



PRESS RELEASE

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Newbury Town Council's commitment to Local Agenda 21 – and an appeal for help.

Newbury Town Council is about to undertake a review of how it is performing against its commitments to Local Agenda 21, as defined in the Town Council's "Strategy for 2006 and Beyond". Local Agenda 21 comes from the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, and is intended to encourage 'sustainable development' which is defined as 'development which links protecting and improving the environment with improving security and creating a fair and more equitable society'.

Timing of the review is pertinent as all Town and Parish Councils have recently been given additional powers (under the Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act of 2006) to encourage or promote energy-saving measures in their parish.

The review will look at the Council's past performance against its ten statements within the strategy, ensure the validity of those statements and recommend ways in which the Council can do more in the future.

And here's where you can help. To ensure as wide a review as possible, Newbury Town Council would like to involve residents of Newbury in its review. The review team will consist of Councillors, members of the Young People's Council and anyone else who is interested in the future of our planet. If anyone connected to Newbury in any way is interested in being part of the review team, please contact Graham Hunt at Newbury Town Hall where further details can be supplied.

For additional information, the current 10 statements relating to Local Agenda in the strategy are:

- Listen to and consult the people of Newbury, facilitate open debate on local matters, and help to empower the local community.
- Use local suppliers whenever possible (having regard to Best Value in its widest sense).
- Minimise the waste created by the services we provide and recycle wherever possible.
- Protect the public open spaces in the town.
- Actively pursue alternative energy provision and encourage the best use of resources by others.
- Encourage biodiversity and wildlife habitats where suitable.
- Encourage development and transport plans that promote the health and social well being of our townspeople.
- Safeguard the vitality of the local economy, but not at the expense of the environment and the quality of life in Newbury.
- Ensure that our policies and actions do not exclude any sections of the community, and that our services are available to all townspeople.
- Promote the aims of LA21 among the community.

Newbury Town Council's full Strategy for 2006 and beyond is on its web site at:

<http://www.newbury.gov.uk/strategy.htm>

END

For further details, contact:

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