



Important – this is not a circular!

Newton Parish Council

Village Survey 2011



In May 2011, you, the villagers of Newton, elected a new Parish Council to serve your community.

With a Parish Plan, the Council has a clear directive from the village as to what parishioners would like to see happen here in Newton. The previous Parish Plan was written in 2006 and has been largely fulfilled, so the Parish Council is developing a new Parish Plan. In developing this plan, we want to reflect the views of the whole village. Your ideas and opinions are a vital part of the Parish Plan.

This questionnaire is divided into the following sections:

1. Your household
2. Social activities within the village
3. Local housing needs of families within village
4. Road safety on the A134
5. The playing field
6. Services, Energy and Sustainability
7. Parish Council
8. Young People's Questionnaire
9. Newton Church Questions
10. Optional tear-off sheet

We want replies from every resident in the village, so there is also a youth questionnaire to seek the views of young people in the village. Please make sure that each young person in your household has the opportunity to answer these questions.

You can also download this form from www.onesuffolk.co.uk/NewtonPC and email the completed version to dave.crimmin@btinternet.com

How your answers will be used and what happens next

The answers you give to the questions in this survey will be analysed and the results published in the Newton Parish Plan. The more replies we receive the better the Parish Plan will reflect the views of all the community. The overall aim is to create a work plan for the Parish Council which has been given a mandate by the people of the parish. The Parish Council will regard the outcome of this survey as its mandate. It is therefore very important to us that as many people in the village as possible complete this survey and we thank you in advance for doing so.

Thank you for completing this questionnaire.

A representative of the Council will call at your house on the 28th October to collect your completed questionnaire. To help us do this quickly and avoid disturbing you, please leave it out for collection in the plastic slip provided.

We shall report back on the findings in the late autumn.

All responses are anonymised and the original surveys destroyed after the data is gathered, so no responses can be traced back to any household. Temporary property referencing is solely to enable collectors to ensure all surveys are collected.

Property Reference:

1 - Your Household

Just so we can better understand your answers, please indicate the number of people over 18 in your household, in each age group.

People aged 18-39		People aged 40-59		People aged 60+	
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2 – Social activities within the village

We are very lucky in Newton that there are a good number of social activities going on. However, we also know that some activities that were popular in the past fell victim to a loss of members. Sometimes this was because activities fall out of favour, sometimes they stopped because the demographics of the village changed.

In order to encourage a strong, supportive community, we want to consider whether there are any villagers who are socially isolated because they do not know about what is available, cannot join or have no existing group to join.

2.1) We would like to know how aware you are of the following groups, whether you would consider joining, and whether you perceive any barriers to joining. Insert a **Y for yes** and **N for no**, to all that apply.

Group	Know of it	Already a member	Would like to join	Please describe any barrier to joining
Fireside Club				
Flower Arranging				
Friday Keep Fit				
Painting Group				
Whist Drive				

2.2) The following activities used to happen in the village at one time or other. Please indicate if you would be **definitely** interested in joining if they restarted.

Group	Would definitely join	Please describe any barrier to joining
Cricket Club		
WI		
Parent and Toddler Group		

2.3) The following social events all take place or have taken place in the village. Sometimes events are only made viable because friends of villagers come along. Please **score the following events out of ten**, where higher scores mean you are more likely to attend. Add a comment, if you wish.

Event	Score	Comment
Burns Night Supper		
Mid Summer Munch		
“Winter Wednesday” Social Evening		
Beetle Drive		
Bingo		
Theatre at Village Hall		
Village Christmas Party		
Village Coffee Morning		

2.4) What events would you like to see happening in the village? Add your own to the list too. Add a comment, if you wish.

Event	Score	Comment
Village Cinema		

2.5) To mark the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee, we are planning a party in The Park on 2nd June 2012 and a Barn Dance on Monday 4th June. Do you have any suggestions for these events, and how else do you think the village should mark the Jubilee and/or Olympics in 2012?

3 – Local housing needs of families within the village

The Parish Council is arranging with Suffolk Acre to carry out a separate survey of housing need within the village, to see how many people with connections to the village who would like to live in Newton but are unable to do so. However, we do have some initial questions.

The Parish Council has **no desire** to see significant housing development that would change the character of our village. But we accept that additional affordable housing would enable local people to stay within the village and people with connections move here, and a **modest** increase in the population would increase the **sustainability** of village facilities such as the local bus service, mobile library, village hall, church and pub, social groups and the viability of a local shop.

3.1) We are interested to know the appetite of villagers for more housing. There are approximately 220 houses within the parish. What would you regard as a fair and sensible increase on that number, over the next ten years? If none, write “none”.

3.2) What would you regard as the positive impact of building more affordable housing in Newton?

3.3) What would you regard as being the negative impacts that would have to be addressed as part of any additional housing?

3.4) Any other Comments?

4 – Road Safety on the A134

The campaign by the Parish Council to control traffic along the A134 and make it safer to cross or just walk along the pavement is never-ending. The Speedwatch campaign is effective when the volunteers are out, but they cannot be there all the time. Other speed-limiting proposals such as speed-activated signs require permission from other bodies before we can have them installed.

4.1) One proposal is to install a “safe haven island” in the centre of the A134, situated close to the junction of Church Road/Rectory Road. This would mean crossing the road could be done “one half at a time”. Some changes to the road layout would be made to accommodate this.

Subject to seeing specific proposals, in general do you support the idea of a safe haven island?

 Yes No

If No, please state why

Please score the following out of ten, where ten is high, to indicate your opinion on traffic issues:

4.2) To what extent is the **speed** of traffic travelling through our village a problem?

4.3) To what extent would the installation of one speed-activated 30mph sign slow traffic down?

4.4) Should village funds be used to provide the speed-activated sign (approx £5,000 per sign)

4.5) Should the 30mph zone be extended further out of the village to slow traffic down before entering the village?

4.6) Any other comments on road safety?

5 – The playing fields

The Council would like to know what you think about the playing fields. Please score the following statements out of ten, where **ten means you strongly agree** and nil means you strongly disagree with the statement:

Score

	The playing fields should stay just the way they are.
	Groups from outside the village (youth/local league football etc) should be able to hire the playing fields regularly
	Use of the playing fields by golfers should be limited in some way.
	If there was a multisport/tennis court, my household would use it.
	The provision of freely available community sport equipment to enable people to play games (such as rounders, cricket, ball-games) would be something my
	If there were community sports facilities (running track, long jump, marked sports pitches etc) my household would use it.

Please include any additional comments about the playing field:

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6 – Services, energy and sustainability

This section is about Newton being a sustainable community. It can be expensive living here. There is no mains gas in the village – oil and electricity prices are going up. Many of our houses are old and therefore difficult to make energy efficient. The other things proposed in this questionnaire cost lots of money, and there are limits to what funds the village can raise through the council precept and events such as the fete.

6.1) What do you think is the main financial issue facing people in our community?

6.2) When it comes to fundraising in the village, what causes do you support?

6.3) Are the facilities for recycling in the village sufficient?
If No, what could be improved, e.g. Location?

 Yes No

6.4) Would you support a can-bank in the village?
(sorting out tin cans from your general recycling)

 Yes No

6.5) What of the following things would be of interest to you, giving each a score out of 10.

	Community-based insulation project. (thermal imaging of homes and guidance to improve efficiency and availability of grants)
	Community heating-oil buying group. [Newton forming a group that buys oil all together, giving members the benefit of bulk discount through price negotiation]
	Community renewable energy project to generate our own electricity. [Members gain large rebates on their electricity bill for the electricity we feed into the grid; the village gains an independent income stream to fund the things we want to do]

6.6) Please complete the following for your household:

The main fuel for heating this property is:

The main fuel for cooking is:

6.6) Any other comments on sustainability?

7 – Parish Council

As your elected representatives we are keen to listen and engage with our Community and are interested to hear your ideas, proposals and aspirations for our village. We want you to tell us how we can improve our communication and increase attendance at Parish Council meetings.

7.1) The number of people who attend the Annual Parish Meeting each April has been dwindling. Perhaps we need to refresh how we do it. If you have been but do not go now, or if you have never been to the Annual Parish Meeting, please tell us why and what would encourage you to attend.

7.2) Do you access the Parish Council Website?

 Yes No

If No, please state why:

No access to a computer and/or internet

Did not know there was a website

Did not know address (www.onesuffolk.co.uk/NewtonPC)

Information on the site is not relevant

Not interested in the work of the Parish Council

Other, please specify

7.3) Would you be interested in subscribing to community wireless broadband, where very-high-speed internet access is provided for the whole village?

 Yes No

7.4) Would you use an IT access point at the village hall, for residents without computers/internet?

 Yes No

7.5) On a scale of 0 – 10, where 10 is high, How would you rate your family’s interest in a village twinning association to pair up with another village in Europe/Worldwide?

7.6) Anything else? If we have not covered it already, what is the most important issue to you that the Parish Council should know about?

8 Newton Youth Questionnaire

These are separate questions for young people in the village – please ask each person **aged under 18** in your household their responses for these questions. For each question, we need to know the age of the young person who is responding. This is so we can recognise the different viewpoints that young children, older children and older teenagers may hold. Parents – feel free to assist younger children who are unable to fill in the questionnaire themselves, but please make sure that the views expressed are theirs!

8.1) The council would like to know what you think about the playing fields. Please score the following statements out of ten, where **ten means you strongly agree** with it and nil means you strongly disagree with the statement.

Insert age of each respondent at the top of each column and insert their scores below against each statement			
			<Insert Age of Young person
			The playing fields should stay just the way they are.
			Use of the playing fields by golfers should be limited in some way.
			If there was a youth cricket club, I would be interested in playing.
			If there was a multisport/tennis court, I would use it.
			The provision of freely available community sport equipment to enable young people to play games (such as rounders, cricket, ball-games) would be something I would use.
			If there were community sports facilities (running track, long jump, marked sports pitches etc) I would use it.
			If there was a BMX track, I would use it.
			If there was a zip-wire, I would use it.

8.2) Any other comments about the playing fields?

8.3) More statements to score out of ten			
			If there was a Newton Youth Club, I would go to it
			A 'safe haven' traffic island would make crossing the road safer
			Newton is a good place to live
			I have fast enough internet access
			I'd like transport to and from the Eden's Project in Sudbury
			I'd like transport to and from The Porch Project in Hadleigh

8.4) How do you think we should mark the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee and or Olympics in 2012?

Proposal for the Diamond Jubilee or Olympics	Age of young person

8.5) The Young Annual Parish Assembly each April is very helpful to the Council in gaining views of the young people in the village. Would you be interested in this meeting more frequently than once a year?

Age of young person	No – Not at all	No – keep it annual	Yes – half-yearly	Yes –bi-monthly	Yes – set up a Youth Council

8.6) Anything else? If we have not covered it already, what is the most important issue to you that the Parish Council should know about?

9) Newton Church (Please tick all that apply, or leave blank)

9.1) Does anyone in your household ever visit Newton Church or Newton Churchyard?

Yes – See Below

No – Go to question 9.2

9.1b) For which of the following do you come?

- Sunday Services
Every Service Once a month a few times a year less regularly
- Informal Morning Prayer (Thursdays)
- Funerals, Weddings, Baptisms (Christenings)
- Services for special occasions (Easter, harvest, Christmas, Five villages Service),
- To have some quiet time on my own
- To pray
- To write a prayer in the Prayer Request Book
- To enjoy the building, its architecture and history
- To enjoy the peace of the churchyard
- To visit a grave of a relative or friend
- Other (please specify)

9.2) If you never come to Newton church, or only visit infrequently, what prevents you coming to church?

- We do not practise any faith
- We practise another religion
- We go to another church because
- We don't know anyone else who goes, and would feel shy or anxious
- We don't know what to expect or what to do during a service
- We expect church to be boring, old fashioned and formal
- There is nothing for young people or children
- We are worried our baby/child will disturb the service
- Church is not relevant to our household
- The church is out of touch with modern life and issues (gay people, people living together)
- A bad experience of church in the past
- The church building is cold in winter
- There is no toilet
- The pews are uncomfortable
- Restricted by disability/illness
- Lack of transport
- Other reason

9.3) Would any of the following appeal to you?

9.3a) Different kinds of services:

- “Café Church” (very informal, tables arranged café style, a chance to ask questions and discuss, time to chat and drink coffee – not necessarily held in the church building, perhaps in the village hall)
- “Messy Church” (like café church, but with more for families and children, including ‘messy’ activities, such as craft, cooking, painting, which all the family do together)
- Taizé (9 Tay-ze) type service (quiet, informal meditative service, lots of candles, some silence, simple songs and prayers)
- Praise type service (lively, contemporary worship with a music band {guitars, drums, keyboard etc} and perhaps a screen. Could be in the village hall or church)
- Other (please specify)

9.3b) Services held at different times

- Sunday afternoon instead of morning
- Sunday evening
- During the daytime in the week
- A weekday evening

9.4) Would you be interested in:

- An “explorers” course (for people interested in finding out about the Christian faith)
- A discipleship course or discussion group (for Christians to think more about their faith)
- Forming a music band for praise type services (guitars, drums, keyboard, vocals)
- Forming a choral group
- A bereavement group (a support group for those grieving someone who has died)
- A parents and toddler service
- A mid-week coffee morning at church for anyone wanting company or a chat; no charge)
- Church social outings (seeing films together, eating out together)
- Informal discussions over a pint in the pub

9.5) Is there anything else that would attract you to church or make it easier to attend?

9.6) What is important to you about a church service?

- Music, Singing, Hymns
- Learning about the Christian faith and the Bible
- The approachability of the person leading the service
- The warmth of welcome from the congregation
- Friendship/socialising
- Provisions for children
- Refreshments
- Other (please specify)

9.7) Supporting the church - its ancient building and its caring ministry to the village

If it is important to you to have the church in the village, would you be willing to support it financially by:

- Regular giving (Twice-monthly envelopes, standing order, direct debit) (see tear-off sheet)
- Occasional donations
- Involvement in church fundraising activities
- Becoming a "Friend of All Saints Church" to give/raise funds for the fabric of the church

9.8) Are there any other comments you would like to make about Newton church, its building, its services, its activities?

Thank you for completing this questionnaire.

A representative of the Council will call at your house on the evening of 28th October to collect the completed questionnaire. To help us do this quickly and avoid disturbing you, please leave it out for collection.

We shall report back on the findings in the late autumn.

If you would like help reading/completing this questionnaire, or have any questions, please contact
Colin Poole, Chairman, Newton Parish Council
01787 376448

How Your Answers Will Be Used and What Happens Next

The answers you give to the questions in this survey will be analysed and the results will be published as evidence supporting the Newton Parish Plan. The more replies we receive the more accurately we will reflect the views of all sections of the community.

The Parish Plan will identify specific things that you would like to happen and prepare a plan of action to achieve those aims.

Please indicate your answers clearly. Some questions invite you to give more information but please keep your answers as brief as possible to make analysis easier.

Taking part in this questionnaire is voluntary and you do not have to complete all questions if you have no interest in a particular subject, believe it has no relevance to you or simply prefer not to answer.

Your answers will be kept CONFIDENTIAL. The results from all forms received back will be added together to provide statistical summaries. Any written comments or suggestions you provide will only be used anonymously and no individual's view will be attributed in the final Parish Plan. All original surveys will be destroyed after the data is gathered so no responses can be traced back to any household. Temporary property referencing is solely to enable us to ensure all surveys are gathered.

The optional tear-off sheet at the end of this form need only be completed if you would like to find out further information.

Once we have analysed the results we plan to present a report at a village event (date to be confirmed). All villagers will be welcome to this event (whether they have completed a survey or not) and it will be an opportunity to discuss the questionnaire results, the issues they raise and to influence the next stage of developing the Parish Plan.



Newton Parish Council

Parish Plan Village Questionnaire 2011

10) Optional *tear-off sheet to be filled in with your details if you are requesting more information - but please separate it carefully from the main questionnaire to preserve the anonymity of your responses.*

Name

Address:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Please pass my email address to the Newton Newsletter so that I can receive village notices

I would be interested in helping with the organisation of activities in the village:

Tick all that apply:

Helping run Youth-based activities/Youth Club

Joining the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

Joining the fete committee

Helping out at events in the village (write in the box below, eg "Jubilee Event")

I would be interested in finding out more about the following:

Fireside Club

Whist Drive

Flower Arranging

Ladies Painting Group

Friday Keep-fit

Supporting the Church

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