

Focus on Parishes with Cllr Bethia Thomas

Faringdon

October 2025

I was very happy to see that a member sent me questions to address in my report to you this month. It is very helpful to make sure I am looking at the items you find most important and hope that I have gone some way to addressing your concerns.



The Big Three

- **Adult Social Care (ASC) S106 Contribution:** I raised this matter again at a recent full council meeting and since then have been briefed on it separately. ASC and its funding is only applicable to services for those with a profound need, for example, adults with special or additional needs. It is not available to other services like Faringdon's Day Centre for example, but we are working towards supporting this service through different routes. The funding should therefore go to services which would be accessed by Faringdon residents, with higher levels of need. There are a few options for this, and I am working with officers to understand this more. For further information on ASC, visit the OCC Website: [Adult Social Care Services](#)
- **Community Space Above the Library:** This area has been let for community use in the past and discussions have been had with the Pump House Project and TVP about using the space however both parties decided not to take the opportunity any further. Currently the space is fitted out for a bookable "Agile" accommodation for OCC staff to use, and this is often used by colleagues in Children's Social Services and Library Services, but not extensively. The space does have the potential to be used wholly or partly for local community groups. If you are aware of anyone who may be interested, please put them in touch with me, and I can make an introduction to officers. Please note access is difficult to the first floor and I am not aware that a solution has been put forward to address this issue, although I am also pursuing this matter.
- **FAZE Building:** As you are aware the FAZE Building has been vacant for many years; to the council this means that no service area or partner organisation had identified a need for the space. The property was entered into the disposal programme several years ago with the aim of reducing the vacant building costs and earning a capital receipt to support the council's capital programme. The annual cost of this property is in the region of £32,000 per annum. Marketing was delayed to give local organisations the opportunity to take the property. There have been several inspections, but no expressions of interest were forthcoming. Following the most recent marketing, there are now two parties who have submitted bids, based on discussions with the local planning authority, with the highest bid likely to generate a capital receipt in the region of £700,000, subject to planning. Officers are aware that I have been keen to support community uses at the site, but as none have been forthcoming, the council is recommending that the sale is progressed, and the receipt is used to support other capital projects.

General News, Grants and Consultations

Parish Matters

- Wall Repairs on Stanford Road – complete
- The Hobble – in progress
- Wall Repairs & Clearance on Southampton Street Footpath – in progress
- Issues affecting adoption of the Belmont Estate – in progress
- Supporting Bromsgrove Day Centre – in progress
- Wicklesham Quarry Application – in progress

Highways

- Bollards on Park Road in and around Tesco – complete
- Repairs and Resurfacing of the Faringdon Bus Lane - complete
- Resurfacing B4019 at Coleshill – complete
- Resurfacing B4019 at Badbury Hill – in progress
- Resurfacing Canada Lane – in progress
- School Crossing Signage on Park Road – in progress
- Traffic Lights at the Great Coxwell Junction – in progress
- Speed Reduction on the A420 – in progress
- Bus Lane ANPR – in progress
- Parking Review – in progress
- Coxwell Road Roundabout – in progress
- Park Road Roundabout – in progress

Grants

- **Councillor Priority Fund:** This is open again and I have already had applications from the Bromsgrove Day Centre and Oxfordshire Play Association, as well as interest from The Place and ARCH, a reading charity that has volunteers in Folly View Primary. Applications can be made on the website: [Councillor Priority Fund](#).
- **Warm Homes:** [Grant funding for retrofitting homes to reduce energy bills](#).

Consultations

- [Cost of living support - residents' survey 2025](#)

Contact Details

Email: bethia.thomas@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Phone: 07906 821680

Cllr Bethia Thomas Liberal Democrat Member for Faringdon Division

