

Faringdon Division

As summer is almost upon us, the sun is shining and there are village fetes and other events being held across the division. After a short break in reporting due to the local elections, there have been many parish meetings to attend and I have been in contact with county officers as normal to update you on progress in your parishes. As always if you have any questions or would like to meet with me, please get in touch.



Parish Round-Up

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.

Buckland

- **Site Visit Planned:** To investigate several issues including a review of speeding in Gainfield, improvements in lighting the crossings and bus shelters on the A420.
- **School Site Visit:** Joanne Ray will be addressing Faringdon Area Traffic Advisory later this month and will I ask for updates and updates for Summerside.
- **Signage on the A420:** After a meeting with officers this issue seems now to be resolved with plans for installation of new signage in the affected area.
- **Buckland Marsh:** 40MPH Zone works should soon be in progress; investigating road repairs on Tadpole Bridge.

Buscot

- **Site Visit Planned:** This was suggested after a number of issues were raised in the area; this is now being planned for later this month, I will attend if available.
- **Flooding:** Since the parish meeting, I have asked whether there is more funding available for flood resilience equipment – further information may be required.
- **Snowswick Lane:** This is due to be closed for initial works in June, and then again in August for the main culvert repairs – I have sent details to affected parishes.

Coleshill

- **Site Visit & SIDs:** I believe a site visit had been planned with Mark Francis but would be happy to hear updates coming from this.
- **Potholes on the B4019:** I have seen no further reports on Fix My Street in this area, but am aware of continued problems in the village and surrounding areas
- **Snowswick Lane:** See above, for Buscot.

Eaton Hastings

- **Parish Meeting:** I was very happy to attend the first official parish meeting last month which saw the elections of your chair and clerk; I will support you as much as I can.
- **Speed & A417:** I will continue to work with you to support speed reduction plans.

Faringdon

- **Folly View Primary:** We are following up discussions with Bloor Homes, and their offer to pay for lit school crossing signs to improve to pedestrian safety.
- **20MPH Zone:** This scheme was approved by cabinet member decision in late April; it is now on order with an implementation date to be announced.
- **Sink Hole in Southampton Street:** Thames Water has acknowledged responsibility for this damage and will undertake repairs; the road will need to be closed for these works which will require a three month lead time.
- **Graffiti on A420:** One sign has been replaced at the junction at London Street however at least one other needs replacing – I am chasing this.
- **Repairs to the Overpass & Mural:** Works are now being scheduled for the initial phases of this work which will involve both district and county council.
- **Councillor Priority Fund:** Now that my fund has been renewed applications are already coming in; The Place has made initial inquiries which I am happy to consider when I receive the final application.
- **S106 Social Service Contributions:** I have already circulated a response to this ongoing query; I will be following up on suggestions and hope to get local involvement to direct funding to the best causes.
- **Road Maintenance & Other Works:** I have been following up on a number of reports and queries including the damaged drain cover in the town centre, pothole repairs, and lighting issues on the Highworth Road; there are always many of these on the go and I try and keep the town council informed on any updates as they come in.

Great Coxwell

- **Site Visit Planned:** A drainage/flooding officer is coming to assess any issues in the village and will be able to inform on other matters; I will attend if possible and will follow up any outstanding issues.
- **20MPH Pre-consultation Exercise:** The parish has been informed of the process, but let me know if you would like further updates on this.
- **Speed Survey/Signage on the B4019:** I have requested a discussion; will update you on any plans going forward.

Little Coxwell

- **Wicklesham Quarry:** In the absence of district members at the last parish meeting I promised to supply further information of environmental impact assessments; I have also sent parish contact details to the developer to arrange an informal meeting; I was mistaken in thinking that this application crosses into the Shrivenham & Watchfield Ward – it lies solely within Faringdon Ward making Little Coxwell a neighbouring parish.
- **40MPH Zone:** I have followed up requests to install white gates around the new speed limited zone – awaiting updates.

Littleworth

- **Tree Planting:** A site visit has been arranged; I will attend if possible.
- **20MPH:** A decision will be made in September with installation in November.
- **A420 Crossing:** Awaiting updates on dropped kerb and lighting schemes.
- **Footpath to Barcote Cottages:** Awaiting updates.

Activity Report

May has been a very busy period with the elections and council and parish AGMs. I have done my best to attend as many parish meetings as possible and am very happy to have caught up with many of you over this period.

Upcoming meetings:

- 5th June: Active Travel Roundtable
- 12th June: Faringdon Area Traffic Advisory Committee (FATAC)
- 12th June: Oxfordshire Civilian Military Partnership Board
- 12th June: Faringdon Town Council, Full Council
- 13th June: The Place Steering Board
- 15th June: People Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- 17th June: Faringdon's Big Green Day
- 19th June: Flag Raising County Hall TBC

FATAC Report:

We are always adding to the FATAC agenda, if you have issues to raise, please let me know. The next meeting is on the 12th June in Faringdon.

Highways News:

- Site visit planned for Buckland and Gainfield.
- Faringdon's 20MPH scheme has been approved.
- School Crossing Indicators confirmation sought from Bloor Homes.
- 40MPH reduction at Buckland Marsh being progressed.
- 40MPH reduction at Eaton Hastings being progressed.
- Initial design work has begun for the Fernham Road Refuge on the A420.
- Gravel Walk in Faringdon was resurfaced in late May.
- A speed survey for the B4019 has been requested.
- A suggestion of an overall speed reduction on the B4019 and A417 is being pursued.

OCC News

Money-saving streetlighting to be completed next year: In 2021, OCC embarked on a four-year project to fit all of the county's streetlights with environmentally friendly light-emitting diodes (LED). A total of 86% of lights have now been converted. When completed, the £38 million project is expected to lead to energy savings of millions of pounds over the next 20 years. The LED lights will reduce the amount of carbon dioxide being produced by 70%. Before the conversion programme started, the county's streetlights accounted for around 7,596 tonnes of CO₂ every year – representing nearly 35% of the council's total emissions.

Oxfordshire fire crews give water safety advice: Drowning in the UK is amongst the leading causes of accidental death with ten water related fatalities happening in Oxfordshire between 2020 and 2022. In response, fire and rescue officers will be touring local schools and

colleges across the county in the coming months delivering a new practical water safety training course. They will give practical advice on how to stay safe in and around lakes, rivers and reservoirs. Some of these sessions will take place next to waterways, so the risks and dangers can be clearly pointed out in real world settings

News in Brief

Unpaid Carers Consultation: The council is asking for unpaid carers to take part in a survey and tell us if the new All-Age Unpaid Carers Strategy reflects your needs. Details available on the website.

Councillor priority fund has now reopened: Please apply through the new web-based portal; I have £15,000 to allocate to good causes within my division over the next two years. Details available on the website.

Contact Me

Email: bethia.thomas@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Phone: 07906 821680

Cllr Bethia Thomas
Liberal Democrat Member for Faringdon Division


