

NEWTON ABBOT AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2008 IS FOR NEWTON ABBOT, BUT IT ALSO REFLECTS THE FACT THAT IT IS A PLACE WHICH OTHER COMMUNITIES LOOK TO FOR THEIR SERVICES:

## NEWTON ABBOT

ABBOTSKERSWELL IPPLEPEN KINGSKERSWELL KINGSTEIGNTON OGWELL

## OUR TOWN, OUR FUTURE, OUR VIEWS

As a result of views expressed by the community, a number of Projects have been identified:

**1. "Hub Bub" Create a vibrant new Community Centre**, extending from the existing Library and Adult Education Centre and utilising existing community centres, to accommodate, for example an Information and drop in Centre, Town & GWR Museum, Exhibition Space, Lecture Room, Community Hall, Café.

**2. "Market Mania" Promote Newton Abbot as 'The Market Place of South Devon'** for the produce of South Devon's farming, food and other entrepreneurial rural businesses by holding markets throughout the week, day and evening in the Town. link this to social and community events in the Town Centre.

**3. "Things are looking up"** Create Attractive 'Gateways' to the Town Centre using imaginative art work.

**4. "World meet Newton Abbot"** Promote Newton Abbot as the place for Media- related Businesses to set up. Develop a town website and information screens promoting activities and events.

**5. "Save the Streets" East St Energy** - develop East St as the passageway to the town. **Queen of Streets** – pedestrianisation for the street, reduce motor traffic, promote themed shop frontage and as the place to eat, meet and greet.

**6. "Park It"** Promote the building of a Bus terminus and Bus links to the Railway Station and the development of a Park & Ride facility.

**7. "Future Fantastic"** Promote the establishment of 'Newton Abbot College' a centrally located 14-19 Vocational Training and Post 16 Studies Centre.

**8. "Fantastic Futures"** Develop children's centres and provide extra curricular activities and other initiatives to support families.

**9. "Young at Heart 1"** Establish a Task Force mandated to increase the involvement of young people in a wide range of sports and other activities, working alongside existing agencies.

**10. "Young at Heart 2"** Encourage Businesses that offer young people suitable and well-managed entertainment venues like cyber cafes and live music.

**11. "Sporty Spaces"** Establish open spaces and shelters for young people to meet and play.

**12. "Hub of South Devon"** Promote Newton Abbot's attractions for Businesses.

**13. "Energetic Living"** Establish a Climate Action Group in Newton Abbot.

**14. "Way to go"** Promote alternative methods of transport by establishing cycle, pedestrian and accessible for all routes between the town and neighbouring villages. Promote car free days.

THIS DOCUMENT IS A SUMMARY OF OUR COMMUNITY PLAN. COPIES OF THE PLAN CAN BE OBTAINED FROM NEWTON ABBOT TOWN COUNCIL

**15. "How to go"** Produce a transport access guide to the various modes of transport

**16. "Canal for Community" Support the restoration of the Stover Canal** and the associated heritage, recreation and biodiversity benefits.

**17. "Magnificent Museum" Establish a well-resourced Town & GWR Museum** (if not in the proposed new Community Centre).

**18. "Playing around"** Establish Heritage Trails, themed signage and guided walks along attractive routes. Restore the Town Quay. Restore the River Lemon walk.

**19. "Meet the World"** Develop and promote Newton Abbot as a Centre for Community Arts and Performance, Media and Culture.

**20. "Moving House" Promote the re-location of the Town Hall in the Market Street area.**

Whilst many of the Projects will be quite small, some will be major – they will help to 'kick start' the fulfilment of the Vision and Objectives, and dramatically demonstrate that Newton Abbot is moving forward and act as a catalyst of improvements by others

**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**

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NEWTON ABBOT  
OUR TOWN  
OUR FUTURE

NEWTON ABBOT & DISTRICT  
STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN  
2008 TO 2028

## OUR TOWN, OUR FUTURE

MANY PEOPLE FEEL VERY PASSIONATE AND PROTECTIVE ABOUT NEWTON ABBOT AND WANT TO MAINTAIN ITS HERITAGE AND TRADITION, BUT ALSO RECOGNISE THAT IT CAN AND MUST BE IMPROVED.

### Newton Abbot now has its Community Plan!

Many people feel very passionate and protective about Newton Abbot and want to maintain its heritage and tradition, but also recognise that it can and must be improved.

Not all the changes over the last 20 years have been for the best. Many people feel that the Town needs a new vision of how it should develop over the next 20 years.

This Plan for Newton Abbot has not been produced by planners or any planning authority!

Instead, a number of volunteers, local residents and representatives of organisations connected with the town and surrounding area have been supporting the people of Newton Abbot to consider the key issues and priorities over the next 20 years. They have been funded by the Regional Development Agency through the Market & Coastal Towns Association.

Based on their consultations, they have produced the Community Plan, with a Vision, Objectives and Projects for improving Newton Abbot over the next 20 years.

The fundamental element to emerge from the consultations is that the people of Newton Abbot need to recover a strong sense of community – to help to tackle social issues and, very importantly, to press for what we want to make the Town a really good place to live and work in. Several of the proposed Projects are intended to strengthen this sense of community. The Town needs community members to take an interest, be involved and act together, and not simply stand back and let someone else – or some government agency – do everything (or nothing!).

The Town must be prepared for big changes in the years to come: increased population,

climate change, competition from other urban areas etc. We know that for some members of the community access to the Town and services continues to be an issue. In developing a Vibrant Town this plan seeks to address issues of access and create a place that everyone can enjoy.

We hope that the people of Newton Abbot will recognise that this Plan reflects their hopes and aspirations, and that they, and the local authorities and other organisations, will adopt it as a 'blueprint' that they can help to implement.

From now the Community Plan Steering Group, with a wide range of community representatives, will be actively involved in securing the implementation of the Plan, and reviewing it in the light of future developments.

## COMMUNITY PLAN STEERING GROUP

### What you have told us

The views you expressed in the consultations can be summarised as follows:

Top priorities for Newton Abbot are...

- a vibrant town centre
- young people
- rewarding jobs
- a sustainable environment
- developing a strong community

What you already value about Newton Abbot...

- central location
- market town traditions
- friendly people
- beautiful parks and nature reserves
- good leisure and community activities
- heritage and historical buildings

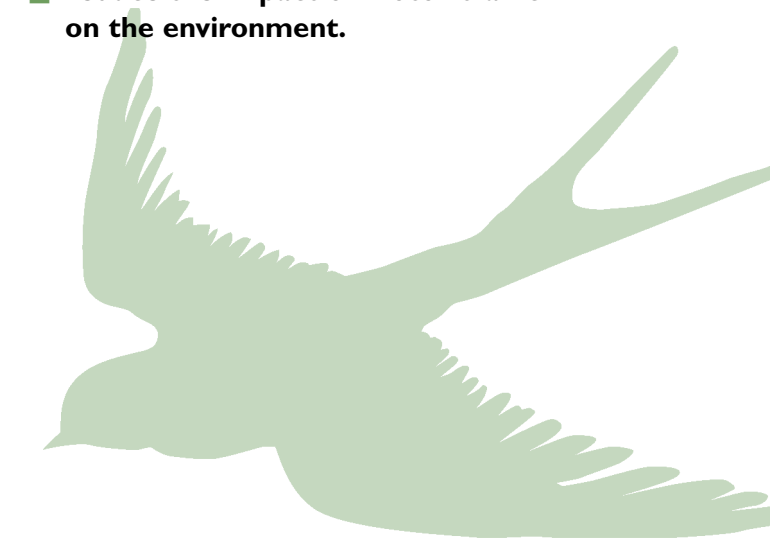
Which themes you have focused on...

- economy and tourism
- environment and community
- transport and accessibility
- sports, leisure, arts and heritage
- youth and education

What you thought needed improving...

- bus terminus.
- more well paid employment opportunities.
- opportunities to develop different skills.
- better range of shops, markets and restaurants.
- opportunities to meet in town in the evening.
- better standard of secondary education.

- more activities and events for young people.
- improved links between education and employment.
- more sporting facilities, especially pitches.
- cleaner streets.
- improvements to Queen St and East St.
- reduce the impact of motor traffic on the environment.



## A VISION FOR NEWTON ABBOT: TO 2028

“ A CARING COMMUNITY WHOSE MEMBERS ARE INVOLVED IN BUILDING AN EXCITING FUTURE BASED ON TRADITION, SUSTAINABILITY, ENTERPRISE AND OPENNESS TO CHANGE.”

### The following 6 objectives will contribute to the realisation of this Vision:

#### 1: Vibrant Town Centre

A town centre that is the vibrant heart of a growing community and “the market place of South Devon” by developing the following:

- attractive townscape, reflecting the town's heritage vibrant new Community Centre, extending from the Library.
- centrally located Town Hall.
- good range of shops.
- markets for the produce of South Devon's farming, food and other entrepreneurial rural businesses.
- entertainment venues suitable for young people.
- safe and clean environment.
- good access by public transport, cyclists, pedestrians and those with mobility needs.

#### 2: Developing Young People

A town that is a significant centre for education and training, with a supportive environment for the development of the young people living in the area by providing:

- a centrally located Newton Abbot College meeting

the need for local provision of high quality 14-19 vocational training and post 16 further education.

- support for families.

- a high level of participation of young people in a wide range of activities that enhance their self-esteem and sense of belonging, supported by volunteers as organisers and role models.

#### 3: Thriving Business and Job Opportunities

A thriving, entrepreneurial business community, supported by the local authorities, that provides good and rewarding employment and training opportunities, and exploits:

- the area's geographical position as the natural service, trading and visitor 'hub' for South Devon.
- the area's business-friendly environment.
- media and technology opportunities arising from the specialism of Coombeshead College and Knowles Hill School.
- established infrastructure, such as the Seale Hayne campus.

#### 4: Sustainable Environment

A town that protects the environment and the enjoyment of life by future generations by taking steps to:

- reduce car use by celebrating car free days.
- improve home energy efficiency.

- increase use of renewable energy resources in the town.

- develop biodiversity and healthy outdoor recreation.

- mitigate and adapt to the potential adverse effects of climate change, such as flooding.

#### 5: Living Heritage and Culture

A town that values its distinctive heritage and cultural life so that they form a basis for the town's development for both residents and visitors, including:

- a stimulating and well-resourced Museum.
- a lively community arts and performance scene.

#### 6: Strong Community

A strong sense of community, whose members will be encouraged to:

- have the confidence and 'can do' attitude to do things for the community.
- take responsibility for vulnerable members of the community
- be sociable, collaborative and welcoming to newcomers identify with and take pride in the town and its qualities.