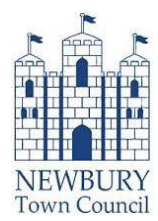




Strategy 2024-2028

Version 6. Strategy Working Group December 2023

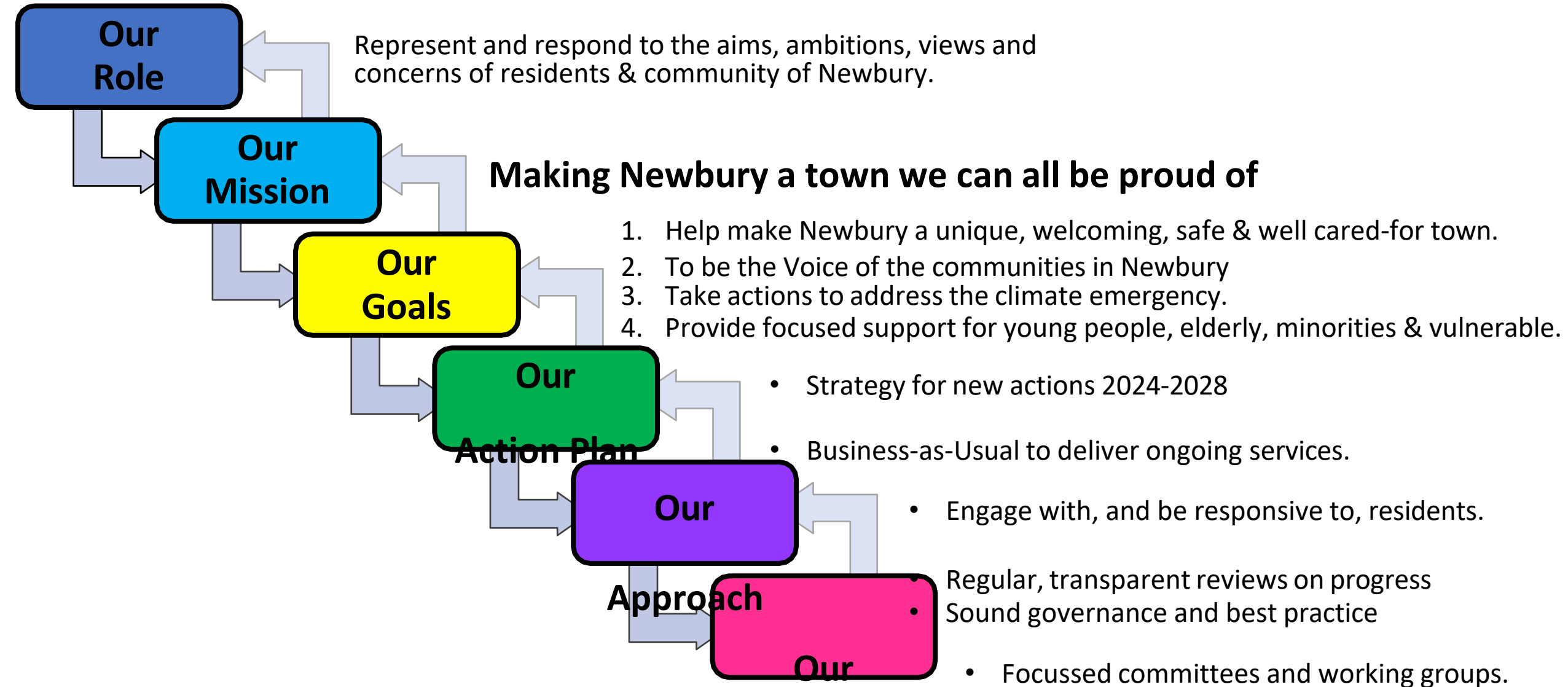
Making Newbury a town we can all be proud of



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Summary for our strategy



Structure

- Clear responsibilities

Newbury Town Council Role – *What we deliver*



Represent and respond to the aims, ambitions, views and concerns of residents & community of Newbury

- Responsible for:
 - Most parks, playgrounds & public spaces
 - All allotments
 - All cemeteries
 - Many public amenities
 - Town Hall and several other public buildings
 - Charter market and Farmers' market
 - Mayor and civic events
- Statutory consultee on Planning & Highways
- General Power of Competence enables NTC to take on additional responsibilities as it sees fit:
 - E.g. Youth work

- Lobby and work with other bodies to further the interests of the people of Newbury, especially Newbury BID, West Berkshire Council & Thames Valley Police

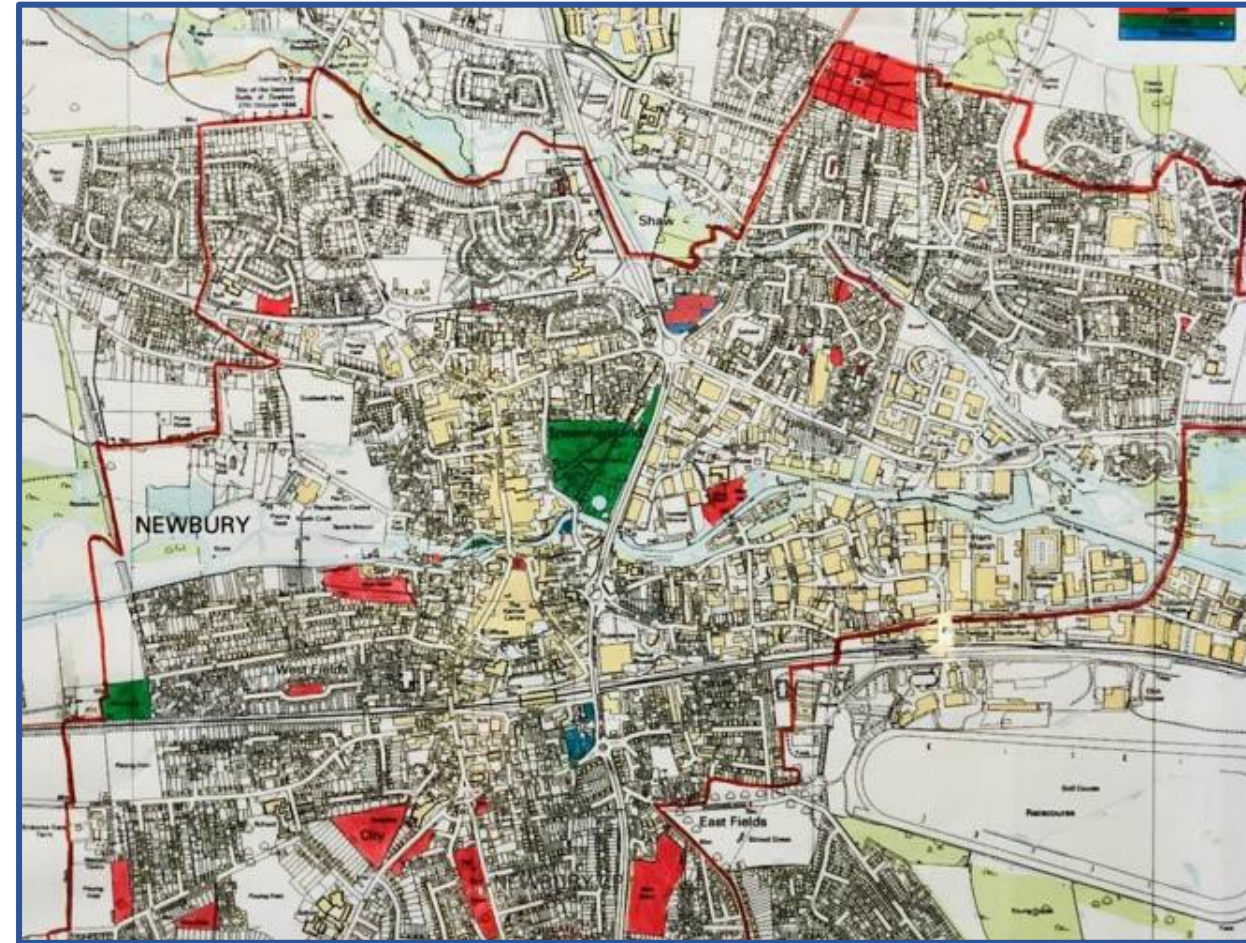
- Funded by annual Precept, developer contributions & other income

- Care & housing
- Schools, learning & libraries
- Consumer & environmental protection
- Rubbish & recycling
- Leisure, parks & countryside
- Tax & benefits
- Planning & building control
- Roads, transport & parking
- Licensing

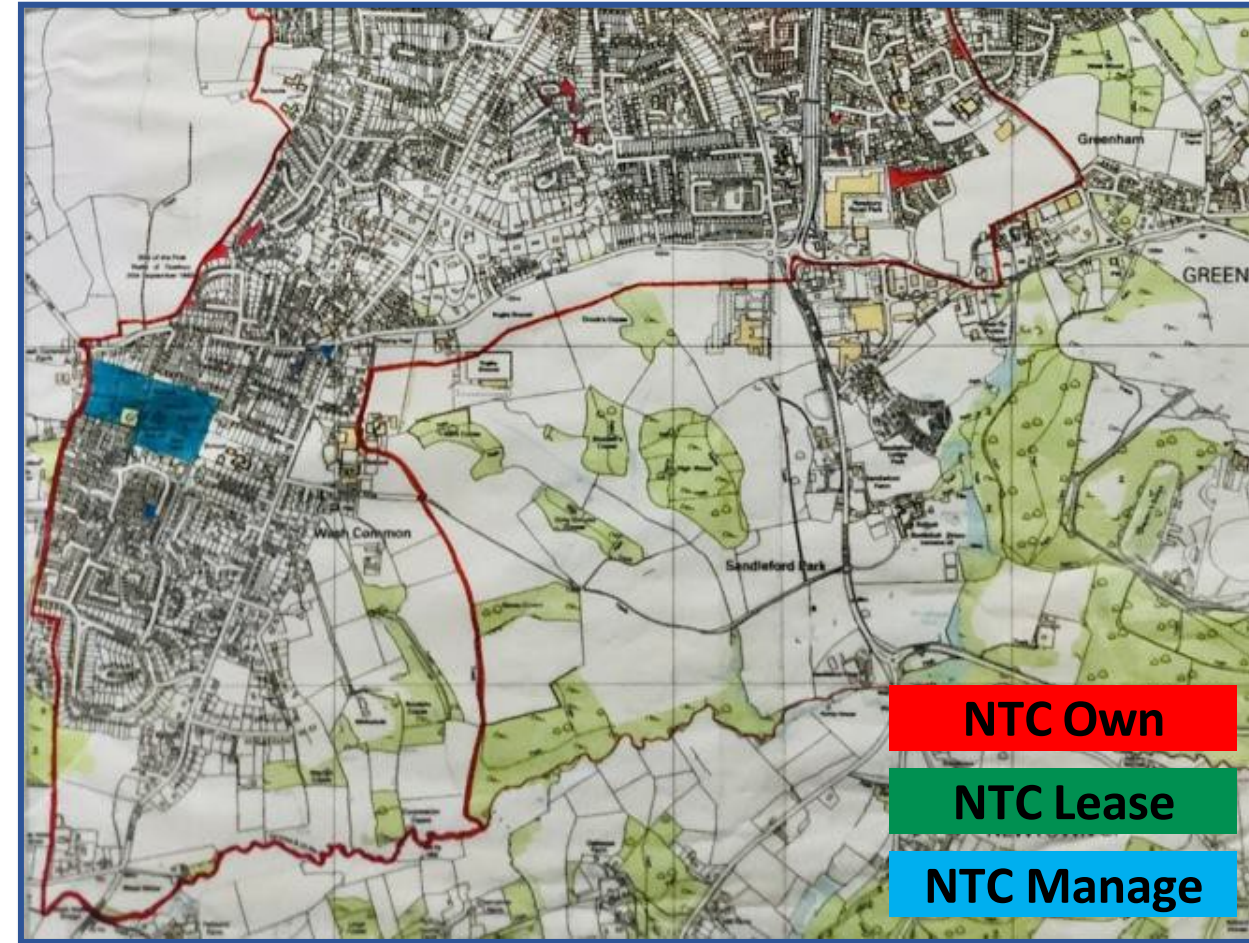
- Funded by government, council tax, business rates & other income streams

Newbury parish boundary and land we own, lease and manage

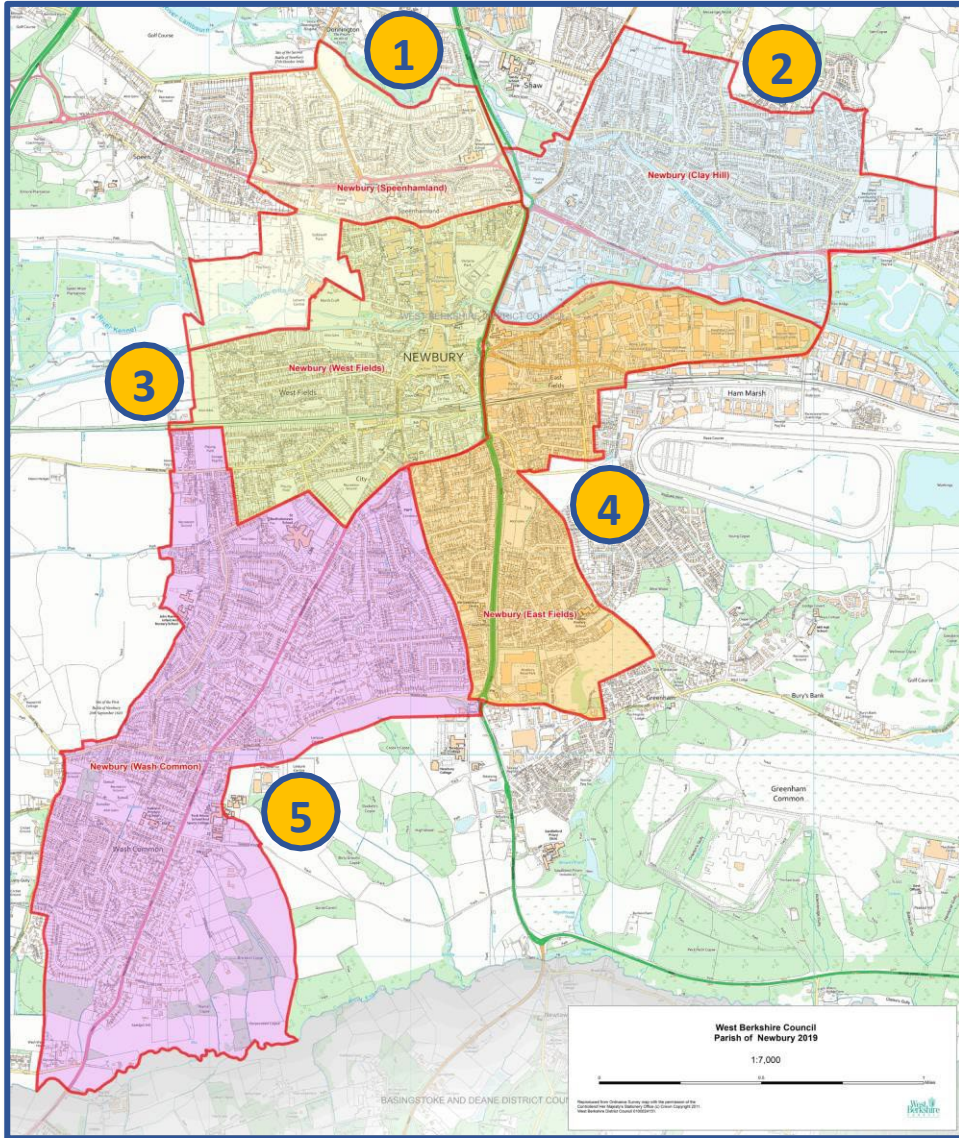
Newbury Parish – northern half



Newbury Parish – southern half



Newbury parish wards and Councillors – January 2024



1. Speenhamland

- Jo Day – *Liberal Democrat*
- Steve Masters – *Green Party*

2. Clay Hill

- Vera Barnett – *Liberal Democrat*
- Nigel Foot – *Liberal Democrat*
- Chris Hood – *Liberal Democrat*
- Ian Jee – *Liberal Democrat*
- Pam Lusby-Taylor – *Liberal Democrat*

3. West Fields

- Alistair Bounds – *Liberal Democrat*
- Andy Moore – *Liberal Democrat*
- Elizabeth O’Keeffe – *Liberal Democrat*
- Sarah Slack – *Liberal Democrat*
- Martha Vickers – *Liberal Democrat*

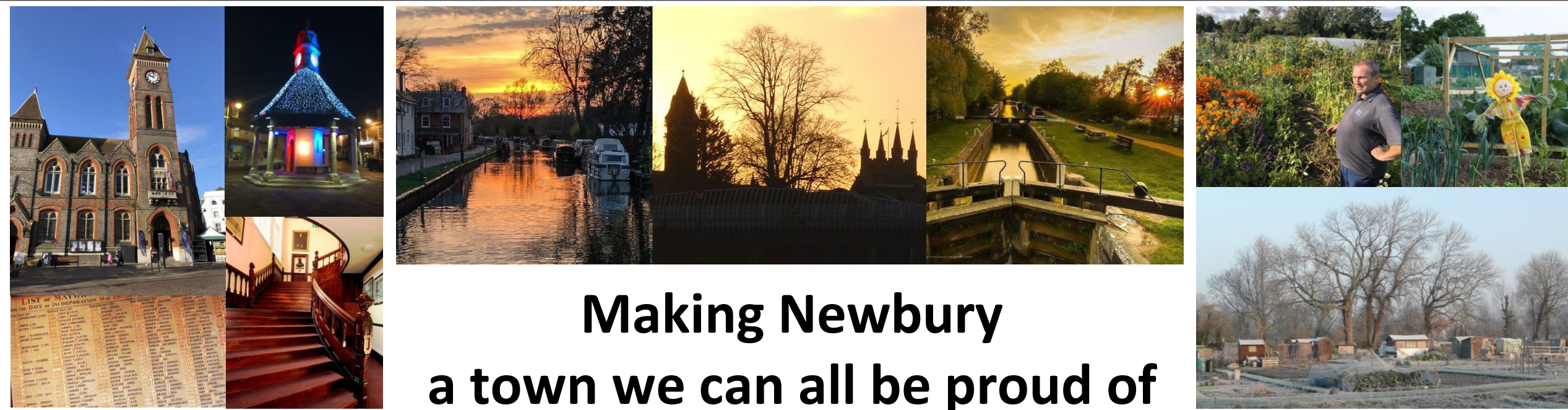
4. East Fields

- Phil Barnett – *Liberal Democrat*
- Billy Drummond – *Liberal Democrat*
- David Harman – *Liberal Democrat*
- Vaughan Miller – *Liberal Democrat*
- Gary Norman – *Liberal Democrat*

5. Wash Common

- Sam Dibas – *Liberal Democrat*
- Roger Hunneman – *Liberal Democrat*
- David Marsh – *Green Party*
- Graham Storey – *Green Party*
- Meg Thomas – *Liberal Democrat*
- Tony Vickers – *Liberal Democrat*

Our Mission – *What drives us?*



Our Goals – *Where are we heading?*

- 1. Help make Newbury a unique, welcoming, safe and well cared for town.**
 - A. Provide outstanding parks, playgrounds and public spaces.
 - B. Run vibrant markets.
 - C. Run thriving allotments.
 - D. Provide well-kept and peaceful cemeteries.
 - E. Ensure our public and historic buildings are properly cared for and well-used.
 - F. Help deliver a well-presented town with high quality public amenities that support well-being, safety and visitors.
- 2. To be the Voice of the communities in Newbury**
 - A. Provide a strong voice for Newbury by lobbying and working with WBC, Newbury BID, Newbury Flood Forum and others.
 - B. To promote, represent and support the views of the communities in Newbury.
 - C. Inspiring Civic events and Mayoral calendar
 - D. Enjoyable and inclusive community events
 - E. Celebrate and recognise individual and community achievements.
 - F. Encourage and support contributions to our public and community life.
 - G. Celebrate and encourage appreciation of public art and Newbury's heritage.
 - H. Establish a Consultation Panel to hear the views of the diverse communities of Newbury.
- 3. Take actions to address the climate emergency.**
 - A. Ensure the activities of the Town Council are carbon neutral by 2030 or before
 - B. Actively encourage and support actions that will make Newbury as a whole more environmentally sustainable
- 4. Provide focused support for young people, the elderly, minorities and the vulnerable**
 - A. Provide funding to organisations which support youth work in Newbury
 - B. Support initiatives to make Newbury a more inclusive town
 - C. Work with local organisations which support the elderly and the homeless in Newbury

1. Help make Newbury a unique, welcoming, safe and well cared for town

Provide outstanding parks, playgrounds and public spaces



1. Help make Newbury a unique, welcoming, safe and well cared for town

A. Provide outstanding parks, playgrounds and public spaces in the most sustainable way that we can, having regard to value for money.

A.1 Victoria Park

- a) To continually improve the community-offer in Victoria Park by providing the best sports, recreation, leisure and community facilities that we can, within available resources. The Park will have public toilets with baby changing facilities, male, female and disabled toilets for park users.
- b) The Park will have enhanced CCTV.
- c) To retain Green Flag status for Victoria Park.
- d) Install Boules Piste in Victoria Park, should funding become available.
- e) To provide facilities for football in Victoria Park.

A.2 Wash Common public space:

Carry out phase 1 upgrade when resources are available.

A.3 City Recreation Ground

To retain Green Flag status for City recreation ground.

A.4 Hutton Close

2023/24 Carry out upgrade based on results of the consultation.

A.5 Playgrounds

To ensure safety and quality, start implementation of long-term rolling plans for:

- i. the refurbishment / replacement of playground and other park equipment when it reaches the end of its life.
- ii. Complete major upgrade to playgrounds in the Nightingales and Digby Road

A.6 Trees and other planting

- a) To ensure they are properly cared for and replaced or extended when necessary
- b) Implement our rolling maintenance plans for equipment and planting and managing our tree stock, and review and update annually.
- c) Provide and maintain trees, flower beds, hanging baskets and other plantings in appropriate locations.

A.7 Waterways and “Blue Spaces”

Carry out our responsibilities as riparian owners on any relevant lands in our ownership.

A.8 Sports and Recreation Facilities

- a) Enhanced provision and management of playing pitches
- b) Enhanced provision and management of outdoor sports equipment

A.9 Public Open Spaces

Lobby WBC to ensure that POS in new developments is funded through public, not management companies.

Making Newbury a town we can all be proud of

1. Help make Newbury a unique, welcoming, safe and well cared for town

B.Run vibrant charter and farmers' markets.

C.Run thriving allotments.



1. Help make Newbury a unique, welcoming, safe and well cared for town

B. Run vibrant markets.

- a) The Market Working Group will produce and monitor an action plan to enhance our market and hold an annual survey with our regular traders.
- b) Our markets will work closely with Newbury BID (Business Improvement District) and other partners to facilitate and promote town centre events.

C. Run thriving Allotments.

- a) Explore options for additional allotment sites, working with our neighbouring parishes as appropriate.
- b) Request new developments to include allotment provision where appropriate.
- c) Maintain and run high quality allotments and promote allotments to new tenants targeting > 97% occupancy.
- d) Encourage and support competitions within and between allotments.
- e) Organise an annual meeting with allotment holders to agree action plan for the following year.

1. Help make Newbury a unique, welcoming, safe and well cared for town

D. Provide well-kept and peaceful cemeteries

E. Ensure our public and historic buildings are properly cared for and well-used



1. Help make Newbury a unique, welcoming, safe and well cared for town

D. Provide well-kept and peaceful Cemeteries.

1. Maintain and run cemeteries to a high standard.
2. Explore options to ensure that burials can continue in the parish for the next 25 years.

E. Ensure our public and historic buildings are properly cared for and well-used.

1. Ensure safety and quality, through the implementation of long-term rolling plans for the upkeep and refurbishment of the public buildings in our care.
2. Prepare a long-term strategy (10+ years) to include plans for the future of our public buildings and other assets, to include the next cyclical survey and forward maintenance plan including stonework.
3. Consider the best options for the use and enjoyment of the Town Hall for all the people of Newbury.
Continue to offer discounted rates for local community groups that are engaged in activities that further the aims of the NTC strategy.
4. Work with the Newbury Society and other relevant outside bodies to:
 - a) Support the heritage and conservation of Newbury and promote events and activities that recognise, highlight and protect the town's traditions, heritage and history and help engage the public interest and involvement in Newbury's heritage.
 - b) Support the protection of important and historical / character buildings through Local Listing and, when agreed, by liaising with Historic England for national listing.

1. Help make Newbury a unique, welcoming, safe and well cared for town

Help deliver a well-presented town with high quality public amenities that support well-being, safety and visitors.



1. Help make Newbury a unique, welcoming, safe and well cared for town

F. Help deliver a well-presented town with high quality public amenities that support well-being, safety and visitors.

1. Well-presented town:

- a) Work with Newbury BID, WBC and other interested parties to ensure the town is kept clean and tidy (while being mindful of any environmental impacts)
- b) Continue to pressure BT to improve the appearance of the BT tower, and work with any interested parties who can help to make this happen.
- c) Encourage the owners of the Kennet Centre and the Planning Authority to ensure any re-development of the centre is in keeping with the historic town centre in terms of both appearance and scale.

2. Provide and maintain the following high-quality public amenities in appropriate locations:

- a) Public toilets
 1. A new public toilet to be provided in Victoria Park
 2. To upgrade and refurbish the public toilets at the Wharf so that they are more economic to run, more vandal-resistant and more sustainable in the longer term. This work to include the provision of a Changing Places facilities (with specialist hoist) and a shower, both within the current building structure.
- b) Bus shelters
- c) Benches and other street furniture
- d) Roadside salt bins
- e) Footway lighting
- f) Bins for litter / dog waste
- g) Continue the lease of the Library building at Wash Common and support the Friends of Wash Common Community Library
- h) Provide town centre facilities for cyclists

1. Help make Newbury a unique, welcoming, safe and well cared for town

F. Help deliver a well-presented town with high quality public amenities that support well-being, safety and visitors.

3. Well-being:

- a) Support the work of the Greenham & Crookham Common Commissioners
- b) Support the Friends Group working to ensure the permitted path through Speen Moors remains open to the public.
- c) Work with local community groups like the Newbury Society and City Arts to promote and extend the Town Trail and other visual arts initiatives.

4. Safety:

- a) Specialist changing facilities: the addition of a Changing Places facility (with specialist hoist) as part of the Wharf Toilets upgrade project.
- b) Provide defibrillators in appropriate locations and assist other bodies who wish to provide them .
- c) Support community safety, working with partners as appropriate, including Town Centre CCTV, footway lighting etc as required.

5. Support Visitors:

- a) Working with Newbury BID, agree a co-operation plan with coach operators who bring visitors to the town to make them feel welcome and encourage them to continue to stop off in Newbury.
- b) Work with Newbury BID and other organisations to encourage sustainable tourism growth in the interest of the town's economy.
- c) Provide brochures, maps, signage and other information for the benefit of visitors to Newbury.
- d) Work with partners to ensure Newbury "arrival points" give visitors a good impression.
- e) Maintain the Visitor Information point in Newbury Library

1. Help make Newbury a unique, welcoming, safe and well cared for town

To be the Voice of the communities in Newbury



Making Newbury a town we can all be proud of

2. To be the Voice of the communities in Newbury



2.To be the Voice of the communities in Newbury

A. Provide a strong voice for Newbury by lobbying and working with WBC, Newbury BID, Newbury Flood Forum and others

1. Neighbourhood Development Plan

- a) Goal to have the NDP completed and adopted by the end of 2025.

2. Canal Corridor Working Group

- a) To work with partners to prepare an outline plan for the future development and protection of the Canal Corridor.
- b) By April 2024: confirm detailed implementation plan, to dovetail with WBC plans to upgrade the Wharf.

3. Promote and encourage investment in the Town Centre, especially south of the Canal Bridge, including a coherent plan for the Kennet Centre

4. Work with Newbury BID and other relevant organisations to lobby WBC for the pedestrianisation of the Market Place (permanent vehicle restricted zone), excluding Mansion House and Wharf Streets. Aim for decision by end 2024. (Use NTC input to the Newbury Town Centre Masterplan 2036 to promote this objective)

5. Newbury Town Centre Masterplan 2036

To work with partners to deliver the aims and aspirations of the Plan.

6. London Road Industrial Estate redevelopment

To work with West Berkshire District Council on these proposals so that we can express the wishes of the community for the redevelopment, and to reflect the views of the Newbury Flood Forum.

2.To be the Voice of the communities in Newbury

7. Lobby West Berkshire Council to adopt the following into their new Local Plan:

- a) An environmentally sustainable approach to transport that promotes modal shift to no / low carbon modes of transport, especially walking, cycling and public transport.
- b) Opposition to the use of Permitted Development Rights for change of use to residential in established employment areas, and request the planning authority to seek article 4 directions in this matter.

8. Lobby WBC to:

1. Include NTC as a key consultant in their plans to restore the Faraday Road Football Stadium, with enhanced 3G pitch and full club house facilities.
2. Take action where appropriate under S215 of the Planning against owners of lands or buildings which detract from the amenity of the area and encourage WBC to devolve this power to the Town Council (See also 1.G.11.e) – Regular item on P&H; several recommendations made to WBC and improvements made to several buildings as a result.
3. Complete a Conservation Area Appraisal for the town.
4. Consider making Newbury a low emission zone and so discourage through traffic on the A339.
5. Lobby WBC for Newbury to develop better integrated travel points, for example at Newbury Train Station
6. Work with partners to grow Newbury's reputation as a centre of high-tech excellence.
7. Support and encourage the devolution of decision making and service delivery to the most appropriate level.
8. Carry out a community Governance review to include all of Newbury development within the Town Council boundary.
9. Consider the specific views of Newbury Flood Forum.

2.To be the Voice of the communities in Newbury

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9. Use our role as statutory consultee for Planning to:

1. Encourage diverse shopping and eating out options with a significant number of independents.
2. Encourage a modal shift in transport by prioritising walking, cycling and public transport.
3. Maintain pressure for significant provision of social housing, including houses for social rent.
4. Improve environmental standards and reduce carbon footprint of new building and infrastructure projects.
5. Lobby, encourage and assist WBC in enforcing S215 repairs to land and buildings that diminish the town's appearance (see also G3b)
6. Continue to pressure WBC to maintain, respect and protect our Conservation Area (see also 1.G.3.c)
7. Work with Newbury Flood Forum to request the planning authority to address the flood risks associated with development proposals and ensure that these are properly addressed.
8. Lobby the Local Planning Authority as appropriate on issues of importance for the wellbeing and prosperity of the people of Newbury.
9. Comment on relevant planning and licensing applications in, near, or affecting the town and continue to provide a service to residents of Newbury who wish to comment on them further and seek to influence West Berkshire Council on all planning applications of significance.
10. Comment and respond to the Highways Authority (West Berkshire District Council) on consultations and proposals for highways, traffic and parking schemes in Newbury.

2.To be the Voice of the communities in Newbury

11. Request new development, where appropriate, to include allotment provision.

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B. To promote, represent and support the views of the communities in Newbury.

We will establish a Consultation Panel to hear the views of the diverse communities of Newbury. Organisations and groups from the community, voluntary and charity sectors will be encouraged to engage and participate with the Council on projects and policy matters of importance to them.

C. Arrange and Manage Inspiring Civic events and Mayoral calendar.

- a. Co-ordinate the annual Remembrance Sunday Parade in Newbury
- b. Deliver the annual Mayor Making ceremony.
- c. Uphold and promote the role of Mayor as Civic Head and First Citizen of Newbury
- d. Encourage bookings, and manage the calendar of events for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor

D. Stage and support enjoyable and inclusive community events.

- a. Work with and support the tennis coaches to stage a Victoria Park tennis championship.
- b. Support Art on the Park and other public arts events
- c. Facilitate the Newbury BID holding Christmas events in the town centre, including the Market Place.
- d. Work with other parties to explore options for up to four significant town centre events per year which include use of the Market Place on days when the Charter Market operates

2.To be the Voice of the communities in Newbury

- e. Hold an Annual Family Day in Victoria Park for the enjoyment of our residents and to promote the park and its facilities.
- f. Support the organisation of an annual event for the over 75s in Newbury to be attended by the Mayor. 24
- g. Support and promote selected community events through financial assistance and / or provision of venues and facilities, notably, but not limited to: Christmas Lights, Music at the Band Stand, and the Newbury Carnival
- h. Support Newbury in Bloom to raise Civic Pride and encourage and acknowledge efforts by the community, businesses, residents and other organisations of Newbury.
- i. Consider entry into Britain in Bloom when finances and service capacity permit.
- j. Encourage and facilitate residents' participation in social, recreational and sporting activities by providing suitable facilities in appropriate places
- k. Where it fits with other Council initiatives, encourage and support community involvement as appropriate – e.g. community litter picks, community planting / clearing for biodiversity etc.

2.To be the Voice of the communities in Newbury

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E. Celebrate and recognise individual and community achievements.

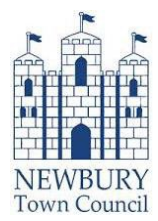
- a. Run and sponsor Newbury's annual Civic Award scheme to recognise the contributions of our residents to the town.
- b. Congratulate residents and members of the community whenever significant achievements are brought to our attention and keep a list on the website.

F. Encourage and support contributions to our public and community life.

- a. Encourage participation in local democracy with particular focus on:
 - i. Encouraging under-represented sectors into local politics
 - ii. Introducing young people to local democracy and NTC; and encouraging / supporting forums for young people
 - iii. Run a community grants scheme which prioritises the award of financial or other support to organisations and causes which serve wholly or mainly the residents of Newbury and have outcomes that support the delivery of our Strategy.
- b. Continue to support the principle of Newbury Town Twinning and explore how to make it more inclusive.
- c. Provide support, advice and publicity for self-funding groups (eg Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery, Growing Newbury Green, the Secret Garden project, the Green Gym, etc)

G. Celebrate and encourage appreciation of public art and Newbury's heritage.

- a. Further develop the town's heritage trail
- b. Promote the art and heritage trails, working with partners where appropriate.

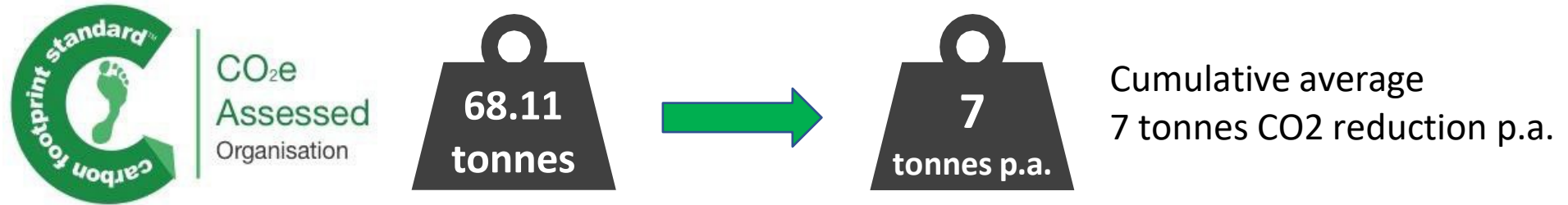


2.To be the Voice of the communities in Newbury

- c. Work with and support the Newbury Spring Festival to make it more accessible for all the communities of Newbury

3. Take actions to address the climate emergency

- Ensure the activities of the Town Council are carbon neutral by 2030
 - Actively encourage and support actions that will make Newbury as a whole more environmentally sustainable.



Launch a Climate Fund to support local environmental groups with projects that will reduce CO₂ emissions in Newbury.

A. Ensure the activities of Newbury Town Council are carbon neutral by 2030.

- Becoming carbon neutral will be a core ongoing priority for NTC, and will result in clear targets and potentially new ways of working across the organisation
 - NTC direct carbon footprint was independently measured in 2019 and certified at 68.11 tonnes per year. Therefore, to become carbon neutral by 2030, NTC will need to reduce its annual carbon footprint by an average of at least 7 tonnes every year, although the reduction is unlikely to be linear
1. The Climate Emergency Working Group will continue to develop our plans and recommendations to deliver net zero carbon.
 - a) In December every year agree the detailed carbon reduction plan and budget for the following year, and an outline plan for the remaining years to 2030.
 - b) Audit our street lighting to determine which ones we need to keep. Ensure their replacement with energy efficient solutions forms part of the longer term strategy
 2. For existing operations, we will:
 - a) Prioritise real reductions in our energy usage by cutting out waste and by investing in more efficient systems and ways of working. For example, in the Town Hall we will invest in insulation, efficient heating, low energy bulbs, systems to automatically turn off the lights, etc.
 - b) We will also look to offset where this makes sense; and will not simply buy offsets as an easy way to reduce our carbon footprint. Instead, we will prioritise by offsetting through primarily local means and opportunities within our operations. For example, solar electricity generation, additional tree and shrub planting, grants to local organisations supporting our carbon-neutral / Climate Emergency principles, etc.
 - c) Actively encourage offsets through carbon-neutral energy generation.
 3. For all new projects, activities and procurement decisions we will ensure carbon impact is a core decision making criteria when making recommendations about new projects, activities and procurement decisions. We will always aim to minimise the carbon impact, and target net zero where practical and cost effective.

4. Ensure that management of our green spaces and support for nature and horticulture projects more widely across Newbury is designed, where feasible and cost effective, to maximise environmental benefits and biodiversity.
 - a) Establish new sown wildflower meadows where possible using local seed sources and/or those appropriate to the ecological and cultural heritage of the site.
 - b) Encourage biodiversity in our major enhancement of open spaces.
 - c) Change bedding plants to incorporate more perennials vs annuals to reduce climate impact – 25% change per year.
 - d) Prohibit the use of artificial grass / turf (due to its adverse effect on biodiversity and decay into microplastic particles) on land owned or managed by Newbury Town Council unless specific permission has been granted by the Community Services committee as part of an identified and approved NTC project where it is the only viable option.
 - e) Approach West Berkshire Council to request that they follow a similar approach to prohibit the use of artificial grass / turf.
 - f) Support organisations or projects seeking to provide energy from watercourses.
5. Our carbon footprint will be publicly reported annually as a new KPI.

3: Take actions to address the climate emergency

A. Encourage and support actions that will make Newbury, as a whole, more environmentally sustainable.

1. NTC will hold at least one Climate Change Community Workshop per year to:
 - a) Update local residents & environmental groups on progress towards making the activities of NTC carbon-neutral and gather feedback & suggestions.
 - b) Encourage & support actions to help make Newbury, as a whole, more environmentally-sustainable, & gather suggestions on how NTC can best help
2. Provide a Climate Fund to support local environmental groups with projects that will reduce CO2 emissions and other actions that benefit the climate in the parish of Newbury. NTC will be able to take credit for an appropriate share of any carbon reduction and use this to offset total emissions and help deliver zero carbon.
3. Use our influence and network where appropriate and cost effective to:
 - a) Support local community organisations in their 'green initiatives'.
 - b) Support a local 'Green Directory' to ensure residents know what resources, offers and support they can access.
4. increase the current recycling rate from waste collected from our parks.
5. Lobby WBC to:
 - a) Update their planning guidelines to require key environmental features in order to receive planning support, e.g. solar panels for electricity and hot water, electricity storage batteries, ground / air source heat pumps, electric car changing point, etc. This should also be added to their Local Plan review.
 - b) (Repeat of 1.G.4): Work with Newbury BID and other relevant organisations to lobby WBC for the permanent pedestrianisation of the Market Place, excluding Mansion House and Wharf Streets. Aim for decision by end 2024

- c) (Repeat of 1.G.1.b): Develop an environmentally sustainable approach to transport that promotes modal shift to no / low carbon modes of transport, especially walking, cycling and public transport.
 - d) Support the wider use of electric vehicles (cars and bicycles), and to install an adequate number of charge points in suitable, secure parking spaces that are reserved for those vehicles
 - e) Radically expand the range of materials and product types that are collected kerbside for recycling
6. Encourage local community groups to set up market stalls at no / heavily reduced fees to promote green initiatives e.g. refillables.

4. Provide focused support for young people, the elderly and the vulnerable

- Support youth work for Newbury
- Support initiatives to make Newbury a more inclusive town.
- Work with local organisations which support the elderly and the homeless in Newbury.



- Continue our Service level Agreement with Berkshire Youth for the provision of Youth Outreach services in Newbury.
- Explore options for the best location, and then install a specialist hoist in at least one public toilet in Newbury to enable carers to change older children / young people on the changing table when needed rather than on the floor.

4: Focused support for young people, the elderly, minorities & the vulnerable

A. Provide funding to organisations which support youth work in Newbury.

1. The Council is committed to developing a youth offering and encouraging joint initiatives between young people and the Council. This will be achieved through our detached work with Berkshire Youth and by supporting and / or lobbying to fulfil suggestions proposed by young people (eg outdoor covered shelter, improved street lighting etc)
2. Provide funding support for youth work initiatives at the Greenham Community Youth Project at the Nightingales, and the Riverside Centre in Clay Hill.

B. Support initiatives to make Newbury a more inclusive town.

1. Support our minority communities where possible by working with relevant local groups such as Community United
2. Support dementia-friendly initiatives to help the elderly in our community:
 - a) Maintain NTC's accreditation as a dementia-friendly organisation.
 - b) Organise dementia-awareness training for all members and officers and then display accreditation on NTC website.
 - c) Dementia-friendly training to be provided following successive elections.
3. Specialist Changing facilities:
 - a) These will be part of the proposed Wharf toilets upgrade and will be a welcome additional facility for the town.
4. We will strive to ensure that our policies and actions do not exclude any sections of the community, and that our services are accessible by all citizens of the town.
5. Encourage youth participation in NTC decision-making processes.

C. Work with local organisations which support the elderly and the homeless in Newbury.

1. Ensure NTC has permanent representation on WBC Homeless committee to stand up for the needs of the homeless in Newbury..

Our Approach – Part 1 = combined pre-amble sections from current strategy Newbury Town Council, its Members and its Officers will:

1. Encourage public engagement with both the Town Council and local democracy.

- 1. Encourage public attendance and questions at Council meetings.*
- 2. Be visible, relevant responsive and accountable to our residents.*
- 3. Make ourselves available to the public by holding regular surgeries - street / ward / Town Hall steps / other locations.*
- 4. Actively seek to hear the needs, desires and ambitions of the people in Newbury, and respond as quickly and as comprehensively as possible within the limits of our resources and other constraints.*
- 5. We will represent the views of the people of Newbury when working with other partners and stakeholders or other bodies, both local and national, who can improve the quality of life for our citizens.*
- 6. Continually improve and upgrade our website and social media in order to engage and consult the people of Newbury.*
- 7. Publish a monthly digital newsletter covering important events and achievements of the Town Council*

2. Promote cultural identity and equality of opportunity.

- 1. We will strive to ensure that our policies and actions do not exclude any sections of the community, and that our services are accessible by all citizens of the town.*

3. Exercise sound governance and best practice to ensure efficient and cost-effective delivery of services:

- 1. Deliver services effectively, efficiently, on time and within budget.*
- 2. Use direct labour or contractors as appropriate, and always ensure value for money.*
- 3. Prefer local suppliers wherever possible.*
- 4. Deliver services in partnership with others when it offers best value and/or can expand the range of services we provide.*
- 5. Work with other partners and stakeholders to achieve efficiency savings in service delivery and where appropriate, expand the range of services provided by the Town Council.*
- 6. Minimise waste created by the Council and the services we provide.*
- 7. Maximise opportunities to recycle waste created by the Council and the services we provide wherever possible*

Our Approach – Part 2 = Policy Area 3 from current strategy **Newbury Town Council, its Members and its Officers will:**

1. Exercise Good Governance and best practice to ensure that we are open, transparent and accountable.

- 1. We will maintain openness and transparency in our actions and decision making.*
- 2. We will make our information, public meetings and records as widely accessible as practically possible.*
- 3. We will maintain an up-to-date public website that is informative and easy to access and use.*
- 4. We will publish an annual newsletter, with the Precept Leaflet and encourage residents to give feedback.*
- 5. We will consult on issues of significance to Newbury, using tools such as public meetings, surveys, questionnaires, petitions, etc.*
- 6. We will respond promptly to complaints and act as quickly as possible to resolve them.*
- 7. We will maintain the assets of the Town Council and ensure public access to them.*
- 8. We will constantly monitor and review Newbury Town Council's current asset register to ensure that we are getting best use/value of the assets*
- 9. We will regularly review whether it is in the best interest of our residents and NTC to take over responsibility for services and / or ownership of assets from other organisations.*
- 10. We will keep abreast of all relevant legislative changes impacting on our activities and services.*
- 11. We will report quarterly on our performance against KPI's and review our KPI's to ensure that they are relevant and appropriate.*
- 12. We will report every 3 months on our progress towards achieving the short- and medium-term projects contained in this Strategy.*
- 13. We will review this Strategy annually and make any appropriate amendments, additions or deletions.*
- 14. We will continually review our work practices and purchasing arrangements to drive efficiencies and ensure best value for the people of Newbury*
- 15. We will embrace technological advances to progress smarter working methods, where feasible, in order to reduce waste and be more efficient.*
- 16. We will continually review our Committee structures and Working Groups and implement any improvements identified*
- 17. We will continue personal development for Members and Officers so that they are suitably equipped with knowledge and skills to carry out their roles and maintain effective working practices, fulfilling their duties and responsibilities to residents professionally and effectively.*
- 18. We will exercise best practice as an employer, promoting fairness and equality for our employees and volunteers.*

Our Structure

- **People**
 - 23 Councillors (Members), elected every 4 years - *responsible for setting the strategy and budget.*
 - 18 staff (including part-time and honorary staff) - *responsible for advising Members, and delivering the strategy and ongoing services.*
- **Decision Making**
 - Full Council, Committees and Sub-Committees can make decisions.
 - Working Groups make recommendations to their parent committee which then decides whether to implement.
- **Meetings, Committees and Working Groups:**
 - **Full Council** – 23 Members, 4 scheduled meetings / year
 - **Policy & Resources** – 10 Members, 4/yr.
 - Staff Sub-Committee – 6 members, 4 subs, 4/yr
 - Grants Sub-Committee – 6 members, 4 subs, 2/yr
 - Strategy working group.
 - Audit working group.
 - **Planning & Highways** – 12 Members, every 4 weeks
 - Canal Corridor working group.
 - Heritage working group.
 - Joint Sandleford working group.
 - Neighbourhood Development Plan steering group
 - Town Centre working group.
 - **Community Services** – 10 Members, 4/yr
 - Victoria Park Café Sub-Committee
 - Climate Emergency working group.
 - Green Spaces working group.
 - Market Working Group
 - **Civic Pride, Arts & Leisure** – 10 Members, 4/yr
 - Local democracy working group

Making Newbury a town we can all be proud of

