

**Abingdon on Thames Town Council**  
**Wednesday 29th September**  
**Agenda Item 7 - County Council report**

**New administration**

The new 'Fair Deal Alliance' is steadily finding its feet and has already set out its key [priorities](#) for the council, with the aim of creating a fairer, greener Oxfordshire.

It will shortly be consulting on a new Corporate Plan for the council, based on these priorities.

Abingdon's three County Councillors are all taking an active role in the new administration.

**Lodge Hill**

There was a much higher response to the consultation on the designs for the Lodge Hill slip roads than anticipated. The team have been working through the responses which had a strong focus on the need for the designs to be better for pedestrians and cyclists.

Councillors are being briefed on the next steps tomorrow.

**Women's cycle race**

The AJ Bell Women's Tour, the premiere women's international cycle race in the UK, is coming through Abingdon as part of its first stage on **Monday 4 October 2021**.

Around 100 pro-cyclists – accompanied by support vehicles – will race from Bicester, continuing through Oxford and Abingdon, to the finish in Banbury.

It is expected to pass through Abingdon between noon and 12.30pm and there will be a rolling road closure along the [route](#).

**20mph speed limits**

The new administration is accelerating the move towards 20mph speed limits in towns and villages in order to create safer and quieter streets and to encourage walking and cycling.

Town and Parish councils will be asked to express an interest, and the default position of the County Council will be to support.

If Abingdon Town Council wants to see this in all or parts of Abingdon, as has been supported in the Neighbourhood Plan consultations, you should get your proposal together quickly.

## **Social Care**

The Government's announcement about funding Social Care and the NHS sounds good on the surface but will actually be a cost for the County Council.

The County Council will have to pay employer's National Insurance for all its staff (a bill above £1 million) but won't see any extra funding for years.

## **Consultations**

At any one time, the County Council is [consulting](#) on numerous policies and projects. Please do keep an eye on it and respond. The actual number of responses is often low and the responses do get taken into account.

Neil Fawcett  
County Councillor for Abingdon South