

## Focus on Parishes with Cllr Bethia Thomas

Faringdon Faringdon Division Nov 2024



*I am looking forward to your next meeting and would like to be able to report on anything specific you may want me to follow up between now and then. I am already chasing a few things, but please let me know if you have any issues to raise.*

### Parish Round-Up

**Speed Reduction** – It has been agreed to remove the national speed limit on the A420 outside Faringdon, details below; at the decision meeting, cabinet member, Cllr Gant, recognised the dangerous nature of the A420 and suggested it as a potential location for the reintroduction of average speed cameras.

**Traffic Lights onto the A420** – With construction now taking place on the South Steeds Development on Coxwell Road, developers are on track to deliver improvements as laid down by the planning conditions for the site including the installation of traffic lights at this junction.

**Potholes on the B4019** – I have had assurance that this is now being prioritised with the an officer attending the site and raising some defects for repair before the scheduled inspection undertakes a more thorough look on to make sure all defects are covered. They have also closed the FMS reports and asked that the repairs be expedited by our contractor; hopefully we shall see improvement.

**Collapsed Wall on Stanford Road** – While we have been tackling this through the district council, a highways officer offered to contact Sovereign to see if they had any influence in getting this issue resolved as soon as possible.

**Lighting on the Highworth Road** – I continue to follow this up and I am waiting to hear the latest from officers; we are incredibly frustrated by the holdups on this and will let you know any updates as I hear them.

**Adult Social Care S106 Payments** – I have not heard anything back from members or officers on this matter but will be attending the Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November and will be raising it there. [The agenda is online.](#)

**Land around the Library** – Several matters were reported to the council about maintenance of structures and land around the library; this is complicated by the multiple landowners in this area, but I will be following it up as soon as I can.

**Fernham Road Pedestrian Refuge** – Hopeful for construction this calendar year.

**Wicklesham Quarry Application** – OCC is still waiting on the highways impact report for this application, and I would think it unlikely that it progresses to the November planning committee meeting; if the application is rejected, any further applications will now go through the district council.

## General News

- **Flooding Across the Division:** In late September we experienced heavy rainfall causing flooding in different parts of Faringdon Division. The council urges that communities are prepared for emergencies such as these by preparing appropriate plans and there is help on offer from the council to do so. For all flooding information please refer to the [Oxfordshire Flooding Toolkit](#)
- **A420 Speed Limits:** At a decision meeting scheduled for 10<sup>th</sup> October, the Cabinet Member for Traffic Management agreed to the recommendation to lower the speed limit on the A420 at Faringdon and Shrivenham, removing the national speed limit and setting it to 50MPH. Some roads running off the A420 may reduce from 50 to 40 MPH. This is all part of the Council's 'Vision Zero' Scheme to help reduce death and serious injuries from road traffic collisions.
- **OCC Boundary Review:** The Local Government Boundary Commission for England has published final recommendations setting out new electoral arrangements for Oxfordshire. This means some change for Faringdon Division, with the eastern parishes of Littleworth and Buckland being assigned to another division. The recommendations only become law once they have received parliamentary approval, effective for the county elections in 2025.
- **West Vale Mobility:** A service developed by Shrivenham Parish Council, with funding support from OCC's community transport grants and S106 contributions; it will transport residents from Shrivenham, Bourton, Watchfield, Longcot and Ashbury to their local health and wellbeing services, including appointments at Elmtree GP surgery and clinics at Great Western Hospital in Swindon.

## Live Public Consultations

- **Oxfordshire's draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) consultation** – We are asking people and organisations in Oxfordshire about their priorities for nature's recovery and collected information and have created a [Draft LNRS](#) to be finalised in 2025. This consultation will be open until 1 December 2024. Please contact the LNRS project team directly with any queries: [localnaturerecoverystrategy@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:localnaturerecoverystrategy@oxfordshire.gov.uk).
- **SEND Oxfordshire Conversations for parents and carers** – Join us at our next round of [SEND Oxfordshire Conversations](#) events on Wednesday 20 November 12pm - 1.30pm or 7.30pm - 9pm, bringing together parents and carers of children and young people with SEND across Oxfordshire, and representatives from the SEND local area partnership; these events are open to all parents and carers of children and young people with SEND across Oxfordshire and people can book online.

## **Councillor Surgeries**

I will be available for face-to-face surgeries between 10.00-11.00am at Faringdon Library on the following dates:

- 12th October
- 9th November
- 14th December

## **Contact Details**

Email: [bethia.thomas@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:bethia.thomas@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Phone: 07906 821680

**Cllr Bethia Thomas Liberal Democrat Member for Faringdon Division**

