



## 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). The policy was confirmed by the town council on 20 March 2024 (minute T163/23)

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:

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

<b>Nov 14</b>	Birthday of HM King Charles III	Union flag
<b>Dec 3</b>	International Day of Persons with disabilities	Purple Disability flag
<b>Dec 14</b>	Anniversary of the passing of the Representation of the People Act 1918	Suffrage flag
<b>Dec 18</b>	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.