

## PRESS RELEASE

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# LOCAL DEMOCRACY WEEK REACHES SCHOOL CHILDREN IN NEWBURY



Newbury Town Council marked international '**Local Democracy Week**' by visiting Park House School for a 'Question Time' session and also hosting visits to the Town Hall by children from Speenhamland and St Nicolas Schools.

Over 100 children watched a lavishly illustrated presentation about Newbury Town Council, written specially for their age group by Councillors Gabrielle McGarvey and Gina Houghton. Topics covered were "*Where the money comes from*", "*What the council does*", "*Civic events*" and "*How decisions are mad*". On Thursday Leon Larking, the Junior Mayor, took time off school to talk about the Newbury Young People's Council.

There were plenty of questions and lively answers from the children, on subjects ranging from growing Hallowe'en pumpkins on the family allotment, to participation in the solemn Remembrance Sunday processions.

After that Mayor Kuldip Singh Kang entered the Chamber in his full regalia and talked about the role of the Mayor.

The hour long visit ended with 'dressing up', which was great fun and provided a photographic souvenir of the visit. Two children were given the opportunity to dress up as Mace Bearers, holding the hefty maces and three more donned the blue robes and black hats of Newbury Town Councillors.

On leaving each child was given a free copy of the "Newbury Mosaic" book.

It is hoped that this introduction to the work of Newbury Town Council will foster a real interest and appreciation of local democracy in our young people.

END

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