

**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**

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	Cllr Mrs Moseley & vacant	Cllr time and small amount of photocopying	Ongoing	Report going to Council on 23 <sup>rd</sup> November
1b	Engage with and support local organisations and individuals	Ongoing	Council	To be determined as required		
1c	Support local organisations by providing grants	Annually in September & March	Council	Annual budget allocated		First round 20/21 allocated.
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 to peace be 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	First round of grants awarded	
2b	Raise funds and install defibrillator in town centre	November 2019	Council	£500 grant received from FODDC, £500 donation from Drs & £500 from Newent Rotary	Completed	
2c	Progress a Council youth group	Term meetings, Ongoing	Cllrs Heathfield, Mrs Wadley & Mrs Odhiambo	Cllrs time	Structure Review to be completed in March	YAG is currently carrying out a survey with the young people to find out what they would like to see in Newent and what projects they would like to get involved in. YAG is also looking at different projects it can get involved in within the community,

						taking into account Covid restrictions.
2d	Investigate higher Council visibility – e.g. noticeboard in Library, Facebook, website etc	Ongoing	Town Clerk, Mayor & Deputy Mayor		Ongoing	Facebook & website regularly updated. In discussions with Library.
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	Ongoing	Unlikely any events will take place in 2020.
2f	To ensure all statutory policies are written, approved and in place and reviewed annually	Ongoing	Clerk	Clerk's time	Ongoing	Some have been delayed but will be completed in due course.
2g	Provide councillor and staff training as required	Ongoing	Council	Allocated from training budget	Ongoing	Staff and several cllrs have undertaken training this year.
2h	Produce advertising material to promote Newent as a destination including updated town maps	Annually Maps 2020	Cllrs Mrs Howley, Mrs Duffield, Mrs Gooch, Heathfield, Mrs Wadley	To be allocated from town promotions budget and some donations. Money earmarked for maps		Working Group set up in July 2020. Council's page on the Forest and Wye Valley Tourism website is being reviewed and amended.  Tourism link to be added to new website.
2i	Staff job evaluation to be undertaken	2020	Staff Committee	Budget allocated	Completed	Council approved and new pay and grading structure implemented.
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	Progressing	Website should be live before the end of November.
<b>3</b>	<b>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	On hold	
3b	To review parking restrictions within the town	Initial proposals to Council	Cllrs Beard, Mrs Howley,	Match funded by GCC.	Progressing	TRO plans approved by Council. GCC

		December 2019. Finalise January 2020	Mrs Duffield, Heathfield, Mrs Moseley			consultation has commenced November 2020.
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	Ongoing	Following a review of the consultation questionnaire analysis, the Steering Group will promote a series of shorter themed surveys to elicit more responses about the issues raised at the Consultation. The first is likely to be launched in early December, using social media as well as targeted hard copies. Others will follow at regular interval to provide the evidence needed to build the policies that make up the Plan.
3d	To erect town Christmas lights and organise switch on event	Annually	Christmas Lights Committee	Budget allocated Cllr & staff time	Completed 21 <sup>st</sup> November	Virtual switch-on this year. Some new lights purchased. Home decoration competition taking place.
3e	Review all town planting requirements with Newent in Bloom to ensure the town has an attractive floral display and extend Council involvement as necessary	Annually	Cllrs Mrs Howley, Mrs Marcovecchio, Ms Birkan with NiB support	Budget allocation and Cllr and staff time	Spring 2020 completed	NiB undertook all planting in Spring 2020, following award of grant.
3f	Participate in other organised town events e.g. Onion Fayre	Annually	Council	To be allocated from town promotions budget	Cancelled for 2020	
3g	Organise events	Annually	Cllrs Mrs Howley, Mrs Draper and Mrs Odhiambo	Allocated budget. Cllr & Staff time	Cancelled for 2020	

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	
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	Delayed	Council approved proposal on 10 <sup>th</sup> October 2019. Delayed due to pandemic.
3j	Working with District Council to locate areas for siting of motorhomes to stay overnight	December 2020	Cllrs Mrs Howley & Mrs Gooch	Cllr time	Ongoing	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>					
<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>
4a	Implement recommendations from the 5 year tree survey (years 2-5)	2019-2022	Town Clerk	Staff time & allocated budgets	Progressing	Year 2 to be completed.
4b	Adopt a Climate Emergency Policy & Strategy	2019-2022	Cllrs Mrs Howley & Mrs Moseley	Cllr time & budget to be allocated		Two representatives attended the recent all-day conference organised by the District Council. As a result we have some ideas to work on which include liaising with other town and parish councils in the creation of innovative solutions and engaging with the community.
4c	Organise bi-annual Litter Pick events	Spring & Autumn each year	Cllr Mrs Wadley & Town Clerk	Staff, Cllr & residents time & up to £50 for refreshments	Events cancelled	No event in 2020 due to pandemic.
4d	Enhance wildlife areas at various locations in the town	2021-2022	Cllrs and staff time	£50		
<b>5</b>	<b>Manage and enhance Council's assets for future use</b>					
5a	Progress with providing suitable and accessible council offices		Council		Progress delayed due to pandemic	Working Group to consider other options.

5b	Prioritise and implement programme of repairs to Market House	2019-	Town Clerk	Market House maintenance budget	Progressing	PWL is being progressed as approved by Council.
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	Council	Consultation undertaken	On hold	Property has been Grade II listed.
5e	Progress with cemetery extension	September 2019 – Ongoing	Clerk	Staff time & allocated budget	Ongoing	Layout agreed. Works to commence Autumn/Winter.
5f	Improvements to Cemetery gateway area	2019-2020	Cllr Mrs Moseley	£200	Ongoing	Will be started shortly
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	Progressing	Project near completion. Camera to be fitted at Foley Road junction shortly. Waiting for licence agreements.
5h	Review of long term improvements at the Lakeside area	2019-2022	Lead Cllrs for amenity sites			In line with Tree Charter, community involved with tree planting, but now on hold due to pandemic. Volunteer tree bailiffs' scheme to be considered in due course. Further programme of works is being considered.
5i	Pursue grant funding for installation of electric car charging points in Library Car Park	March 2020	Cllrs Beard, Mrs Howley & Mrs Wadley	Grant funding to be secured	Continue to search funding	Work done indicates grant availability for on street charging, not possible in Newent. Some S106 money potentially available from Picklenash Grove but with significant environmental caveats. Cllr Mrs Moseley investigating with FODDC if site on their car park possible.

5j	Promote friends of Newent Cemetery	2020-2021	Cllr Mrs Moseley		On hold	
5k	Agree programme for upgrading play areas	2020-2021	Lead Cllrs for amenity sites			
5l	To provide a community facility building at the Recreation Ground	2021	Trustees & Clerk	S106 funding secured for building	Progressing	Agent requesting quotes from local builders. When quotes received, we shall know if sufficient secured S106 funding will cover project completion.
5m	Progress Gateway feature for the Lake	2021-2022	Cllrs Mrs Mosley, Heathfield, Mrs Howley & Mrs Draper	£2,000 allocated budget	Meeting to progressed delayed due to pandemic	Ideas from the 5 designs shortlisted, which will be incorporated into a final design for consideration by Council.
5n	Computerise cemetery records	Completed by 2023	Clerk	Staff time	Progressing. D & E section completed	Enormous task and very time consuming requiring particular attention to detail.
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 Howley, Mrs Moseley & Mrs Gooch	Staff & Cllr time	Ongoing	Covid-19 grants received.  Grant for nut glade/orchard confirmed.  Working Group set up 10/8/20 and are actively seeking funding for the Market House*