



Planning the future of Abingdon

Abingdon Neighbourhood Plan

Results of recent round of consultation





Informal Consultation

A Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) is being prepared for Abingdon.

In summer 2022, an informal consultation was held on three sections of the plan:

- Travel, access and movement
- Families and young people
- Business and employment

This presentation summarises the results from the recent consultation that are being used to work towards creation of policies for the Abingdon Neighbourhood Development Plan.



The Consultation so far...

99 Consultation responses were received on the following topics:

Travel, access
and movement

32 comments



Business and
employment

33 comments



Families and
young people

34 comments





Travel, access and movement

Two key responses from **Central Abingdon Regeneration Framework (CARF)** and **Abingdon Climate Emergency Centre** who told us their thoughts and priorities

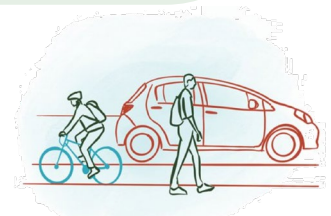
Abingdon Climate Emergency Centre

Beneficial transport improvements would be:

- Paving over the road separating the Market Place from County Hall - lower speed limit and physical restrictions
- A bus loop using Broad Street to avoid the need for buses to use Stert Street and High Street
- Limiting town centre car parking and expanding cycle parking
- Opposing new road works (e.g. southern by-pass and Lodge Hill slip roads)
- Supporting public transport

Central Abingdon Regeneration Framework

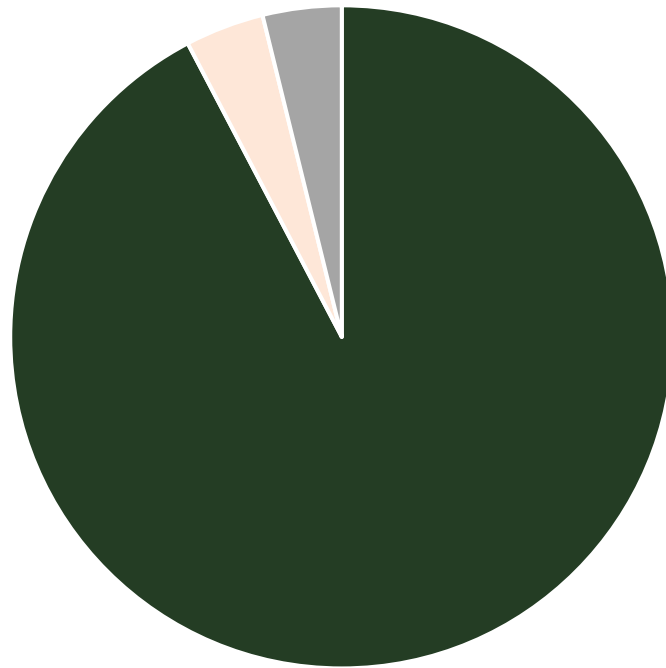
- Support for town centre improvements for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Still need to retain accessible disabled parking and loading bays
- Welcome more mention of bus and sustainable vehicular travel and parking strategy for the town centre
- Look at CARF plans for centralised bus hub
- Neighbourhood Plan should consider improving transport gateways
- The three main gateways into the town require improvement to make Abingdon more attractive and a successful destination





Travel, access and movement

Do you support investment to make walking and cycling routes in Abingdon safer and easier to use?



■ Yes ■ No ■ Partially

Which of the interventions shown do you think will make the biggest difference? Most common answers:

Oxford Road improvements – crossings and cycle ways

Bridge St/ A415 improvements – widening footways

Junction redesign at Bridge St/ High St

Wooton Road improvements – crossings and cycle ways

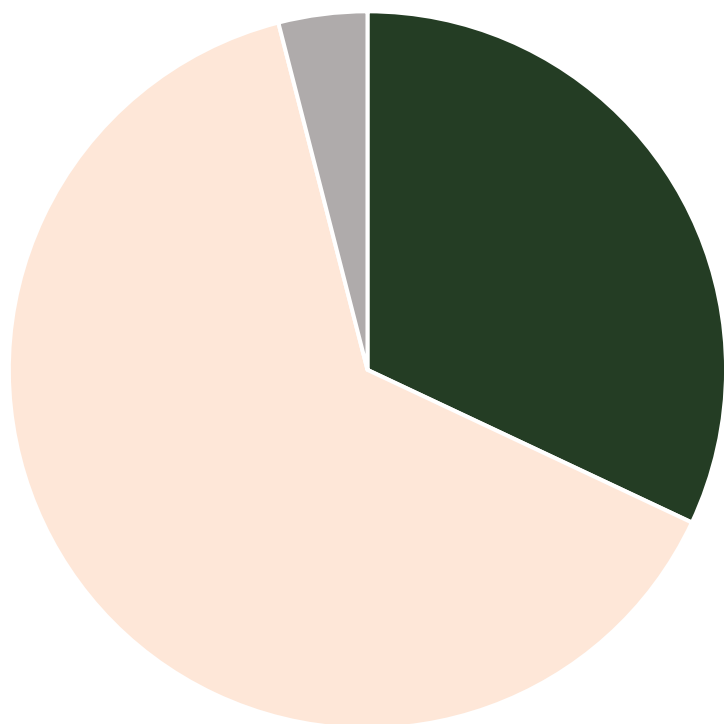
Key further comments:

- Reduced speed limits would make a massive difference
- Wide requirement for wider pavements and segregated cycle lanes
- Difficult to pick just three, because so many improvements as listed need doing
- Significant public transport improvements required alongside improved walking and cycling connections



Travel, access and movement

Have we captured the main locations where improvements are needed?



■ Yes ■ No with suggestions ■ No improvements needed

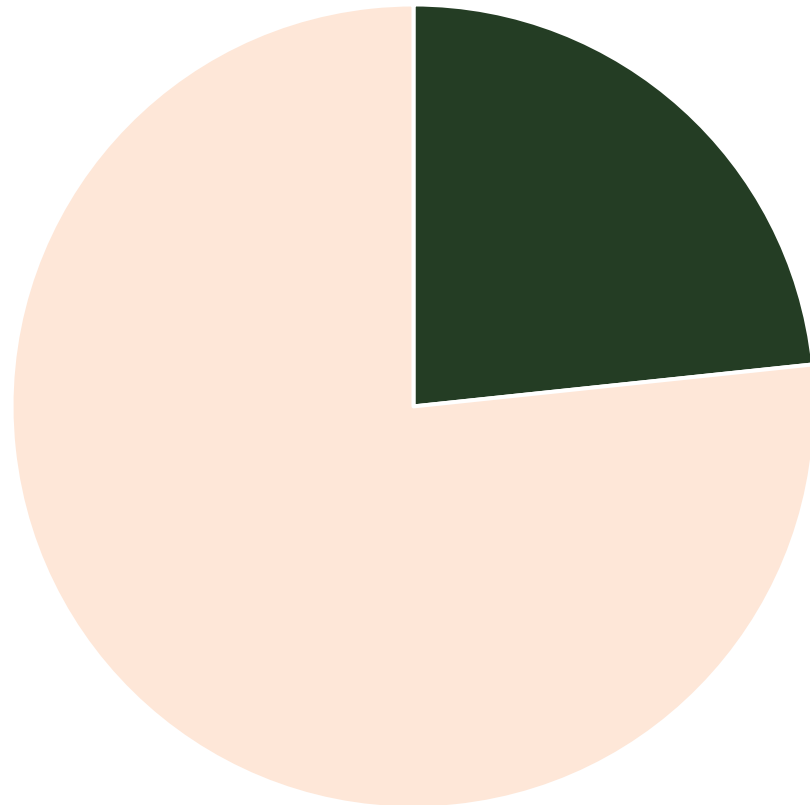
For each location, have we identified the main ways in which it should be improved? Key comments:

- General: Needs to be much more expansive to be done properly
- General: Disagree with 20mph speed limit apart from in town centre
- No. 1: East St Helen's St should allow for 2 way cycling
- Nos. 6&7: Need better crossings at junction of Radley Road and Oxford Road
- No. 10: Needs to go all the way to the science park to be effective
- No. 17: Consider recently introduced bus route
- No. 19: Copenhagen Drive should remain 40mph as there are no junctions or pedestrian crossings



Travel, access and movement

Have we captured the main routes where improvements are needed?



■ Yes ■ No with suggestions

For each route, have we identified the main ways in which it should be improved? Key comments:

There are still many issues for people with mobility problems which need to be addressed separately

General

General

Should have school streets and cycle racks outside schools

Cars should not be allowed to overtake bicycles on Stert Street

No. 2

No. 4

E-W cycling dangerous on Broad Street due to blind corners at shopping centre junction.

The causeway towards Culham is unsafe - the path is elevated with the danger of a fall onto the road.

No. 10

No. 11

Unclear what is proposed for E. St Helens St - need to prevent cycling on pavement

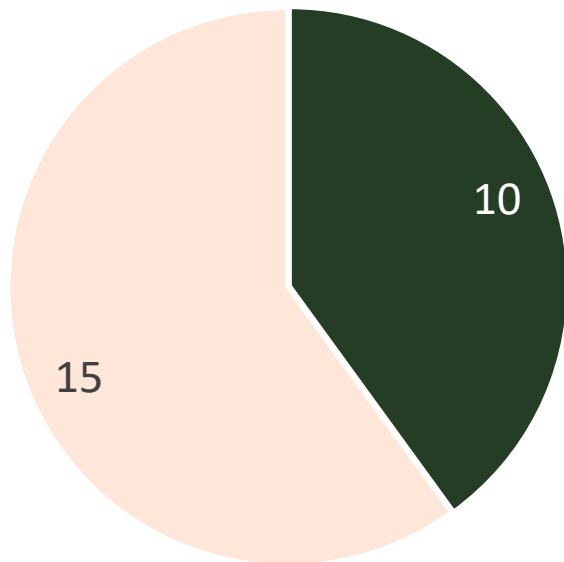
Nuffield Way roundabout also dangerous for pedestrians as well as Colwell Drive

No. 14



Business and employment

Would you support the intensification of land uses in this way?



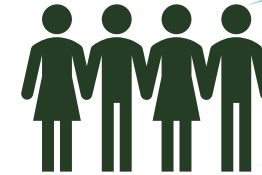
■ Yes ■ No

The idea is nice but it is too prescriptive and not achievable

Employment needs to be carefully considered according to each location

Not needed as working from home is a norm at the moment

Will reduce the need for travel which is an issue in Abingdon



Most people work further away or outside of the town

Need to retain greenfield sites in residential areas – should use brownfield sites

Should instead maximise town centre employment and residential uses

Improved employment areas should be on key transport routes

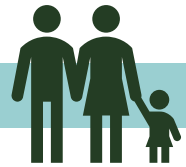


Business and employment

Which areas of Abingdon do you think currently lack employment opportunities?



"Large housing areas to the north and south of the town."



"There is not much employment in Abingdon, we have lost businesses all over."



"In Long Furlong there is virtually no employment but you have a lot of professional/knowledge industry people on the estate (employed, consultants or self-employed) who are commuting less and work from home some or all of the time."

"The map does not highlight the employment centres of Radley Road Industrial Estate, Abingdon Science Park etc."



"None. Every employer in Abingdon wants more staff."



"None. Every employer in Abingdon wants more staff."





Business and employment

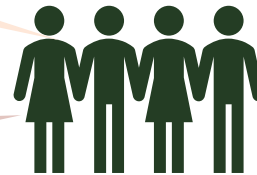
What sort of employment opportunities would you like to see in Abingdon?

The river; Abingdon's trade had been built on trade with the river, there are no plans to create any river employment opportunities

Shared office spaces will be valuable as more people continue to work from home.

More mixed use developments where commercial, offices, leisure and residential are fully integrated together, at higher densities and lower parking standards (communal lots) like in the centre.

Better links for people travelling across town for employment would help avoid unnecessary car journeys



There should be strong policy support for 'retrofit-first' and for whole life carbon assessments for re-development and new build

The employment types permitted should not be ones that have a significant impact on neighbours or the environment

Diversity of retail and more tech based work

More community based employment and small scale workshops that promote local craft



Business and employment

Do you know of any vacant or underutilised land where small-scale employment facilities could be introduced?



Empty shops or offices could provide opportunities



Make shops available for start ups at reduced rates



Domestic garages offer potential as car use reduces



Buildings on Abingdon business park are not all filled



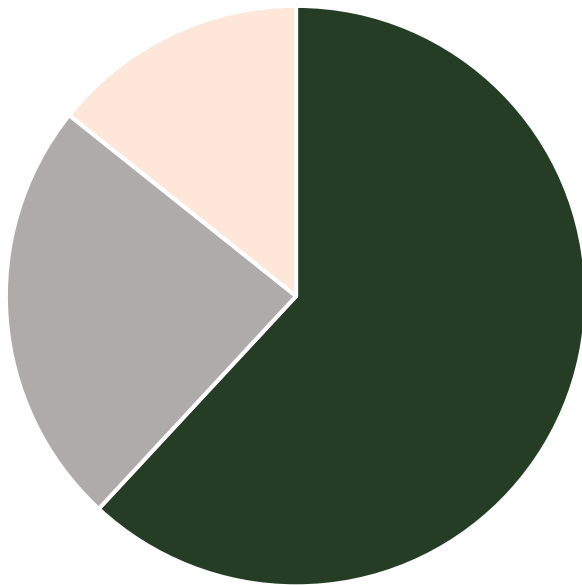
Area south of Tesco might fit the 20 minute neighbourhood criterion for the southern areas





Families and young people

Do you support the proposed policy sections for families and young people?



■ Yes ■ Yes subject to change ■ No

Healthy habits develop at an early age, and this will also benefit parents

Employment needs to be carefully considered according to each location

Elimination of car dependency will be the most important intervention

Children in school in N. Abingdon that live in S. Abingdon need a car to get to school

Need better bus provision too

It is important that children have an environment in which they can develop independence and have some healthy activity

Concerns over difficulties for disabled and blind people navigating new street furniture





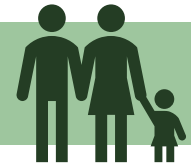
Families and young people

Do you think there is anything else relevant to young people and families that should be included?



"We need child safe cycle routes and things for children to do during winter months."

"Play on the way and pocket parks are excellent ideas. We could also consider outdoor table tennis tables."



"I think a playground in Albert Park would be a wonderful addition - so many families go there after school and at weekends."

"The library should be a welcoming space surrounded by a cleaner and greener environment and a hub for activities for all ages. Playful street furniture and pathways on the way to it would be amazing."



"Traffic speed reductions are needed in the centre. It can be scary walking with children along the northern side of High Street.."

"Need to consider the climate emergency, it could be integrated into this policy section."

