

**Minutes of a meeting of Newbury Town Council
held by Virtual Meeting on Zoom
01/02/2021 at 7:30pm.**

Present

Councillors; Phil Barnett, Jeff Beck, Martin Colston, Jo Day, Billy Drummond, Sue Farrant, Nigel Foot, Chris Foster, Jon Gage, Roger Hunneman, Olivia Lewis, Pam Lusby Taylor, David Marsh, Stephen Masters, Vaughan Miller, Andy Moore, Gary Norman, Elizabeth O’Keeffe (Town Mayor), Erik Pattenden, Sarah Slack, Tony Vickers and Martha Vickers.

In Attendance

Hugh Peacocke, Chief Executive Officer
Darius Zarazel, Democratic Services Officer

46. Apologies

There were none.

47. Declarations of interest and Dispensations

The Chief Executive Officer declared that there is a dispensation for those Town Councillors who live in the Newbury Town Council area with respect to their discussion relating to the budget and setting the precept.

Councillors Phil Barnett, Billy Drummond, David Marsh, Stephen Masters, Andy Moore, Erik Pattenden, Martha Vickers, and Tony Vickers are also Members of the West Berkshire Council, which is declared as a general interest on their behalf and a dispensation is in place to allow them to partake in discussions relating to West Berkshire Council business.

48. Remembrance and tribute to Bernard Eggleton

The Mayor proposed a vote of condolences for the late Bernard Eggleton and Councillor Andy Moore paid a tribute to Mr Eggleton’s storied life and thanked him for his public service and contribution.

The Council observed a minute’s silence in his honour.

49. Minutes

Proposed: Councillor Billy Drummond

Seconded: Councillor Sue Farrant

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of Newbury Town Council held on Monday the 19th of October 2020, be approved, and signed by the Chairperson.

50. Election of Deputy Leader of the Council

Councillor Oliva Lewis told the Council that due to a new position she now holds that she must leave the Liberal Democrat party and she was resigning from the post of Deputy Leader of the Council. She thanked all her colleagues for the past two years and remains committed to Newbury and the Council.

Councillor Martin Colston thanked Councillor Lewis for her service. Councillor Stephen Masters also thanked Councillor Lewis for her dedication to Newbury and her service as Deputy Leader.

Proposed: Councillor Erik Pattenden

Seconded: Councillor Andy Moore

Resolved: That Councillor Sarah Slack be elected as the Deputy Leader of the Council.

Councillor Sarah Slack thanked Councillor Erik Pattenden and Councillor Andy Moore for proposing and seconding. She also wanted to thank Councillor Olivia Lewis for her service as Deputy Leader.

51. Questions and petitions from members of the public

Question received from Paula Saunderson. In her absence, the Mayor read the question to the meeting.

"I notice from the papers for the meeting that you are launching a new website, so my questions are:

- 1. Why has the tab for Council Papers, Documents, and Policies disappeared?*
- 2. As we can no longer see the Strategy, Town Design Doc, Yearly Budgets, all the standard Council policies etc, will they be coming back please, otherwise the only way to see this standard information is through a FOI request which entails additional officer resources?"*

The Mayor responded that the CEO would write to Ms Saunderson as follows:

"Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention. We were not aware that the tab was missing, and we will ensure that this is rectified. If there is any particular document you require, please let the CEO know and it will be sent to you. We expect to launch our new website next week and we will let you know when it is "Live". Your feedback will be welcome."

52. Members' questions and petitions

Question received from Councillor Phil Barnett:

"On the 8th of March 2019 Newbury formally twinned with Carcaixent in Spain. Residents have been able to identify names such as Braunfels Bagnol sur Ceze, Eeklo, and Feltre by seeing the signs when they enter Newbury but Carcaixient is missing. Therefore, can Madam Mayor Identify when the addition of Carcaixent will be added".

The Mayor responded with the following answer:

"We had a meeting of the Newbury Twin Town Association and they are aware of this. We will discuss this matter further with the Twin Town Association to attempt to resolve this."

Supplementary question:

"Members and residents have benefited from these links, many making lifelong friendships. Unfortunately, Kiskunfélegyháza in Hungary, which has many links, is yet to twin. Perhaps we could look at that in the future".

The Mayor Responded with the following answer:

"We can look at this with the Newbury Twin Town Association."

Question received from Councillor Phil Barnett:

"On November the 4th Berkshire lost one of its most valued residents, Sir Philip Wroughton KCVO (Ex Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire). Sir Philip attended many civic functions of Newbury Town Council and was a strong advocate of the town. He and his wife welcomed many Mayors and Newbury Residents to his house and gardens at Woolley Park in Fawley where he hosted the Mayor's Drive and Tea Party over several decades.

I had the pleasure in Meeting Sir Philip on many occasions. He will be sadly missed. Therefore, Madam Mayor can this town Council send our condolences to his wife Lady Catriona Wroughton."

The Mayor responded with the following answer:

"Thank you for raising this matter with us. As soon as we were aware of this sad news, I sent a letter of condolences on behalf of this Council, on the 11th of January, to the Lord-Lieutenant's office. The letter was received by the Lord-Lieutenant's personal assistant, to be passed to the Lord Lieutenant's family."

53. Berkshire Youth

The Berkshire Youth CEO, Mr David Seward, gave a PowerPoint presentation (attached), covering the first six months on the Service Level Agreement between NTC and BY was received and noted by the members.

54. Town Mayor's report

The report was received and noted by the members.

55. Leader's Report

The report was received and noted by the members.

56. Chief Executive Officer's Report

The report was received and noted by the members.

The CEO took the opportunity to introduce Mr. Darius Zarazel, the Democratic Services Officer appointed by the Council from 1 December 2020.

57. Council Strategy 2019 to 2024

A summary of the strategy was given by Councillor Martin Colston and the information was received and noted by the members.

Proposed: Councillor Martin Colston

Seconded: Councillor Roger Hunneman

Resolved: That the review of the Council's Strategy 2019 to 2024 be approved with unanimous support.

58. 2021/2022 Budget and Precept

The information from the Policy & Resources Committee resolution on 18th January to adopt a budget for 2021/2022, as shown at Appendix 6, and recommend that the Council sets an overall budget expenditure of £1,964,260 was received and noted by members.

Proposed: Councillor Martin Colston

Seconded: Councillor Gary Norman

Resolved: To adopt the budget for Financial Year 2021/2022 and raise a precept of £1,135,249 for the year

Proposed: Councillor Sue Farrant

Seconded: Councillor Jeff Beck

Resolved: To support the production of a leaflet explaining to the public how the precept is to be used during 2021/2022, and its distribution to each household in Newbury and published on the Council's website

59. Schedule of Meetings for the Municipal Year 2021-22

The Council noted the schedule of meetings for the municipal year 2021-22.

60. Motion received from Cllr. Steve Masters on Universal Basic Income study in Newbury

Proposed: Councillor Stephen Masters

Seconded: Councillor Olivia Lewis

Resolved: That Newbury Town Council supports in principle Universal Basic Income, and call on the local MP, Laura Farris, and the Government to provide funds to establish a study scheme in Newbury.

Councillor Jeff Beck abstained.

61. Committees

The Council received presentations of the minutes of the following meetings:

Planning & Highways	26 October 2020
Planning & Highways	16 November 2020
Civic Pride, Arts & Leisure	30 November 2020
Planning & Highways	7 December 2020
Community services	16 December 2020
Planning & Highways	06 January 2021
Policy & Resources	18 January 2021 (draft)

62. Planning and Highways Committee

Proposed: Councillor Gary Norman

Seconded: Councillor Vaughan Miller

Resolved: That the standing orders be amended to allow for 12 members to be on the Planning & Highways Committee.

Proposed: Councillor Gary Norman

Seconded: Councillor Jeff Beck

Resolved: That Jo Day be appointed as a member of the Planning and Highways Committee.

63. The proposed Community Café in Victoria Park

Information presented by Councillor Roger Hunnemann, Chairman of the Victoria Park Sub-committee, was received and noted by the members.

64. The Council's Carbon Reduction Plan

Information presented by Councillor Chris Foster, Chairman of the Climate Change Working Group, was received and noted by the members.

65. Work Programme for Full Council

The Council noted and agreed the Forward Work Programme.

There being no other business the chairperson declared the meeting closed at 21:35 hrs

Chairperson

Detached Youth Work

Report for August to December 2020

1st February 2021
Newbury Town Council



The current context

Following the signing of the Berkshire Youth initiated a detached programme of youth work during August 2021. This was as restrictions began to be eased across the country following the initial nationwide lockdown and associated restrictions in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Throughout this period Berkshire Youth has always delivered in work in line with our own risk assessments and always following the NYA Guidance – which has been approved by DCMS & Public Health England. At times this has meant reinforcing public health messaging and supporting local police in areas, times or locations they felt a youth work approach would be more beneficial.

It has been a roller-coaster time not only for our young people but our communities at large. The changing restrictions, the closure of schools and the emotional and financial impact on families has been apparent.

Young people have felt lost and uncertain about their future and have craved a sense of normality throughout. At the start of the project, with restrictions easing we were finding young people were bored of lockdown, many concerned about exams whilst many had stopped caring. The majority of young people wanted to return to school life and were looking forward to schools returning in September.



The current context

Whilst the summer months felt full of optimism and hope the mood amongst our young people changed as schools returned and Autumn set in.

School life was very different to when young people were last in school. Restricted movement around school site and break times created a different atmosphere at schools and in the community.

Young people's view and concerns changed with the concerns they were raising with youth workers. Young people started to become negative about their future, confused about the future and their future. We saw young people becoming depressed and can't be bothered with life generally.

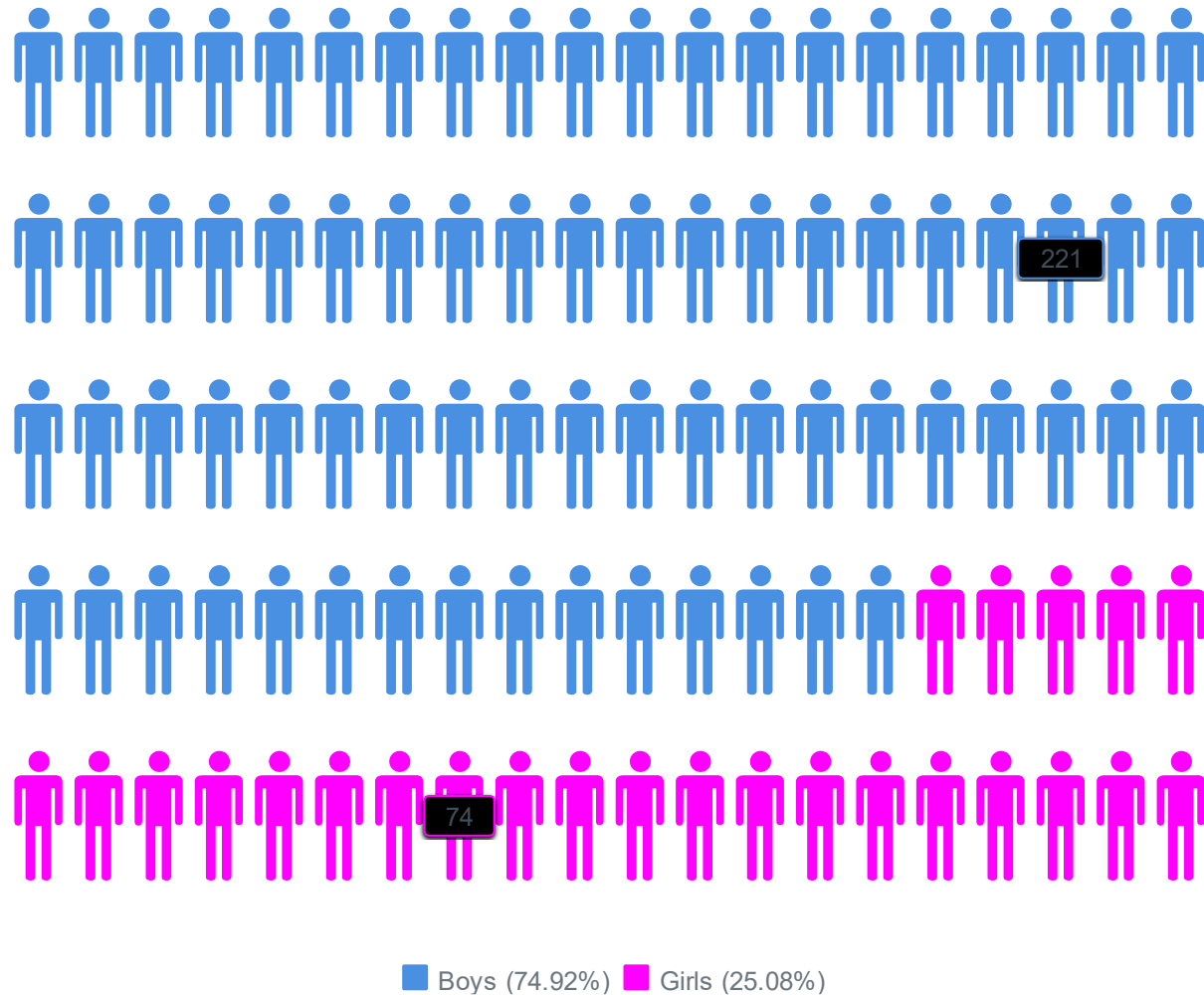
We have seen young people less and less over the lockdowns, especially as Autumn has turned to winter.

We have continued to work with wider partners such as police, housing and antisocial behaviour groups to identify priority locations and times based on local information.



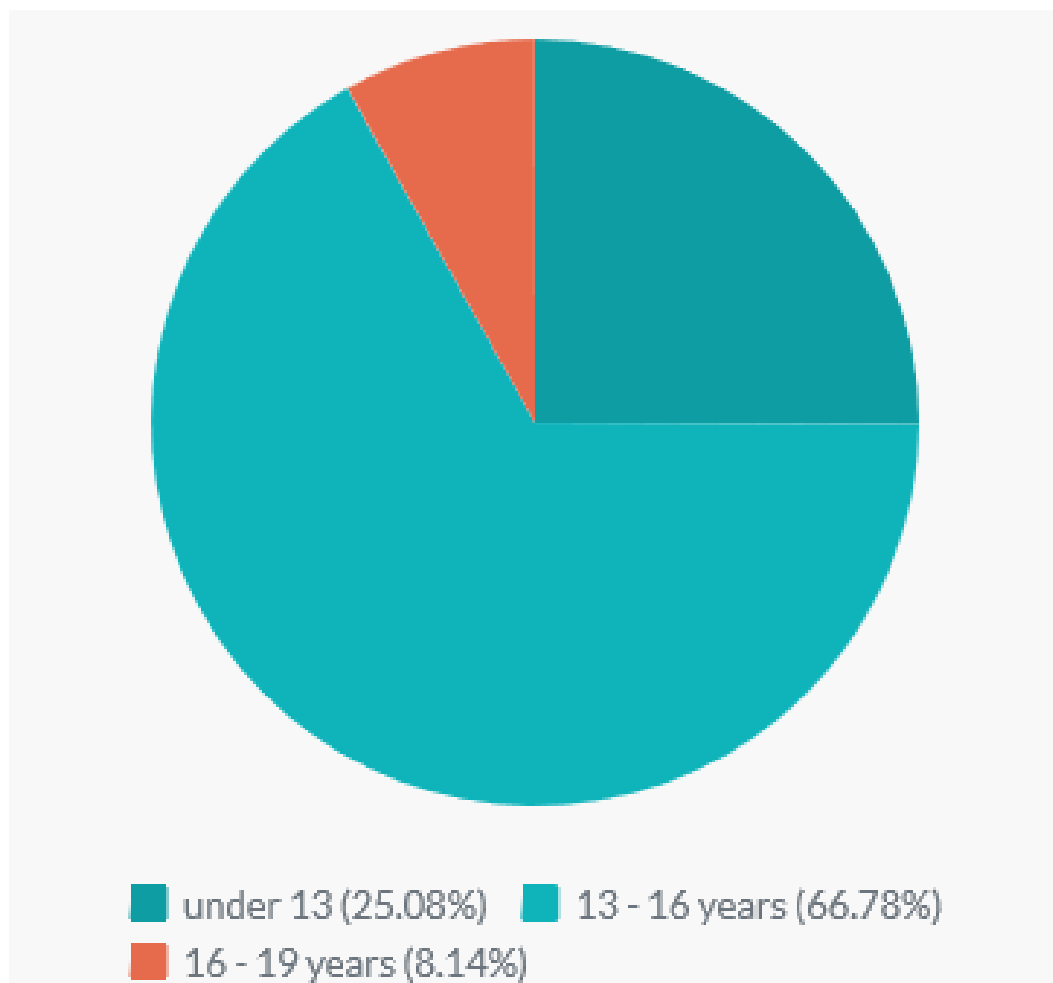
Who we have seen...

Gender of Participants



Data from 3rd August 2020 to 31st December 2021

Who we have seen...



Data from 3rd August 2020 to 31st December 2021

Next steps...

Impact of lockdown

Lockdown continues to impact the behaviours of young people across our community as well as how they are feeling and their attitudes towards the future. Young people are aware of the risks and through our work we have generally seen them acting responsibly.

Whilst we are continuing to hear reports of a small number of issues, young people have generally been staying inside as the dark, cold and wet evenings have moved in.

We continue to speak to young people through our roles in school and get the sense that currently young people “can’t be bothered” to be out. This does raise concerns over what young people are being exposed to online and at home and if they are in fact becoming more hidden in public.

Under current restrictions we are continuing deliver detached work and with restrictions hopefully easing soon we will continue to discuss with community partners when and where our resource will be most beneficial.

Consultation

We discussed with the town council a youth survey to be conducted with young people during early 2021 through a number of meetings. We will continue to encourage young people to access and complete this.

We will also be doing some wider work with our young reviewers to gain the views and perceptions of young people during 2021. We will be able to share the localized data with this committee in due course.

Waterside

Our development of Waterside continues, we are still continuing to raise funds to complete the refurbishment and running costs. We are still on track to have the centre operational for Summer 2021.

A short narrative on sessions is available as separate document

Out and about...

