

## Focus on Parishes with Cllr Bethia Thomas

### Faringdon

June 2025

*Last month was a very busy period but I now have started to return to the main issues relating to Faringdon in the new municipal year. I am keen to work with the town council in the next year and congratulate Cllr Ford on his election as Mayor. I hope that we are able to work together for all residents in the town.*



### The Big Three

- **Wicklesham Quarry:** After the final amendment reducing the height and total floor space of the development significantly, officers are preparing final reports. I recently attended a briefing for local members outlining the situation as it stands. Since the planning team is still waiting on conservation and landscape reports the application will now be seen at the July committee meeting. I reviewed the application including developer contributions for the site, with funds reserved for transport contributions (bus services, bus stops and infrastructure relating to buses, and a sum dedicated to travel plan monitoring), rights of way contributions (towards surface and infrastructure improvements), and a monitoring contribution for the habitats management and monitoring plan. I will be attending and speaking at the committee meeting in July.
- **Parking in the Town Centre:** I appreciate all the work Faringdon Town Council committees have put into reviewing the parking scheme for the town centre. I am glad that we are arranging to meet to discuss this next month with the county officer in charge of the scheme to understand where we have got to, and how we will best go forward with the review. I have heard feedback from residents that they are not in favour of permit schemes, though I appreciate this may mean different things to different people. I would like to see the scheme implemented to alleviate the issues we see in some of the 'problem areas' in the town centre, and see the review progress to formal consultation as soon as possible.
- **ANPR on the Town Centre Bus Lane:** I have been reviewing the arguments for and against and am grateful that FTC has requested a meeting with officers to understand the situation further; I would like to attend, or arrange my own briefing, if meeting together is not possible. I have circulated the minutes of the Cabinet Delegations Meeting where it was discussed. It seems as though many of these schemes have been approved despite the majority of residents being against them. I do not understand why they are opposed, but I believe that the town council has lent weight to scheme simply by proposing this plan and I am glad that we are now pausing to meet with officers to understand the details of how it would work, and whether it is necessary at this time. I have been in contact with officers to follow up on the proposed meeting to discuss the scheme.

## Current Projects

*A list of current issues that are in progress, questions welcomed.*

- Bollards on Park Road in and around Tesco
- Wall Repairs on Stanford Road
- Footpaths in Town, including the Hobble and footpath from Southampton Street.
- Issues affecting adoption of the Belmont Estate including the Highworth Road
- Adult Social Care S106 Payments
- Supporting Bromsgrove Day Centre
- School Crossing Signage on Park Road
- Traffic Lights onto the A420 at the Great Coxwell Junction
- Speed Reduction on the A420
- One way system and signage on Gloucester Street
- ANPR on Radcot Bridge

## General News, Grants and Consultations

### Highways

- **Improvements to the A417 at Mellors:** Very happy to see some improvements to the road surface between Stanford and Wantage, however the cause of the flooding has not been addressed fully; we will continue to pursue the root cause.
- **Resurfacing Sections of the A420:** This has been given priority but will monitor resurfacing need in other areas.

### Grants

- **Councillor Priority Fund:** Will reopen this month, a wide variety of projects to be considered to benefit parishes within the division, please ask for details.
- **Warm Homes:** [Grant funding for retrofitting homes to reduce energy bills.](#)
- **Funding for Community Groups:** [How voluntary and community organisations can find and apply for funding opportunities.](#)

### Consultations

- [Oxfordshire Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2025 consultation](#)
- [Oxfordshire \(Adults\) Learning Disability Plan 2025 - 2035](#)

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