

More info boards would be good – excellent if they had wildlife info as well as historical info

I just love the folly and its woodlands; its hard to say how to make the area better!

I definitely think a board/boards about the history of the Tower and the Hill would be a help. More publicity about the possibility of renting the rooms for parties or functions. Better telescope/binoculars would make even the view more interesting

Broadleaf trees required rather than pine/conifers. Some effort to rid the Folly of the youths who litter and make fires at night would be fantastic!

The Folly Tower (and woodland) is one of Faringdon's treasures and should be a key part of attracting tourists to the region. It is also an important facility for residents. I would like the Tower to be open more often and used as a venue for exhibitions and events. I look forward to seeing the Christmas lights. Keep up your good work.

I know that schools occasionally visit the woodland. It would be good to encourage schools to take children up the tower and make it part of the school curriculum.

The beauty of the Folly & Tower is its simplicity and natural environment. It must not be spoilt by putting paths through the trees and, even worse, installing sculptures

Please don't make it too 'tidy'. It's just right as a natural open space with some rough paths. A municipal park it is not.

I have to admit to not visiting The Folly enough. It's mainly when friends and family come to visit.

As a Guider it is place that we can bring our girls for special celebrations and, if the woodland was improved, for walks and picnics.

It is an important asset for Faringdon and needs to be improved.

It does not need to be a "*more interesting*" place to visit. It is *already an interesting place* to visit.

It is great to have information about the Folly inside the tower but please, please don't put up "interpretation boards", more signs, "better" (more suburban) paths or picnic tables. Please no picnic table! People can bring rugs to sit on (or portable chairs) if they want to have a picnic. I have lived in Faringdon for 21 years and have always enjoyed the fact that Folly Hill is completely unpretentious area of fields and woodland with this wonderful, mad "folly" of a tower at the top. The one improvement would be more Scots pines. But please don't turn it into a suburban park by making "better" paths.

Why on earth should you need "better" signs? The tower is not exactly hard to see! All these suggestions imply a need for people to be spoonfed their "countryside experiences". This doesn't mean that the Folly might not benefit from more publicity (should more money need to be raised) – but once you get there your experience is surely enhanced by a feeling that you are discovering it for yourself – rather than being chaperoned all the way with signs, interpretation boards, neat paths and picnic tables... Also, my elderly father is in a wheelchair and although the hill is quite steep & it was something of an effort, we had no problem pushing him up and he hugely enjoyed the view.

Children's nature trail would be good fun.

Main comment from me is that paths need to be kept reasonably clear and would be excellent if the children had a nature trail to follow - I grew up in North Downs area and loved being able to explore the nature trail - even though I did it many times, it never lost the fun.

This is a beautiful place for families to visit for around the area as well residents in the town.

More wild flowers would certainly improve the area,

Any seating or similar would, sadly, soon be vandalised as experienced in the country park.

Sculptures or art would detract from the natural appeal of the current site.

The only thing I would have liked to have seen was an improved history display, and more seating available for visitors inside. Oh and it would be good to see the Pill box tidied up a bit

If help is required please let me know if not working I would be pleased to contribute

***The folly tower is a wonderful peaceful place that offers a fabulous view of the surrounding towns and villages. More directional signs trees and walkable area would be fantastic to encourage people to visit the tower on a regular basis but I do not believe that adding statues is necessary. Maybe a seat or 2 on the route up to the tower would be beneficial for those who perhaps struggle to walk any distance, particularly as it is uphill. I would also like to see more low maintenance plant life such as summer bulbs and shrubs as the area does become very overgrown by brambles and nettles during the summer months, although I appreciate the necessity of trying to maintain a natural environment for wildlife. Perhaps the addition of specialist housing for wildlife within the forest area would encourage wildlife further.***

Bio diversity is vital, creating a small nature reserve in the woodland below, (including leaving dead wood, so don't clean up too much)! With info boards of local wildlife to spot including woodland insects, birds as well as the obvious rabbits/badgers! Educational environmental days designed for children could help you gain funding, maybe including what you can spot from the top of the folly.

An obvious "nice to have" would be a toilet in/near the Folly, making the building much more usable. I do understand that this is problematic as there is no mains water available, but I thought I'd mention it anyway.

1. set up a rotating exhibition (change every month?) on issues related to Faringdon history, with a rota of more people involved to man it, esp in evenings and weekends
2. resurrect the idea of a small leaflet to be available in all local shops, detailing the history and accessibility of the main historic features
3. have a light on the tower all year!

Perhaps a cafe on the hill – all eco friendly wood built green roof.

More information about where the paths are exactly and what is farmed field. Wickelsham

lodge have produced lovely signs and maps for their area. Very informative. Investigation into the history of the hill – reports of civil war action – but where is the evidence? What was the hill before that ?

More of a family place to visit and less just an area for dog walking. On the few occasions I have been there my children have not liked the dogs running free and dog poo everywhere. **Perhaps make it more of a nature reserve with wild flowers etc and insect identification boards** or a route for children/tourists to follow of key Faringdon landmarks – bit like a treasure hunt.

Lord Berners' Folly is a nationally important building for its historical interest (kept the idea of big-scale 'folly' building alive in a most unpropitious period). Despite its relative plainness compared to some older follies the authorities on the subject (the late Barbara Jones, the estimable Headley and Meulenkamp, and others) are agreed in being very glad indeed that it was built. Even in tough economic times it is worthy of restoration. It needs to be accessible and climbable, not least for the vistas of the Downs and other countryside. I knew Barbara Jones personally, so I can vouch for her enthusiasm for this late-flowering of the folly spirit.

I am the youngest grandson of Cecil Kimber, founder of MG Cars, resident of Abingdon, habitué of Pangbourne and other beauty spots in the vicinity. I am not a resident of Oxfordshire or Berkshire but I think the locality would lose a monument of great character if the Tower were not preserved as a matter of great priority.

I think more information is also needed about Lord Berners himself - a great and talented English eccentric. This might be the key to generating more support for the restoration - every good folly needs a good folly-story. Few have so good a story as the personality of Lord Berners.

Maybe community activities like town picnics

Better mtce of the path leading to the Folly

Keep in good order/repair- but **no Disneyland features- just natural user friendly tidy**

More dog bins at entrance/exits required. Picnic table is a great idea but create too much litter

CCTV display area to watch woodpecker holes/nests and other wildlife in the area

Tea room at the top of the tower

I like it just how it is. Why does it seem important to change things

Litter bin would be welcome- especially if a picnic table were to be erected

Well done- keep going. **Very important to keep the trees replanted and increase planting**

Folly Tower is the most notable feature and visitor attraction for Faringdon. It is vital that it is maintained and helped to develop to facilitate tourism in the town

Could be used for exhibitions or a perhaps a snack bar?
The Public footpath is often very poorly maintained and filthy with dog mess, perhaps dog bins and better maintenance would be good
Better signage at low level to point out interesting features, i.e. White Horse hill as not everyone wants to go up the tower.
Actually 4 webcams would be useful to give a full panorama! Floodlighting the tower (not all the time though – maybe special occasions)
Any chance of poop bins being installed for us responsible dog walkers please? No crappy art required – the outstanding beauty of the 360degree views are stunning
My kids love going up the folly. Perhaps have 'kids days' or rent out kids parties in the room at the top?  If you are going to put picnic tables please put several or you'll take a picnic up there to find the table has been taken!  Huge dog pooh problem this needs addressing
<i>It would be useful to have a short questionnaire to ask a sample of visitors (say 1 in 10) to the Folly to complete. It would be useful to know where people come from, how they heard about us, whether they'd been before and any comments they'd like to make.</i>
Please remove dog poo boxes at entrance- what a detraction – especially when full
Introduce childrens woodland play area/assault course Research further back in history on the folly – beyond civil war period Information boards about wildlife, plants etc
More info on the wildlife that can be spotted e.g woodpecker to encourage naturalists to visit. Add nesting boxes and insect houses in the woodland (see the one that Janet Hickman made outside Clanfield Primary School) Panoramic view point boards/key at ground level and at strategic places around the circular walk. Appreciate you need more people to visit but it is such a wonderfully natural and peaceful place to walk..it would be a shame to over "touristify" it. Are the local schools involved in any of the maintenance work/woodland management?
Info boards about natural history in woodland  More info + wide screen labelled diagrams showing what places you can see from top of tower.  More information and interesting photos of old Faringdon etc in top of tower
Either instal a rubbish bin or erect signage asking visitors to take their litter home with them.

NOT YET BEEN INSIDE SO CANNOT COMMENT ON ROOMS – HOPE TO CATCH AN OPEN DAY THIS YEAR. IT IS A GREAT DOG WALK  
\*BEST BRING YOUR OWN BINOCULARS!.

I would not like to see any artificial improvements to the woodland area, the admirable tidying/maintenance work you already do is sufficient.

More work on the tower itself would be good, as per the suggestions above. If there is money to improve parkland in town, it should be spent in Folly Park, which could be lovely if only the landscaping job started 10 years ago was ever finished! Do you know if there'll be a nice path down Jespers Hill to link the Folly and Folly Park once the developments are done?

- Focus should be on Dog Walkers and secondly Walkers (these are the people found daily at the Folly)
- Development should be robust and rustic.
- A nature trail with information would be a good addition with identification tags on trees with tree name and estimated age
- Drinking of alcohol to be prohibited
- Web cam could be used to deter vandalism
- Form a "Friends of the Folly Astronomical Society" (Talk to John Campbell)
- Form a "Friends of the Folly "Tree Spotting Society" (U3A)
- Form a "Friends of the Folly Bug spotting Society" (Schools in Faringdon)

Visitors to the Folly go there for the fantastic views, fresh air and peace. I don't think it should be a site for sculpture as most sculpture I have seen clash with nature and the beauty of them are often in the eye of the artist. Besides, they will only get vandalised. The ones in the park below are a good example. They are ugly, have been damaged and if similar art were sited at the Folly they would definitely detract from the natural beauty. Access up the folly should be available for visiting coach parties residing at Sudbury House Hotel. This would generate more revenue and could perhaps be achieved through contact to their Events office

Either instal a rubbish bin or erect signage asking visitors to take their litter home with them.

BBQa

Lovely as it is

More info outside the Folly to inform visitors. Also map tables to show surrounding vistas and explain area

I have a problem with the dogs and their mess which puts me off coming up the Folly with my grandchildren

Please stop pulling up the vegetation, ie blackberries. They have been there forever. The wildlife have no cover(rabbit holes) The folly is for walking. Don't want it turned into another Rubbish tip, lots of cars etc. It's to be cherished. as a Faringdonian just love it for

its peace.
Signpost from Town Centre to the tower and to make sure it is clean at all times. Couple more seats up the path
<p>The Folly is an interesting place already. Maybe one new sign with a bit of factual history about the site and the tower. But please don't turn it into a theme park.</p> <p>I think there are too many trees at the moment. <b>It is lovely when you can see the tower standing proud above the trees.</b></p> <p>I love the lights at the top. When I am driving towards Faringdon in the evenings and I see the light I think 'that is where I live' It's a warm feeling.</p> <p>I think some of your info on the tower needs to be updated. It can not possible be the last folly built and all the indecision about how many counties you can see is annoying. Find out the answer.</p> <p>I am very fond of the tower and wish you every success in updating it.</p>
<p>Possibly have a small area within the Folly tower that served tea and coffee and snacks in the summer. Also improve the path going up to the Folly</p> <p>Binocs/telescope to look towards White Horse Hill/ Brize Norton etc</p>
<p>Tables and chairs mean more litter.</p> <p>Advertising that when the flag is flying the tower is open</p> <p>More sandwich boards around town saying it's open</p>
Tesco to pay for a complete refurbishment to the Folly Friends design
<p>Sculpture/art qn – definitely not.</p> <p>Trim trail</p>
Clean up (dogs and nettles) path up to the Folly
<p>The charm of the Folly is its relative wildness so don't spoil it by manicuring it. By all means clear some of the undergrowth but remember the small birds need it and will move elsewhere if too much is cleared. It is not a place for sculptures unless in the style of Lord Berner's wicked humour and of high quality. Seating and picnic tables will only be vandalised, prior to which they will attract young drinkers/littler louts. However a few sawn logs to sit on would permit those adventurous enough to wish to picnic somewhere to sit without spoiling the wild feel of the place. <b>Trees hide people so more people can feel that they are alone up there at once- keep paths to a minimum.</b> Paths are not necessary for country lovers- the Folly is not a town park- but access should be possible for the less agile among us so the outer ring and diameter paths should be level and grassy, not gravel or hard surfaced.</p>
Publicity further afield. We are (almost) a national landmark or could be
Part of school curriculum
<b>In keeping with eccentric + Berners</b>
Make use of the tower for 'special occasion'
Involvement of local schools(trips tours)

Signage in car aprks detailing history of Faringdon Folly Love idea of sculpture park
Hopefully there will be pedestrian access from Folly Park View, Russ avenue. There are a loot of dogs and young people occupying FPV properties
I would really, really love to see the Folly floodlight at night – not just at Christmas! It's such a key feature to Faringdon I think more should be made of it!
<p>I think that there should be a re enactment of the historic battle on the site once a year. Also to incorporate the shooting of the cannon ball into the church as part of a re enactment with a false church image. The event could be on a May day and incorporate a fayre and stalls selling goods.</p> <p>I think at the weekends when the folly is open teas and coffees and cakes should be sold from the ground floor so that families can enjoy the site more. The very old and the very young could be entertained with tea and refreshment at ground floor level while the more agile climb the tower. Otherwise families with old people might just walk by. A local cake /tea shop could provide the service and a share of the profit could go to the tower or volunteers could provide the service. Tables and chairs will therefore need to be set out in the woodland.</p> <p>More information needs to be available to read outside the folly, when the folly is closed on the site itself so people know when to return and for which events.</p> <p>A site as high as this would interest abseilers and a local club may pay for the privilege of using the tower on non weekend days.</p>
I have driven past on A420 and seen the folly at day/night and seen the searchlight. I've never been there, but think its a great asset to Faringdon and its fantastic to see it lit up at night.
Expand footpath/trails, link with country park
Open more often during the summer months
A notice board stating which birds and animals live in and around the Folly
Seats for people sit among the trees would be good