

Road Traffic collision

Special service calls i.e. lock in-outs, Animal Rescues,

Secondary Fires i.e.: Bin Fires, Fire in the open, Hay Bales

Chimney Fires

Over the Boarder incidents, assisting crews from Dorset & Wiltshire

Several major Incidents that we have helped assist with other emergency services, Police and Ambulance.

During the lockdown periods 2020 and 2021 we had to suspend or limit majority of our practical training and only attend operational emergencies. However, through local and government guidance we now continue to maintain our weekly training sessions along with annual refresher training days. These require core skills of: Breathing Apparatus (BA), Road Traffic Collisions (RTC) Working at Height, Water Rescues and other Life critical training. We are always looking for premises locally where we can practically train for example: BA in a warehouse, farm building or a domestic property that is not being used etc... so if you know of any such buildings where we can take the crew to practice, please let WM Rimmer know.

Management for Faringdon Fire Station

Watch Manager Becky Rimmer is the Station Support Officer for Faringdon & Wantage fire station and the Watch Manager for Faringdon, supporting the local community. If you require any information or even a visit to the fire station to see what the firefighters do, then please get in touch with WM Rimmer on 07876 448776 or email rebecca.rimmer@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Recruiting

Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service are recruiting for 'On Call' personnel over the age of 18years. We at Faringdon have seen 2 crew members retire bringing the station to 15. We are continuing to recruit mainly for weekday and weekend cover, so, if you or anyone you know would be interested in becoming a Firefighter please get in contact with the Fire Station on 01367 240134, mobile:07876 448776 or email rebecca.rimmer@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

Our website www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oncallfirefighter will give you all the information you will need to know about the role of a firefighter and the recruitment process

Community Responding

Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service and South-Central Ambulance Service are still in partnership, training all fire fighters as IEC (Immediate Emergency Care) so we can support and attend cardiac arrest patients.

For those that may not be aware off, we have a Defibrillator located on the front external wall of the fire station to be used in an emergency by members of the public. It is regularly checked and online with the national circuit, which means in the event of any cardiac arrest the emergency operator will be able to advise you the exact location and confirm the security code to gain access.

Safe & Wellbeing Visits

We continue safe & wellbeing visits, delivering fire safety talks and fit smoke alarms.

If anyone would like information on fire safety or request a visit from us, then please contact 08000 325999 or visit our website on www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

Social Media



Faringdon Fire Station



Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service (Official)



OxonFireRescue



OxonFireRescue

Report from the PAD Committee

Due to the Covid restrictions in the last two years the PAD committee has not met in person. The committee has continued to function by way of emails and communicating when required to ensure the PAD committees role in monitoring the various defibrillators around the town, and maintaining a 'rescue ready' status have taken place.

At present, the PAD committee has responsibility for the maintenance of the PAD defibrillators at: the Faringdon Community College and at Southampton Street Car Park.

Additionally committee members have been assisting with matters concerning the maintenance of the units and have dealt with queries relating to defibrillators that have either been used in an incident or to provide a response to the replacement of items required to keep units in order at:

- Faringdon Library (Monitored by Library Manager and upkeep maintained by OCC facilities management team)
- Folly Sports Park (Monitored with maintenance upkeep supported by Faringdon Tennis Club)
- Faringdon Fire Station (Monitored weekly by 1st Faringdon Scouts and upkeep maintained by 'Life-time' Warranty)

As part of the role of the Committee, we pursued the possibility of locating a defibrillator at the Faringdon retail area and talks had begun with the property managers. However, that work was paused at the outset of the pandemic and the subsequent impact of the lockdowns. Further complications arose due to the potential site not being adjacent to a suitable electrical connection. However, the Committee will be re-engaging with the property managers, to see if we can satisfactorily progress this.

The Committee hopes to hold a preliminary meeting shortly as well as AGM, to elect/re-elect new officers as appropriate, and to continue to raise the profile of the role of the committee to interested parties and stakeholders. This will hopefully support one to the committee's key drivers; which is to have more PAD units available in locations within the Faringdon Community and to benefit the health and well-being of its residents in the event of Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest.

In addition to the ongoing work to support the placement of further units in local area, where it is both practical and appropriate. The committee will also continue to provide awareness and information to the local community on the use of defibrillators, to attend events and engage with interested parties within the area.

The Committee has funds to provide support towards the cost of items needing replacement at the end of their shelf life, or where items have been used in a patient rescue. A further reserve of funds is set aside to support the cost of the installation of a unit at Faringdon retail park and made available from the now wound up Faringdon Chamber of Commerce.

We will be in a position to further update the work and progress of the committee following decisions and actions from the next meeting.

We appreciate the continuing support of the Town Council and the residents of Faringdon, as well as the levels of engagement we have received at the events we have previously attended.

The Pump House

The Pump House is getting back into its stride after a long period of closure. We are meeting for an AGM very soon.

Cllr. Burns

Be Free Young Carers

Thank you for awarding Be Free Young Carers £3000, we are ever so grateful.

The funding will support young carers in Faringdon with 121 emotional support, this will be continued by our trainee counsellor Linda and our direct support worker Gemma who covers Faringdon Town. Our other support workers cover other areas in south Oxfordshire and Vale. Our yoga services are currently on hold as we are seeking a new yoga practitioner, we do hope to run these sessions again soon.

Our Support worker Gemma has had a meeting with the Pumphouse and agreed that when new yc's in Faringdon are registered we will contact them to discuss how they can support further. She will also signpost our YC's to COGS and their Urban Movement group and they have offered their hall to us if we need it for any activities which is fantastic.

Gemma is also currently working on visiting schools and helping them identify young carers in their community and supporting young carers in Faringdon Schools.

I shall be investigating funding from Faringdon United charities.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Grant

89 students are currently enrolled on Bronze and we took 86 of them on expedition last Friday/Saturday, unfortunately covid had claimed a few, so they are catching up on an open expedition later in the year. The weather was freezing, -30C on Saturday morning, but the students were amazing. They found it hard but demonstrated such a determination and resilience and it was a joy to hear the laughter.

47 are doing their Silver and 9 doing Gold. They are all finding their own expeditions this year, but many are heading out over the Easter holidays. For many this will complete their Bronze Award from last academic year as well.

Maymessy Community Interest Company grant feedback

GRANT CONDITIONS:

Awarded £2450 towards a bespoke cookery course for Faringdon families to learn to cook on a tight budget.

Maymessy works with The Place and Faringdon Food Bank to identify families.

Report at Town Meeting in May 2022



Grant conditions met and funding spent

- We have supported 5 Farindgon families over a period of 5 weeks ending 2nd December 2021. All families been identified by The Place and Laura Wright Head of Pastoral care at Faringdon infant school as needing support financially. All live in Faringdon
- All funding spent and accounted for – if you want breakdown and receipts I can email them.
- Thank you to Faringdon Town Council and Cllr, Mayor of Faringdon, Kiera Bentley for coming over to see Maymessy and hand out certificates.



Impact from classes

- All 5 mums have received workshops on how to cook using food bank ingredients and seasonal vegetables. Butternut squash pearl barley risotto, tray bakes, home made curries, apple and black berry crumble etc
- All 5 have received extra food to take home, box of herbs and spices and recipes to make again.
- 5 out of the 5 want to attend extra workshops at Maymessy and 3 are booked on Family and child first aid. 2 ladies have attended 4 gardening workshops and volunteered their time to seed and weed our veg garden for the next group to enjoy. 1 lady has just got a job as a dinner lady at FCC and sighted cookery classes at Maymessy as a reason to have quit her old part time job that she hated and got the confidence to work in a school kitchen.
- 4 out of 5 are very keen to give back to Faringdon Town through volunteering and possible collaboration with FTC and cooking soup for less advantaged ..
- 1 is keen to come to visit Fitzwarren school with me and keen to volunteer when DBS checks are done when we have Fits kids in for cooking camp. She might like to be a teaching assistant.
- New friendships made and confidence boosted. All 5 had serious mental health issues including 2 with personality disorders and time in hospital for this.





Testimonials from cooking classes

- “I have really enjoyed it and being in a cooking environment. I never thought of myself as a cook before but now I have confidence which has developed. I have made friends who I did not know before which was a relief. I really enjoyed the curry which was great and made bread. I am proud of my banana bread “. S G
- “Enjoyed getting out and meeting new people in new surroundings and pushing my barrier of not getting out. Having more confidence to cook new food. I can do this a home with the kids” K L
- “I enjoyed being a smaller group because I feel that we all have a voice and we can all work together. I am not so anxious as it is more calm and that is what you want when you are cooking. I don’t enjoy big groups of people and I get really anxious and have to mask and it is really draining.
- I really enjoyed the recipes using all the veg . They are really healthy and easy to recreate back at home and on a budget. CS
- “It’s like an eye opener on how to cook different foods- like hide vegetables by cutting veg into small pieces. It is not like normal venues you come to for courses, you can have a laugh and a bit of fun here and you are learning new stuff here you would not normally do. I tried the soup and me and my partner liked it. It opens my pallet and we like everything we make here. My son loved the naan bread. I don’t want it to end.” BR



What next ...

- All want to go on more classes and so would be keen to apply for more funding from Faringdon Town Council to do this including upskilling and more cooking on a budget classes for mums and dads struggling financially.
- Would be v keen to collaborate with FTC on facilitating a kitchen /community lunch at the Corn Exchange to support people struggling financially. Maia and I have already met up to discuss with Mayor KB and need to visit Council and buildings to progress.
- Thank you so much Faringdon Town Council. Photo from left to right-Maymessy team- Maia Sissons chef, AR and Emily Mac volunteer in picture





OXFORDSHIRE PLAY ASSOCIATION



REPORT ON FARINGDON PLAY & ACTIVITY

DAY 2021

FRIDAY 6TH AUGUST 2021



'BUILDING COMMUNITIES THROUGH PLAY'

Event Organised and Delivered by:



OXFORDSHIRE PLAY ASSOCIATION





FARINGDON PLAY AND ACTIVITY DAY



FRIDAY 6TH AUGUST 2021 – 11AM TO 3PM

**FREE ENTRANCE AND FREE ACTIVITIES – FUN
FOR ALL THE FAMILY AND FOR ALL AGES**

BUILDING COMMUNITIES THROUGH PLAY

*** Body Zorbing * Drumming Workshop * Giant Bubbles * Orinoco
Scrapstore * Bright Sparks Science * DIY Face Painting * Smoothie Bike *
Muddy Feet * Martial Arts * Balance Bikes * Fire Play and more!**

**FARINGDON TOWN FC, TUCKER PARK, PARK
ROAD, FARINGDON, OXON. SN7 7BP**

**Please be advised that NO childcare is provided at this event and Parents are
responsible for their Children at all times / This event will be filmed and
photographed / There is Disabled parking only on site / Hot Food, Ice Cream
and Refreshments will be available to be purchased or please do feel free to
bring a picnic**

Contact = 07436 270267 / martin.gillett@oxonplay.org.uk / www.oxonplay.org.uk



**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**







Playday is the annual celebration of the Children's Right to Play in the UK.

The 2021 theme, Summer of Play, recognises the challenges children and young people have faced over the past year and the need to enjoy time for play with their friends, having fun.

www.summerofplay.co.uk

www.playday.org.uk

- Playing is essential for children's mental health and wellbeing.
- Playing helps children cope with stress and anxiety and fosters resilience, enabling children to better deal with challenges.
- Playing gives children the opportunity to have fun, laugh, take time out, relax, and build friendships.
- Playing outside allows children to appreciate nature, the environment, and feel part of their community.
- Playing is fundamental to children's happiness, and happy children lead to happier communities.



OPA would like to thank the following for their financial and practical support, without whom this event would not have happened



We would especially like to Thank Faringdon Town Council and Faringdon Town Football Club for all their help and support in making this event such a success for the local Children, Young People and Families







OXFORDSHIRE PLAY ASSOCIATION



OPA PLAY AND ACTIVITY DAYS 2021

KEY AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

For Children & Young People

- 1) Promote Positive Behaviours & Activities (reduce anti-social behaviour)
- 2) Promote Increased Levels of Physical Activity
- 3) Promote a Healthy Lifestyle (healthy choices)
- 4) Promote Healthy Weight Management (obesity reduction)
- 5) Provide information on services and activities to promote a sense of Wellbeing and Inclusion

For Parents / Carers

- 1) Provide an Event offering both **FREE** Entrance & **FREE** Activities to Ensure an Inclusion for **ALL**
- 2) Demonstrate how Play & Quality Family Time can be achieved on a Zero / Minimal Budget using Natural & Recycled materials
- 3) Provide information on services and activities available in the local and wider area

For Communities

- 1) Encourage a greater sense of belonging to promote Active & Engaged Communities - 'Love Where You Live'
- 2) Promote local clubs, groups and societies
- 3) Involve local groups, communities and Children & Young People in the planning and delivery of each event





OPA's Vision is to 'Improve Lives Through Play'

OPA's Mission is to 'Champion and to support the rights of all Children & Young People to have access to, high quality, inclusive Play opportunities to improve their Physical, Mental and Spiritual wellbeing'

T = 07436 270267

E = enquiries@oxonplay.org.uk

W = www.oxonplay.org.uk

Facebook =

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

Twitter = @oxonplay



Faringdon Rugby Club

Faringdon Rugby Club decided to spend the money on ground development. Previously we relied on old unreliable mobile lights that were unwieldy and dangerous.

We were delighted to be able to replace them with state of the art fixed lights. Based on this funding and with the support of the RFU we sourced low energy and low light pollution system that minimizes disruption to local residents and nearby main road.

Since we got the lights we have managed to introduce:

A family touch rugby evening

Start a ladies team

A vets team

A girls team.

This would have been impossible before as our old lights would illuminate a very small playing area and there was not enough room.

We have now hosted evening fixtures on folly park as well as benefiting the wider community through events such as a recent Beaver/Scout sports evening.

Thank you very much for all your help!

Kind regards.

D.Norris

David 'Chuck' Norris

Chair

Faringdon Rugby Club

Tel: 07557985340

Faringdon-rugby@outlook.com



Faringdon Town Council Report

Date: 4th May 2022

Root and Branch is a small charity which provides support to adults with a range of severe enduring mental health difficulties including schizophrenia, anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder, PTSD. We believe learning new skills as part of a supportive community enables recovery.

Project: To provide metalwork activities for our beneficiaries to learn basic blacksmithing skills and techniques under the tuition of a professional blacksmith. This promotes important life skills such as teamwork, concentration and focus, decision-making, problem solving and effective communication.

Date of application: 15.9.21

Date awarded: 1.10.21

Amount awarded: £1800

Report

Root and Branch has been able to offer weekly blacksmithing activities to our beneficiaries. We have been able to offer 4-week courses to individuals which has enabled them to learn and develop new skills, improve self-esteem, well-being and confidence.

Items that have been created include a treble clef decoration, pokers, hooks, snails, sculpture supports, bottle openers.

Testimonials

"I made a ram's head fire poker. It was a really fun day run by a caring, enthusiastic and professional teacher.

It was really good exercise swinging the hammer hundreds of times.

After a day's hard and enjoyable work I was really pleased with the ram's head that I'd created and I was proud to show it to my family who were all really impressed.

I've really enjoyed all the activities at Root and Branch but having a go using the forge was one of my favourites and was an activity that I've never had the opportunity to try before and it's really good creating something that I'm able to show to my family.

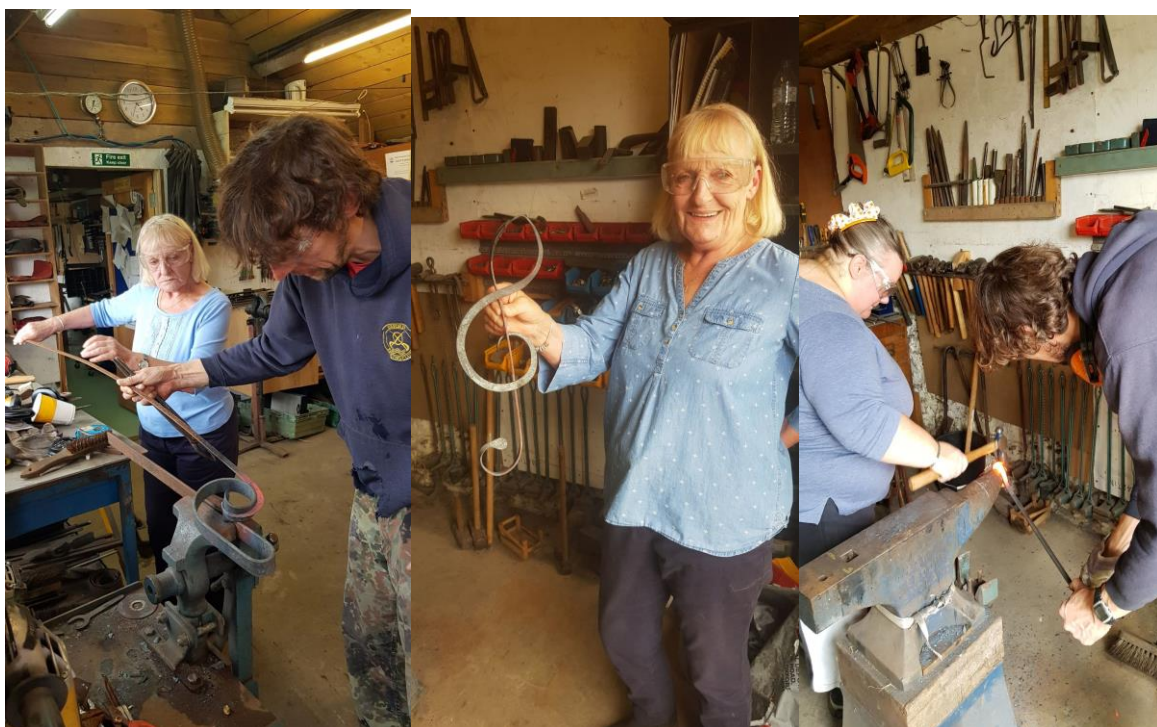
Would highly recommend as a good distraction from life's stresses which left me with a feeling of pride and accomplishment."





"I made some snails a snake some pokers and forks for fire places some with a ram's head I learnt how to forge weld too.

I really enjoyed doing this and working in the forge hopefully I will be able to have another go see what other things I can make it is one of the activities I have done i love coming to R&B and we are lucky that we can have opportunity to have a try and learn new things."



"I found my happy place again."



Root and Branch are very grateful to Faringdon Town Council for the generous contribution which has enabled us to provide this experience to our beneficiaries.

VALE COMMUNITY IMPACT

Report for the Town Council and Town Meeting - the year 2021/22

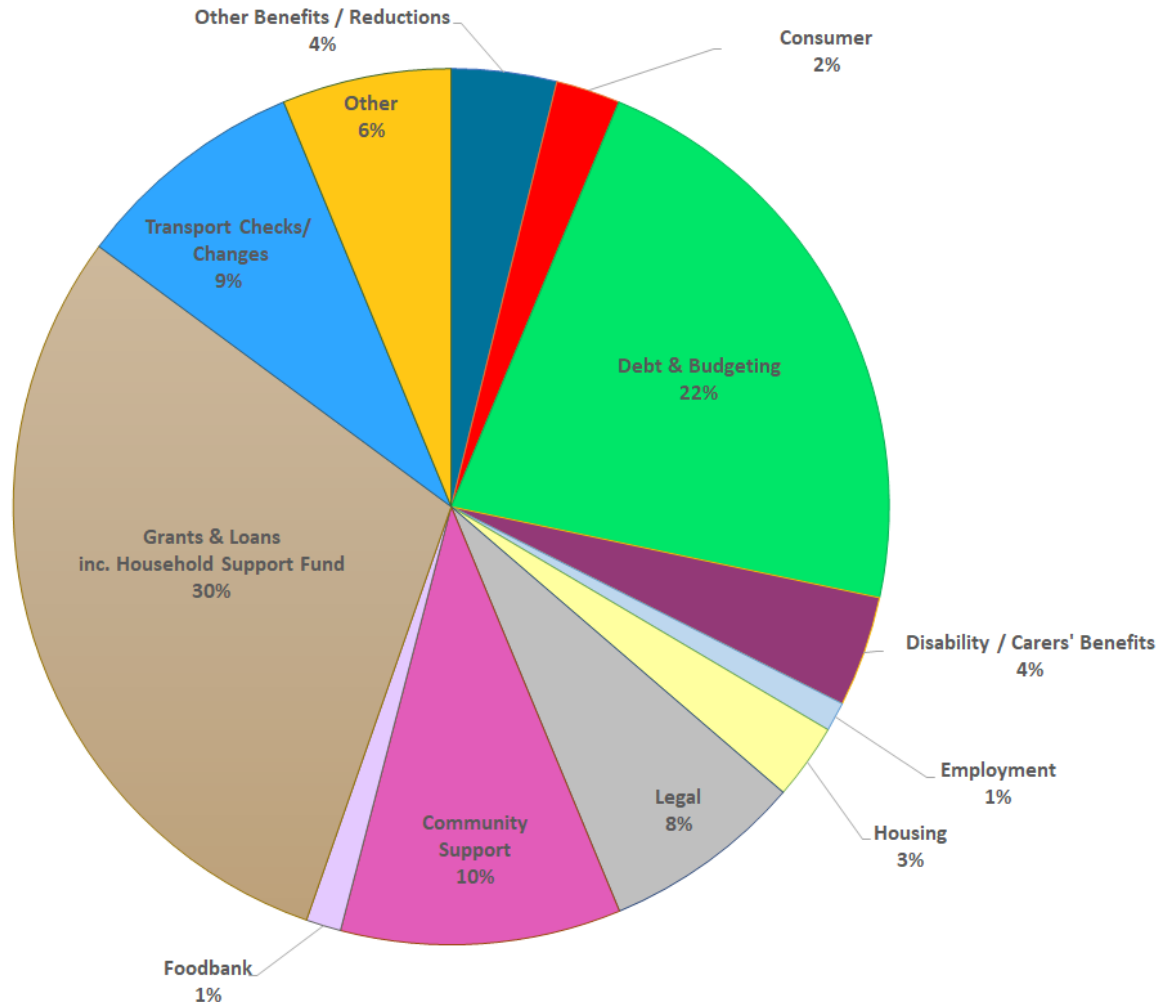
VCI would like to thank Faringdon Town Council for the £2,000 Grant provided for the financial year 2021/22. The Management Committee and all of our volunteers very much consider our service reach to be “In the Vale, For the Vale”.

The funding from the Grant award contributes to the services across all three of the VCI work-streams: Advice, Transport and Good Neighbour. VCI believes that its capability to weave together two or even three of its in-house services together is a great benefit to the community. By blending advice, drives, shopping and befriending it is possible for the Faringdon residents to receive a bespoke solution to provide assistance to tackle all aspects of their difficulties, whether they be hardship, worries, confusion, access, loneliness or isolation.

Our accounts for the financial year ending March 31st 2022 are in the process of being prepared for independent examination by a local firm of accountants. VCI will publish these in line with Charity Commission guidelines this summer.

Over the last 12 months, VCI has provided **881** instances of “help assistance” to residents of Faringdon Town. There have been a further **30** occasions when one of our volunteer drivers has brought a client in from one of the surrounding areas ie Great Coxwell, Stanford in the Vale Woolstone, Watchfield and so on for access to local Faringdon retailers, dentists, the White Horse Medical Practice, the Pump House project and food bank sessions etc.

In the last year VCI has provided **466** advice consultations to Faringdon residents. This is a **27% increase** on the previous year and continues to illustrate the steady pattern of a rise in demand level with there having been a 20%+ increase the year prior.



The Coronavirus pandemic was very much still part of life for the residents, trying to find ways to make it through and adapt. In much the same way, the last 12 months still saw Covid19 at the forefront of VCI decisions, risk assessments and general ways of managing to provide services safely whilst protecting our volunteers. The impact of Covid19, the challenges and difficulties along the path to recovery (both physically and mentally) are well documented but not easily solved. The contribution from Covid19 on anxiety levels, whether a resident contracts the virus or not, has been significantly noted amongst our clients and coupling this with the accelerating cost of living, more clients are finding the courage to seek help and openly express feelings of hopelessness.

The advice pie-chart shows that 30% of the advice consultations were primarily linked to the investigation of, securing of and allocation out of applicable grants or loans. For Faringdon residents there were more than half a dozen different routes ie a disability or Independent Living grant, Household Support Fund, Faringdon United Charities and Eaton Fund.

As one of only two partners selected by the Vale of White Horse District for the Household Support Fund and Covid19 Winter Grant Scheme, VCI has supported over 80 Faringdon individuals, couples or families through the two government schemes in terms of initial identification, eligibility assessments, allocation of appropriate grant funds and household money management activities.

VCI has also linked well with other local community groups or activities to collectively deliver an overall solution of best-fit to a resident. VCI has found its close working practices with the White Horse Medical practice, particularly the social prescriber team, very productive and beneficial to our organisation. This collaboration targets the overall welfare of residents and proves an effective approach for clients/patients. Hopefully over the coming months the regular involvement of our Advice team at the Faringdon Community Larder will develop similarly and provide additional assistance to residents.

The VCI Management Committee also continued to authorise the Operations team to manage an internal hardship fund with contributions from local sponsors, Containing Outbreak Management Funds (COMF) and Priority Funds from Councillors. This hardship fund has meant that VCI has also been able to provide local residents with crisis food shopping and transport to essential medical appointments without cost to residents.

There were 95 transport bookings for Faringdon residents of which the majority were for trips to one of the hospitals in Oxford or Swindon. Our drivers again have also been available for short notice vaccination drives to the surgery or Kassam Stadium.

The Good Neighbour Scheme has been busier than ever with a 60% growth in demand and activity for Faringdon residents. 321 befriending interactions between clients, the Good Neighbour volunteers and the VCI Liaison staff team took place for Faringdon residents.

VCI has expanded its volunteer team to include a further assessor. The last two years has had a dramatic effect with regard to the loss of confidence and reduction in mobility. A sense of loneliness and physical isolation are frightening, both can have overwhelming consequences.

Our charity remains grateful for the continued support from the nominated Town Council representative, Kimberley Morgan, who has been a member of our Management Committee throughout the last year.

Our aim for 2022/23 is to ensure our valued and much needed service continues to be available to all in need. Residents face immense pressures and worries with the accelerating cost of living. Our charity's focus, like so many organisations, is to balance the high-quality and depth of the services provided whilst seeking long-term funding security.

It is important to stress that it is possible to make a difference with even the smallest amount of "donated time"; in both Transport and Befriending services the level of flexibility is considerable. Please don't hesitate to ask for more information or contact us to chat about volunteering opportunities. VCI is proud of its volunteer satisfaction and retention levels but with the rise in demand, new volunteers will be essential.



The Pump House Project
Swan Lane
Faringdon
Oxfordshire
SN7 7AF

Registered Charity No: 1151905

17 May 2022

Faringdon Town Council

Dear Councillors,

Re: YOUTH FUNDING GRANT

We now find ourselves at the end of the spend on the grant that FTC so kindly awarded us for the set up of COGS (Community Owned Guidance Service). We have been very successful in stretching that amount much further than originally anticipated (2 counsellors, 4 young people = 40 hours) and in October Sally agreed that we could continue with our spend until the grant ran out which was greatly appreciated. We are getting busier by the week and recently I have even had to bring in a volunteer administrator to take over the running of things as it has got too big for me to manage on top of my role at TPHP!

As agreed with Sally the small amount of grant monies remaining at this time can be carried forwards into the monies obtained from our fundraiser in August and can be used towards the October supervision cost.

I can confirm that with the generous grant awarded to us we have processed and arranged for DBS Certificates for all 9 counsellors currently signed to COGS, paid for the (albeit second hand) items to create a warm and welcoming space in our two rooms above Perry Bishop, kept the donated phone in credit to enable the community to access us, paid minimal admin costs and paid some supervision for the counsellors which is a legal requirement that we provide.

We have helped, with that £1050.00, a total of 14 young people from within the parish of Faringdon equating to 56% of the young people we have helped, or are helping, to date. The remaining 44% are either attend Faringdon Community College or are registered at The White Horse Medical Practice.

A breakdown of our costs is as follows:

DBS x 9	£62.55
Admin 6 months	£753.00
Furnishings	£119.56
Phone Top Up	£30.00
Supervision	£70.00
Total Spend	£1,035.11
Funds Remaining	£14.89

Once again, thank you! Without the generosity of Faringdon Town Council and Sally Thurston's unfailing support and guidance we wouldn't have been able to realise the dream of COGS (It didn't even have a name until we filled in the application form it was just a long help dream of myself and my Lead Counsellor Nikkie) to work with so many local (and now not quite so local as we are expanding to the GP surgeries that feed into FCC over the coming months) providers and services to make a difference to every single one of those young people that pick up the phone and call us. This project is filling a huge need in the community as we currently have no waiting list. CAMHS have around 3 years to be seen/spoken too, T.A.B have an average of 16 weeks to assessment and Talking Space have a minimum 12 weeks wait for assessment alone. We can take a call in the morning, assess in the afternoon and have the young person in front of a counsellor the following day (and we have done so on more than one occasion where the young person has been of safeguarding concern and in a crisis situation) and that is because you believed in The Pump House Project and our ability to get things achieved in the best interests of the local community.

Kind regards

Sarah Stoves
Project Manager
The Pump House Project

