

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2025, 7PM, NEWNHAM CLUBROOM

PRESENT: Parish Councillors: Paul Gaskell (Chairman), Pauline Hedges, Matthew Morris;
Sue Symons, Nick Walker; Clerk Susan Turner; Guest Revd Debbie Veel.

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES No apologies received.

2 MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING of 16 September, agreed and signed

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST in items on the Agenda, none

4 PUBLIC SESSION No members of the public present.

5 REVIEW OF NEWNHAM 900

TO RECORD THANKS to the Newnham 900 team and all involved. Feedback received that the event went as well as it possibly could have despite, in part because of, the weather. Nothing blew away (although the helter skelter was cancelled) the rain mostly held off and the tea tent did well.

Thanks also to all participants who made the day so memorable, including Tudor Re-enactors (ref AJ Braithwaite); Two Birds Experience; Historia Nomanis; Cove Brass; plus Berro Kitchen for brilliant 'medieval banquet'.

Extensive efforts were made to include residents from across the Parish; successful in that all corners of Newnham were represented. Sought to build on experience of previous events – fetes and the most recent Jubilee. To consider now what other things we can do.

6 NEWNHAM PARISH PUBS

.1 Old House at Home will be reopening soon with new tenants according to Facebook post from 07 November.

.2 Iron Bull – (PH report). Despite local interest and offers, the pub has been sold to the commercial property developer who recently bought the field behind. Any further information, will share with the Park and the Parish Council.

7 PLANNING

.1 Parish planning and tree applications – Planning update, see **APPENDIX I.**

1A No new applications for discussion

1B Recent applications of note

[25/01458/FUL](#) (Grant 12 Nov) Wild Green Acres Farm, Ridge Lane. Change of use of existing agricultural barn to farm shop and cafe (Class E).

See **APPENDIX II** for Class E restrictions and relating to size of cafe.

1C Recent appeal decision

[APP/H1705/W/25/3368891](#) (Appeal allowed 29 Oct) Land Adjacent to Blackstocks Lane. Erection of 1 no. dwelling, creation of new access and associated landscaping.

.2 Local Plan Update Draft Reg 18 Spatial Strategy reluctantly approved by Cabinet on 11 November to be published for public consultation from 28 November for eight weeks. Cllr Cubitt's speech to Cabinet at **APPENDIX III.** Spatial strategy map and table showing reallocation of housing numbers compared to last Reg 18 **APPENDIX IV.**

.3 Newnham Conservation Area Appraisal This is the first BDBC Conservation Area re-appraisal using a new format agreed by head of Conservation. Initial discussion on the first Draft held at Civic Offices, meeting attended by Conservation Area Appraisal Officer, Ward Councillors and Parish Council (PH, SS and Clerk).

Reservations expressed by all (Ward Cllrs and Parish) re the new layout as unwieldy, overlong and repetitive.

Suggested revisions to layout; some errors and outdated information noted; request to amend opening summary.

Request to put Newnham Green central to the character areas and include the Old House at Home within the Newnham Green character area.

Request that all the main sections of Newnham Green be included within the area of Village-scape significance as marked on the Conservation Area (CA) map.

General opposition to inclusion of New House as a 'positive' building.

TO NOTE: The term 'positive' building to replace 'notable' building previously used.

Support for the emphasis on importance of rural open space and the rural setting of the CA.

Support for proposed extension to the CA

Still to be considered in detail is the development management plan.

Forwarded Local Heritage Assessment of Church Path (2020) from 'Friends of Church Path' led by Nigel Bell.

Revised initial draft compiling all notes returned to CA Appraisal officer.

CURRENT SITUATION – revisions completed by CA Appraisal officer, with line manager for approval. To be returned for Parish Council approval for Public Consultation.

- .4 Hart Local Plan** Initial progress very behind schedule due to lack of resources; are recruiting new officers. The call for sites (statutory time period) ended 10 October; then re-launched on 16 October.

The proposed timetable (Local Development Scheme) indicates Reg 18 Jan/Feb 2027; submission by March 2028. The new Unitary Council will be in place before examination and adoption. .

- .5 Owen's Farm** (Hook) Developer public engagement 'consultation' published in September. Email circulated to explain Parish Council position. Indicative maps **APPENDIX V**. Agreed, importance of discussion and engagement with residents re response to planning application which is likely to be submitted to Hart in New Year.

8 FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE

- .1 Accounts to date APPENDIX VI** Bank reconciliation at 18 Nov = £20,499.44.

Payments since last meeting (inc VAT where appropriate)

34	Lloyds Bank – service charge	£4.25
35	PGGM-3279 – Noticeboard	£852.00
36	PGGM-3284 – Green mowing Amazone	£384.00
37	Simply Safety – N900 Fire extinguishers	£150.48
38	Eurohire Sound&Light – N900 PA system hire	£626.40
39	Lex Marquees – N900 Marquee hire bal	£1,271.70
40	Cove brass – N900 brass band	£150.00
41	Tjays-fun-for-all – N900-BouncyC/roundabout	£900.00
42	FrontFlip-t/a Berro Kitchen – N900 Feast balance	£2,671.00
43	HSS-ProService – N900 Diesel generator 1	£202.73
	Generator deposit	£160.50
	Generator deposit	£160.50
44	Costco – N900 Cups, sweets etc	£43.00
45	Signrite – Digital N900 sign	£198.00
46	HSS-ProService – N900 Diesel generator	£130.30
	Generator deposit	£41.73
	Generator deposit	£41.73
47	TwoBirds Experience – N900 - Falconry	£350.00
48	St John Ambulance – N900 - First aid cover	£137.28
49	Defib Store – Replacement defib pads OHAH	£67.20
50	Chris Webster – N900-Marquee accessories	£384.00
51	Sarah Matthias – N900-Marquee accessories	£118.87
52	Resilience Hos (Defib Store) – Defib pads IronBull	£77.20
53	AJ Braidwood – Tudor Re-enactors	£600.00
54	Clerk – Salary SEPTEMBER	£374.40
55	HMRC – PAYE-JAS	£57.60
56	Richard Knight – Clearing crossroads pond	£1,404.00
57	Lloyds Bank – service charge	£4.25
58	Clerk – Salary OCT	£432.00
59	Richard Knight – Green ditching	£888.00
60	Lloyds Bank – service charge	£4.25

Income of note since last meeting: £6,807, Parish Precept for six months.

.2 Budget update APPENDIX VII**.3 Precept notes**

- Precept since 2018/19 has been raised above level of inflation building from very low Precept base and low reserves; thus percentage increases of between five and 10% amounted to small amounts in real terms.
- Purpose: to build reserves to raise Precept to sustainable level.
- Precept decision for this year 2025/26 as minuted at the January 2025 meeting was for a below inflation increase:
 'A Precept request of £13,614. An increase of 2% per household; but due to small decrease in the tax base, amounts to an increase of 1.65% on the total Precept request.'
 Tax base for 2024/25 = 268.5
 Tax base for 2025/26 = 267.1
 £13,614 = tax base 267.1 x £50.97 an increase of £1 per annum per Band D household.
 Bearing in mind will be half this for Band A and double for Band H.

.4 Draft budget 2026/27

Budget notes

- An initial draft Budget, based on routine allocations as for this year, and a Precept increase of 3%, shows c£2K surplus which would be available for any additional agreed expenditure, or to put to reserves.
- The Parish Council holds no unallocated reserves; all reserves above the allowed 'contingency' are at present allocated to A30 traffic calming or projects for Newnham Green.
- Reserves may be reallocated via Parish Council decision as per this year's decision to contribute £5K to Newnham 900.
- The Parish Council to date has received no CIL funding to contribute to infrastructure improvement.
- The Parish Council at present benefits from a grass cutting grant of £350 from BDBC, and Parish Lengthsman hours via HCC; there is no certainly these will continue post Local Government Re-organisation.

To consider a Precept rise in line with inflation.

FOR DECISION at January meeting.

.5 Appointment of internal auditor

AGREED To reappoint Peter Brown as internal auditor for this year 2025/26.

9 NEWNHAM GREEN AND PONDS

- .1 Crossroads pond** (project) Works complete as per ecologist direction and to create areas of deeper water with graded banks; £1K grant funding received from County Cllr Elaine Still (2024/25).
- .2 Ditching** phase one complete. Cleared key areas of ditches in vicinity of Church Path, Crown Lane and Crossroads, feeding into Ridge Lane
- .3 New wetland area** (project) as proposed by ecologist. Agreed for further consideration based on detailed drawings and proposal.

10 MAINTENANCE AND HIGHWAYS

- .1 A30 and traffic calming** Awaiting response from HCC 'Safer Roads' re proposals for 'Gateways' approaching Water End and Scures Hill.
Plus re-evaluation / rationalisation of signage at Water End.
- .2 Parish Council Bus Shelter Grant Scheme**
 'Hampshire County Council has received Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) funding from the Department for Transport. Part of this funding is being made available to Parish Councils through the Parish Council Bus Shelter Grant Scheme. Eligible Parish Councils can apply for a grant of up to £15,000 to be used towards the refurbishment or replacement of existing Parish Council owned bus shelters. Applications must be completed by 28 February 2026.'

AGREED To submit application (action ST).

.3 Pavements on Scures Hill

Discussion

- In bad condition, insufficient width, very difficult for wheel chairs.
- Depending on the issue. If pavements need repair, eg cracked uneven, this should be a task for County, to log on the HCC website.
- If a matter of encroaching vegetation, the Lengthsman could deal with this.

ACTION To submit photos and location map (NW, ST). To advise if Lengthsman can help.

11 FURTHER UPDATES / REPORTS

.1 Revd Debbie Veel will be ordained Priest at 6pm, Monday 01 December, at All Saints' Odiham. Bishop Philip, Bishop of Winchester, is presiding and Bishop Kelly, the new Bishop of Basingstoke, is preaching. Everyone is invited.

TO RECORD the Parish Council's congratulations and best wishes to Revd Debz.

.2 Rights of Rivers – email from Ward Cllr Kate Tuck of 17 November **APPENDIX VIII.**

'Proposal to enable Parishes make their own Declaration of the Rights of Rivers. Hogan Lovells and Environmental Law Foundation have worked with us and HIWWT to create a template. This has been externally reviewed by a KC and our version is now with BDBC and their lawyers. Feedback expected 26th November.'

12 NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS – 2026

Tuesdays, 7pm Clubroom – draft schedule

20 Jan, 17 March, 19 May (AGM), 21 July, 15 Sept, 17 Nov.

Parish Assembly Tues 21 April.

Meeting closed 9.45pm with thanks to all

APPENDIX I PARISH PLANNING UPDATE 18 NOV**APPLICATIONS NEW SINCE LAST MEETING 16 SEPTEMBER**

T/00563/25/TCA (Validated 05 Nov) Newnham Hill, Crown Lane (Validated G1: 2 Ash Trees with advanced ADB: Fell T1: Dead Sycamore: Fell The above Ash trees have advanced stages of Ash Die Back. The crowns are significantly diminished and have become unstable. A line on Elms are being planted as a replacement for the removals. All trees to be removed are marked at the base of Each tree. The Sycamore is within the woodland Copse to the west and is dead. |

25/02505/HSE |(Validated 20 Oct) 13 The Baredown. Erection of open porch to front following demolition of existing, garage conversion including new windows to front, replacement windows and doors, new rooflights to rear roof slope and elevational treatments |

T/00506/25/TPO (Grant 04 Nov, Validated 03 Oct) T1. Nately Scures House, Scures Hill. Cut back to fence one overhanging oak, approximately 2.5m for low light levels and leaf fall.

APPLICATIONS PENDING / RECENTLY DECIDED

T/00460/25/TCA (Approve 06 Oct, Validated 11 Sept) Rose Farm Cottage, The Barracks. 2x Willow: reduce back to previous points. Oak tree (black oak) reduce its height by 1/3 to allow more light into the front of the house. The Eucalyptus in the back right hand corner of the back garden: fell.

25/02080/FUL (Pending, Validated 26 Aug) Land East Of Nately Scures House, Scures Hill. Self-build single detached house and associated access.

T/00445/25/TCA (Approve 30 Sept, Validated 02 September) The Meadows, Newnham Road. A: Apple – fell. B: Apple – prune C: Sweet gum – fell.

25/02019/RET (Pending, Validated 18 August) Land At Blackstocks. Variation of condition 9 of 21/01670/FUL - Erection of 1 no. dwelling - Changes to landscaping retrospective.

25/01458/FUL (Grant 12 Nov) Validated 12 June) Wild Green Acres Farm, Ridge Lane. Change of use of existing agricultural barn to farm shop and cafe (Class E)

T/00474/24/TCA (Pending 24 September) Newnham Lodge Tylney Lane. Acacia tree: fell and remove stump.

24/00882/LBC (Pending, Validated 16 Apr 2024) Nightingale Cottage, Heather Row. Demolition of existing south entrance porch, changes to fenestration, and erection of new porch with access ramp in revised position. Alterations to existing conservatory and replacement of glass roof with tiled roof. Various internal and external alterations.

APPEALS

APP/H1705/W/25/3368891 (Appeal Allowed 29 Oct 2025, Start date 10 July) Land Adjacent To Blackstocks Lane. Erection of 1 no. dwelling, creation of new access and associated landscaping.

APPENDIX II Wild Green Acres planning approval

25/01458/FUL (Grant 12 Nov) Validated 12 June) Wild Green Acres Farm, Ridge Lane.
Change of use of existing agricultural barn to farm shop and cafe (Class E)

FROM CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

3 No less than 85% of the farm shop shall be used solely for the sale of produce principally grown, reared, or made on the holding, together with ancillary goods comprising food products and items produced by local artists and artisans. For the purposes of this condition, "local" is defined as originating from within a 30-mile radius of the site. **The only other permitted use shall be a café, as approved, and no other use within Class E of the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (as amended), or any subsequent equivalent legislation, shall be carried out.**

REASON: To ensure that the use of the farm shop remains ancillary to the agricultural operations of the holding and does not evolve into an unrestricted retail use that could adversely affect the character of the area, highway safety, or undermine nearby retail centres in accordance with Policies EM1, CN9 and EP4 of the Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan 2011-2029.

5 Notwithstanding the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) (or any order revoking and re-enacting that order with or without modification), the building hereby permitted shall be used solely as a farm shop and cafe, including any other purpose within Use Class E. No extensions, external alterations, outbuildings, areas of hardstanding or other structures permitted by Part 7 or Part 2 of Schedule 2 of the GPDO shall be carried out without the express grant of planning permission following the submission of a planning application for that purpose.

REASON: To ensure control over all changes in order to protect rural character, highway safety, or avoid retail creep in accordance with Policies EM1, CN9 and EP4 of the Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan 2011-2029.

14 No more than 60% of the internal floor space within the farm shop/seating area, as shown on drawing no. P.01 Rev E, shall be used as a café (including seating and associated facilities). The remaining floor space shall be retained for the sale of farm produce and other goods, in accordance with the approved use.

REASON: To prevent an over-intensification of café use, which could lead to increased activity and associated impacts on the rural character of the area in accordance with Policy EM10, EM11 and CN9 of the Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan 2011-2029.

APPENDIX III.I from REPORTS PACK TO CABINET MEETING OF 11 NOVEMBER

3.4 The draft strategy was considered by Environment and Infrastructure Committee in September. Strong concerns were expressed on a number of aspects of the strategy including the suitability of the proposed new site allocations as well as wider concerns about the negative impact of the uplift to the housing need figure on the borough and many of its communities. Some changes have been made to the USS document following committee, most notably a strengthening of the vision statements attached to the larger development allocations and new settlements. No formal recommendations to Cabinet were made by the Committee.

3.5 The overall strategy and proposed allocations remain unchanged. Whilst the expressed concerns are noted, based on technical evidence and the assessment of suitable alternative options, it is recommended that the strategy is published for wider consultation.

APPENDIX III.II CABINET APPROVAL

1. Approve the publication of the Draft Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan (2024- 2042): Updated Spatial Strategy for public consultation (to be accompanied by associated Integrated Impact Assessment) under Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, for a minimum period of six weeks in accordance with the council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement, commencing in November 2025.

2. Delegate authority to the Head of Planning and Infrastructure in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure to agree the final version of the Draft Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan (2024-2042): Draft Updated Spatial Strategy version for public consultation (including minor text, layout and design changes as well as changes needed for clarification and for consultation purposes), and other supporting material to be produced for consultation purposes.

III.III CLLR CUBITT SPEECH TO CABINET MEETING OF 11 NOVEMBER

Cabinet Speech 11/11/25 LPU Reg 18 CLlr Onnalee Cubitt Agenda 7

Good evening, Leader, Deputy Leader, fellow Cabinet Members, ladies and gentlemen, Let's be absolutely honest — we are not where we want to be.

But we are where we are — and that reality has been forced upon us by a Labour Government elected on promises it cannot possibly deliver.

This Government has set itself a grand target: 1.5 million new homes during this Parliament. Lofty words.

But here in Basingstoke, that ambition comes at a heavy price — a demand that we build 21,000 homes by 2042.

Let me be clear: I have total confidence in Paul and Andy — two outstanding, intelligent, hardworking public servants who are across every detail of their brief.

But even the best of teams cannot achieve the impossible without the tools and the funding to do it.

And that is exactly the problem.

Because while Labour talks about housing numbers, it says very little about the infrastructure that must come with them.

We are being asked to deliver growth on a scale we have never seen before — yet without the schools, the roads, the surgeries, the water supply, or the hospital capacity that any responsible government would provide first.

Under the National Planning Policy Framework, this Local Plan Update must be evidence-based. But the evidence is already clear — we are operating with an infrastructure deficit so large it borders on reckless.

APPENDIX III.III CLLR CUBITT SPEECH continued...

Our hospital was built in 1974 for around 100,000 people.

Today, our population stands at 187,500 — nearly double — and growing every year. Since 1974, the UK population has grown by 23%. In Basingstoke, it's grown by over 80%.

And what has been done to match that growth?

Nothing meaningful.

Before Labour came to power, we had a Local Plan. It wasn't perfect, but it was settled.

Now, this new Government has ripped it up and ordered us back to square one.

Instead of 15,000 homes, we're being forced to plan for 21,000 — a 40% increase — dictated from Whitehall, with no promise of investment to match.

Our county is bankrupt. Our country is bankrupt.

And yet Labour wants us to build as if money were no object — as if bricks and mortar could replace proper planning, infrastructure, and services.

We can't meet the needs of our existing population.

We don't have the water.

We can't cope with the sewage system we already have.

Our NHS is stretched to breaking point.

Even if developers build surgeries, the Integrated Care Board doesn't have the money to recruit the doctors or nurses to staff them.

We don't have enough dentists, and we don't have the capacity to fix any of this under the current financial straitjacket.

So, I say this clearly to the Labour Government:

If you want these houses, get your chequebook out.

Show us the money for our water infrastructure.

Show us the money for our hospital and our roads.

Show us that you understand the meaning of local consent and sustainable growth — not empty targets set from Westminster.

We were promised £20 million would be spent on essential upgrades by a key water provider to make our last Local Plan sound. As far as we know that money was never spent. Yet another promise broken — and we will not allow that to happen again.

As the Leader rightly says, there is still much evidence to gather.

This is not the final plan — it is a draft, and tonight's decision must be reviewed once every piece of key evidence is on the table.

So yes, with a heavy heart, I will support this Draft Regulation 18 Local Plan going out to consultation.

But let me be crystal clear — this is not a blank cheque for Labour's housing agenda.

This is a call to arms for the people of Basingstoke.

Because ultimately, this fight is not about politics — it's about fairness.

It's about whether communities like ours are treated as partners or as dumping grounds for national housing targets.

So, to our residents I say this:

Now is the time to speak up.

Now is the time to stand up.

Engage in this consultation.

Make your voices impossible to ignore.

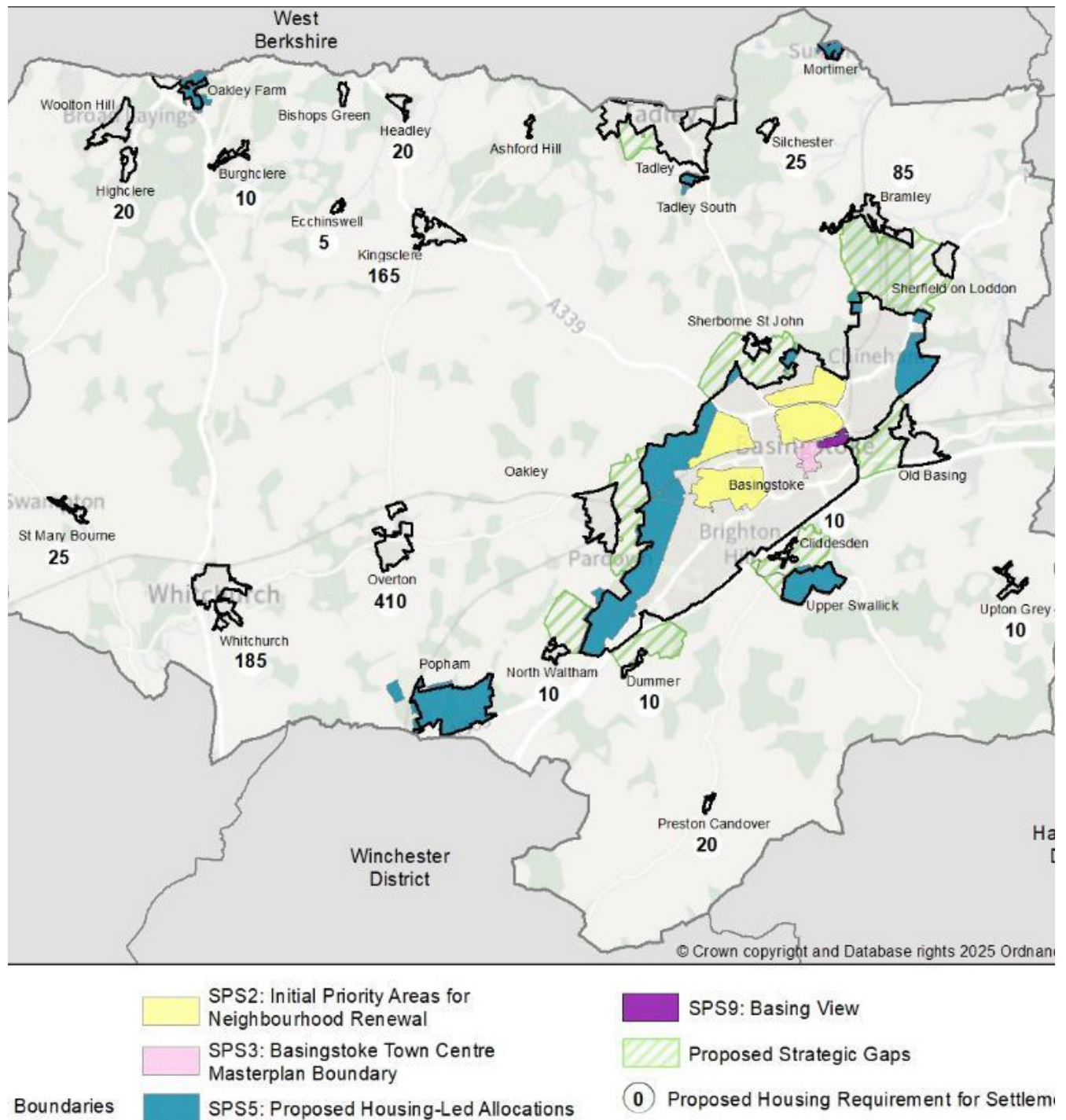
This is your town, your community, your future.

And together, we will make sure that Basingstoke is not forgotten — and never taken for granted.

Thank you.

APPENDIX IV.I

Public Reports Pack for Cabinet 11 November - Draft for Reg 18

Figure 4.5: Key diagram summarising the Spatial Strategy

APPENDIX IV.II

From Public Reports Pack for Cabinet 11 November - Draft for Reg 18

Figure 4.3: Summary of changes to Local Plan site allocations from the 2024 consultation Plan

2025 Policy Ref	Site Name	Capacity in 2024 Regulation 18 Plan	Capacity in 2025 Regulation 18 Plan	Reason for change
SPS5.1	Northern Manydown	4,000 homes	3,700 homes	Reflects current planning permission and the removal of part of the site into a separate allocation – see SPS5.2
SPS5.2	Land North of Pack Lane	Not included	300 homes	The site was previously allocated under SPS5.1. However, as this part of the allocation does not yet benefit from planning permission it is now proposed as a separate allocation.
SPS5.3	Southern Manydown	2,400 homes in Plan Period	2,750 homes in Plan Period	Reflects further technical work undertaken.
SPS5.4	Land at Whitmarsh Lane (previously called Land to the East of Basingstoke)	900 homes	1,500 homes	Site has been enlarged, to include land at Lodge Farm (and an additional 600 homes)
SPS5.5	Redlands	Not included	70 homes	New proposed site allocation.
SPS5.6	Redlands Lodge	16 homes	15 homes	Further capacity work undertaken.
SPS5.7	Sherfield Hill Farm	300 homes	385 homes	Reflects the planning permission granted on the site.
SPS5.8	Popham Garden Village	1,400 homes in Plan Period	1,800 homes in Plan Period	Reflects further technical work undertaken and the revised site boundary.
SPS5.9	Upper Swallick	Not included	1,200 homes in Plan Period.	New proposed site allocation.
SPS5.10	Land West of Marnel Park	200 homes	250 homes	Reflects further capacity work undertaken and revised site boundary.
SPS5.11	Weybrook Park Golf Course	220 homes	210 homes	Reflects further capacity work undertaken and the inclusion of the adjacent site (see below).

APPENDIX V.I OWEN'S FARM, HOOK: 'Concept masterplan' published by developer

APPENDIX V.II

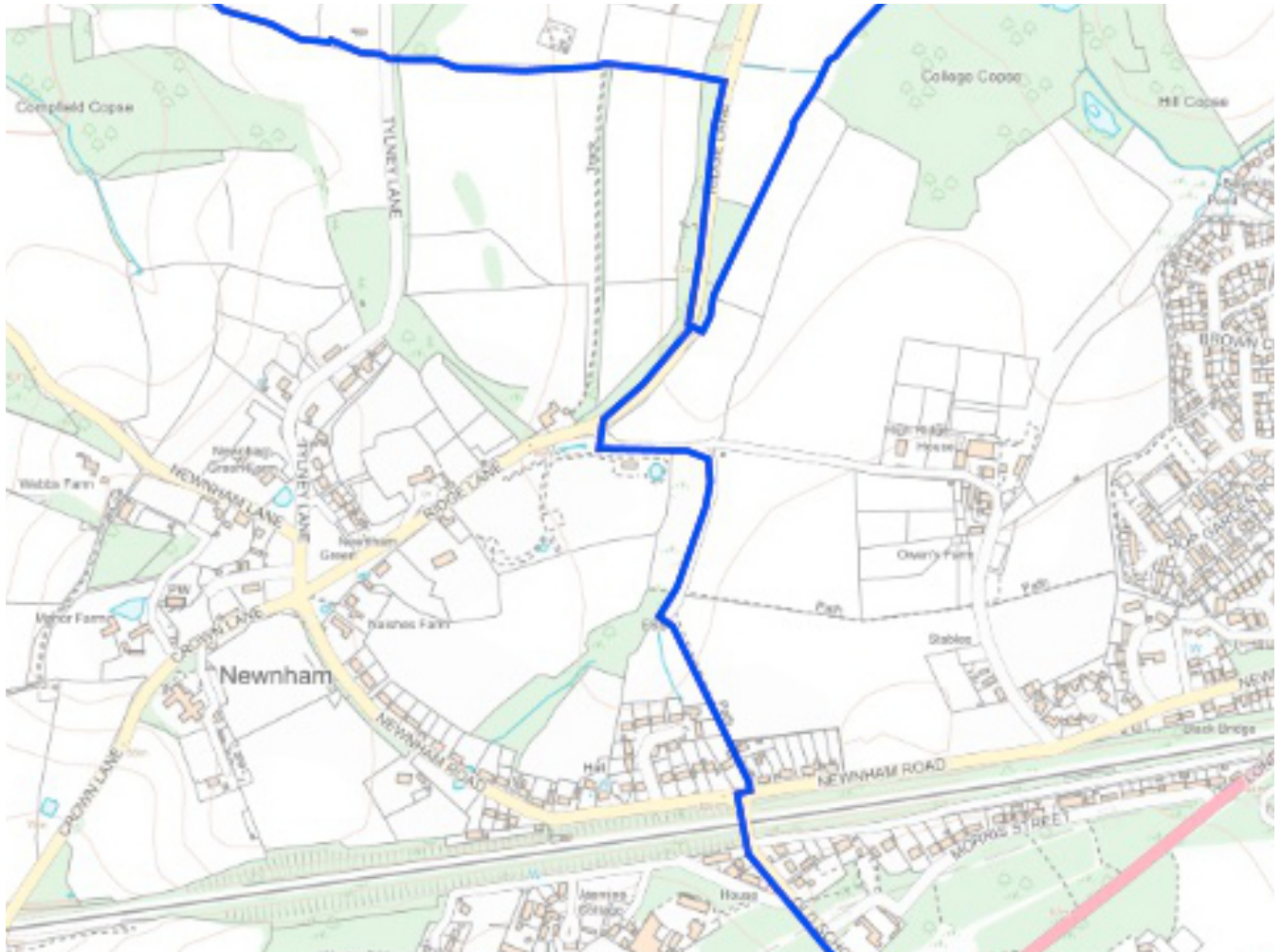
OWEN'S FARM, HOOK

Site boundary published
by potential developer



APPENDIX V.III

PARISH BOUNDARIES



APPENDIX VII – BUDGET UPDATE

NEWNHAM YEAR END COMPARISON			NEWNHAM – 2025/26 ACCOUNT SUMMARY @ 17 Nov			2025/26 BUDGET MAR 2025
<u>2022/23</u> Year End	<u>2023/24</u> Year End	<u>2024/25</u> Year End	NEWNHAM	2025/26 TO DATE	LATEST ESTIMATE	
£12,525.00	£12,900.00	£13,416.00	INCOME			
	£1,000.00		Precept	£13,614.00	£13,614.00	£13,614.00
£348.45	£351.93	£351.93	Grant (other)			
£413.00	£500.00	£1,000.00	Grass cutting grant	£351.93	£351.93	£351.93
£1,500.00	£450.65	£541.00	County Cllr grant			
			Ward Cllr grants		£500.00	
			S106 - benches		£508.00	
			S106-OpenSpace-wildlife		£0.00	
£36.35	£239.45	£260.76	Bank interest	£449.87	£449.87	
			Returned funds	£343.86	£343.86	
			Newnham 900		£4,777.83	
£200.00	£200.00	£210.00	LM income for audit			
£421.27		£872.53	VAT reclaim (PC)		£1,437.12	
		£3,250.00	VAT reclaim(LM) (24/25)		£250.00	
£15,444.07	£15,642.03	£19,902.22	Total Income	£14,759.66	£22,232.61	£13,965.93
			EXPENDITURE			
£216.00	£324.00	£324.00	Clerk allowance		£324.00	£324.00
	£50.00		Assembly Expenses		£150.00	£150.00
£946.69	£1,087.72	£1,209.25	Admin/Governance	£1,105.88	£1,250.00	£1,250.00
			Training		£200.00	£200.00
£4,320.00	£4,320.00	£4,320.00	Salary	£3,024.00	£5,184.00	£5,184.00
£1,110.56	£782.65	£644.04		£215.00	£800.00	£800.00
£1,304.42	£386.18	£365.00	Green Maintenance	£2,350.20	£2,500.00	£2,000.00
£678.49	£854.00	£899.45	Villager	£899.45	£899.45	£1,000.00
£154.49	£113.21	£111.73	Community		£500.00	£500.00
			Precept budget expend	£7,594.53	£11,408.00	£11,408.00
			PROJECTS'			
			A30/ gateways		£12,500.00	£12,500.00
£933.23	£1,000.00		Event-Newnham 900	£9,777.83	£9,777.83	£5,000.00
	£552.75		Green project-(grant)	£2,848.00	£2,848.00	£1,000.00
		£1,488.49	S106		£0.00	£0.00
			S106-OpenSpace		£0.00	£0.00
£770.19	£3,341.34	£652.44	VAT	£1,396.62	£1,396.62	
£10,434.07	£12,811.85	£10,014.40	Total Expenditure	£21,616.98	£37,930.45	£29,908.00
		£7,873.47	Precept budget expend			£11,408.00
		£2,140.93	Project expend			£18,500.00
£5,010.00	£2,830.18	£9,887.82	SURPLUS/DEFICIT	£6,857.32	£15,697.84	£15,942.07
£14,638.76	£17,468.94	£27,356.76	BALANCE TO T/O	£20,499.44	£11,658.92	£11,414.69
<u>22/23</u>	<u>23/24 Year</u>	<u>24/25 Year</u>	NEWNHAM	2025/26 TO DATE	LATEST EST	BUDGET MAR

APPENDIX VIII RIGHTS OF RIVERS

Motion from Ward Councillor Kate Tuck to BDBC Full Council of 15 May

AI review

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council has formally recognised the concept of 'Rights of Rivers' and is in the process of drafting a legal Declaration of the Rights of the River, expected by Spring 2026. This is a significant policy step, though it does not yet grant the rivers formal legal personhood under English law.

Key Information on the Motion

In May 2025, the Council overwhelmingly approved a motion (41 votes to 0, with 1 abstention) to embed the principles of river rights into council policies and planning decisions. This motion was inspired by the global "Rights of Nature" movement and the Universal Declaration of River Rights.

The proposed declaration will seek to establish that rivers are living entities entitled to fundamental rights, including:

The right to flow.

The right to be free from pollution.

The right to perform essential functions within the rivers' ecosystems.

The right to feed and be fed by sustainable aquifers.

The right to native biodiversity.

The right to regeneration and restoration.

Current Legal Status and Future Actions

While the motion is a strong political statement, lawyers note that rivers do not currently have the legal right to sue or be sued in England. However, the Council's commitment provides a framework for stronger local action by:

- Influencing Planning Future strategic planning and development control processes will be required to consider the "Rights of Rivers" and ensure no adverse impact on the health of chalk streams.
- Holding Partners Accountable The Council plans to reaffirm existing agreements and communicate concerns to the Environment Agency and water companies (such as Southern Water) to ensure they fulfil their obligations regarding water quality and abstraction.
- Community Engagement The Council is working with the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and local communities to develop the declaration and encourage citizen science projects and public involvement in river protection.

The motion is part of a growing movement across the UK, with other Hampshire councils like Test Valley and Southampton also passing similar motions. See *HIWWT website*.

As reported in June 2025 Villager...

Extracts from Motion to Full Council of 15 May from Ward Cllr Kate Tuck

'Our globally rare and ecologically fragile chalk streams are exceptionally vulnerable to over-abstraction and habitat degradation, given numerous pressures from unabated pollution and accelerating urbanisation.

'There is broad consensus among nature NGOs including the wildlife trusts and the world wildlife fund that the rarity and ecological significance of these streams should earn them a special protected status.

'With only 14% of UK rivers in good ecological health and 0% in good chemical health, it is clear that our environmental laws and regulations need urgent revision.

'Consultation with residents of the borough has revealed significant concern about the increasing pressures of over-abstraction, wastewater pollution and road-runoff which degrade local rivers.

'While degradation of these waterways continues, there is hope in an emerging global movement of governments recognising rights of nature, in particular rights of rivers.

'the Universal Declaration of river rights establishes that all rivers shall possess, at minimum, the following fundamental rights... [as reproduced above]

Cllr David Conquest from Kingsclere seconded the motion...

'Over abstraction from increased development and excessive water use is reducing water levels, pollution is killing our rivers, endangered habitats are being lost... it might seem idealistic to give a river rights or to call it alive. but to consider the alternative... it's all too easy to picture a dead river, no fish, birds or other wildlife... no plants to filter or clean it... if we can call a river dead then we can call it alive too, and if it's alive then surely it has rights.'

The motion detailed recommendations to Cabinet and was supported unanimously bar one abstention. See <https://democracy.basingstoke.gov.uk> or view Council meeting on YouTube