

Newbury's Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) Steering Group Meeting

A meeting of the **NDP Steering Group** is scheduled for **Tuesday 08/02/2022 at 7:00 pm**. This meeting will be held via zoom:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81811044528?pwd=TFV1NHBncVhTMndpRVlHUnl5cnp0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 818 1104 4528

Passcode: 054635

Newbury's NDP Steering Group:

- A) Newbury Town Council (NTC): Councillors Nigel Foot (Chairperson), Martin Colston, David Marsh, Vaughan Miller (Joint Project Manager), Gary Norman, and Martha Vickers
- B) Members of the public: Ian Blake, John Brownell, Paul Millard, Anthony Pick, Louise Sturgess (Deputy-Chairperson), and Kim Whysall-Hammond (Joint Project Manager)

Other Attendees:

Darius Zarazel (NDP Secretary and Democratic Services Officer, Newbury Town Council)

Agenda:

1. **Apologies**
Secretary
2. **Declarations of Interest**
Chairperson
To receive any declarations of interest relating to business to be conducted in this meeting.
3. **Minutes (Appendix 1)**
Chairperson
To approve the minutes of a meeting of the NDP SG held on Thursday 27/01/2022.
4. **NDP Vision and Objectives**
Chairperson
To formulate the NDP's Vision and Objectives.
5. **Forward Work Programme (Appendix 2)**
Chairperson
To note and agree any other items to add to the Forward Work Programme.
6. **To Fix the Date of the Next Meeting**
Chairperson

**Minutes of a meeting of Newbury's Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)
Steering Group
Held via Zoom
27/01/2022 at 7:00pm/19:00**

Present:

Newbury's NDP Steering Group:

- A) Newbury Town Council (NTC): Councillors Nigel Foot (Chairperson), Martin Colston, Vaughan Miller (Joint Project Manager), Gary Norman, and Martha Vickers
- B) Members of the public: Ian Blake, Paul Millard, Anthony Pick, Louise Sturgess, and Kim Whysall-Hammond (Joint Project Manager)

Other Attendees:

Jeremy Flawn (Bluestone Planning) and Darius Zarazel (NDP Secretary and Democratic Services Officer, Newbury Town Council)

16. Apologies

Apologies received from John Brownell and Councillor David Marsh.

Jeremy Flawn left the meeting at 19:30

17. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

18. Minutes

Proposed: Anthony Pick

Seconded: Councillor Martha Vickers

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of the NDP Steering Group held on 27/01/2022, be approved.

19. Election of a Deputy-Chairperson for the Steering Group

Proposed: Councillor Martha Vickers

Seconded: Anthony Pick

Resolved: That Louise Sturgess be elected as Deputy-Chairperson for the NDP Steering Group.

20. The NDP Project Plan

The next steps for the Steering Group were:

- Vision: A paragraph stating the aspirational desire of the NDP and what will be discuss (both for the Plan and the Town) going forward.
- Objectives: Will include several key topics and some detail per topic.

Drafting both the Vision and Objectives normally takes 1 – 2 meetings.

Drafting the questionnaire may take another 1 – 2 meetings.

The Questionnaire consultation could be up to 4 weeks.

21. The NDP Vision and Objectives

The Steering Group discussed the potential Vision for Newbury’s NDP as well as some of the Objective’s it would have.

Steering Group Member	What the Members most like about Newbury	What the Members are most concerned about in Newbury
Kim Whysall-Hammond	It’s very friendly, great place to raise children, and has great access to parks and open countryside.	The loss of local independent shops, the age range of people in Newbury (the lack of 20 – 35-year-olds), and the increasing number of retirement flats in the town.
Cllr Martin Colston	The Town Centre heritage and feel of the marketplace and Northbrook Street, Canal and Parks, and that everything is walkable/cyclable.	The Town Centre needs pedestrianisation, there needs to be an increase in active travel, the planning standards not enforcing sufficient sustainability measures, the waste of use of the Wharf, and the lack of links from Victoria Park to the Town Centre.
Paul Millard	The schools and ease of raising children, leading community hospital, and mixed entertainment venues.	The proposed profile of the Eagle Quatre redevelopment, the local eyesores (BT Tower), the access to healthcare, the shop mix is lacking (needs more small shops), the Wharf has potential but mostly underutilised, and the lack of broad involvement in cultural activities (make it more like the Edinburgh Fringe Festival?).
Cllr Nigel Foot	The Character of the Town, that it is surrounded by easily accessible	The proposed height of buildings in the Town Centre, the traffic issues in Town Centre as well as the

	countryside, and the blue spaces (Canal and river).	pollution it causes (better traffic flow as a solution), the A339 being a barrier to East-West active travel, and the housing mix (lots of flats but not much housing).
Anthony Pick	The variety of architectural styles, the establishment of Newbury College, the gateway roads into Newbury's Garden suburbs, and the strong sense of Newbury's own cultural and historic identity.	Several eyesores (the BT Tower and several shopfronts on Bartholomew Street for example), a lack of architectural understanding about Newbury's culture, the open spaces being converted into housing developments, and the poor East-West road linkages.
Louise Sturgess	The independent shops and eateries, parks and green spaces, and the marketplace and its historic surroundings.	The lack of facilities for young people, the Highstreet losing vibrancy with empty units, the mix of shops is lacking, and the high cost of accommodation.
Ian Blake	The well-connected transport (trains and road network) and the larger Newbury Businesses (Newbury Racecourse, Brewery, etc).	Need more focus on people living in the Town Centre (want to avoid the dormitory effect). Loss of big employers from the Town (mixed use development and high-density family housing may be a solution.) Developments and Newbury's heritage are not joined. The public realm needs to be used better (how people use and occupy spaces around buildings).
Cllr Gary Norman	Newbury's national identifiers (Newbury Racecourse etc), the Town's connection to history (Civil War etc), and the scale of the Town (important as the town grows larger that it remains a friendly place).	There is an inappropriate focus on certain developments (commuter/retirement flats), the lack of leisure facilities generally but specifically for young people, and the high cost of accommodation.
Cllr Vaughan Miller	The location and accessibility to the rest of the country, access to the countryside for walking and cycling, and the number	The new large-scale developments, the lack of artisan shops, wasteful use of the Kennet Centre, and leisure activities for young people.

	and quality of free cultural events (festival of lights etc).	
Cllr Martha Vickers	The canal and the joy of walking into town, having a market and being a market town, the friendliness and connections between people, and the cultural offer.	Concerns about viability of independent shops and facilities for young people.
John Brownell	The Market	Affordable housing and car parking for market days and in the evenings

Some items discussed that could go into the Vision and Objectives were:

- The Wharf is wasted as a car park
- Increasing standards for new developments (EV charging points, inclusion of street trees, carbon neutral or net gain)
- Addressing developments climate impact/increasing climate resilience
- The pedestrianisation of the Town Centre
- Improving the walking environment (improvement of pavements, signage, pedestrian lights, and so on)
- Increasing access to health care (a centre per number of houses) and an NHS dentists
- Shifting the dwelling mix (houses versus flats and social and affordable)
- Keeping the Town Centre vibrant and not a dormitory Town (mix of retail, leisure, and residential)
- Addressing traffic issues
- Including open and green spaces in the Town and in developments
- Increasing the Towns cultural and leisure facilities (especially for young people) as well as a sporting/cultural hub
- Promoting heritage (through an adequate Conservation Area Appraisal)
- Attracting new business (starting incubator and accelerator hubs)
- Promoting co-working spaces
- Increasing the quality of neighbourhoods (the 15-minute neighbourhoods)
- Petition for revision of permitted development rights
- Better bus services (more frequent and cheaper)
- Free parking to encourage footfall in Town Centre

It was noted that all NDP policies need to be land use-based policies within the functions of a Planning Authority. In addition, long-term policies, such as site allocations, have been ruled out by the NTC Planning & Highways Committee NDP Report.

22. Forward Work Programme

It was agreed to add the following items to the Forward Work Programme for the NDP Steering Group:

- The next meeting of the Steering Group will be the formulation of the Vision and Objectives.
- Each member was tasked with drafting a potential Vision statement from the items discussed above in preparation for the next meeting.

23. To fix the date of the next meeting

The next meetings were agreed to be held on 08/02/2022 and 22/02/2022 at 7:00pm/19:00 via Zoom.

There being no other business, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 20:50 hrs.

Newbury's Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group

Forward Work Programme for NDP Steering Group: 8th of February 2022.

Standing Items on each (ordinary meeting) agenda:

1. Apologies
2. Declarations of Interests
3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting
4. Forward Work Programme
5. To Fix the Date of the Next Meeting

08/02/2022	To formulate and agree on the NDP Vision and Objectives
To be confirmed	To draft questions for the community questionnaire