

The Abingdon Neighbourhood Plan steering group is made up of 8 interested residents and an Abingdon Town Councillor:

Cllr Grace Clifton:

Grace is a Town Councillor for Northcourt ward and is the Council link member on Steering Group. On the Town Council, she sits on Planning and Amenities and Recreation Committees. Outside the Council, Grace is a Senior Lecturer in initial teacher education. She is mad about outdoor swimming and is keen to see how we can enhance our use of the Thames and surrounding green spaces in our plan.

Simon Hills (Chair):

Simon Hills grew up in Abingdon and has always maintained strong links with the town. He now lives in London where he works in the City as an expert in bank risk management and regulation. Until the onset of the Covid pandemic he returned often to Abingdon where he has a house in the centre of our town. Simon is keen to create an inclusive, sustainable Neighbourhood Plan that is an actionable vision of an even better future Abingdon in which to live and work.

Robin Tucker:

Robin Tucker is a business consultant living in west Abingdon who works with local technology, space and environmental businesses, and is also a Trustee of the Earth Trust, based in Wittenham, and Cycling UK. He is keen to see an Abingdon that is easier to get around by walking and cycling, that makes the most use of the precious assets that we have in the river, green spaces, nature and heritage, and that works for a thriving diverse community.

Jim Driscoll:

Jim Driscoll is a self-employed architectural technician and musician who lives in North Abingdon. He is the creative director of Folk Weekend: Oxford and has also been involved with Make Music Day, Abingdon.

Jim is interested in ecological and social justice issues and is involved in the Abingdon Neighbourhood Plan to do what he can to help make Abingdon a greener and more equitable place to live for all its inhabitants.

Hester Hand:

Hester is involved in various voluntary activities around the town. She is an adviser at Citizens Advice which gives her a wide view of the issues facing local people. Much of her other voluntary work has been to raise awareness of what the town has to offer: setting up the "What's On" calendar and the "Community FreeSpace" and helping to run the annual Heritage Open Days and Bank Holiday Walks. She is also keen to make it an even better place to live and works for this through the Friends of Abingdon Civic Society. She sees the neighbourhood plan as an exciting opportunity to get more people involved in shaping the future of our town.

James Wigmore:

James Wigmore is a designer and qualified gardener. He set up Abibike, a local cycling campaign group and is a founding member of Abingdon Liveable Streets. He is a member of Abingdon Athletics Club and has run several marathons. James is passionate about an environment that is healthy and believes that the Neighbourhood Plan may help to secure this.

Angharad Saunders:

Angharad is a human geographer by background and so is passionate about places and about how we make them survive, thrive and become beacons of independence and ingenuity. Abingdon has so much that is great, and it also has so much potential. She wants to help create an Abingdon where vacant shops are replaced by thriving services and cultural entities; where the centre embraces the river that hovers behind it; where the town is a 'destination' not just a dot on the map and a town that is accessible – Shes a mum, with a pushchair, and marshals various wheeled vehicles with small drivers, she needs a town hospitable to movement.

Paul White:

Paul has lived in Abingdon his whole life. His background is in mapping and transport planning. He currently works in the transport policy department of a London Borough, specialising in writing traffic management orders. This is his main interest in the Abingdon Neighbourhood Plan and feels that he can give professional views regarding any developments and how they can affect transport and traffic within the town. He has an interest in team sports within the town and am Chairman of Abingdon Vale Cricket Club and in the winter months he will watch either of the town's senior football clubs.