

Focus on Parishes

Cllr Bethia Thomas

April 2026

Spring is here and so is the second quarterly county report for 2026. Always get in touch with questions or concerns that you would like me to follow up, my contact information is available at the end of this report.



Highways News

As we all know, the roads have suffered badly this winter; this is national problem and we have had record numbers of defects reported. Despite further investment and recruitment, crews are still working through a significant backlog. I have been very frustrated as I know residents have, that this work does not seem to make much of a difference, particularly to those areas of most concern, and I have spent significant time over the last few weeks highlighting the issues we are facing in and around Faringdon. The following are answers to questions I have asked about four sections of road in the area, two in Faringdon Division, and two in Shrivenham Division, which I have received a significant number of complaints about.

- 1. A420 - Shrivenham Division, between Townsend Road and Swindon - where a new road failure sign has been inserted after a RTC at this location.**
 - This route is inspected monthly.
 - There are number of repairs ordered waiting to be completed. The importance / safety significance of the A420 is recognised/appreciated and I will receive confirmation when those repairs are to be done.
 - Officers will liaise with M-Group on the scheduling to make sure that high-speed A (and some B) roads are given appropriate priority.

- 2. B4019 - Faringdon Division, between Badbury Hill and Colleymore Farm – which was the site of a recent incident causing damage to an on-call ambulance.**
 - This has been a problem site due to the water / flooding issues. With the dryer weather now here and drainage scheme planned, works will be prioritised and hopefully completed soon.
 - The route is inspected every 3 months, (plus on an ad hoc basis following FMS enquiries made). The last scheduled inspection took place in Feb and the next one due 26 May. There are still outstanding repairs from the Feb inspection and officers will confirm when we expected these might be completed by.
 - There will also be pre-surface dressing patching work taking place later in the year (between Sept and Mar).

- 3. Coxwell Road Faringdon Division - low level but extensive defects.**
 - There are 6 defect orders on the system waiting to be carried out. Officers will confirm when it is expected for these to be done.

- 4. B4508, Shrivenham Division - near Fernham.**
 - This should be patched in the next month, start date to be confirmed.

Parish News across Faringdon Division

- **Speed Reductions on the A417** – This is being instigated over the coming months after it was agreed by the cabinet member in March. The national speed limit will be removed, the speed limit will be reduced throughout to 50mph, except in those areas already designated 40mph, and the section through Buscot, which will be reduced to 30mph.
- **Resurfacing the A417** – Surface dressing will be applied to a stretch of road between Buscot and Lechlade next month; the road will be closed for a short period, while I know this might cause some inconvenience to residents in Buscot Wick, it should be limited.
- **Flood Mitigation Funding** – Another round of funding may benefit a project in Coleshill; last year, funding was given to a flood mitigation project in Buscot, and I am glad to see that the National Trust might be putting in an application for this round.
- **Potential Quiet Lanes** – Quiet lanes are designed to reduce traffic and prevent rat running; I have suggested that the road through Buscot Wick be considered for the pilot, and while I am not sure that this scheme would fit this location, I thought it worth investigation initially.

Other News for Faringdon

- **Western Vale LCWIP and Connectivity** – We have been having interesting discussions with Highways officers, Farcycles and FTC about increasing walking and cycling routes within the town; I hope we can convene a meeting to discuss.
- **Wicklesham Quarry** – We are still waiting for the S106 Agreement to be finalised before planning consent can be granted; County officers have been dealing with a campaign of complaints against the planning decision, but this should not cause any further delays.
- **Unauthorised Flags on Park Road** – Recently OCC released a formal legal notice on the unauthorised flags hanging across the county, calling for this activity to cease. The council has been removing flags where they pose a danger but it is in a difficult situation as this is costly and the flags are often replaced. I am still of the opinion that we should promote positive actions to show that we are an inclusive and welcoming community, and I have recently asked the library to hold an event celebrating St George's Day later this month.

Resources

- [Planned Capital Highway Maintenance Schedule – for all highways works 2026-2028.](#)
- [Using Oxfordshire's Recycling Centres – booking a visit.](#)
- [Living well at home – a guide for living at home independently.](#)
- [Congestion charge exemptions and permits.](#)

Consultations

- [Oxfordshire Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2026–2028](#)
- [Healthwatch Feedback and Consultation Opportunities in Oxfordshire](#)

Grants

- **Councillor Priority Fund:** There has been a lot of interest in the fund so far; applications can be made on the website: [Councillor Priority Fund](#)

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