3 November 2017

To: The Chairman and Councillors of Faringdon Town Council

**FARINGDON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING - 8 NOVEMBER 2017 - DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT**

I tender my apologies for absence, as I will be at the VoWHDC Town and Parish Forum.

1.  **Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable.** Before the VoWHDC Council on 11 October, the PCC and CC gave a presentation. I asked about police basing here? The intention remains to re-locate the police to the Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue station. However, the police office would be inside the station, rather than at the rear.

2. **Council Office Accommodation.** The cabinet examined the various options for future council office accommodation, including remaining at 135 Milton Park, returning to Abbey House in Abingdon, a new build elsewhere and returning to the Crowmarsh Gifford site destroyed by the arson attack. The most cost effective option for the taxpayer would be to construct new purpose built offices at Crowmarsh site owned by SODC. The council would maintain ‘front of house’ services at Abbey House, Abingdon.

3. **Temporary Housing Accommodation Provision 2017 - 2020.** The council has a statutory duty to assess the housing needs of households who present themselves as homeless to the authority. This duty may include the provision of temporary accommodation. The council owns hostels in Faringdon and Wantage, and it has decided to reconfigure both hostels into self-contained units.

4. **Land South of Highworth Road**. I met with officers on site on 12 October 2017 and established the following improvements to the scheme:

1. OCC Highways had identified the necessary improvements to mitigate the increased traffic flow at the Coxwell Street, Gravel Walk, Marlborough Street, Park Road roundabout.
2. A slab level condition would be added to mitigate the impact of the height of the new buildings on existing homes, as the ground rises towards the south.
3. The conservation officer’s recommendation to enhance the boundary treatment.

5. **Housing Infrastructure (HIF) Bids.** You will wish to be aware of two HIF bids. The first was sponsored by the OCC and relates to our bid for Didcot Garden Town. The second sponsored by the district council was for £8M to accelerate the building of the Wantage Eastern Link Road between the A338 and A417. If successful it would enable it to be brought forward earlier and the money would then be recovered from developers to be recycled into other infrastructure projects.

6. **Growth Board.** The Oxfordshire Growth Board will be discussing options for the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway application to the National Infrastructure Commission. There are several alternative routes being considered and we favour the best options for this district.

7. **Waste Collection.** There are now 45 new vehicles in service, but there have been a few teething problem with the equipment. However, Biffa has recruited some new drivers and loaders as food waste is collected separately, and it may take time for them to familiarise themselves with the routes.

8. **Faringdon Leisure Centre**. VoWHDC has submitted a planning application for a new 3G artificial turf pitch next to the Leisure Centre. The scheme is a joint project between the district council and GLL, and will cost £750,000.  It is expected that work will start in early 2018 and be complete by the summer, and will include more than 40 additional parking spaces

Roger Cox

District Councillor

Faringdon Ward