



# **Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council**

## **Environment, Amenities and Infrastructure Committee**

### **Report to the Annual Parish Meeting 2026**

#### **The formation of this Committee**

Abingdon Town Council combined environment, amenities, and infrastructure into one committee this year to foster a holistic, sustainable approach to town management. This integrated structure allows for faster, more cohesive decision-making regarding the climate emergency, local green spaces, and community facilities, ensuring sustainability and progressive development for our town and residents.

#### **The current role and function of the Environment, Amenities and Infrastructure Committee.**

Infrastructure aspect, manages local physical assets and services, including highways, transport, car parking, bus shelters, and community facilities. It develops policies for a sustainable, safe town, overseeing projects like traffic calming, street lighting, and environmental enhancements to meet resident needs

Amenities aspect manages the town's public spaces, recreational facilities, and environmental initiatives. Its key roles include maintaining parks, play areas, cemeteries, allotments, and open spaces, while implementing sustainable practices to address the local climate emergency.

Environmental aspect, drives the council's response to the climate emergency focusing on biodiversity, sustainability, and green initiatives, including tree planting and pollution reduction.

#### **Summary**

The Committee members, in collaboration with the Town Clerk, officers and staff, has maintained a productive year delivering resolutions related to amenities, the

environment, and infrastructure, while simultaneously managing day to day operational requirements.

We would also like to acknowledge the vital role of our partners and colleagues, whose close collaboration is essential to our success. We are proud to work alongside One Planet Abingdon, Abingdon Carbon Cutters, Abingdon Liveable Streets, and The Green Forum and our Market Traders. We also value our ongoing relationship with the Friends of Abingdon Civic Society, local Schools and Colleges, alongside our colleagues at Vale of White Horse District Council and Oxfordshire County Council.

The following highlights our key achievements and actions in respect of the committee's role and purpose over the past period:

### **Bridge Repairs**

Recycled plastic has been used for new railings on the bridge as part of the Ock Valley Walk. The maintenance and repairs to the bridge is the responsibility of the town Council and the foot bridge at St Helen`s end of the walk. This structure is made from recycled plastic.

### **Speed Indicator Devices**

The Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) have proven effective in encouraging drivers to adhere to speed limits, particularly at town entry points and near school entrances. These mobile units are being rotated across 14 designated town locations including Drayton Road, Oxford Road, and Copenhagen Drive, to monitor traffic flow and enhance road safety. The data collected from these devices is downloaded and reviewed regularly, providing the Council with evidence-based insights for future traffic management strategies.

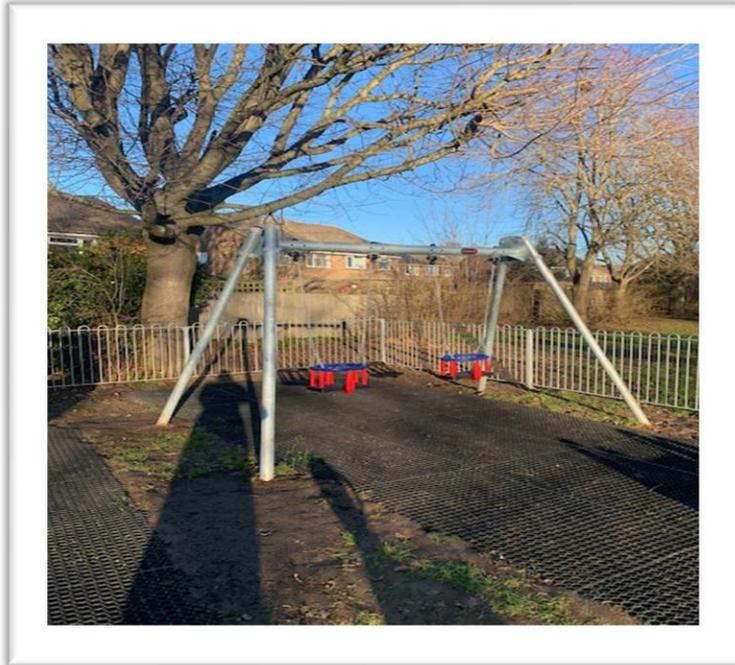
### **Public Art Working Group**

Following repairs and aesthetic improvements to the underpass, the group is now focusing on a funding application dedicated to enhanced town signage, specifically aimed at improving connectivity between new residential developments and the town centre, whilst scoping for other community and public art projects continues.

### **Play area improvements**

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the Cemeteries and Outdoor Services team. Their year-round commitment to maintaining and enhancing our green spaces is vital to our community's wellbeing. Their forward-thinking approach to park management is clearly visible in our most recent upgrades. Please see the

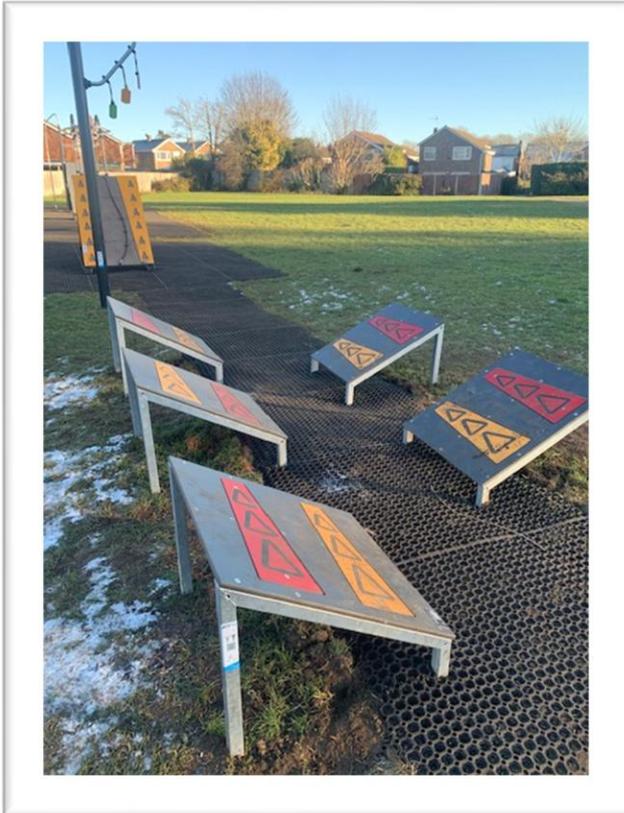
images below highlighting the newly installed play and fitness equipment across Abingdon.



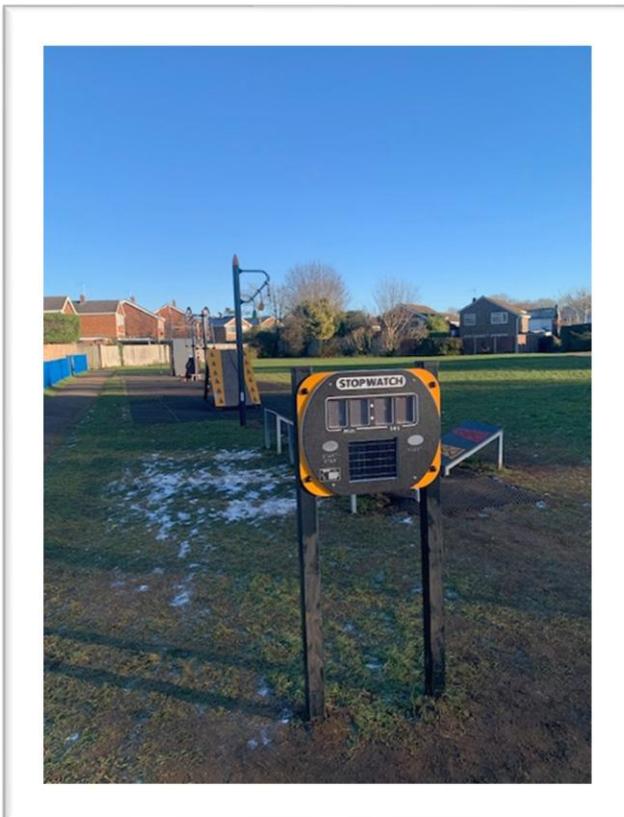
Toddler Play Park installation at Elizabeth Avenue. This is a great addition for the younger children that was needed for some time.



Toddler Park addition at Elizabeth Avenue. Colourful, educational and fun.



A Ninja-Style Warrior fitness trail has been installed alongside replacement play equipment, facilitating engagement by older children and adults.



## New Notice Board

We are delighted to report the successful installation of the new notice board in the Market Place, which has been met with enthusiastic praise from both residents and some local businesses. The board has quickly become a valued community asset, featuring a diverse range of notices that are proactively maintained and updated by council staff to ensure information remains current and engaging.



## Electric Vehicle

The recent addition of a new electric vehicle and charging unit marks a significant step forward in modernising our vehicles and equipment. To further our commitment to environmental responsibility, we have begun scoping appropriate buildings for solar panel installation. By integrating renewable energy, we aim to reduce our carbon footprint and ensure long-term operational sustainability.



## Repairs to the Guildhall

Abingdon on Thames Town Council is undertaking a project as of March 2026 to restore, repair, and improve the wooden windows at the Guildhall to increase energy efficiency. The work involves repairing rotten timber, upgrading draught-proofing, and installing secondary glazing.



## Lighting

We have successfully upgraded almost all office and meeting room lighting to energy efficient LEDs. The final phase of this project is now underway, focusing on the OMC and adjoining Robing Room. We are currently evaluating the best LED options for these specific spaces to ensure the transition is completed this year.

## Biodiversity

Annual tree audit and maintenance continues and work on the spring /summer planting has been scoped out by Tim the outdoor service manager. We look forward to the colourful displays that are coming our way soon.

The annual Biodiversity Competition has officially launched, targeting participation from educational institutions and the wider community. We look forward to evaluating the submissions later this year and awarding prizes for the top three entries. We encourage all residents to participate; your involvement helps enhance our local ecosystem and celebrates Abingdon's commitment to nature.

Open to Individuals, Communities,  
Schools and Colleges

# PATCH FOR THE PLANET

## BIODIVERSITY COMPETITION

**Make a BIG difference with just one patch!**



### How to Enter

**Take a before photo of your chosen space**

**Plant, mow and grow! Get creative in a way that supports biodiversity**

**Take a transformation picture!**

**Submit to [enquiries@abingdon.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@abingdon.gov.uk) by 1<sup>st</sup> July to be in with a chance to win £1000!**

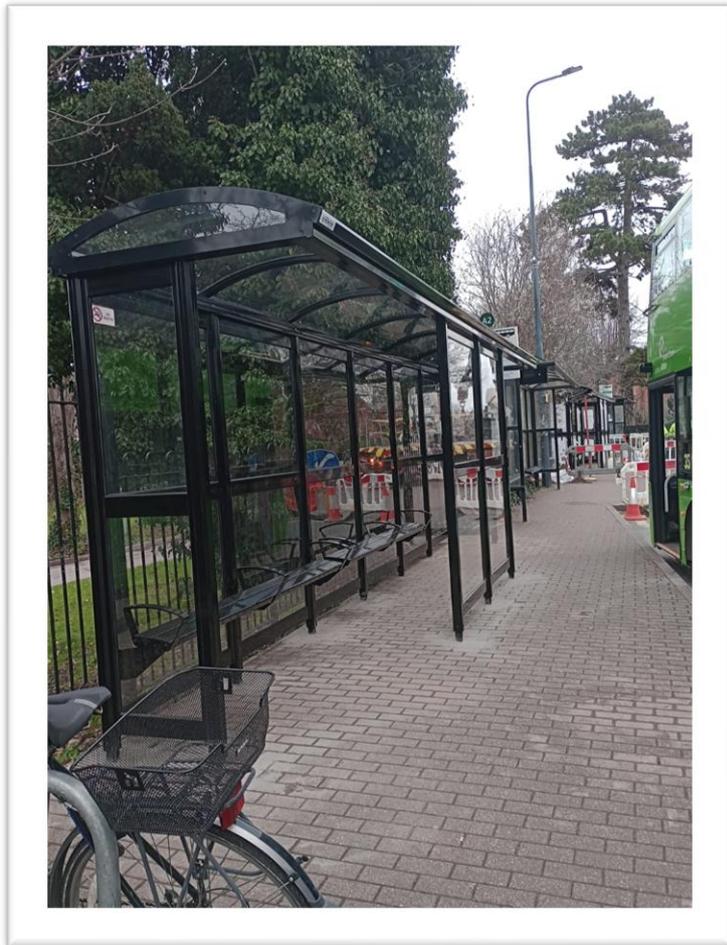
Tag us in your transformation #ATCPatchForPlanet

**1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Prizes Awarded in Autumn 2026**

## **Busses, bus stops and maintenance**

The No. 41 bus, which is proudly funded by the council, has seen a welcome boost in passenger numbers this year. This growth highlights the importance of accessible local transport in Abingdon. We remain committed to this route and will continue to track its progress to ensure it meets the ongoing needs of those who rely on it

High-frequency usage is consistently observed at bus stops across Abingdon and formal condition assessments of these assets are carried out on a regular basis to determine the requirements for refurbishment or replacement. To that effect, two replacement bus shelters, featuring integrated seating, have been installed on Stratton Way to enhance passenger comfort. See photograph below. A dedicated maintenance budget for council-owned bus stops has been successfully secured for the upcoming year. We ask that the Cemeteries and Outdoor Services Manager thanks the officer responsible for cleaning the bus shelters, whose work was commended.



Chair: Councillor Gabby Barody  
Vice Chair: Councillor Elio Astone