

# Annual Town Meeting

## 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025

# Who are your Councillors?



Cllr. Peter Castle:  
Mayor



Cllr. Jane Boulton:  
Deputy Mayor



Cllr. James Famakin



Cllr. Julie Farmer  
(Community &  
Partnerships Chair)



Cllr. Angela Finn



Cllr. Alan Ford  
(Planning & Highways  
Chair)



Cllr. Steve Leniec  
(Finance & Audit Chair)

# Who are your Councillors?



Cllr. Rufus Lunn



Cllr. Kim Morgan



Cllr. David Norris  
(Facilities Chair)



Cllr. Chris Palmer



Cllr. Gene Webb

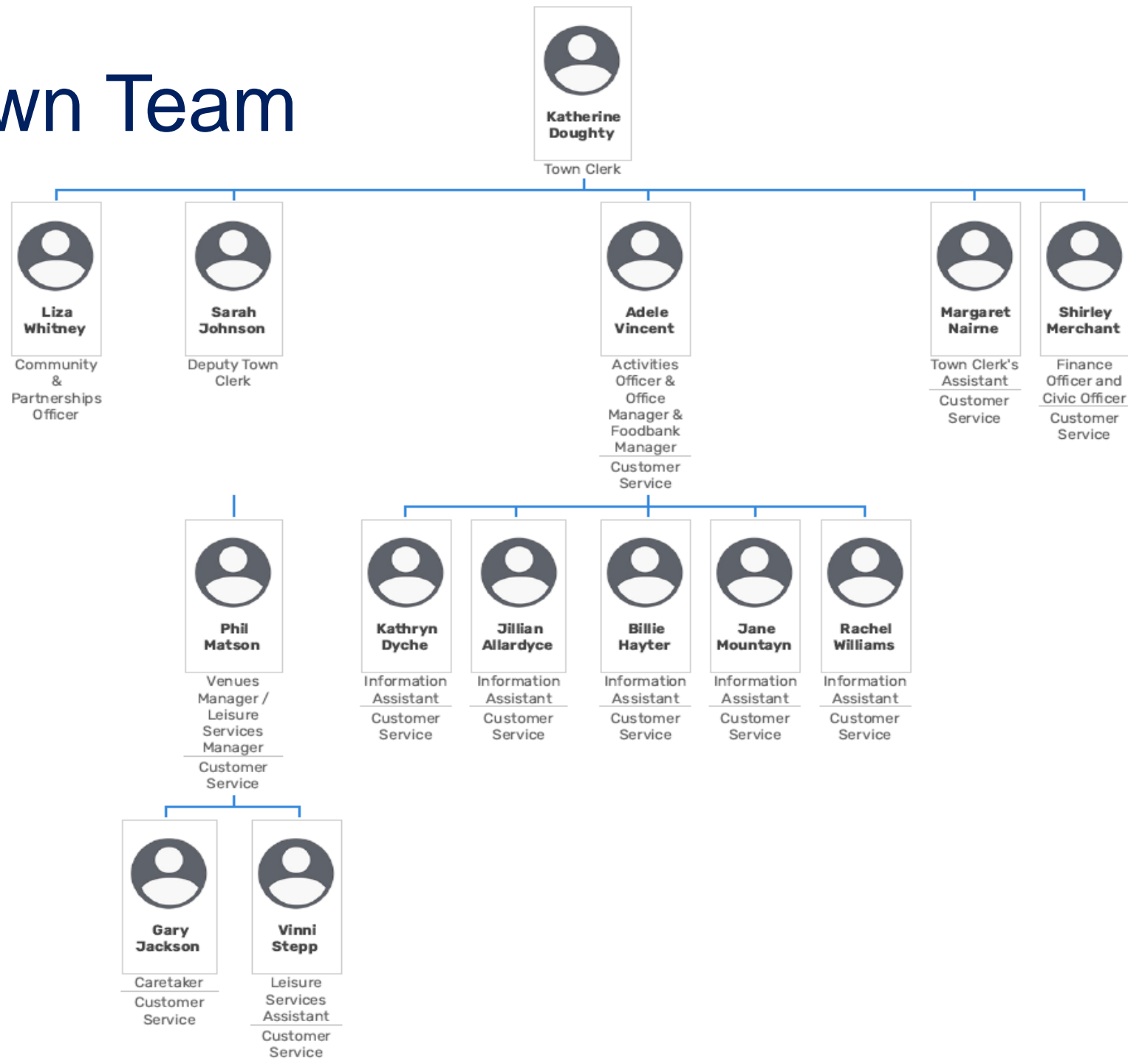


Cllr. Mark Wild



Cllr. Mike Wise

# The Town Team



# The work of the Town Council



- Faringdon Town Council is the first tier of local government.
- We are here to represent our c.9000 residents.
- The Council work with partners to deliver services such as the Foodbank and allotments.
- Provide essential grant funding to The Place and many other organisations (more on this later).

# Some of the Town Council work



# The work of the Town Council



We liaise with District Councillors Lucy Edwards and Bethia Thomas (also County Councillor) on areas such as:-

- Highway/Footpath connections, repairs and safety issues.
- Planning development matters.
- Town car parks maintenance.
- Use of developer funds for the community benefits.

# Strategic Plan 2023-2027



**Our vision:** Faringdon is a sustainable town that meets the needs of its residents.

**Our mission:** To provide a representative voice for the community and offer practical support to maintain the sustainable economic and social wellbeing of the town.

# Strategic Plan 2023-2027



## **Our strategic objectives: Engagement**

- To consult and communicate widely to engage residents of all ages.
- To promote and encourage public participation.
- Improve engagement with local businesses.
- To work in partnership with key stakeholders

# Strategic Plan 2023-2027



## Our strategic objectives: Engagement



New website on its way!

ALL WELCOME TO OUR  
**COUNCILLOR SURGERIES**

Chat  
to your  
local Town  
Councillors

**When?** Tuesday 6 May 2025, 10am-12 noon

**Where?** Our gazebo at Farmers' Market

**Contact** [liza@faringdontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:liza@faringdontowncouncil.gov.uk)

# Strategic Plan 2023-2027



## Our strategic objectives: Engagement



Visit Faringdon Town Council's stall at

**FREE FAMILY EVENT**  
**AUGUST PLAY DAY**

Friday 2 August, 11am-3pm, Tucker Park

**FOSSIL EXCAVATION ACTIVITY**

SUPPORTED BY OXFORDSHIRE GEOLOGY TRUST

BRING YOUR FOSSILS ALONG TO SHOW EXPERTS  
DIG FOR FOSSILS THAT YOU CAN KEEP  
MEET YOUR TOWN COUNCILLORS



# Strategic Plan 2023-2027



## **Our strategic objectives: Environment**

- Improve the appearance of Faringdon, whilst celebrating its heritage and uniqueness.
- Connect and integrate the town by advocating safer cycling and walking routes.
- Support the economic development of the Town Centre.
- Promote and support the FTC climate change agenda.
- Work to ensure the shortage of leisure space is addressed.

# Strategic Plan 2023-2027



## Our strategic objectives: Environment



# Strategic Plan 2023-2027



## **Our strategic objectives: Environment**

- Eliminate single use plastics in all council run events and activities
- Town Park project
- Electric bike charging points and availability
- Continue Faringdon's Big Green Day as an annual event to create awareness
- Develop and distribute insect habitats in and around the town

# Strategic Plan 2023-2027



## **Our strategic objectives: Economics**

- Manage our finances transparently and adhere to legislation and policy.
- Expend CIL funding to mitigate the impact of an increasing population.
- Ensure that objectives set are deliverable with adequate resources allocated.
- Seek grant funding to deliver objectives where possible.
- Make FTC grants available to assist and benefit Faringdon residents.
- To deliver services that are economic and efficient.

# Strategic Plan 2023-2027



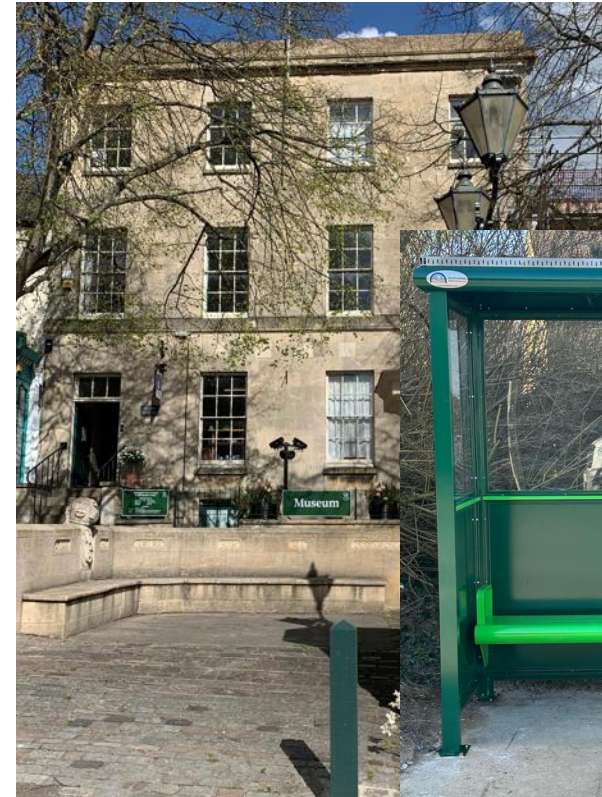
## Our strategic objectives: Economics



**Faringdon Town Council**

*Internal Audit Report 2024/25: Year End Report*

**Chris Hackett**  
Consultant Auditor  
For and on behalf of Auditing Solutions Ltd



# Strategic Plan 2023-2027



## Our short-term objectives:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Support the town centre (comprehensive plan needed)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Consider ways to address lack of amenity space (work is ongoing for space at Folly Park)</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Promote all town council good work and improve communication (ongoing)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Install a multi-use games area (MUGA) in Faringdon</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Climate change tasks (working party)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Support the production of a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Community Infrastructure Levy priorities (consultation plan needed)</li></ul>	

# Strategic Plan 2023-2027



## Major projects and events:

Events	Major Projects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Transport exhibition</li><li>• Community Awards</li><li>• Remembrance exhibition</li><li>• Outdoor Cinema</li><li>• Remembrance Day</li><li>• Green Day</li><li>• D-Day / 100years RBL</li><li>• Civic Service</li><li>• Lights switch on</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bench project</li><li>• MUGA</li><li>• Recreational Space</li><li>• Pump House Improvements</li><li>• Town Park</li><li>• Town Centre regeneration</li><li>• Footpath survey</li><li>• Cycling and Walking Infrastructure</li><li>• Portwell repairs/refurb</li></ul>

# Projects/Events



# Projects/Events



Nicola Henshaw  
Bench 1 Start marker  
A bench with a view

forged steel base, set onto  
concrete footings beneath  
ground level.  
Carved and stained oak slats



Nicola Henshaw  
Geology bench 6  
Coxwell Road

Dimensions:  
Seat length 150cm  
Seat height 45cm  
Back (from ground) 100cm

Forged steel base, set onto  
concrete footings beneath  
ground level.  
Carved and stained oak slats

Record defects at Fixmystreet.com with photos and locations. Defects include - Footways/Cycleways potholes min. 2cm depth. Road potholes min. 4cm depth. Resurfacing, surface dressing needed.



# Finance and Audit Committee



## Finance notes - 2024/25

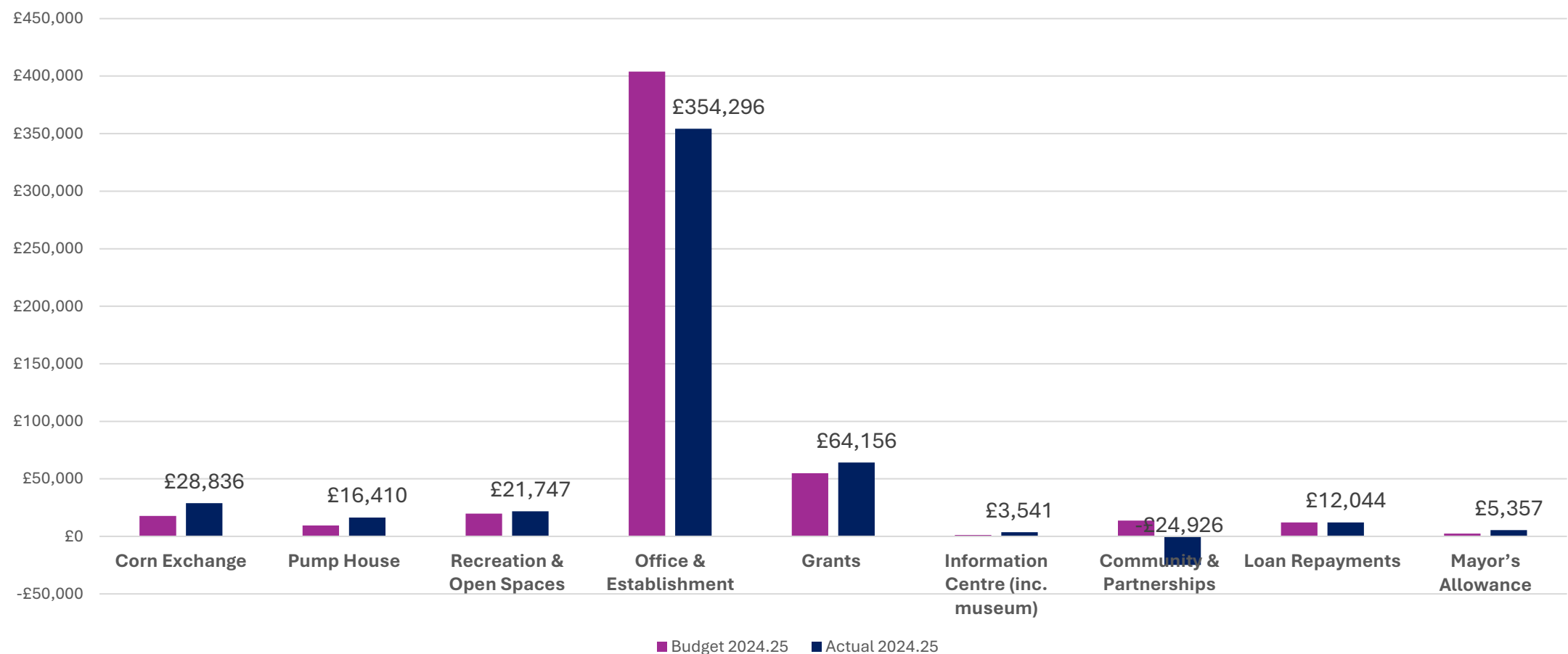
- Precept for 2024/25 = £535,283 = £159.43 per Band D household.
- Maintenance costs (general repairs) have increased.
- Prioritised routine maintenance raised in building condition reports is being pursued as recommended.
- Tourist Information Centre and Cinema continue to be valued by the community.
- Office & Establishment costs under budget. (Value for money and good financial administration continue to be practised).

# Finance and Audit Committee



## Finance 2024/25

Budget vs Actual 2024-25 FY



# Finance and Audit Committee



## **Precept/Budget 2025/26 challenges**

- Challenges – keeping on top of routine asset maintenance using revenue.
- 3 year budgeting will help to manage workflow and use of Earmarked Reserves/grants for capital expenditure.
- Objective to keep precept/budget below rate of inflation (4%).
- Demand for improved community facilities in FTC's parks and venues.
- Rising energy bills.
- Evolving legal obligations around health and safety, fire risk and safeguarding.

# Grants sub-committee



**19 Grants/bursaries awarded in 2024/25 totalling £54,158.96**

Citizens Advice

FollyFest

Twinning Association

Root & Branch

Faringdon War Memorial Trust

The Wheatsheaf

Oxfordshire Play Association

Bangers & Beer Festival

Faringdon Games Club

Tuckers Recreation Ground Trust

Live at the Park

Bass Therapy J-Fest

The Abingdon Bridge

Folly Tower Trust

The Crown

Faringdon Coffee House

The Pump House Project

Faringdon Art Society

The Place

# Planning and Highways Committee



## **Key points from 2024/25**

- Monthly committee meetings to consider all planning applications.
- Ongoing work on a Parking Restrictions Scheme for the Town Centre.
- Work with Faringdon Area Traffic Advisory Committee on highway issue problems.

## **Objectives for 2025/26**

- An updated Neighbourhood Plan to include a Conservation Area Appraisal.

# Facilities Committee



## Key points from 2024/25

### Corn Exchange

- Storage issue resolved with new stage with additional storage approved
- Fire risk compliance ongoing
- New commercial dishwasher approved
- Bar worktop refurbishment complete
- New side doors complete

# Facilities Committee



## Key points from 2024/25

### Pump House

- Bennett portrait restoration approved
- Fire risk compliance monitoring ongoing
- Sash windows repair approved
- Breakdown of phased redecoration
- Front door refurb referred to Finance

### Projects

- To improve Town Park and Oakwood Park
- Defib installation Canada Lane telephone box

# Facilities Committee



## Objectives for 2025/26

- Town Centre Regeneration and Portwell improvements
- Footpath survey and Cycling/Walking Infrastructure Plan
- MUGA installation
- Pump House and Corn Exchange upgrades
- Address recreational space shortage
- Integrate climate change initiatives with Facilities
- Develop a Biodiversity Policy
- Improve town appearance and safety
- Enhance FTC spaces and Town Park rejuvenation

# Communities & Partnerships Committee



## **Key points from 2024/25**

- Councillor Surgeries are well attended
- Popular FTC stall at August Play Day
- Community space needed for local groups

## **Objectives/events for 2025/26**

- To assist / communicate / engage effectively with residents through a new website design
- Better communicate role of FTC at August Play Day
- Bring Faringdon's community together again at Outdoor Cinema in August
- Better engage with young people
- Ensure Tourist Bus is funded by grants where possible and marketed to encourage users

# Climate Change Working Party



## Key Points from 2024/25

- Green Day – 7th June 2025
- 12 insect houses installed across Faringdon, supported by the National Trust at Coleshill
- New e-bike loan project launched with Farcycles (Climate Action Grant funded)
- Climate Change WP delivering Climate Action Policy
- Environmental considerations embedded in all council decisions
- Town appearance improvements initiated

# Climate Change Working Party



## **Objectives for 2025/26**

- Continue implementation of Climate Action Policy
- Further embed sustainability in all facilities projects
- Develop new environmental engagement campaigns
- Identify and pursue new climate-related grant opportunities

# Trust Updates



## **Tucker's Recreation Ground Trust**

- Asbestos surveys completed for the Clubhouse and Judo Hall.
- Fire risk assessments for clubhouse and judo hall have been approved.
- Ongoing maintenance in Tucker Park, including tree safety and maintenance.
- Strong working relationship and continued support for FTFC, Judo and Martial Arts clubs.
- FTC to provide improved signage to encourage responsible dog handling and prevent dogs in the play park.
- Approval for the installation of CCTV in the clubhouse and football pitch.

# Trust Updates



## **Faringdon War Memorial Trust**

- Regular bookings at The Old Town Hall
- Ongoing care and maintenance of the War Memorial and the building
- Delivery of Remembrance Day 2024 events
- Planning for the 2025 D-Day event and the Royal British Legion's 100th anniversary (Remembrance 2025)
- Ongoing maintenance including lift servicing and repairs
- Ensuring the building remains a warm, welcoming space for the community
- Strong community involvement in events and commemorations

# Note reports from grant recipients



**The Place**

**Citizens Advice**

**Pump House Project**

**The Abingdon Bridge**

**Faringdon Beer Society**

**Live at the Park**

# Note reports from local organisations



**Cllr Ford – German Twinning**

**Cllr Norris – Faringdon PAD Committee**

**Cllr Wise – Faringdon Community Bus**

**Cllr Wise – French Twinning**

**Cllr Wise – The Place**

# Thames Valley Police



**Report  
Q&A**

# Public comments/questions





**Thank you for attending.**