# Abingdon residents shaken as Abbey Gardens closed during murder investigation



Residents of Abingdon are grappling with anxiety following a significant police presence in Abbey Gardens, a beloved local green space, as authorities investigate the tragic death of a woman in her 40s. Thames Valley Police have cordoned off the area, urging the public to steer clear while they conduct their inquiries. Described by many locals as a “haven of tranquillity,” Abbey Gardens is part of Abbey Meadows, a popular destination for families and dog-walkers alike.

The police alert, issued earlier today, outlined the need for heightened vigilance in response to an incident in Sherwood Avenue and Abbey Meadows. Eyewitnesses noted the number of police vehicles and officers on the scene—at least five police vehicles were reported to have gathered in the park as detectives worked. The unsettling news of a murder investigation has left the local community in shock. According to sources, a forensic team was dispatched to both the gardens and a nearby residence, further heightening the atmosphere of unease.

Ben Winfield, who often visits the Meadows with his young daughter, expressed his concerns about the unfolding situation. “It's a little bit concerning, especially when we got here this morning. More police have come since then,” he remarked, underscoring the community's collective anxiety. Residents noted that such a heavy police presence was an unusual occurrence for the area. John, an 82-year-old local, reiterated this sentiment, stating, “I’ve never seen so many police cars”, reflecting a broader sentiment of disbelief about the incident.

Local sentiment resonates with the fact that Abbey Meadows is typically known for its peacefulness, a stark contrast to the current atmosphere. Residents like 79-year-old William Hook have long heralded it as “the best part of Abingdon when the weather is good.” However, the unnerving reality of crime has intruded on their lives. Marta, 45, mentioned that it was the first time she had seen police in the area in three years, admitting that it made her feel “slightly worried.”

As the investigation continues, fears have not only been raised in Abbey Meadows but also on Sherwood Avenue, where multiple officers and a forensic team were stationed outside a residential property. A neighbour recounted how the police had forcibly entered their home early in the morning, describing the chaos as “a bit of a surprise.” A young man living nearby echoed this sentiment, revealing his feelings of unease and anxiety about the seriousness of the situation.

Despite the surrounding apprehension, there are locals who exhibit a degree of calm, convinced that the police are handling the matter efficiently. One newcomer to the area remarked, “I’m not too worried about it, more curious,” suggesting a measured response to the dramatic developments. As the community awaits further updates from law enforcement, the prevailing sense remains one of concern, as residents come to terms with a reality they had not previously associated with their tranquil surroundings.

While the investigation into the woman's death unfolds, Abbey Gardens stands as a poignant reminder of the fragility of safety in seemingly serene locales, challenging the community to confront their fears head-on in a time of uncertain turmoil.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/25204045.abingdon-locals-worried-abbey-gardens-shut-police/?ref=rss)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/25204045.abingdon-locals-worried-abbey-gardens-shut-police/?ref=rss),
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/25204045.abingdon-locals-worried-abbey-gardens-shut-police/?ref=rss), ,
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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/25204045.abingdon-locals-worried-abbey-gardens-shut-police/?ref=rss> - Please view link - unable to able to access data