

THE MARKET HOUSE

Newent Town Council's Newsletter - September 2020

Message from The Mayor- Cllr Christine Howley

September is with us and all too soon we will be in Autumn.

Usually at this time of year many of the townsfolk are busy in preparation for the Onion Fayre, Unfortunately, due to Covid 19 the Onion Fayre committee have had to make the decision to cancel this year's event. This is particularly sad as this year was going to be full of surprises being the 25th year of the Fayre and so a lot to celebrate.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the Onion Fayre past and present who over the years have worked tirelessly to produce what now must surely be one of the most famous events in Gloucestershire. The present committee can take a well-earned rest, and we sincerely hope that in the future the Fayre will be back to delight and surprise.

As far as Mayoral engagements are concerned, they are at this time nonexistent, I am hopeful that things may change in the near future to enable me to meet other town dignitaries and to promote our town.

Councillor Vacancy to be filled by Election

As announced in the last newsletter, following the resignation of Cllr June Davies, there is a vacancy on our Town Council of thirteen members.



Written notice has now been received by FoDDC from ten petitioners which calls for an election rather than a co

-option. However, under the present emergency, no elections can be held until May 2021.

Thinking of standing? Come along to our twice monthly meetings (currently on Zoom) and find out what we do. You can now speak to the council on any matter at the start of the meeting, not just on items on the agenda as previously.

Planning Matters

Planning certainly does matter. We want to hear from both residents and applicants when we discuss how to respond to planning applications. As a statutory consultee, the Town Council is invited to give its approval or objections to all planning applications in our parish before they go to the District for final decision. We want developers both large and small to come and talk to us at an early stage. Local residents can speak or write to us about small or larger plans but if we don't know your views on the material planning matters, it is difficult to represent you and to make the best considered decisions.



However, if the government's new proposals go ahead, there will be little say at local level apart from the broad decisions as to which of the three new zones all land will be allocated. These are Growth, Renewal or Protection. You can find out more at www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-for-the-future, or just Google 'Planning for the Future'. The Town Council will be making a response to this white paper and individual responses are also welcome. The deadline is 29th October. These proposals, if implemented, would overturn the present system which is open to the local community to have its say on all developments and applications.

Our Local Plan (NDP)

The Steering Group for Newent's own Neighbourhood Development Plan is back in action after the pandemic halted progress. Take a look at our website for an update and more details of how local people can help shape the future of Newent and its parish.

www.newentourfuture.co.uk

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.

