

## **OPEN DAY FOR TOWN DESIGN STATEMENT ON 6 FEBRUARY**

Newbury Town Council has just reviewed the Town Design Statement and will be holding an Open Day on Monday 6 February, where you can have your say on the review. The full Draft Design Statement will be on display in the Council Chamber, in the Town Hall. Council Members and officers will be on hand and will be happy to assist with any questions or comments you might have. Members of the public will be invited to make written comments and responses to the consultation, which runs until 19 February 2017.

The Town Design Statement analyses the character of Newbury and sets out how the local community might want to have a positive influence on any future changes in the town, by conserving the 'best of the old', and encouraging sympathetic new development.

It was last approved in 2005. There have been a lot of changes and developments since then and the review is intended to capture this and update the Statement.

The document is in the form of a 64 page illustrated booklet, which describes each of the 11 Character Areas of Newbury Town in detail and then recommends specific design guidelines. The Conclusion picks out 11 'Key Principles' relating to the whole town. The full document can be viewed on the Council's website, [www.newbury.gov.uk](http://www.newbury.gov.uk).

Developers or residents considering a new development should have regard to the principles outlined in the Town Design Statement. It will also be useful to local residents who may want to object or comment on any specific planning application. The Town Council will refer to it when dealing with any planning applications which come before it for consideration. The current Newbury Town Design Statement has been accepted by West Berkshire as a 'material consideration' in the determination of future planning applications and it is expected that when completed, the review will have the same status.

"If you like the look and character of Newbury, then this should be of interest to you" said Council Leader, Cllr Dave Goff, who encourages townspeople to come along and have their say.

Continued....

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## Notes for Editors

The 11 Key Principles are as follows:

1. Gateway roads into the Town attracted prosperous suburban housing with large gardens early on in its expansion and now these irreplaceable 'garden suburbs' enhance the approach roads into the Town for all to enjoy. Any future development should respect the role they play as gateways into Newbury.
2. Similarly, other localities which are most frequently seen and remembered - such as the environs of schools and parks - should be kept pleasing to the eye.
3. Several distinct Conservation Areas, such as The City and West Mills, are subject to stringent planning regulations. Any adjacent development should be sympathetic in design and scale.
4. Newbury has several post-war period estates which are well planned and landscaped. Successful design deserves to be preserved, so any future development should avoid spoiling the visual rhythm of the original street scene.
5. The green spaces provided by the Town parks form an integral part of the Town's character and their role as quality recreational areas and as a wildlife resource should be maximised.
6. Views out to the countryside from hill top residential areas should be conserved and enhanced.
7. Likewise views into and out of the rural edges of the Town should be conserved and new development here should blend into the existing landscape. In line with the requirements for sustainability new estates here should have good pedestrian and cycle routes into the Town, to minimise dependency on cars. This implies provision for safe cycle storage.
8. The effect of traffic generated by new development and the associated impact on local road safety and congestion should be a prime consideration in the consideration of development proposals.
9. New development in the Town should seek to conserve existing wildlife and their habitats and where possible enhance them.
10. Trees form an important aspect of the urban environment - mature specimens should be retained wherever possible within new developments, which should include appropriate planting schemes.
11. The potential of the canal corridor in the Town should be maximized as an attractive environment for future residential and recreational development. The canal side appearance of new development should be particularly carefully considered. The successful design of Greenham Mill is considered a good start to this process of regeneration.

**END**

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