

Abingdon for All - Community Survey Autumn 2017 Results

The survey was available to complete from Friday 1st September to Saturday 30th September 2017 via an online survey or in paper format. The online survey stayed open a few extra days. In total 285 surveys were completed: 178 online responses were received and 107 in paper format.

Transport

Traffic over the years has increased alongside the number of vehicles per household and this is a concern to many members of the community.

Q1	Please rank the individual aspects below in order of importance to you, where 1 is the most important and 6 is the least important.	
Priority	Mean Score Average	
Condition of the roads	2.86	
Traffic management through the town	2.92	
Public Transport	2.99	
Provision for non-motorised modes of transport e.g. footpaths, cycle paths, bike racks etc.	3.17	
Road network and potential improvements (e.g. new roads)	3.54	
Traffic calming measures (e.g. speed chicanes, warning speed signs, humps etc.)	5.00	

Please write in the box below any other aspects of transport you feel are important but not included in the list.

123 comments included in Appendix 1

Parking

People often comment about parking in the town. Please let us know why you think this is:

Q2	Please rank the individual aspects below in order of importance to you, where 1 is the most important and 8 is the least important.	
Priority	Mean Score Average	
Public car parks – availability	3.35	
Parking on pavements, verges	3.99	
Enforcement of illegal parking	4.06	
Parking costs	4.49	
Public car parks – location	4.51	
Parking for people who work in the town	4.62	
Size of spaces in both car parks and on-street	4.96	
Parking on the street	5.00	

Please write in the box below any other aspects of parking you feel are important but not included in the list.

101 comments included in Appendix 2

Sports and Leisure

Abingdon has a wide variety of clubs and societies which add to the rich and diverse community life of the town. We also benefit from the riverside, the canal and access to local open countryside. Please let us know which are the most important to you.

Q3	Please rank the individual aspects below in order of importance to you, where 1 is the most important and 11 is the least important.	
Priority	Mean Score Average	
Parks and open spaces	2.40	
River and Riverside	2.69	
Access to the countryside	3.35	
Leisure Centres	4.34	
Playgrounds	4.77	
Sports Clubs	6.24	
Multi use games areas e.g. areas for basketball, football etc.	6.41	
Wiltshire and Berkshire Canal	7.52	
Tennis courts	7.56	
Moorings	8.44	
Fishing	9.61	

Please write in the box below any other aspects of sports and leisure you feel are important but not included in the list.

97 comments included in Appendix 3

Free Time

As well as sports and leisure opportunities Abingdon-on-Thames offers a diverse and established social life for the community. As the town continues to grow we would like to know what you think we should concentrate on in the future.

Q4	Please rank the individual aspects below in order of what should be concentrated on in the future, where 1 is the most important and 5 is the least important.	
Priority	Mean Score Average	
Activities for children and families	2.44	
Activities for young people	2.56	
Support for local Clubs and societies	2.88	
Activities for older people	3.06	
Nightlife – restaurants, nightclubs, cinema, theatre, pubs	3.48	

Please write in the box below any other aspects of free time in Abingdon you feel are important but not included in the list.

92 comments included in Appendix 4

Town Retail

With the retail developments in Oxford and nearby towns, which are very easy to get to, Abingdon-on-Thames faces challenges in competing with these shopping areas. However, we have the opportunity for Abingdon to develop into a unique retail destination. With this in mind, please let us know which you think are the priorities for the town.

Q5	Please rank the individual priorities below in order of importance to you, where 1 is the most important and 7 is the least important.	
Priority	Mean Score Average	
Town centre shopping	1.73	
Use of the Market Place	2.55	
Community events	3.52	
Local shopping areas – e.g. Peachcroft, Reynolds Way	4.46	
Visitor accommodation and tourism	4.77	
Out of town shopping e.g. Fairacres	4.90	
Free public Wi-Fi	5.73	

Please write in the box below any other aspects of the town's retail offer in Abingdon you feel are important priorities but not included in the list.

110 comments included in Appendix 5

History, Culture and Tourism

Abingdon-on-Thames, the longest continuously inhabited town in the country, is an historic town with much to offer residents and visitors. Please tell us your priorities for the future.

Q6	Please rank the individual priorities below in order of importance to you, where 1 is the most important and 7 is the least important.	
Priority	Mean Score Average	
Buildings of historical interest.	2.77	
Abbey Buildings – these are owned and managed by the Friends of Abingdon	2.80	
County Hall Museum	3.09	
Developing Abingdon-on-Thames as a tourist destination	3.58	
Information on Abingdon-on-Thames history	4.36	
Local cultural walks	5.05	
Local archaeology	5.26	

Please write in the box below any other aspects of history, culture and tourism in Abingdon you feel are important priorities but not included in the list.

81 comments included in Appendix 6

Environment

Ensuring that the Town is sustainable for future generations is important for us all. Please let us know your priorities.

Q7	Please rank the individual priorities below in order of importance to you, where 1 is the most important and 6 is the least important.
Priority	Mean Score Average
Flood alleviation	2.48
Recycling	2.62
Reducing the town's carbon footprint	3.14
Developing an Eco town	3.48
Allotment provision	4.27
Potential Reservoir	4.78

Please write in the box below any other aspects of the environment in Abingdon you feel are important priorities but not included in the list.

79 comments included in Appendix 7

Planning and Housing Development

Planning and housing development are the responsibility of Vale of White Horse Council. Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council are consulted on such matters. We are keen to know your thoughts on this.

Q8	Please rank the individual issues below in order of importance to you, where 1 is the most important and 6 is the least important.
Priority	Mean Score Average
Ensuring adequate services and infrastructure to support new housing developments – schools, roads, doctors, community facilities etc.	1.85
Affordable housing provision – this used to be known as council or social housing. (<i>Affordable housing comprises affordable rent and shared ownership which is provided locally by housing associations. You need to be in housing need and meet the requirements to be on the local housing register – this is held by the District Council</i>)	3.36
Creation of a Neighbourhood Plan (Looking at the land-use of the town)	3.38
A mix of housing types – e.g. one bed, two bed etc.	3.57
Housing availability	3.86
This Community Led Plan	4.06

Please write in the box below any other aspects of planning and housing development in Abingdon you feel are important but not included in the list.

78 comments included in Appendix 8

Community Safety

In any community there will unfortunately always be some inconsiderate behaviour from some people.

Q9	A safe community is of utmost importance to everyone. Do you feel safe in Abingdon-on-Thames?	
	255 (93%)	Yes
	19 (7%)	No

Q10	Please rank these in order of which you consider to be the most concerning to you, where 1 is the most concerning and 8 is the least concerning.	
Priority	Mean Score Average	
General anti-social behaviour	2.55	
Anti-social driving	3.34	
Inappropriate use of public spaces	4.06	
Drug use	4.23	
Vandalism and graffiti	4.49	
Drinking in public	4.76	
Hate crime	4.96	
Nuisance neighbours	5.74	

Please write in the box below any other aspects of community safety in Abingdon you are concerned about but not included in the list.

72 comments included in Appendix 9

Health and Wellbeing

The health and wellbeing of our community is important to us all. What do you think are the areas that need to be prioritised?

Q11	Please rank these in order of which you consider to be the most important to you, where 1 is the most important and 8 is the least important.	
Priority	Mean Score Average	
Access to GP appointments	2.27	
Minor Injury Unit at Abingdon Community Hospital	3.13	
Community health services and the Abingdon Community Hospital	3.16	
Mental health support for all ages	3.99	
The John Radcliffe Hospital	4.65	
Inclusivity, disabled access and general disability awareness in Town	5.13	
Loneliness	5.46	
Support in relation to drugs and alcohol misuse	6.27	

Please write in the box below any other aspects of health and wellbeing in Abingdon you feel are important priorities but not included in the list.

62 comments included in Appendix 10

Communication

Q12	Please rank these in order of which you consider to be the best ways to communicate with the local community, where 1 is the most effective and 8 is the least effective.
Priority	Mean Score Average
E mail	3.52
Websites	3.53
Newsletters	4.00
Social media	4.14
Via community groups	4.59
Abingdon Herald and South Oxfordshire Guardian	4.69
Notice boards	4.97
Via schools	5.50

Please write in the box below any other ways to communicate with the local community in Abingdon you feel are important, but not included in the list.

64 comments included in Appendix 11

Overall

Q13	Please tick below the three topic areas which are of most importance to you. This will show us where you think the priorities should lie within 'Abingdon For All.'	
	146 (52%)	Transport
	145 (52%)	Town Retail
	139 (50%)	Planning and Housing Development
	109 (39%)	Environment
	87 (31%)	Health and Wellbeing
	80 (29%)	History, Culture and Tourism
	41 (15%)	Sports and Leisure
	36 (13%)	Community Safety
	31 (11%)	Parking
	22 (8%)	Free Time
	11 (4%)	Communication

Q14	What is the <u>one</u> best thing about the town?
	256 comments included in Appendix 12

Q15	What is the <u>one</u> most important area of improvement you would like to see in Abingdon?
	260 comments included in Appendix 13

Q16	Please use this comment box if you think there is anything we have missed or anything else you would like to tell us.
	119 comments included in Appendix 14

About You

Q17	In which age group do you belong?	
	3 (1%)	18-24
	22 (8%)	25-34
	42 (15%)	35-44
	43 (15%)	45-54
	53 (19%)	55-64
	81 (29%)	65-74
	36 (13%)	75-84
	0 (0%)	85 plus

Q18	How are you connected to the town? Please tick all boxes that apply to you.	
	254 (90%)	Live in Abingdon-on-Thames
	18 (6%)	Live in surrounding village
	35 (13%)	Work here
	74 (26%)	Belong to a social or community group based in the town
	2 (1%)	Visitor

Q19	If you live in Abingdon, how long have you lived here?	
	26 (10%)	Up to 5 years
	30 (12%)	5-10 years
	25 (10%)	10-15 years
	21 (8%)	15-20 years
	48 (19%)	21-30 years
	110 (42%)	More than 30 years

Q20	What is your home postcode?	
	Not included as appendix	

Q21	If you are not a resident of Abingdon what is the postcode of your workplace or location of your activity?	
	Not included as appendix	

APPENDICES

Abingdon for All – Community Survey comments

Key

	Positive / supportive comments
	Improvements needed / Negative comments
	Other miscellaneous comments

123 comments

APPENDIX 1 - Please write in the box below any other aspects of transport you feel are important but not included in the list.

TOTALS

Traffic is a problem / traffic solutions needed	43
Cycle lanes / cycle way	33
Public transport needed / make it more viable	22
New housing will add to road pressures	19
Road repairs needed	17
New roads needed	11
Pedestrian crossing needed/need improving	10
Repairs to pavements / keep pavements clear	10
Parking	8
New bridge over Thames needed	7
Speeding	6
Encourage alternatives to cars (electric cars, cycling etc.)	5
Road signs	3
Minimise air pollution	3
Car share scheme	2
Other	17

101 comments

APPENDIX 2 - Please write in the box below any other aspects of parking you feel are important but not included in the list. TOTALS

More parking needed e.g. for new residential properties / parking is an issue	30
2 hours free parking is good	21
Need parking wardens / need to enforce parking laws	21
Need to encourage sustainable transport/ public transport	13
Parking not an issue (e.g. lives centrally)	9
Multi-storey car park issues	6
2 hours free parking is bad idea	5
Need disabled parking access	5
Need secure bicycle parking	4
Need electric charging points	3
Need cycle pathways	3
Need car sharing	2
Stop lorries passing through	2
Stop cycling on pavements	2
Other	20

97 comments

APPENDIX 3 - Please write in the box below any other aspects of sports and leisure you feel are important but not included in the list. TOTAL

Arts centre needed / community hall	16
Cycling	12
Swimming pool	11
Increase use of river / moorings issues	11
Good facilities already	10
General sports improvements (e.g. for young people)	8
Walking paths	7
Parks / green spaces	6
Canoeing / kayaking	5
Playground	3
Allotments	3
Leisure centre	3
Tennis courts	3
Football pitch	1
Canals	1
All options are equally important	1
Other	28
Not sure / doesn't concern them	5

92 comments

APPENDIX 4 - Please write in the box below any other aspects of free time in Abingdon you feel are important but not included in the list. TOTALS

Cinema	33
Guildhall / civic centre / abbey hall / community centre	24
Clubs and societies	10
Difficult to rank options	10
More activities for all	8
Theatre	5
Nightlife (e.g. for young people, alternatives to bars)	5
Current facilities good	5
More activities for older people	4
Restaurants	4
Parking / transport to enable nightlife	4
More activities for children / teenagers	3
Parks / outdoor space	2
Shops	2
Library	2
Pubs / bars	1
Activities to encourage tourism	1
Other	7

110 comments

APPENDIX 5 - Please write in the box below any other aspects of the town's retail offer in Abingdon you feel are important priorities but not included in the list. TOTALS

Variety of shops / increase quality of brands	38
Encourage independent retailers	23
Reduce rent / leases / business rates	19
Problems with empty shops	11
Market	10
Improve town centre	9
Publicise attractions / increase tourism	7
Events to attract people to town	7
Parking	4
Better use of river	3
Opening hours	2
Other	21

81 comments

APPENDIX 6 - Please write in the box below any other aspects of history, culture and tourism in Abingdon you feel are important priorities but not included in the list. TOTALS

Tourist information / promote attractions	20
Guildhall / community halls	17
Historic buildings	15
Increase use of river	12
All important / options difficult to compare	12
Empty buildings / town centre image	6
Shops, restaurants, market	5
Cinema	3
Library	3
Disabled access	3
Theatre	2
Hotel	2
Parking needed to support tourism and town	2
Positives	5
Other	16

79 comments

APPENDIX 7 - Please write in the box below any other aspects of the environment in Abingdon you feel are important priorities but not included in the list. TOTALS

Avoid reservoir / reservoir is not for local people	14
Flooding	11
Air pollution / traffic	11
Open space, green space	9
Discourage paving over front gardens / not more house building	6
Cycling	6
Recycling	5
Public transport	5
All options are important / can't rank them	5
Reservoir is good idea	5
Allotments / growing own food	4
Walking	4
Be green / an eco town	4
Litter / cleanliness / appearance	4
Fix leaks	3
Renewable energy	3
Sustainability - general	2
Waterways (rivers, ponds)	2
Fairtrade products / fairtrade town	2
Discourage driving	2
Electric charging points	2
Other pollution - noise, light	2
Other	16

78 comments

APPENDIX 8 - Please write in the box below any other aspects of planning and housing development in Abingdon you feel are important but not included in the list. TOTALS

Affordable housing	18
Green spaces being lost / keep greenbelt	12
All options equally important	11
Problems with neighbourhood/community plan / too late for plan / don't know what it will involve	10
Develop infrastructure before housing	10
Not enough infrastructure (schools, hospitals, GP surgeries)	8
Cannot support more housing / don't want to become more of a commuter town	6
Social housing needed	6
Problems with private developers	6
Cycling / walking / public transport	6
Not sure about question	4
Self-build houses / co-housing	4
Sustainable housing - solar panels on roof, insulation	4
Use empty properties, Upper Reaches, brownfield sites	3
Should have a neighbourhood / community plan	2
Buildings should be in keeping with surroundings	2
Flood risk from too many houses	1
Community facilities	1
Other	8

72 comments

APPENDIX 9 - Please write in the box below any other aspects of community safety in Abingdon you are concerned about but not included in the list.

TOTALS

Need more policing / police improvements	15
Drug dealing / drug use	8
Cyclists	7
Positives	7
Litter / fly tipping	6
Positives about police	4
Graffiti	3
Anti-social neighbours	2
More CCTV	2
Violent crime	2
Vandalism	2
Joy riders	2
Mobility scooters	1
Dangerous pedestrian crossings	1
Discrimination / abuse	1
All are important	4
Don't know / not able to answer	4
None apply to me	10
Other	16

62 comments

APPENDIX 10 - Please write in the box below any other aspects of health and wellbeing in Abingdon you feel are important priorities but not included in the list. TOTALS

Joined up services / holistic approach / preventative 15

Hospitals (John Radcliffe, need an A&E) 10

GP surgeries 9

Mental Health (CAMHS, dementia support) 6

Affordable / accessible sports and leisure / green spaces 5

Abingdon Community Hospital - positives 4

Traffic contributing to bad health / encourage public transport 2

Dentists 2

Support groups 2

Disabled access 2

Outdoor gym 1

Pedestrian crossings 1

Positives 1

All are important / can't prioritise 18

Other 16

64 comments

APPENDIX 11 - Please write in the box below any other ways to communicate with the local community in Abingdon you feel are important, but not included in the list. TOTALS

Abingdon blog	8
Town Crier booklet	6
More / improved public noticeboards needed	5
Social media - facebook, twitter	5
Word of mouth	5
Local radio	4
Oxford Mail and Oxford Times	4
Problem with Abingdon Herald	3
Round and About magazine	3
Websites	3
Newsletters	3
Leaflets / posters	3
Community groups / societies	3
Problem with notice boards	2
Not schools	2
Abingdon Herald	2
All equally important / differs between age groups	6
Other	15

256 comments

Appendix 12 - What is the one best thing about the town?

TOTALS

Riverside town	24
Green space	12
Community	12
Historic	6
Town centre	6
Pretty	6
Location	4
Abbey Meadows	2
Safe	2
Museums	1
Easy to get around	1
Generally good	1
Other	4

260 comments

APPENDIX 13 - What is the one most important area of improvement you would like to see in Abingdon? TOTALS

Roads and traffic	77
Improve town centre / better shops	75
Community hall / cultural centre / civic hall	40
Cycle paths	18
Entertainment facilities	13
Public transport	11
Litter / cleanliness	10
Pedestrians / paths	9
Housing	7
Enough facilities for amount of housing	6
Community	6
Parking	5
Second bridge over Thames	3
Coordinated approach / strategy	3
Council attitude / culture improvements	3
Better use of river	3
Green spaces	3
Transport plan	2
Other	17

119 comments

APPENDIX 14 - Please use this comment box if you think there is anything we have missed or anything else you would like to tell us. TOTALS

Problems with survey	20
Community hall / guildhall	16
Infrastructure improvements needed	12
Problems with council / political system	11
More activities/facilities needed	9
Positives about Abingdon	9
No more housing developments	8
Needs to be kept clean / town appearance	8
Positives about survey	7
Transport issues	6
Look after historic buildings	6
Cinema needed	4
Cycle paths	4
Problems with outdoor swimming pool	3
Independent shops / more variety of shops	3
Upper Reaches site	3
Utilise the river	2
Improved public toilets	2
Retain its identity / civic pride	2
Outdoor exercise equipment	2
Problems with parking	1
Keep town centre alive	1
Councillors need to improve	1
Other	13