

Cllrs Lucy Edwards and Bethia Thomas

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 contact details are at the bottom of this report. Our Councillor surgeries are running as normal on the second Saturday every month, in the library from 10am – 11am.

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.

- **Faringdon Leisure Centre, ATP:** Officers have provided a thorough update on progress of the ATP, including leases, funding and operational matters.
Leases: Significant progress has been made, and a final meeting is scheduled for 11th November with the Employer's Agent (EA) to confirm details. Leases will then be executed with the Cambrian Trust, with completion targeted before the end of the calendar year, subject to stakeholder sign-off.
Football Foundation Funding: We have had no recent contact from the Football Foundation. An urgent response is required before market engagement and the tender process, which is planned for January 2026.
Cabling for floodlights: A meeting is scheduled during November with the EA, Leisure, and Property teams to agree the final cabling route to the leisure centre.
- **Faringdon Leisure Centre Decarbonisation** – The substation been delivered, works took place during September for energisation and during October for internal electricity meter upgrade. Revised programme of works for final completion of the project is currently being reviewed.
- **Move Together** - The Move Together team have been out in the community on various outreach sessions promoting Move Together and engaging with local communities who need physical activity support. These included attending primary care network meetings in Faringdon. You will notice more classes available at the leisure centre such as chair-based activities.
- **SHED Space (Shed Community Group) Ride Revolution** – Arranged with Farcycles to run Safe Cycling courses in Faringdon for all over the October Half Term.
- **A420 lights at Great Coxwell** - Wain Homes have submitted a S278 application for these works and the proposals have been through a couple of technical reviews, currently the action is sat with Wain Home's design consultant to provide a response and updated design. Wain Homes forecasted occupation of the site, and the completion of these junction works through the S278 process, will not accord with the timelines stipulated in the S106. OCC are working closely with the developer and Vale, to find an acceptable solution, mindful of the safety and capacity implications of the junction.

- **Fernhill Gardens to Belmont Estate connection** – The strip of land between the two estates is privately owned (ransom strip) and this will require mediation with the landowner – either through a legal agreement or purchase. FTC has made great progress on this and we will be on hand to help with the process as much as possible.
- **Folly Park Paths and Carpark** – We are waiting on an officer update on any progress towards the upkeep and repair of paths in the park, as well as general maintenance of trees and shrubs overhanging the path; the carpark is subject to an ongoing adoption issue, which we are also trying to resolve with officers. Still ongoing.
- **The Hobble wall collapse** - The part of the wall which was being pushed out by a tree has now been removed. Therefore, this is no longer a dangerous structure case, as the unstable element of the wall has been removed. The owner will be required to make repairs.
- **Public Art Funds Investigation** – After a recent inquiry we looked into arts funding in Faringdon. The recent project of the artistic benches for Faringdon was funded through the Highworth Road development (P16/V0775/O – 18V28). There's a small amount of funding (approximately £5,000) still available for the Town Council to draw down, which will cover the final bench to be installed in Gloucester Road/ Town Park. Officers are working with the property team to investigate for that space using the remaining funds from Folly Park View (linked to Folly Park Paths and Carpark Legal and Planning on working on adoption).
- **S106 Funding** - Faringdon Tennis Club will receive £3,642 for court improvements.
- **P25/V0744/HH, 5 Liddiards Row** – This has been called in and likely to be heard at the 26th November planning committee.

District News

Council Supports Ridgeway Council and the Two-Unitary Proposal

At the full council meeting in November, the administration voted in favour of the Two Unitary Proposal that has been supported by five councils across Oxfordshire and Berkshire. The decision will go to cabinet in November. For full details of the report and proposal are available visit the website: [Two Councils, One Better Future](#).

Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy

Proactive work to break the cycle of homelessness for vulnerable people and ensure support is accessible, effective, and timely is the focus of a new council strategy. Following a public consultation held in May and June, a new Joint Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy has been put in place by South Oxfordshire and Vale of the White Horse district councils. For further details of the council's housing responsibilities, visit the website: [Housing and Homelessness](#).

Helpful update on changes to Universal Credit

There are changes coming to Universal Credit in April 2026. Citizens Advice has published a report on how cuts to the health element of the benefit are likely to affect disabled people and their families. For residents with health conditions, the advice is to check now what benefits they are eligible for. The cuts will only apply to people who become newly eligible for the Universal Credit health element from 6 April 2026. Please advise any residents to seek help from [Citizens Advice](#). We also have information available for residents who are struggling financially or just finding life difficult on our website: [Community Hub](#).

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