

REPORT TO FARINGDON DIVISION (Buckland with Gainfield, Buscot, Coleshill, Eaton Hastings, Faringdon, Gt Coxwell, Littleworth and Little Coxwell – June/July 2019

For information, all that is detailed within my monthly reports is already within the public domain and thus in the media.

General OCC Report

Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service – is one of only four fire and rescue services to be given an “outstanding” rating in any category following inspection by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS). We received good gradings in **Effectiveness, Efficiency, People and outstanding for Culture and Values**. I am exceedingly proud of being the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and it is good to see that the hard work of our staff has been recognised in this inspection report.

Didcot Garden Town – Advisory Board - Following on from the district and parish elections last month, five new councillors joined the nominated “Didcot Garden Town Advisory Board” – I chaired this first meeting, in the absence of Cllr Hudspeth, with the new members. At this meeting the garden town team provided an update on the projects that are in train and how over 60 projects, including surveys on cycling paths and a parking strategy will take place, in the near, medium and long-term schemes, depending on this progress and funding. It is exciting looking forward to building on the foundations already set out for the future of Didcot and its surrounding villages.

NHS announcement – Oxfordshire will be part of a new joined-up health and care system – Oxfordshire is to be part of one of three new “integrated care systems” created by the NHS in England to improve health and social care services. The new joined up care system will also cover Buckinghamshire and Berkshire West. The NHS and local authorities in the three areas aim to deliver a person-centre vision for health and care services, making sure services are delivered and planned for as locally as possible. Health and care organisations will work collectively to bring better integrated health outcomes for people and ensure effort is not duplicated or resources wasted.

300 MINI workers sign up for free Mini NHS Health Checks – 300 staff at the Cowley plant underwent a health “road test” during five days of sessions. Free NHS Health Checks are designed to spot early warnings of stroke, kidney and heart disease, Type 2 diabetes and dementia. These checks are funded by OCC’s Public Health team, which seeks to improve the health of local people and protect them from preventable health issues – helping local residents to live safe and health lives and plan an active role in their communities. (NHS Health checks are available to anyone aged between 40-74 who had not already been diagnosed with an existing cardiovascular condition. – the GP will automatically send out invitations once every 5-years but, if you haven’t had one, or didn’t respond to the invite, contact your surgery to make an appointment.

OVO Energy Women’s Tour – Oxfordshire councils’ commitment to health and wellbeing has received a major boost; with a three-year sponsorship of the OVO Energy Women’s Tour pro cycling race by GLL, one of sport and leisure’s leading charitable social enterprises – see below within my Faringdon Division specific part of my report for more detail locally. The race has also provided an opportunity to showcase Oxfordshire as a cycling destination, to increase tourism and the County Council are keen for this prestigious race to leave a legacy, motivating people to take up cycling.

“Shared Lives Week” – Shared lives Carers and how to become one! A shared lives carer can be single people, single parents, couples who live together, married couples, couples with children or friends sharing accommodation. Age, ethnicity, sexual orientation or disability are not barriers to becoming a carer. A shared lives carer needs to either own or rent their own home, with a spare bedroom and be willing to share their home with a person who needs support. No qualifications or experience are needed but the scheme looks for those who can communicate effectively, build positive relationships and enable people to make choices and decisions. **This is something very special to me as, when I held the Cabinet Portfolio for Adult Social Care, I sat on the committee for “Shared Lives” – I have seen people undertake this work for some 25-years – all carers of course receive ongoing support and training from social workers to ensure delivery of high-quality, person-centred cared and can be paid up to just over £400 per week for each person they support! The Shared Lives Scheme is on 01865 897971 or www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/sharedlives**

Road repairs across the County Council – more than 34,000 potholes have been repaired in the last year, a 45% increase on the previous year and there are to be more major repairs over the summer. We have invested millions of pounds over and above our usual budget – last year we repaired 23,486 and this year the exact figure as at this month's report is 34,159. We recently announced an extra £13m for road maintenance for this financial year and this is on top of the existing £18.5m – this follows last year's additional £12m boost. Last year's additional cash saw more than 37 extra miles of road being resurfaced. However, if there is a defect that anyone is aware of, please report it directly via "Fix My Street" on the OCC website.

Pilot to restrict traffic outside the County's Schools – the County is keen to improve air quality outside our schools by restricting traffic flows the project "School Streets" has been trialled, successfully in other parts of the country and primary schools are to be asked if they would like to take part. The county will "reclaim" roads outside schools from traffic at the start and end of the day thus reducing pollution outside the school gates. There will of course be engagement with staff, governors, the local community before a particular school is registered to take part in "School Streets".

Mental Health/knife crime "Safe Effect" – "The Training Effect" (TTE), an award winning provider for mental health, knife crime and personal safety, has been commissioned by Oxfordshire County Council Public Health to deliver a new 3-year scheme to work in secondary schools across the county delivering sessions to more than 35,000 people. The scheme aims to help equip young people with the necessary skills they'll need to make informed decisions as they navigate risky situations. Any schools wishing to sign up to the scheme should contact TTE's project coordinator, Aaron Bowes on 01233 503795 or aaron@thetrainingeffect.co.uk. Further information is available on www.informed.org.uk

Specific Report for the Faringdon Division

I am conscious that my newsletter this is busy with county news and so I will be brief with this section of the report. At my surgery on 1st June morning in the Faringdon Library several people came to discuss a variety of matters and I have attended the calendared Parish Council meetings within my Division.

I believe that the "headline" news for the Faringdon Division is the awarding of a British Empire Medal in the town! The announcement that Faringdon's Watch Manager Dave Arlott of Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service has been awarded by Her Majesty The Queen a British Empire Medal (BEM) has to be a highlight this month. We, the CFO and I submitted an application for this award and it is "just right" to see that Dave's unswerving loyalty and devotion to Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service, his fellow fire fighter colleagues and the local community have been rewarded in this appropriate way.

This last month, I joined the "Big Volunteer Event" organised by Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action (OCVA) in partnership with Faringdon Town Council to help on a children's clothing table which was raising funds for "The Place". It was good fun and it was lovely to speak with so many local people and enjoy a coffee and chat with them, too!

With my Cabinet Portfolio of Community Safety I have noted that the Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service has been called out to many domestic "shouts" as they are called this last month. A variety of emergencies included fires in tumble dryers and washing machines, but one incident that was shocking was when 3 people were rescued from a fire in a group of flats where it is believed that the fire was caused by a discarded cigarette in a bed, with the resident falling asleep, only to be awakened to a developing fire in the bedroom! Two people were taken to hospital. The safety message is – **"Please do not smoke in bed"**. Also, as I receive a daily alert email from OFRS I am aware too that there have been a number of Road Traffic Collisions (RTC's) many caused by driver error but there have also be some cars igniting. Please drive carefully, watch your speed, don't use mobile phones, don't drive if you have consumed alcohol or taken drugs and always wear your seatbelt. It "just isn't worth the risk".

My next monthly surgery will be on Saturday 6th July in Faringdon Library. There will be no surgery in the month of August. There will be a surgery on 7th September. My phone number is 01367 241468 and my email address is Judith.heathcoat@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Judith Heathcoat – Deputy Leader, Oxfordshire County Council
June Report to the Faringdon Division