



## **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.

## **SECTION I - Open to the Public Including the Press**

### **1. To elect a Vice Chair for the 2022-2023 Municipal Year**

### **2. Apologies**

To receive any apologies for absence.

### **3. Declarations of interest**

To receive any declarations of interest from Members in relation to any items to be considered at the meeting in accordance with the Local Code of Conduct.

### **4. Public participation**

To receive any statements and questions; these should be submitted in writing to the Town Clerk no later than 5pm on Wednesday 23 November 2022. This may either be by letter to the address above or by e-mail to [democratic@abingdon.gov.uk](mailto:democratic@abingdon.gov.uk).

5. **Minutes**

To sign as a correct record the draft minutes of the meeting of the Community Committee of [21 July 2022](#).

6. **Matters arising**

To consider any matters arising from the minutes of these meetings not covered elsewhere on the agenda. Decisions required resulting from this to be a separate agenda item at the next meeting for resolution.

7. **Forward Plan**

To review and consider the forward plan for this committee which can be found [here](#).

8. **Actions register**

The actions register report can be found [here](#).

9. **Finance Report**

- i) To receive and consider the [report](#) of the RFO.
- ii) To receive the Management [Accounts](#) for the period to 31 October 2022.

10. **Final call for Budget Bids 2023-2024**

This is the final call for budget bids for 2023-2024, anything not put forward will not be added later. [Report](#), [Appendix A](#).

11. **Neighbourhood Plan**

To receive an [update](#) from Cllr Grace Clifton.

*There is a dedicated website in relation to the Plan which can be access [here](#).*

12. **Cycling and Walking**

The draft Abingdon LCWIP – Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan has been published by OCC for consultation: <https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/abingdon-lcwip>

On the link there is a summary document and a folder of higher resolution maps. A response can be made by online survey and by adding 'pins' to a map with text and images.

### 13. **Routes that could be upgraded to cycle paths**

The following has been received from Robin Tucker of Abingdon Living Streets/ Cycling UK:

As you know, Abingdon Town Council has some money for mapping and signs. This is good, and there are several 'hidden' routes that would be worth pointing out. But there are also a few routes that are frequently cycled that we couldn't map or sign because they are (I think) officially footpaths.

For these I'd like to ask:

- County Council officers: If they can check the status and whether they are actually footpaths or legally permitted for cycling
- The group in general: Whether you would support pursuing permission for these as cyclepaths, without significant infrastructure change (which takes more time and money than this pot of money has)
- Councillors (on all the Councils: Town, District and County): Whether you would support taking these through the process for upgrade to cyclepath. (I believe this is not a complex process, but will let County Council officers correct me).

#### **Candidates**

I suggest three:

1. Boxhill Walk to Harcourt Way
2. Boxhill Walk to Clifton Drive (where barriers have now been removed)
3. Tesco to Chaunterell Way (and one barrier removed)

Other possible routes, but I'm suggesting leaving these as footpaths due to too much conflict with pedestrians:

4. Boxhill Road to The Motte through the woods
5. The Ock Walk
6. Sellwood Road to Shelley Close and Northcourt Road (where barriers have recently been removed).

Members are requested to consider this matter. A map can be found [here](#).

Relevant budget lines which could be deployed are:

### 14. **Signage around the Town Centre**

Cllr Clifton has been contacted by a member of the public regarding lack of signage in and around the town centre and would like to request that members consider reviewing the signage and raise with the District Council if appropriate.

15. **Notice of Landowner Deposit: Land at the Culham Estate, Culham, Abingdon, OX14 3BS**

Members to note that the owner of the above land has submitted a Highways Statement to Oxfordshire County Council which prevents unrecorded public rights of way from being legally recorded on the basis of presumed dedication in the future.

16. **Stratton Way underpass project**

To receive a [report](#) from the Locum Project Officer in respect of the Stratton Way underpass project.

Note that the final designs are yet to be received, the sketch designs referred to in the report are attached.

[Sketch 1](#)

[Sketch 2](#)

17. **Working Parties**

To revisit the working parties set up by the committee as to whether they are all still required and live.

- Albert Park Conservation Area Appraisal Working Group.
- Earlier in the year there was a 20mph speed limit working group. This was a task and finish group which, having completed its work, no longer meets.

18. **Proposed 20mph speed limit for Abingdon**

The Town Council supported the proposals published by Oxfordshire County Council and which were formally consulted on from 31 August to 30 September 2022. The Town Clerk sent the following response:

At a meeting of Abingdon Town Council which took place on 29 September 2022 the council strongly supported the proposals set out in the consultation.

The Town Council has since September 2019 had a policy that 20mph zones should be introduced in Abingdon. The adoption of the new policy in October 2021 by Oxfordshire

County Council as highway authority provided a mechanism for this, backed by funding. The council has very carefully considered appropriate speed limits in the town; in November 2021, the council established a working group to consider the introduction of 20mph and 30 mph speed limits in Abingdon.

The working group included members of the wider community. The group considered that lower speed limits in Abingdon would help address the climate change emergency by reducing carbon emissions and encouraging people to use other modes of transport i.e. walking and cycling. Walking and cycling would become safer because of the lower speed limits. The evidence suggests that with vehicles travelling at 40mph there is a 90% fatality rate for pedestrians; this reduces to 50% at 30mph and 10% at 20mph. The lower speed limits will reduce accidents by increasing reactions times for road users whilst reducing the impact of accidents. These factors outweigh the inconvenience which this in motorised vehicles might feel from slightly longer journey times within the town.

Following the report of the working group and its consideration by the Town Infrastructure Committee, the matter was considered by the full Council at its meeting of 26 January 2022. It was resolved Oxfordshire County Council should be requested to introduce “a blanket 20mph limit across Abingdon and a 30mph limit on the peripheral roads – Audlett Drive, Twelve Acre Drive, Dunmore Road, Copenhagen Drive and Colwell Drive.”

The council is pleased to support the progressive policy of the county council in taking forward the policy and allowing parish councils and their communities to have their say. Abingdon Town Council supports this policy and the proposals for Abingdon and has set aside a budget of £15,000 to meet the costs of speed indicator devices.

The matter was considered at a meeting “Delegated decisions by Cabinet Member for Highway Management” on 17 November 2022 and the meeting papers may be accessed [here](#).

It is minuted that the Cabinet Member “agreed to defer a decision on the proposed introduction of 20mph and 30mph speed limits in order to discuss a way forward.”

Members to consider.

19. **Town Bus service 41**

At the last meeting Members requested that the above item be considered at a future meeting.

There is no officer report for this meeting.

The usage figures for the service may be accessed [here](#).

20. **CCTV in Abingdon**

At the last meeting Members requested that the above item be considered at a future meeting.

CCTV in Abingdon is provided by the Vale of White Horse District Council, with the Town Council supporting this by way of a grant of £8,346 in 2022/23, increasing by the same amount in 2023/24.

An update has been received from Diane Foster, Licensing and Community Safety Manager at the District Council as follows:

I can confirm that the installation of the new HD digital cameras is scheduled to start on 9 January and will take 1-2 weeks to complete. The BT circuits will be upgraded before then to allow for digital transmission of images from the cameras to the control room. Once the installation work has been completed all of our CCTV cameras in Abingdon will be HD digital cameras and will provide greater image quality than the current analogue cameras.

If any of the town councillors would like to visit the CCTV control room once the new cameras have been installed to see the image quality that the new cameras deliver they are welcome to do so. I'm happy to make arrangements for this in the new year once the cameras are in place.

Please see [attached map](#) of CCTV in Abingdon.

## 21. **Future Agenda items**

At the last meeting of the committee the following items were noted as future agenda items:

- List of policies and established practices pertaining to the work of this committee.
- Grass verges – parking.
- Report and update on bus shelters

## 22. **Dates of future meetings**

To note the dates for future meetings and items for the agenda.

- 12 January 2023
- 9 March 2023