

Chair's Report July 2023

A whole month has passed since my last report and once again it has been a busy month. I was invited to an awards evening by Lydney town council. The event was all about celebrating the local heroes, people who have sacrificed their own time to support others, or those who have never given up fulfilling their obligations, even when they themselves have faced challenges.

I was genuinely touched by the stories and the incredible people within the community. All of the nominees deserve our thanks and respect. I truly thank you for the opportunity to share in your celebration.

I was also invited to Gloucester cathedral, which is such an incredible building regardless of the event. But this was for the choral Evensong whereby the Mayor of Gloucester (Councillor Kathy Williams) was installed in the Mayor's chair. A wonderful atmosphere, with mayors from across the county coming together to witness an event steeped in history, thank you to the mayor of Gloucester for the invitation. If you do find yourself in Gloucester over the summer do visit the cathedral, the history is incredible.

As a council we were thrilled to hear that Jamie of Coldcroft shires had reconsidered cancelling his event at the lake. And the "journeys end" event continued, in spite of the journey not actually happening and the almost biblical rain we endured during the event. This event raised nearly £400, an awesome amount for a dismal afternoon. I know the full events fundraising was a success and that all of the supported charities were pleased to see so many at the lake last week.

I was also invited to visit newent community secondary school, this visit allowed me to talk to several year 9 children about what the council does. The pupils who were all around 14 years old were able to ask me several questions and really engaged with what the council can do, what we cant do, and the jobs the council have. The pupils were asking about about skate parks and youth clubs, they were incredibly enthused about the prospect of further meetings with members of the council. I've also been told some of the pupils stated the best part of last term was having someone from the council come and talk with them. My hope is that in the future we as a council engage more with the secondary school, the primary school, and the youth of newent, capitalising on the great links we already have due to our council members.

The community pavilion on the recreation ground has continued incredibly quickly, and hopefully the chair of the recreation ground trust has a report, to give us more information.