



Working with Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council.

Healthy Abingdon.

Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council is on the lowest rung of local government and is a parish council. It is warded and the seats are contested with 19 councillors. The Council is supported by a Town Clerk and staff. It is financed by Council Tax and provides a number of services on behalf of Oxfordshire County Council and the Vale of White Horse District Council. It is also consulted on planning, health and other matters by these Council's. We support groups with grants such as The Abingdon Bridge, Citizen's Advice Bureau and the Abingdon Children's Centre.

For the purposes of health and wellbeing in the town, I will highlight some of the services. When you think about it there are quite a few.

Recreation

We have eight recreation areas and they all have play areas with two having gym equipment for adults. They are spread around the town and are

- Ladygrove Paddock,
- Boxhill Road,
- Chauntrell Way,
- Masefield Crescent,
- River Close,
- Elizabeth Avenue,
- Hill View
- Chilton Close.

Saxton Rovers play at Caldecott Recreation field and St Edmund's Football Club at Boxhill Road area, both are Diamond Jubilee parks.

The Town Council owns the fishing rights on the Thames from the railway bridge above the lock to 100 metres before Culham Reach. For all the residents of Abingdon permits are free and obtained from the Information Centre in Bridge Street who have lots of information on walks, places to visit and bus timetables.

The MG Park on Marcham Road has information about the famous motor car and seating. The Council provides outdoor seats and bus shelters around the town. If more seats are needed, apply to the Town Council.

The Town Council has a connection to Albert Park by giving a grant for its upkeep. It is a valuable open space for walking with the dog, children have grass to play on and often learn to ride their bikes there. The Abingdon Bowling Club has its club house in the park.

The Town Council outdoor staff work hard providing flower baskets, displays of flowers and tending to the flower beds around the town centre. The vibrant displays lift the spirits of those that see them and we get many compliments.

The two cemeteries are off Spring Road and can provide a pleasant, tranquil walk with many birds, animals and flowers.

At the Museum as well as the history of Abingdon and changing exhibitions, there are 120 stairs to climb with a wonderful view and bracing air at the top.

Every June there is Fun in the Park held on a Saturday during the day. This is a chance for clubs and societies to have a stall and for the people to stroll around and have a look at what they offer. In the evening is Music in the Park, an outdoor concert and picnic for all the family and is very popular.

Clubs and societies

The Council on its website has a list of clubs and societies. Every other year there is a Clubs and Societies Day when they can have a stall and meet up, provide information and seek volunteers. The next one should be in 2018.

If a free stall is required on the Market Place apply to the Town Council for permission. Those with commercial activity have to apply three months in advance, this is to protect the local shops. One can apply to the Friends of Abingdon for the use of the Community Space, an empty shop in Bury Street. Recently the Carbon Cutters were using it for making delicious apple juice from windfalls.

Most importantly, the Town Council awards grants to clubs and societies. Information and applications are on the Town's website. They are usually a small amount but can help when applying for grants from other organisations. We are always looking for more projects to support.

Soon the Guildhall should be open for bookings for clubs and societies.

Food

Grow your own in one of the allotments. They are West End, Drayton Road and Wildmoor allotments and are run by an association – see the Town website for information.

The Carbon Cutters plant vegetables in some of the town's flower beds and people can help themselves. It works well and no-one abuses the offer.

There is a market every Monday in the Market Place. A Farmer's Market with local produce every third Friday and other markets during the year.

Contact Details – Abingdon Town Council – Roysse Court, Abingdon-on-Thames. OX14 3HU.

Tel. 01235 522 642. www.abingdon.gov.uk

Information Centre - Open Monday to Saturday 9.30 – 3pm. Tel. 01235 522 642.

Friends of Abingdon – 18, Thames Street, Abingdon-on-Thames. OX14 3HZ. Tel. 01235 525 339.

*Councillor Monica Lovatt
12/10/2017.*