



NEWBURY Town Council

Newbury Town Council is committed to continuing to make Newbury a better place to live, work and visit

ANNUAL REPORT & PRECEPT LEAFLET 2018-19

How the Town Council spends your money
to provide services for the people of Newbury

www.newbury.gov.uk | 01635 35486 | Town Hall, Market Place, Newbury, RG14 5AA

   [newburytc](https://twitter.com/newburytc)

ANNUAL REPORT

“This year the Council completed the repairs to Victoria Park, including the footpath and new railings along Parkway and the Park is once more “The Jewel in the Crown” for Newbury Town Council. To celebrate this, we held a Family Day in the Park and this is now an annual event, which will be held on Sunday 13 May this year (further details can be found on page 7).

The tennis courts are now restored to competition standards and the facilities are even further enhanced since the addition of floodlighting, allowing the public even more enjoyment of this top class facility.

The Bowling Green re-opened for competition and the Club welcomes new members who wish to try out the game and enjoy the facilities at the Club House in Victoria Park.

Newbury in Bloom was expanded to include Almshouses, which are such a valuable asset to the heritage of Newbury. There was so much interest in this year’s campaign that we had to hire The Corn Exchange for our Awards evening.

Each November we remember the courage and the sacrifices made by all during the World Wars and this year’s exhibitions and talks attracted record attendances. There will be a special ceremony in November to mark the centenary of the end of the Great War (see page 3). In February we also marked the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Newbury in the Second World War with a moving ceremony at St. John’s Church and in the gardens across the road from the Church.

Throughout the year work continued on our Town Plan and we have now published a draft for public consultation, closing on 18 March 2018. You can comment on the draft via our website newbury.gov.uk. When the Plan is completed we will be urging West Berkshire District Council to include our objectives in their Local Area Plan. We are also putting the finishing touches to the review of the Newbury Town Design Statement

The Council carried out a thorough review of our Strategy, setting out our aims and objectives for the people of Newbury over the next 2 years and we are now working to implement all of these.

We were very pleased to get the renewal of our licence to hold weddings in the Town Hall and the first wedding in 30 years took place on 1 July. We continue to upgrade the Town Hall, which is a very a very attractive venue for town centre events.

Each year we have a very full programme with schools in the area during Local Democracy Week and this year we extended that programme to hold a very successful Year 12 Debating Competition, which will now become an annual feature for us.

We have now entered into a new Grounds Maintenance Contract in partnership with West Berkshire District Council which we expect to deliver even better quality parks, open spaces and playgrounds, with improved efficiencies and economies of scale.

“To hear more about your Town Council, please come along to the Annual Town Meeting - 7pm, Monday 19 March at the Town Hall.”

Councillor Adrian Edwards
Leader of Newbury Town Council

WORLD WARS

World Wars Exhibition 2018

10 to 18 November 2018

The last in our series of these exhibitions which have been extremely popular and well attended.

Opening times 10 am to 4 pm daily

World War Talks 2018

These talks will take place commencing at 7 pm on 15th, 16th and 17th November 2018 further details will be available nearer the time.

Remembrance Sunday Service

11 November 2018

Commencing at 10.30am with the parade through the town and the service in the Market Place at 10.53am

All are welcome to attend and a 'signer' will be available to assist those who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Battles Over – WW1 Beacon of Light

11 November 2018

To end our First World War commemorations, we are taking part in a national event. A beacon will be lit in Victoria Park at 7pm marking the end of the four years of the darkness of war into the light of peace. An important event not to be missed – more details nearer the time.

NEWBURY TOWN HALL CHAMBER IS AVAILABLE FOR HIRE!



The beautiful Chamber in Newbury Town Hall is an impressive venue for a variety of events.

The Chamber is licensed for weddings and civil ceremonies and is ideal for self-catered parties such as anniversary or birthday celebrations.

There is room for up to 60 people, and an entertainment licence for live or recorded music.

For more information about booking the Chamber please see our website newbury.gov.uk/town-hall-hire.php; email reception@newbury.gov.uk or phone 01635 35486.

THE PRECEPT EXPLAINED

2018/19

The Council remains in a healthy financial position and this budget continues to exercise careful financial management. The Council Tax Base in the Town Council area has increased by 2.36%, therefore I am very pleased to report that the Band D Council Tax equivalent will actually drop by 4 pence per annum, from £79.16 to £79.12, whilst meeting the various challenges we face in dealing with current Local Government finances.

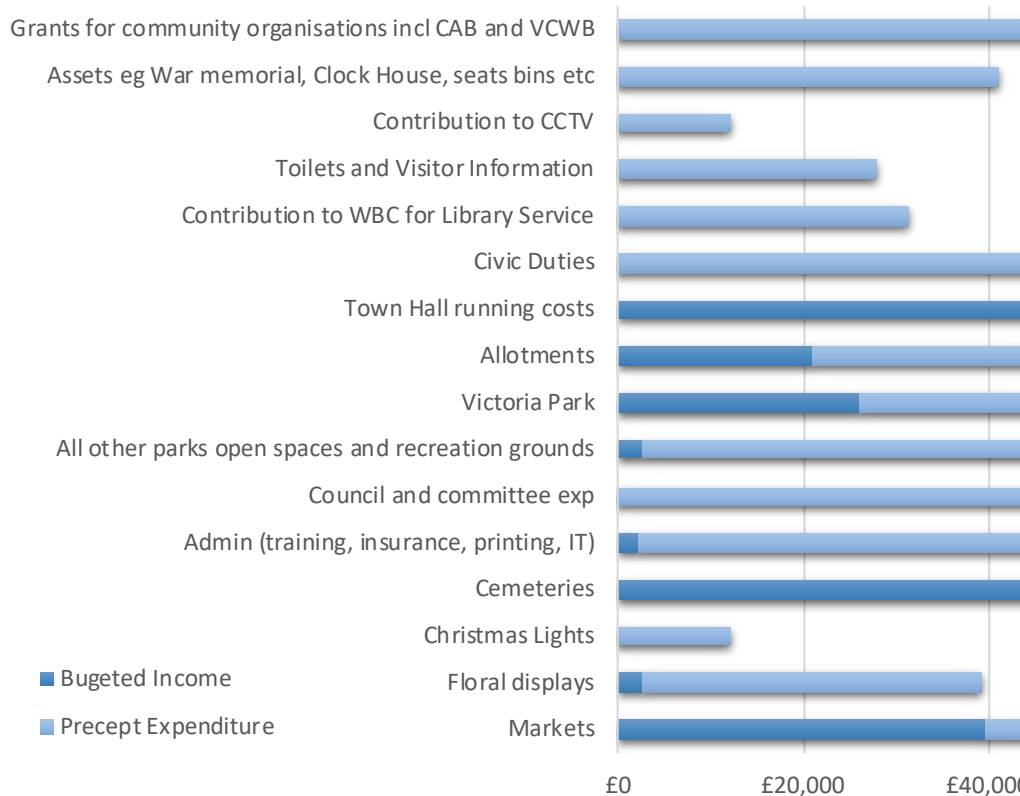
Significant financial pressure for West Berkshire Council (WBC) is impacting on the services that they deliver. Town and Parish Councils across West Berkshire are being asked to contribute to some of these services and this continues to be reflected in this year's budget.

The draft budget this year includes an ambitious Capital programme to fund the Victoria Park Café and changing rooms. It also provides for the Shaw Cemetery disabled toilet, the Newtown Road Cemetery Chapel window, the St. John's Memorial Gardens perimeter wall and expenditure on Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) projects to the value of £75,000.

The Budget for 2018-19 includes the following highlights:

- The successful Victoria Park Family Day is to become an annual event and there is provision for £2,125 to support this.

- Increasing the West Berkshire Citizens' Advice Bureau grant to £20,000.
- Increased grants allocations from £10,000 to £15,000 and a further allocation of £10,000 for grants and support for personal and social development of our young people. Making an overall total of £25,000.
- £12,000 to continue to support the Christmas Lights events provided by Newbury BID.
- £12,000 provision towards CCTV in the Town Centre.
- A contribution of £31,275 to ensure the continuation of a local Library Service.



- The maintenance and upkeep of the Grade II listed Town Hall requires expenditure. This year we carried out considerable emergency works to deal with damp proofing, heating repairs and to install new lightning conductors. The draft budget includes setting up a new fund for repointing the brick and stonework of the Town Hall. £6,000 is provided in this draft budget and we need to raise £18,000 to £26,000 for this project.
- All of the suites in the Town Hall are now let and we forecast increased income.
- £2,000 to continue our support for Visitor Information.

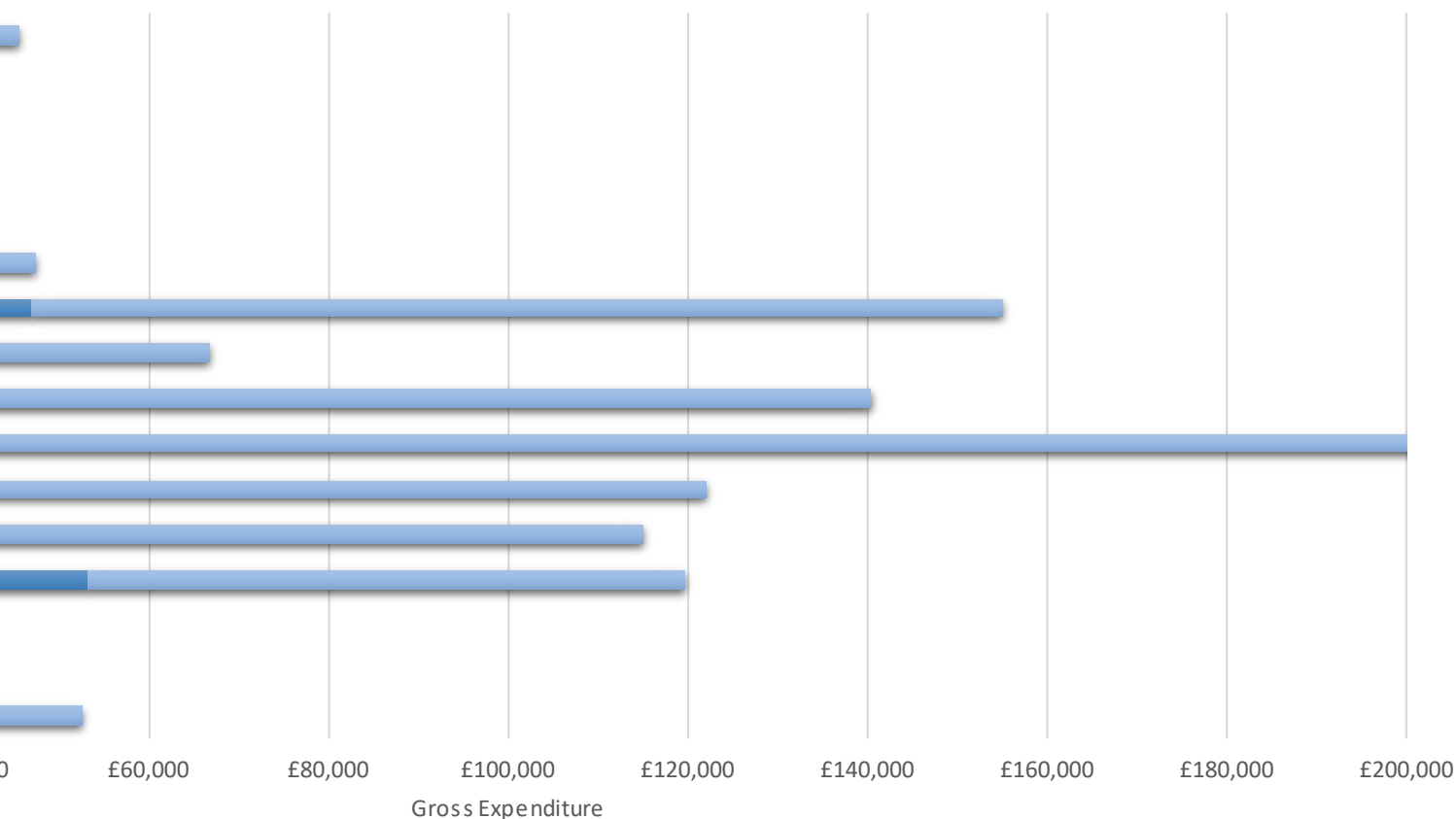
We have a new grounds maintenance contract in place from 8 January 2018. This is a joint contract with West Berkshire District Council which we expect to provide increased efficiencies with improved service, arising from economies of scale and collaborating with our partners in West

Berkshire District Council. The overall cost of the contract is estimated at £288,690 for 2018-19, compared to this year's budget provision of £297,681. (These costs are apportioned over the various services).

The budget approved by the Council requires a funding provision (precept) of £1,043,032, an increase of 2.31%, which is in line with inflation over the past year.

“This year we have achieved a slight reduction in the amount Council Tax Payers will have to pay to Newbury Town Council, while at the same time further enhancing services to the community”

Councillor
Adrian Edwards
Leader of the Council



SERVICES PROVIDED BY NEWBURY TOWN COUNCIL

- Maintaining parks, recreation grounds and open spaces – including Victoria Park, renting football pitches and changing rooms. A full list of all the Council's playgrounds and leisure facilities can be found at www.newbury.gov.uk/playgrounds
- Maintaining Newbury Town Hall – the chamber is available for public hire and charity coffee mornings
- Shaw Cemetery and Newtown Road Cemetery
- Six allotment sites around the town, totalling around 550 individual plots
- Running Newbury Charter Market on Thursday and Saturday
- Civic events and the office of the Mayor
- Hanging baskets and floral displays
- Bus shelters
- Footway lighting
- Seats, litter bins, dog bins and grit bins around the town
- Maintaining The Clock House
- Maintaining the War Memorial

NEWBURY TOWN COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

We carry out most of our business through the work of four main Committees, which the public are welcome to attend. Details of these meetings are displayed on the noticeboard outside the Town Hall and on our web site www.newbury.gov.uk

The Council

Sets the precept, elects the Town Mayor and Leader of the Council, approves the Council's strategy and delegates most of the rest of its powers to its Committees:

The Planning and Highways Committee:

Comments on planning applications and highway matters in the Newbury area and meets every 3 weeks.

The Policy and Resources Committee:

Responsible for the financial, human and property resources of the Council.

The Community Services Committee:

Responsible for the maintenance of property assets and the provision of direct services to the public.

The Civic Pride, Arts and Leisure Committee:

Promotes and co-ordinates arts and leisure facilities and activities for the community.

Grants Sub-Committee:

Newbury Town Council awards grants to community organisations, leisure and the arts. For further information visit our website in April at www.newbury.gov.uk, call us on 01635 35486, or come along to the Town Hall.

Newbury Youth Council (NYC):

If you are aged between 12 and 21 and are interested in local issues for youth, please contact the Town Hall for more information.

VICTORIA PARK FAMILY DAY

Come and discover what Victoria Park has to offer including:



Skatepark



Tennis Courts
with Free Sessions



Splash Park
2018 Opening



Bowls Club
Open Day



Bandstand
Music | Dancing



Childrens Football
Tournament

Sunday May 13th | 10.30am - 4pm
VICTORIA PARK, NEWBURY



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BRUMMELL GROVE



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