

Newent Town Council | Full Council Meeting

Monday, 24 February 2024

Correspondence

Newent Town Council

To consider adopting a formal policy to actively fully and equally represent all places and parts of Newent Civil Parish (NCP) by Newent Town Council (NTC) as far as possible, initially by way of considering what contacts with and visits to and from outlying areas of NCP as can be practically done by NTC Councillors (Councillors), NTC Council Officers (Officers) and by accredited representatives of the areas and implementing any actions decided on as soon as practicable.

It has become apparent to me, as an attender of Meetings of NTC, that the current NTC, that is, the one for the Council Session beginning in May 2023, represents most of its business in Meetings as being for the In-Parish of NCP, the town of Newent, ('Inner Newent' 'Urban Newent' 'Built-Up Newent) to the exclusion of the NCP Out-Parish, the surrounding village, hamlets and countryside ('Outer Newent', 'Rural Newent' 'Newent District').

Whilst it is to be expected that the urban In-Parish will be the dominant part of NCP, the comparative neglect of the rural Out-Parish other than in its Planning Applications, in the present NTC actions did not happen to such an extent as observed with previous NTC Councils.

It can also be said that the newer housing estates (the estates) of Newent town, that is those built and occupied since 2010, as both places and as residents have yet to be fully integrated into the town and district or, by extension,

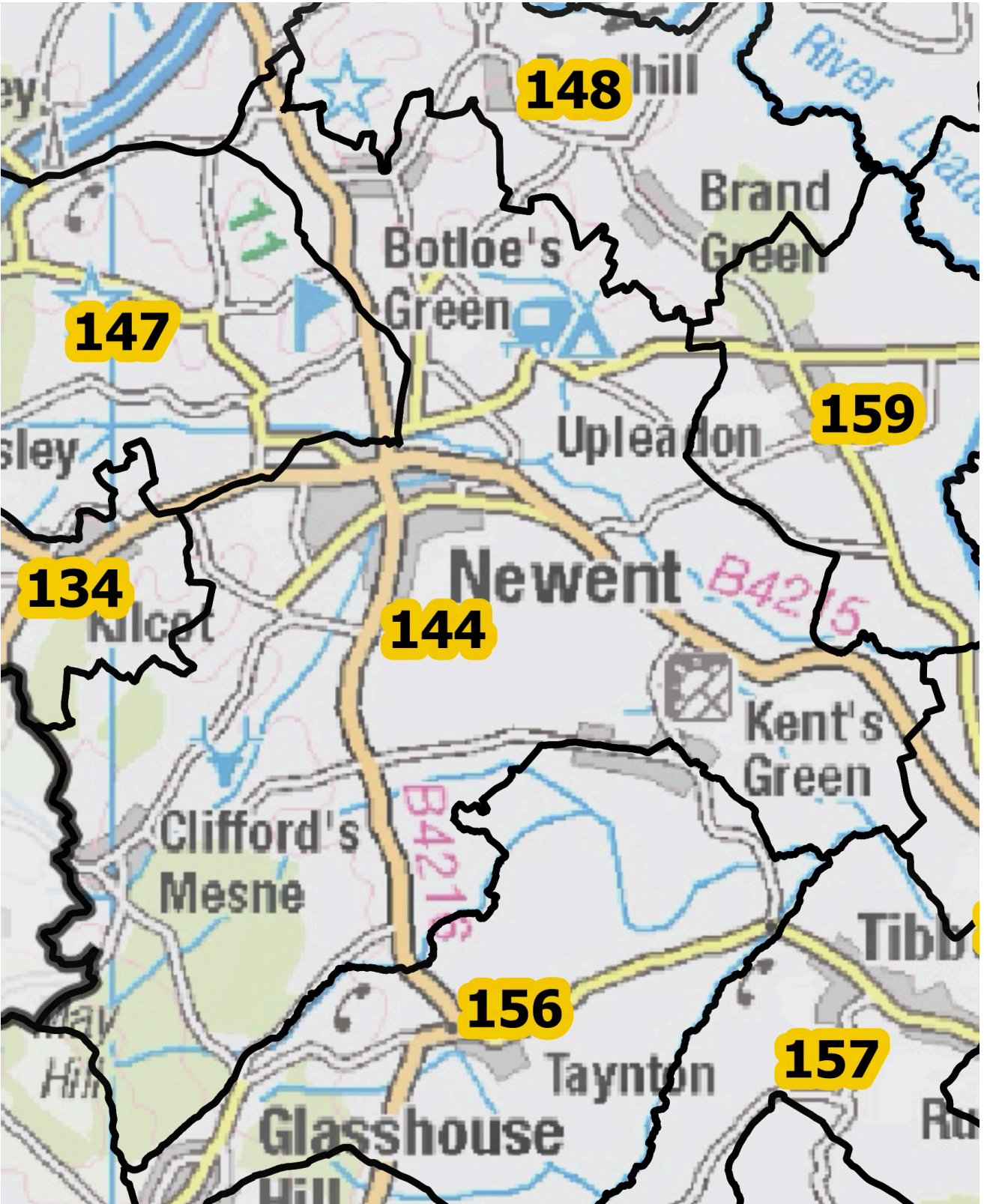
their representative body, NTC. This would be expected initially because of the newness of buildings and people there but as time passes there appears to be little organised attempt from either the estates or from NTC to assimilate to each other.

This is because almost all the current Councillors - and, to be fair, many of NCP's newest residents - do not have a full knowledge or consciousness of NCP as a whole due to their being established or recent Settlers from outside NCP, being young and largely ignorant or because despite being older and experienced, they are not quite as knowledgeable about Newent and its district as they think and like other people to think, they are.

Therefore, I suggest that NTC create and implement a formal policy of active full and equal representation of all areas of NCP as far as practical and possible and this be begun by Councillors and Officers exchanging contact and visits with legitimate representatives of the outer areas and putting into effect agreed actions quickly.

Stephen Buckley, 17 February 2024

Copied



Newent Civil Parish | *Forest of Dean Parish Map* | Forest of Dean District Council