5 February 2019

To: Chairman and councillors Faringdon Town Council

**REPORT TO FARINGDON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING - 13 FEBRUARY 2019**

My apologies for absence, I will be representing my ward at the Vale council meeting.

1. **Faringdon Leisure Centre.** The cabinet at its meeting on 18 January 2019 approved the appointment of a suitable contractor via delegated authority to the head of community services in conjunction with the cabinet member for community services. This appointment would be made if the tendered sum was within the approved budget of £177,500 and the works comply with the required specification. The project will involve the refurbishment of the wet side changing facilities, shower facilities, lockers, steel frameworks and sauna/steam areas. Utilising Section 106 monies for this purpose will ensure that the Council continues to invest in its capital assets without the need to draw on its own capital budget. It is anticipated that work will start in April.

2. **Street Cleaning**. The major roads in the town were swept by the mechanical sweeper on Thursday 10 January and again on 30 January 2019.

3.  **Car Parking.**  A cross authority working group has been formed consisting of OCC, Cherwell, South and Vale officers.  OCC are leading on the joint procurement of a consultant to carry out a county wide Civil Parking Enforcement feasibility study later this year.   We can then make an informed decision as to how we progress with civil parking.  We are still quite a long way off and the introduction of new parking restrictions or parking meters would rely on agreement from OCC. Meanwhile, there are parking permits available from Monday to Saturday use at £324 per annum. These are commercial parking permits and are meant for all regular users of Vale car parks, whether for business or traders.

4. **SODC and VWHDC Business Breakfast**. This event was held on 5 February and was intended to assist people to network. The businesses that base themselves in the Vale are amongst the most highly skilled and specialised in the world.

5. **PopUp Business School in Faringdon**. A five-day intensive workshop was offered from 4 to 8 February, which was free to everyone with a business idea; sessions included how to market new or existing ideas or business.

6. **The Oxfordshire Plan 2050**. This is the new public name for Joint Strategic Spatial Plan and being prepared as part of the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal.

7. **The Vale of White Horse**. The Vale was judged 11th best place to live in the UK the Halifax annual survey, indicators used in the assessment included: job market; housing market; the environment; education; health and well-being and leisure.

Roger Cox

Councillor Roger Cox

Faringdon ward