



Foreword by the Mayor

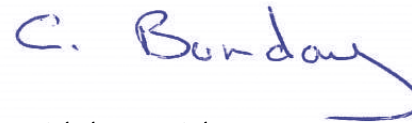
Councillor Carol Bunday

As Mayor of Newton Abbot, it is a great pleasure for me to introduce the reviewed and revised Newton Abbot & District Community Plan.

Newton Abbot is a special place. The Town Council hopes that the Plan celebrates both the history of the town and looks forward to a vibrant future for Newton Abbot and its residents and visitors.

The Town Council recognises the importance of asking people for their views and suggestions, and I'm delighted so many people who live and work in the town have taken the time to express their opinions. As a Town Council we are keen to champion the views of local people on a wide range of subjects, many of which are outside the control of the Town Council. We hope that the Plan reflects your contributions.

We hope that you will agree that the new Community Plan sets out a future for our town which is entirely achievable. As times change, the town relies on the time given generously by residents and businesses to support a wide range of community activities. The Town Council is grateful for the commitment of all those individuals who give up a significant amount of their time to make Newton Abbot such a vibrant community.



With best wishes

Carol Bunday
Mayor of Newton Abbot

Introduction

Newton Abbot is a town with a population of around 27,500 that sits at the heart of Teignbridge district.

The town's heritage is built on traditions of Great Western Railway, Ball Clay extraction and its market heritage.

Newton Abbot's topography and accessibility has made the town a favourable location for development, with a rapidly expanding population. This growth has had a significant impact on the town and its infrastructure.

The town centre offers shoppers the advantage of being level, and it is seen as a popular shopping destination. The town boasts a range of local businesses and national chains.

The town has a limited range of entertainment facilities, including a leisure centre, small cinema, library, museum and various community facilities.

A growing number of the towns' residents have been forced to seek employment elsewhere. In many of the new residential areas of the town, a lack of local facilities mean that residents have begun to look to other service centres to meet their needs.

The Town is fortunate to have an active Town Council which has achieved much in recent years. In 2020 the Town Council agreed to undertake a review of the Newton Abbot & District

Community Plan published in 2008. The original Plan was bold in its ambitions for the town. It included projects such as a 'Magnificent Museum' which has now been delivered through the community facility at Newton's Place opposite Asda. In commissioning a review of the Community Plan, the Town Council recognised that things have 'moved on' in the town since the original Plan was published in 2008. Many of the projects identified in the Plan have either been delivered or superseded. Some of those projects outstanding from the original document are included in this updated Plan.

Throughout the following pages, we have set-out the feedback received from the public consultation. This is a 'community plan' which has been written in direct response to the issues expressed during the consultation.

This Community Plan takes account of other strategies for the town of Newton Abbot. This includes the Teignbridge Local Plan, the Newton Abbot Neighbourhood Plan published in 2016, and the Garden Communities visioning work published by Teignbridge District Council. The outcomes from the Garden Communities vision reflect many of the aspirations included in this Community Plan. It is hoped that the aspirations of this Plan, and the vision expressed in the Garden Communities work can be delivered alongside each other for the benefit of the town's residents.

Current key issues for the town as identified during the consultation:

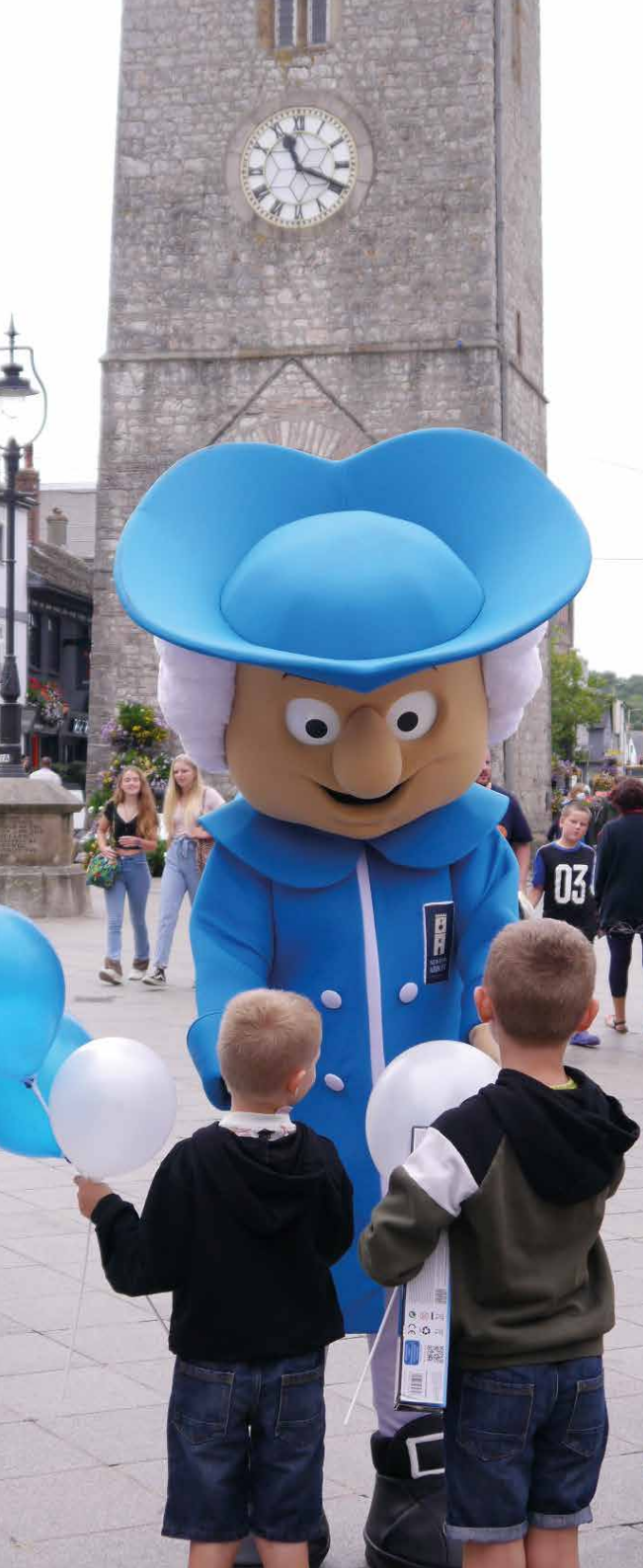
- **Major housing developments** are underway in Newton Abbot which are greatly increasing the pressures on the town's infrastructure (particularly traffic and health services).
- **Market Quarter proposals** developed by Teignbridge District Council and Devon County Council propose to significantly change the town centre, including both the Market hall, historic Theatre and Queen Street shopping experience.
- **Lack of resources amongst public sector organisations** means increasing reliance on voluntary and community sector organisations to support improvements through the town – by managing community facilities, maintaining green spaces and working to enhance the town's community infrastructure.
- **The challenges of uncertainty** created by the pandemic and wider global influences. These challenges include climate change, growing concerns about mental health and economic pressures associated with the cost-of-living crisis.

The message of this Community Plan remains unchanged from the original Plan. Members of the community of Newton Abbot are and will continue to be involved in building an exciting future for the town. The responsibility is that of all members of the community. Newton Abbot will always need the strength of an involved and united community in what is a changing and challenging environment. Since the publication of the 2008 Community Plan, the Town Council has supported the establishment of Newton Abbot Community Interest Company to progress the development and delivery of the Community Plan. Since its creation in 2008, the CIC has attracted significant funding to the town and has delivered a number of projects for the benefit of the local community.



Consultation

Residents were given the opportunity to participate in the consultation for the review of the Community Plan through both an online survey and face-to-face interaction. The consultation was open ended, giving respondents the opportunity to express their ideas and opinions, rather than respond to a series of closed questions. The detailed feedback from the consultation is available in a separate Consultation Report.



Liked

.....

During the consultation, people were asked what they **liked** about Newton Abbot. The responses were wide-ranging, and included:

It doesn't pretend to be anything that it isn't

Its sense of history

Its parks and people

The theatre

Honest, hard-working town with a loyal and passionate community

Markets

Independent shops

Proximity to Dartmoor and the coast

Christmas lights and the carnival



Disliked

People were also asked what they **disliked** about Newton Abbot, and the responses included:

Traffic

Narrow minded attitude
towards change

Loss of car parks

Destruction of the history

Pot holes

Too many coffee shops

Lots of Charity Shops

Looks tired and unloved

The revised Community Plan broadly follows the themes of the original Plan, focusing on a number of key issues within the town:

Town Centre

Facilities for young people

Facilities for older people

Heritage, Culture and Sport

Environment and climate change

Community

There are inevitably cross-overs between these themes – many current issues in Newton Abbot have an impact on everyone in the local community, from toddlers to pensioners, such as **Health and Wellbeing**.

The Town Council recognises that health and wellbeing is a key issue for residents, with people of all ages facing challenging times following the pandemic and other issues. Health and wellbeing is a cross-cutting theme which is addressed by many of the projects in the Community Plan.



Consultation feedback



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More seating

past the Clock Tower
towards Austins
furniture shop



Don't get rid of the cinema

and turn it into yet another
under-utilised space

Revive the Alexandra Theatre

as the cultural 'hub' of the
town comprising theatre,
exhibition space and café



Make it more cycle friendly

(including EV bike hire)



Bring back

Pay on Exit parking

Sort out

the eyesore by Asda

Improve cycle routes

Make it greener

plant more trees and
flowers in the town



Redevelop

the old Cattle Market
not the Market Hall



Provide

more litter bins



Install public art

in Wolborough Street, near the Passmore Edwards
Centre, in Bradley Lane (to reflect the historic wool &
leather industries), on Balls Corner Roundabout and the
corner of Courtenay Park facing the Railway Station

Plan Objectives

- A town centre that is the vibrant heart of a growing community
- Safe, green and clean environment
- Good access by public transport and for cyclists, pedestrians and those with mobility needs

Plan projects

Linger Longer

Encourage visitors to stay longer in the town by providing more benches and reinstating the options to pay for car parking at end of stay. Create a European style meeting area in Market Walk, by providing chess tables, an outdoor piano and seating areas. Consider the installation of public art.

Greening the Town

Support the excellent work currently carried out by both the Town Council and other community and voluntary organisations to plant trees and flowers, and weed the flowerbeds and pavements.

Support the town

Continue to support the town's businesses through events and support from the Town Development Manager. The town's programme of events should be supported to continue.

Encourage families

Consider the installation of equipment for children to sit or play on to encourage families to linger in the town.

Redevelopment of the Seymour Horwell site

Support the redevelopment of the former Seymour Horwell site by Austins/Carpetright. This site has planning permission for the development of ground floor retail units with residential accommodation above. Any appropriate scheme to regenerate this derelict corner of the town centre should be encouraged.

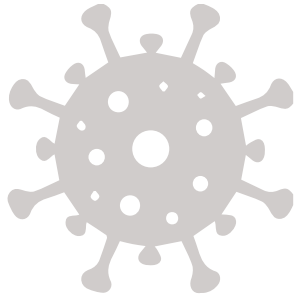


Younger people

Alongside long-term concerns about whether the town can provide access to suitable employment opportunities, the health and wellbeing of young people living in the town has been significantly impacted by the pandemic. As such the Plan needs to do everything possible to address both the immediate and the long-term needs of the town's younger population.

Consultation feedback

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Impact of Covid
is a major issue for young people



Wellbeing

The pandemic and the lockdowns have seriously affected the wellbeing of young people in the town



Safe places
to hang-out



Provide
a better cinema



Better
public transport

Set-up a
Youth Forum
so that the young people can say what they want



More
youth clubs



Provide a
skatepark
in the town centre



Alexandra Theatre

could be used as an arts hub for young people, allowing them to learn and train in a real live theatre



We want a
youth café
where we can meet after school

Plan Objectives

- A town that offers a supportive environment for its young people.

Plan projects

Youth Café

That partner agencies work together to provide an after school youth café in a town centre location. The café would offer a safe space for young people and access to advice and support from qualified personnel.

Voice 4 Youth

Youth Forum & Website, giving young people a voice in the town by finding new ways to participate in decision making processes.

Town Centre facilities

That consideration be given to the needs of young people in any plans for the town centre.

Theatre and Arts Training Academy

That consideration be given to the creation of a training facility within the town centre for those young people with a keen interest in the theatre/arts. The Alexandra Theatre could provide a location for this.





Consultation feedback

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**Seating with
shelters**
would be ideal



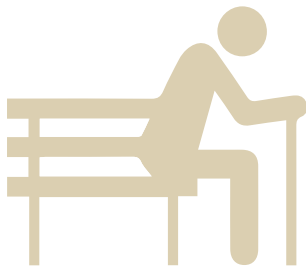
Better
public toilets



**Keep the
Theatre**
so shows can
tour there



**Make it
easier**
to pay for parking
at the end of a stay



Loneliness
is a major problem – people are
isolated after the pandemic



Have more
**community
spaces**
where we can meet people



Mobility
is an issue
especially
after Covid

Plan Objectives

- A town which recognises and meets the needs of an ageing population.

Plan projects

Moving along

Agencies should work together to meet the needs of residents through reliable and regular bus services.

Accessibility

That the needs of an ageing population are fully considered in all improvements within the town, both in terms of accessibility, but also in terms of the adequacy and availability of facilities such as benches and public toilets.

Heard a whisper

That access to information about community groups and activities is made more widely available through a variety of means, with a view to tackling loneliness and isolation amongst older people.





"When I look at the Globe, there used to be a lovely dance hall. We used to dance a lot in there, my wife was a good dancer."

- Eddie Baker

"The baker at the top of Quay Road would tear off a newspaper strip, write our name on it, lick it and stick it to our cake. Talk about hygiene! But the cakes were lovely..."

- Florence Davies

"On the march before the Army Cross and Town Prince of Orange, loud audible voice - Earnings from an account"

Consultation feedback

The Alex Theatre

is a great resource and money should be ploughed into it to make it accessible to more groups and an historical landmark in the town we are proud of. Could help young musicians, theatre goers and so much more.



Bring more
**open-air
performances**
to the town



Provide better information
about local cultural organisations and forthcoming events



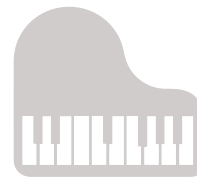
Provide
pop-up art galleries

Provide
a dedicated arts
centre in the town

We need
**more
public art**



**Provide
a better**
swimming pool

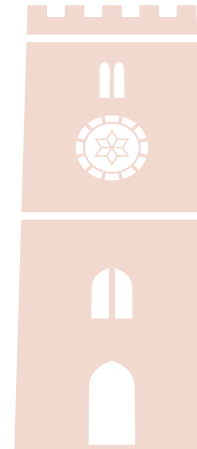


Put a
piano
in the Market
Square

Introduce
cycle hire



Provide
a pump track and
improve
cycling facilities



Protect
the town's
historic buildings

Make
**sports
facilities**
affordable
for everyone



Plan Objectives

- That the town's distinctive heritage, cultural and sporting life form the bedrock of the town's future.

Plan projects

Cultural Venue

Meet the cultural needs of the town by providing a cultural venue that can adequately meet the aspirations of cultural groups within the town as well as visiting performers. Such a facility should provide a first-class entertainment venue for people of all ages and should incorporate an art exhibition space and café area.

Raising voices

Encouraging networking and information sharing amongst cultural organisations. The partnership would also promote cultural events.

Taking a dip

Encourage investment in affordable leisure facilities, particularly swimming pools.

Getting Out & About

Promote routes for walking and cycling, using national footpath networks where possible. Improve signage of walking and cycling routes across the town, creating opportunities for bicycle hire and improved cycle storage facilities where feasible.

Respect the Past, Embrace the Future

Strive to ensure that opportunities to celebrate the town's heritage are taken seriously by all public agencies working in the town. Ensure that new developments celebrate the town's heritage and historic buildings.

Art in the Town

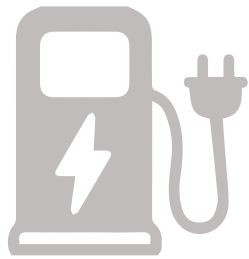
Support the installation of public art in key locations around the town, including at Balls Corner and within town centre locations.



Environment and Climate Change

A key cross-cutting theme through the consultation has been environment and climate change, with many of those responding keen to emphasise the importance of creating opportunities to ensure the sustainability of the town.

Consultation feedback



Electric car
**charging
points**



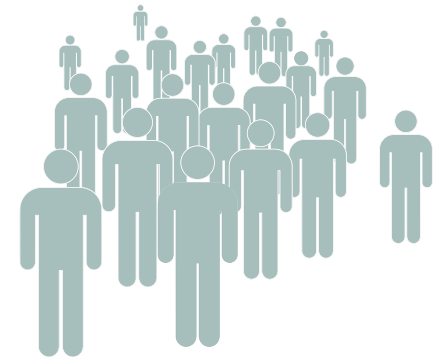
More trees



Reduce
single-use plastics

Ensure

provision of infrastructure within
new communities in the town



Improve
cycle links



More wildlife corridors

are needed in the town – creating a place where
people can celebrate their natural world



Stop

building on
green spaces



Promote

an electric bicycle
hire scheme for
the town



River Lemon

needs to be made more accessible for local people.
Improve the space around the river. It runs through
a lot of the town and connects communities

Plan Objectives

- That adapting to, and mitigating against, the impact of climate change is a priority in all activities delivered or instigated by the Town Council.

Plan projects

Greening the Town

Support the excellent work currently carried out by both the Town Council and other community and voluntary organisations to plant trees and flowers, weed the flowerbeds and pavements and pick up litter. This work is on-going in locations across the town.

Grow Your Own

Support projects which provide community managed greenspaces, and edible planting schemes. Lobby for the delivery of high quality, accessible allotments with a water supply in all new and existing housing developments across the town.

Greenspaces

Promote the idea of green corridors through the town connecting greenspaces, provide pocket parks and new green areas. Improve access to the River Lemon.

Support – infrastructure

Ensure all new developments are adequately supported by appropriate community infrastructure, thus creating new communities and reducing the need to travel elsewhere to access facilities.

Charge It!

Encourage the provision of electric vehicle charging points.

Spread the word

Work with existing campaign groups in the town and district to share messages about the importance of adapting to and mitigating against the impact of climate change. Seek to support groups that promote environmental awareness.

Promote walking and cycling

That the Town Council work with existing groups in the town, as well as through the planning process to promote and seek to improve walking and cycling routes across the town.



Consultation feedback



Plan Objectives

- That the Town Council and other agencies support the efforts of voluntary and community groups in the town.

Plan projects

Promote it:

The Town Council continue to promote and support the work of other organisations across the town through events, advertising and attendance by members of the Town Council where they are available.

Fund it:

The Town Council's existing grants schemes are used to support a variety of community organisations and projects across the town.

Support It:

Where relevant and following a formal request, the Town Council actively pledges its supports for projects in the town. The Town Council will actively support projects that pledge to make an active and appropriate use of a derelict or under-used building in the town centre.

Help!

The Town Council will signpost to sources of information and support for people living in the town, particularly in light of the current cost of living crises.





TIMPSON

Watch
Repairs

DRY
CLEANING

stratton greber
commercial
Prime Shop
977 sqft
TO LET
(01392) 202203

rowcroft
nursing shop

Linger Longer

Encourage visitors to the town to stay longer by providing more benches and reinstating options to pay for car parking at the end of stay. Create a European style meeting area in Market Square, by providing chess tables, an outdoor piano and a seating area.

LEAD DELIVERY PARTNER

Newton Abbot Town Council can improve street furniture. Proposals to change car parking arrangements or make improvements to Market Square would need the co-operation and investment of Teignbridge District Council.

TIMESCALE

BENCHES WITHIN 12 MONTHS, OTHER ASPECTS MAY TAKE LONGER.

Encourage families

Encourage families to linger in the town by providing play equipment and street games for those with younger children.

LEAD DELIVERY PARTNER

Newton Abbot Town Council with the support of other partners including Teignbridge District Council

TIMESCALE: BY END 2024.



Greening the Town

Support the work of both the Town Council and other community organisations to plant flowers and remove weeds in the town.

LEAD DELIVERY PARTNER

Newton Abbot Community Interest Company and Newton Abbot Rotary Club together with other voluntary organisations. Newton Abbot Town Council retains responsibility for some areas.

TIMESCALE: ON-GOING.



Redevelopment of the Seymour Horwell site

Support the redevelopment of the former Seymour Horwell site.

LEAD DELIVERY PARTNER

Developer responsible for the site. Newton Abbot Town Council to support the redevelopment as appropriate.

TIMESCALE: BY END 2025.



Support the town

Continue the excellent support provided by the Town Development Manager to local business. Continue the programme of events in the town.



LEAD DELIVERY PARTNER

Newton Abbot Town Council.

TIMESCALE: ON-GOING.

Youth Cafe

Provide an after school youth café in a town centre location. The café would be staffed by suitably qualified professionals to support those with anxiety/mental health issues.



LEAD DELIVERY PARTNER

An appropriate delivery body would need to be identified.

TIMESCALE: BY END 2025.



Voice 4 Youth

Create a Youth Forum to give young people the chance to express their views and opinions.

LEAD DELIVERY PARTNER

With appropriate financial support, Newton Abbot Community Interest Company could lead on this Project, working with Young Devon and other interested groups including local schools.

TIMESCALE: BY END 2023.



Moving Along

That a review of local bus services be carried out, including consultation with both operators and users.

LEAD DELIVERY PARTNER

Devon County Council is the authority responsible for bus services. Working alongside Teignbridge District Council, Newton Abbot Town Council could coordinate a review, with input from Devon County Council, local bus operators and Newton Abbot Community Transport

TIMESCALE: BY END 2024.

Heard a whisper

Provide clearer information about local activities and groups.

LEAD DELIVERY PARTNER

Teignbridge Together through Teignbridge CVS is seeking to address this priority. Other organisations can support and promote local activities as required.

TIMESCALE: ON-GOING.

Theatre & Arts Training Academy

Develop a town centre facility where young people can receive training in performing arts or production management.

LEAD DELIVERY PARTNER

An appropriate delivery vehicle is yet to be identified to take forward this proposal.

TIMESCALE: BY END 2025.



Cultural Venue

Provide a cultural venue within the town centre for both local and touring performances.

LEAD DELIVERY PARTNER

An appropriate delivery vehicle is yet to be identified to take forward this proposal.

TIMESCALE:
BY END 2028.



Town Centre facilities

Reflect on the needs of young people in the town, including the provision of appropriate facilities.

LEAD DELIVERY PARTNER

Newton Abbot Community Interest Company and Newton Abbot Town Council with input from other relevant

TIMESCALE: ON-GOING.

Promote routes for walking and cycling

Promote walking and cycling routes with clear signage and information. Encourage bicycle hire schemes.

LEAD DELIVERY PARTNER

Teignbridge District Council and Devon County Council would need to lead on improvements to walking and cycling routes in the town.

TIMESCALE
ON-GOING.



Accessibility

That the needs of an ageing population are fully considered in plans for the Town Centre.



LEAD DELIVERY PARTNER

Teignbridge District Council and Devon County Council with input from Newton Abbot Town Council.

TIMESCALE: ON-GOING.

Raising voices

Network and share information amongst cultural groups in the town.

LEAD DELIVERY PARTNER

The Heart of Teignbridge Cultural Association should lead on delivery of proposals impacting the cultural life of the town.

TIMESCALE: ON-GOING.



Art in the Town

Support the installation of public art in key locations in the town centre.



LEAD DELIVERY PARTNER

With support from Teignbridge District Council and Newton Abbot Town Council, Newton Abbot Community Interest Company could seek grant funding to progress this project. Teignbridge District Council could use Section 106 monies to deliver public art in the town.

TIMESCALE: BY END 2024.

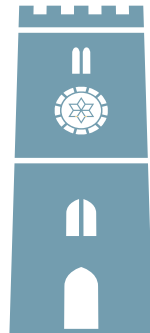
Respect the Past, Embrace the Future

Celebrate the town's heritage, including those buildings which are not listed.

LEAD DELIVERY PARTNER

Newton Abbot Town Council should use the planning process to express the views of local people in respect of planning proposals.

TIMESCALE: ON-GOING.



Grow Your Own

Support projects which provide community managed greenspaces planting schemes.

LEAD DELIVERY PARTNER

The Allotments Association working alongside local voluntary organisations. Newton Abbot Town Council can use the planning process to ensure that land allocated for allotments is of suitable quality, is accessible and has a water supply.

TIMESCALE: ON-GOING.



Support – infrastructure

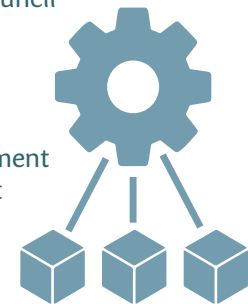
Ensure new residential areas within the town have adequate community infrastructure.

LEAD DELIVERY PARTNER

Teignbridge District Council should facilitate the provision of adequate infrastructure through the Local Plan and Development Management process. Newton Abbot Town Council should use the planning process to express the views of local people in respect of infrastructure provision.

The town's Community Infrastructure Levy funding through the Neighbourhood Plan presents a real opportunity for investment in infrastructure in new residential communities.

TIMESCALE: ON-GOING.



Taking a dip

Explore opportunities to improve leisure facilities in the town, particularly swimming pools.



LEAD DELIVERY PARTNER

Teignbridge District Council are currently responsible for leisure facilities, but other appropriate bodies may be identified.

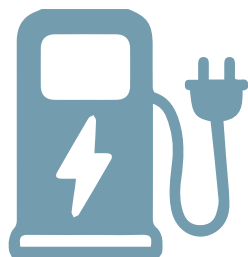
TIMESCALE: ON-GOING.

Charge It!

Encourage the provision of electric vehicle charging points in key locations.

LEAD DELIVERY PARTNER

Newton Abbot Town Council should use the planning process to express the views of local people in respect of electric charging points. The Town Council is also exploring ways to deliver EV charging points in key locations.



TIMESCALE:
ON-GOING.

Greenspaces

Work with the Garden Communities initiative currently being delivered by Teignbridge District Council to promote green corridors and pocket parks in the town.

LEAD DELIVERY PARTNER

Teignbridge District Council will progress the Garden Communities initiative. Newton Abbot Town Council should use the planning process to express the views of local people in respect of the town's green infrastructure.



TIMESCALE: ON-GOING.

Spread the word



Work with existing campaign groups in the town and district to share messages about the importance of adapting to and mitigating against the impact of climate change. Seek to support groups that promote environmental awareness.

LEAD DELIVERY PARTNER

Existing campaign groups in the town and district (including Plastic Free Newton Abbot and Action on Climate in Teignbridge) should be supported to share appropriate information about environmental awareness and climate change.

TIMESCALE: ON-GOING.



Promote it:

Promoting and supporting the work of community organisations in the town.

LEAD DELIVERY PARTNER

Teignbridge CVS with support from other voluntary and public sector organisations.

TIMESCALE: ON-GOING.

Fund it:

Using existing Town Council grant schemes to support a variety of community organisations and projects across the town.

LEAD DELIVERY PARTNER

Newton Abbot Town Council will continue to make information available about grant schemes.



TIMESCALE: ON-GOING.

Support It:

Town Council supports active and appropriate use of a derelict or under-used buildings in the town.

LEAD DELIVERY PARTNER

Groups would need to make a formal request for support. The Town Council to discuss as appropriate.

TIMESCALE: ON-GOING.



Help!

The Town Council will signpost to sources of information and support for people living in the town, particularly in light of the current cost of living crises.

LEAD DELIVERY PARTNER

Newton Abbot Town Council working with other voluntary groups in the town, including Newton Abbot CIC.

TIMESCALE: ON-GOING.

Newton Abbot & District | Community Plan | **2022-2032**

Community Plan



We welcome your comments: This is a live plan that will change as the projects are developed and delivered. We look forward to your comments, involvement and contribution to a fantastic future for Newton Abbot

THANK YOU

Contact: 01626 201 120 | info@newtonabbot-tc.gov.uk | newtonabbot-tc.gov.uk

Newton Abbot Town Council, Newton's Place, 43 Wolborough Street, Newton Abbot, TQ12 1JQ