



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Working group meetings are held using Zoom electronic format. Full Council meetings are in person and are held at the Youth Club in Wolverton Road. You can email the clerk to attend any meeting or to give us your comments on any item.

YOUR COUNCILLORS

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YOUR OFFICERS

(01908)

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Mandy Voyde Website & events **519711**
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Sharon Bull Allotments and community centre bookings **618756**
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Alison Spink Property Officer **211701**
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Louise Irving Enquiries **618756**
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Jordan Galvin Assistant officer **211701**
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Kim Peacock Assistant finance **519712**
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Mia Hayward—Assistant communications
assist.publication@newport-pagnell.org.uk **519711**

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Full Council—7.30 March or 8 pm others
11th Mar, 15th April, 13th May
Culture, Events and PR— 8 pm
13th Mar, 17th April, 15th May
Policy and Finance-8.00 pm
25th Mar, 29th April, 28th May
Property Management— 8pm
4th Mar, 8th April, 1st May
Neighbourhood Plan Steering— 11 am
23rd April

EVENTS

Councillor Surgery—10am-12noon 20th April, Town Council Offices
Newport Pagnell Vintage Event—1st June, High Street and Bury Common
NPTFC Tournament— 22-23 June 2024, Wil-len Road Sports Ground . Parking at Riverside Meadow.
Farmers' Market—3rd Friday of every month outside of Boots, followed by **Food Truck Friday** starting at 5 pm.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Town Planning Interim—8 pm
6th Mar, 10th April, 28th May
Town Planning Full—8.00 pm
20th Mar. 24th April, 22nd May
Allotments— 2.00 pm
21st May
Economic & Service Development—10.30 am 18th Mar, 20th May
Sports, Health and Wellbeing—7 pm
29th April

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING—URC

21st March 6.45 pm for 7 pm start
Your opportunity to ask the Mayor anything. Hear from local volunteer groups, and learn about planning in the town.
Please submit nominations for worthy recipients of the Annual Town Award. We are looking for people or groups who have made a great voluntary contribution to the town.
Email: townclerk@newport-pagnell.org.uk with names, contact details, and a paragraph about good works. Submit by 7th March 2024

OTHER AGENCIES IN NEWPORT PAGNELL

RIVERS—Environment Agency for water quality, silt deposits, land owners for other blockages.
NATIONAL MOTORWAYS— All highways such as M1 and A5. Call 0300 123500
ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR—Police. Call 999 when it is happening.
SPEEDING and OTHER POLICE ISSUES —Call 101 to report crimes that have already happened. For speeding, best to attend a Full Council meeting of the Town Council, which the police often attend.
FIRE—Buckinghamshire and MK Fire Authority—Ring 999 and ask for the fire service
FLOOD PROTECTION HYDRO BAGS—Call Town Council office 01908-618756 or MKCC after hours 01908 226699 and we will put you in touch with the Newport Pagnell Flood Team.

WHO DOES WHAT IN NEWPORT PAGNELL?

MILTON KEYNES CITY COUNCIL

PHONE 01908 691691

- BENEFITS
- BUSINESS RATES
- EDUCATION—Some schools.
- ELECTIONS
- HIGHWAYS—Roads, footpaths, red-ways, pavements
- HOUSING
- LANDSCAPING
- PLANNING AUTHORITY
- RUBBISH COLLECTION & WASTE
- SOCIAL NEEDS— Especially children, older people & safeguarding
- STREET & TRAFFIC LIGHTS
- WASTE & RUBBISH COLLECTION

NEWPORT PAGNELL TOWN COUNCIL

- ALLOTMENTS
- BURY FIELD & MEADOW
- CONSULTEE ON PLANNING
- COMMUNITY CENTRES
- EVENTS—Music evening, Vintage event, Litter event.
- GRANTS TO COMMUNITY ORGS.
- MIDDLETON LEISURE CENTRE & POOL
- NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN
- MOST PARKS AND PLAY AREAS
- SPORTS and RECREATION
- TOWN FLOWERS AND FLAGS
- TOWN REJUVENATION—Ranger
- YOUTH CLUB & YOUTH SERVICES

NEWPORT PAGNELL TOWN COUNCIL

Town talk

Issue 108



2024 IS AN ELECTION YEAR FOR NEWPORT PAGNELL TOWN COUNCIL

In May 2024 all positions for councillors on the Newport Pagnell Town Council will come up for election. At this time all Councillors must reapply if they want to continue being councillors and all residents who qualify (see below) can apply to become councillors. You don't need special qualifications or a specific set of skills.

Town and Parish councillors are elected by the public, every four years, to represent individual geographical wards. In Newport Pagnell there are two wards, the North Ward and the South Ward, divided by Wolverton Rd and the High Street. There are 6 councillor positions for North Ward and 10 for South Ward. These are voluntary positions, with a small expenses allowance. Shar, our Town Clerk, can fill you in with further information and you can attend our meetings to learn more.

What do councillors do?

Councillors have three main components to their work:

- Decision making at meetings with other Council members where they decide which activities to support, where money should be spent, what services should be delivered and what policies should be implemented.
- Monitoring—to make sure that decisions lead to efficient and effective services.
- Getting involved locally. As local representatives, councillors have responsibilities towards their constituents and local organisations.

How much time does it take being a Councillor?

Many councillors say it takes around three/four hours a week.

Am I qualified?

You have to be a British subject or citizen of the Commonwealth or European Union and be 18 years or over on 2nd May 2024. You must be a local government elector for the area in which you want to stand, and should have during the whole of the 12 months preceding the election day occupied as owner or tenant any land or other premises in Newport Pagnell or worked here, or lived within 3 miles of Newport Pagnell. You cannot stand for election if you are subject to a bankruptcy restriction order or interim order, or if you have been convicted in the UK of any offence with a sentence of imprisonment (whether suspended or not) for a period of over three months without the option of a fine.

How to apply?

Apply to Milton Keynes City Council for a nomination paper, and make sure you get the complete form back to that Council by 4 pm on 5th April 2024.

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Happy New Year. If you made any resolutions to get fitter, join a club, learn a skill or get involved in a voluntary group there are opportunities to do that in our town.

if you are a local voter, then consider standing to be a Town Councillor. Serving your community as a Councillor is open to all sorts of people, so whatever your sex, religion, ethnicity, age (as long as it's 18 or higher), etc. please consider stepping forward.

A topic I wanted to cover is our roads. Most of us can probably hear the speeding that goes on in and around our town.

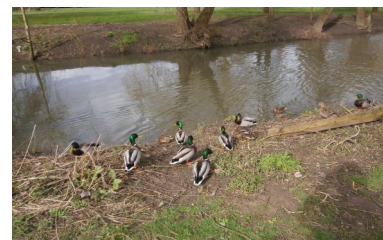
Highways are a Milton Keynes City Council responsibility and helping prevent speeding and keeping drink and drug drivers off our roads are Thames Valley Police matters. The Town Council raise these with MKCC and TVP but we can also all help. The few seconds you may save by breaking the speed limit in our town are never going to be as important as someone's life. So SLOW DOWN to the speed limit or less. If you are a passenger and your driver is speeding, then you too can call them out on it and ask them to slow down. Thank you,



VERSION 3 of the Newport Pagnell Neighbourhood Plan has gone forward for its last consultation. This is currently advertised by MK Council but details also appear on our website.

After the consultation, an examination and a referendum on the plan take place. It is possible that the referendum vote will be on the same date as the local elections: 2nd May 2024, or it could be later this year.

This is a plan about **your town**. It includes policies that retain wildlife corridors and that seek to maintain open space to increase biodiversity. It proposes some minor new brownfield sites for housing in the town centre, with no new greenfield land for building other than the Tickford Field site which was agreed by residents in the very first Neighbourhood Plan referendum back in 2016. It proposes bringing an Aston Martin Heritage Centre to the town.



Please respond to the last consultation and use your opportunity to vote.



THE POLICE STATION SITE 124 HIGH STREET

In our last edition we reported that Churchill Retirement Living's planning application for the old police station site had been refused by the Planning Authority, Milton Keynes City Council. (MKCC)

Churchills have told us that they will be taking the matter to an appeal hearing in March. The Town Council will support this appeal because we believe building flats for older people will be a huge benefit to the town. Also, if successful, Churchill will give the historical police station building, which includes the old courtroom and gaol cells, to the Town Council. Previously we tried to get this building listed, but Historic England turned us down. Putting the building into public ownership will guarantee that it will continue to survive.



The Town Council has also been pressing to ensure that the old Two Wrestlers' garage (the oldest house in Newport) is not only made safe, but properly preserved and eventually restored. MKCC has agreed to undertake a further survey of the building, but Newport residents want them to use their powers to take responsibility themselves if they can't get the owner to do so.

GETTING CLOSER TO NATURE

The Town Council has commissioned two projects to help to bring residents closer to our wonderful open spaces. One is a trail covering Bury Common, Ousebank Gardens, and Castle and Riverside Meadows. Information about the ecology of these sites, the wildlife and flora, and how the sites are managed for better biodiversity is shared during this walk. The other project offers a series of activities for families to undertake, each of which helps children learn more about the natural world that surrounds them. Both will be available early this year.



VINTAGE EVENT 1ST JUNE 2024—STARTS AT 11 AM SHARP



Kick off the summer with the Newport Pagnell Vintage Event. We have something for everyone from the cycling act and petting zoo for children to the stage shows and dancing for adults, from the music and displays of the late 1940s to the vintage vehicles of yesteryear. Down a beer at our coach wagon bar, and sample the delights of a host of restaurants, pubs and takeaways throughout the town. Indulge in tea and scones at the Brooklands Centre, and take in new exhibits at the living history museum.

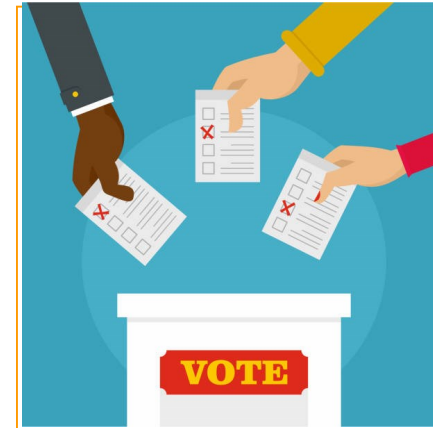


Remember a time when life was simpler, yet somehow happier? This year Helen Pearson is back to entertain you. Another new feature is that Bury Common will have a more wheelchair-friendly path leading to the event area for those needing a smoother route. Come early, our new opening ceremony starts at 11am prompt and you'll want to line the High Street for that. Keep watch in the sky for the vintage plane flyover. Programmes are available from mid-May at the Town Council offices, and paid, secure parking can be found at Riverside Meadow. Oh! And do try to come dressed for the occasion because prizes are awarded for the best dressed adult and child.



Spitfire

HOW TO VOTE in the LOCAL ELECTIONS (BOROUGH AND PARISH COUNCILS) or in the NATIONAL ELECTIONS (for your MP)



If you'd like to vote in the forthcoming elections (and we would encourage everyone eligible to do so) the first step is to ensure that you are on the electoral roll. You can choose to be on the closed register where other people cannot see your details. Apply online on <http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/> or phone 01908 254706 or email elections@milton-keynes.gov.uk.

On voting day, remember to bring photographic identification before voting. Without it you will not be allowed to vote.

Instead of visiting a voting station on the election day in May 2024 you can instead choose to have a postal vote. To apply for this you need to supply your national insurance number, or proof of identity to the local elections office, using the contact details above. You must apply at least 11 working days before the election.

You can vote by proxy if you are away on polling day, have a medical issue or disability, or because of work or military service. Your proxy should be someone you trust who is also registered to vote. You can apply online at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-proxy-vote> or if you wish to be on the closed electoral roll you must apply to the local elections office. Proxy applications must be made at least 6 days in advance of the election.



The Inner Wheel has been at the heart of the community for 100 years and celebrated its centenary in January 24. The craft group from the local club created a post box topper in blue and yellow (IW colours) to commemorate the event and this was displayed on the post box in Wolverton Road. Visitors are always welcome at our regular meetings which take place from 2-4pm on 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Olney Centre. Entry £3. Contact Moira at innerwheelnewportpagnell@gmail.com or

go to our website: <http://www.innerwheeldistrict26.co.uk>

SUICIDE PREVENTION SUPPORT BEDS, LUTON AND MK SUICIDE PREVENTION CAMPAIGN GROUP

Don't struggle by yourself!

Samaritans' volunteers are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to anyone who is struggling, day or night. Contact Samaritans by free-phone on

116 123, even on a mobile without credit, or you can email: jo@samaritans.org

Shout - Shout is the UK's first 24/7 text service, free on all major mobile networks, for anyone in crisis anytime, anywhere. It's a place to go if you're struggling to cope and you need immediate help. Text REFLECT to 85258. free on all major mobile networks.

Mental Health Crisis, Milton Keynes. If you or someone you know needs urgent mental health support, you can call the CNWL crisis line. Phone: 0800 0234650

Mind BLMK Crisis Café - If you or someone you know needs urgent or crisis support with mental health in the evening. Open 7 days a week 5pm - 11pm or phone 01525 722 225



WHAT HAS OUR RANGER BEEN UP TO IN NEWPORT PAGNELL?

BEFORE



AFTER



Leaf clearing High Street & Station Road



Graffiti removal from bus stops



Litter removal all over town