



Newent Town Council and Burial Authority

NEWSLETTER

February 2023 & March 2023

Issue 12

Annexe Building rear of
Newent Community Centre
Ross Road Newent
Gloucs. GL18 1BD

Welcome

Dear reader, welcome to the latest edition of the Newent Town Council Newsletter, which aims to provide information that is useful and interesting.

If you have any relevant articles or information that could be of interest to Newent residents, please forward it to the Town Clerk:

townclerk@newenttowncouncil.gov.uk

Town Councillor Vacancies

Are you willing and able to:

- ✓ make improvement to the local area?
- ✓ serve your local community?
- ✓ make a difference in Newent?
- ✓ make important decisions?
- ✓ represent the views of the local community?

THEN YOU COULD BECOME A PARISH COUNCILLOR

To qualify as a Parish Councillor you **must**:

- ✓ Be a British citizen, an eligible Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of any member state of the European Union.
- ✓ Over 18 years of age on the day of your nomination.

And meet at least one of the four qualifications below:

- ✓ Registered to vote on the current electoral role for Newent Parish.
- ✓ Been the owner or tenant of a property in Newent Parish for 12 months before your nomination and the day of election.
- ✓ Mainly or solely worked within Newent Parish during 12 months prior to your nomination and day of election.
- ✓ Lived in Newent Parish (or within 3 miles of its boundary) and have done so for at least the past 12 months prior to your nomination and day of election.

Interested?

Contact: Michael Greenfield: Town Clerk,
Newent Town Council, Annexe Building, rear of
Community Centre, Ross Road, Newent,
Gloucestershire GL18 1BD

www.newenttowncouncil.org.uk

Telephone: 01531 820638; Email:

townclerk@newenttowncouncil.gov.uk



Photo ID Now Required for In Person Voting at Elections

At this year's local elections - on 4th May 2023 - Forest of Dean District residents, who vote in person, will be required to show photographic ID.

Residents are urged to ensure they are ready to vote by checking they have acceptable ID: UK/ European Economic Area (EEA)/Commonwealth passport; UK/EEA/Commonwealth driving licence; some concessionary travel passes (e.g. older person's bus pass).

Voters can use expired ID if they are still recognisable from the photo and the name on the ID is the same as that on the Electoral Register.

Anyone who doesn't have one of the accepted forms of ID can apply for free ID online at: voter-authority-certificate.service.gov.uk/ or by completing a paper form, available from Forest of Dean District Council (FODDC).



Further information, including details of how to apply for free ID, can be found on FODDC's website:

<https://www.fdean.gov.uk/about-the-council/elections-and-voting/>

Anyone not able to access this website, or apply for a Voter Authority Certificate online, is encouraged to contact FODDC by calling 01594 812638 or emailing elections@fdean.gov.uk

Everyone who wants to have their say in the elections must also be registered to vote. If you aren't registered, it only takes five minutes to register online at:

www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

Voters wishing to apply to their council for free ID should first make sure they are registered to vote.

The requirement to show photo ID at the polling station, is a new requirement, introduced by the UK Government's Elections Act 2022. which was passed last year and comes into effect for the first time this May.

The changes do not affect postal votes but do affect proxy voters who will be required to show their own valid ID when voting on behalf of someone else.

New Post Office Branch, Newent

A local style Post Office branch has recently opened in Newent - at the Spar, 1 Broad Street, Newent GL18 1AQ.

Whilst the decision has been made to reopen Newent Post Office service, the Post Office would still like your views on access and the service offered at the new location. Post Office Ltd welcomes feedback and comments that can help inform their plans.

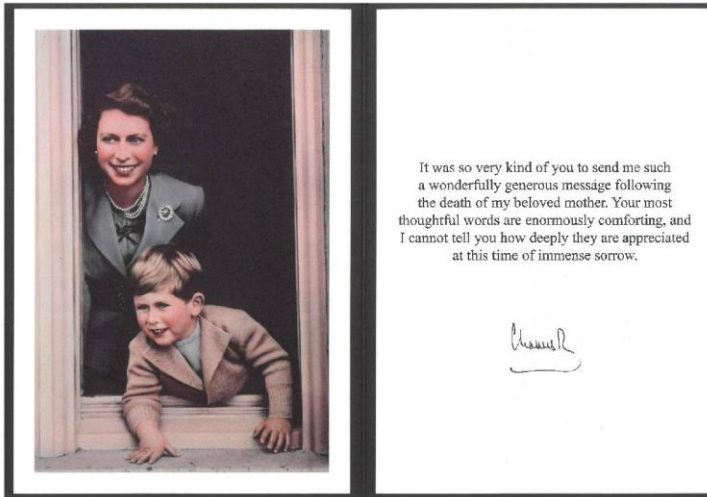
If you have views on the new post office branch you can contact Post Office Ltd via:

comments@postoffice.co.uk

Thankyou Card from King Charles III

Following the death of Queen Elizabeth II, a letter of condolence was sent by the Mayor of Newent, to His Majesty the King and the Royal Family.

Buckingham Palace has subsequently sent a thankyou card from King Charles III, addressed to the Mayor, Councillors and Residents of Newent:



The wording on the card is:

“It was so very kind of you to send me such a wonderfully generous message following the death of my beloved mother. Your most thoughtful words are enormously comforting, and I cannot tell you how deeply they are appreciated at this time of immense sorrow.”

Signed

Charles R

Buses4Us

community action for better public transport



The new 232 Daffodil Line bus service will start on Sunday 2nd April. The contract for operation of this service has been awarded to local operator DRM Bus.



The bus will run every 2 hours, 7 days a week and will provide an evening service on Friday and Saturday. The route runs from Ledbury to Ross-on-Wye via Much Marcle, Dymock, Newent, Gorsley and Upton Bishop. Details of the timetable and fares are on the Buses4Us website.

There has been huge financial and practical support for this venture - from local councils, people and businesses, up and down the Daffodil Line.

For further information please go to:

<https://www.buses4us.org/latest-news/>

Newent Lake – improved Mobility Access

Some of the paths have been upgraded to improve mobility access and a new wheelchair-friendly picnic bench has been installed.



A local resident commented as follows:

“A big thanks from me and my fiancé to Newent Town Council for providing two new picnic benches at the lake which have wheelchair access this means so much to me as a wheelchair user and my fiancé, as now we can sit by the lake and make a cuppa tea to enjoy outside in the fresh air.

We will also be able to enjoy a picnic once it gets warmer and now we also have the new Daffodil Line Bus we will now be able to get to Ross on the bus with me in my smart electric wheelchair, just need more kerbs sorted out around Newent to make crossing roads easier and to stop me having to drive on the road.”



Revetments (Reclamation) at the Lake



Pictures showing the progression of work to reclaim parts of the land surrounding the lake.

Market House Refurbishment



The Market House refurbishment is progressing well - the restorers have stripped it back in preparation for the various renders that are to be applied.

Please note that the Artisan Market is subsequently postponed:



🌿 **NEWENT ARTISAN MARKET** 🌿
MARKET SQUARE

POSTPONED
UNTIL AROUND JUNE 2023
DUE TO MARKET HOUSE REFURBISHMENT



POSTPONED
UNTIL AROUND JUNE 2023
DUE TO MARKET HOUSE REFURBISHMENT

Civility & Respect Pledge

The Town Council has signed up to the Civility & Respect Pledge, as shown below:



**This is to certify that
Newent Town Council
has signed up to the Civility & Respect Pledge**

Newent Town Council believes now is the time to put Civility and Respect at the Top of the Agenda and start a culture change for the local council sector.

Certificate number: 927.

Newent Town Council will:

- Treat all councillors, clerk and all employees, members of the public, representatives of partner organisations and volunteers with civility and respect in their role.
- Put in place a training programme for councillors and staff.
- Sign up to Code of Conduct for councillors.
- Have in place good governance arrangements in place including, staff contracts, and Dignity at Work Policy.
- Commit to seek professional help at early stages should civility and respect issues arise.
- Commit to calling out bullying and harassment when if and when it happens.
- Continue to learn from best practice in the sector and aspire to being a role model / champion council e.g., via Local Council Award Scheme.
- Support the continued lobbying for the change in legislation to support the Civility and Respect Pledge including sanctions for elected members where appropriate.

Signed on behalf of the council by:

Chairperson/Mayor: Councillor Mrs Christine Howley Date: 24th January 2023

By signing the Pledge, the Council agrees that it will treat councillors, clerks, employees, members of the public, representatives of partner organisations and volunteers with civility and respect in their roles and that it:

- Has put in place a training programme for councillors and staff
- Has signed up to the Code of Conduct for councillors
- Has good governance arrangements in place including staff contracts and a dignity at work policy
- Will seek professional help at the early stages should civility and respect issues arise
- Will commit to calling out bullying and harassment if and when it happens
- Will continue to learn from best practices in the sector and aspire to be a role model/champion council through for example the local **Local Council Award Scheme**
- Supports the continued lobbying for change in legislation to support the Civility and Respect Pledge including sanctions for elected members where appropriate

The Civility and Respect Pledge is being introduced because there is no place for bullying, harassment and intimidation within the local council sector.

The pledge enables the Council to demonstrate that it is committed to standing up to poor behaviour across the sector and to driving through positive changes which support civil and respectful conduct.

Newent Town Council Meetings

2nd & 4th Monday of the month - Start time 7pm

***Newent Community School, Watery Lane,
Newent (subject to change)***

For up-dated information, visit the Council's website

<https://www.newenttowncouncil.org.uk/meeting-minutes-agendas/#agendasminutes2022>

Council Positions & Roles

Mayor

Cllr Mrs Christine Howley

Deputy Mayor

Cllr Mrs Mary Duffield

Finance & Staffing Committee

Cllr Mrs Karen Draper (Chairman)

Cllr Mrs Sandra Marcovecchio (Vice-Chairman)

Planning & Environment Committee

Cllr Mrs Gill Moseley (Chairman)

Cllr Mrs Kay Selwyn (Vice-Chairman)

Regeneration Committee

Cllr Roger Beard (Chairman)

Cllr Mrs Ruth Wadley (Vice-Chairman)

The Communities Committee is now part of the Regeneration Committee.

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/

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

Council Contact Details

Newent Town Clerk

Michael Greenfield 01531 820638
townclerk@newenttowncouncil.gov.uk

Newent Town Councillors

Christine Howley (Mayor)	01531 820977
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Mary Duffield (Deputy Mayor)	01989 720809
mary.duffield@newenttowncouncil.gov.uk	
Roger Beard	01531 820672
roger.beard@newenttowncouncil.gov.uk	
Karen Draper	07910656159
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Julia Gooch	01531 821084
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ruth.wadley@newenttowncouncil.gov.uk	
Eddie Wood	
eddie.wood@newenttowncouncil.gov.uk	

Forest of Dean District Councillors

Julia Gooch	01531 821084
Gill Moseley	01531 820826
Vilnis Vesma	07773 781427

Gloucestershire County Councillor

Gill Moseley	01531 820826
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Deadline for articles to be included in the next issue Thursday 15th May 2023

Email to Town Clerk marked 'Newsletter'.
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/>

Noticeboards

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

Website

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.

NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL & BURIAL AUTHORITY
COMMITTEE MEETING DATES From March 2023 – August 2023

Room G4 Newent Community School, Watery Lane, Newent

Planning & Environment – Starts 7.00pm

Full Council, Finance & Staffing and Regeneration

Start 7.30pm or soonest after Planning & Environment

PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE	REGENERATION COMMITTEE	FINANCE & STAFFING COMMITTEE	FULL COUNCIL
MARCH 13th & 27th	MARCH -	MARCH 13th	MARCH 27th
APRIL 24th	APRIL -	APRIL -	APRIL 24th
MAY -	MAY -	MAY -	MAY 22nd
JUNE 12th & 26th	JUNE 12th	JUNE -	JUNE 26th
JULY 10th & 24th	JULY -	JULY 10th	JULY 24th
AUGUST 14th	AUGUST -	AUGUST -	AUGUST 14th

- Town/Parish Council elections are being held on Thursday 4th May 2023
- The meeting originally scheduled for Monday 8th May 2023 has been cancelled as it is a celebratory Bank Holiday for the Coronation of King Charles III