

# 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 2019-20

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

[www.newbury.gov.uk](http://www.newbury.gov.uk) | 01635 35486 | Town Hall, Market Place, Newbury, RG14 5AA



# ANNUAL REPORT

The Town Councillors and the Council's staff work hard to deliver on our mission statement: Newbury Town Council is committed to continuing to make Newbury a better place to live, work and visit. It is a great honour to lead the Council and I am proud to present our report on our achievements over the past 12 months.

Encouraged by the success of our Newbury in Bloom campaigns, we are re-entering the national Britain in Bloom competition in 2019. Newbury in Bloom will run in tandem with the national competition and will be used to develop suitable projects to feature in Britain in Bloom in future years. This competition will encourage community involvement and grow civic pride as we all work together to further enhance the attractiveness of our wonderful town.

We continued our investment to improve the facilities in Victoria Park "The Jewel in the Town Council's Crown". We provided 6 new pedaloes for the boating pond, new lighting at the northern end of the park, by Park Terrace and additional CCTV to protect the public and the assets in the Park. In June we held a very successful family day in the Park and this is now an annual event to highlight and promote the range of facilities and attractions in the Park. We are now applying for Green Flag status for the Park, which is the benchmark national standard for publicly accessible parks and green spaces in the United Kingdom.

Each November we remember the courage and the sacrifices made by all during the World Wars. 2018 marked the centenary of the end of the Great War and our Remembrance Sunday Parade attracted a record attendance of 6,000 people. We also held a special ceremony that evening in Market Place when we lit a beacon to commemorate "Battle's Over".

2018 saw the Town Council complete 2 major policy documents - The Town Plan and the review of The Town Design Statement. We are now urging West Berkshire District Council to include our objectives in the Local Area Plan review which is currently under way.

To improve the health and wellbeing of residents we installed a range of outdoor gym equipment at Blossom's Field in Wash Common which is available for anyone to use free of charge. This new gym is next to the children's play area, so parents can keep fit whilst their children play. The equipment supplied by Proludic and installed by Star Rubber is the latest innovation of gym equipment, with clear and simple instructional videos accessible via QR codes attached to the equipment, through your smart phone.

In 2018 the Council distributed over £100,000 in grants and contributions including £20,000 to West Berkshire Citizens' Advice, £30,000 towards Newbury Library, £12,000 to Newbury BID towards the Christmas lights for the Town Centre, £10,000 to organisations supporting the youth in town and £15,000 to other local charities and organisations supporting our communities.

In December we were delighted to see the re-opening of the community Library at Wash Common. Following the closure of the library 2 years ago, the Town Council has taken on a 5-year lease of the building and the Library Service is being provided through local volunteers, The Friends of Wash Common Library.

We are providing drinking water taps at suitable locations around the town and the first was seen at The Wharf toilets. We also extended our Blue Plaque programme (marking notable people and places in Newbury's history) with blue plaques to commemorate Elsie Kimber, the first woman Mayor of Newbury and one for the former Didcot, Newbury, and Southampton Railway, located at Newbury Station, which was used to convey service personnel and military materials from the Midlands and the North of England to the Port of Southampton in preparation for the D-Day invasion of Nazi-occupied Europe on 6th June 1944.

To hear more about your Town Council, please come along to the Annual Town Meeting – 7 p.m., Monday 18th March at the Town Hall.

**Councillor Adrian Edwards**  
Leader of Newbury Town Council



# NEWBURY & BRITAIN IN BLOOM 2019

Newbury is entering the Royal Horticultural Society's prestigious Britain in Bloom competition in 2019 for the first time in 11 years. This follows on the success of the Newbury in Bloom campaign now in its fourth consecutive year.

Newbury is really starting to see the benefit of these campaigns and in 2018 the floral displays, community gardening projects and enthusiastic involvement of residents was warmly welcomed by the people of the Town and visitors to Newbury. Following the hugely successful bulb planting day and the newly planted rose beds in Victoria Park in 2018, there will be more opportunities to take part in community planting days this year including a shrub planting day on Saturday 16 March.

The Newbury in Bloom campaign will kick off in the spring and the closing date for entries will be at the end of June. Last year there were 6 categories which included Schools,

Allotments, Community Projects, Businesses, Places of Worship, Almshouses and Public Buildings and in 2019 there will be some new additions including 'Best Street' and 'Canal Boat Floral Display'. Application forms will be available from the Town Hall and our website: [www.newbury.gov.uk](http://www.newbury.gov.uk)

As in previous years, the Town Council will be putting up over 100 hanging baskets and local businesses help by sponsoring the baskets throughout the season. This is in addition to planting and maintaining a number of beautiful floral displays at our parks and open spaces

If you would like some more information, or to enquire about how you can be involved with these projects please contact our Grounds Maintenance Officer, James Heasman on 01635 35486 or email on [james.heasman@newbury.gov.uk](mailto:james.heasman@newbury.gov.uk)



# THE PRECEPT EXPLAINED

## 2019/20

The Council Tax bill payable by West Berkshire residents is split into amounts for West Berkshire District Council, Thames Valley Police, The Fire and Rescue Service and your local town or parish council. Residents of Newbury will be paying an average of just £79 in 2019/20 to Newbury Town Council, a reduction of 12p from 2018/19. The amount collected from Town Council residents and paid to the Council is called the Precept.

The total precept to be collected in 2019/20 from Newbury Town residents is £1,024,983, and this amount, together with £590,219 of income generated from the assets of the Town Council, will be used to provide

services including maintaining dozens of parks and open spaces including Victoria Park, Thursday and Saturday weekly markets, two cemeteries, six allotment sites, floral displays, street lights and benches, and the maintenance of the Town Hall.

In the last year the Town Council has taken on the Wash Common Community Library building from West Berkshire Council, and the library itself is now being run by volunteers. The precept for 2019/20 also includes provision for:

- £20,000 grant funding for local charities and organisations;

Grants for community organisations incl CAB and VCWB

Assets eg War memorial, Clock House, seats bins etc

Contribution to CCTV

Toilets and Visitor Information

Contribution to WBC for Library Service

Civic Duties

Town Hall running costs

Allotments

Victoria Park

All other parks open spaces and recreation grounds

Council and committee exp

Admin (training, insurance, printing, IT)

Cemeteries

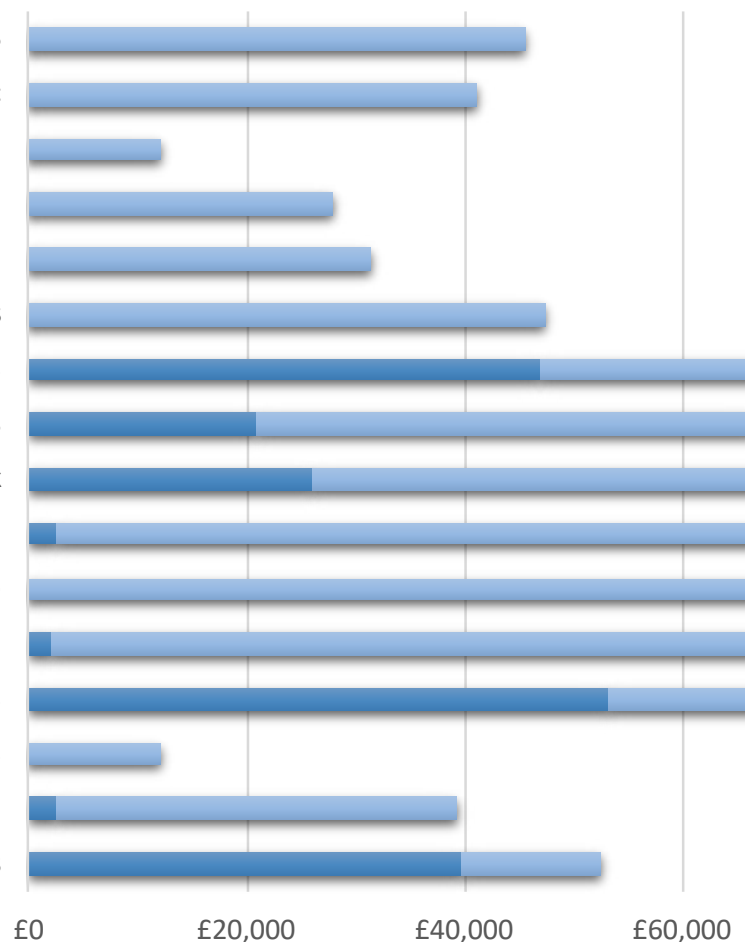
Christmas Lights

Floral displays

Markets

■ Budgeted Income

■ Precept Expenditure



A £20,000 contribution to the Citizens Advice West Berkshire;

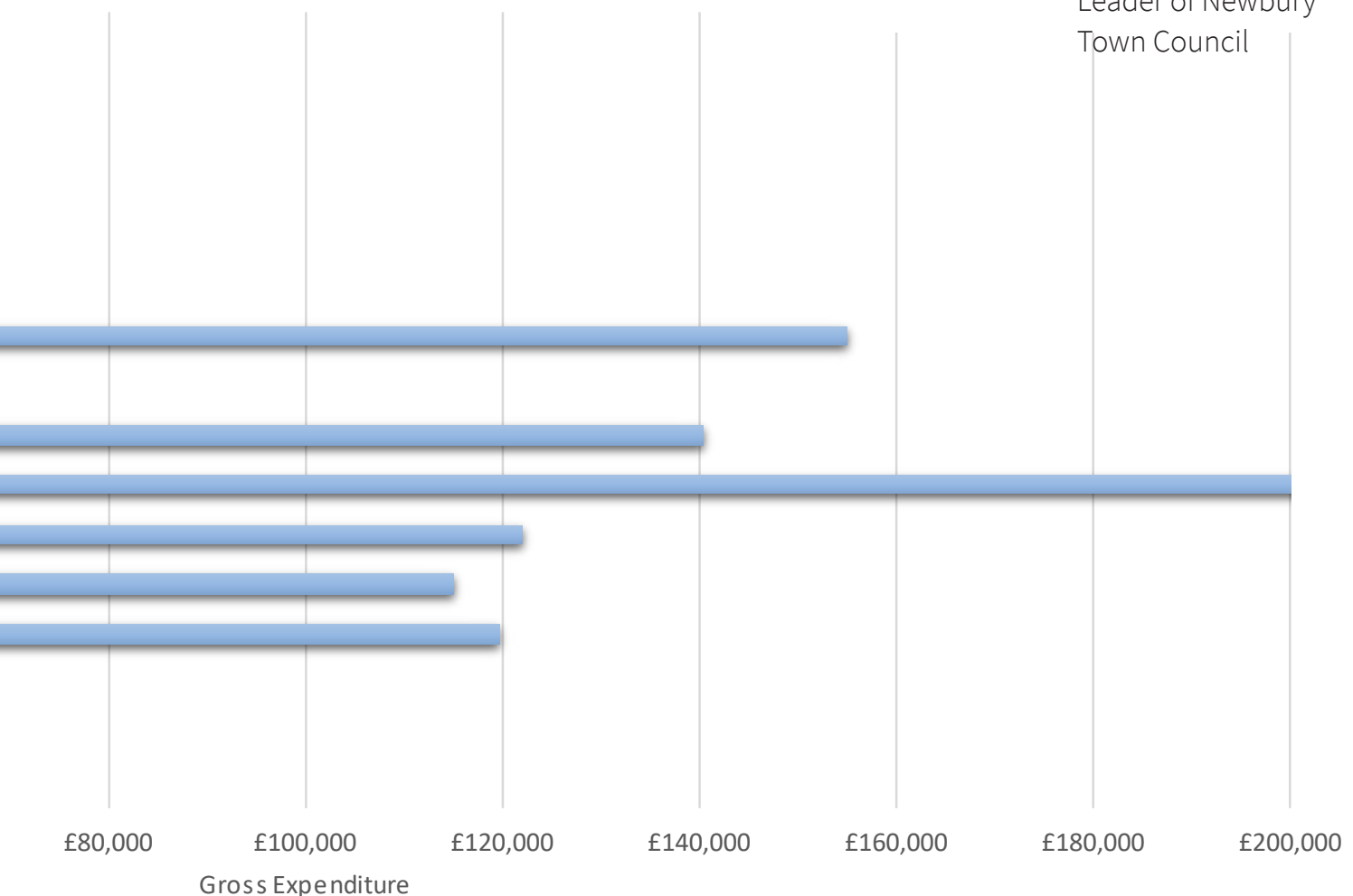
- A contribution of £12,000 for Christmas Lights to the Newbury Business Improvement District;
- A contribution of £12,000 for Town Centre CCTV to the Newbury Business Improvement District
- £31,275 contribution to West Berkshire District Council for running the Newbury Library;
- Additional £5,000 towards making Britain in Bloom a success, bringing the community together and enhancing Civic Pride;
- Additional £8,000 for replacing play equipment;

- Newbury Town Council also plans to construct a Community Café and new sports changing rooms in Victoria Park, using Community Infrastructure Levy payments and other developer contributions to fund these works.

Therefore, despite a reduction in the precept for the coming year, the Town Council continues to be able to maintain and enhance the services provided for the residents of the town.

***“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”***

Cllr Adrian Edwards  
Leader of Newbury  
Town Council



# SERVICES PROVIDED BY NEWBURY TOWN COUNCIL

- Maintaining parks, recreation grounds and open spaces – including Victoria Park, tennis courts, 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](http://www.newbury.gov.uk/playgrounds)
- Maintaining Newbury Town Hall – the chamber is available for public hire including weddings 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
- Visitor Information
- Seats, litter bins, dog bins and grit bins and footway lighting around the town
- Maintaining The Clock House
- Maintaining the War Memorial
- Wharf Toilets

## 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](http://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](http://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 11-18 and are interested in local issues for youth, please contact the Town Hall for more information.



# NEWBURY TOWN COUNCIL CAN HELP YOU KEEP FIT

## Tennis

Did you know you can hire a tennis court in Victoria Park for just £3.20? Even better value is our household annual membership; for just £44 a year unlimited play.

The recently refurbished tennis courts have floodlighting too so you can play into the evening and early mornings throughout the year. Booking is easy through the website and using the 'Clubspark' app on your mobile phone.

Coaching is also available, with children's and adults courses, in partnership with the National Tennis Association.

For more details go to the website:  
<https://www.newbury.gov.uk/tennis>



## Football

Newbury Town Council provides 3 grass full size football pitches – in Wash Common and City Recreation Grounds and in Victoria Park. These are available to hire for free for youth under 16 teams, and include the use of changing rooms. Brand new changing rooms are being built in Victoria Park this year, and should be ready for the 2019/20 season. Adult teams can register to book the pitches via the Town Council on 01635 35486 or email [towncouncil@newbury.gov.uk](mailto:towncouncil@newbury.gov.uk). The cost is £64.80 per match, or just £540 if 10 matches are booked and paid for in advance, a saving of £108.

## Outdoor Gyms

We also have three outdoor gyms, the newest, installed in 2018, is located at Blossom's Field in Wash Common. There is also outdoor fitness equipment, with both cardio and resistance training at Digby Road and in Victoria Park and they are all free to use for everyone.



# COUNCILLOR INFORMATION

Following the Council election on 2nd May 2019 this information will change.  
Please refer to the Council website for information. [www.newbury.gov.uk](http://www.newbury.gov.uk)

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