

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES TOWN COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY 28 APRIL 2021

AGENDA ITEM 7: REPORT TO ABINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

**CLLR ALISON ROOKE, ABINGDON EAST DIVISION, OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY
COUNCIL**

ROADS AND TRANSPORT

Planned Highways Programme

The following improvements are planned for Abingdon:

Micro-Asphalt treatment in Burton Close, Francis Little Drive, Chauntrell Way, Gordon Drive, Foster Road, Hanson Road and Shephard Gardens.

Footway reconstruction in Sellwood Road

Footway Slurry in Hogarth Place, Gainsborough Green, Cotman Close and The Hyde

Street Lighting in Audlett Drive, Oxford Road, Radley Road, Dunmore Road, Wootton Road, Marcham Road, Drayton Road, Copenhagen Drive and Twelve Acre Drive, replacing a total of 507 units. This will considerably reduce electricity consumption.

I have been in communication with county council officers, having requested a 20mph speed limit throughout the town centre. This will improve road safety for all vehicles, cycles and pedestrians, and air quality for all town residents and visitors alike. Budget allocation decisions are awaited.

Lodge Hill New south facing slip roads for A34 at Lodge Hill, North Abingdon

As with many council-related works, there have been some additional delays with this project due to the pandemic. The latest information I have is:

The online consultation has concluded, and the results are being analysed by county council officers. They will publish a report shortly showing an analysis of the consultation. There has been a lot of feedback to us from local residents that the proposed design is very unfriendly for cyclists. We have asked the county officers to raise this issue with Highways England with the aim of ending up with a significantly more cycle-friendly design than the initial proposals."

The planning application is expected to be submitted in summer 2021. This is slightly delayed from my previous report due to the potential need to have further conversations with planners and Highways England following any tweaks that may be needed as a result of the consultation findings after their analysis. On this timeline, it is hoped that onsite work will commence in spring 2022 with completion in autumn/winter 2023. I have received assurances that, on this timeline, work will be completed on the interchange in line with planning requirements for the new housing planned for the area.

COUNCILLOR PRIORITY FUND

Abingdon Foodbank, Be Free Young Carers, Maggie's Oxford (cancer support), Earth Trust, Harvest @ Home, Abingdon Bridge, Highway safety improvements and monitoring, Oxford Care Leavers Assoc, the Archway Foundation, SOFEA (Abingdon Community Fridge), Citizens Advice, FarmAbility, 2nd Abingdon Scout Group, Laptops for local school pupils, St Nicholas School, Nature Recovery Network and Abingdon Carousel have all received monies totalling £44,874.35 from the Abingdon county councillors' priority fund budgets. The remaining £125.65 from the £45,000 total budget has been requested to go towards buying school laptops within Abingdon.

ABINGDON'S VARIOUS COUNCILS AND OCC MEETINGS INFORMATION

Links to view all county council virtual public meetings can be found on the [meeting details](#) page on the county council website –click on each meeting in the calendar to view the link. For those requesting to speak, committee officers will make the necessary arrangements for them to attend the meeting. Recordings can be viewed after each meeting.

There have been cases where some members of the public are unaware of which local council is responsible for which services. The following links are useful pointers to exact lists of the three councils' responsibilities:

www.abingdon.gov.uk

www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

I would refer you to the Vale of White Horse District council for any queries regarding issues involving their purview (which aren't county council issues) such as Old Abbey House (the Vale is the planning authority) or the Upper Reaches, which is a privately owned leasehold property. Of course, as you will know, any problems with graffiti should be forwarded to the Vale of White Horse DC.

I am pleased to say that Abingdon library is now open again following its temporary closure due to the Covid situation. I am, however, very sad to report that despite repeated lobbying the county council has failed to build new and larger, or structurally improved, library provision in Abingdon. This is despite the already inadequate library size being soon worsened by increased population levels.

The county council is responsible for social care, liaising with healthcare provision (though, of course, not responsible for direct healthcare itself, that being an NHS function). The county council is planning on issuing new contracts to companies providing domiciliary care (care at home) giving them less overall payment for their work and making it highly likely that some companies will have to withdraw from providing the service. You should be made aware that, as a direct result of this, it could well be harder for those in need of care to find adequate provision.