



NEWTON SOLNEY PARISH COUNCIL

Freedom of Information Policy

Newton Solney Parish Council (NSDC) has a commitment to openness and transparency and has always been conscious of making relevant information available wherever possible to individuals who request it, subject to safeguarding the privacy of individuals and to legitimate considerations of national security, law enforcement and commercial interests where relevant.

1. The Freedom of Information Act 2000

The Freedom of Information Act, which came into force on 1 January 2005, gives everyone a statutory right of access to information held by bodies such as Parish Councils

2. The Revised Model Publication Scheme

NSPC adopted the revised model publication scheme issued by the Information Commissioners Office. (You can access a copy of the model scheme at the bottom of the document).

3. Website

A significant amount of the information for NSPC including financial payments can be accessed on NSPC's website – www.NewtonSolneyparishcouncil.gov.uk

4. Requesting Information

Individuals or organisations may make a written request for information which they believe NSPC holds. To request information under the provisions of the Act, and to help NSPC in identifying the precise information you require please email clerk@NewtonSolneyparishcouncil.gov.uk

As required by the Act, the following will need to be included with the request:

- Name of person requesting the information
- Postal Address or email of the person requesting the information
- A clear description of the information being requested
- A preference of how the information is to be communicated e.g. hard copy, electronic or the opportunity to inspect a record containing the information. NSPC will try to provide the information in the preferred media as far as is reasonably practical, or will notify the person requesting the information if NSPC cannot do so.

5. Responding to Requests

NSPC will inform the person requesting the information in writing if NSPC hold the information requested and if so, will provide the information no later than 20 working days after receipt of the request.

6. Information Exempt from the Act

The Freedom of Information Act does identify a number of categories of information which NSPC is not required to disclose under the Act. In this case, NSPC will write to the person requesting the information, stating the exemption which provides the basis for refusal within Act. NSPC will communicate this within 20 working days.

7. Charges

There is no 'flat rate' fee to receive information under the Freedom of Information Act and in many cases NSPC will provide the information free of charge. However, if the information requested is not readily available in the media in which it is requested, NSPC may charge a



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fee based on the costs associated with providing the information e.g. photocopying and postage.

8. Refusal of Requests

The Freedom of Information Act does permit NSPC to refuse a request if NSPC estimate that it will cost NSPC in excess of the appropriate limit of 18hrs work.

9. Freedom of Information Fees Notice

If a fee is required for disbursements or because the appropriate cost limit, NSPC will write advising of the fee required within 20 working days of receipt of the request. This is known as a 'Fees Notice'. When a Fees Notice has been issued, the 20 working day limit for responding stops and will start again when NSPC receive payment. If NSPC do not receive the fee within three months NSPC are not obliged to comply with the request.

10. Complaints

If persons requesting information are dissatisfied with the way NSPC has responded to a request for information, please write to the Clerk at the address on the website.

The Information Commissioners Office (ICO) is responsible for enforcing the operation of the Act, and you may raise issues with this office at any time. More information can be found on the ICO website.