

Newbury Town Council and its Open Space

“At its Community Services Committee meeting last night, Newbury Town Council rejected two recent approaches to purchase open space under its ownership, for the purpose of house building. In both cases (Barn Crescent and Roebuts Close) a consultation exercise was carried out via a questionnaire. In one case there was provision for housing for the disabled as well as social and rented housing and in both cases there was potential for significant money to be raised for the good of the local community. However, there was a clear preference from both the community and the Council to keep the land as open space. This follows a similar rebuttal to a recent approach to build on the open space at Andover Road adjacent to the Old Hospital site.

Another site in Newbury, an old disused playground at Western End that has become a magnet for anti-social behaviour, is being sold, for disabled housing, subject to planning permission. In this case there was also public consultation and it is hoped that any revenue generated can be used for the good of the local community.

There is one further site being looked at for disabled housing provision, and consultation on that will be undertaken in due course, depending on whether it is big enough for development. Adjacent land that the developer had an eye on is not available which has limited the options.

Whenever Newbury Town Council is approached about potential other uses of its open spaces, it has an obligation to the residents of Newbury to consider all aspects of the approach carefully before making a decision either way.”

Graham Hunt
Chief Executive Officer
Newbury Town Council