

**REPORT TO FARINGDON DIVISION (Buckland with Gainfield, Buscot with Buscot Wick, Coleshill, Eaton Hastings, Faringdon, Gt Coxwell, Littleworth and Lt Coxwell April/May 2019
FROM CLLR Judith Heathcoat**

GENERAL OCC REPORT

DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS

Cherwell

Remains under Conservative control.

South Oxfordshire

Moved from Conservative to No Overall Control; Liberal Democrat/Green coalition likely.

Vale of White Horse

Moved from Conservative to Liberal Democrat control.

West Oxfordshire

Remains under Conservative control.

SIX RECYCLING CENTRES SET FOR SPRING CLEAN IN MAY

During May six of OCC's Household Waste Recycling Centres will be closing for two days to carry out a deep clean and essential maintenance at the sites. This is part of the council's planned approach to maintenance, and is designed to keep sites safe, looking clean and fresh and helping improve the customer experience when using these much valued facilities. Only one site will be closed at any one time and all other sites will be open on those days. Residents are asked to plan ahead for these closures, ideally holding on to your waste until the site reopens or if that is not possible visiting one of the neighbouring sites. Site Closure Dates:

- Alkerton - Wednesday 8th & Thursday 9th May
- Ardley - Tuesday 14th & Wednesday 15th May
- Drayton - Thursday 16th & Friday 17th May
- Stanford - Tuesday 21st & Wednesday 22nd May
- Oakley Wood- Thursday 23rd & Friday 24th May
- Redbridge - Wednesday 29th & Thursday 30th May

For those residents with permits, please note that these can be used at any of the sites.

MORE THAN 93 PER CENT GET THEIR FIRST CHOICE OF PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR 2019

More than nine out of ten parents whose children are set to enter the classroom for the first time this September have been offered their first choice of primary school in Oxfordshire. A total of 93.39 per cent of the 7,125 applicants have received their first choice – above all recent national averages across the UK. The consistent high number of first choices achieved in Oxfordshire is due to the county council's careful forward planning to make sure the right numbers of school places exist – since 2010 the council has created more than 10,000 new primary school places. That means that since 2010 the number of primary school places in Oxfordshire has risen by 22 per cent. About a fifth of that has been achieved via the building and opening of new schools and the rest through expansions of existing schools – new buildings, making better use of existing accommodation, or marginal increases in admission numbers. This year's figure of 93.39 per cent for first preference offers compares with the 2018 figure of 92.77 per cent. Although the national average for 2019 will not be published for some time, Oxfordshire remains ahead of the averages for 2018 (91 per cent) and 2017 (90 per cent).

AMBITIOUS NEW OXFORDSHIRE PARTNERSHIP IS BREAKING NEW GROUND

Residents in Oxfordshire are already benefiting from the impact of an ambitious and innovative new partnership between two councils – with plans being explored to develop closer working over coming months. Cherwell District Council and Oxfordshire County Council set up a joint working partnership in October 2018 – it is one of a very small number of examples of a district and county council sharing staff and services in the whole of the country. The county council's cabinet approved the continuation of the partnership at its meeting on April 23.

HENLEY-ON-THAMES REVEALED AS START LOCATION FOR WOMEN'S CYCLING RACE ROUTE WILL INCLUDE THE FARINGDON DIVISION!!

Henley-on-Thames will be the start location for stage three of the OVO Energy Women's Tour professional cycling race. Full details of the Oxfordshire route were revealed at a ceremony at the town's Leander Club – home to rowing greats like Sir Steve Redgrave CBE and Rebecca Romero – on Monday

15 April. The famous South Oxfordshire town will host a Big Bike Breakfast on the morning of the race, Wednesday 12 June. Crowds will line the streets, cheering off participants on the 145 kilometre-leg that will finish outside Blenheim Palace in West Oxfordshire. Elite cyclist Sophie Wright announced that Oxfordshire's race section will start from Market Place in the centre of Henley. Oxfordshire's county, city and district councils announced last month that a stage of the OVO Energy Women's Tour, the UK's most prestigious women's cycle race, had been agreed to race through the county for the next three years, in partnership with event organisers SweetSpot Group. From Henley, stage three will traverse the Chilterns via Pishill to Watlington, before returning via the climb of Britwell Hill to Sonning Common and Goring. Crossing the River Thames at Wallingford, the route will pass through Didcot, Harwell and Wantage, **crossing the Vale of White Horse to Faringdon**, before looping through the West Oxfordshire towns of Burford, Charlbury and finally Woodstock in the closing kilometres. Oxfordshire is expecting economic and health benefits from hosting the prestigious event, with cycling fans expected to visit the county to watch the race, generating additional business for restaurants, bars, hotels, B&Bs and shops.

SPECIFIC REPORT FOR THE FARINGDON DIVISION

This last month has been busy with meetings at County Hall – informal cabinet, full Cabinet, briefings with senior officers, Parish meetings and of course the local elections and my usual monthly surgery.

Wednesday 10th April – the launch took place at County Hall of the “Mobile Detection Presentation” by Thames Valley Police. This work has been supported by the County's Road Safety Education Team. New technology is being tested currently across the Thames Valley – the “Mobile Detection” will be able to “flash” a warning that a person in a vehicle is using a mobile phone. Currently, it cannot identify who within a vehicle is actually using a mobile phone – this is new technology that is being developed but, can of course raise safety awareness particularly with regard to “distraction” and thus help to prevent road traffic collisions.

Wednesday 17th April – the Community Safety Services Awards Ceremony took place at Blenheim Palace. Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant presented the “Long Service Certificates” and Her Majesty The Queen's Long Service and Good Conduct Medal Awards. I was particularly thrilled that Chris Barefield, PA to the Chief Fire Officer and myself received an award for 30 years continuous service to OFRS. I presented the “Most Improved Fire Cadet of the Year” and the “Fire Cadet of the Year awards. The Fire Cadets are a superb group of young teenagers, and the awards are judged on attendance, appearance, knowledge and interaction with their retrospective units.

Sunday 5th May – I attended the Annual Firefighters Memorial Trust's Annual Service of Remembrance at the Holy Sepulchre Church, City of London. Many hundreds attend this service and on conclusion of the Service, we process through the streets to the Firefighters Cenotaph which is opposite St Paul's Cathedral where wreaths are laid by Fire Service Chaplains, the Congregation, families of fallen fire fighters, Trustees and Chief Fire Officers and accompanying councillors. It is heart rendering to see young people attending this service in honour of a parent who has died serving the community in a fire or road traffic collision incident.

County Councillors' Priority Fund can I advise that this fund is open from the beginning of this local government financial year. I have, again, £15,000 to allocate within the Faringdon Division. I would say that I had “120% bids” to my allocation last year and have therefore carried forward some allocations and this means that my funds going forward this financial year are depleted. So, if you wish to apply for financial support, please submit your application asap.

My next monthly surgery will be on Saturday 1st June in the Faringdon Library from 1000-1130hrs. If you wish to contact me and are unable to attend the surgery then I can be reach by Judith.Heathcoat@oxfordshire.gov.uk or on 01367 241468

Judith Heathcoat
C/Cllr Faringdon Division (Faringdon, Buckland with Gainfield, Buscot with Buscot Wick, Littleworth, Faringdon, Lt Coxwell, Gt Coxwell, Coleshill, Eaton Hastings)