

Abingdon Town Council

Town Infrastructure committee

Report to the Annual Parish Meeting 2025

Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs)

To back up our 'safer roads' objective, seven solar-powered SID Units are now in use across 14 locations in Abingdon. They have recently been upgraded to 4G connections, which will save time in retrieving data.

Neighbourhood Plan

The consultation period for the Neighbourhood Plan has closed, and a report is being prepared by the consultants on points arising. Cllr Skinner has been our link into this process.

We have been advised that there may be a substantial delay (of up to 12 months) before the referendum can be held because of a shortage of inspectors to review the draft.

Bus Working Party

The town council is responsible for maintaining our bus stop shelters and furniture. This working party (Cllrs Clover, Forder, Gunarajah and Sanderson) has conducted a survey of all 88 stops within the town boundaries and now has a database with information on their facilities (shelters, seating, bins, information etc) and states of decorative and structural repair. We also obtained data from the Oxford Bus Company (OBC) on the numbers of passengers using each stop.

On this basis we have set up a programme of planned maintenance and improvement. We will start this year by replacing 3 old and damaged shelters with the new sedum-roofed type (similar to the new shelter recently installed in Ock Street), and will take on the maintenance of another planned for Twelve Acre Drive in anticipation of a new service there. We have also been looking at bus services in the town in the light of changing population need and demand.

Public toilets in the town centre

The scheme involving shops and cafes with signs in their windows saying that non-customers were welcome to use their facilities has been successful and will carry on. The 'Space for Change' toilet under the arch in the Guildhall Historic Buildings facility, which is aimed primarily at residents and visitors with disabilities and requires a special 'radar' key, is open following extensive plumbing work and redecoration.

Finger posts in central Abingdon.

Following a detailed survey of the condition of finger posts in the town centre, replacements have been made. Installation has been delayed by bad weather but should be completed shortly.

Bicycle racks in the Market Place

The Market Place is a popular place for cyclists to gather, particularly at weekends, but there are not enough bicycle racks. Some bicycles are being chained to benches and lamp-posts, which is not good for either cyclists or pedestrians. A joint stakeholder meeting has identified a way forward but the final outcome will depend on plans for changes to the road layout.

Public art

A working group has been set up to consider the commissioning and maintenance of public art in Abingdon (Cllrs Crick, Halliday, Lonergan, Midwinter, Sanderson). The group has developed and agreed a Public Art Strategy and is now considering where a good use of the Public Art Fund from the Vale of White Horse District Council could be spent. The first project is to clean and restore the murals on the walkways down to the Stratton Way underpass. An artist/restorer has been chosen and work should start on this in the next couple of months. When this has been completed, we will consider what might be done about the underpass itself.

Councillor Colin Sanderson
Chair of the Town Infrastructure Committee