



March 2018 Edition

THE RIVERSIDE CENTRE, THE QUAY, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT, PO30 2QR
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For up to date information on what's going on in your area or if you would like to contact the Clerk or your local councillor, why not take a look at our website, www.newportwight.org.uk or visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/newportwight

Chair's Report

Newport Parish Council continues to step into the breach where services formerly provided by the Isle of Wight Council are curtailed due to continuing government austerity and despite large Council Tax increases. For the coming budget year we have had to increase the precept by 9p per week, bringing it up to 47p per week for a Band D household. Last year of course there was no increase.

This increase will be used to support youth services whose County Hall funding has been entirely cut; to repair, upgrade and ultimately refurbish all the public toilets that we had to take on from the Isle of Wight Council (now to include South Street); and to make contributions to improving our town and centres as part of regeneration plans. We are also planning to take on the management of the pavilion at Victoria Recreation Ground from Newport Victoria Sports & Social Club, which is under threat of closure. We took on responsibility for the recreation ground and pavilion a couple of years ago. And as ever there are projects throughout the various neighbourhoods of Newport and Carisbrooke. Ask your parish councillors about them.

This year sees the 10th anniversary of Newport Parish Council. It has been my pleasure to be involved right from the very start with Cllr Shirley Smart, together collecting signatures to petition government for a parish council, in the face of County Hall threats to precept Newport and Carisbrooke residents anyway.

We were created in May 2008 and I was the first Chair, so it is good to be back in the seat this anniversary year. But how things have changed in the 10-years. My role is so much busier. Back then there was money for services and we kept the parish budget at 14p per week. We did 'the little extras' around the parish. Now we have a £370,000 annual budget and spend our time plugging gaps in Isle of Wight Council services as well as the extras.

My thanks to all the councillors and our new Clerk, Danny Faulkner, and his five staff colleagues for all that they do.

Cllr Geoff Brodie
Chair of Newport Parish Council

Chair: Geoff Brodie (01983) 521686 (Newport East)
Vice-Chairman: Peter Whiteman (01983) 508589 (Newport West)

Parish Councillors:

Joanne Ballington - (01983) 241199 (Newport East)	John Hobart - (01983) 821000 (Carisbrooke)
Jaimie Bundell - 07747 864 622 (Newport South)	Richard Hollis - (01983) 200986 (Parkhurst)
Tony Coburn - (01983) 524076 (Newport West)	Julie Jones-Evans - (01983) 521068 (Newport Central)
Mary Craven - (01983) 521686 (Newport North)	Terry Martin - 07792 519 488 (Carisbrooke)
Andrew Garratt - (01983) 524623 (Parkhurst)	Matthew Price - (01983) 524320 (Newport North)
Steve Hastings - 07870 127 024 (Newport Central)	Shirley Smart - (01983) 523793 (Newport South)



Newport Travel Forum

On Saturday, 20th January 2018 we held the first ever Newport Travel Forum at The Riverside Centre. The forum was well-attended by stakeholders and members of the public, which raised issues about getting around Newport for pedestrians and included plans to improve traffic flow and cycling into and around the town. We also published the results of the parish council's 20mph survey carried out in the autumn. Speakers included: Cllr Julie Jones-Evans; Tim Thorne, of CycleWight; Martin Gibson, Creative Interpretation; Bill Murphy, Isle of Wight Council Contracts Management and Ian Boyd of ARC Consulting who spoke on the Shaping Newport project. Cllr Jones-Evans said: "Thank you to everyone who gave up their Saturday to discuss and hear about the current state of getting around Newport. The pedestrian audit and cycling permeability study are vital pieces of work and evidence bases on which to create long-term solutions. The Shaping Newport project will be the vehicle that will allow implementation of these various improvements and through partnership working between Isle of Wight Council and Newport Parish Council."



20's Plenty Survey

The results from the residents' survey we carried out in the autumn have now been published. In brief, they showed that over 60 per cent of PO30 respondents were in favour of implementing 20mph zones in Newport and that the majority supported the restrictions being mandatory, rather than advisory. Cllr Jones-Evans, said: "We had a great response to this survey and it's clear that residents want the traffic to slow down and for their environment to improve. Bristol has just announced positive results from evidence gathered since they introduced 20mph, it shows fewer accidents and more people walking and cycling. We can do it in Newport too." To view the full results of the survey, please visit:



www.newportwight.org.uk/projects/20s-plenty

Pan Country Park Allotments

We are very excited to announce that a new allotment site – Pan Country Park – will be opening shortly off Pan Lane.



Allotments within Newport are always highly sought after and we expect this site to be very popular. Please note there will be no mains water available and allotment fees for this site have been slightly reduced because of this. If you are a Newport resident and would like to be added to the waiting list please email clerk@newportwight.org.uk or telephone us on **01983 559119**.

Next Meeting Dates - Full Council

- Monday, **12th March 2018** – 6.45pm at The Riverside Centre
- Monday, **9th April 2018** – 6.00pm at Carisbrooke & Gunville Methodist Church (beginning with the Annual Parish Meeting)
- Monday, **14th May 2018** – 6.45pm at The Riverside Centre (including the Annual Meeting)



South Street Toilets

We are pleased to announce that we have taken on the South Street toilets on a tenancy-at-will basis whilst we negotiate a lease for the building with the Isle of Wight Council.

The block requires some maintenance and upgrading, which we hope to explore over the coming months.

In the meantime we are looking at options to re-open the toilets for public use in some capacity. We will keep residents informed as this progresses.

Post Office Lane Toilet Refurbishments

The parish council recently submitted a planning application to re-develop the toilet block at Post Office Lane. We hope that planning permission will be granted and we can take this ambitious project forward and improve the public toilet provision in Newport. The new scheme will also feature a 'changing places' toilet, which will provide disabled residents and visitors with a fully-accessible toilet and changing facility in the centre of town. This will be the first changing places toilet in a town centre on the island.

To finance this refurbishment the parish council is considering borrowing from the Public Works Loan Board. To help inform our decision-making we would be grateful to receive residents' views on this. The Chair of the Parish Council, Cllr Brodie, said: "This marks the first major investment in the provision of a new block of toilets in our town since the 1970s. And we will also be undertaking internal refurbishment of Seaclose and Carisbrooke blocks as part of our ongoing commitment to residents and visitors who use these services."

Shaping Newport

The Shaping Newport public survey is now finished, and what a fantastic response there was! 1800 completed questionnaires online, 400 from shops, cafes and public events, and feedback from meetings, forums and social media. This substantial body of data represents the views and experiences of the people who live, work and visit here. Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to get involved. The work now begins to respond, not with more strategy and concept, but with practical, deliverable projects that can start to map the positive change you want to see, and start now. You have said that you want to see more investment in Newport's public spaces, better way-marking to help people navigate the town, better management and use of car parks, more reasons to visit through a proper celebration of the built and natural heritage that we have lost sight of, and a robust and concerted drive to breathe new life into the town centre, with helpful planning policy, business incentives, and more determined partnership with those who own essential land and buildings. These, and the many other aspirations for change that the survey has recorded, will direct the work of the year ahead and help to shape the collaboration between public service, business and community that will be so vital to the future of the island's county town. – **Ian Boyd, ARC Consulting**





Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries

Anyone recently walking through Fairlee or Mountjoy cemeteries may have noticed some old grave markers being revealed by the cutting back of vegetation or the removal of ivy covering them. This has been achieved by the Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries volunteer group. Regular monthly sessions commencing at 10.30am and lasting up to 2-hours (subject to weather conditions) occur on the first Saturday at Mountjoy (meet at the chapel) and the third Saturday at Fairlee (meet near the Fairlee Road entrance). Additional ad-hoc sessions are arranged on weekdays. The group welcomes new volunteers at these sessions and also to provide other help – the website: www.foncc.org.uk contains more information and contact details.



Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries

www.foncc.org.uk



Volunteers helping to care for the cemeteries and record the lives of those resting there

Great War 1914-1918

The parish council is embarking on a number of projects to commemorate the centenary of the Great War armistice in November 1918. We plan to install two decorative and commemorative benches – one at the Simeon Green and the other at Victoria Recreation Ground. Lead member for the Great War projects, Cllr Terry Martin, said: "The parish council recognises the importance of commemorating the Great War and in 2018 we look forward to improving and adding to our existing memorials around the parish." On November 10th last year we held a short wreath-laying ceremony at Simeon Green and the video is available on our Facebook page.



Emergency Wardens

In partnership with The Footprint Trust – and thanks to grant funding we obtained from SSE in 2015 – we continue to train emergency wardens in the Newport area who can assist vulnerable residents during times of adverse and extreme weather. On Saturday, 17th February 2018 we trained a further four volunteers. The parish council is keen to recruit more people to this role and further information is available from the parish office by calling 01983 559119 or emailing clerk@newportwight.org.uk.



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