

Item 4.1 To Agree the co-option of Linda Morris.

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Linda Morris and I am the owner of Manna House coffee/gifts and crafts shop situated in the high street of Newent town.

I have lived in Newent for 5 years but prior to that I lived in Brand Green for 27 years. I have two sons who went to Newent Comprehensive some 10 years ago. Newent for me is a lovely little town with a special character of its own and I would like to be active as I have a Business here and to be part of the council too. I have been in the past a Chair of Pauntley Village Hall and also as a councillor of Pauntley Parish Council, so I do have an idea how the meetings run and what my responsibilities would be.

We have all struggled in the past as shop owners with Covid restrictions and decline with the high street.

I feel it's time now to make a positive impact and to see Newent flourish as a Forest town again. Many thanks

Linda

Item 4.2 To Agree the co-option of Clare Stone

I've stood for the council twice previously and was elected in 2022. At the time of the 2023 elections I was unable to stand due to family illness - much better now.

I first moved to Newent around 13 years ago. I love living in a small rural town, with a strong sense of community and being able to walk out into the countryside, or to all the facilities of the town centre right from my front door.

My professional background is in marketing and public relations. I started in social and market research, which gave me listening skills that have stood me in good stead for many years. My career has taken me to some interesting parts of the world and many different industries including travel and tourism, property, education and recruitment.

In 2021 I left full time employment (due to increasing responsibilities as a carer) and decided to put aside some time for community work. I was about to start work in a local charity shop when our bus services were axed, taking me on a different path. I feel privileged to be a member of Buses4Us, the group that helped start the Daffodil Line community bus service. The group continues to be a great example of true teamwork, and what can be achieved when everyone pulls together. Through Buses4Us I was also invited to become a Trustee of Newent Initiative Trust, and I do what I can to support their excellent work for the young people in our community.

Community and environment are my main passions. A town council can't change the world, but it can make its own little corner a better place to live, work and visit for everyone. I'd like to work as a councillor to help do that for Newent

Item 4.3 To Agree the co-option of Samuel Letchford.

Dear Newent Town council.

I would like to be co-opted onto the council as I would like to be more involved with the council and bring ideas and help the council as best as I can.

I am a live technician apprentice at Gloucester guildhall and for Gloucester city council cultural services. I am really big on developing events and culture into towns, villages and cities. I work full time as a live technician apprentice for events but would happily volunteer and help Newent town council.

It was a shame when Newent onion fayre decided they were never doing it again as that brought culture and events to our town. I was working on the onion fayre for about 5 years and some of the years I was working with a community group called soundscape community music association run by a man called David sass.

I am all up for bringing any form of culture or events into this town and adding new ideas to this town whether it be we look at busking or a funfair or circus at the recreation ground or a full music event. I am really passionate about events and festivals and it would be nice that I get to plan some for my home town Newent.

I am the music programmer or organiser for Newent town councils Christmas lights switch on I get co-opted on every year and I love doing it and enjoy doing it. We get some really good musicians done for the day and it's a really good day. I do like looking after the stage for that event. I've been doing it for them and working with them for about 4 or 5 years on that event and it's really good fun.

I will help in other areas as well like share my ideas about planning permission stuff, potholes or the Newent skate park. My strength is live technician and festivals and events but I will get involved with everything. If it helps I am getting PASMA trained scaffolding trained and I am getting IPATH trained cherry picker trained all through work.

Thanks Sam