



NM
NEWPORT
MATTERS

The official newspaper of Newport City Council

NEW COUNCIL ELECTED



Labour retained control of Newport City Council following the local government elections on 4 May.

Residents in Newport went to the polls to elect their 50 councillors to represent them across 20 wards.

The count took place in the Wales National Velodrome during the night and the result was as follows – Labour 31 seats, Conservatives 12, Newport Independents Party 4, Liberal Democrats 2 and Independent 1.

People living in Newport and the rest of the UK will go to the polls again next month.

This time it will be to vote for a member of the UK parliament.

On 8 June, a general election is taking place. The city has two MPs representing Newport West and Newport East.

To see the full results of the city council elections and to find out more about the general election visit www.newport.gov.uk/elections

Messages about the general election will also be available on Newport City Council's social media accounts in the run-up to 8 June – Twitter [@NewportCouncil](https://twitter.com/NewportCouncil) and Facebook www.facebook.com/NewportCityCouncil

AMBITIOUS BID TO REVAMP THE TRANSPORTER BRIDGE



Improving the visitor experience at Newport's iconic Transporter Bridge is a top priority for Newport City Council.

The council is backing an ambitious bid to secure the future of the bridge by applying for around £8 million of support from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The money will be used to fund a long term programme of improvements, maintenance and repairs required to keep it in pristine operational condition.

The Friends of Newport Transporter Bridge are backing the council's plans and have been involved in discussions on how the project can progress.

They are hoping to extend opening hours, create more parking and maybe house a visitor café which could see even more people visiting than the 20,000 it attracts each year.

The Heritage Lottery Fund support is needed to carry out essential on-going repairs to the bridge, improve

the Edwardian gondola, which dates back to 1906, and to create a bigger and better visitor centre which will include improved facilities at the site.

Newport Transporter Bridge opened in 1906 and was built to help steel workers living on the Pill side of the River Usk get to the Lysaght factory on the other side, saving them a four mile walk to work.

The bridge dominates the city skyline and is one of only

five remaining operational transporter bridges worldwide.

Significant maintenance and repairs to the bridge have taken place over the years, the last being replacement traveller rails and comprehensive repainting carried out in 2010.

A report on the Heritage Lottery Fund bid says if the Transporter Bridge is to thrive as a visitor attraction then investment is also required in interpretation and visitor facilities.

The formal process in securing the funding has started and there will be an opportunity for residents to get involved and help raise funds for the works. This type of community connection and engagement is important for funding bids which attract third sector support.

The bridge, which has won a Certificate of Excellence on Trip Advisor several times, is open Wednesday to Sunday and on all bank holidays from 10am to 5pm until 1 October.

NEW MAYOR TAKES UP OFFICE



► Photo: Peter Ellis

Councillor David Fouweather became Newport's latest first citizen on 16 May and Paula Fouweather took on the chains of the Mayoress.

They took over from last year's Mayor Councillor David Atwell and Mayoress Carole Atwell.

See July's Newport Matters for more details about the new Mayor and his chosen charities for the year – St David's Hospice, Amazing Grace Spaces and MPTC.

Councillor Richard White and Pamela White are the new Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayoress.

The council's annual general meeting took place following the mayor making ceremony when the new cabinet and appointments to council committees and outside bodies were confirmed.

The Mayor's Civic Sunday and Armed Forces service takes place at Newport Cathedral at 10.30am on 18 June.

QUEENS BATON RELAY

Newport is to welcome the Queen's Baton as it visits communities around the UK as part of the celebrations leading up to the opening ceremony of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games.

The Queen's Baton will be in Newport on Wednesday, 6 September 2017.



VELOTHON RIDES BACK TO NEWPORT



Thousands of cyclists are expected to take part in this year's Velothon Wales on Sunday 9 July, taking in some of the most beautiful and challenging roads around South Wales.

New for 2017 will be a choice of either a 110km or 140km course which will take in a stretch of Newport's coastal roads and the SDR.

From seasoned sportive riders, to charity fundraisers and cycling newbies, the routes will offer all ambitions and abilities an unforgettable experience.

In addition to the sportive, Velothon Wales also welcomes a UCI sanctioned professional race, attracting some of the world's best teams and riders.

In order for the event to take place safely, there will be closures on some Newport roads so residents are advised that personal travel may be restricted in some parts of the city. Cyclists, residents and businesses can visit www.velothon.com/wales to view the full road closure details.

Every effort will be made to limit any disruption on the day. Further information on any changes to



local services will be publicised on the council website and social media as the event approaches.

For more information see:
www.velothon.com/wales
Facebook: @VelothonUK
Twitter: @Velothon
Email: velothonwales@ironman.com



Newport's annual walking event is set to return on Saturday 9 September and you can sign up online.

Even with challenging weather conditions to contend with, over 100 people took part in the first Walk the Port event last year and it is hoped this year will be even bigger and better.

There will be a series of walks including short walks suitable for families with younger children and longer routes for those looking for more of a challenge ranging from 1.5 to 16 miles. All routes will again start and end at the Active Living Centre in Bettws, and promise stunning surroundings that let walkers enjoy Newport's varied countryside.



One walker last year said:

"I had not realised how much brilliant scenery there was so close to town" and another said they had enjoyed "discovering parts of Newport we didn't know existed".

Newport City Council and Newport Live are working with Let's Walk Cymru, walking groups, volunteers and partnership organisations to ensure Walk the Port 2017 is a great success.

This year's event will be supporting the Alzheimer's Society charity.

For more information and to sign up visit www.newport.gov.uk/walktheport

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL CONGESTION – PLAN AHEAD

The venue for the 2017 UEFA Champions League final, on Saturday 3 June 2017, is the Principality Stadium in Cardiff – the National Stadium of Wales.

It will be the biggest sporting event in the world this year, drawing visiting fans from across the globe, and will be the most watched programme on television.

The UEFA Champions Festival will also take place on 1 - 4 June in Cardiff Bay and is expected to attract over 200,000 people over the four days.

Road closures needed around Cardiff city will be more extensive and longer lasting than for other sporting events and security measures may necessitate lane closures on some city centre routes.

As a result, Cardiff and the surrounding towns and cities will be much busier during the week of the event and particularly on the day of the men's final.

Event organisers have identified where and when they anticipate the congestion 'hotspots' being. The M4, M48, A48 and A449 are expected to be particularly busy, especially before and after the men's final which kicks-off at 7.45pm.

Rail and bus services will be affected and airports are also expected to be busy.

Newport residents are advised to put Saturday 3 June in their diary and think about their plans and travel arrangements. Even local journeys are likely to take longer, with trips west to Cardiff and beyond subject to delays.

For more information on the events, services affected and hotspot areas visit www.Cardiff2017.Wales



**CHAMPIONS
LEAGUE**

BUY WITH CONFIDENCE

Newport City Council's trading standards has joined the national Buy with Confidence scheme which awards a trading standards 'approval' of businesses who meet a strict level of service.

Good references are required from previous customers and applicants must agree to abide by the scheme's code of conduct, which requires them to follow the letter and spirit of the law.

Pure Vans Ltd is the first member to join the scheme followed closely by Japonica, a landscaping firm from Rogerstone.

FOOD AND DRINK FESTIVAL DATE CONFIRMED

This year's Tiny Rebel Newport Food and Drink Festival will take place on Saturday, 7 October from 9am to 5pm in the High Street.

More than 80 stalls selling a host of the finest produce Wales and the West has to offer will give visitors the chance to enjoy speciality food and drinks.

The festival's hub is on High Street, leading into the city's historic Newport Market, the scene for the popular teen chef competitions and demonstrations from some of the country's top chefs.

If you would like more information visit www.newportfoodfestival.co.uk

FRIENDLY WI-FI IN NEWPORT

Newport's public Wifi network has been given accreditation from a scheme created in collaboration with the UK Council for Child Internet Safety.

The Friendly WiFi symbol helps children, young people and adults find venues where WiFi has been filtered to try and block inappropriate material.

RAISING THE FLAG FOR SAFE NIGHTS OUT



Plans to raise the city's profile, encourage more visitors and boost the night-time economy have been agreed by Newport City Council.

This will be achieved by applying for Purple Flag status and putting in place a pavement café licensing policy.

Obtaining Purple Flag status shows a town or city's night time economy offers a clean and safe environment, has great bars and clubs, a variety of arts and cultural attractions and excellent transport links.

If successful, Newport will join Swansea to become one of only two Welsh cities to have this award.

A Purple Flag partnership working group, which includes key council services, Gwent Police, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Aneurin Bevan Health Board, Street Pastors, the Business Improvement District, Pub Watch and Newport Live, has been set up.

The council also want to encourage and support pavement cafés as they can help to maximise the use of public spaces, aid the local economy and add to the facilities offered to people who visit, live and work in Newport.

The policy to achieve this was agreed in April.

Inspirational, amazing and brilliant – these were just some of the words used by those who attended the recent PopUp Business School in Newport.

Of the participants, 39 per cent made their first trade within a fortnight, and 37 businesses started within the two weeks of the school.

At the same time, Newport City Council – in collaboration with Newport Norse – ran a competition to find great business ideas.

The first prize was a stall in Newport Market for a year while the two runners-up each won a stall for six months. However, the judges were so impressed by all the finalists that they were to be offered incentives for their businesses.

Cherish Clothing Boutique, run by Catherine Farmer and Ffion Cox, beat off stiff competition to be named the overall winners after making their pitch.

The two women, who describe themselves in their competition submission as 'having a passion for fashion', are keen to attract younger customers into the market with their business idea.

The two runners-up, who won licence-free units for six months, are Jacki Tyler who wants to run a beauty/complementary therapy stall offering nail care treatments, facials, massages, aromatherapy and reflexology, and Pattarika Bankluay who wants to offer customers Thai food ready-meals.

Many of those who entered the competition also took part in the PopUp Business School which was one of the initiatives supported by a special fund set up by the council last year.

POPUK BUSINESS SCHOOL WAS "INSPIRATIONAL"



Alan Donegan, of the PopUp Business School, said:

"It was brilliant. We have been helping people to see you don't need money to start a business. By day three, they are building their free websites and by day five they are making their first sale – it's a life changing moment."

Newport City Council also worked with Newport City Homes, Business Wales, Communities First, Newport Now, Charter Housing,

Monmouthshire Housing Association and Jobcentre Plus to bring the school to the city.

Find out what some of the participants thought of the event, and some of their enterprising businesses and ideas on our website

You can also find out more about the range of support and advice available from the council's business services team at www.newportgov.uk/business

AWARDS FOR EXCELLENT NEWPORT SCHOOLS

Maindee Primary School and Ysgol Gymraeg Ifor Hael have been recognised for their excellence by Estyn, the education and training inspectorate for Wales.

The awards recognised 28 schools, colleges and other education settings in Wales that were judged to be excellent for one or both of the overall judgements, for current performance and prospects for improvement in the academic year 2015-2016.

Representatives from the schools received a certificate and congratulations from Meilyr Rowlands, Estyn's the Welsh Government's Chief Inspector and Kirsty Williams, cabinet secretary for education.

Meilyr Rowlands, said:

"Celebrating the excellence achieved by hard work and commitment within Welsh education is important."

LIBRARY REVAMP

Visitors to Rogerstone Library will notice a difference to the inside of the building following a two week refurbishment programme.

The layout has changed to give visitors a better environment in the lending library, one of the most popular in Newport.

Younger readers also have more space in which to enjoy events following the work carried out on behalf of Newport City Council's library service.

While the work was ongoing users visited Tredgar House library which extended its hours to accommodate extra users.



IMPROVING CYCLING & WALKING ROUTES

Newport City Council is steadily improving its cycle and walking routes across the city as part of its commitment to increasing healthy lives through active travel.

A series of workshops were held around the city to get feedback from residents about the integrated network map which will be used to plan our active travel schemes for the next 15 years.

So far the council, with funding from the Welsh Government, has completed a series of projects taking in part of the Gwent Levels on the 6km section of an 'intercity' cycle route between Newport and Cardiff. An off-road route for walking and cycling linking the M4 and the SDR via the former steel

works road, taking users almost to the boundary with Monmouthshire with plans to extend in the future.

And in March over £1 million was allocated to help continue the work on the northern corridor scheme, a continuation of the work which started in 2015 as part of a three year programme.

The active travel improvements will connect areas such as Pilton Vale in Malpas, Bettws and Brynglas and residential areas of the city such as Crindau, Shaftesbury and Barrack Hill to the city centre via connections and extensions to the NCN route 49, 88 and other established paths.

The funding allocation will be used to extend and improve the

network from the completed 'city centre circular' off-road network and the northern routes.

This will include routes identified through the active travel network map development, that need to be brought up to active travel standard.

These routes connect residential areas to a variety of local service destinations including schools, local shopping hubs and employment areas.



FLY-TIPPING WARNING



► Fly-tippers will be caught and prosecuted

Residents should ensure they are paying licensed operators to take rubbish away, warns Newport City Council.

You could face being prosecuted through the courts if the person you give your waste to then dumps it illegally.

This happened to a resident who used a 'man in a van' who dumped the rubbish. Staff in the Pride in Newport team went through it to find evidence which traced it back to the resident. The resulting court case saw him having to pay a victim surcharge

and costs to Newport City Council totalling nearly £600.

The team also successfully brought evidence to court which saw a fly-tipper fined £1,000 plus a £30 victim surcharge and costs of £175.

The incident was witnessed by police who saw the culprit dump rubbish on a lay-by off Heidenheim Drive, Newport in July last year.

If anyone does witness fly-tippers in action details can be left on the Pride in Newport hotline number **07973 698582** and the team will investigate and prosecute the perpetrators.



**PRIDE
IN NEWPORT
BALCHDER
YNG NGHASNEWYDD**

BANK HOLIDAY COLLECTIONS

Newport City Council will be collecting refuse and garden waste on the usual days in the week beginning Monday 29 May.

Traditionally, collections are made one day later than normal following a bank holiday. However, in what is expected to be a one-off, collections will not be affected by this spring bank holiday.

For more information visit www.newport.gov.uk/recycling

BIG BELLY BINS EAT UP MORE RUBBISH

Have you seen the Bigbelly bins around the city?

Newport City Council has trialled the use of the solar powered units which compact litter so they can hold up to eight times more rubbish than a normal bin, generating an email to tell staff it is full.

Data will now be analysed to see if the bins are cost effective.



HOVERBOARD SELLER SENT TO PRISON

A man who sold a hoverboard which burst into flames was given a custodial sentence following a successful Newport City Council investigation.

In November 2015 a consumer bought three hoverboards from an eBay shop as Christmas presents for her children.

On Christmas Day 2015 one of the hoverboards started to smoke after a period of being on charge. Luckily, the consumer took it immediately outside where it burst into flames and exploded.

The consumer contacted Newport City Council's trading standards team who investigated the matter. Examination of the hoverboard chargers by an expert electrical engineer revealed that they failed a number of aspects of electrical safety regulations.

Despite the defendant stating he was unable to say who he had purchased the hoverboards from and further claiming that

he was not in trade, the council investigation proved otherwise.

The Fake Free Newport campaign is all about targeting such unsafe items and this case is an unfortunate example of just how dangerous falsely described goods can be.

For more information about Fake Free Newport and who to contact about the sale of counterfeit goods and services, visit www.newport.gov.uk/fakefree



FLAGSHIP SCHEME FOR ADULTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES



Tŷ Eirlys

Residents have moved into a health, housing and support development for adults with learning disabilities in Newport.

Leading the way in Wales, Tŷ Eirlys provides a much-needed pathway between supported and independent living.

It is the result of a successful collaboration between Newport-based care provider Reach, Charter Housing

(both part of Pobl Group), Newport City Council, Welsh Government and local builders Willis Construction.

Tŷ Eirlys represents a significant re-modelling of supported accommodation for adults with learning disabilities and is a departure from the traditional provision of small group homes.

The bespoke accommodation is of the highest modern standard and provides

13 individual apartments for people referred through the council's Common Housing Register.

Located in the Stow Hill area of Newport, the converted Victorian style specialist accommodation has been designed for individuals' needs both now and for the future. It is designed to enable people to live independently while accessing individually tailored packages of support if needed.

MORE HELP FOR MUMS

A new service is supporting women at risk of having their children taken into care.

Reflect provides one-to-one help for women who have already had a child or children removed and will give them the intensive support they need to improve their lives and break the cycle of care proceedings.

They will be offered emotional support alongside practical help including contraceptive advice and access to housing, education and employment services.

Newport, along with Blaenau Gwent, Torfaen, Monmouth and Caerphilly are working with Barnardo's Cymru to deliver the project.

Liz Baker, Barnardo's Cymru's assistant director for children's services in south east Wales, said: "It's about women understanding their past, overcoming the problems in their current lives and achieving a better future by transforming their lives."

It is hoped that the project, which has also received funding from Welsh Government, will reduce the emotional, social and financial costs of children being taken into care.

FACELIFT BOOST FOR CITY CENTRE BUSINESSES



Two long established public houses and a row of restaurants and shops opposite Mariner's Green are drawing admiring glances after receiving a facelift thanks to a council-led programme.

For three years, the Welsh Government-funded Vibrant and

Viable Places (VVP) programme has given a boost to a number of landmark buildings in the city centre.

From High Street to Cardiff Road, key properties have been transformed into new homes, businesses and modern spaces.

More recently, the scaffolding

has come down from properties in Commercial Road including The Alma Inn, to reveal them restored to their former glory.

A number of new businesses have set up in that part of the city centre since the regeneration programme got under way including Nassa Travel in the

National Buildings which benefitted from the VVP programme.

Nassa Travel also received a shop subsidy grant from a fund set up by the council to assist new ventures.

Another new business which is already proving a big hit with visitors to the city centre is dessert house

Kaspa's in Commercial Street. It has breathed new life into a former clothes store that had been empty for some time and also received help from the VVP programme.



FURTHER INVESTMENT FOR KEY PRIORITY AREAS

Newport City Council's cabinet recently approved an additional spend of £2.5 million to support nine key areas of work.

In a further boost for schools, an extra £1.1 million has been allocated to a renovation fund and a £300k revenue investment in a community delivered skills-based project will be used to secure match funding increasing it to around half a million.

£300k will be added to the streetscene budget for projects including cleaning and improving subways and additional grass cutting.

Money will also go towards supporting traders in the indoor market, library and museum services, play facilities, maintenance of grants to the voluntary sector, the delivery of disabled

facilities grants and initiatives targeting anti-social behaviour.

An exhaustive trawl of councils finances identified the additional funds from a projected underspend, savings achieved through the adoption of a new minimum revenue provision method and a release from reserves following a review of the council tax reduction scheme and the general legal claims reserve.



CHANGES TO NURSERY APPLICATIONS

Applying for a nursery place in Newport is about to get simpler.

For nursery places in Newport schools in 2018, the application process and timetable is changing with the aim of making the process easier for parents.

Children are eligible for a nursery place in the term following their third birthday and in Newport this can be in a maintained nursery class/school or in a non-maintained setting (a playgroup or private day nursery).

For a September 2018 nursery place (maintained nurseries only), applications can be made between 3 July and 18 September 2017.

However, in a change to previous years, there is no need for parents to submit a separate application for a Rising 3 place. Rising 3 places can be offered to children born between 1 September and

31 March, with a nursery start date of January or April 2018.

Once a nursery application has been made, if a Rising 3 place is available, parents will now automatically be notified and offered that place.

Children born between 1 April and 31 August are not eligible for a Rising 3 place.

The council is responsible for admission to community nursery schools but for a nursery place in a voluntary aided school or non-maintained setting, enquiries should be made directly to the school or provider.

Both Welsh and English-medium places are available.

For more information and to make an application visit www.newport.gov.uk/schooladmissions



KEY DATES

3 July – 18 September 2017

- Application period for all 2018 nursery places

30 November 2017

- Decisions issued for September 2018 places
- January 2018 Rising 3 places offered (if available)

2 March 2018

- April 2018 Rising 3 places offered (if available)

ROYAL ARTILLERY PARADE



► Proud soldiers from the 104th Regiment Royal Artillery marked their 50th anniversary by taking part in a Freedom Parade through Newport City Centre on 1 April.

OFFICERS OF HMS SEVERN TO PARADE THROUGH NEWPORT

The Captain and crew of HMS Severn will be taking part in a Freedom Parade through Newport city centre on Saturday 15 July.

The parade will mark the last time the ship docks in Newport before being decommissioned later this year.

HMS Severn is a River-class offshore patrol vessel of the British Royal Navy and is one of a trio that plough the seas around the UK almost every day of the year.

She has been affiliated with Newport since 2003 and was awarded the freedom of the city in 2006.



EXPLORE NEWPORT MARKET

Proud to serve you since the 1800s

High Street, Newport city centre

MWYNHAU MARCHNAD CASNEWYDD

Yn falch i'ch gwasanaethu ers y 1800au

High Street, canol dinas Casnewydd

www.newport.gov.uk/market



WHAT'S ON



CITY CENTRE

6 June

D-Day anniversary service organised by Royal Welsh Comrades Association, City of Newport Branch. Parade leaves Cambrian Road at 12.45 a service of remembrance, including the laying of wreaths, at memorial in High Street.

NEWPORT CATHEDRAL

16 and 17 June

Noye's Fludde:

A children's opera by Benjamin Britten.

Tickets on the door or in advance – telephone 07933627594 or email enquiries@newportcathedral.org.uk

RIVERFRONT THEATRE

www.newportlive.co.uk/riverfront

27 May

Mark Thompson's Spectacular Science Show (age 6+)

17 June

Bach to Baby: Lower Machen Festival

19-23 June

Apocalypse: Tinsed Theatre

TREDEGAR HOUSE

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/tredegar-house

27-29 May

Captain Henry Morgan's Pirate Weekend

Weekend

NEWPORT WETLANDS

www.rspb.org.uk

3 and 4 June

Binocular and telescope demo weekend

NEWPORT MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

www.newport.gov.uk/heritage

17 June

Lunchtime talk: Looking after museum collections

DOLMAN THEATRE

www.dolmantheatre.co.uk

24 and 25 May

A Broadway Rhapsody – an evening of entertainment with STC Musical Society

13-17 June

The Government Inspector – Newport Playgoers Society will be performing this satirical play

18 and 19 June

Bugsy Malone – fun musical by Sharon Higgins Musical Theatre Class

23-25 June

West Side Story