Dear Residents,

**VALE OF WHITE HORSE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT TO FARINGDON TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING MONDAY 21 MAY 2018**

1. **Elections.** The district council staffed the polling station at the Corn Exchange for the County Council Elections on 4 May 2017 and the General Elections on 8 June 2017.
2. **Council Tax.** Council tax was increased by £5 to £126.69 for a Band D dwelling for Financial Year 2018/2019 in line with the council’s Medium Term Financial Plan. SODC and VWHDC together recovered £1.6 million in unpaid council tax and a further £167,000 from people who claimed discounts to which they were not entitled.
3. **Recycling and Waste collection.** The council remains one of the most efficient at re-cycling and was ranked fifth highest among English districts with a 64.8% rate. A new fleet of vehicles was introduced in August with separate food waste and re-cycling trucks.
4. **Planning.** The new Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) was introduced on 1 November 2017 to run alongside Section 106 contributions payable on new buildings. The town council will receive 25% of the money levied to spend on infrastructure projects.
5. **Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan.** A Judicial Review of the plan at the High Court of Justice in London on 14 and 15 June 2017 found the plan to be sound.
6. **Grants.**  A total of £13,333 in grants was awarded by the Faringdon Area Committee to projects in Faringdon e.g. Pump House project; Folly Fest; Sensory Garden.
7. **Business Support.** The Faringdon Town Team encourages businesses and economic growth in the town, where business rates remain amongst the lowest in the Vale.
8. **Street Cleaning and Litter.** Theannualdeep clean of the parish was conducted by the council contractor Biffa in February 2018. The main roads are swept monthly, in addition to periodic litter picks.
9. **Car Parks.** The first two hours parking remains free and new machines allow motorists to pay by card as well as cash.
10. **Superfast Broadband.** More than 96% of houses and businesses in the Vale now have access to superfast broadband and the Vale council contributed another £25K to the second phase.
11. **Ceremonial.** The ‘Freedom of the Vale’ was granted to 7 Rifles. It was exercised by the regiment at a parade in Faringdon, on Sunday 25 June 2017, which was reviewed by the Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire and Chairman of the Vale of White Horse District Council

Yours sincerely,

Roger Cox and Mohinder Kainth

District Councillors

Faringdon Ward