

### Faringdon Division

*Summer is well and truly here – you can tell by the rain! While I have been out and about enjoying Follyfest, and other events I wish there was just that little bit more time over the summer to get to them all. During July and August things quieten down a little with fewer meetings and queries. Apart from a few short breaks I will be working throughout and should be reporting as normal. As always if you have any questions or would like to meet with me, please get in touch.*



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### Parish Round-Up

*Not all items are covered here, with a selection of the main updates listed below. Please get in touch for further details on these or other items.*

#### Buckland

- **Gainfield Site Visit:** To review speeding in Gainfield,; it has produced proposals for upgrades to the signs and road markings including SID pole locations.
- **School Site Visit:** Am happy to be involved in following up measures from this.
- **Footway Repairs:** I will reopen investigations after receiving further reports.
- **Buckland Marsh:** 40MPH Zone works should soon be in progress; awaiting further updates on road repairs at Tadpole Bridge.

#### Buscot

- **Cheese Wharf:** The work has been identified and listed for repair, with no clear timescale as it is already with contractors. Temporary traffic lights will be needed while the work is happening, and the stone will be removed from the water in the summer when it's at its lowest.
- **Snowswick Lane:** I have offered to meet with residents to address concerns following bridge closure and re-routing and the recent collision near Cheese Wharf.
- **Tearooms:** I followed up progress on repairs to the pothole here; awaiting response.

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### Historic Bridges in the Division

Many concerns have been raised about the bridges in and around our division – I have been pursuing these and will continue to do so but in several cases this involves more than one authority. Currently I am chasing signage improvements for Radcot and Tadpole Bridges, as well as repairs to both, and the knock-on effects of the closure of bridges in and around Lechlade.

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## **Coleshill**

- **Resurfacing through the Village:** I have been asked to consider options for the scheduled works programme in the division and have prioritised this area – awaiting confirmation of this going ahead in 24/25.
- **Snowswick Lane:** I am aware of the increased traffic and subsequent damage to the road surface because of the re-routed traffic. I have been working with officers on ways we can reduce these effects, but this involves several different authorities and has proven difficult to resolve.

## **Eaton Hastings**

- **Speed & A417** I received a positive response to the idea of an overall speed reduction on the A417, this was based on a national campaign from road safety charity Brake.

## **Faringdon**

- **New Bus Service:** A new direct bus service has been launched between Faringdon and Harwell/Didcot. The connector X35 will extend beyond Harwell Campus to Wantage up to every 30 minutes on weekdays and up to every hour on Saturdays, and provide a direct link on these days through to Faringdon up to every hour.
- **Sink Hole on Southampton Street:** Has been repaired by Thames Water, this has been an issue for several years but was resolved quickly after a frustrated resident had contacted me with concerns.
- **Gravel Walk Works:** Resurfacing work has been completed and the roundabout on the Junction with Coxwell Street has been repainted; bollards need improvement.
- **Future Works:** I have been reviewing the current projects that have been scheduled for this financial year and next – 24/25 it has been proposed that Canada Lane will be resurfaced. There will be other projects within the division but am prioritising this area.
- **Radcot Bridge:** I have been assured that an assessment and upgrade of signage will take place on this road after an overhaul of the same on the B4019. I received a positive response to my question at council asking for speed reductions on rural roads.
- **Councillor Priority Fund:** Now that my fund has been renewed applications are already coming in; The Place has made initial inquiries which I am happy to consider when I receive the final application. I have recently made a payment to the Vale Tridents Triathlon Club and contributed towards Faringdon's Play Day by the OPA.

## **Great Coxwell**

- **Drainage Update:** A drainage/flooding officer is arranging for drains to be cleared when he returns from leave in late July.
- **20MPH Consultation:** The parish and residents have been notified and the consultation is open until the 28<sup>th</sup> July.
- **Speed Survey/Signage on the B4019:** A signage upgrade has been scheduled for this stretch of road; I received a positive response to the request for overall speed reduction on the B4019.

## **Little Coxwell**

- **Wicklesham Quarry Liaison Group:** The meeting in July has been rescheduled, and we are awaiting a new date.
- **20 MPH Zone:** Signage query has been resolved; regulations used to stipulate that a speed limit had to have twin terminal signs but that is no longer the case and thus the limit is enforceable.

## Littleworth

- **20MPH Consultation:** A formal consultation is due; the decision will be likely to be made in September with installation in November.
- **Footpath to Barcote Cottages:** Happy to see this has now been cleared.
- **A420 Crossing:** Still waiting on updates on dropped kerb and lighting schemes; see FATAC Report.

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## Activity Report

June has been a bit quieter compared to May and was happy to visit some of you for your Parish Meetings. I attended FATAC on June 12<sup>th</sup> where I stepped down as chair after two years handing the role to my district council colleague Cllr Mark Coleman. I look forward to asking a question at the county full council meeting concerning speed limits on local rural roads.

### July's meetings:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> July: Great Coxwell Parish Meeting
- 10<sup>th</sup> July: Faringdon Town Council Full Council Meeting
- 11<sup>th</sup> July: Oxfordshire County Council Full Council Meeting
- 13<sup>th</sup> July: People Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- 17<sup>th</sup> July: Faringdon and Wantage Locality Committee
- 17<sup>th</sup> July: Coleshill Parish Meeting

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## New Bus Service

I was delighted to be invited to the launch of the new direct bus route from Faringdon to Didcot/Harwell. The connector X35 will extend beyond Harwell Campus to Wantage up to every 30 minutes on weekdays and up to every hour on Saturdays and provide a direct link on these days through to Faringdon up to every hour.

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## FATAC Report:

I was pleased to attend the first FATAC meeting of this municipal year. Cllr Mark Coleman was voted as chair of the committee after I stood down having sat as chair for the last two years. In that time, I believe we have achieved some of the goals we set to ensure safer roads for all, and hope that many more have been put in place in that time.

## Highways News:

- A420 / Fernham Road – Pedestrian / cyclist island & footway links. £60k CIL funding, on list for delivery 2023/24 Financial Year. Feasibility underway.
- B4019 – Faringdon to Coleshill – Sign replacements and upgrades planned.
- Buckland Marsh - 40mph approved, ordered, awaiting installation date from Milestone.

- Buscot – meeting arranged in response to several recent requests.
- Coleshill Chicane and 20mph Speed Limit – temporary signs to be removed.
- Great Coxwell – ongoing discussions with PC regarding gateway features.
- Little Coxwell – 40mph speed limit on Fernham Road and 20mph zone completed.
- Littleworth – investigating provision of solar streetlights at the A420 bus stops and provision of dropped kerb on south side of A420 at Swindon bound bus stop. Drop kerb will be installed in the 2023/24 financial year and liaising with OCC street lighting re the proposed streetlights. Footway clearance between Littleworth & Barcote Manor (along the A420) has been ordered.
- Radcot Road – Sign replacements and upgrades planned.

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## OCC News

**Holding utilities companies to account:** OCC is seeking permission from the government to adopt a 'lane rental scheme'. The scheme aims to reduce disruptive roadworks by utilities, incentivising them to keep to schedule and work off-peak. Fees of up to £2,500/day can be collected and reinvested in the road network. The surplus could be upwards of £2 million a year from 2024-2025.

**Pothole trial:** A trial took place in Steventon and East Hanney testing seven different methods of repairing minor defects in the road surface. Some of the methods are already in use in Oxfordshire, while others are new types of repair. The trial will inform how defects are repaired in the future.

**Nature recovery:** Oxfordshire County Council has been designated as the lead authority for nature recovery in the county. The responsibility comes with additional funding from a £14 million pot to be divided between 48 councils. Local nature recovery plans were made a legal requirement by the Environment Act 2021

**SEND Ofsted inspection:** Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission are carrying out an inspection of services for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

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## News in Brief

**Bus Fares:** The government's £2.00 cap on bus fares has been extended to October.

**Recycling centres open until 8pm:** Hours extended until 8pm on Thursdays.

**Platform to promote care jobs:** A website has been created to encourage people to enter care jobs; careers in care are rewarding in many different ways.

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## Grants and Cost of Living

**Councillor Priority Fund:** Open for applications. I have recently made a payment to the Vale Tridents Triathlon Club and contributed towards Faringdon's Play Day by the OPA.

**Hardship fund:** OCC’s hardship fund (Resident Support Scheme) was launched in June.  
Phone: 01865 804171

**Home Upgrade Grants:** OCC & its partner AgilityEco is reaching out directly to households who will qualify to benefit from Home Upgrade Grants (to improve energy efficiency for ‘off-grid’ homes).

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