

Item 5 Poll Cards

We have received notification from the Forest of Dean District Council regarding the possibility of an election for the Casual Vacancy on Newent Town Council for the North East Ward.

Although there is a Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) election taking place on the 2nd May, 2024. Unfortunately, due the closing date of applications for Newent Town Council's By-election for the North East ward, we will miss the deadline for Poll Card printing and distribution.

I have been advised by The Forest of Dean District Council Electoral Team that the issue of poll cards at a by-election is at the discretion of the Town or Parish Council, and not compulsory.

If the council resolve to provide Poll Cards for the Election, Printing and distribution will be undertaken by Forest of Dean district Council at a cost to Newent Town Council of no more than £1100.00.

Alternately, if the Council resolve not to have Poll Cards produced then we will have to provide a method that we are going to undertake to ensure that electors of the North East Ward are notified of the upcoming election.

For information

The Election If the seat is contested, the election will coincide with the PCC election on the same date and same location so Newent Town Council will Share the Cost with the Crown, normally 50%

The estimated cost for the elections in May 2023 was £2395.00 not including the Poll Cards, but I have been informed that costs have risen substantially since then, and at the time this report was written Forest of Dean District Council were unable to provide an estimate for the total cost.