

**Newent Town Council**

**Strategic Plan 2019-2023**

Adopted by Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2019, reviewed 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020, reviewed 10<sup>th</sup> August 2020, reviewed 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020

reviewed 25<sup>th</sup> July 2022

**Red - Not Completed: Amber- In Progress: Green – Completed:**

The Strategic Plan outlines the current and future plans of the Town Council for 2019-2023

<b>1 Create a dynamic, vibrant, participatory community</b>						
<b>Ref No</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Resourcing/Budget allocation</b>	<b>Current Status</b>	<b>Comments</b>
1a	Research into facilitating residents' community groups	Complete by December 2020	Cllrs Mrs Moseley, Mrs Selwyn	Cllr time and small amount of photocopying	Completed	Facilitation grant and advice resources now approved. Advertised in News section on website.
1b	Engage with and support local organisations and individuals	Ongoing	Council	To be determined as required	Completed	Various community events initiated and supported by council
1c	Support local organisations by providing grants	Annually in September & March	Council	Annual budget allocated	Completed	Full S137 budget allocated in 20/21.
1d	VE Day Celebration	8 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> May 2020	Mayor & Deputy Mayor	£500 on 2020/21 budget	Event cancelled	Tree of peace planted at the Lake.
<b>2 Ensure an innovative and supportive Town Council</b>						
<b>Ref No</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Resourcing/Budget allocation</b>	<b>Current Status</b>	<b>Comments</b>
2a	Administer deed of variation grant applications on behalf of GCC	2019-2022	Town Clerk	Funded by GCC & Officer time	Completed	Deed of Variation Grants Publicised
2b	Raise funds and install defibrillator in town centre	November 2019	Council	£500 grant received from FODDC, £500 donation from	Completed	Defib also installed at the Recreation Ground February 2022

				Drs & £500 from Newent Rotary		
2c	Progress a Council youth group	Term meetings, Ongoing	Cllrs Heathfield, Mrs Wadley, Mrs Gooch, Mrs Selwyn	Cllrs time Budget	Completed	YAG updated the telephone box in Vauxhall/Tythings  May 2022 YAG engaging with local youth providers for additional support
2d	Investigate higher Council visibility – e.g. noticeboard in Library, Facebook, website etc	Ongoing	Town Clerk, Mayor & Deputy Mayor		Completed	Facebook & website regularly updated.  Council newsletter in place Next edition due July 2022, then every 2 months Noticeboards and social media used to promote council  NewAd used to promote Council activities and notices, as required.
2e	Mayor's Civic Events to be organised throughout the year including annual Carol Service and Onion Fayre lunch	Ongoing	Mayor	Budget allocated. Mayors & staff time	Completed	Mayor Carol Service event held December 2021: Onion Fayre Cancelled 2021 due to Covid: 2022 cancelled
2f	To ensure all statutory policies are written, approved and in place and reviewed annually	Ongoing	Clerk	Clerk's time	Completed	Updated policies presented to council and committees for approval
2g	Provide councillor and staff training as required	Ongoing	Council	Allocated from training budget	Completed	Training/seminar details are circulated & councillor training undertaken.

						<p>On-line training available to councillors.</p> <p>1:1 sessions and group learning available with the clerk</p>
2h	Produce advertising material to promote Newent as a destination including updated town maps	Annually Maps 2020	Cllrs Mrs Gooch, Mrs Odhiambo	To be allocated from town promotions budget and some donations. Money earmarked for maps	In progress	<p>Working Group set up in July 2020. Membership to Forest/Wye Tourism funded for 2 years by FODDC. New photographs and content added. Tourism link added to Town Council website.</p> <p>Membership to Forest/Wye Tourism renewed April 2022. The website required updating.</p> <p>July 2022: Promotional material to be updated and new leaflet produced as a number of businesses no longer operate in the town.</p>
2i	Staff job evaluation to be undertaken	2020	Staff Committee	Budget allocated	Completed	
2j	Ensure website is complying with The Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No.2) Accessibility Regulations 2018 and produce accessibility statement	September 2020	Clerk	Costs for updating website	Completed	Complies with accessibility requirements, as per GAPTC Internal Audit Report April 2022

<b>3 Ensure a sustainable economy for Newent</b>						
<b>Ref No</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Resourcing/Budget allocation</b>	<b>Current Status</b>	<b>Comments</b>
3a	Consider improvements to the Market Square	End of March 2020	Cllrs Beard, Mrs Howley, Mrs Gooch	Support from professional advisor and Highways Manager	Not completed	On hold
3b	To review parking restrictions within the town	Initial proposals to Council December 2019. Finalise January 2020	Cllrs Beard, Mrs Howley	Match funded by GCC.	In progress	<p>Consultation results to be considered by Council in June/July 2021</p> <p>GCC Highways Team (TRO Ltd.) met with council representatives March 2022 and GCC have a clear indication as to local requirements: awaiting final plans. Follow-up discussions occurring with GCC in July 2022</p>
3c	Progress development of the Neighbourhood Development Plan	2 – 5 years 2019-2023	NDP Steering Group	Cllrs & residents time. Grant funding of £5,372 received. £2,000 2019/20 budget	In progress	NDP funds allocated in council budget main budget 2022/23= £4000 EMR=£1230
3d	To erect town Christmas lights and organise switch on event	Annually	Christmas Lights Committee	Budget allocated Cllr & staff time	Completed	<p>Event occurred December 2021.</p> <p>Provisional date for 2022 is Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2022</p>
3e	Review all town planting requirements with Newent in Bloom to ensure the town has an	Annually		Budget allocation and Cllr and staff time	Completed	NiB undertook all planting in Spring 2020, following award of grant.

	attractive floral display and extend Council involvement as necessary					April 2022 onwards council will be responsible for most of the town centre planting.
3f	Participate in other organised town events e.g. Onion Fayre	Annually	Council	To be allocated from town promotions budget	Not completed	Events cancelled for 2020 and 2021
3g	Organise events	Annually	Cllrs Mrs Howley, Heathfield	Allocated budget. Cllr & Staff time	Not completed	Cancelled for 2020 Need other councillors. To be agreed.  July 2022: Communities Committee to undertake organisation of events, supported by wider council
3h	Erect bunting for 5 weeks each summer to enhance the summer look/feel of the town	Annually end of June to end of July	Town Clerk	Approx. £600.00 from town promotions budget	Completed	Bunting erected at Christmas 2021 and for Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations 2022  Will seek to keep it in place until after the Christmas period.
3i	Develop Tourist Information Hub in Library	Initial phase to be completed by March 2020	Town Clerk, Mayor & Deputy Mayor	£1,000 to be agreed	Not completed	Delayed due to pandemic.  June 2022 Admin. Staff at council in discussion with library regarding a council information point/notice board
3j	Working with District Council to locate areas for siting of motorhomes to stay overnight	December 2020	Cllr Mrs Howley	Cllr time	In progress	FODDC have not agreed to siting of motorhomes on their land. Other options to be considered.
<b>4</b>	<b>Preserve and enhance the natural environment</b>					

Ref No	Objective	Timescale	Responsible	Resourcing/Budget allocation	Current Status	Comments
4a	Implement recommendations from the 5 year tree survey (years 2-5)	2019-2022	Town Clerk	Staff time & allocated budgets	In progress	Majority of year 2 completed.
4b	Adopt a Climate Emergency Policy & Strategy	2019-2022	Cllrs Mrs Howley & Mrs Moseley	Cllr time & budget to be allocated	Completed	Declaration made November 2021  Adopted by Council 2022 and being progressed through the Planning & Environment Committee
4c	Organise bi-annual Litter Pick events	Spring & Autumn each year	Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio	Staff, Cllr & residents time & up to £50 for refreshments	Completed	Organised with various local groups, including young people, at different locations in Newent (High Street/Lake)
4d	Enhance wildlife areas at various locations in the town	2021-2022	Cllrs and staff time	£50	In Progress	Areas to be further identified
<b>5</b>	<b>Manage and enhance Council's assets for future use</b>					
5a	Progress with providing suitable and accessible council offices		Cllrs Mrs Howley, Beard, Heathfield, Mrs Duffield, Mrs Gooch, Mrs Selwyn		Completed	Council office moved February 2022 to annex building- rear of community centre. Building meets access requirements
5b	Prioritise and implement programme of repairs to Market House	2019-	Town Clerk	Market House maintenance budget	In progress	Public Work Loan submitted to Dept. Levelling Up via GAPTC: Awaiting decision on application July 2022
5c	Extend the Arboretum car park	December 2019	Town Clerk		Completed	

5d	Selling The Lodge – Public consultation and proceed as per resolution made at Council	Decision to be made & actioned by December 2019 – extended due to listing	Council	Consultation undertaken	In Progress- but not selling – Change of use	Change of use has been implemented from an office base to a residential for the Grade II building FoDDC and Land Registry have been notified – June 2022 Further information to be submitted to those organisations
5e	Progress with cemetery extension	September 2019 – Ongoing	Clerk	Staff time & allocated budget	In Progress	Layout agreed.  Work completed- Plots ready for use once numbering sequence agreed in July 2022
5f	Improvements to Cemetery gateway area	2019-2020	Cllrs Mrs Moseley, Heathfield, Mrs Selwyn	£200	In progress	Will be started shortly – to be considered alongside other cemetery buildings/structure improvement proposals.  Improvements part of the overall cemetery discussion of change of use 5d
5g	Upgrading CCTV in the town and install connection to Waterwells	2019-2022	Cllrs Beard, Mrs Howley & Clerk	Cllrs & staff time. £10,000 grant funding allocated. £14,900 budget/reserves allocated	Completed	Broadband to agreed  March 2022 CCTV updated and installed across high street of the town
5h	Review of long term improvements at the Lakeside area	2019-2022	Lead Cllrs for amenity sites		In progress	In line with Tree Charter, community involved with tree planting, but was on hold due to pandemic. Volunteer tree bailiffs' scheme to be considered

						<p>in due course. Further programme of works is being considered.</p> <p>April 2022 tree sculpture being created to assist long term improvement: Reeds being removed Tree planting in place: disability area created; benches installed</p>
5i	Pursue grant funding for installation of electric car charging points in Library Car Park	March 2020	Cllrs Beard, Mrs Howley, Mrs Wadley, Mrs Selwyn	Grant funding to be secured	In progress	<p>FODDC to progress under district wide initiative for its car parks. Continue to search funding</p> <p>June 2022 FoDDC reviewing the project.</p> <p>2022/23 £7000 in EMR for the project</p>
5j	Promote friends of Newent Cemetery	2020-2021	Cllr Mrs Moseley		Not Completed	<p>To be considered during consultation/engagement with community regarding Cemetery buildings improvements.</p> <p>Building to be change of use to residential 5d</p>
5k	Agree programme for upgrading play areas	2020-2021	Lead Cllrs for amenity sites		In progress	<p>RoSPA Report May 2022 identifies several play equipment that needs upgrading. Council/ Regeneration Committee to be provided with costings</p>



5l	To provide a community facility building at the Recreation Ground	2021	Trustees & Clerk	S106 funding secured for building	In progress	Planning expires 19 <sup>th</sup> July 2022: VAT advice to council 14 <sup>th</sup> July 2022.
5m	Progress Gateway feature for the Lake	2021-2022	Cllrs Mrs Howley, Heathfield, Mrs Marcovecchio	£2,500 allocated budget	In progress	Being developed: June 2022 carving; carved logs to be installed
5n	Computerise cemetery records	Completed by 2023	Clerk	Staff time	In progress	Progressing. D & E section completed  New sections to be undertaken: Time consuming task
5o	Actively seek grant funding for enhancing council assets or services  Review the way the Market House is currently used and consider how it/if it could be put to better use  Work with the Market Square working group	Ongoing	Cllrs Mrs Gooch, Mrs Selwyn, Mrs Odhiambo	Staff & Cllr time	In progress	Working Group set up 10/8/20 and are actively seeking funding for the Market House*  April 2022 Public Work Loan Board application submitted.  Council agreed to proceed further with 5 areas identified 1-Disabled Access 2- Additional Displays/cabinets/stands and enhancing current exhibits - Those identified are Joe Meek, Rutland Boughton, Land Settlement, Education, Sporting achievements but no limits were set. 3- Whiteboard display 4- Enhancement of the Stained-Glass windows

						and internal architecture 5- Lighting/Heating  July 2022 – update needed
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**Request for the following to be added to the strategic plan**

5p	Chapel Review		Cllrs Mrs Gooch, Mrs Wadley, Mrs Selwyn, Mrs Moseley, Ms Birkan		Ongoing	July 2022: see 5d  Land Registry being undertaken May 2022  Update needed
5q	Review of Young Person Facilities		Cllrs Mrs Gooch, Heathfield, Mrs Wadley, Mrs Selwyn, Ms Birkan		Progressing	Areas identified for improvement; Pump Track at the Lake, Skate Park, Adventurous play equipment at the lake, goal post & Shelter at Watery Lane recreation ground. Event at Arboretum, Nature and Sculpture trail at the Lake. Extending fishing permits  July 2022 Youth facilities being reviewed