



## **Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council**

Royse Court Offices, Bridge Street, Abingdon, OX14  
3HU

Cherie Carruthers - Town Clerk/Chief Executive

Telephone: 01235 522642

Email: [enquiries@abingdon.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@abingdon.gov.uk)

Website: [www.abingdon.gov.uk](http://www.abingdon.gov.uk)

### **Public Art Working Group Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 5pm Online AGENDA**

**Attendees** – Lizzie Martin – Business and Community Engagement

Abigail Brown – Public Art Officer for Vale of White Horse

Cllr Jim Halliday

Cllr Leo Midwinter

Apologies – Cllr Margaret Crick

#### **1. Update from Business and Community Engagement Officer on progress with S106 application for Stratton Way refurbishment**

The Business and Community Engagement Officer gave the feedback from the district council as to why the Stratton Way Mural S106 funding application was declined. Having read the Public Art Strategy for Abingdon Town Council, the project is clearly indicated as repair and maintenance works. As such, the eligibility of the proposal could be open to challenge by the developer. The Vale officers understand that the second phase of the project seeks to involve the local community in providing a new mural and this more closely aligns with Section 106 spend criteria.

Feedback was followed by some discussion with Cllrs Halliday and Cllr Midwinter. Cllr Midwinter asked if we go straight to the developer to see if they object. Abigail Brown suggested a broader project that included the renovation of the current mural and the underpass which includes community involvement

and a new mural. She mentioned that we could go directly to the developer however it would be better to present the project as a whole plan.

Action Points:

- 1A. Lizzie to obtain additional quotes including costs for a new mural in the underpass.
- 1B. Abigail to assist with identifying suitable funding pots and confirm developer contributions.

## **2. Ideas for Next Steps**

There was discussion on expanding the project scope to include community engagement and new creative elements.

Jim Halliday raised the idea of a designated *community street art area* to reduce unauthorised graffiti.

Leo Midwinter suggested the *skate park* or *Barrow Hills BMX Park* as potential district-owned sites for this.

Abigail Brown agreed to raise the idea with district property colleagues and include it within the wider public art strategy.

The group agreed a formal letter should be sent to the Vale property team, copying in local district councillors Max Thompson and Mike Pighills.

Jim Halliday suggested a birds eye view style map of Abingdon for the underpass as an initial idea of the design of the Underpass.

**Action Points:**

- 2A. Lizzie to draft letter (copying Abigail, Max Thompson, and Mike Pighills).
- 2B. Abigail to confirm the appropriate contact within the Vale property team.

## **3. Revision of Public Art Strategy**

The group reviewed the Public Art Strategy for necessary amendments:

Update references from *Infrastructure Committee* to *Environment, Amenities and Events (EAE&I) Committee*.

Update membership list to include Cllr Leo Midwinter and correct roles.

Refresh financial data in Appendix 2 with the latest Section 106 contributions.

Consider adding:

- *Artistic welcome signs* at town entrances.

- *Projects linking Dunmore Road developments to the town centre.*
- *Historical and identity themes such as St Edmund and local heritage.*

**Action Points:**

- 3A. Lizzie to work with Abigail to update the strategy before submission to the EA&I Committee on 17 November 2025.

**3. Request for Public Art Depicting St Edmund**

Lizzie noted a local resident's request (Clare Calnan) for artwork or a statue of St Edmund.

Jim Halliday advised that a St Edmund Memorial Trust exists and may be able to support or collaborate on the project.

The group agreed this aligns with the *heritage and identity* strand of the Public Art Strategy and should be considered for inclusion in future planning.

Action Points:

Add St Edmund-related art as a potential future project in the revised strategy.

**5. Next Steps and Actions**

Reapply for S106 funding with an expanded project scope (~£20–25k) covering:

- Refurbishment of the existing Stratton Way mural.
- A new underpass mural co-created with the community and possibly Abingdon & Witney College art students.

Incorporate community engagement by consulting new residents in Dunmore Road developments.

Conduct a *site walk* on 10 November 2025 at 11am (Lizzie and Abigail to lead, councillors invited).

Present revised Public Art Strategy and project proposal to the EAE&I Committee on 17 November 2025 for approval.

