



Abingdon-on-Thames Annual Town Meeting

Wednesday 1 April 2026, 7pm

Royse Room, Guildhall, Bridge Street, Abingdon, OX14 3HU

The Annual Town (Parish) Meeting will be held on **Wednesday 1 April 2026 at 7pm in the Royse Room, Guildhall, Bridge Street, Abingdon, OX14 3HU.**

Members of the public may, with notice, make representations, ask questions and give evidence in respect of any item of business at agenda item 6.

The reports presented at the meeting will be available to view ahead of the meeting on the town council's website. Should you require a separate pdf version of individual documents please e-mail enquiries@abingdon.gov.uk

Any queries relating to the Agenda should be directed to enquiries@abingdon.gov.uk

This is an annual, statutory public meeting of the local government electors of Abingdon-on-Thames who are invited to attend and take part in discussions. It is not a town council meeting, although the town council does take the opportunity for its committee Chairs to make a report to the meeting on the work being undertaken.

Rawda Jehanli

Councillor Rawda Jehanli
Mayor of Abingdon-on-Thames
23 March 2026

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.

AGENDA

1 **General Introduction**

The Mayor, Councillor Rawda Jehanli, will chair the meeting and present an update on her activities during the year.

2 **Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting 26 March 2025**

To agree the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting that took place on [26 March 2025](#).

3 **Reports by Town Council Committee Chairs**

To receive reports from the Chairs of town council committees:

- a. [Community committee](#) – Cllr Neil Fawcett
- b. Environment, Amenities & Infrastructure committee (Report to follow) – Cllr Gabby Barody
- c. [Finance, Governance and Asset Management committee](#) – Cllr Jim Halliday
- d. [Planning committee](#) – Cllr Mark Giddins

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4 Presentation by Abingdon's Neighbourhood Police

Sgt Emma Birch will make a brief presentation on the work of the police in Abingdon. PCSO Ali Blood's [report](#) can be viewed here.

5 Presentations by Community Groups

The council gives a number of large grants each year and there will be short presentations to the meeting from organisations which receive these grants, including:

- a. Abingdon Against Domestic Abuse – Gwyneth Lewis
- b. [Abingdon Carousel](#) – Sharron Jenkinson
- c. [Abingdon Damascus Youth Project](#) – Sally Hoodless
- d. [Be Free Young Carers](#) – Hannah Waugh
- e. [Friends of Abingdon Civic Society](#) – Hester Hand
- f. [Guild of Town Criers](#) – Hilary Green
- g. [One Planet Abingdon](#) and One Planet Abingdon Youth – Katy Williams
- h. [Oxfordshire South and Vale Citizens Advice](#) – Teresa Archer and Joseph Mailler
- i. [The Abingdon Bridge](#) – Gary Hibbins
- j. [Christ's Hospital](#) – Report included only, not presenting.

6 To discuss town affairs

At this point the meeting may discuss town affairs and residents of the parish are invited to ask questions of their elected councillors.

Questions ahead of the meeting.

In order to assist the efficient administration of the meeting we request that members of the public e-mail questions to democratic@abingdon.gov.uk. Please include your address in your email in order to confirm that you are a resident of Abingdon. This will enable a more comprehensive response than we would be able to if we did not receive notice.

Note

Members of the public are reminded of the limitations upon discussions at this agenda item:

- All items raised must relate to public matters in the town.
- There can be no discussion of private matters (such as litigation between persons in their private capacity) or of matters so general that they would affect the town no more than any other parish.

By law the Mayor, as Chair of this meeting, determines whether a matter may be discussed and their decision is final.

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Questions received in advance:

Local Resident, Alexander Close

I am writing ahead of the parish meeting on 1st April to raise a matter of growing concern regarding road safety across Abingdon, particularly in relation to the enforcement of 20mph speed limits.

There appears to be a consistent lack of adherence to these limits, especially in areas near schools. Radley Road is a clear example, where vehicles frequently travel at excessive speeds and pass dangerously close to children cycling to and from school. This creates an unacceptable level of risk for young people and other vulnerable road users.

I would like to understand what specific actions are currently being taken to enforce the 20mph restrictions, and what further measures are planned to ensure compliance, particularly in school zones where the consequences of inaction could be severe.

Given the current situation, it feels as though enforcement is not keeping pace with the level of risk. Action needs to be taken sooner rather than later to prevent serious injury or potential fatalities.

I would appreciate it if this issue could be addressed at the meeting, and if you could provide clarity on both current enforcement efforts and any forthcoming initiatives aimed at improving safety.