

# **Abingdon Town Council**

## **Community committee**

### **Report to the Annual Parish Meeting 2025**

#### **Partnership Grants**

The Town Council continues to support and work with a number of very effective partnership organisations that serve the town.

In each case we provide a significant annual grant following a detailed report and bid from them, discuss our joint objectives with them and receive reports on their work during the year.

Organisations we work with in this way include:

- The Abingdon Bridge – mental health and other support for young people
- Abingdon Carousel – the family centre in South Abingdon
- South & Vale CAB – advice to residents on benefits, consumer rights etc.
- One Planet Abingdon – local action on climate change
- Be Free Young Carers – supporting young carers
- Abingdon Damascus Youth Project – youth outreach

#### **Community Grants**

The Committee also has a budget from which it makes smaller, one-off grants. These support a wide range of events and projects organised by voluntary and charitable organisations in the town or covering the area.

Grants were given to the following organisations this year:

Friends of Abingdon Civic Society	Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire
Lowland Rescue Oxfordshire	Racial Equality Group
The Abingdon Passion Play	Abingdon and District Model Railway Club
Enrych	Abingdon Rowing Club
Abingdon Town Band	Our Lady and St Edmund's Catholic Church
Peachcroft Christian Centre	Trinity Learning
Abingdon Secondary Schools	Joint Reading Initiatives
Healthy Abingdon	ATOM Festival
One Planet Abingdon	Oxfordshire Play Association
Royal British Legion	

#### **Abingdon County Hall Museum**

The town museum, based in County Hall, continues to be hugely popular with town residents and visitors alike.

Exhibitions this year have included: Abingdon Women in the Arts & Sciences; MG 100, Abingdon's Oppidum; Wish You Were Here; and Atomics to Medieval Knights.

The Museum also hosts regular talks, workshops, school groups and more.

The Museum at Night evening was a great success as always.

Our thanks go to the Museum team and the Abingdon Museum Friends who do so much to support the Museum.

## **Fun and Music in the Park**

Our annual Fun and Music in the Park event was popular once again. This year we tried out running the event as a one day, one ticket event. This is much easier to organise logistically and we thought it was worth a try.

Feedback from those who attended was very popular, but it was also clear that many residents preferred the previous model of a free morning for families followed by a paid music event. We are reverting to that format this year.

## **Michaelmas Fair**

The Fair was very popular once again, with extended opening hours on the Sunday evening.

The Town Council now has a stronger arrangement in place which means that a larger proportion of the cost is being funded by the fair operators.

We did pick up a few minor issues that we took up with the operators.

## **Other**

We saw a further increase in the number of events taking place on the Market Place and continue to support new events as groups come forward.

Use of the Guildhall historic rooms has been steady and we will be discussing how we can expand this in the future.

We continue to produce and distribute the popular 'Town Crier' magazine.

We undertook a Communications Review, using an external consultancy, and aim to improve our communications with residents based on its recommendations.

My thanks to our staff and the other committee members for their ongoing hard work.

Councillor Neil Fawcett,  
Chair of the Community Committee.