

Sally's Summary

Planning and Highways Committee Meeting - 24th June

Nine planning applications were considered with no objections.

The following concerns were raised regarding an application for horizontal billboards to the left of the A420 heading North-East:

1. Distraction to traffic on the A420
2. Not in character for the area
3. Longevity of the temporary billboard structures

FTC will carry out a pavement survey in the autumn looking at condition and accessibility. Cllr. Ford volunteered to draw up a map and the town will be split into sections to assess. Any community member who would like to help, please get in touch.

The Clerk has contacted the county council about replacing the older gateway signs and adding new twinning information, Le Mêle-sur-Sarthe and, more recently, Königstein. FTC can contribute funds from earmarked gateway sign funding towards this project.

Community & Partnership Committee - 1st July

A public question raised the need for a Community Centre; an ongoing issue that FTC are exploring possible solutions for.

A Junior Youth Group report showed that it is flourishing! Councillors will be present at FTC's fossil-themed stall at the free events at Tucker Park: August Play Day on Friday 4 August. FTC's Outdoor Cinema is on Saturday 31 August with two screenings: a children's film 'I.F.' shown at 3pm and a family film at 7pm.

This will be my **last Sally's Summary**, so, I have been reflecting on my 22 years at Faringdon Town Council. As I prepare to leave my role on August 30th, 2024, I'm filled with gratitude and pride for all the council have achieved in Faringdon. We have worked together productively and built strong partnerships to deliver countless projects. This includes colleagues, dozens of councillors and five Mayors. I can only remember two challenging partnerships during all my time at FTC. Although FTC only look after very local services, over the years, we have transformed our community in so many meaningful ways.

I wanted to leave you with a few of my favourite highlights of what the council have accomplished during my 10 years as Town Clerk:

Given £000s in grants to local groups, initiatives and festivals. Supporting the vibrant and diverse activities within our community.

Introduced Community Awards, celebrating the incredible contributions of our local heroes.

Founded and managed the Regent Cinema. Bringing the magic of movies to our community.

Faringdon Walks and cycle rides: designed the pink and blue walking routes and installed the Better Ways to School cycling and walking network, using s106 funding.

Brought in-person Citizens Advice surgeries to Faringdon: providing crucial support to our residents.

Founded the German twinning partnership with Königstein. This included a working visit where we learned so much from our partner town.

Market Place improvements: benches, including a talking bench, water fountain, artistic tree guard, notice board, planters and artistic bollards.

Our Pink Pigeon bin in Southampton Street Car Park which adds a quirky touch to our town's cleanliness.

The Wilderness: with the dedication of wonderful volunteers transformed wasteland into a thriving habitat.

Saved the Faringdon Children's Centre: now known as The Place, where we sourced funding, wrote a business plan and managed the project thanks to the commitment of councillors and a wonderful volunteer steering board.

Brought a Community Larder to Faringdon, cutting down on food waste.

Christmas Lights in the Town Centre

Boules Court: designed and delivered a new community space in an uncared-for corner.

Refurbished the Old Town Hall: preserving our heritage for future generations.

Event Management: delivered memorable events including the Freedom of the Vale Rifles parade, Christmas light switch on, Heritage Day, VE Day beacon, Queen's Jubilee, King's Coronation, outdoor cinemas, and a live Nativity with camels!

Faringdon Museum: conceived and delivered a much-wanted cultural hub. New exhibition coming in August 2024

Office Move to the Pump House: improved operational efficiency with full utilisation and virtual meeting equipment.

Improved the Corn Exchange: sourced funding to deliver new floors and chairs, plus renovation of office space for a permanent home for The Place.

Faringdon Tourist Bus: conceived and delivered a new way for visitors to explore our town.

Successfully lobbied for commercial use in development projects, ensuring balanced development for our community.





🏠 Refurbished a vacant shop unit. Partnered with Vale economic development to revitalise a run-down unit using government funding, which now houses Tribe Zero-Waste.

🪑 Bench Trail: a creative initiative that organised the town into themed quarters with unique bench designs that will be installed in 2025 using s106 funds.

🤝 Supported many local groups and clubs: assisted with grant funding for improvements across various sports and youth organisations.

🏠 Foodbank Partnership: working closely with Churches Together brought the foodbank to the town centre and facilitated its expansion during increased demand.



🔄 Pandemic Response: introduced virtual meetings, supported the community, led foodbank efforts, and ensured council operations continued smoothly.

🏠 Refurbished the Portwell Pump: preserved and enhanced a key historic landmark.

💰 Secured Over £500,000 in grant funding for various town improvements.

It has been an honour to serve Faringdon and work alongside such dedicated councillors, colleagues, groups, businesses and community members. I truly believe we have made a real difference, and that Faringdon is a better place to live, work and play due to our efforts. I wish all the very best to my successor, Katherine Doughty (pictured right), who I am confident will serve the town with dedication and expertise. There is much to do, and I am excited to see the continued growth and success of our town. **Thank you, Faringdon, for the opportunity and support. I will miss you!** Sally Thurston



Upcoming Council Meetings

Links to join remotely are available on our website: www.faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk and on the council's Facebook page. At each meeting, there is always an opportunity for the public to speak - please come along and have your say.

Finance and Grants	29th July 2024
Planning	19th August 2024
Facilities	2nd September 2024
Full Council	9th September 2024

Final Call for Photographers for 2025 Calendar!

The **deadline submission** for FTC's 2025 calendar is **16th August!** Please send seasonal, landscape and high-resolution photos (1MB in size) to [Kathryn tic@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:kathryn.tic@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk) to be part of a calendar showing Faringdon at its best. Those featured will receive a free calendar and work will be credited.

Councillor Surgery: 6th August

2024's third surgery will take place on **Tuesday 6th August**, Market Place as part of Faringdon's bustling Farmers' Market. Come along and chat to your Town Councillors, all feedback is welcome, and they will do their best to assist.

Artist of the Month

Faringdon Information Centre is delighted to welcome **Ann Batchelor** as our Artist of the month for August. Previously qualified as a nurse, Ann always had an interest in textiles. She emigrated to South Africa which inspired her work. Achieving City and Guilds in Embroidery and design unveiled to Ann the importance of textiles in history and its role in the world. Upcycling is Ann's passion, and she feels privileged to give new life to something intended for waste. Anne considers the potential of anything, but lately she uses old canvas pieces for bags, end of sari silk for purses and cardboard and scraps of material to make boxes. To see Ann's work visit the **Information Centre** throughout August open **Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm and 9:30am to 1pm on Saturdays.**



Remembrance Exhibition: 8th & 9th November

If you have any memorabilia, items, stories, photographs or any documents from World Wars I or II, or any other relevant artefacts you would like to share, or if you would like to volunteer to man the exhibition, please email adele@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk

Faringdon's Big Green Day 2024 Report

Nearly 200 visitors filled the Corn Exchange and Old Town Hall, enjoying a variety of stalls and inspiring talks. The event showcased a wide array of eco-friendly initiatives. Throughout the morning, visitors enjoyed insightful talks in the Old Town Hall from Wild Oxfordshire, Folly Trust and Westmill Energy. The refreshments were fabulous thanks to the hard work of the scouts and several volunteers. Congratulations to our winner of FTC's competition which proposed installing bug houses around town to foster a more bee-friendly environment. The initiative to create more bug houses will now be discussed at the upcoming Strategy for the Environment meeting.

Contact:

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