

# THE MARKET HOUSE

Newent Town Council's Newsletter - May 2019

## Message from The Mayor - Cllr June Davies

The Government has provided the District Council with a grant for Local Councils to be used to tidy up town centres. Newent Town Council has received £3,500 and will be using it to pressure wash the pavements and, working in liaison with Newent in Bloom, intends to replace broken flower tubs and containers and plant them up with summer bedding to help bring our town back to life. Hopefully by the time you read this, work will have started.



In March, the 1st Newent Guides celebrated their 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday and Councillors were invited to join in their celebrations. Thank you to all concerned for a lovely evening.

## Annual Parish Meeting - April 4th

Our Annual Parish Meeting on April 4th in the Memorial Hall was well attended. Stall holders from organisations operating in Newent were available to offer information before the meeting started. After the Mayor's report, members of the public raised questions about a number of local issues to which answers

were given. A useful discussion followed during which positive ideas were put forward, information was shared and points clarified.

## Gateway Project for the Lake

The Town Council is planning to hold a design competition in conjunction with the Newent Community School for a gateway feature to guide visitors from the car park towards the lake. Outline sketches or models, rather than detailed drawings, are required for this first stage.

## A New Council Year

Councillors hold their posts of responsibility for one year and following the elections, new appointments will be made at the meeting at 7.30pm on May 13<sup>th</sup> in The Market House. Members of the public are always welcome to attend.

## About the Town Council - some FAQs (continued from the newsletter of 8/18)

*The workings of the Town Council are a bit of a mystery to some people, so here are a few of the questions that people often ask.*

**Q** - How often does the Council meet?

**A** - Meetings are usually held at 7.30pm every second and fourth Monday in The Market House. Members of the public are welcome to attend.



**Q** - Is that all councillors need to do?

**A** - Certainly not. They are active in working groups, committees and outside bodies as well.

**Q** - Are Newent Town Councillors paid?

**A** - No. Being a Newent Town Councillor is a voluntary position. Only expenses may be claimed. At District and County level Councillors can claim an allowance.

**Q** - How many people work for Newent Town Council?

**A** - Six. They are the clerk, the assistant to the clerk (p/t), the administration assistant (p/t), the estate supervisor and two groundsmen (one p/t).

**Q** - What is the annual budget for the Town Council?

**A** - For 2018-19 it is approximately £260,000.

**Q** - How is the budget raised?

**A** - It is part of the precept raised by the Forest of Dean District Council through Council Tax.

## Contacting your Councillors

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

