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## Focus on Faringdon

Councillors Lucy Edwards and Bethia Thomas

VoWHDC Report **NOVEMBER 2024**



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We have been continuing our supportive work for residents and communities. As always, if you have any questions or would like to meet with us, please get in touch – our contact details are at the bottom of this report.

### Round-Up of Local Issues

*Not all items are covered here, with a selection of the main updates listed below. Please get in touch for further details on these or other items.*

- **Flooding on Coxwell Road:** There is a blocked ditch on the north side of road, towards the A420 that is causing flooding. Officers have arranged a site visit with Wain Homes as the situation is more complex than first thought. Awaiting updates.
- **Damaged Wall, Stanford Road:** We are still chasing requests to Sovereign to fix the collapsed wall but had no response as yet; we would appreciate any support the town council may offer in this matter.
- **Preapplication on Folly Sports Park** – We believe this imminent and apologise for delays; we are looking into why this has occurred and will report back to you with any feedback.
- **Wessex Leisure Funding:** We have asked for an update on this funding and awaiting a meeting with officers; at the same meeting we will discuss the current the matter of the MUGA and acquisition of gym equipment for Faringdon Leisure Centre to ensure S106 funds are spent locally whenever possible.
- **ATP at Faringdon Community College** – As reported last month we are awaiting a decision on external funding; we will find out if we are successful next summer.
- **Faringdon Infant School Application** – We submitted comments supporting the development of the new SEND School; it is likely that this decision will go to committee.
- **Boots Pharmacy:** We received an explanation for the closure which has nothing to do with either the district or county councils; Boots procedures have been updated to ensure communication is improved in the future.

## **District Update**

### **Over £720,000 boost for local infrastructure**

Over the last six months, the council has transferred over £720,000 to invest in vital infrastructure delivered by the council, town and parish councils and other community organisations. Investments have ranged from new play equipment, wetland habitat creation, art trails and sculptural seating to rugby pitch improvements and toilet refurbishments.

### **Local Nature Recovery Strategy**

Oxfordshire residents, landowners, businesses, farmers and other organisations are being offered the chance to help shape the priorities for recovering areas of nature and wildlife across the county. Last year, Oxfordshire County Council was [named by the government](#) as a responsible authority for driving nature recovery. The council is one of 48 authorities who have been funded by the government to work with local people and organisations to develop a local nature recovery strategy (LNRS). Comments are now being sought on Oxfordshire's draft LNRS as part of a consultation which runs until 26 November 2024. The document, maps and online survey are available at the [Let's Talk Oxfordshire](#) website.

### **Rethinking Waste**

We're entering a new era for rubbish with the launch of our new joint Waste Resources and Street Cleansing strategy. The new strategy, which was formally approved by Cabinets, puts a strong emphasis on encouraging and enabling people to reduce, reuse, repair, refill and rehome items - instead of throwing them away. Everyone can read the strategy and find out more about rethinking waste and our plans to keep our streets clean and tidy at: [www.southandvale.gov.uk/rethinkingwaste](http://www.southandvale.gov.uk/rethinkingwaste).

### **Southern Water consultation**

Southern Water has prepared a revised draft Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) which includes updates to their draft plan – [find out more here](#). The revised plan includes key changes to the draft plan; therefore, they have decided to consult on their revised plan and are looking for feedback from their customers, regulators, and other stakeholders. Officers are preparing a representation to Southern Water. If any members would like to review the WRMP and input into this representation, please send your comments to the councils' [Insight and Policy team](#) by 22 November 2024 at the latest.

## **Next steps in shaping our districts' future: proposed Joint Local Plan Publication Stage**

There is still some time to comment on the publication version of the JLP. You can find out more about this publication stage in the [Statement of Availability and Representations Procedure](#) document. This is the last stage before the Plan is submitted to a Government Planning Inspector for independent examination. The period for responding on the publication stage Joint Local Plan opens today and runs until Tuesday 12 November 2024 at 11.59pm. [JLP - Join the conversation.](#)

### **Contact Details**

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