



Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council

Abingdon-on-Thames is an ancient market town beside the River Thames, and is the oldest continually inhabited town in England. It has grown substantially in recent years, and has a population of 33,130 (census 2011). Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council was created in 1974, following the dissolution of the Borough Council that had been formed in 1556. Since 1974, the Vale of White Horse District Council and Oxfordshire County Council have also served the Town.

What does Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council do?

The council comprises of 19 elected Members who are elected every four years; the next elections are due in May 2023. Full Council usually meets five times a year, with most of the work of the Council delegated to various committees, sub committees and working parties.

The Council aims to establish and maintain high quality, cost effective services to meet the needs of residents, businesses and visitors in Abingdon and to promote the social, economic, environmental and cultural interests of the town for the benefit of the whole community. The Council provides services “from the cradle to the grave” – from play equipment to cemeteries.

The services are wide and varied and include the County Hall Museum, the Guildhall, the two cemeteries, markets, Christmas lights, fairs, fisheries, street furniture, bus shelters, civic twinning, archives, issuing various publications and organising events such as Fun and Music in the Park. Some services are carried out for other councils, for example, the residents’ parking scheme, for Oxfordshire County Council, and others in partnership with the Vale of White Horse District Council, local businesses or volunteers. The Abingdon Visitor & Community Information Centre provides information to community and visitors.

The Town Council maintains Boxhill Wood and the Ock Valley Walk, as well as many other open spaces and amenity areas, eight of which include children’s play equipment. It organises the Abingdon in Bloom floral displays and provides three allotment sites. The Council has various grants schemes to assist local organisations, and annual grants help with the costs of running Christ’s Hospital’s Albert Park, the Bridge Young People’s Centre and the Citizens’ Advice Bureau.

The council has an important role in representing the town’s interests, for example, in commenting on each of the 350 planning applications made in Abingdon annually. The Council also encourages and supports the work of many groups in the community through the making of grants.

Fuller details regarding the Council may be found at www.abingdon.gov.uk