

Faringdon - Community Profile: March 2017

1. **Map and Overview**

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**Faringdon electoral ward – boundary commission**

Overview

* Faringdon has a rich history, with an ancient church, a market that has been held weekly wince 1281 and its distinctive Folly, located on the site of an ancient hill fort.
* The town retains its historic core of coaching inns and a 17th Century Market Hall (the old Town Hall). It has a selection of local employers but no one strong sector.[[1]](#footnote-1)
* Faringdon is growing quickly. Between the 2001 and 2011 censuses, the population of the town grew by 15% to over 7,000. Since then it has already grown to over 8,000 with planned housing developments approved or under construction, likely to add another 22% to the population. When all these new houses have been built the town’s population will have increased by 55%, since 2011 and by over 75% since 2001.
* Faringdon’s recently adopted Neighbourhood Plan involved extensive consultation over 3 years and identified a set of headline issues. Some of these relate to community action and can help to guide the VCS action that we support in the area:
* Providing for young people
* Support for ageing population
* Need for better maintenance of the public realm
* Need for better pedestrian and cycle connections
* Need for better transport connections

Social life

* Faringdon has an active community. There are very many clubs and organisations in Faringdon.
* Plenty of sport - cricket, football, rugby, tennis, archery, exercise classes, martial arts, running and jogging. There is also A good range and arts and crafts, singing, painting, card making, music, a dramatic society, rotary club and much more.[[2]](#footnote-2)
* The town council aims to help to create a socially inclusive and caring community which embraces all its residents, irrespective of age, culture, income, race or religion, and which seeks to develop their well-being, knowledge, understanding and mutual co-operation.
* To achieve this, the Town Council has five guiding principles:- – Communicate and Consult – Provide Civic Leadership and Civic Pride – Enhance Local Facilities – Provide Necessary Services – Foster Community Development
* The Town Council regularly produces details of Town Council initiatives and provide local organisations with the opportunity to publicise their activities.

Schools

* Faringdon has three schools from infant school (reception) to sixth form (Year 13). These are managed collectively by the Faringdon Academy of Schools.
* At present there is an infant school on Lechlade Road that feeds into a junior school located off Gloucester Street, both of which can be reached easily from the town centre.
* The Community College is located off Fernham Road on a site shared with the local leisure centre.
* To cater for the housing growth and additional population, there is likely to be a need for a Two Form Entry plus a Three Form Entry Primary School; and a Nine Form Secondary School. Should the Infant School on Canada Lane become vacant, proposals to reuse the existing buildings for community use will be encouraged.

Services

* Faringdon is a market town set within an extensive rural hinterland. Local villages, hamlets and farms use Faringdon as a local service centre.

Town Council

* Faringdon Town Council, The Corn Exchange, Faringdon, Oxfordshire SN7 7JA
* Tel: 01367 240281, Fax: 01367 240303
* Contact liz@faringdontowncouncil.gov.uk

Websites

* <http://faringdontowncouncil.gov.uk/>
* <http://www.faringdon.org/>
1. **Deprivation**

Faringdon is generally prosperous but parts of Faringdon centre and the northern edge of the town are somewhat deprived (the areas showing in darker colours - Faringdon and the Coxwells LSOAs E01028717 and E01028718).

The main issues showing up in this data are children and young people and education training and skills. These parts of Faringdon have far higher relative deprivation than neighbouring villages in the area e.g. the Coxwells, Buckland, Longcot and Fernham, Shellingford (all well below the national average).









**SOURCE- Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 Deciles (where 1 is most deprived 10% of small areas - LSOAs)**

1. **Service overview**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Children’s Centre** | **Day Centre** | **Transport** |
| Faringdon Children's CentreCurrently provides child care which is being supported to become self-financing from April 2017 and will provide outreach activities to children and families from the centre. The intention is that the centre remains open offering a range of services, some of which will be run by the county council.[[3]](#footnote-3)In February 2016, the council agreed to set aside £1m for creating a ‘one off’ fund to provide pump priming to support Children’s Centres. In Feb. 2017 OCC cabinet was recommended to approve transition funding to the Faringdon Children’s Centre on the basis of the bid made by Faringdon Town Council.Therefore, the services currently delivered from Faringdon CC will be transferring to a community provision led by Faringdon Town Council, scheduled to start on 1 April 2017. | Bromsgrove Day Centre and Oakwood Day CentreOCC has ‘[proposed](http://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/documents/s36119/CA_JAN2417R26%20-%20Daytime%20Support.pdf) to replace our current annual funding for 47 community daytime support services [**including the Bromsgrove and Oakwood Day Centres**] of £992,000 a year, with grant pots totalling £250,000 a year, which services could bid for under two categories. The Sustainability Fund would provide grants to enable the ongoing delivery of daytime support services in areas of high need. The Innovation Fund would provide one-off grant funding to establish self-sustaining projects to fill gaps in services.’ | 61 (Faringdon Community Bus still running)Subsidies cut for 67 to Wantage and 83 to Wantage |

1. **Distance to services**

As a market town, most areas of Faringdon generally have good access to services. The areas of greatest (relative) deprivation face barriers to accessing some service – GP surgery and post office.





**SOURCE- Road distance to key services (km) in 2014 - IMD 2015 Barriers to Housing and Services Domain**

1. **Community assets**

| **Name**  | **Details** |
| --- | --- |
| Faringdon Infant School | * Lechlade Road SN7 8AH
* Office.2561@faringdon-inf.oxon.sch.uk
* 01367240655
 |
| Faringdon junior school | * The Elms, Gloucester St, Upper Faringdon SN7 7HZ
* head.2562@faringdon-jun.oxon.sch.uk
* 01367 240232
 |
| Faringdon Community College | * Fernham Road, Faringdon, SN7 7LB
 |
| Ferndale Preparatory School | * 5-7 Bromsgrove, Faringdon, SN7 7JF
* Private (ages 2 1/2 to 11)
 |
| The Corn Exchange | * The Pump House, 5 Market Place, Faringdon SN7 7HL
* Available for larger functions e.g. weddings, cinema
* Capacity 250, 150 (fire restriction), bar, kitchen, cinema projector, variable stage, wifi, disabled access
 |
| Bromsgrove Day Centre | * Faringdon Baptist Church, Church Hall, Park Rd, Faringdon, SN7 7JF
* Sue Thrower - 01367 240848 smthrower@tiscali.co.uk
* 2 days a week (Monday and Thursday 9.15-14.15), 15 per session. This is well established day centre providing a hot meal and a good range of individual and small group activities for reasonably active older people or with a mild physical disability.
 |
| Oakwood Day Centre | * Oakwood House, Meadowbank, Faringdon, SN7 8DS
* Caroline Terry (club co-ordinator) 07827 235436
* 3 days per week (Tues, Thurs & Fri), 20 per session (Faringdon). This is a vibrant and busy club, situated in the grounds of Faringdon Day Hospital. A full day is available or drop in for lunch only. The Club offers the opportunity for older people to meet with others in relaxed, friendly and warm surroundings. Oakwood is a place where you can be yourself and feel at home, whatever your needs. This club is dedicated to the needs of older people with dementia and other mental health needs. Refreshments are provided along with a nourishing home-cooked hot lunch. Our clients enjoy taking part in activities such as gentle and seated exercise, music, arts and crafts, quizzes along with regular trips out
 |
| The Pump Rooms | * Market Place, Faringdon
* 6 rooms, main room capacity 50+. Small kitchen, wifi, disabled access
 |
| The Old Town Hall | * Market Place, Faringdon
* Capacity 50, small kitchen, disabled access
 |
| Brunel House | * Volunteer Way, SN7 7YR
* Small meeting facilities, disabled access
 |
| Faringdon Bowling Club | * Gravel Walk, kitchen, bar, disabled access
 |
| Roman Catholic Church  | * Marlborough Street, Faringdon, SN7 7JE
* Rooms available for community use
* Kitchen, disabled access
 |
| United Church | * Coxwell St, Faringdon SN7 7HA
* 01367 240227
* Rooms available for community use
* Kitchen, disabled access
 |
| Friends Meeting House | * 4 Lechlade Rd, Faringdon SN7 8AL
* 01235 764411
* Main hall and small hall, disabled access
 |
| All Saints Church | * Church Walk SN7 8SL
* Church and/or Barber rooms available for hire
* admin@allsaintsfaringdon.co.uk
* Church Wardens: Katie Foot Tel: 01367 358 394. Andrew Sargent Tel: 01367 242 753
 |
| Faringdon Day hospital | * Run from Oakwood House, Cedar Road, Faringdon SN7 8DS
* 01367 242150
 |
| Faringdon Library | * Gloucester Street, SN7 7HY
 |
| One GP surgery: The White Horse and Fern Hill Medical Practices (now merged) | * Health Centre on Volunteer Way.
* Out-of-hours and emergency health care is not provided for
 |
| There are two pharmacies, one optician and one dentist  |  |
| Ferendune (Anchor Homes) | * Ash Close. SN7 8ER.
* Provides care for the elderly for the district, but no longer offers intermediate or respite care
 |
| Crown Hotel | * Hall, conference room, bar, disabled access
 |
| Bell Hotel | * Available for functions, disabled access
 |
| Davenports Media Centre | * Conference room
 |
| Sudbury House Hotel | * Various rooms and lecture theatre, disabled access
 |

1. **Community activity: overview**

| **Theme** | **Group** | **Contact** | **Notes** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Children** | Faringdon Academy of Schools |  | * FAoS has played a pivotal role in local schooling. It recommended the building of a new primary school capable of three-form entry. Hence, the Infant School will relocate and take in juniors, while the Junior School will take in infants with both comprising a single primary school based on two sites.
* The FAoS now incorporates five of its partnership schools in neighbouring villages: Buckland, Shrivenham, Watchfield, John Blandy (Kingston Bagpuize/ Southmoor), and Longcot and Fernham schools.
 |
|  | Faringdon Children’s Centre | Venue Faringdon Baptist Church, Southmooradmin@actionforchildren.org.uk | Tuesday: Stay & Learn - 9.30am to 11.00am.  Wednesday: Buddiez - 12.30pm to 2.00pm.  Thursday: Stay & Learn (Watchfield) - 1.00pm to 2.30pm at Watchfield Village Hall |
|  | Churches Together in Faringdon interested in supporting this area of need. | Jenny Braithwaite jennyridd@yahoo.co.uk |  |
|  | Youth sessions | liz@faringdontowncouncil.gov.uk  | Faringdon Town Council run a variety of sessions for young people across our different venues. We currently have two Senior Youth Workers, two Youth Workers and two assistant youth workers as well as some fantastic volunteers working to bring opportunities to the young people of our town |
| **Older people** | Adult Learning - Available at both Faringdon & Southmoor Children's Centres.    |  |  |
|  | Bromsgrove Day Centre |  | **See details in Community Assets, above** |
|  | Oakwood Day Centre  |  | **See details in Community Assets, above** |
|  | Ferendune Court |  | Nursing home for those recovering from illness or injury, as well as residents for long-term stays. 48 beds |
|  | Coxwell Hall  |  | Provides residential care  |
|  | Extra care | 64 unit Extra Care Home  | Planned for the Sandshill development |
|  | Age UK information point | [Faringdon Library](https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/faringdon-library), Gloucester Street, SN7 7HY  |  |
|  | Community Information Network Faringdon Wantage Grove | Sonia Robinson, Community Networker:07827 235414soniarobinson@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk Mandy Richens, Community Networker:07827 235429amandarichens@ageukoxfordshire.org.ukCIN office 0345 450 1276   |  |
|  | Faringdon Carers –  |  |  |
| **Transport** | Faringdon Community Bus Ltd, run by volunteers | Mr Steve Wright – Chairmaninfo@FaringdonCommunityBus.co.uk  |  |
| **General** | Faringdon Country Market  | pepperdee@hotmail.co.uk  |  |
|  | Oxfordshire Town Chamber Network (OTCN) |  |  |
|  | Focus on Faringdon (FoF) | Portwell House Hotel, 26 Market Pl, SN7 7HU 01367 246130 Nick Elwell & Jane Haynes | Established by Faringdon & District Chamber of Commerce as a Community Interest Company with the aim of providing support for a range of projects around Faringdon. |
|  | Roots Allotment | SN7 7AX |  |
|  | Faringdon Free Food | SN7 7AG |  |
|  | Faringdon Town Council | SN7 7HL |  |
|  | Faringdon United Charities | SN7 7HL |  |
|  | FollyFest | SN7 7HP |  |
|  | Faringdon Arts Festival | SN7 7HU |  |
|  | Faringdon Community Bus | SN7 8AD |  |
|  | Faringdon Town Football Club | SN7 7BP |  |
|  | Faringdon Football Club | SN7 7BP |  |
|  | Friends of Folly Park | SN7 7UG |  |
|  | The Ark | SN7 7HY |  |
|  | Faringdon Junior School PTA | SN7 7HZ |  |
|  | Faringdon Country Park | SN7 8AY |  |
|  | Faringdon Centre for Contemporary & Creative Sports | SN7 7LB |  |
|  | 1st Faringdon Scouts | SN7 8BD |  |
|  | Eaton Hastings Parish Meeting | SN7 8BJ |  |
|  | The Lord Faringdon Charitable Settlement | SN7 8BU |  |
|  | Bridging the Gap | SN6 7PU |  |
|  | FAZE (Faringdon Youth Club) | SN7 7EG |  |
|  | Little Coxwell Parish Council | SN7 7LW |  |
|  | Ridgeway Military & Aviation Research Group | SN7 7NB |  |
|  | Great Coxwell Parish Council | SN7 7NB |  |
|  | Faringdon Area Project | SN7 7NL |  |
|  | Coleshill Parish Council | SN6 7PT |  |
|  |  |  |  |

An online list of activities and groups is available at <http://www.faringdon.org/clubs-and-organisations.html> with websites for further information includes: Air Training Corp, Archery, Arts Societies, Baby and Toddler, Badminton, Band - Wantage Silver, Basketball, Beavers, Cubs, Bees, Bell ringing, Boule, Bowls, Bridge, Bridging the gap, British Legion, Brownies, Cadets, Carers, Cotswold Voices, Crafts- Card Club, Cricket, Cycling, Dancing, dance fitness DIY club, Drama groups, FAB Faringdon Appreciation of Berners, Family Centre, Fishing, Free food, Football, Geology , Gliding, Good Companions, History and archaeology, Jogging, Judo, Kick Boxing, Kite Flying, Karate, Kung Fu, Leisure Centres, gym, Martial Arts, National Childbirth Trust, Netball, Ohdokwa, Orchestra, Pilates, Peace Group, Probus, Riding, Rotary Club, Rowing, Rugby, Running, Swimming, Sailing, Scouts, Shooting, Singing, Skating(artistic), Tai Chi, Tae Kwon Do, Tennis, Triathlon, University of the 3rd Age, War Gaming, Whist, Womens Institute, Writing, Youth organisations, Young Farmers

1. **Recent projects to mitigate service reduction**

**Analysis of gaps in services**

For children, the greatest need identified in evidence assembled for the **Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan** is for the Scouts/Cubs/Beavers/ Explorers, who are currently using St Hugh’s School and the Theatre; and the Guides/Brownies/ Rainbows who use the United Church Hall.

Faringdon has a number of play areas for children: Marlborough Gardens, Pitts Park (in Pye Street), Tuckers Park, Oakwood Park, Coleshill Drive and Volunteer Way. These are all relatively small ‘town style’ parks for younger children but with limited scope for teenagers. (ref FNP)

There is a demand for enhanced community facilities. The churches and a number of other community groups fund and run their own buildings, and most, if not all, are willing to rent out their buildings to other groups for regular or occasional use. Faringdon is also reasonably well supplied with sporting facilities: new cricket and rugby pitches, tennis courts (The Tennis Club is relocating to Folly Park and there are Town Council courts at Woodview), a skate park on the Folly Park site, football pitches at Tuckers Park (Faringdon Town Football Club), a Bowls Club, and the Leisure Centre with swimming pool, gym, squash and badminton courts (ref FNP)

The Neighbourhood Plan identifies school place for every child, services for older people and community transport as key issues. Neighbourhood Plan policies include: Infant School Site Redevelopment; New development must support the expansion of local health and care facilities; specialist accommodation for the elderly.

Ageing, poorly people from Faringdon are often cared for in Witney, or farther afield, as there are now no intermediate care beds available Faringdon. Local stakeholders have expressed concern about this as this situation makes it difficult for the patient and their relatives, particularly those without access to a car, as there is no public transport link to Witney. (ref FNP)

Both day centres have limited facilities to cope with disabled clients (including those with dementia), and there are no apparent day centres in Faringdon for younger disabled people. The nearest facility for Tier 3 elderly and disabled (i.e. needing specialised facilities and staff) is in Wantage.

**Potential projects**

Potential projects have been identified through the **Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan**. The overview of priorities for community infrastructure in the NP is:

• Improvements to bus services including a long-distance coach stop.

• Better access to the rail network through the re-opening of a railway station at either Grove or Challow with bus and cycle links

• Provision of new cycle routes and parking.

• Public realm improvements in the town centre / Conservation Area including enhanced pedestrian routes to the Tesco store.

• Improved road, footpath and cycleway linkages to sport and leisure facilities.

• Provision of additional parking facilities, including coach parking

• Enhanced pedestrian access routes into the wider countryside.

• Provision of new school places in line with Faringdon Academy of Schools policy.

• Enhancement and maintenance of Faringdon Country Park in liaison with existing land owners and operators.

• Improved sport and leisure provision

• Additional allotments.

• Increased youth provision in the town including an extension of activities at the existing FAZE site and a new facility located more centrally in the town.

• Improved health infrastructure including additional social / health facilities and services to meet the needs of an increasing population.

• Greater provision of extra care accommodation, and enhanced elderly care linked to a new health and well-being centre.

• The provision of intermediate and respite care for local residents.

• New and improved community facilities including a community centre and entertainment venue.

• A new museum or visitor centre to support tourism.

• Infrastructure to support the sale and storage of local produce.

The **Neighbourhood Plan** identifies the following objectives for care infrastructure:

* a strong and high quality range of health services to support the wider parish needs.
* high quality accommodation and health facilities.
* Enhanced public transport connections to ensure easy access to larger facilities further afield such as hospitals.
* Social facilities that can accommodate a variety of functions and keep pace with the growth of the population.

The **Neighbourhood Plan** identifies 3 practical options for a Community Centre:

1. Adapt existing buildings used by churches and community groups to play a wider community role.
2. A new facility could be provided, potentially as part of the Country Park or new development.
3. Greater use of the Corn Exchange / Pump House.
1. Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan, December 2016 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. http://www.faringdon.org/things-to-do.html [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <http://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/documents/s33298/CA_MAY2416R09%20Childrens%20Services.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)