

Councillor Information

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NEWBURY Town Council

*Making Newbury a town we can
all be proud of*

ANNUAL REPORT & BUDGET 2022-23

*How the Town Council spends your
money to make Newbury a Town
we can all be proud of*

www.newbury.gov.uk | 01635 35486 | Town Hall, Market Place,
Newbury, RG14 5AA

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Annual Report

Newbury Town Council has set a budget of £2.326M for the coming year, with a range of exciting new plans for the Town. Among these are the construction of the new Community Café in Victoria Park, improvements to the public toilets at The Wharf, upgrades to playgrounds at Fifth Road and The Nightingales and a new mini golf facility in Victoria Park.

Further works are planned for the Council's open spaces at Wash Common and Hutton Close. The Town Council budget also provides a range of grants and support to organisations working with the old, the young, the vulnerable, the disadvantaged and the minority groups in Newbury.

Councillor Martin Colston is the Leader of the Council and the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee. He said that the budget demonstrates the Council's commitment to all sections of the community in Newbury.

He said, "We continue to deliver on the Strategy which we agreed in 2019 and this budget accelerates some of our key aims and objectives. The Community Café in Victoria Park will be a fantastic asset in the centre of town. We are also looking forward to upgrading the public toilets at The Wharf, where we aim to provide a 'Changing Places' facility, which is a specially designed hoist for disabled people. When you consider that these toilets were closed by the District Council in 2016, we are delighted to be able to plan this improvement for the Town centre of Newbury.

He continued, "Some of our playgrounds need improvement and we are commencing a comprehensive programme with an investment of £115,000 next year. I am delighted that the Council continues to deliver two of our main objectives - addressing the Climate Emergency and supporting the disadvantaged and vulnerable people in our communities. On the Climate Emergency, the Council has re-designed the Community Café in Victoria Park to a very high standard of environmental sustainability, and we expect the same approach from the café operators when it opens in 2023.



Councillor Martin Colston,
Chairman of the Policy &
Resources Committee

We continue to carry out works and improvements to reduce the Council's carbon footprint. In 2020 we set ourselves a target of a 10% reduction each year and so far, we are exceeding that target. We are constantly expanding our support to our communities, through grant assistance to other organisations and working with a wide range of partners, such as Berkshire Youth, Community United West Berkshire, the Newbury BID, Thames Valley Police and the District Council.

It is even better news that we aim to provide these improvements with minimal impact on the Council-tax payers of Newbury. Next year the average payment per dwelling in Newbury will be £89.00, which is an increase of only 1.18% on this year. Most of the improvements to services and facilities will be funded from contributions paid by developers, our own internal reserves and external grant funding, where we can attract it. This budget and our plans for next year are proof that this Council is delivering for the people of Newbury."

Full details of the budget for 2022-23 can be found on the Council's website <https://www.newbury.gov.uk/the-council/key-documents/budget/>



Artists impression of
proposed new cafe in
Victoria Park

Remembrance Sunday
14th November 2021



Strategy Summery

Making Newbury a town we can all be proud of

Summary of Key Strategic Actions 2019-2024



Services Provided

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

- Maintaining parks, recreation grounds and open spaces – including Victoria Park, tennis courts, renting football pitches & changing rooms. A full list of all the Council's playgrounds and leisure facilities can be found at www.newbury.gov.uk/playgrounds
- Running the Charter Markets on Thursdays and Saturdays
- Six allotment sites around the town, totalling around 550 individual plots
- Shaw Cemetery and Newtown Road Cemetery
- Maintaining Newbury Town Hall, the chamber is available for public hire including weddings and events.

- Hanging baskets and floral displays.
- Bus shelters and Visitor Information.
- Seats, litter bins, dog bins and grit bins and footway lighting around the town.
- Maintaining The Clock House and The War Memorial.
- Public Toilets at the Wharf.

Fostering a real sense of community

- The office of the Mayor and the Mayor's engagements.
- Civic awards, Remembrance Sunday Ceremony, Family Fun Day, Christmas Lights, Charity coffee mornings and more.

Additional areas:

- Working to reduce carbon emissions and support organisations dealing with the Climate Emergency.
- Working with partners to deliver youth work services in Newbury.

Committee Meetings

We carry out most of our business through the work of four main Committees which the public are welcome to attend. Details of these meetings are displayed on the notice board outside the Town Hall and on our website www.newbury.gov.uk

The Council

Sets precept, elects the Town Mayor and Leader of the Council, approves the Council's strategy and delegates most of the rest of its powers to its Committees:

The Planning & Highways Committee:

Comments on planning applications and highways matters in the Newbury area and meets every 3 weeks.

The Policy & Resources Committee:

Responsible for the financial, human and property resources of the Council.

The Community Services Committee:

Responsible for the maintenance of property assets and the provision of direct services to the public.

The Civic Pride, Arts & Culture Committee: Promotes and co-ordinates arts and leisure facilities and activities for the community.

Grants Sub-committee:

Newbury Town Council awards grants to community organisations, leisure and the arts.

For further information visit our website at www.newbury.gov.uk, call us on 01635 35486, or come along to the Town Hall.



Mayor of Newbury, Councillor Billy Drummond, Laying a wreath at the war memorial.



Councillors Elizabeth O'Keeffe & Martha Vickers Planting the NHS Memorial garden, Andover Road

Councillors Martin Colston, Sarah Slack with the Parks & Open Spaces Officer James Heasman, receiving Green Flag Award for Victoria Park.



Volunteer weeding day of NHS Memorial Garden, Andover Road.

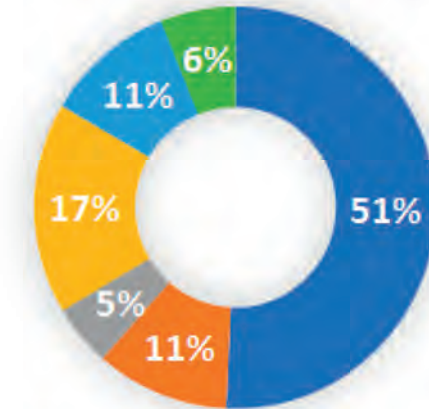
The precept explained 2022–23

Newbury town Council plans to spend £2.326M next year on providing services and facilities for the people of Newbury.

Just over 50% of our funds come from what is known as “The Precept”, which is the amount of Council Tax collected from Town Council residents and paid to this Council.

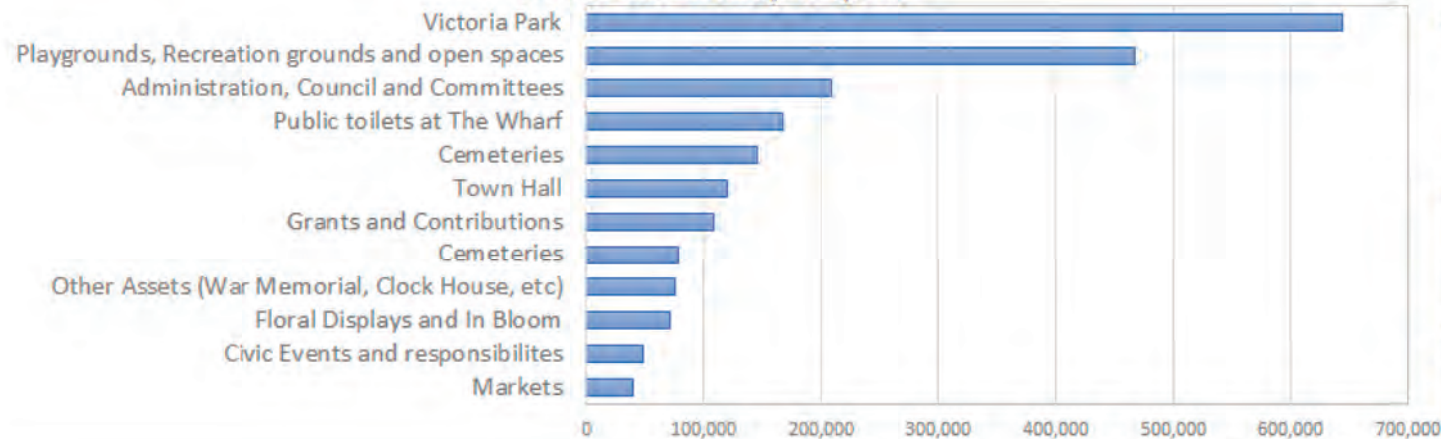
The total precept to be collected in 2022-23 from Newbury Town residents is £1,180,623.

Where the money comes from



- Precept
- Public works loans
- Development contributions
- Reserves
- NTC generated income
- Grants and other external funding

Where the money is spent



Greenham community Youth Project receiving cheque from Councillor Billy Drummond, Mayor of Newbury & Chief Executive Officer Hugh Peacocke



Weddings in the Council Chamber, Town Hall

The Council Tax bill payable by West Berkshire residents is split into amounts for West Berkshire District Council, Thames Valley Police, The Fire and Rescue Service and your local town or parish council.

Newbury households will be paying an average of £89.00 in 2022-23 to Newbury Town Council for the services we deliver for the people of Newbury (this is an average of £1.71 per household per week).