



## Annual Report 2012 / 2013

At the Annual Parish Assembly on the 24th April 2013, NPC Chairman, Paul Presland, delivered the Annual Report on behalf of the Parish Council.

“As the relatively new Chair of the Newton Parish Council it gives me great pleasure to present my first and the 120<sup>th</sup> Chairman’s report. Firstly, I would like to thank Councillor Roy Gardner for his work as temporary Chairman after the departure of Colin Poole and for the support he has given me over the past months. The appointment of Deborah Williams meant the Council numbers increased to 7, which is a healthy number when it comes to decision making. The Council has met on 9 occasions this year and, like councillors before them, the new team discharge their duties with responsibility and sensitivity.

Our very experienced Clerk, Dave Crimmin, provides us with excellent advice and guidance. Our minutes continue to be posted in our local magazine, in the Box River news and on the Parish website. We gained General Power of Competence status in July and Councillors undertook professional development training in October. We very much appreciate Suffolk County Councillor, James Finch’s commitment to our village and are extremely grateful to Babergh District Councillor Peter Holbrook for his loyal service and wish him the very best for his deserved retirement.

As you will recall our Parish survey identified 7 key priorities and they have been regularly discussed at Parish Council meetings throughout the last 12 months.

1. Initial discussions of local affordable local housing needs in Newton began in May 2012 and following your responses to a village questionnaire circulated in September 2012, it was suggested we need 4 small new dwellings. At a meeting of councillors in March 2013, an outline assessment took place with Louise Wilby, Suffolk Rural Housing enabler. At the moment we are at the exploratory stage and I would like to reassure villagers that they will be kept informed of all ideas and developments.

2. Despite a lot of initial enthusiasm about hosting our own Village Cinema, investigations have revealed extremely high set up costs which regrettably leads councillors to the conclusion that it is not a viable proposition.

3. Additional recycling facilities have been set up in the Village Hall car park and appear to be very well used.

4. The perimeter of the Playing field was tidied up and repairs to the children’s Play area are near completion. The Trust reviewed the usage

### NPC Meetings

The Parish Council normally holds its meetings on the second Wednesday on alternate months starting in January.

The meetings are held in Newton Village Hall starting at 7.30pm and the forthcoming meetings are

**17<sup>th</sup> July 2013**

**11<sup>th</sup> September 2013**

**13<sup>th</sup> November 2013**

The Public and Press are invited to attend with the Public Forum being held at the start of each meeting.

All Newton residents are encouraged to attend.

For further information on Newton Parish Council please look at the Parish Council page on

**[newton.onesuffolk.net](http://newton.onesuffolk.net)**

### Newton Parish Council

Paul Presland (Chairman)	379204
Roy Gardner (Vice Chair)	312346
Lee Parker	376073
Rita Schwenk	210838
Philip Taylor	211265
Alan Vince	373963
Deborah Williams	378437
Clerk Dave Crimmin	375085

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# Annual Report continued

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of the Playing fields and did not see any reason to change the current arrangements.

5. The Trust has worked tirelessly to get a satisfactory resolution to the problem of cars being sold in the Layby on the A134. Significant progress has been made but it remains a concern for many villagers.

6. At the Young Persons' meeting last year a request was made for a Zip Wire and a meeting shelter. Regrettably, investigations showed that both requests would not be financially viable.

7. A134 Safe Haven remains on the priority list of Suffolk County Councillor, James Finch.

New road names around the Green have been introduced and, as requested, there is now a bench next to the bus stop. A range of planning applications have been considered since the last Annual Assembly and, in the main, Councillors we were reassured by the fact that BDC agreed with many of their recommendations. The uncertainty around Lillyfields has finally been resolved because BDC have stipulated that although the site can be continue to be used by Mr Street, should he leave, the site will revert to agricultural land with no occupancy, permanent or temporary

As we are all aware, Public sector funding continues to be cut back across the board and we had to make hard decisions when deciding the NPC Budget and the Precept for 2013/14. Councillors have agreed an expenditure budget of £10,029 and a Precept of £9,000 for 2013/14. Although were able to keep the Precept to the same amount as the previous year, in real terms it does equate to the average Band D Council Tax household in Newton paying an extra 8p per week due to Government changes to the tax base.

Funding for the upkeep of our footpaths has been delegated to the Parish Council and we have appointed our own contractor to keep footpaths clear so they can be enjoyed by residents. After many years of loyal service maintaining the grounds around the Village Hall and the playground, Bobby Rowland has retired; we thank him very much for his commitment and his professionalism. After going out to tender for his replacement Gary Flowers has been awarded the contract. The Autumn and Spring clear ups have taken place and I would like to thank those residents who turned out to pick up litter. They worked very hard and thoroughly deserved their bacon rolls. I would also like to thank all those residents who are picking up litter throughout the year, your efforts are noticed and they do make a difference!

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations were a great success and it was lovely to see so many villagers, their families and their friends entering into the spirit of the occasion and thoroughly enjoying themselves. I would like to thank Dawn Bridge for organising the Party in the Park and would like to thank Mike Oliver for making his barn available for the Barn Dance. Despite the cold evening, the Barn Dance was well attended with some people even looking like they knew what they were doing! To mark the occasion, commemorative Jubilee mugs were also distributed to youngsters who requested them.

Finally, I would like to thank all the villagers who do so much for our village. On this occasion I do not want to name individuals; you know who you are. Instead, I would prefer to simply say that without your commitment and enthusiasm Newton would be in danger of losing not only its sense of community but also its heart."

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## News in Brief

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### **Dog Litter**

Newton Parish Council would ask all dog owners to clear up after their pets in the Dog Bins provided throughout the village. If you feel that further bins are required please contact the Clerk, Dave Crimmin on 01787 375085.

### **eAroundtheGreen**

Newton Parish Council has launched an email distribution of its notices, publications and events to residents who sign-up to receive the service. You can sign-up by emailing [dave.crimmin@btinternet.com](mailto:dave.crimmin@btinternet.com) or use the registration page on the Parish Council pages of the Newton website [newton.onesuffolk.net](http://newton.onesuffolk.net)

### **Safer Neighbourhood Team**

Newton is policed by the Babergh West Safer Neighbourhood Team. You can contact the team by ringing **101** or email [baberghwest.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk](mailto:baberghwest.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk). The Safer Neighbourhood Team's website [www.suffolk.police.uk](http://www.suffolk.police.uk) also contains some useful information and links for problem reporting. Remember that in the case of an emergency ring **999**.

### **Around the Green**

Is published by Newton Parish Council for the residents of Newton. For an electronic copy please subscribe to **eAroundtheGreen**. If you would like a copy of **Around the Green** in a larger text please contact the Clerk. A copy of the latest editions can be found at [newton.onesuffolk.net](http://newton.onesuffolk.net)