



Abingdon-On-Thames Town Council

County Hall flag policy 2023-2027

The following is a policy regarding the flags to be flown from Abingdon County Hall Museum on certain days. The policy was agreed by the town council on 24 February 2021 and updated on 4 October 2023 (minute T99/23).

Any updates to the current flag policy will be considered by the Finance, Governance and Asset Management Committee and recommended to the town council for approval. There is useful guidance on flag flying on the [UK Government's website](#).

1. The County Hall only has one flagpole and therefore only one flag may be flown at a time.

2. Union Flag

To be flown all year round. The Union Flag takes precedence over all other flags and should always be flown on [dates designated annually](#) by HM Government.

3. Abingdon Town Flag

- i. Hoisted the day before the annual meeting of the Town Council and Mayor making, to be flown for the following week.
- ii. Hoisted the day before the Mayor's birthday, to be flown for the following week.
- iii. Hoisted the day before the Annual Civic Service, to be flown for the following week.

4. **Calendar of regular flags to be flown**

Subject to the precedence given to the Union Flag on designated days, the following flags may be flown:

Dates	Occasion	Detail
January 27	Holocaust Memorial Day	Holocaust Memorial flag to be flown at half mast
Feb 1	LGBTQ+ and Pride awareness month start	New Pride Progressive flag
Feb 28	LGBTQ+ and Pride awareness month end	New Pride Progressive flag
March 8	International Women's Day	Suffrage flag
Second Monday in March	Commonwealth Day	Flag of Commonwealth of Nations for one week
April 22	Earth Day	Earth Day flag
April 23	St George's Day	St George's Day and one week
May 8	VE Day	Union flag
May 9	Europe Day	Council of Europe flag
June 1	LGBTQAI+ and Pride month start	New Pride Progressive flag
2nd Sat in June	HM King's Official Birthday	Union flag
June 20	World Refugee Day	Abingdon city of sanctuary flag
June 21	Prince of Wales's Birthday	Union flag
Monday before Armed Forces Day, which is the last Saturday in June	Armed Forces Day	Armed Forces flag, for a week in June starting Monday before Armed Forces Day which is the last Saturday in June
June 30	LGBTQ+ and Pride month end	New Pride Progressive flag
To be confirmed	One week Abingdon Pride	New Pride Progressive flag
July 17	Birthday of HM the Queen Consort	Union flag
Aug 15	VJ Day	Union flag
Aug 24	Ukraine Independence day	Ukraine flag
Sept 8	His Majesty's accession	Union flag
Oct 24	United Nations Day	UN flag
Nov 11	Armistice Day	Union flag
Second Sunday in November	Remembrance Day	Union flag, second Sunday November plus the day after

Nov 14	Birthday of HM King Charles III	Union flag
Dec 3	International Day of Persons with disabilities	Purple Disability flag
Dec 14	Anniversary of the passing of the Representation of the People Act 1918	Suffrage flag
Dec 18	International Migrants' day	Abingdon Sanctuary flag

5 **Other flags**

- **Royal Standard**

In the event of a royal visit the appropriate Royal Standard may be flown.

- **Thames Valley Police Flag**

The Thames Valley Police Flag may be flown on request to the Town Clerk, Mayor and Leader of Council.

- **Other (guest) flags**

Applications to fly guest flags shall normally be considered by the town council. When this is not possible because the timing of the application means that there is not time for the council to consider the application, determination of such applications will be resolved by the Town Clerk, Leader of the Council and Mayor by way of a majority vote.

6. **Flying flags at half-mast**

Union flag

- i. From the announcement of the death, up to the funeral of the sovereign, except on Proclamation Day when they are hoisted at full mast from 11am to sunset.
- ii. The funerals of members of the Royal family, subject to Royal command in each case.
- iii. The funerals of foreign rulers, subject to Royal command in each case.
- iv. The funerals of prime ministers and ex-prime ministers of the United Kingdom
- v. On other occasions by Royal command.
- vi. Local government bodies are permitted to fly the Union flag at half-mast to mark local as well as national commemorations or losses.

Town flag

To be flown at half-mast on the following occasions:

- i. From the announcement of the death for one week, or to the day of the funeral of a serving Town Councilor or Freeman of Abingdon.

- ii. From the announcement of the death and for one week or to the day of the funeral of a former mayor of the town.
- iii. On the day of the funeral of a serving councillor, freeman, former mayor, or serving member of staff, should the occasion arise.

7. Urgent matters and exceptional circumstances

The flag policy is a matter for the town council to determine but there may be occasions when urgent decisions are required. In these circumstances, these matters shall be determined by the Town Clerk in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Mayor.

The use of any other flags in other circumstances should be exceptional, determined by the Town Clerk with the agreement of the Leader of the Council and the Mayor. It is not proposed to mark any major sporting events unless there are overwhelming circumstances such as one of Abingdon's football clubs in the FA Cup final or a national team in a World Cup final.