



**Sally's Summary** - Your Town Clerk, Sally Thurston, summarises this month's meetings below. Please see our website for detailed minutes:

**Planning and Highways- 27th November 2023**

The committee considered 8 applications, objecting to two:

**1. Former Wicklesham Quarry**

For outline flexible planning application for a total of up to 42,286sqm GIA of commercial floorspace. 8 residents spoke about the application. Councillors had a thorough discussion, considering the relevant national and local planning policies. FTC supports sensitive and sustainable development of the site in accordance with Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan, to provide more employment. However, it was resolved to **OBJECT** to the current application on the following grounds:

**Buildings:** Massing and height of buildings: building heights must conform with Policies 4.7A and E and Core Policy 28 iii. Buildings should be no higher than 15m from the current floor level. The Heritage Setting Assessment should be revisited as there is concern about the impact on views to and from Folly Hill and the town conservation area. All buildings must conform with Policy 4.7B regarding water and material use and the site should be energy neutral or capable of exporting energy to the community if so designed.

**Jobs:** an estimate of the possible number of jobs to be created is required.

**Appropriate transport mitigation:** Provision for safe right turning on access and egress of site needs to be redesigned, preferably with access from the Park Road roundabout. Two crossings are needed, including a bridge for safe crossing for pedestrians, cyclists and horses from Sands Hill to Galley Hill. Access must conform with Policies 4.3A and E and with VoWHDC Core Policy 28 ii. The concept of a 15-minute neighbourhood should be at the core of transport policy.

**Pedestrian and cyclist provision on-site and public transport:** Pedestrian and cyclist provision must conform with Active Travel England requirements and Policy 4.3C regarding shared surfaces. There should be bus stops on site to reduce car use, plus contributions to improving public transport to surrounding villages.

**Ecological mitigation and geological special interest:** Clarification of the ecological impact is required including an Environmental Impact Assessment and Paleontology Assessment. Oxfordshire Geology Trust and Natural England must be involved in discussions regarding the quarry walls and all arrangements regarding their protection must be agreed with them.

**Access for the public, students and researchers:** any provisions for public and academic access to the quarry walls and to the fossil bearing material must be permanent and guaranteed. A learning/interpretation centre should be provided to educate visitors about the significance of the Faringdon Sponge Fossils.

**Amenity land:** Faringdon has a severe lack of amenity land for the size of its population. Sporting facilities and amenity land should be incorporated onto the site.

**2. Market Place Faringdon**

For change of use for offices and storage with a small extension to create 6 new flats. Change of use and small extension for a garage and the construction of a 2nd storey for the creation of a new house. **OBJECT:** on the grounds of over development of the site and under-provision of parking.

**Parking in the town centre:** the Clerk will write to Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) immediately to ask them to suspend no parking restrictions on market days in the town centre, when there is no market present.

It was agreed that further engagement with residents about town centre parking should be organised from April 2024. The Clerk will research parking solutions in the centre of other similar towns.

A surgery, with Vale planning officers in December will discuss how parking is considered in future applications.

A list of suggested actions to form a **connectivity plan** for Faringdon was approved and will be investigated and developed further.

An update was noted regarding a recent surgery where Faringdon Town Council enquired about the **3G pitch** to be installed by the District Council at Faringdon Community College. The Clerk has written to the Vale of the White Horse District Council to request that consultation be taken on surface design and to ensure the pitch was affordable and accessible for local clubs.

**Community and Partnerships - 4th December 2023**

A **draft budget** of £15,205 was put forward to the Finance and Audit Committee.

**It was agreed to request CIL funding for a maypole that will be used by Faringdon schools.**

The designs and positions for the **Artistic Bench Trail** were approved and it was agreed to go ahead with funding and implementation of this project.

An **Outdoor Cinema** will go ahead in summer 2024.

**Full Council 11th December 2023**

District Councillor Thomas highlighted that full consultation on the new Local Plan will commence in February 2024.

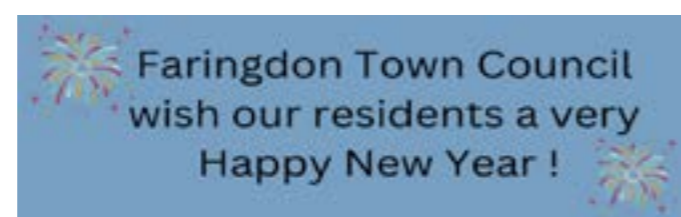
It was agreed to **record all council and committee meetings**, to be published on the Faringdon Town Council YouTube channel.

**Grants Sub Committee - 18th December 2023**

A draft grants budget will be put forward.

A grant for Old Town Hall room hire was awarded to Faringdon Arts Society for **exhibition during Art Weeks**.

An application from **Root and Branch** was considered and deferred for further information.



**Facilities - 18th December 2023**

Draft budgets for the venues and parks totalling £46,946 were put forward to the Finance and Audit committee.

New s106 funded **pathways** are being installed in the **Wilderness** in December.

A project **plan to re-design Town Park** will be created.

A **Corn Exchange refurbishment plan** will be costed and brought forward for further discussion.

A project to install **Solar Panels** on the roof of the Old Theatre at the Pump House will be progressed

A new sign has been installed in Highworth Road Layby.



**Upcoming Council meetings - all are welcome!**

You can join remotely online or attend in person. Details and links are on our website: [www.faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk).

Dates for upcoming council meetings are as follows:

Finance and Audit	8th January 24
Full Council (inc. Budget approval)	15th January 24
Planning and Highways Committee	22nd January 24
Full Council	12th February 24

**Tourist Bus Winter Route**  
 FARINGDON - LECHLADE  
 FARINGDON - HIGHWORTH

Faringdon Market Place	1015	1315
Lechlade Market Place	1015	1315
Faringdon Market Place	1055	1355
Faringdon Market Place	1100	1400
Highworth Junction II	1120	1420
Faringdon Market Place	1140	1440

Every Saturday  
 Leaving Faringdon Market Place

Tickets £5 Concessions half price.

Further details  
[faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk](http://faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk)  
[stagecoachbus.com](http://stagecoachbus.com)

**Faringdon Town Council**

What are you planning in 2024?  
 Starting a new group?  
 A get together or party?  
 A business meeting with hybrid facilities?

We have a venue to meet your needs!  
 We have 3 beautiful rooms for hire in Faringdon's iconic buildings:  
**The Old Town Hall**  
**Pump House**  
**Corn Exchange**  
 with capacities of 50 to 200

Hourly hire charges start at £8

For details see [www.faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk)  
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