



February 2024

Issue 15

# NEWSLETTER

## Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of the Newent Town Council Newsletter, which aims to provide useful and interesting information about the Council and the wider community.

**If you have an article or information of interest to Newent residents, please send it to the Town Clerk:**

[townclerk@newenttowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@newenttowncouncil.gov.uk)

## New Council Members

Four Councillors have relatively recently been co-opted onto the Town Council: Samuel Letchford, Linda Morris, Trevor Beckwith and David Sass (pictured below).



*Pic. Cllr David Sass*

The number of Town Councillors now totals twelve, leaving one co-opted vacancy still available. If anyone is interested in becoming a co-opted member of the Town Council, please contact the Town Clerk:

[townclerk@newenttowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@newenttowncouncil.gov.uk)

**Contact details of all the Councillors can be found at the back of this Newsletter.**

## Regeneration Working Group

*By Cllr Sara Hulbert, Chair, Regeneration Working Group*

Newent Town Council organised a regeneration working group on the 25th of January 2024. This working group was once again well attended with several members of the public joining us. We had representatives from New Heights Festival, Billy's Vintage Weekend, Starfest at Stardens, Newent Choral Society and Newent Civic Society. All representatives had the opportunity to explain and give details of their events or society - keep your eyes peeled for their posters on social media and around the town! It was incredible to hear how much we already have going on in our small town. We discussed how we collectively advertise these events and how we ensure we work together where we can. The meeting was incredibly positive with all stakeholders sharing information and discussing the possibility of sharing resources. These working group meetings are very laid back with the opportunity for all to have conversations with Councillors and members of our community around the table. These meetings often have a very open agenda, which allows a free flow of constructive conversation, talking about what we can all do together to promote, encourage and regenerate our town. With representation from Newent Civic Society in attendance it was decided that our **next meeting** should be held in the **Newent Market House**; this meeting will be held on the **7th of March at 7pm** with the opportunity for people to come and see the wonderful displays we have in the Market House.

## Newent Brownies interview the Mayor

By 1<sup>st</sup> Newent Brownies

On the evening of the 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 1st Newent Brownies excitedly donned their hats and scarfs, plus hi-vis jackets and walked to the Market House for a very important event – an audience with the Mayor herself. All were thrilled to not only go upstairs into the Market House, a rare treat, but to have the chance to talk to the Mayor. The evening was part of the Brownie Local History badge, with the aim to meet someone who could tell the Brownies more about their town. With questions the Brownies wrote and asked themselves, the Mayor enthralled the Unit with her interesting tales of the town's history and her experience in her role. Rounding off the evening with a chance to look at the various historical artefacts around the room, and taking some momentous leaflets and town maps, the Brownies all had a fantastic time, and talked all about the activity all the way back! A huge thank you to Mayor for such a wonderful evening!



*Pic. 1<sup>st</sup> Newent Brownies and the Mayor, inside Newent Market House*

## Newent Allotment Competition Winners

A re-vamped allotment competition was run during the 2022/23 allotment season, which finished at the end of October 2023. The winning plots for each category were awarded for:

Best Allotment, Runner Up, Most Improved Plot and Most Progress by a New Tenant. The winning tenants received a trophy, shield or certificate.



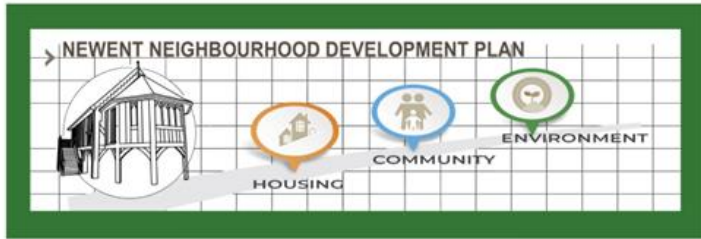
*Pic. David Gladwin receiving his Runner-up Certificate*

All those involved in the judging were thoroughly impressed by so many of the plots & it was very difficult to determine the winners in each category.

Councillor Eddie Wood, Allotment Representative, made the final decisions following site visits by himself & Council staff; with expertise generously provided by a long-standing allotment holder who kindly volunteered to assist with the judging.

Many allotment holders achieve incredibly high standards & the majority put in huge efforts to maintain & produce incredible and varied plots.

All the plots at the Holts Road Allotments site are currently being rented; indeed, there is a waiting list of residents wanting a plot. However, if any resident wishes to be added to this waiting list, please email [admin@newenttowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:admin@newenttowncouncil.gov.uk)



*By Cllr Gill Moseley, Chair, Newent NDP Steering Group*

For those readers who are new to the **Neighbourhood Development Plan for Newent**, here in a nutshell is what the plan is all about:

**The best chance for local people to have their say** on what sort of development happens in their area is to make a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). This goes into more detail than the District-wide plan made by The Forest of Dean District Council, our Local Planning Authority, and is based on evidence collected from local surveys and other data such as produced by the most recent census

Our NDP started in 2018. **Plans for small market towns like Newent, will usually take about five years to make.** Ours has been held up by the pandemic amongst other things, but changes are in the air and the NDP is gathering pace.

**Our newly appointed Planning Consultant, Lee Searles**, has already given us much useful advice and support, and his ongoing involvement has meant that we no longer expect to need the services of GRCC advisors who have guided us through the process so far.

**Members of the NDP Steering Group recently attended a Zoom meeting with representatives for AECOM**, the specialist infrastructure consultancy, which will be working with us to draw up a **Design Code** and conducting a **Housing Needs Assessment** (a data-driven analysis). They have also been

asked to produce a **Master Plan** for Newent. This work is funded by government grants.

There is, of course, much to be done before we hold another **full public consultation on a draft Neighbourhood Development Plan**. Some of the evidence originally collected is now out of date due to recent housebuilding and development proposals in Newent, the loss of a major employer, changing social habits since the pandemic, and new government initiatives. **Steering Group members will be working on updating information** via desktop research as well as seeking the views of stakeholders and the general public. Look out for a forthcoming survey on **Leisure and the Canal**. Our survey on **Housing** remains open, so do please look at our dedicated website for access to the online form: [www.newentourfuture.do.uk](http://www.newentourfuture.do.uk). **Our Business Survey** will be re-launched very soon.

Our regular **Steering Group meetings** continue on the third Wednesday of each month. Please contact us if you think you can offer your expertise or skills. There are lots of different tasks ranging from talking to people, analysing surveys, organising events, graphic design. Just remember that our NDP must be in general conformity with the **FoDDC Local Plan** which has **Newent** as one of the focuses of development. **We want to be able to influence the way development happens to the benefit all who live, work and study here.** Having a completed NDP gives the district planners and the councillors who decide on planning applications the statutory legal basis on which to take our views into account.

So pick up the phone or email us to find out about how to help us get this important plan made. [gill.moseley@newenttowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:gill.moseley@newenttowncouncil.gov.uk) 01531 820826

## Buses4Us



### Daffodils Are Coming!

By Clare Stone, Chair, Buses4Us

Our famous local wild Daffodil Season is just around the corner - and what a welcome sight those little golden beauties will be after the long dark days of winter.

Newent is the gateway to “The Golden Triangle” a unique area where wild daffodils still thrive in the ancient woodlands and hedgerows that run through our fantastically fertile agricultural land.

Newent is embracing the Daffodil this year - watch out for more details coming soon.

And this year we will all be able to enjoy all the Daffodil celebrations in our neighbouring villages without the car.

Working with local councils Buses4Us have organised free minibus shuttles from the lake car park to the Kempley Daffodil weekend on 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> March and to Oxenhall the following weekend 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> March.

And of course, the 232 Daffodil Line will be running its regular service to Dymock during their weekend of celebrations on 30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup>.

The money raised during the Daffodil weekends is vital in maintaining facilities in our neighbouring villages, so pop out, on the bus and enjoy the show.

For more information visit [daffodilline.co.uk/daffs24](http://daffodilline.co.uk/daffs24)

## Newent and District Men’s Shed

Around the corner from the Council Office, at the rear of Newent Community Centre, is “The Shed”, where the Men’s Shed get together three times a week. The poster below gives a bit of information about the community group, which was awarded grant funding by the Town Council for a thicknesser machine.

We will soon be visiting the Men’s shed to see how this woodworking machine is helping the group with their projects; watch this space (& elsewhere) for our Community Groups feature.

Welcome to the Newent and District Men's Shed

Registered Charity Number 1190749

**Join our Men's Shed Community**

- **Woodworking** share skills and create
- **Making and Mending** for the local community
- **Computing** laser engraving
- **Tea, Coffee and Biscuits** Enjoy a friendly chat over a hot beverage and biscuits
- **Friendship, Comradeship and fun** Connect with likeminded individuals and have a great time

**Open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays**

**10am until 2pm**

- No experience necessary we welcome beginners and experts
- We provide a safe place to come to
- A great way to combat loneliness and boost mental wellbeing

The Shed, Newent Community Centre, Ross Road, Newent GL181BD  
Email: [theneventshed@gmail.com](mailto:theneventshed@gmail.com) Phone: 07808116898

## Great British Spring Clean

**Newent Town Council**  
**COMMUNITY**  
**LITTER PICK**

**SATURDAY 16<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2024**  
**Meet at Market House at 10.30am**

**Litter grabbers & bags supplied**  
**Just turn up on the morning**

Contact: Newent Town Council 01531 820638  
[admin@newenttowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:admin@newenttowncouncil.gov.uk)

**Everyone Welcome**  
(Children must be accompanied by an adult)



*Supported by FODDC*

## Newent Town Council Meetings

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month – From 7pm

Room G4, Newent Community School,  
Watery Lane, Newent (subject to change)

Planning & Environment Committee	Full Council
February 12 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup>	February 12 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup>
March 11 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup>	March 11 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup>
April 8 <sup>th</sup> & 22 <sup>nd</sup>	April 8 <sup>th</sup> & 22 <sup>nd</sup>

## Council Positions & Roles

### Mayor

Cllr Sara Hulbert

### Deputy Mayor

Cllr Eddie Wood

### Finance & Staffing Committee

Cllr Julia Gooch (Chair)

Cllr Eddie Wood (Vice-Chair)

### Planning & Environment Committee

Cllr Gill Moseley (Chair)

Cllr Kay Selwyn (Vice-Chair)

Other Councillors were elected on to these Committees. In addition, Councillors were appointed for specific roles and Council representatives on outside bodies. The full list for all the positions can be found on the Council's website: [www.newenttowncouncil.org.uk/](http://www.newenttowncouncil.org.uk/)

If you would like to find out more, please contact the Town Clerk

## Council Contact Details

### Newent Town Clerk

01531 820638

[townclerk@newenttowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@newenttowncouncil.gov.uk)

## Newent Town Councillors

Sara Hulbert (Mayor) 07921 075134  
[sara.hulbert@newenttowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:sara.hulbert@newenttowncouncil.gov.uk)

Eddie Wood (Deputy Mayor) 01531 821090  
[eddie.wood@newenttowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:eddie.wood@newenttowncouncil.gov.uk)

Trevor Beckwith  
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Kay Selwyn 07807 159980  
[kay.selwyn@newenttowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:kay.selwyn@newenttowncouncil.gov.uk)

## Forest of Dean District Councillors

Julia Gooch 01531 821084  
Julie Hudson  
Gill Moseley 01531 820826

## Gloucestershire County Councillor

Gill Moseley 01531 820826

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## Deadline for articles to be included in the next issue Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Email to Town Clerk marked 'Newsletter'.  
[townclerk@newenttowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@newenttowncouncil.gov.uk)

The Editor's decision is final.

**Regular notices & news can also be found via the Council's:**

Facebook page 

<https://www.facebook.com/Newent-Town-Council-147707619127917/>

## Website



[www.newenttowncouncil.org.uk](http://www.newenttowncouncil.org.uk)

Details about the Council, its function, notices, news and documents, Agendas, Minutes, Policies and Financial information are available on the website.

Twitter 

[@newenttc](https://twitter.com/newenttc)

## Noticeboards

Under the Market House, at the entrance to the Lake Car Park and by the children's play area at the Lake.

