

CLLrs Lucy Edwards and Bethia Thomas

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 and we will be holding our last surgery of the year on Saturday 14th December.

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.

- **Damaged Wall, Stanford Road:** We have been assured by officers at Sovereign that works would begin the W/C 13th January and last 2-3 weeks.
- **Flooding, Coxwell Road:** Works have taken place on pipework underneath the road; a permanent repair has been requested with Wain Homes and the landowner on the opposite side of the road. The road is drier and officers will be attending in the next couple of weeks to check levels and inspect the watercourse in detail.
- **New Equipment, FLC** – £44,000 worth of state-of-the-art equipment has been installed in Faringdon Leisure Centre; we are monitoring and the funds used for further improvements and additions to the Leisure Centre.
- **Far Runners Partnering with Vale** - Far Runners joined in the England Athletics campaign to help women feel safe while exercising outside in the darker months. The special 'Lets lift the curfew' run was attended by over 40 runners. The next Far Runners couch to 5km course started on January 12. The council actively supports the Far Runners and other sporting groups in Faringdon providing free exercise and events for our residents.
- **Active Literacy in Faringdon** – Our teams have been providing Active Literacy sessions at Faringdon Library in November and December; we await news of future sessions.
- **Wessex Leisure Funding** – No further news to report but we are pursuing this behind the scenes to sure up funding agreements with Oxfordshire County Council.
- **Lighting, Gloucester Street Car Park** – We are seeking confirmation that this has been permanently repaired since a temporary fix was put in place late last year. Officers are in contact with the contractor supplier to place pressure on getting a quick resolution to replace a timelock which is faulty.
- **Safety Railing, Gloucester Street Car Park** – No further news to report though we are pursuing an update with the legal team and will pass on any developments.
- **Fernhill Gardens to Belmont Estate** – We are pursuing this matter, but as you know as an enforcement matter, we may not be able to disclose any details until the case is resolved.
- **ATP at Faringdon Community College** – This project is on hold until next summer.
- **Wicklesham Farm** – Still waiting on a date Oxfordshire County Council's planning committee.
- **SEND School Application** – There have been a number of amendments submitted.

- **Canada Lane Potholes** – We have followed up and a provisional date has been put in place to fix the potholes.

District Update

Local Government Reorganisation

The government published a white paper in December outlining plans for comprehensive reform of local government across England that would see the creation of large regional Strategic Authorities along with the creation of new unitary councils in areas like Oxfordshire that currently have a two-tier council system. The Vale is engaging with local partners in Oxfordshire and beyond to investigate the best fit for our communities, residents and businesses.

Joint Local Plan Update

Following a series of successful public consultations, which produced strong and positive feedback, the plan has now been submitted to the Government for the examination stage. In the last week arrangements are being put in place for the inspection phase of the plan.

Warm spaces and Emergency Beds for Rough Sleepers

While the temperatures have plummeted in January, we opened a number of emergency bed facilities across the district to ensure we protected those most vulnerable to the cold; if you know of any person rough sleeping in the area please contact the [Housing Team](#). Local libraries, leisure centres and other organisations are also providing a warm welcome for people this winter. If you know of an organisation planning to be a warm space during the winter months, please do encourage them to add their details to the website, where residents can find a warm space near to them. We will be sharing warm space details on social media. Further details can be found at: [Warm Welcome Spaces](#).

Contact Details

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