

FAIRFORD TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

MAYOR'S INTRODUCTION

Firstly, I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for electing me to be the Mayor, I am very much looking forward to another year of working hard for my community. I would also like to congratulate Marcus Stroud who was elected as Deputy Mayor, I'm sure we'll make a great team!

We said farewell to three colleagues who stepped down from the Council during the last 12 months.

I would like to thank Steve Boulton, Andrew Doherty and Phil Bird for their dedication to the Town and their years of service to their community. I know that we will still be able to call upon them when volunteers are needed, and I am sure we will!

And I would like to welcome Sandra Rymer and Adie Baker to the Council team.

The Council has spent the last year engaged in a number of exciting projects, these include:

The Skate park – which is nearing completion. This was a huge undertaking for the Council and for the Community, who came together to fundraise and show their support for the creation of the skate park.

With thanks to the Ernest Cook Trust, we now have an agreement to create a new burial ground for the interment of ashes. The burial ground has now been fenced and a new hedge planted. An entrance to the burial ground will be made in the next week and then we will get the ground consecrated ready for use.

We are working with Lechlade Town Council, Lakes by Yoo and other organisations to create cycle paths to link the two towns, which will be a fabulous asset for residents and visitors alike.

We have engaged The Door, who have been running a youth club in Fairford, which has attracted a really good number of young people each week. We have put in a joint application with Lechlade Town Council to the National Lottery to help to fund an expanded youth provision, which if successful, we hope to start in September.

And lastly, the Neighbourhood Plan, that has been nearly a decade in the making, passed at Referendum on 4th May with a 90% mandate from the community. My thanks go to the members of the Steering Group, both past and present who have worked so tirelessly on this project.

Cllr Vicky Lipscombe-Kettel – TOWN MAYOR



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Community Centre,
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If you would like to contact
us then please email:
clerks@fairfordtowncouncil.gov.uk

Or visit our website:
fairfordtowncouncil.gov.uk



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POLICE REPORT

Police Annual Report for Fairford

Date 28th April 2023

Produced by: PCSO 9310 Angela Barker

Summary

This report covers the periods of 27th April 2021 – 27th April 2022 compared to 27th April 2022 – 27th April 2023. During the period 21-22 there were **117** reported crimes. This compares with **127** in the same period 22-23. Crime difference for the two comparable years is **+8.55%** for 22-23

Crime Breakdown

Violence 21-22 = **65**. 22-23 = **70**.

Sexual Offences 21-22 = **7**. 22-23 = **5**.

Burglary 21-22 = **10**. 22-23 = **11**.

Theft 21-22 = **16**. 22-23 = **12**.

Fraud 21-22 = **1**. 22-23 = **0**.

Criminal Damage 21-22 = **12**. 22-23 = **17**.

Drugs 21-22 = **1**. 22-23 = **0**.

Other notifiable 21-22 = **5**. 22-23 = **12**.

PCSO 9310 Angela Barker



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TOWN COUNCILLORS

Stephen Boulton	Vicky Lipscombe
Phil Bird	Christine Roberts
Andrew Doherty	Jennie Sanford
Colin Foxall	Maria Shankland
Richard Harrison	Marcus Stroud
Tim Lafford	Derek Thornhill
Simon O'Connell	

COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS 2022/23

	Full Council	Planning	Finance	Works & Community
Meetings in the year	9	18	6	10
Stephen Boulton	8	15	5	9
Vicky Lipscombe	8	13	4	8
Andrew Doherty	6	n/a	6	n/a
Colin Foxall	9	15	5	n/a
Richard Harrison	8	18	2 of 2	n/a
Tim Lafford	7	n/a	n/a	6
Simon O'Connell	5	3/3	n/a	8
Christine Roberts	9	n/a	n/a	10
Jennie Sanford	8	n/a	5	9
Maria Shankland	5	12	n/a	n/a
Marcus Stroud	6	7	n/a	n/a
Derek Thornhill	8	15	n/a	n/a

joined during the year.

* resigned during the year.

\$ stepped down from the Committee



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PLANNING COMMITTEE

Planning is always a hot issue in Fairford and the rest of Cotswold District and this year has been no exception. The main challenge is to ensure that development is in accordance with agreed planning policies, which is hampered by a shortage of expertise at Cotswold District Council, so we have to work hard to support and keep them on the straight and narrow. This applies both to new applications and enforcement on existing ones.

The big highlight of the year is that we've finally finished the Neighbourhood Plan and had it approved by YOU the people of Fairford in our Referendum. Many thanks are due to all those who have contributed. We are now working to ensure that the allocated housing development when it happens meets all the conditions in the Neighbourhood Plan policies – This is the first time CDC have had to deal with this situation.

Meanwhile, work is progressing on the Milestone/Lakes holiday development. We are liaising with Lakes by Yoo, who are now driving this, over aspects of this including improved footpath access around lake 104 and as part of a southern route for the Fairford-Lechlade Multi-Use Path.

We've continued to have some issues, particularly with the unauthorised removal of some trees covered by the site-wide TPO and with the level of Lake 104, which has affected some sections of path. We've also been concerned about some changes to the layout and the design of some units, which have landscape implications.

The next challenge will be the negotiation of the Access Agreement for the planned Leisure Facility and swimming pool, in line with the section 106 agreement, to ensure this is genuinely open to residents of Fairford and the other 5 named villages. We will be relying on CDC for this.

Trees are an important feature of our town and its surroundings. Cllr Stroud is a great asset to us in reviewing tree works applications (which are mandatory within the Conservation Area) and working with CDC's tree officer to ensure that these do not harm this character.

Also on the environmental side, we have sent a joint letter to Thames Water urging the early upgrading of the Fairford STW to reduce sewage discharges to the River Coln, and this does now seem to have received some response concerning the projected date for these works (completion by early 2025).

The loss of retail and other commercial space in our small town centre continues to be a big issue. A partial change of use planning application on the Bank building, approved apparently contrary to Local Plan policy under delegated authority, undermined the viability of a retail space we had previously fought hard for and contributed to the loss of the Cotswold Cats & Dogs charity shop. To help address this we have a policy in our new Neighbourhood Plan to strengthen protection against such changes in the future. We are desperate to maintain the vitality and viability of our small town centre for the benefit of all residents of our growing town and surrounding villages.

Finally, if you have issues on planning matters, please use the process to comment to CDC and also let us know so we can support you on these.

Cllr Richard Harrison, Chair of Planning



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WORKS & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

I on behalf of the W+ E committee am very pleased to say the past year has been very exciting and productive.

- This time last year saw us planning the upcoming Queens 75th Jubilee for June which was a joyous occasion where the whole community had the opportunity to come together and celebrate, which of course meant a great deal of hard work for the committee and volunteers behind the scenes for it to be a seamless event on the day.
- Unfortunately, with the sad passing of our Queen it also fell to the committee and the mayor to organise an event to pay our respects at that difficult time. I think we as Fairford town did this moment in history the respect and justice it deserved.
- Meanwhile it was also the start of works to pursue joint working opportunities with Lechlade, Farmor's school and our surrounding villages for the provision of future youth services. This diligent work and collaboration have led to the enhancement of the youth group activities and more working with the Door for provision of youth activities. Plus, the provision of Half-term activities in partnership with working for wellbeing and World Jungle.
- On another collaboration theme is the continuing work with the local landowners to secure more public access walks as part of the Fairford / Lechlade loop and it is clear that the collaborative approach is working to improve these facilities and secure them for the long-term future use.
- Then we are very pleased with the massive fund-raising effort to get the new skatepark financed and we can now all see it rising out of the ground. Many thanks to the clerks for rising to the challenge and we all look forward to the opening event soon, shortly followed by the first grazed knee.
- Also, we should mention the Christmas celebrations in which many volunteers came out to help set up the lights and the trees and this combined with contractor help to create a stunning market centre piece tree. Culminating in a thoroughly enjoyable Christmas market event bring in people from far and wide and reinforcing our reputation for having a stunning tree and light display at this very festive time of year.
- I would like to thank all those volunteers who help set up the market but also stayed on and cleaned up afterwards and then also returned after Christmas to take down all the lights and trees again.
- It is fair to say that the maintaining of the regular weekly market has been a challenge in recent months as the company running it could no longer find it viable to do so. So whilst we develop a more sustainable plan the market has needed some council and clerk support to keep it going but keep going it has and we are looking at further opportunities including the Summer event markets.
- Works have also been ongoing to ensure the toddler play area is safe for our little ones and several improvements have been made and continue to be made to improve the play space content.

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WORKS & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE (CONTD)

- I would also like to mention the works on bettering our environment and wildlife, so many topics such as the swift project, more benches along the rivers edge, resurfacing of the paths and bridleways, tending to borders and hedges around the town and ongoing wildflower planting to name but a few.
- We have also seen major improvements to London Road that runs through the centre of our town, tidying up something that was become a bit of an eyesore; however, the battle of the potholes goes on I'm afraid. Hopefully there is some more good news to come with bringing on-street charging to our rural idle and helping making access to charging easier for our resident and guests.
- We should also give a big thank you to the project team that have secured the much-needed additional burial ground space and the ongoing work they and the committee are doing to facilitate this area to meet the future needs of the community.
- Most recently we have celebrated the Kings Coronation and the massive effort that went to providing an entertaining day in the cricket field to mark this occasion was made even more complex by also hosting our special guests from the Canadian first nation on the same bank holiday weekend. I am in awe and very grateful to the team that made both events a massive success and dealt with all the last-minute changes with professionalism and smiles. Everybody had a good time at the Coronation and the Town was represented to a very high standard by all the committee members and councillors that greeted our first nation dignitaries.
- There is so much more that could be mentioned and so much more still to come in the next year so I will end this report by saying as Chair that has been a privilege to work with the committee and all those that have volunteered their precious time and skills along the way. Tirelessly working to meet the aims, maintain Fairford the special place that it is and keep the community spirit so healthy. A massive thank you to you all.

Cllr Simon O'Connell Chair



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FINANCE COMMITTEE

GRANTS GIVEN

WALKERS ARE WELCOME £70

FAIRFORD FESTIVAL ?

STEAM RALLY ?

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT - APPROVED

	31 st March 2022	31 st March 2023
	£	£
Balance Brought Forward	314051	398667
Precept or Rates & Levies	157027	163936
Total other receipts	96181	90348
Staff costs	80217	99348
Loan interest/capital Repayments	0	0
All other payments	88375	132025
Balances carried forward	398667	421827
Total value of cash & short term investments and assets	394092	419616
Total borrowings	0	0

These figures were submitted to the External Auditor and were approved. The full Annual Governance & Accountability Report together with other documents can be found on the Town Councils website – www.fairfordtowncouncil.gov.uk.



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TRANSPORT PLAN

TRO scheme in Fairford (20mph, 30mph)

Fairford Town Council had a recent meeting with the TRO team (Traffic Regulation Order Team), Gloucestershire Highways and Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) in relation to feedback provided by Fairford Town Council (FTC) to the proposed speed reduction scheme in Fairford.

TRO team has summarised key principles of setting up local speed limits, some aspects and constraints of funding, resources and implementation tools.

FTC and GCC have provided some additional insight on the reasons behind the proposal including local residents feedback and inquired about how near misses, active travel and resident's voices are considered in setting up the speed limit.

Some areas that were discussed included the extension of the 30mph speed limit on the East side and West side of Fairford on A417 London Road. West side was mutually agreed to extend to Welcome to Fairford sign with exploration of the traffic calming measures to ensure the compliance. East side of Fairford is still in discussion around the termination points of 30mph and appropriate measures. TRO team will have another internal review with a further discussion with FTC.

In addition to High Street and Park Street that were included in TRO team proposal for the 20mph zone, Fairford Town Council has explained their reasons behind the request for further extension of 20mph speed limit along Leafield Road, and some other areas in the centre of Fairford (Bridge Street, Mill Lane, Coronation Street, Milton Street, The Lower Croft) forming a better consistency, safer access to some local amenities and a future cycle route around town. GCC has supported FTC in their proposal, and it was agreed, that in light of the additional information, TRO team will discuss it with their management team internally.

With regards to the additional traffic calming measures, FTC has previously applied for the VAS (Vehicle Activated signs) and has the speed guns available to support with the Community Speed Watch. In addition, FTC has applied for funding for speed cameras that will need to be followed up.

Gloucestershire Highways have confirmed that they have some additional speed surveys completed for the 20mph areas in query and will provide them to the TRO team for further consideration. Next meeting is scheduled towards the end of June 2023.

Other updates

1. Larger resurfacing work is completed throughout Fairford, including new extra grip surface;
2. Overgrown hedgerow is cut back along Leafield Road;
3. Drainage and soakaways near Cinder Lane and Lower Croft / Park Street corner are still being worked on;
4. Drainage on Horcott Road is scheduled to be fixed in the next couple of weeks;
5. Potholes on the corner of Hatherop Road and Hatherop Lane will be revisited as a larger strip replacement during this financial year, as well as the potholes on Lower Croft;
6. Area outside of the Victory Villas is being scoped out;
7. A meeting is arranged between Gloucestershire Highways and Fairford Town Council to revisit the crossing points near Coronation Street, Horcott Road and London Road.



Cllr Maria Shankland

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MULTI-USE PATH FAIRFORD - LECHLADE

We are trying to create a path linking Fairford to Lechlade.

The council doesn't own the land, so this requires negotiation and goodwill on behalf of the landowners.

Ideally the path will be circular running both sides of the A417.

We are working with GCC public rights of way to convert some footpaths to bridleways and link them up with landowners' permission.

At the moment we are concentrating on a route to the south of the main road and the bulk of landowners are as enthusiastic as we are.

This is a long, ongoing project but at the moment I am reasonably confident we can link up the two towns.

Cllr Derek Thornhill

COLN HOUSE SCHOOL PLAYING FIELD

Negotiations for transferring the land to the Council is nearly complete. GCC have attended to various repairs before hand over.

Cllr Colin Foxall

NEW BURIAL GROUND

Negotiations for the acquisition of land from the Ernest Cook Trust are complete. A plot of land at the far end of the town car park has been agreed for the location of the new burial ground which will be for ashes interment only. Hedges have been planted and a path onto the site has been created. We are currently waiting for the final documentation to be received in order to sign this off.

Cllr Colin Foxall



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THE ERNEST COOK TRUST

All the information about the Trust can be found on the website.

Victoria Edwards, our CEO, will be leaving the Trust. She has decided to step down as a result of difficult personal circumstances.

The Trust has made a lot of progress as a result of all of Victoria's hard work.

We are in the process of recruiting for the role and a new CEO will be in place by 2024.

The Trust HQ will be moving to Court Farm, Quenington and work is due to start on that site in October 2023 with completion projected for September 2024. We are looking at options for the current site.

River Coln catchment plan – 3 mile stretch of the river and surrounding catchment area is being looked at. The Coln is not immune to pollution.

A grant was received from FWAG at the end of 2022 relating to the creation of a new stream.

We are planning guided walks on the river and our Community lead on this is Karen Price.

Solar Farm – We are working with Novus to create a 40 acre solar farm at the edge of the parish. A planning application will be submitted in due course.

Plans for new homes to the north-east of Fairford are underway. A planning application has been submitted.

We have 6 lapwing nests. All the eggs have hatched. Another nest has been identified on the Bibury track. Signs have been erected.

Tree safety work will be undertaken this year, some near the school.

Michael Birnie
Director of Property



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FAIRFORD COMMUNITY CENTRE



2022 - 23 report from Fairford Community Centre

The Community Centre has had another successful year and I'm pleased to report that we are fully recovered from the enforced closure during Covid and bookings are high. We accommodate more than 50 regular user activities and continue to be a popular venue for meetings, family parties and events, including a support group for new mothers, Working 4 Wellbeing Community café every Wednesday morning, Bingo, Craft group, monthly Bereavement café, dance classes for children and U3A activities. There really is something for everyone no matter what age or interest. We were pleased to be able to move things around to accommodate the town Council's warm space initiative last winter, and the Heritage room is still available as a Community Space 3 mornings a week. A full timetable of activities can be picked up from outside the community centre office or viewed online at our website www.fairfordcommunitycentre.org.

We continue as a non-profit making organisation and a registered charity. Our aim is to provide well equipped, well maintained multi use rooms, accessible to all, and provide facilities for everyone to enjoy. Our programme of maintenance and redecoration this year focussed on the Keble room and the Youth room. The Keble room has been repainted, with new lighting and acoustic panels fitted to the walls and ceiling. This has improved the sound quality immensely, and increased use of the room. The Youth room has had a full redecoration including the purchase of sofas and play equipment. The youth club also teamed up with a local art teacher to paint some canvases for the room, a great collaborative project. We also have a new screen and IT facilities in place of the old projector system.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Bob Gray, our Caretaker, and Carly Hicks, our Community Centre Manager, for the wonderful job they do, keeping everything running smoothly. We'd also like to thank all those of you who use the Centre, for your ongoing support, making bookings in good time, and helping us to maintain a clean and friendly environment for all to enjoy. If you have any ideas or events that you would like to see here, please get in touch. We always welcome feedback and if there is anything we can do to improve your experience at the Centre, please contact us - via email: manager@fccentre.co.uk or bookings@fccentre.co.uk, telephone: 01285 711571, or call in the office here any weekday morning.

Margaret Bishop



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PALMER HALL

The Palmer Hall is a large venue with a stage, fully functional kitchen, bar area, and disabled facilities. Free WiFi, a large screen and projector.

We have regular groups including Zumba, short tennis, wellness fitness classes, badminton, yoga, karate, line dancing, U3A groups, W.I Fairford Firecrackers, and dance groups.

The Hall is also used for parties, christenings, wedding receptions, craft fayres, wakes, meetings presentations. We also accommodate evenings for The English /American Association.

Our main fundraiser is The Palmer Hall Cinema.

A large friendly regular audience come along on the second Wednesday of the month to watch the films and enjoy a cup of tea, coffee or glass of wine.

The monthly cinema is sponsored by the Heikina Ki Kai Karate allowing all profits made to go back into the hall funds.

A new hearing loop has been fitted, made possible by a grant from The Town Council for which we are very grateful.

Our committee also secured funds to purchase a Defibrillator which has been installed in the foyer.

Unfortunately, our noticeboard was vandalised in the winter leaving us with a large bill to replace it. Thank you to The Men's Shed who have agreed to repair it for a nominal charge.

Did you know the Palmer Hall has a full-size Badminton court?

If anyone is interested in playing whether for ad-hoc games with friends or maybe start a club for regular games, we have the court and nets.

To book the Palmer Hall or for any inquiries please contact.

Sue Crowley.

All contact details can be found on our website;

www.thepalmerhall.org

Sue Crowley Chair.



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WALKERS ARE WELCOME

Fairford Walkers are Welcome continues to promote walks in and around Fairford through the national Walkers are Welcome website, with the objective of attracting more walking visitors to the area. As has previously been reported one of our major initiatives has been to work with the Walkers are Welcome group in Winchcombe to develop a walk from the source of the River Coln to where it meets the Thames at Inglesham. This also incorporates nine individual circular walks along the way. We have printed leaflets and also produced 'Coln Trail' way-markers, but initially had to delay the launch of the trail because of the footpath closures around Lake 104/103 at Fairford. Thankfully through discussions with the developers, local residents and the FTC, this has now been resolved. However, a further problem has now arisen in that Glos Highways, who had previously received copies of the route, contacted us concerning the crossing of the A40 near Andoversford. Highways has subsequently had discussions with local landowners to identify an alternative route crossing over the A40 at the Andoversford cross roads and traffic lights. However changes in ownership of the surrounding land, plus changes in the personnel at Highways, has meant that this problem still has to be resolved, which is very frustrating as we know that a number of tour/walks companies want to promote the Trail, including booking hotels in and around Fairford. Discussions will continue!

Fairford has a number of walking groups catering for a range of ages and walk distances. These largely act independently so in Jan 2023 we organised a meeting of the main walks organisers to discuss greater coordination, potential new walks, signage and maintenance. Minutes of the meeting have been circulated and action points highlighted.

On the subject of signposting the FTC has to be congratulated in organising and funding the 'new' signposts on the paths and fields around Fairford. Also thanks to Sarah Basley for researching and identifying the original names of the paths and fields

Malcolm Cutler



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FRIENDS OF FAIRFORD & LECHLADE COMMUNITIES



Friends of Fairford and Lechlade Communities
(Reg. Charity No: 1180059)

Report to Annual Fairford Town Council Meeting
25th May 2023

Over the past two years we have worked hard to get all elements of our Charities much-needed services back functioning in the local community. Thanks to the hard work and dedication from our volunteers we have our Nursing Team, Patient Transport, Shop, Lunch Club and most events back up and running.

The Friends of Fairford and Lechlade Communities is a local charity run by volunteers. We provide health and social care to the people of Fairford, Lechlade and the surrounding villages. We are focused on supporting our local community and spend over £70,000 per year with the aim of improving the health and wellbeing of local people.

Nursing Team

Over the last year the Nursing Team has found more stability and continuity with Emma and Jan successfully leading the team as joint, CQC registered managers. Kelly has also taken on the role of CQC nominated individual.

In 2022 we saw 33 patients which is a huge improvement compared to last year which was a total of 18. Two members of the nursing team left and three new members have joined the team, one trained nurse and two healthcare assistants.

The nursing team continues to hold regular meetings as well as attend relevant training sessions. We continue to improve the new intranet, which holds all our information and gives each nurse access to policies, audits and training. This has made training much easier to manage.

Referrals come from District nurses, the Frailty team and the Prospect Hospice team. We sometimes share the care of our patients with the Prospect Hospice at Home team, Longfield Hospice and CHC funded agencies. This usually works well with our nurses doing as much as possible. Jan has attended a winter pressures initiative to try and relive pressure on local hospitals and expedite discharge of end-of-life patients to die at home. We have joined forces with other local hospice at home providers to try and lobby the ICB to change the way they fund end of life care. The plan would be to receive a lump sum rather than an hourly rate.

The nursing managers continue to attend monthly meetings with other hospice at home providers which allows great support for them and us. These include Sue Ryder, Longfield, Great Oaks and Camden Home nursing.



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FRIENDS OF FAIRFORD & LECHLADE COMMUNITIES (CONTD)

The Bereavement Café saw one year of successful sessions in February 2023. We are so pleased to have made such a success of this monthly event. Numbers have ranged from 10 to 20 attendees each month with at least 2 new bereaved visitors each session. Several are regular visitors to the café. There are usually five nurses, plus two volunteers making tea and coffee. There is no charge for attending the cafe, but most people donate in the collection box each visit. People feel comforted and supported, they have found “companionship” and they leave feeling “uplifted and bathed in warmth”. It is lovely to see some attendees finding comfort and befriending others in the group. To mark the successful first year of the bereavement café, we organised the Windsor coach trip.

Patient Transport

The patient transport service saw its busiest year ever carrying out 996 drives, breaking last year's record. We currently have 26 volunteers based over Fairford, Lechlade and the villages. We are ever so grateful to our volunteer drivers for being so willing and able to fulfil all requests we get.

Our bank of drivers have been very accommodating over the last year as there were many hospital appointments being moved forward a week or so. Thankfully there was enough advance warning for us to be able to cover these requests.

Our free prescription service has also been given time to establish and become hugely successful, as well as proving to be much needed in the community. We now have over 20 patients that we deliver prescriptions to.

Lechlade Charity Shop

The redecoration of our shop allowed us to update and make the shop layout more accessible. We have 10 volunteers who are a great asset to the shop. We are still receiving a good amount of donations and continue to hold ‘sales’ in certain areas to try and increase shopper's interest.

We have recently updated our opening hours to Tuesday – Saturday 10-4. We are encouraging more donors to gift aid their donations which enables us to claim 25% more from the sales of their goods.

We recognised the importance of the Charity Shop for fundraising and the importance of the volunteers in its achievement. We are very grateful to all our volunteers for their hard work, as well as the local community that donate their unwanted goods, which makes the shop such a success.

Edna Dawes Lunch Club

In December we held a Festive Lunch for all of the members that had shown an interest over the time we had been closed due to Covid. We held the lunch at Fairford Community Centre with food provided from The Bull. We have received some brilliant feedback from all those that attended, they expressed what a lovely time they had, really enjoyed the food and found the minibus collection very helpful.



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FRIENDS OF FAIRFORD & LECHLADE COMMUNITIES (CONTD)

Edna Dawes Lunch Club

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Following on from this we have reinstated the Lunch Club on a Wednesday which is held at Fairford Hospital. We provide transport there and back, a two-course meal and a range of activities throughout the day.

Funding Report

We have four areas of funding available: Covid 19, Family Funding, Community Grants, Ukraine

Covid 19

The Covid 19 funding started with a donation of £131,584 from The Lakes by Yoo Company and the residents of the Lake Development. We started accepting funds from 1st May 2020 and have received 97 applications totalling just short of £208K. To date we have approved grants of £94,822 for local charities, organisations and individuals, this is a total of 64 applications agreed. In 2022 we received 8 applications, January to May, totalling £13,400. Funding applications to the Charity are now more focussed on the other funding streams. The remaining funds are to be used to support mental health in the community.

Family Funding

Since July 2020 we have received 32 applications of which 30 have been approved totalling £43,500.

July – Dec 2020	8 applications	£13,400
Jan – Dec 2021	15 applications	£15,000
Jan – Dec 2022	9 applications	£15,100

Support to applicants in 2022 has included:

- Financial hardship with bills, electricity and heating
- Supporting single parent with furniture and clothing for children
- Help with childcare and car costs for a mature student
- Partial covering of moving costs for a young family



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FRIENDS OF FAIRFORD & LECHLADE COMMUNITIES (CONTD)

Community Fund

This fund was set up in September 2021 by the subcommittee for requests that support local organisations and community groups. The total number of applications to date is four, all of which have been approved and the total distributed is £13,430.

In 2021 we received 1 application of £530 which was approved. In 2022 we received 3 applications, all of which were agreed totalling £7,900. We had 1 application in 2023 which was approved by all trustees, totalling £5,000.

Support to applicants in 2022 has included:

- Monies provided to a local well-being organisations
- Funding of Men's Sheds
- Setting up the Youth Club in Kempford

Ukraine Fund

This fund was opened in May 2022 with £42,700 which was kindly fundraised by The Lakes by Yoo organisation to cover basic living costs of Ukrainian families for the first 6 months of their stay. There have been 7 applications in 2022, totalling £32,700. During 2023 the remaining funds will be allocated. We have worked with Gloucester County Council to ensure only legitimate refugees receive the funding.

All grants are for Fairford, Lechlade and the surrounding villages and are still open to applications. The application forms are on our website.

Events and Fundraising

Last year we held eight fundraising events. These included a number of Open Gardens, two Charity Craft Fairs and some one-off local community events. We are so appreciative of the time and effort we receive from our volunteers to make these events such a success.

In addition to these we also have income from monthly donors, 100 Club members, our Charity Christmas Card sales and donation charity pots located around the area.

How to Support us or get involved

The Friends of Fairford and Lechlade Communities experiences an ever-increasing demand for services to the ill, disadvantaged, frail and elderly as resources in the public sector continue to struggle

to meet the needs of a rural community. Everything we do is for the local community and we can only achieve this through the generous donations and through the volunteers who unselfishly donate their time.



FAIRFORD TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

FRIENDS OF FAIRFORD & LECHLADE COMMUNITIES (CONTD)

To help us continue with providing this support you could:

- Become a Volunteer Driver. Our Patient Transport scheme is a life-line to many in our rural community who have difficulty getting to their medical appointments
- Volunteer for a few hours a week in our Lechlade Charity Shop
- Become a Trustee and help to run and manage the Charity
- Bake, help set up, close down or serve teas at any of our events
- Put a poster up! Anything to help promote the Charity or our events would be greatly appreciated.

If you think you can help, or for further information, please email admin@friendsoffairford.org.uk or refer to our website www.friendsoffairford.org.uk

PATIENTS PARTICIPATION GROUP (PPG)

The past year has seen changes in the composition of the PPG team. We said farewell to Diane Piatek, our Practice Manager, with whom we enjoyed an excellent working relationship over a number of years. We now welcome Andrew Slucock, who has taken Diane's place in her demanding role, our former town Mayor Trevor Hing, Shelley Welsh (the chair of the Friends of Fairford and Lechlade), Carolyn Thrussell (our Social Prescriber) and Mary Ann Dibbs (our W4W Wellbeing Coordinator).

The presence of members who make a direct contribution to wellbeing in the community has been beneficial. For example W4W was able to route Warm and Well bags to the District Nurses for distribution by them, the Friends Lunch Club and Memory Club have both been re-started after COVID lockdown and a Bereavement Café started which is well attended. W4W is also partnering Cotswold Friends to provide a community transport system for Fairford, Lechlade and the surrounding areas and W4W works closely with Carolyn Thrussell to provide support for people with financial, social and loneliness issues.

We are all aware that the NHS is going through a particularly difficult time and Hilary Cottage Surgery is no exception. It is proving very difficult to recruit new clinical staff and this puts pressure on the appointments system.

We are investigating trialing a Survey Tool which will allow patients to give a detailed view of the service given by the Surgery. We hope that this will give a more representative view than the occasional comments appearing on FaceBook.

Preparation for ones medical treatment towards the end of life is important, not only for oneself but for ones family, and we hoping to work with the Surgery, the Friends Frailty Team, First Responders, Paramedics and the Ambulance Service to encourage patients to complete the necessary documentation and ensure that this is readily accessible by those who need to consult it.

John Read
Chair of Hilary Cottage PPG



FAIRFORD TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

WORKING 4 WELLBEING



Fairford Town Council Report

Thank you to Fairford Town Council for your support of W4W and your generous grant. This money has allowed W4W to host a February Half Term Youth Event for over 57 children. We focused on over 10s by advertising a felting workshop with 10 attenders. 30 under 10's did craft with Arty Crafty Little Monkeys and 17 young people in free flow crafts.



We have continued with our Youth Events with World Jungle funding the Easter sessions- we had half the budget, but we were also part of the HAP/HAF programme, so we were able to offer food at the events. The over 10s had dodgeball and make your own pizza which they very much enjoyed and under 10s we hosted 19 young people in easter crafts and cheese toastie with fruit lunch. Half the budget meant half the number of children we could cater for and going forward if the Town Council would like to support Youth Events W4W demonstrates time after time that we have great engagement with the young people and their families.



Fairford Talking Café has continued to grow, and we now have a minimum of 40 regular attenders, and we have been known to reach the 50's.

The Talking Café can be a lifeline for people, they help prevent isolation, increase peoples support networks, The Café is also a space to receive support and signposting and meet other community organisations and charities.



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WORKING 4 WELLBEING (CONTD)

The café also acts as a Hub of information that attenders can access through the W4W team. W4W attends regular networking meetings to access current information on support available. We also invite speakers to the café for example W4W also invite other organisations and charities to attend such as Warm and Well, Fall prevention, CAB, carers hub age UK, PCSO, fire brigade, community builders, social prescriber. P3 is a regular at the café that can offer extra signposting and support. Due to mobility issues many of our attenders who attend the Talking Café can not travel to get this information, so it is a vital service W4W provides.

We are aware that we are only reaching a select population of the community in the Talking Café and we are working to get W4W out to more homes. W4W are grateful to the Town Council giving W4W space in the newsletter as the publication is distributed to all households. I have started conversations with the community nurse to deliver leaflets to housebound patients and we are in early stages of seeing social driving arriving in Fairford to get housebound users out into the cafes but this is in the early stages and we would love to see it become a reality.

W4W facilitates a weekly digital inclusion drop in at Fairford and one to one arranged appointments. Examples of help given- how to make a phone call or text message from a mobile. How to top up a mobile phone. How to send emails. How to do online shopping. How to use devices for entertainment. How to scan in letters to send via email. (This was so important to one family whose daughter is not local and they needed her support on what actions to take with letters they were receiving.) Lots of banks have closed and users need more confidence in using devices for banking- this opens up safeguarding issues where users can become vulnerable, but we plan to get trainers in to develop there confidence and also scam prevention talks.

Introducing WhatsApp a success story is one user not owning a device to buying a tablet, can now watch listen to BBC iPlayer's and can use WhatsApp. We had a choir attend the Talking Café and gave out hand sheets for our attenders. The user returned home and was able to sing a verse to her grandson who is in Japan, the tablet has opened up her world for her. These may be quite basic for some one who is using technology every day, but our attenders struggle and by attending W4W digital inclusion they have become more confident using devices and the internet. This enables them to keep in contact with family and friends better (reducing loneliness and isolation.) and to keep their independence as they can do their own shopping and entertainment. I am working with 2 regulars in Fairford. Going forward W4W want to build on digital inclusion and make it more available to all. We hope to run Digital Workshops and W4W is partnering with GRCC's DAISI (Digital Accessibility, Inclusion support and Innovation) project. DAISI is providing 20 free sim cards for 12 months free call, text, and data. This will allow W4W users to try internet free of charge and support low-income families. W4W has two crafting groups that take place each month – one as a social for skilled crafters and the second to learn new skills for people in the community.

W4W was successful in **ILP Community Investment Fund grant** to support the Warm Room that the FTC had set up.

With the Grant we were able to increase the attendance to the room and the help and support W4W were able to give to people in the community.



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WORKING 4 WELLBEING (CONTD)

January to end March 2023

Number of Fairford Community Centre extended open hours	23.5 hours
Number of passengers via community transport	96
Number of additional warm and well bags distributed	(20 bags had previously been distributed) 7 + 6 knitted blankets + 3 hot water bottles 10 Warm Bags
Number of additional volunteers trained	Not needed. 1 volunteer recruited for digital skills
Number of events held	11
Number of meals provided.	159, plus 42 afternoon teas.
Additional number of people who attend the Fairford warm room	254 Add 36 who came for digital skills assistance
Personal stories or case studies that could be shared and feedback.	See below

Although the Warm Room was a great initiative provided by the Town Council, we noticed people were not using it. We found that people are reluctant to accept charity or to disclose their financial affairs, so worked to overcome the stigma of using the room because of being unable to afford heating at home. We planned to put on events to familiarise people with the warm space and encourage them to use it

We used wide publicity and targeted people who attended our Talking café and also the GP Frailty Team and District Nurses etc to make other contacts.

We made the room more welcoming by enlisting support from other organisations. The Fairford Food Bank provided free refreshments and we made sure that facilities were available to make tea/coffee at any time the room was in use, with biscuits provided. Churches Together in Fairford financed the purchase of 4 armchairs, and blankets, Gardiner Haskins of Cirencester provided a toaster, toastie-maker and portable radio. Books and magazines were donated and Fairford Community Centre purchased 2 additional plug-in electric heaters to ensure that the room could be warm at all times, irrespective of the programmed heating. It is now a warm friendly space for people to come during the colder months, to be enjoyed by all. There are comfy chairs, books, magazines, cards, toaster, and toastie machine as well as tea and coffee making facilities.



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WORKING 4 WELLBEING (CONTD)

Then we planned a series of free events, to promote the warm space and use the room to its full potential. These were widely publicised on our Help-line and by word of mouth, phone calls, leaflet drop (100 leaflets), social media (24 posts) and Church and Town Newsletters. Since more people were coming, we contacted Warm and Well, Fairford Food Bank, P3, CAB, local churches and other support organisations, to promote and signpost where wellbeing help is available, and make referrals. We also provided weekly sessions of free digital skills advice, because we had identified a great need for this amongst elderly people. The first event was a bingo and toastie afternoon, with ham and cheese toasties made to order. This was a huge success, and we realised that people were very grateful for the food. We subsequently put on free food events, which were well-attended. We also provided free transport to some of the events, using the Lechlade mini-bus and a volunteer driver where possible. We found that our existing volunteers were very willing to help with warm space events and we didn't need to recruit more, except for digital skills assistance, which is one-to-one because of the wide range of problems encountered and very time consuming.

Outcomes.

The project did provide for the neediest in our communities giving them a secure, welcoming, warm place where they could meet others, find company, food and support and be advised about help available from other organisations, thus providing for both their physical and mental needs. Advice on energy matters and benefits was available at all sessions. Representatives from P3 (debt and benefits advice) attended many sessions, and Citizens Advice also attended.

Some feedback and testimonies

Feedback Fairford

I found the warm room comfortable warm and a pleasant room. Well-advertised and good staff, very caring and checked on me regularly. Drinks and biscuits were available I used the room 4-5 times a week for 2-3 hours.

I can't afford to heat my house all day so took advantage of the warm room. Would have been nice to have more people using it and that is where I enjoyed the events as more people used the room.

Meals were excellent I am a vegetarian and there was a great selection. Lots of company for me as I live on my own. Thank you W4W for your hard work I would like a Warm Room again.

The Warm room gave me opportunity to meet new people.
Delicious food, I met new people from Lechlade who were very friendly.

Not only a warm space but it was a social event for a lot of us on our own. Dad has dementia and Mum is his carer- he won a blanket in a lucky draw Mum had her new blanket over her legs whilst sat watching tv with dad last night, he had one corner of it on his knee 😂 he has always refused to use a blanket over his lap because "they're for old people" 🙄😂😂😂 Thank you for all the events that you organise 🙏 dad really does look forward to doing it all and getting out more, it also means mum can socialise and get more interaction with people. I'm so grateful and appreciate everything that you and all the volunteers do, it really does make a difference, you are impacting so many lives in the local community 🙏❤️❤️xx

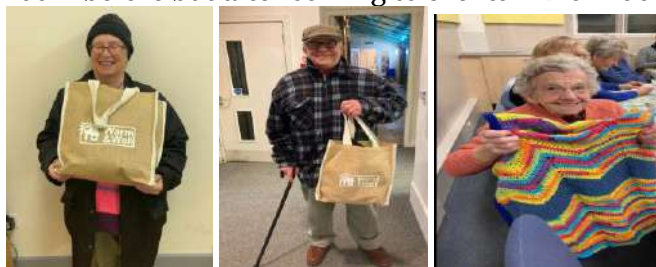


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WORKING 4 WELLBEING (CONTD)

I didn't use the warm room before but due to the events we came in and will use it again. Amazed how good everything was. We don't come out for the evening meals but there was still a lot going on in the afternoons to cater for us.

Absolutely wonderful delicious cake and was also given some to take home- I hadn't used the room before but after coming to events I know it's a great idea.



FAIRFORD & LECHLADE BUSINESS CLUB

The Fairford & Lechlade Business Club is run entirely by a steering group of volunteers. The club hosts around 10 events each year in Fairford and Lechlade and surrounding areas, where members can meet up for networking, presentations, peer support, to gain or share information, and to enjoy being in business together. The club also produce a monthly newsletter which offers free promotion of local members and has a circulation of around 800 local businesses. Events held over the last year included A Cyber Security presentation at Ye Olde Swan in Radcot, Tea and Cakes at the Hospitality Award Winner, Buscot Tea Rooms and a Summer Social meeting catered by The Outside Inn Company at Jenner's Barn in Whelford with entertainment from Lechlade's very own Laura Sings. The following meeting was an introduction to Financial Planning presented by Club Member Davidson Financial Planning and hosted at Berry Farm South Cerney.

Last Autumn saw one of the Clubs most prestigious events for years with an inspirational talk from the internationally renowned motivational speaker Peter Docker Leading Author of Leading from The Jumpseat: How to Create Extraordinary Opportunities by Handing Over Control a talk made all the more special as it was held in the private theatre at Buscot. An event attended by 50 members and guests.

Through the winter, meetings included a Christmas quiz at Cotswold Woollen Weavers in Filkins and a Tax talk at the Marlborough Arms in Fairford from McGills.

The Club year ended in March with the annual FLBC Awards held at Wrag Barn in Highworth. Local business winners included, Business of the Year New Wave Brasserie Sponsored by DentArtWork Dental Practise Business Person of the Year Sam Bird - SB Sports Massage Sponsored by TA Reed Innovative Business of the Year Cotswold Boat Hire Sponsored by Hersom Whittaker New Business of the Year All in the Country Sponsored by Hersom Whittaker The Bob Warren Hospitality Award Blake's Kitchen – Clanfield Sponsored by The Trout Inn The Howard Dowler Award for services to the Community Claire Anello - Stargazey Workshops & Utility Warehouse Sponsored by Fairford Roof Tiles

Farmor's School inspired their business studies students to enter a business plan project for Business Student of the year, and won by Kai De'Witt. Award Sponsored by Cotswold Boat Hire




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FAIRFORD & LECHLADE BUSINESS CLUB (CONTD)

The club AGM held at The Trout at Lechlade saw Chair Shirley Wheeler step down and Ian Lindsay and Nick Bent elected as Co-chair with other steering group members standing for another year joined by 2 new member.

2023 is shaping up to be another busy year with monthly meeting being planned along with a survey of members, recipients of the newsletter and a wide range of other local businesses to find out what people want from the club and how the meetings and other membership benefits can attract new members and greater participation.

Ian Lindsay Co-Chair Fairford and Lechlade Business Club Email: admin@flbc.org.uk		
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FAIRFORD & DISTRICT MENS SHED

Fairford & District Mens Shed (FMS) is a local community organisation which provides the environment, facilities and expertise for mainly retired men, but it is also open to women and younger men, to meet up for a chat, a cuppa and undertake hobbies and community projects. Products produced in the 'Shed' are not only helping members learn new skills but, through their sale, also ensures that this important community initiative can continue into the future i.e. be self supporting.

Fairford & District Mens Shed was initiated through Fairford Working for Wellbeing towards the end of 2021. Through the support of the Ernest Cook Trust we have been very fortunate to have the use of the Dovecote and adjoining "Old Carpenters Workshop" and with initial grant support from the Lechlade Lions and Friends of Fairford & Lechlade Communities. The first few months of 2022 were taken in clearing the premises, which had been used for many years for storage by ECT and St Mary's Church, and renovating it for use as a workshop and meeting place for FMS members. We are particularly grateful for the considerable support from the local community and the donation of tools, fixings and materials.

On average around 10 -12 members meet on Wednesday and Monday mornings, some just for a chat and a cuppa, whilst others work on their own projects and/or learn new skills and make a range of items including:

- Bird Boxes - we have made over 60 bird boxes over the past 12 months including robin, sparrow, barn owl, bat boxes and insect houses
- Bird feeder, hedgehog houses/feeders
- Plant boxes

FMS has also completed a number of community projects including:

- Sand pit/teaching aid for Fairford Primary School
- Precessional Cross for St Mary's church
- Door wedges for Fairford Community Centre
- Repaired the Palmer Hall notice board damaged by vandals
- Produced over 100 small wooden 'houses' for the Root & Branch Charity nr Highworth

FMS has an active WhatsApp group, Web and Facebook pages which, together with the regular weekly meetings, has helped create a sense of comradely, support and friendship within the membership, which is exactly the objective of the Mens Shed. This was recently reinforced when 26 members and partners recently met for Skittles and Fish & Chips at the Plough in Fairford!

Together with ECT, FMS is also actively helping to renovate and restore the Grade 2 Dovecote and Workshop for the long term and as an important asset for the local community. This includes repair to the Dovecote walls, the lantern, door/windows in the workshop and the reinstatement of the upper floor in the workshop i.e. installation of a staircase. We are particularly thankful to the Gloucestershire Community Foundation for providing a grant of £4k towards the cost of installing stairs, electrics and insulation.

One of the FMS members is an architect and has been working with ECT, local planning and Natural England to ensure compliance of their extensive regulatory needs.

Through the enthusiasm and hard work of FMS members and support from the local community a great deal has been achieved in a very short time.

Malcolm Cutler

