



Faringdon Town Council

Annual Report

2018/2019



www.faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk



New Mayor and Deputy Mayor for Faringdon



At the Annual Meeting of Council on Wednesday 8th May Cllr. Mike Wise was elected as Mayor. Cllr. Wise will be a familiar face to the people of Faringdon - he has served the Town as Mayor previously for a record six terms!

Cllr. Julie Farmer was elected Deputy Mayor and will support Cllr. wise in his duties. Cllr. Farmer has been a councillor for 12 years, previously serving as Venues Chairman and Deputy Mayor. Faringdon Town Council extends grateful thanks to the outgoing Mayor David Barron.

Outgoing Mayor's report:

Cllr. David Barron had a busy year serving as Faringdon Town Mayor. He represented the town at functions and civic events locally and across the county.

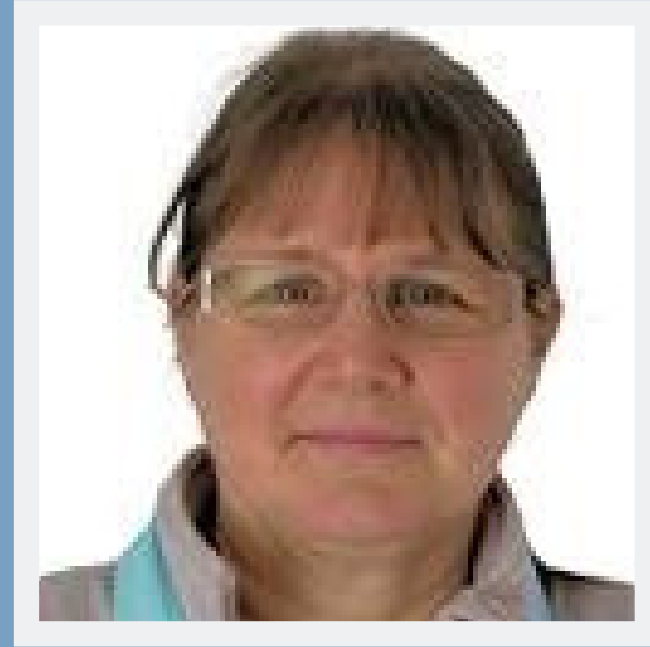
Highlights include:

- Fundraising Disco's for the Place
- Faringdon Follies Production at Buscot Park in aid of the Place
 - Faringdon in Bloom
 - Litter Picks
 - Folly Fest
 - Remembrance Day Parade
 - Civic Service

Faringdon's elected council 2019 - 2023



Cllr. Mike Wise
Town Mayor



Cllr. Julie Farmer
Deputy Mayor



Cllr. Kiera Bentley



Cllr. Jane Boulton



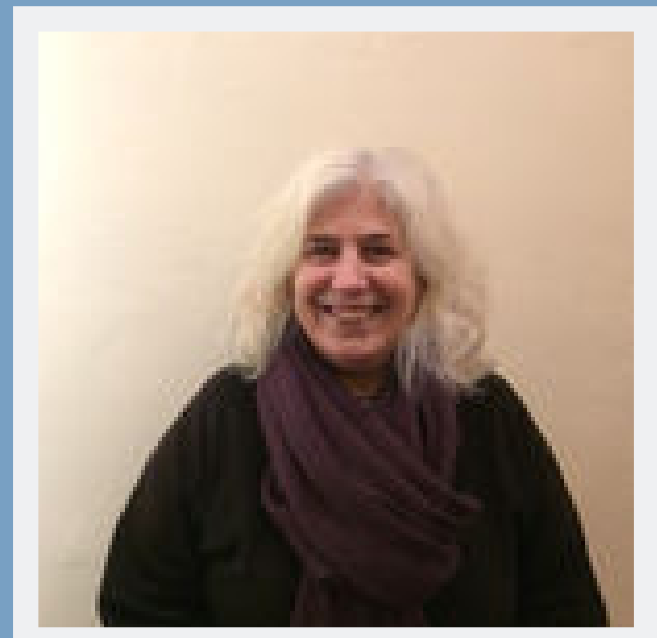
Cllr. Rosalind Burns



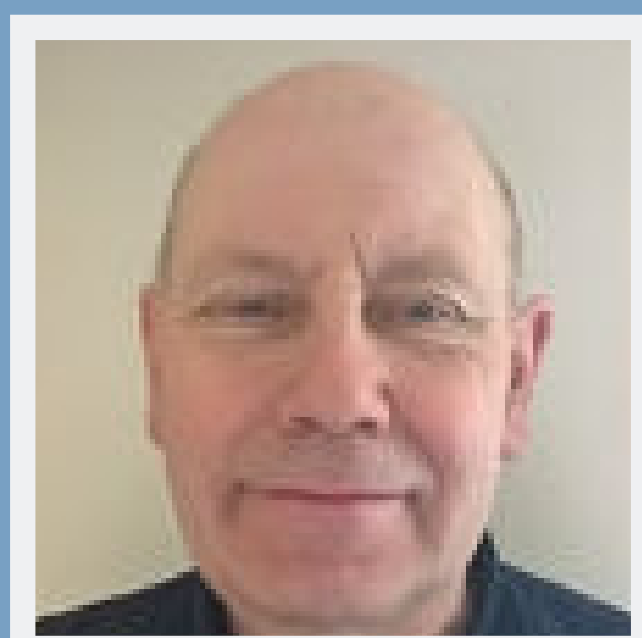
Cllr. Peter Castle



Cllr. James Famakin



Cllr. Angela Finn



Cllr. Steve Leniec



Cllr. Lucy Martin



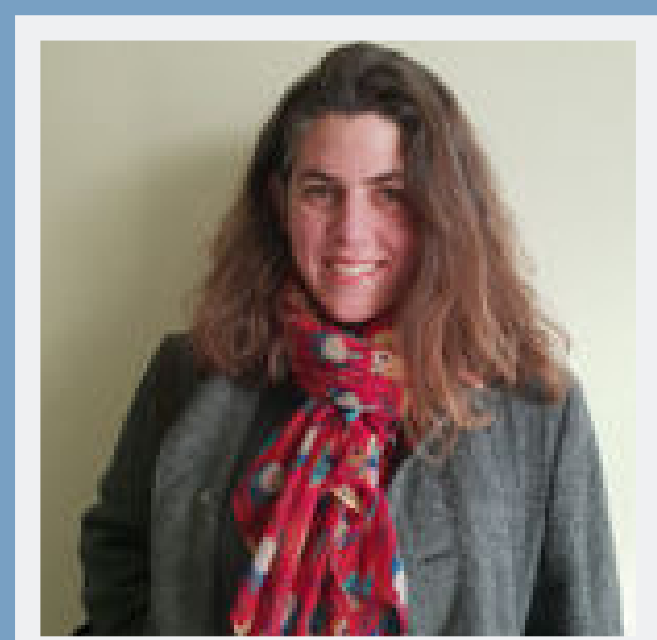
Cllr. Kimberly Morgan



Cllr. Stephen Smith



Cllr. Liz Swallow



Cllr. Bethia Thomas

The Town Council 2015 -2019 did many things for the town including:

- **Launched:**

- The Tidy Team
- Litter Picks
- Faringdon Museum
- Outdoor Cinemas
- Faringdon in Bloom
- Faringdon Refill – this included providing water bottles to all Primary age children
- New Youth Funding grants
- Advice sessions in the Pump House from CAB and WIAC
- Faringdon Tapestry
- Book exchange in Town Centre phone box
- Picnics in the Parks

- **Worked in partnership to provide:**

- The Place Family Project
- Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan
- A Live Nativity performance with real camels
- Market Charter Celebrations
- Hare trail
- Play Day
- Remembrance Day parade
- Rifles Freedom of the Vale Parade
- Festive Faringdon
- A safer community
- Pop-Up Business School
- Elms Tennis Court
- Poppy Rocks installation
- Tree Guard Sign – Town Centre
- Charity Bazaar
- Christmas Market
- Faringdon Follies Charity Gala at Buscot House
- Ignite Youth Festival
- Free Lantern making workshops
- Free summer Youth sessions
- Remembrance Exhibition



- **Provided:**

- Community Venues: Corn Exchange, Pump House and Old Town Hall
- Community Parks: Oakwood play area, Tuckers Park and Town park
- Information Centre
- Christmas Lights
- Allotments
- Bus shelters
- Maintenance for All Saints' Church Yard
- New play area in Tuckers Park
- New play surface in Oakwood Park
- New floor for the Corn Exchange
- New chairs for the Corn Exchange
- A WW1 Hospital Exhibition
- Astro-turf and garden improvements at the Pump House
- A sign audit and replacement signs for the town.
- Heritage Day
- A community cinema – to include new baby and dementia screenings
- Community Awards
- New benches in parks
- Town Centre Planters
- Peppercorn leases to The Pump House Project and Sensory Garden
- Lego Trail
- Museum event for Faringdon Infants
- Free Author Talk for Faringdon Juniors
- World book day story readings
- Queen's Birthday Celebrations and beacon
- WW1 100th Anniversary Events
- VE day Anniversary Beacon
- Bring the game over reward for litter pickers



Assisted



- Faringdon Cricket Club in obtaining funding for covers and sight screens
- Faringdon Football Club in obtaining funding for changing rooms and improvements
- Bromsgrove Day Centre to secure transitional funding
- Farcycles to apply for planning permission for the Cycle Park
- Folly Fest
- Live in the Park
- The Pump House Project
- Beer Festival
- Citizens Advice
- Be Free Young Carers
- Faringdon Folly and Woodland
- Wantage Independent Advice
- Defibrillators in the Town Centre
- Faringdon British Legion
- Town Team
- Clean Slate
- Faringdon Rotary
- Duke of Edinburgh Awards at FCC
- YOCO
- Young Farmers
- Farcycles
- Animation Station

Our newly elected council are looking forward to the next four years and already have some projects planned including:

- A MUGA in Tuckers Park
- Refurbishment of the Old Town Hall
- Faringdon Emergency Plan
- Better Ways to School, which will fund improvements to cycle ways and footpaths
- Improvements to Southampton Street Carpark
- Litter Picks
- Volunteer Fair
- Use of Willes Close Triangle
- Tidy Team
- Community Awards
- Housing the Food Bank
- Expanding Cinema offer and holding an Outdoor Cinema
- Play Day
- Faringdon in Bloom
- Launching Faringdon Museum
- Remembrance Exhibition and Parade
- Support of Town Centre s106 monies from Retail Park
- Developing a Sports and Leisure requirement plan and CIL requirements plan



Faringdon Town Council Strategic Plan 2018 - 2022	
Vision	
Our vision for Faringdon is of a sustainable town that meets the needs of its residents	
Mission	
Our aims are to provide a representative voice for the community and offer practical support to maintain the sustainable economic and social wellbeing of the town.	
Strategic Objectives	
People	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To promote a sense of community.To consult and communicate widely and encourage greater public participation.To provide services and facilities which reflect the identified needs of the community.
Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To improve the appearance of Faringdon, whilst celebrating its heritageTo make the Town an attractive place in which to live and workTo work in partnership, with others, to facilitate sustainable tourism and economic development.
Money	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To promote employment opportunities for local people.To provide services which are efficient, effective and economic.Ensure that council grants are used to the benefit of Faringdon residents.

If you have any thoughts or ideas please contact us - office@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk

Staff Contacts

Sally Thurston	Town Clerk	01367240281	sally@faringdontowncouncil.gov.uk
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Hilary Sherman	Planning Clerk	01367240281	hilary@faringdontowncouncil.gov.uk
Liz Billson	Assistant Town Clerk	01367240281	liz@faringdontowncouncil.gov.uk
Belinda Harrison	Information Assistant / H & S Admin	01367240281	admin@faringdontowncouncil.gov.uk
Billie Hayter	Information Assistant / Cinema Supervisor	01367240281	regentcinema@faringdontowncouncil.gov.uk
Vinni Stepp	Leisure Services Assistant	01367240281	
Gary Jackson	Leisure Services Assistant	01367240281	

Faringdon Town Council would like to thank Rebekah Pugh, our Deputy Town Clerk who left earlier in the year, for all her work for the Council and wish her well. We are delighted to announce that a new Deputy Town Clerk has been recruited and will take up the post in late May. A Town Clerk's Assistant has also been recruited who will start work in July.

Faringdon Town Council has four main committees that look after the day to day business of Council.

Planning and Highways Report 2018 /19

The Planning and Highways Committee of Faringdon Town Council is the committee set up to discharge the Council's role as a statutory consultee, both on applications for planning permission within the parish of Great Faringdon and on county-wide general planning matters which affect the parish. It considers all applications received from both the Vale of White Horse District Council and Oxfordshire County Council and while unable to either accept or reject them, makes recommendations as to their suitability or otherwise. It continues to ensure that the Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan is consulted at all times by prospective developers.

This past year the committee has looked at 84 planning applications of which 8 were for information only

. Key issues have been:

- Local Plan 2031 Pt 2

CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) strategy

- Badbury Cycle track
- Faringdon Children's Cycle Park
- A420 safety;

MAJOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS

- Land South of Steeds (125 houses)

• Threats to employment land in the Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan for Volunteer Way (9 houses) and Rogers Concrete (85)

- Housing development for land south of Highworth Rd (190 houses). There has been no news on this for some time.

- Taylor Wimpey A420 (67 houses). Application was withdrawn pending the LP pt 2 decision.

We continue to liaise with Oxfordshire County Council over inconsiderate road closures and diversions.

Cllr. Mike Wise



Finance and Audit Committee 2018/19

This year 2018/19 Council has continued to review how we deliver services for the town. The Finance Committee is responsible for recommending and overseeing the annual budget as well as all aspects of Staffing, Grants, Council leases, Council Insurance, the operation of the Information Centre and new Museum project. The committee works closely with the Town Clerk and Chief Financial Officer Sally Thurston who reports to the committee directly and together we continue to review services and bear down on costs.

Finance:

The committee is responsible for the overall financial security of the Council, setting and monitoring the annual budget. For 18/19 the budget was set at £365,224 giving a Band D council tax rate of £133.52.

We have been able to deliver all our commitments through the year and end the year with a general reserve of £441,481. Included in this figure is an earmarked reserve and an Asset Replacement fund for the renewal or repair of assets standing at £186,321.28 as detailed below:



Purpose	Closing Balance
YS Operating Reserve	£ 11,550.00
Youth Grant programme	£ 10,788.73
Bloor Homes Fund	£ 27,368.00
Portwell diver maintenance	£ 1,027.50
Church Maintenance	£ 773.00
Church Trees	£ 250.00
Planters	£ 96.00
Bus shelter maintenace	£ 6,608.00
The Place	£ 23,847.78
Outdoor Cinema / Event	£ 4,583.00
Groundworks grant PHP Access	£ 122.00
Groundworks grant Food fest	£ 1,000.00
Economic development	£ 1,180.00
Tuckers trees	£ 1,000.00
OTH Tesco Grant	£ 3,000.00
R Ebsworth Memorial fund	£ 277.91
Agency creditor	£ 409.22
Asset Replacement Fund	£ 35,367.66
\$106 Retail Park	£ 18,612.48
Better ways to school	£ 38,500.00
	£ 186,361.28



Council money is held in several bank accounts to reduce the council’s exposure to any bank default, however following Lloyds bank closing it’s Faringdon branch committee decided to close our account and transfer £220,000 into the CCLA Deposit account. This is low risk and has significantly improved our income from investments whilst maintaining access to the funds without penalty. No additional borrowing was required in the year and FTC continues to pay down PWLB loans which were taken out to refurbish the Pump Rooms and the Corn Exchange. Our debt currently stands at £101,533.

During the year, the committee has also:

- Maintained financial records and received clean audits.
- Maintained sufficient reserves to meet possible contingencies.
 - Maintained and reviewed the Councils asset register.
- Continued to fund staffing time for the Tidy Team initiative.

Staffing:

Finance are responsible for overseeing the terms and conditions of council staff. We currently employ 13 members of staff both full and part time giving a full time equivalent of 8 staff. Staffing accounts for 65% of the annual budget. FTC is a living wage employer with all staff currently on hourly rates on or above the living wage rate of £9.00/hr.



During the year we also oversee

- Annual Staff appraisal recommendations.
- Staff training requirements
- The Information Centre operation
- Staff recruitment and redundancy.



Grants:

The Grants subcommittee awarded grants to the following organisations providing benefit to Faringdon Residents. Reports of how the grants have helped the community can be found on our website.

Name of Organisation	Amount	Room Hire	Min no:
Folly Fest	£ 4,000.00	£ 1,020.00	7/3/18
Faringdon Rotary Club Dragons Den	£ -	£54	7/3/18
Wantage Independent Advice Centre	£ 1,750.00		7/3/18
Womens event	£150	£ 100.00	7/3/18
Enrych	£ 1,000.00		7/3/18
Beer and Banger Fest 2017	£ 150.00	£ 324.00	7/3/18
Oxfordshire Association for the Blind	£500		7/3/18
Faringdon Rotary Club Festive Faringdon	£1,000	£ 164.50	7/4/18
VWHDC - Pop up business school		£483	7/4/18
Be Free Young Careers	£1,600		7/4/18
Citizens advice	£4,181		8/1/19
Total Grants Awarded 2018/19	£ 14,331.00	£ 2,145.50	

Committee also allocated monies for Community Awards.

Information Centre:

The staff in the centre provide a frontline service acting as front desk for the Council and providing wide ranging information services for both residents and visitors to the town. The new Museum project has increased footfall and helped with sales of merchandise. Local artists are featured each month as well as Agency sales and Cinema tickets.

This Year 2019/20 the committee will:

- Continue to bear down on costs and review services.
- Receive and act on Audit reports.
- Set the annual budget and precept requirement.
- Understand the new Council's priorities and consider any un-budgeted funding requests for new initiatives.

Cllr. Steve Leniec



Community and Partnerships Committee

The committee is responsible for the following areas:

Youth Grant Funding

We are delighted to have a youth grant funding pot again this year. Our main objective is to assist and facilitate projects that reach, engage and support as many Faringdon young people as possible and provide better life chances for our young people. Organisations can apply for up to £2,000.

Developing and manage partnerships with the community and outside bodies

We work with many local groups across Faringdon and would love to hear from your group!

The Town Council have representatives on the following bodies:



Bromsgrove Day Centre	TBA
Community Bus Executive Committee	Rosalind Burns
Faringdon Twinning Association	Bethia Thomas
Faringdon United Charities	Julie Farmer
	Kiera Bentley
Folly Trust	Mayor acts as Trustee
Neighbourhood Action Group	Kimberly Morgan
Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils	Kiera Bentley
Parish Transport Representative	Stephen Smith
Pink Pigeons Trust	Angela Finn
Pump House Project	Kiera Bentley
	Lucy Martin
Traffic Advisory Committee	Jane Boulton
	Kimberly Morgan Deputy: Mike Wise
Public Access Defibrillator Committee	Rosalind Burns
	Angela Finn
The Place	Mike Wise
	Lucy Martin
	Liz Swallow
Wantage Independent Advice Centre	TBA



If you would like a Town Council representative on your body or group please let us know.

The Place

FTC provide funding and office space for the Place, children and family project. They also manage the partnership with Spurgeon’s to provide the service and work closely with the fundraising board. If you would like to be involved in fundraising for this important project please get in touch.

The Regent Cinema

The Regent Cinema continues to put on monthly matinee and blockbuster event, alongside this it had many special screenings from baby and toddler screenings to memory support.

This year’s outdoor film in Tucker Park will be Bohemian Rhapsody on 2nd August 2019.

Community Engagement

The council relies on the community to tell us what they want! Over the next year many more community initiatives will be happening with the aim of engaging the community, including:

- Big Volunteer Event – 8th June 2019
- Faringdon in Bloom will take place 21st to 23rd June
- The community awards will take place in May 2020 – nominations will open late 2019.
- Community litter picks across the year.

Please see our website www.faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk and our facebook page for details of all events.

Facilities Committee 2018/19

- Flowerbeds in Southampton St car park. FTC offered to take them over as they aren't in a good enough condition. District Council offered us one and said they were maintained every month. We feel this isn't acceptable and they are not maintained to an adequate standard. Cllrs Barron and Cox were asked to discuss the situation. It has now been proposed that the Town Clerk progresses this between the Earth and Faith group and the District Council
- Elms tennis court has been refurbished.
- Christmas lights still short of 3 cross street strings. £4,300 has been included in our Capital Expenditure for improvement to the lights this year.
- OCC and the woodland trust have given the town a plaque and tree for remembrance. We have asked for suggestions as to where to plant it where it is least likely to be vandalised.
- Portwell Pump proposal for a public fountain. This site may not be suitable however it is felt that a public fountain where people can refill their water bottles would be a benefit to the town.
- Proposal for lighting at the Skate Park has been put forward to the District Council. Funding could be found through S106 contributions.
- The Museum in the Pump House is seeking funding to make it a permanent feature.
- Further allotment provision is proposed for the land development south of Park Road. Management of the Lechlade Road allotments has been passed to the Faringdon Allotment Society.
- Pump House Project roof is to be replaced at a cost of £21,358.
- Citizens Advice Bureau have asked for more space. For those unaware of their presence in Faringdon, they are here on Wednesdays.
- Agreement has been made for a Food Bank to be sited in the Pump House. This will be managed by a partnership between those running Food Bank and the Communities and Partnerships committee.
- Sensory Garden. It is with dismay that we learnt that this idea has had to be abandoned through lack of funding. This, of course, means that the Willes Close Triangle and what to do with it are back on the agenda. Proposals so far are a Wildflower Meadow or a Community Orchard. The Landlord of the adjoining land has been informed that the Triangle is now available for suggestions and possibilities.
- The organisers of the Sensory Garden have a statue that was intended to be sited there and have offered it to the Town Council. We are open to ideas as to where to site it where it is least likely to be vandalised.
- As for the future, whilst I remain on the committee, the new Chair is Cllr. Keira Bentley. I hope she enjoys the post as much as I have over the last few years.



Cllr. Jane Boulton

