

## The Council and the Democratic Process

### *Newbiggin by the Sea Town Council - 'Sustainability through collaboration'*

Newbiggin by the Sea Town Council was created in 2009 following Local Government reorganisation in Northumberland. The Town Council is responsible for representing the constituents of Newbiggin by the Sea parish and services such as the provision and maintenance of public seats, litter bins, bus shelters, play areas, the provision of allotments and maintenance of the two Newbiggin war memorials along with many others.

In 2010 the Council created a 5-year Town Plan following consultation with residents, businesses and local stake holders, this process was repeated in 2015 to create a new 10-year plan.

The aims of Council identified in the Town Plan remain the same:

1. To raise the aspirations and prosperity of all our constituents, especially the young.
2. To improve our environment, providing a clean, tidy and aesthetically pleasing place to live, work and visit.
3. To encourage and support an increase in tourism.
4. To increase the skills base within the town, supporting adults into work.
5. To support an aging population.

Newbiggin by the Sea Town Council will achieve these aims by:

- Providing a democratic and representational voice for the community
- Supporting and contributing towards local regeneration and development
- Seeking to ensure quality and economic local council services.
- Liaising with other agencies to preserve and improve public services.

Newbiggin by the Sea Town Council Town Council meet monthly and have Finance, Grants and Personal Committees that meet when required to make recommendations to the Council.

The Council is made up of 8 elected Councillors representing the 4 wards of Newbiggin by the Sea Town Council. The last elections took place in May 2017 and the next elections are due to take place in 2021.

If elected in 2017, you hold your seat on the Council until 2021 unless you resign or fail to attend meetings over a specified period of time.

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If a seat becoming vacant between this 4 year period, a by-election may be called or alternatively the remaining Councillors will consider any nominations to be co-opted onto the Council.

The Town Councillors are responsible to the residents they represent and can be contacted directly on any matter. Whilst Councillors are unpaid they have a passion to be involved in their community. Councillors have three main areas of work:

- Decision-making through attending meetings and committees
- Monitoring, making sure that their decisions lead to efficient and effective services
- Getting involved locally depending on what the Councillor wants to achieve and how much time they have available

Newbiggin by the Sea Town Council is the most local level of our democratic system and the closest to the public of the town. You can play a part in helping the Council run to the best of its capabilities:

- Look out for potential Councillors in the run up to the next elections - do you know someone passionate about our Town, wishing to be a voice for the community and effect real change? Maybe it is you!
- Nominate a candidate. Being a Town Councillor is an enjoyable way of contributing to the community and helping to make it a better place to live, work and visit.
- Make sure you are on the electoral register and **VOTE** for a candidate to represent your interests!!

There are a few rules as to whether you can be a Councillor. The basic ones are:

- You must be a British citizen, Commonwealth citizen or European Union citizen.
- You must be 18 years or older on the day you become nominated for election
- You must live or work within 3 miles of the parish boundaries for the whole 12 months prior to the election date

**For further information you can visit Newbiggin by the Sea Town Council at 76 Front Street, Newbiggin by the Sea, Northumberland NE64 6QD. Call us on 01670 851833, email [ask@newbiggintowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:ask@newbiggintowncouncil.gov.uk) or visit [www.newbiggintowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.newbiggintowncouncil.gov.uk)**