

# Newton Community Council Website Change Proposal

Because of ongoing problems with capability (only 2 webpage levels) and tools provided by the latest BT Community Kit, which I use at present to host and manage our website, I recommend we make the following changes:

1. Move the website to [Google Sites](#)
  1. The hosting is free
  2. There are few capability constraints
  3. The capacity (amount of documents etc. we can put on the web) is adequate for our needs
2. Purchase a domain name (i.e. the “http://” name of our website) for Newton Community Council
  1. Depending on the suffix we choose (prefix must be available for that suffix), this would cost:

newtoncc.org	<i>not available</i>
newtoncc.scot	suffix not expected to be available until 2013
newtoncc.info	£ 11.98 / 2 years
newtoncc.net	£ 19.98 / 2 years
thenewtoncc.org	£ 19.98 / 2 years
  2. We can use it as the name of our Google Sites website
  3. In future, we could change the host for our website without losing our online identity
3. Purchase WHOIS privacy for our domain name
  1. This prevents spammers find the email address of the named owner, and helps to stop scammers stealing the domain name
  2. A 'private' listing costs an additional £ 4.99 / year
4. Retain the existing BT Community Kit website (and URL), but use as a 'pointer' to our new website
  1. Anyone already using our site will still find us
  2. We will still be able to receive email from this site
  3. The site can remain active into the future with minimal maintenance
  4. BUT we may not be able to continue this site indefinitely

I would like to get on with this as soon as Councillors are satisfied with the strategy, choose a domain name and authorise the expenditure.

The following pages provide some additional detail from the website [123-reg.co.uk](http://123-reg.co.uk), from whom I recommend we make the purchases. I have also appended a guide to buying a domain name produced by [SubHub](#), a Cardiff-based web business. You can use the hyperlinks (click on blue underlined text) on this page to read further.

Respectfully submitted

*Evelyn Woollen*  
*Webmaster and Secretary*  
*Newton Community Council*

# Newton Community Council Website Change Proposal

## **What is a registrar?**

This answer will explain what a registrar is and what role they play in registering your domain.

A registrar is an organisation that has been accredited by ICANN (the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) to sell domain names. ICANN have control over all gTLD (Generic Top Level Domains) but do not have authority over ccTLD (Country Code Top Level Domains).

## **What payment methods can I use?**

This article explains what methods of payment you can use for your **123-reg account**.

At 123-reg you can currently pay using either your credit/debit card, via Paypal or using any credit balance you may have on your account.

When making new purchases you will be prompted to select your chosen payment method.

For renewals via our auto-renewal system renewal payment will be taken from the payment details you have stored with your 123-reg Account. You can alter these via your [123-reg Control Panel](#)

### **NEW - Direct Debit**

For new purchases you can now also set up Direct Debit to cover future renewals. Whilst you won't be able to pay for those purchases via Direct Debit, you can set it up to ensure future renewals of those products and services are covered by payment through the Direct Debit system.

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## What is WHOIS Privacy?

Did you know that when you register a domain name, the registration details are available to anyone who searches a public database online?

It's called the WHOIS database. The details stored could include your name, address, email and phone number. You can perform a WHOIS lookup on your domain name at [www.allwhois.com](http://www.allwhois.com).

Some spammers mine this for email addresses. It can even be used by scammers looking to steal or transfer your domain name.

WHOIS privacy stops your personal or business details being found. It replaces your details with generic information from our privacy service and costs only £4.99 a year.

It's completely above board and the domain is still owned by you.

## What details are shown when WHOIS Privacy is activated on my 123-reg domain?

If you choose to activate WHOIS privacy on your 123-reg domain, there are 2 formats in which details will be displayed depending on when your domain was registered.

### Domains registered after January 1st 2011

Registrant Name: Identity Protection Service  
Registrant Company: Identity Protect Limited  
Registrant Address: PO BOX 1125  
Registrant Address: Guildford  
Registrant Address: Surrey  
Registrant Address: GU1 9LU  
Registrant Address: United Kingdom

## What domain names can I use WHOIS Privacy with?

WHOIS Privacy can be purchased and used on the following domain name extensions:

- .com
- .net
- .org
- .cc
- .me
- .tv
- .info
- .biz
- .name
- .co

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# The Complete Guide To Buying A Domain

Author: Miles Galliford - Oct 19 2010 - 00:00

**Once you have chosen a name for your website you must register the corresponding domain name with a domain registration company.**

For an online business the domain name is the most valuable asset the business has. It does not matter about the brand you build, the traffic you attract or the money your site makes; if you loose your domain name, there is a good chance you will loose your business. It goes without saying choosing an honest, reliable and efficient domain name registrar is an important decision.

This is a useful checklist to help you choose a good domain registrar who will provide the security, privacy and services you need to be successful online.

## 1) Always Register Your Domain Yourself

You should always be in control of your domain name. It is the single most valuable asset any Internet business has. Often website design and development companies offer to take care of domain registration as part of their service, but then if you have a dispute they are in control of your business.

## 2) Pay (a Little) Extra For Quality

Your domain name is too important to put at risk by going for the cheapest registrar you can find. Pay a little extra to go with a reputable and well-established company. However, also be aware a high price is no guarantee of quality, honesty and good service.

## 3) Telephone Support

If you are new to domain name registration I would recommend that you only use a registrar who offers telephone support.

When things go wrong with a domain, it can be very worrying and stressful. Having telephone support can get issues dealt with quickly or save you a lot of time. Before you sign-up with a registrar try calling their support line to see how easy it is to get through and how helpful the support staff are.

## 4) Never Use a Company Offering Free Domain Registration

If a company provides free domain registration, their terms and conditions will be weighted very heavily in their favour. At worst they may own your domain name, at best you will have no comeback if they 'lose' it because they failed to pay fro renewal.

## 5) Use an Accredited Company

Whichever company you choose for registration, make sure they are ICANN accredited for the US or Nominet approved in the UK. Other countries will have their own governing bodies. Accreditation should give you some assurance that they will act an ethical way.

## 6) Make Sure The Registrar Offers:

- a. Clear pricing for sign-up AND renewal
- b. Easy to use domain name management
- c. Free transfers to another registrar

More on this below.

## 7) Domain Name Locking

When you register your domain name you will be given the choice to lock it; so lock it. This means that no one can transfer it without your knowledge or permission.

## 8) Domain Auto-Renew

All of your domain names should be put on auto-renew which means the domain registrar will automatically take payment for the domains when they are due for renewal. The disadvantage of doing this is you can't take advantage of special renewal discounts which many registrars offer during the year.

For your most important domain names pay the registration fee for the next five to ten years. This will ensure they are secure and should also give you a significant discount on the annual fee.

## 9) Provide The Right Email Address

Make sure that the email address you list with the domain name is always going to be live and will reach you. Also, if you have a spam filter on your email, make sure emails from your domain registrar are white listed so they always get through to you.

I recently came across someone who registered a domain using his work email address. When he left his job to run his website he forgot to change the email details. As a result he missed his renewal reminders and lost his domain name.

## 10) Don't Share Your Registrar Password . . . with Anyone

Treat the password for your domain name account as if it was the PIN for your bank account. Don't give it to anyone. If you do have to let someone access your account make sure you create a guest account or change the login details afterwards.

## 11) Privacy is Important

When you register a domain name your information is recorded in a 'Whois' database. All this information is then made public. If you have registered your domain to your home address, with home phone number and main email address, all this information is available to every spammer, hacker and criminal lurking in the shadows of cyberspace.

Because of this most good registrars offer a privacy service where they insert generic information into your Whois record instead of your private details. This is well worth doing. Privacy services can range in cost between free and \$15 a year.

## 12) Register In Your Own Country For Fast Dispute Resolution

If you ever get in a dispute about your domain name, particularly with respect to who owns it, it is far easier to get it sorted out in your own country. A UK citizen dealing with ICANN in the US is very frustrating, and I suspect a US citizen dealing with Nominet in the UK can be equally problematic.

The last two points could be in conflict i.e. if you live in the UK, but most of your customers will be in the US, which country should you register your domain in? I would suggest going for a big US player with a UK presence like **GoDaddy** or **eNom**.

## The Services Your Domain Registrar Should Offer

When choosing a registrar the essential services that you should check for are:

- **Cost of registering the domain** – A reasonable price to pay is between \$5 and \$12 a year (£3 - £12/year in the UK)
- **Annual renewal price** - Some domain companies offer cheap or even free first-year registration and then hit you hard in subsequent years or if you try to move your domain. Make sure you know what the renewal fees are and that they are similar to the original costs
- **Simple and easy to use account management interface** – It must be easy and intuitive to manage your domain and any additional services you buy
- **Ability to easily move all your domains into one account for simple management** – having multiple accounts, with multiple logins is a headache and can end up causing you to lose domains because of confusion about what is in which account.
- **Free domain pointing** - Your website will probably be hosted by a different company than where your domain is registered. You will need to point your domain at your website so that when people type your domain name into their browser, they end up at your website. Make sure it is free to do this
- **Free email forwarding** – If you own the domain [www.Run-a-Bar.com](http://www.Run-a-Bar.com), you should be able to forward all emails sent to that domain, such as [sales@run-a-bar.com](mailto:sales@run-a-bar.com), to your email account.
- **Free transfer to another registrar** – You should not have to pay to transfer your name to another domain name registrar.
- **Add privacy to your domain name** – For a small fee (\$1 or \$2 a year), you should be able to add privacy to your domain name Whois record
- **Domain name monitoring and auto renew** – Losing your domain name can destroy your business. You should have several layers of protection to prevent this from happening. Domain name monitoring will alert you if the domain expires. Auto-renew will automatically renew your subscription
- **Webmail accounts** – Your registrar should offer an emails service so you can either collect your emails online or get them forwarded to your desktop email software e.g. Microsoft Express or Microsoft Outlook

## Registration Companies We Use

The domain name registration companies that the team at SubHub have used for our domains are:

- **eNom** – Good solid company, but not the cheapest. They offer all the above services, but most of them have additional fees. They have telephone support which is prompt and efficient
- **GoDaddy** – Biggest registrar in the world, so they will always be around but they have a very confusing website and they are always trying to ram additional services down your throat like a goose being fattened to make foie gras. They have good telephone support. Some people report problems and a lack of co-operation from GoDaddy when they have lost a domain
- **NameCheap** – Well established, with reasonable prices. No telephone support, but responsive email help
- **DynaDot** – Up and coming domain registrar which gets very good reviews in the domain name forums. I have not personally used them
- **123-Reg** - Big, UK-based registrar. Reliable and good price. Recently got rid of telephone support

## Summary

I probably sound like a broken record, but I'm going to repeat the same point one final time. Your domain name is the most important asset your online business has. Invest the time to pick a domain name registrar who is accredited, financially stable and has a reputation for providing a professional service. Look after your domain as if it were a winning lottery ticket.

Listed in category: **Getting Started**.

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