

Focus on Faringdon Division, Annual Report

Cllr Bethia Thomas

2024-2025



Another busy year for us all and the following is only a brief summary of some of the major points around the division. For any other inquiries please contact me directly.

Parish Round-Up

Wicklesham Quarry Application – This application has been back and forth between the developer and council officers throughout the year, and we have been waiting for a final date for it to go to committee, which I believe is now set for June. I think it is important that this application is heard at committee and have insisted that it is, and while I personally have never supported the quarry development, I have heard the views of each affected parish, and have come to a compromise position, where I recognise that if it does go ahead we lobby for the highest standards of development, and the requisite infrastructure to go alongside it. I will reflect the views of each parish, including the supportive position of Faringdon Town Council, if I am given the opportunity to speak at committee, but would also stress the objections of Little Coxwell, Great Coxwell, and the many residents of Faringdon who have also been in touch with me about this matter, to provide a balanced view.

Progress on the SEND School – Building work is now starting on the former infant school site to progress the new SEND School. This fate of this site had been uncertain, and I am happy that it has been saved for community use through the creation of a facility which will benefit children and young people locally, while giving Faringdon's residents the opportunity to access the sporting facilities on site through a community use agreement.

Fire Station Refurbishment – I was incredibly pleased to hear that we had secured funding for a much-needed refurbishment of Faringdon Fire Station, giving our fire crew state of the art facilities, and making the building a more modern, sustainable facility. Earlier in my term we saw the full refurbishment of Faringdon Library and I am proud that we have been able to invest in the town's community assets.

Traffic Lights onto the A420 – I probably have more queries about this issue than any other. I have been assured that the traffic lights will be operational before the first occupation of the new development on Coxwell Road, and believe this will bring a significant improvement to the safety of the intersection and access onto the A420

Safety Measures on our Highways – Throughout the year we have made continued improvements to safety on local roads. The construction of the pedestrian refuge at the junction of the A420 on Fernham Road has improved the crossing at that point. Speed reductions on the A420 and connecting roads as well as speed limit review of the A417 to Lechlade should improve safety throughout the division. Speed monitoring throughout Faringdon itself continues.

Flooding in the Division – While the majority of the population of Faringdon Division are not affected by flooding, residents in Buscot, and Buscot Wick are particularly affected, and we are focusing on improving the emergency response there, while investigating any further measures we can take to reduce flooding across that area.

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