



'Abingdon For All'

Community Survey Autumn 2017

Introduction

The community of Abingdon-on-Thames are being urged to help forge its future. We would like everyone who lives and works in Abingdon-on-Thames to get involved with 'Abingdon For All.'

'Abingdon For All' is a community led planning process which will enable local people and those with a connection to Abingdon to develop a shared vision for the long-term sustainability of the community and how it should develop over the next five to ten years. People will be able to have their say on a wide range of topics and identify what they feel is important for the future and wellbeing of their community.

A Community Led Plan consists of practical actions which a community can work together with local agencies to achieve and bring about real change. It may address a wide range of social, economic and environmental issues important to them, including land use, housing issues, community facilities, play areas, transport and services.

Who is responsible? People often refer to "the Council" without fully appreciating the local situation which has been inherited from the last local government reorganisation in 1974. For further details on what the different councils do, please see below at Appendix A.

The Community Survey

The Community Survey is the beginning of the process for people to put forward their ideas about how they would like to see the town develop and what the priorities should be.

We are looking at the issues that are most important to residents and those working in the town. We have identified a number of key areas which may be of interest to the local community but we would welcome your thoughts regarding any other areas you think we may have missed.

We would like you to prioritise the issues which are the most important to you. There is also space for you to add your own thoughts and comments. Your responses can be anonymous but we would ask that they are constructive and not personal in any way.

We will be using this survey as a basis for further consultation later in the year. Once a Steering Group for the Community Led Plan has been established from the local community the information will be used to further investigate the most important topics and to work with others to look for possible solutions.

If you need this survey in a different format or need help to complete it please contact us by telephoning 01235 522642 or e-mail communityplan@abingdon.gov.uk

Hard copies can be dropped off at the Information Centre, the Guildhall, Bridge Street, Abingdon-on-Thames, OX14 3HU. If you wish to post the questionnaire back to us you can send it to us, without needing to use a stamp, to: Freepost, ABINGDON-ON-THAMES TOWN COUNCIL.

All surveys should be returned by 30th September 2017.

We ask that only people aged 18 and over complete this survey as we will be consulting with younger people separately. Please see the website <http://www.abingdon.gov.uk/partners/community-led-plan> for more details.

You can find out more about 'Abingdon For All' by visiting the website link above.

If you would like to be part of 'Abingdon For All' please contact us by e-mailing: communityplan@abingdon.gov.uk

Appendix A

“What the Council does”

People often refer to “the Council” without fully appreciating the local situation which has been inherited from the last local government reorganisation in 1974. In Oxfordshire, there are three levels of local Councils – Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council, Vale of the White Horse District Council and Oxfordshire County Council.

All three councils work very closely together to provide the best local services but have different responsibilities and powers.

Each of the Councils has different responsibilities.

In brief, Oxfordshire County Council has responsibility for:

- Adult Learning
- Adult Social Care
- Children’s Services
- Countryside
- Education
- Emergency planning
- Fire and Rescue and Community Safety
- Heritage
- Libraries
- Museum Services

- Public Health
- Refuse Disposal
- Registration of Births, Deaths, Marriages and Citizenship
- Roads and Transport
- Strategic Planning
- Street Lighting
- Trading Standards.
- Youth Development

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/>

In brief, Vale of White Horse District Council has responsibility for:

- Car Parks
- Community safety
- Council tax and Business rate collection
- Council tax and Housing benefits
- Economic Development and Business Support
- Elections and Electoral Registration
- Environmental Health
- Grants
- Housing
- Licensing
- Planning and Building Control
- Recycling, rubbish and waste collections
- Some parks, play areas: Abbey Meadows, Abingdon Skatepark, Appleford Drive, Barrow Hills, Berrycroft, Cotman Close, Crosslands Drive, Hadland Road, Long Furlong, Peachcroft Park, Sherwood Avenue/Barton Court, Southern Town Park, Tilsley Park, Tower Close/Ock Street
- Sports, leisure and arts

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice>

In brief, Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council has responsibilities for the following within the civil parish:

- Abingdon-in-bloom
- Allotments
- Archives
- Cemeteries
- Christmas Lights
- Civic events
- County Hall Museum
- Fairs
- Fisheries
- Grants
- Information Centre
- Markets
- Parking and Residents Parking
- Police Community Support Officer
- The Guildhall

- Town Centre notice boards
- Salt bins
- Street Furniture
- Some Local events
- Some parks, recreation grounds and play areas: Boxhill Recreation Ground (a designated Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Field), Caldecott Recreation Ground (a designated Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Field), Chaunterell Way, Chilton Close, Elizabeth Avenue, Hill View, Masefield Crescent Recreation Ground and River Close (off Preston Road), Austin Place, Hedgemead Avenue, Ladygrove Meadow, Longfellow Drive, Margaret Brown Gardens, MG Garden (Ock Mini Park) and Ock Valley Walk.
- Town Twinning
- War Memorial

<http://www.abingdon.gov.uk/town-council/town-council-services>

For information on clubs and societies in Abingdon please go to:

abingdon.gov.uk/community-services/clubs-societies or visit the Information Centre

Abingdon-on-Thames Visitor and Community Information Centre is based in the lower foyer of the Guildhall, Access this by coming into the entrance at 2, Bridge Street. There is disability and wheelchair access.

Please note opening times are 9.30am to 3.00pm Monday to Saturday.