

THE MARKET HOUSE

Newent Town Council's Newsletter - July 2020

Message from The Mayor - Cllr Christine Howley



I am writing this message to you all for the first time in the capacity of Mayor of Newent. I am privileged to have been elected to this position. I am pleased to say that Cllr Mary Duffield has been elected as Deputy Mayor and I am certain we will make a good team. We all thank Cllr June Davies for all her hard work and diligence in her term of office as Mayor.

I was elected as a town councillor in 2015. My passions have always been our green spaces and the wildlife that inhabits them, together with the environment.

Many of you will know me in one capacity or another. I am an allotment holder and enjoy growing fruit and vegetables. I have supported the Poppy Appeal for the last 30 years and have always collected in the Foley Road area.

I helped with the Open the Book project at our local infant/junior school, so some of your children may recognise me from that. Other people will know me when

walking my dog Jessica. The Mayor election has taken place in unprecedented times. I am proud of our community, and how it is pulling together. We are fortunate to have all that we require in our town, and we appreciate all of the businesses and staff who have continued to work through these past few months, to ensure that we had all of our needs met. We are entering another phase of this pandemic now. Our independent shops have just started to reopen. I know that the proprietors and staff have worked hard to put safety measures in place for you and themselves to enable you to shop safely. I am sure we will all enjoy seeing people and friends that we have missed over these few months, even if it is from a distance.

I will continue to work hard for Newent, I will not always get it right, but I will do my very best for you all.

Clifford's Mesne News

Cllr Ruth Wadley reports: "Here in Cliffords Mesne we are getting used to the new way of life. The dog walkers are still supporting those who are isolating and the shoppers are still doing the shopping for the elderly and those who are not online.

The phone box has become a book exchange (with the instructions on maintaining strict hygiene rules) and we have noticed a distinct increase in



the number of local people enjoying all the local footpaths. We are all noticing the increased evidence of wildlife, though the gardeners are not sure if the rabbits are really very welcome. We are hoping the fine weather continues so that we may all continue to enjoy where we live.

The Town Council and the Pandemic

In March our full council meeting was cancelled as it coincided with the lockdown. A Pandemic Crisis Management Team of five councillors was set up urgently and has been meeting virtually, once a week to deal with urgent matters. Full council meetings have now resumed, also by video conferencing and they are open to the public as observers. As always, we welcome questions about items on the agenda which should be submitted in advance.

Southend Lane

Newent was fully represented in objecting to many aspects of this application for 230 dwellings which was approved at the District Planning C'ttee, May 27th.

Contacting your Councillors

If you wish to speak to one of the town councillors, please contact us through the clerk or through the details elsewhere on this website.

