

Cllrs Lucy Edwards and Bethia Thomas

May has been a busy one for us all, and we welcome Cllr Ford as Faringdon's Mayor and are currently working towards a date to meet. As always, we have been working for residents and communities in Faringdon and like to keep town members informed; if you have any questions or would like to meet with us, please get in touch. Our Councillor surgeries are running as normal also – every second Saturday in the library from 10am – 11am. Our next surgery will be Sat 14th June.

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.

- **Town businesses meeting:** We met with local businesses and Vale's economic officer to hear and discuss how local businesses can work together, with the Vale and Tourism South East.
- **Antisocial behaviour:** We have reported antisocial behaviour under the Old Town Hall and community safety officers are working on a solution, in conjunction with the Neighbourhood Policing Team
- **YouMove at FCC** – School interventions have started at Faringdon Community College for year 7 pupils who aren't engaged in PE lessons. They have indicated what activities they want to take part in, and staff are delivering a range of sports and activities. Oxford Play Association will hold a play session on Friday 30th May and will hold a free play activity day Friday 1st August all in Tucker Park.
- **Lighting, Gloucester Street Car Park** – A light has not been working for a while and a vehicle was broken into on two occasions recently. Officers have sent an electrician to report on the light and the lights that are permanently on; we are awaiting a response.
- **New Damaged Wall, Bottom of Stanford Road:** None of the land near to the collapsed wall belongs to the District Council. Furthermore, as the wall has now collapsed, it is no longer considered a dangerous structure, so Building Control no longer have any involvement. Cllr Thomas will take this up with Highways at OCC.
- **Fernhill Gardens to Belmont Estate** – Pavements are completed, and road resurfacing will take place at a later date once road closure permit is in place; most snags are now rectified.

- **SEND School Application** – Planning officers are working hard to ensure that the developer meets the current criteria while maintaining the project timings. Clearing work has begun and there is a great deal of activity on the site.
- **Wicklesham Farm** – Oxfordshire County Council’s planning committee will not be heard at the June Planning Committee. An amendment has been made to the plans to 29,573sq m gross. This is a reduction from 33,592 sq m which represents a significant alteration from the original. The maximum height of the proposed buildings has also been reduced to 12 metres from the original of over 20 metres.

District Round-Up

Some major news stories and matters of interest from the Council

Local Government Reorganisation

The council has just launched a public engagement programme to inform residents of our proposal for a new model for local government in our area that we are seeking to submit to the government in the autumn. Alongside a survey we will be running a series of public events including one in Faringdon, the details of which are set out below. Feedback will shape our proposal for a new model for local government in our area that we are seeking to submit to the government in the autumn.

We are working closely with our counterparts in West Berkshire Council, Cherwell and West Oxfordshire District Councils on both the proposal and the engagement, providing a unified and robust solution to the government’s plans to end Oxfordshire’s two-tier council structure in a way that best serves our communities.

Our proposal seeks to create two brand new unitary councils that cover the following areas:

Oxford City, Cherwell and West Oxfordshire Council (created from the existing district councils of Cherwell, Oxford City and West Oxfordshire)

Ridgeway Council (created from the existing district councils of South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse and the unitary council of West Berkshire).

Both councils would reflect the natural geographies and shared priorities of our local areas, would help bring high-quality services closer to their residents, and would be appropriately sized to deliver these services effectively and sustainably.

For further information head to twocouncils.org to learn more about the proposal. And have your say here [Oxford & Shires and Ridgeway Councils - Join the conversation - South Oxfordshire & Vale of White Horse - Citizen Space](#) We are asking for your comments from Wednesday 4 June until 11:59pm on Wednesday 16 July 2025.

Faringdon Engagement Event: Friday 27 June, Old Crown Coach Inn, 10.30am – 1.30pm

Joint Local Plan

The public hearings for the South and Vale Joint Local Plan were held 3rd-5th June and planning officers report that they felt it went as expected given the robust consultation process that preceded it.

Planning Inspectors held the sessions to hear from the councils and other participants about whether the local plan is sound and has been prepared in accordance with legal and procedural requirements.

For more information visit our [Joint Local Plan Examination Webpage](#). Sessions can be viewed on [YouTube @ SV Business](#)

Homelessness and rough sleeping strategy consultation

Minimising the use of temporary accommodation, which can be disruptive to people's lives, especially children – is a huge challenge. It's just one of five key objectives in the council's new draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy.

The proposed strategy also lays out how the council is increasing the provision of genuinely affordable, long-term homes, as well as continuing to prevent homelessness in the first place and support rough sleepers who have complex needs.

We've opened a public consultation for feedback. Please do share our social media messages and encourage people to join in the conversation on this important area of work for our communities. To take part, visit the [Online Strategy Consultation](#).

£1.9 million boost for local infrastructure

Over the last six months, the council has invested over £1.9 million in vital infrastructure delivered by the council, town and parish councils and other community organisations.

Investments have ranged from installing air source heat pumps and solar panels, to public art, bus shelters, skate park repairs, allotment works and gym equipment, tennis court and MUGA improvements.

As the local planning authority, we collect financial contributions in the form of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106 (S106) – this is the funding from housing developers to support the growth of the district when new developments are created.

Find out more about [CIL here](#) and [S106 here](#). If you have any questions please email infrastructureclaims@southandvale.gov.uk

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