



# Abingdon-on-Thames Annual Town Meeting

**Wednesday 26 March 2025, 7pm**

**Royse Room, Guildhall, Bridge Street, Abingdon, OX14 3HU**

The Annual Town (Parish) Meeting will be held on **Wednesday 26 March 2025 at 7pm in the Royse Room, Guildhall, Bridge Street, Abingdon, OX14 3HU.**

Members of the public may, with notice, make representations, ask questions and give evidence in respect of any item of business at agenda item 8.

The reports presented at the meeting will be available to view ahead of the meeting on the town council's website. Should you require a separate pdf version of individual documents please e-mail [enquiries@abingdon.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@abingdon.gov.uk)

Any queries relating to the Agenda should be directed to [enquiries@abingdon.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@abingdon.gov.uk)

This is an annual, statutory public meeting of the local government electors of Abingdon-on-Thames who are invited to attend and take part in discussions. It is not a town council meeting, although the town council does take the opportunity for its committee Chairs to make a report to the meeting on the work being undertaken.

*Gabby Barody*

Councillor Gabby Barody  
Mayor of Abingdon-on-Thames  
18 March 2025

## Abingdon Town Council - Our Vision

To develop an inclusive community so that Abingdon is the place where everyone wants to live and where the wellbeing of residents is prioritised. In developing this community, the town will be one which is environmentally sustainable, vibrant, resilient and safe.

### Our key objectives

- 1 To respond effectively and speedily to the climate emergency.
- 2 To develop a resilient, sustainable town which will provide a home for residents now and in the future.
- 3 To manage the Council's assets efficiently and effectively to meet for the needs of the community now and in the future.
- 4 To work with community partners to support those who are vulnerable and in need and to create opportunities to increase social inclusivity.

## AGENDA

### 1 **General Introduction**

The Mayor, Councillor Gabby Barody, will chair the meeting and present an update on her activities during the year.

### 2 **Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting 10 April 2024**

To agree the [minutes](#) of the Annual Town Meeting that took place on 10 April 2024.

### 3 **Reports by Town Council Committee Chairs**

To receive reports from the Chairs of town council committees:

- [Community committee](#) – Cllr Neil Fawcett (to follow)
- [Town Infrastructure committee](#) - Cllr Colin Sanderson (to follow)
- [Environment and Amenities committee](#) – Cllr Tom Greenaway
- [Finance, Governance and Asset Management committee](#) – Cllr Jim Halliday
- [Planning committee](#) – Cllr Mark Giddins

**4 Abingdon Neighbourhood Plan**

To receive an update on the Neighbourhood Plan from Cllr Andrew Skinner and Simon Hills, chair of the Neighbourhood Plan working group. A [report](#) is also provided.

**5 Abingdon Green Forum**

Abingdon Town Council declared a climate emergency in March 2019 in recognition of the crises of global warming and destruction of the natural environment. The town council pledged to take urgent positive action as a local response to help meet the huge challenges posed. A series of green forums began in 2022, each with a different environmental focus. The purpose of the forums is to promote and initiate changes which will help towards carbon neutrality within the town, reduce waste, promote the general well-being of our residents, and improve its biodiversity. The Forum Steering Group is a collaboration of town councillors and local voluntary groups which are active in trying to improve the town's environment. Lucille Savin will provide an update at the meeting.

**6 Presentation by PCSO Ali Blood**

PCSO Ali Blood will make a brief presentation on the work of the police in Abingdon. A report [can be viewed here](#).

**7 Presentation by the Royal British Legion**

Geoff Howarth, the Chairman of Abingdon Royal British Legion, will attend the meeting to inform residents on plans to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE and VJ Days in May and August 2025.

**8 Presentations by Community Groups**

The council gives a number of large grants each year and there will be short presentations to the meeting from organisations which receive these grants, including:

- [Abingdon Carousel](#)
- [Abingdon Damascus Youth Project](#)
- [Christ's Hospital](#)
- [Friends of Abingdon Civic Society](#)
- [Guild of Town Criers](#)
- [One Planet Abingdon and One Planet Abingdon Youth](#)
- [Oxfordshire South and Vale Citizens Advice](#)
- [The Abingdon Bridge](#)

Be Free Young Carers are unfortunately unable to attend due to another appointment but a [report has been provided](#).

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**9 To discuss town affairs**

At this point the meeting may discuss town affairs and residents of the parish are invited to ask questions of their elected councillors.

Questions ahead of the meeting.

In order to assist the efficient administration of the meeting we request that members of the public e-mail questions to [democratic@abingdon.gov.uk](mailto:democratic@abingdon.gov.uk). Please include your address in your email in order to confirm that you are a resident of Abingdon. This will enable a more comprehensive response than we would be able to if we did not receive notice.

**Note**

Members of the public are reminded of the limitations upon discussions at this agenda item:

- All items raised must relate to public matters in the town.
- There can be no discussion of private matters (such as litigation between persons in their private capacity) or of matters so general that they would affect the town no more than any other parish.

By law the Mayor, as Chair of this meeting, determines whether a matter may be discussed and their decision is final.