

Focus on Parishes with Cllr Bethia Thomas

Faringdon

March 2025

Looking forward to your meeting this month, I have prepared a refreshed report for March. There has been much discussion about devolution and local government reorganisation. As always, happy to answer any questions you may have.



Parish Round-Up

Wall Repairs on Stanford Road – Working with Faringdon Town Council to investigate ownership and seek repairs.

Footpaths in Town – I have contacted officers about issues on the Hobble and footpath leading to Southampton Street from Volunteer Way.

Issues on the Highworth Road – A walkaround the site with Bewley will take place later this month to discuss various issues that need to be resolved.

Issues on the Coxwell Road – Reports of mud on road and blockage of the pavement around the Wain Homes development are being managed by county and district officers.

Adult Social Care S106 Payments – No further update, though I am awaiting a response from officers regarding consultation and suggested plans.

Bromsgrove Day Centre – No further update, though I am awaiting a response from officers.

Wicklesham Quarry Application – Planning officers are still awaiting comments from the Transport Development Management team. When these are received, the report will be finalised; the next possible committee is scheduled for 31st March..

Speeding in Marlborough Gardens – Awaiting an update from FATAAC, 24th March.

School Crossing Signage on Park Road – Awaiting an update from FATAAC, 24th March.

Bollards on Park Road – Have been reported, awaiting updates from Streetlighting.

Traffic Lights onto the A420 – No further updates, as far as I understand the lights will be in place for the first occupation of the newest development on Coxwell Road; the properties that are now standing are show homes and sales office.

Speed Reduction on the A420 – No further updates, but I believe the change should be made in the coming months.

Repairs to Radcot Bridge – A road closure has been ordered to facilitate repairs to the bridge where existing stonework will be dismantled and a new parapet rebuilt from 17 March.

General News

- **Improvements to SEND:** In an update on progress by Oxfordshire's local area partnership (LAP) to improve services and support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). It was noted that progress had been made by the LAP in the quality and timeliness of education, care and health plans and needs assessments; improved guidance and support for schools on alternative education provision; and reduced median waiting times for assessments for neurodevelopmental conditions. The continued challenges, both national and countywide, in delivering SEND service improvements were also recognised. [Find more out online.](#)
- **New service for residents with memory concerns:** Residents in Oxfordshire who are worried about their memory can now access expert support and advice through a new memory support service from Dementia Oxfordshire. The service is accessed by a GP referral and providing a consultation with an adviser, who can help with memory strategies, explore lifestyle changes, advise on benefits and provide support. It also supports those with a diagnosis of Mild Cognitive Impairment or waiting to be seen at a memory clinic. It is delivered by Dementia Oxfordshire, a service provided by Age UK Oxfordshire with funding support from Oxfordshire County Council. It already supports people living with dementia and their families across the county. [Find more out online.](#)
- **Devolution and local government reorganisation:** Oxfordshire County Council is preparing a preliminary bid to submit to the secretary of state, suggesting that a whole county unitary council is the best fit for the county. They are working with other councils within the county to develop this bid, while recognising that alternative bids may be submitted. All bids must be submitted by 21st March.

Live Public Consultations

- **SEND Conversations:** OCC is hosting further information sessions on improvements to SEND services on 18 and 25 March. [Add to the conversation.](#)

Grants

- **Green grants:** Grants are available to support activities for Big Green Week, applications close 14 March. [Apply here.](#)

Councillor Surgeries

I will be available for face-to-face surgeries between 10.00-11.00am at Faringdon Library on the following dates:

- 8th March
- 12th April

Email: bethia.thomas@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Phone: 07906 821680

Cllr Bethia Thomas Liberal Democrat Member for Faringdon Division

