



Additional Information to accompany Press Release of 26 July 2026:

COULD YOU HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF NEWBURY?

Who Can Become a Councillor?

You do not need previous political experience to become a councillor. The role is open to people from all backgrounds who care about their community and want to make a positive contribution to local life.

To stand for election, candidates must:

- Be at least 18 years old on the day of nomination and polling.
- Be a British citizen, an eligible Commonwealth citizen or a qualifying EU citizen.
- Meet at least one of the following qualifications:
 - Be registered as a local government elector in Newbury.
 - Have occupied land or premises in the parish during the previous 12 months.
 - Have worked principally in the parish during the previous 12 months.
 - Have lived within three miles of the parish during the previous 12 months.
- Not be disqualified under electoral law (for example through certain criminal convictions or bankruptcy restrictions).

How to Stand for Election

Before the election, nomination papers will be published by [West Berkshire Council](#) as the Electoral Authority.

Prospective candidates must:

1. Complete a nomination form.
2. Obtain signatures from electors within the ward.
3. Submit the forms by the published deadline.
4. Prepare a short election campaign explaining why they wish to represent residents.

The Town Council intends to hold pre-election information sessions to explain:

- The role of a councillor.
- Time commitments and expectations.
- Council powers and responsibilities.
- How meetings operate.
- The nomination and election process.

Town Hall, Market Place, Newbury, RG14 5AA

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What Do Town Councillors Do?

Councillors attend:

- Full Council and Committee meetings.
- Working groups and partnership meetings.
- Community consultations and engagement events.
- Civic and ceremonial functions throughout the year.

Councillors are also expected to participate in important civic events including:

- The annual Mayor Making Ceremony.
- Remembrance Day Parade and Services.
- Civic receptions and community award events.
- Community celebrations, commemorations and charitable events.

Many councillors also support the community by acting as:

- School governors.
- Charity trustees.
- Representatives on outside bodies and local partnerships.

The role therefore combines democratic decision-making with visible community leadership and representation.

Why Voting Matters

Voting in local elections gives residents the opportunity to choose who will represent their interests and make decisions on behalf of the community. Local councils influence many aspects of daily life and local services, and every vote helps shape the future direction of Newbury.

Residents can also participate in local democracy throughout the year by:

- Attending council meetings.
- Responding to public consultations.
- Joining working groups.
- Speaking with councillors at weekly surgeries on the Town Hall steps.
- Following council updates through social media, newsletters and the Town Council website.

Democracy works best when local people take part. Whether by voting, volunteering, standing for election or engaging with consultations, everyone can play a role in helping shape the future of Newbury.

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