



PRESS RELEASE

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Newbury Town Design Statement – Newbury Town Council look for support from residents

The Newbury Town Design Statement is back in the news, with a second public consultation via a FREEPOST Questionnaire underway throughout March 2005. All residents can take part, the more the better. The Questionnaire and document are on the Town Council website at www.newbury.gov.uk (Follow Home, Design Statement, Draft Statement).

Feelings of *déjà vu* are quite justified. Last May the Town Design Statement was ready for publishing after the first public consultation, but then came a lengthy hold up due to new planning legislation (*Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004*). This brought about far reaching changes to our already complicated planning system. Town and Village Design Statements have mutated into '*material consideration*'. They are no longer labelled '*supplementary planning guidance*'.

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Either way local concern for the maintenance of character, historical buildings and their settings, spacious gardens etc. is often up against national and regional guidelines these days. The Town Design Statement is the best chance residents have to guide planning, which is why this public consultation and the special FREEPOST questionnaire are so vital to the future look of Newbury.

The 10 questions link to **10 Key Principles** identified in the Conclusion Chapter of the Design Statement, and there is also space for other comments.

Residents can pick up a questionnaire from the Town Hall (it can also be downloaded from the Town Council web site) and view the Town Design Statement there and in the Public Library. Look out for the eye catching pink posters and spread the word. A good response showing widespread and strong support for the design statement will give it greater weight and authority.

END

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