



Newport Pagnell Town Council thanks everyone who came out to vote for the Newport Pagnell Neighbourhood Plan. 88.7% of those who voted said ‘yes’ to Milton Keynes City Council’s Planning Department being required to use the Neighbourhood Plan when making planning decisions, and 11% voted ‘no’. The rest were spoiled votes.

The Newport Pagnell Neighbourhood Plan has therefore passed its referendum and will shortly become new planning legislation.

Almost 1 in 4 residents voted, a significantly higher proportion than in recent by-elections in Milton Keynes, which shows how much people value our town.



THE VALUE OF
CHARITY SHOPS TO NEWPORT PAGNELL



The Charity Retail Association has identified that charity shops not only bring a monetary value to the British economy, but also offer £75.3 billion pounds of social value a year. Social value is the value of giving back and includes benefits such as re-use (reducing the volume of items thrown away); community (bringing people together); fund raising more than £300M a year; supporting great causes by being a visible, recognisable reminder of charities and their causes; being High Street champions in helping to boost footfall for nearby businesses; being flexible in their ability to pop up temporarily to fill a vacant space for a period; offering places for people with different backgrounds to come together to shop and socialise; offering upskilling (through providing places for people to learn new skills such as till operation, visual merchandising, customer service, health and safety, shop floor management and social media skills; being sustainable fashion pioneers in providing shoppers with pre-loved clothing, accessories, and home décor; and by offering affordable home starter opportunities for second-hand furniture, homeware and kitchen ware.

Having several charity shops in Newport Pagnell makes it a charity shop destination to which people travel from Milton Keynes and other boroughs to find that unusual gift, search for a vintage bargain, or follow their green credentials by buying pre-loved jewellery, fashion, furniture and decorative objects.

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

At the Town Council, the public can attend all of our decision-making meetings, and we publish their agendas and minutes on our website. We also try and use this Town Talk newsletter, social media, big banners in the high street, and many other methods to inform the community and seek their engagement on significant activities.

However, after any event has happened, for example the Cultural and Literary Festival and the Neighbourhood Plan referendum both of which are mentioned in this issue, some folks tell us they didn’t

realise that thing was happening.

So, we’d like to understand what more we could do to raise awareness. If you’ve any ideas, I’d love to hear them.

We’d also like to encourage people to help by talking to others about the things we mention, in person as well as on social media, and to put dates of events we publicise in their diaries. Likewise, the PhoneBox magazine should also be received by every home in town and lists local events, so please also read that and similarly note the dates of any forthcoming events in our town.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN NEWPORT PAGNELL



The churches in Newport Pagnell seek to be at the heart of our community. You might come across us when we join together for a United Service in January, or see us on the High Street when we hand out biscuits with a topical message on Easter Saturday. In the meantime, perhaps you've been able to enjoy a Lent Lunch in the Mead Centre. Later in the year, over 140 children will have great fun at our annual Holiday Club, in August, and they'll come back to the High Street just before Christmas to Find the Nativity characters. Meanwhile, all those who enjoy singing will have been able to join in the Songs of Praise in the Parish Church in September, or sing carols after the Christmas Lights are switched on. Throughout the year, the volunteer drivers in our Transport Service will be taking Newport residents to medical appointments across the region. So popular is that service that we need more drivers. Contact Dave Maynard on 07947 020 169 if you are interested in learning more.

Dates of all our events are listed on our website, www.ctnp.org.uk, and that also has links to the sites of our member churches. We hope to see you soon!



CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

St Peter & St Paul Parish Church, Newport Pagnell

The very popular Christmas Tree Festival is back this year:

Friday 6 Dec	10am-4pm
Saturday 7 Dec	10am-4pm
Sunday 8 Dec	11am-4pm

There is no fee for entering a tree which can be real, artificial or home-made and should be table-top size.

Trees may be decorated along a theme related to the group or organisation contributing, or simply decorated for fun. Plus you can advertise your organization for free with a small stack of business cards or leaflets alongside your tree.

Would you like to exhibit a tree?

Please get in touch.

Contact Eldridgej55@yahoo.com for full details.



THE MEAD CENTRE IN NEWPORT PAGNELL



The Mead Centre in Newport Pagnell has successfully held *Time-4-Everyone* sessions every Thursday, since the energy crisis started two years ago. To encourage more people to drop in, the national Chatty Cafe scheme will be incorporated from October 2024, between 11am-1pm. At least one table, identified with a bright yellow sign, will have a volunteer ready to have a chat. If you have recently moved to the area, are going through a tough time or would like to meet new people - come along! You will receive a warm welcome from the Mead Centre crew. Light refreshments are available as are some 'have a go' crafts.



Newport Pagnell COMMUNITY LARDER

What is a community larder?

A membership programme that offers:

- Access to surplus food
- Local business discounts
- Little larder club
- Access to other services and support
- Meet new people

Who can join?

Anyone who wants to prevent food waste and save money. It is not means tested

What is involved?

An individual membership, at £3.50 per week, provides up to 10 items of food plus a selection of fruit and vegetables. A family membership is £7 per week and offers up to 20 items. There is also a one-off joining fee of £10.

Where does the food come from?

A Didcot based charity, providing surplus food, training and opportunities to young people and organisations

Newport Pagnell
Community
Larder
The Mead Centre
High Street,
Newport Pagnell,
MK16 8AB
Wednesdays
11am—1 pm



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

SOUTH WARD

Richard Abery

richard.abery@newport-pagnell.org.uk

Paul Alexander

paul.alexander@newport-pagnell.org.uk

Binta Bah-Pokawa

binta.bah-pokawa@newport-pagnell.org.uk

Anne Butler

anne.butler@newport-pagnell.org.uk

Ian Carman

ian.carman@newport-pagnell.org.uk

Roger Clarke

roger.clarke@newport-pagnell.org.uk

Paul Day

paul.day@newport-pagnell.org.uk

Sue Garner

sue.garner@newport-pagnell.org.uk

Euan Henderson

euan.henderson@newport-pagnell.org.uk

Mark Lombardo

mark.lombardo@newport-pagnell.org.uk

NORTH WARD

Rose Davy

rose.davy@newport-pagnell.org.uk

Roger Hornblow

roger.hornblow@newport-pagnell.org.uk

Diane Kitchen

diane.kitchen@newport-pagnell.org.uk

Scott Humphries

scott.humphries@newport-pagnell.org.uk

Richard Pearson

richard.pearson@newport-pagnell.org.uk

Phil Winsor

phil.winsor@newport-pagnell.org.uk

YOUR OFFICERS

(01908)

Shar Roselman Town Clerk **618756**

townclerk@newport-pagnell.org.uk

Abi Bassett Deputy Clerk & RFO **519717**

deputyandfinanceofficer@newport-pagnell.org.uk

Mandy Voyde Website & events **519711**

web@newport-pagnell.org.uk

Sharon Bull Allotments and community centre bookings **618756**

allotments@newport-pagnell.org.uk

Alison Spink Property Officer **211701**

propertyofficer@newport-pagnell.org.uk

Louise Irving Enquiries **618756**

towncouncilinfo@newport-pagnell.org.uk

Jordan Galvin Assistant officer **211702**

towncouncilinfo@newport-pagnell.org.uk

Mia Hayward—Assistant communications assist.publication@newport-pagnell.org.uk **519713**

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Full Council—8 pm

13th Jan, 10th Feb, 10th Mar

Culture, Events and PR— 8 pm

15th Jan, 12th Feb, 12th Mar

Policy and Finance-8 pm

27th Jan, 24th Feb, 31st Mar

Property Management— 8pm

6th Jan, 3rd Feb, 3rd Mar

Neighbourhood Plan Steering— 11 am

20th Feb

EVENTS

Christmas Tree Festival 10am—4pm, 6,7&8th December at St Peter and St Paul's Church

Christingle Service—4pm, Sunday 8th December at St Peter and St Paul's Church

Cameo Christmas Party—10.30am 16th Dec. for babies, toddlers and accompanying adults at St Peter and St Paul's Church

Carols by Candlelight—7pm, 20th December at St Peter and St Paul's Church

Finding the Nativity - High Street, 10-11.30 am, 21st December. Churches Together.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Town Planning Interim—8 pm

8th Jan, 5th Feb, 5th Mar.

Town Planning Full—8 pm

22nd Jan, 19th Feb, 19th Mar.

Allotments— 2 pm

18th Feb

Economic+Service Development—10.30 am

20th Jan, 27th Mar

Sports, Health and Wellbeing—7 pm

24th Feb (stakeholders)

EVENTS

Crib Service—5pm 24th December St Peter and St Paul's Church

Midnight Mass— 11.30am, 24th December St Peter and St Paul's Church

Farmers' Market—3rd Friday of every month outside of the Crown Pharmacy, followed by **Food Truck Friday** starting at 5 pm.

Newport Pagnell Town Council's members and staff wish everyone a very happy Christmas and festive season.

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 or 101 later.

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 or volunteer with the Town Council to undertake speed watch sessions.

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.

BLOCKED DRAINS—Anglian Water— Call 0345 60 66 087

WHO DOES WHAT IN NEWPORT PAGNELL?

MILTON KEYNES CITY COUNCIL

PHONE 01908 691691

- BENEFITS
- BUSINESS RATES
- EDUCATION—Some schools.
- ELECTIONS/FLOODING
- 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

THE CULTURAL AND LITERARY FESTIVAL

HELD ON 14TH SEPTEMBER 2024

If you weren't at this new event in the Town you missed a real treat. Twelve local authors, nine artists, calligraphy experts, Ukrainian fashion and singing, West African drumming and fashion, the local Chinese Church Choir, Eurovision from Estonia, a Finnish love song, Fulani Culture, Awake to Africa, a Madonna tribute, an unlikely Arabian/Scottish musical partnership and masses of international cuisine were on offer at Riverside Meadows on a lovely day on 14th September. Organised by the local Cultural Volunteer Group and aided by the Town Council, this new event set the area alight with diverse cultures all coming together to form a cohesive whole. The next event is planned for September 2026.



WINTER NIGHT SHELTER



Rough sleeping—left. Baptist Church pictured below.



For many years Newport Pagnell Baptist Church has provided vital support for the homeless during winter.

The church provides temporary shelter for 15-20 people, offering meals, overnight accommodation and a safe, welcoming environment. Supported by around 40 dedicated volunteers, the initiative not only meets basic needs but also offers kindness and company during their stay. This local community effort works in partnership with UnityMK to support the wider Milton Keynes homelessness provision.



Ousebank House pictured below.

HOUSEWARMING MK PROGRAMME

22 JAN—26 FEB (break at Half Term)

Looking to make your home warmer this winter and cut down on energy bills? Join Home Energy MK's annual *Housewarming* programme, a beginner-friendly guide to home retrofitting. Running from 22nd January to 26th February 2025 (with a break for half term on 19th February), these Wednesday evening workshops will be held at the Middleton Centre, 63A Silver Street in Newport Pagnell from 7pm to 8:30pm. Designed to help homeowners in Milton Keynes make energy-saving improvements, Home Energy MK offers independent, expert-led information to help you understand how to bring down your energy bills and make your home a bit greener. In bringing local people together to discover the core retrofit topics in manageable steps, the *Housewarming MK* sessions promise to empower you with the knowledge and confidence to have informed discussions with contractors and to tackle small energy efficiency projects yourself in future. To learn more and to book your place on this year's *Housewarming MK* programme, visit: <https://homenergymk.org/>



Local Housewarming meeting pictured above

OUSEBANK HOUSE THE TOWN'S HIDDEN GEM

Ousebank House is based where the Royal British Legion Club used to be at the far end of the High Street. Unlike in the days of the Legion, you don't need to be a member to come in. It is open to all—please pay us a visit. Don't sit at home, being lonely.

We have many clubs, societies and groups meeting here, and we host a warm hub for the community as it is the essence of what we are – a community asset. We also have a friendly bar open Tuesday – to Friday evenings, and on weekends we serve a great Sunday lunch.

There are loads of events on such as live music & disco bingo.

See Facebook and our website (www.ousebankhouse.co.uk) to view what's coming up or just pop in and talk to us. We also have rooms available for hire, some which are free for large groups.