

NM
NEWPORT
MATTERS

The official newspaper of Newport City Council

EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT AND ADVICE WITH NEWPORT JOB CLUBS

Newport Job Clubs offer employment support to people aged 16 years and over who are unemployed, looking to change their job, or who would like to find out about education or training courses available to them.

Starting on 3 January, clubs will be running across the city where residents can seek advice and support to overcome barriers to employment.

This includes help with job searching, CV writing and interview preparation, as well as gaining access to training and qualifications, work placements.

The clubs will be located at various sites across the city, including local libraries and community centres.

To find out more visit newport.gov.uk/jobclubs, email centralhub@newport.gov.uk or telephone **07581 011462**.



**NEWPORT
JOB CLUBS**

SUPPORT DURING COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS



**NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL
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**COST OF LIVING
COSTAU BYW**

newport.gov.uk/support

Councillor Jane Mudd, Leader of Newport City Council, said: *“We are in unprecedented times and it will be the first time that some people will have lived through such a hard recession.*

“We have been working with the Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations (GAVO) on a series of initiatives including grants for community venues providing warm spaces for residents.

“I would urge anyone who needs help to get in touch with the council so we can put you in touch with the teams or organisations that might be able to assist.

“GAVO has also been running another grant scheme on our behalf which offers financial support to groups who provide food to residents and who have also found that rising prices has impacted on the valuable service they offer.

“There is absolutely no stigma in asking for help when you need it. We and other organisations are ready and willing to do what we can to get you through these tough times.

“We are working closely with other organisations across the city as collaboration will ensure that we can reach as many people as possible with a range of support and advice.”

“As well as its usual range of services, the council has established a number of “warm welcome” venues and you can find more details about those and other warm spaces in the city inside.

For further information please turn to page two >>>

Many residents and businesses will be facing financial pressures this winter with higher bills for energy and essentials.

For some, this may be the first time that they have struggled to make ends meet and will not know where to turn for help. But support and advice is available from the public, third

and private sectors.

You can find out more about some of these schemes and where to find more information inside Newport Matters.

GOOD NEWS FOR TWO SCHOOLS

Jubilee Park Primary School has received an outstanding report from the official school inspection body.

Making their first visit since the school was established five years ago, the Estyn inspectors made no recommendations but said Jubilee Park should continue its improvement journey.

The official inspection body invited the school to prepare a case study on its work in relation to creating a culture of professional learning as

well as developing an anti-racism curriculum. This will be shared on its website.

Estyn also removed Malpas Church Primary School from special measures after inspectors highlighted many positive improvements and confirmed it had made sufficient progress in relation to its recommendations.



Pupils at Jubilee Park Primary School

WARM WELCOME FOR RESIDENTS



COST OF LIVING COSTAU BYW

Some “warm welcome” venues have been established for residents who are struggling with heating and other essential bills, or loneliness, this winter.

The council is also offering grants through a partnership with GAVO to help other organisations that want to provide similar warm spaces.

Seven council-owned centres were initially identified and there are more than 20 buildings open to residents during the week across the city.

Council-run warm welcome sessions are being held in Alway, Bettws, Ringland, Gaer and Maesglas Community Centres as well as the Somerton RASCAL Hope Centre and Pillgwenlly Millennium Centre.

As well as providing a warm space for residents and a chance to meet other people, they can also get advice and guidance from community workers and experts from other organisations able to provide cost-of-living support.

Councillor Jane Mudd, leader of Newport City Council, said: *“Supporting each other is very important, particularly during a time of crisis. People can be struggling not only with paying bills but also feeling isolated and not know where to turn.”*

“I’m pleased that we have been able to develop an offer that provide much more than a warm space. They are places where people can find companionship, take part in activities, get advice about other support they might be available and how to access that support.”

“It is fantastic to see that other organisations have also established

warm spaces to help members of their local communities and I would like to thank GAVO for helping us to distribute funds to others for their warm spaces.”

Councillor Debbie Harvey, cabinet member for community wellbeing, said: *“There is a lot of support available for those who are finding it hard to make ends meet but we know that some people find it hard to access it so our community workers will be on hand to offer advice in an informal, supportive environment.”*



Find out where warm spaces are across the city at newport.gov.uk/support



Residents without digital access, can call the neighbourhood hubs on **0808 196 3482** or the council on **01633 656656**.

WINTER FUEL SUPPORT SCHEME



The scheme will provide a one off £200 cash payment to one household member responsible for utility bills.

Vouchers have already been issued to those who were in receipt of council tax reduction on 4 October 2022.

People not in receipt of the council tax reduction benefit, or if claim was assessed after 4 October 2022 and a voucher has not been issued, or those who receive one of the qualifying benefits, can apply online until 5pm on 28 February.

To find out more about the qualifying benefits and who are eligible, and to apply online, visit newport.gov.uk/support and select the winter fuel link.

The payment will be available to all eligible households regardless of whether they pay for their on-grid fuel on a pre-payment meter, by direct debit or by paying a bill quarterly.

People who are not liable for council tax at their home have to provide proof that you are the person responsible for bills, and they will qualify as long as no one in your household has already received a payment.

GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY FOOD GROUPS



Over the last year, Newport City Council has committed £100,000 to assist community food groups dedicated to helping residents as the cost-of-living continues to spiral.

Another scheme to help these organisations was launched in the autumn by the council in partnership with voluntary support organisation GAVO.

Food banks, and other groups that help residents who are struggling financially, can apply for grants to assist with day-to-day costs such as buying groceries to replenish their stocks.

An earlier scheme, also run with GAVO, gave financial assistance for initiatives such as growing projects or upgrading of equipment to help groups meet the challenge of tackling food insecurity.

For more information visit www.gavo.org.uk/post/grant-scheme-to-help-community-food-groups

The council supports the distribution of food parcels and there are a number of food banks within the city.

If you need to access these services, please call our neighbourhood hubs on freephone **0808 196 3482**.



NEWPORT BUDGET PROPOSALS

A REFLECTION OF THE MAJOR CHALLENGES FACING LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Towards the end of last year, Councillor Jane Mudd, Leader of the council set out the scale of the challenge in a video address which can be viewed on the council's YouTube channel.

The authority has been looking at every option to limit the impact of the inevitable changes on the people of Newport, but with a budget gap of £27.6 million, difficult decisions have to be made.

At their December meeting, cabinet considered a wide range of proposals with the aim of achieving a budget as close to balanced as possible.

Those proposals are now detailed at newport.gov.uk/budget and the public have until 2 February to have their say.

Councillor Mudd said: "Reflecting on the amount of money available and how that can realistically be prioritised to deliver our most important services has been an extremely difficult process – the sums simply don't add up.

"The cost of providing services is going up in the same way that everyone's cost of living has risen. And at the same time, more people are accessing those services, increasing demand.

"Several additional factors including the failure to provide Wales with a fair funding settlement and the ending of energy support by the UK Government has only made the situation worse.

"And this comes not long after many years of austerity when we faced real-term budget cuts. Newport City

Council has already implemented over £90m of savings since 2011 so there are few choices left.

"Added to that, two thirds of the council's budget is spent on schools, education and social care – the absolutely essential services, where savings are very difficult to make.

"But I want to reassure everyone that the challenges being faced by residents, businesses and individuals will always be at the forefront of the council's considerations."



COUNCIL TAX FACTS AND FIGURES



The money raised through council tax accounts for less than one quarter of the council's budget.



More than three-quarters of the council's budget is funded by a grant from the Welsh Government.



For every 1% we raise council tax, around £650,000 is raised.



The majority of Newport households fall in the bands A to C.



Newport has had one of the lowest council tax levels in Wales for many years.

THE CHALLENGE



The council provides over 800 services for 151,000 people living in more than 65,000 households. With the impact of Covid-19 and now the cost-of-living crisis on individuals, businesses, the economy, employment, and health, we are seeing the demand for support-based services continue to rise.

Newport has a growing population. Of the Welsh local authorities, Newport saw the highest rate of population growth since 2011 (9.5%). This is higher than the population growth rates for both Wales and England. This growth is across all age groups.

Newport also saw the highest increase in the number of households compared with 2011 (8.1%).

Newport City Council has already implemented over £90m of savings since 2011 due to several years of austerity and real-term budget cuts.

Examples of the increasing costs and pressures being faced by the council include:

- **Increased fuel and energy costs - gas is 300% higher, electricity is 150% higher. This affects everything from schools to streetlights.**
- **More demand for care - costs have risen from £43.5m in 2019/20 to a forecast £58m this year.**
- **Around 1,000 more pupils attending Newport schools in the last three years.**
- **Linked to the challenges of the pandemic, more emergency placements for children looked after. A forecast cost of £2.2m in 2022/23 compared to £300k in 2019/20.**
- **Inflation rates of around 10% are increasing the cost of all services and supplies bought by the council.**

PROPOSALS

Every area of the council has had to propose changes and reductions in service to help make up the £27.6 million shortfall.

Where changes have been made to back-office functions with no or limited impact on front-line services, those decisions are made by heads of service. The business cases are available to view on the council website.

Major changes and those that impact on key services are considered by cabinet and form the public consultation.

The proposed rise in council tax features in the proposals.

Councillor Mudd added: "With a funding gap of £27.6 million pounds, the council must consider raising council tax to create more income. This is done with the full appreciation that this is a major bill for households at an already challenging time.



We have had one of the lowest rates of council tax in Wales for a very long time and even if we do raise it at a level higher than we would wish, we are very likely to still compare favourably to our neighbouring areas."

Within the draft proposals being considered by cabinet is a 9.5 per cent council tax increase.

The majority of Newport households fall in the bands A to C, so this represents an increase of between £1.55 and £2.07 per week.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT



The consultation will run until February 2, 2023. All representations will be considered when cabinet meet again on February 14 when they will make their final recommendations on the overall budget for 2023/24.

Submissions can be made via newport.gov.uk/haveyoursay, email changing.services@newport.gov.uk or write to Freepost POLICY AND PARTNERSHIP TEAM, Newport City Council, Civic Centre, Newport NP20 4UR.

For more information about the council's budget, how we spend our money and the budget setting process, visit newport.gov.uk/budget

COUNCIL RECEIVES AWARD FOR MARKET PROJECT



Newport City Council has received an award for its work to ensure Newport Market remains at the heart of the city centre.

The project has topped the entries in the creating economic growth category at the Ystadau Cymru Awards 2022.

Councillor Jane Mudd, Leader of the council, said: "It is more important than ever to have a mix of facilities on the high street and it was very clear to us that the market had to play a key role in achieving that in Newport.

"Likewise, applying a creative approach to the redevelopment and effective use of our assets is a priority for Newport City Council, whether it be working with specialist developers or transferring assets to the community.

"Newport Market now offers a contemporary and attractive destination which offers hospitality, retail, business, leisure and event opportunities. Plus, the future of a landmark building has been secured.

"The impact that the regeneration of the building itself has already had is clear – jobs created, local companies securing contracts and future careers supported. The benefits continue now with the market operational and building its reputation as an economic, social and cultural hub.

"My thanks go to everyone that has worked with us to bring this amazing project to fruition."

The market, a Grade II listed building, has been under the ownership of the council since 1885 and for many years thrived as a traditional provisions market.

Despite investment and refurbishment projects earlier this century, and work to expand the offering of the market, it failed to trade to its full economic potential in the modern market.

It was acknowledged that the long-term solution for the future of the market was for the council to partner with private sector expertise in the area of refurbishing and managing historical buildings.

In July 2018 the council agreed a 250-year redevelopment lease for the Market with LoftCo, the developer behind the transformation of Cardiff's Tramshed and Barry's Pumthouse.

Following a £6.5 million redevelopment project, the revitalised market reopened in March 2022 and now offers a food court, refurbished market stalls, contemporary workspaces and event space. It is believed to be the largest such indoor market redevelopment carried out in Europe.



NEWPORT-LED FREEPORT BID



Newport City Council is leading a bid for a regional Freeport that draws on the industrial strength of south-east Wales.

Council leader Councillor Jane Mudd said: "Our bid links our key growth sectors and wealth of underdeveloped employment sites with Wales' only international airport.

"It is a partnership between the public and private sectors that promises to lead to significant investment in south-east Wales – the economic engine of the whole nation.

"Our bid meets the objectives of promoting regeneration and creating high-quality jobs, building on our reputation for innovation.

"A Freeport would have the potential to attract more national and international businesses, creating thousands of jobs and training opportunities that would benefit residents in the region and provide a massive boost to the local economy."

The Newport-led bid was one of three submitted for a Welsh Freeport and the UK government is expected to make a decision on next steps in the spring.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO THE LIFE OF A YOUNG PERSON

Foster Wales Newport is encouraging more people to foster children and young people from the city as well as young refugees arriving in the UK.

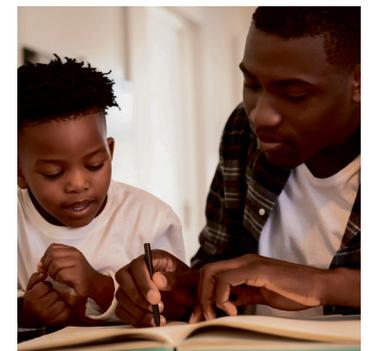
Nina Kemp-Jones, a Foster Wales regional manager, said, "We urgently need more foster carers, from diverse backgrounds, for local children and the growing number of young refugees. "

Foster carer Mike from Newport shared his experience: "It's broadened my understanding of different cultures and made me realise how similar everybody is. We all want the same things.

"I looked after one young man who got married last year, he was with me for three years. He still talks to me every week. He treats me like a father figure and there's others as well that still live in the local area and I see them regularly.

"These are young people that need help and protection, and I see that as very important. I know I'm making a difference."

Get in touch today and you could change a child's life: fosterwales.newport.gov.uk



HAVE YOUR SAY ON PLANS FOR OLD GREEN ROUNDABOUT

Transport for Wales and Newport City Council will soon begin a public consultation on proposals to make improvements to Newport railway station, Queensway, and Old Green Roundabout.

The vision is for Newport rail station to become a hub for sustainable travel and our aim is to make the city a nicer place to live, work and visit, while helping people become less dependent on cars.

To help improve the safety of the public, the proposals will aim to deliver a more people focused environment by creating simplified active travel routes which are convenient and attractive for all users.

We need you to tell us what you think of the proposals.

A six-week consultation is due to launch soon, so please keep an eye on our social media feeds and visit our have your say web page where information and links to the consultation will be shared.

newport.gov.uk/haveyoursay



NEW PLAN SETS OUT OUR PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

A new corporate plan, the council's key document that sets out its main priorities for the next five years, has been agreed.

The plan aims to deliver an ambitious, fairer, greener Newport for everyone.

It is built around four main objectives that will guide the direction of the authority, ensure all key projects and services are focussed on achieving the council's priorities, and support our longer-term vision for Newport over the next 20 years.

Councillor Jane Mudd, Leader of the council, said: "When developing this plan, it has been very important that we build on the achievements of the last five years, learn from our response to the Covid pandemic, and harness every opportunity to deliver an ambitious, fairer, greener Newport for everyone.

"The ambition set out in the plan is especially important. There are many challenges ahead of us over the next few years, particularly relating to funding, but that doesn't mean that we can't be ambitious in everything

we do. This plan supports creativity, resourcefulness and innovation – an approach that is essential if we are to thrive and take the city forward.

The plan also details why each of these objectives were chosen, what we want to achieve and how we plan to do it. In the next few editions of Newport Matters we will feature an in-focus piece on each objective and what we are doing to achieve them.

The objectives set within the corporate plan also support the goals set out

in Wales' Well-being of Future Generations Act. The act requires all public bodies in Wales to think about the long-term impact of our decisions and to work with our communities, people, and each other to prevent persistent problems such as poverty, health inequalities and climate change."

For more information about the corporate plan visit newport.gov.uk/corporateplan and look out for future editions of Newport Matters.

NEW CYCLE STORAGE UNIT IN NEWPORT CITY CENTRE



A new indoor cycle storage unit, the first of its kind in Newport, has opened in Skinner Street.

Spokesafe Newport offers 24/7 access to cyclists looking for a safe place to store their bikes when visiting the city centre.

The unit has been set up by Gap Wales, a Newport-based grassroots charity that supports refugees and asylum seekers, homeless or vulnerably housed people, and victims of human trafficking, and works to make Newport a better place for all.

Gap Wales already runs several successful projects in the city, including the Newport Refugee Bike project, a scheme that recycles bikes and donates them to people in need of transport.

The cycle storage unit offers space to store 40 bikes, including cargo and non-standard bikes, with the potential to increase if needed. Cyclists can book a space in the unit using the Spokesafe app from just one pound per day.

The unit has been funded by Welsh Government through the Burns Delivery Unit, which is resourced by Transport for Wales.

The delivery unit has worked on this project alongside Newport City Council, Newport City Homes, Gwent Police, and Spokesafe, a UK-wide company who work with local organisations to provide online cycle storage booking platforms.



Our four main objectives:

- 1 Economy, education and skills**
Newport is a thriving and growing city that offers excellent education and aspires to provide opportunities for all.
- 2 Environment and infrastructure**
A city that seeks to protect and enhance our environment whilst reducing our carbon footprint and preparing for a sustainable and digital future.
- 3 Quality social care and community services**
Newport is a supportive city where communities and care are at the heart of what we do.
- 4 An inclusive, fair and sustainable council**
Newport City Council is an inclusive organisation that places social value, fairness and sustainability at its core.



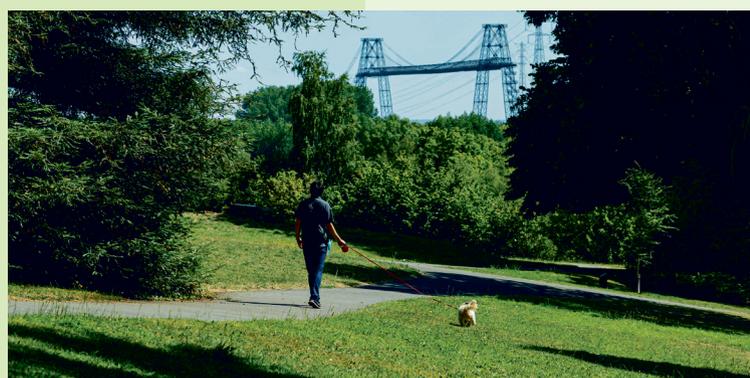
PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER COMES INTO FORCE

A new public space protection order (PSPO) came into force in Newport back in November.

The Public Spaces Protection (Dog Control) Order requires dog owners and walkers to always maintain proper control of their dog when in a public space within the city.

The order also sets out the following:

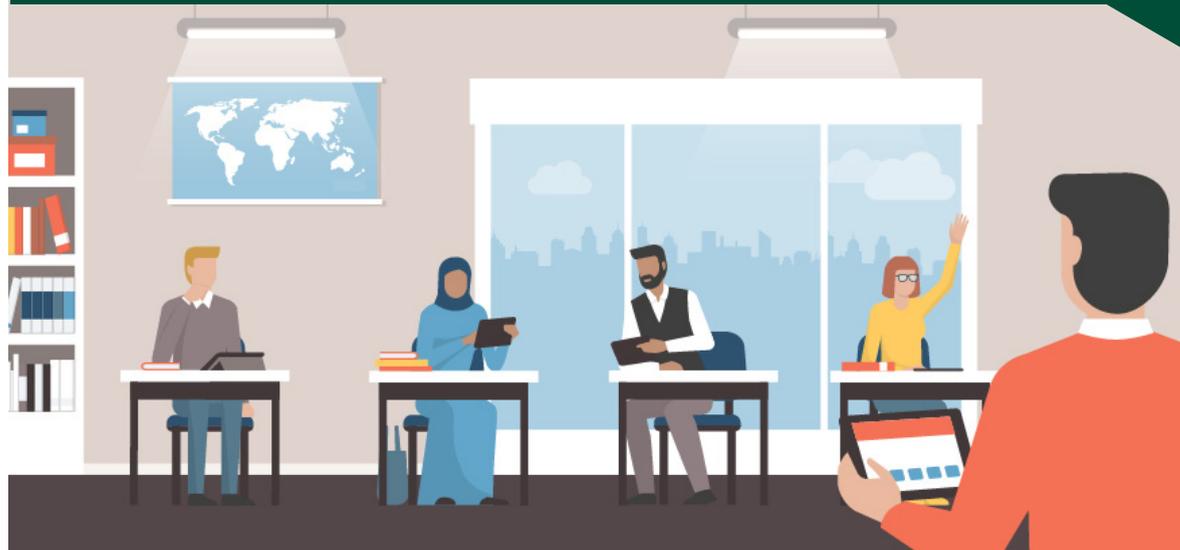
- Dog owners and walkers must immediately clean up after their dog and dispose of the waste appropriately. Dog waste can be disposed of in any council bin within the city.
- Dogs are banned from children's play areas, games areas and ball courts at all times.
- Dogs must be kept on a lead in council cemeteries
- Dogs must be put on a lead by their owner or walker if asked to do so by an authorised person such as a council officer or police officer.
- Dogs are banned from sports pitches within the respective playing seasons, which are:
 - **Football**
1st July to 30th April
 - **Rugby**
1st September to 30th April
 - **Cricket**
1st April to 30th September



The full order, along with maps setting out where the order applies in each ward, is available to view on the council website at newport.gov.uk/pspo.

The council will also be erecting information signs in parks and open spaces, so that residents are aware where the order applies.

LEARN SOMETHING NEW IN 2023



Newport's adult community learning programme provides opportunities for local people to gain skills and qualifications in a number of different subjects.

Courses on offer include essential skills in literacy and numeracy, British Sign Language and independent living skills for adults with learning disabilities.

Computer courses are available for students at different levels - from beginners to intermediate.

For the complete beginner we will show you how to switch

your computers on, build your confidence and teach you the basics, including how to stay safe online.

If you're looking for courses to improve your job prospects, ICDL Level 1 and Level 2 courses are recommended and endorsed by employers. Both courses include word processing, spreadsheet and presentation modules. Fast-Track courses are also available.

For those who are passionate about the environment the Introduction to Carbon Literacy course is perfect.

Running over three weeks, the course will show you how to

reduce your impact on the planet and it could even help to save money on household bills!

Plus, new for 2023, get ready for the summer holidays with conversational French and Spanish classes.

These five week courses cost just £10 and will be based at St Julian's Community Learning and Library Centre.

Enrolment is now open and full details and dates are available at newport.gov.uk/communitylearning

SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2024 - HAVE YOUR SAY

Newport City Council is consulting on proposed changes to the school admission arrangements effective from September 2024.

It is a statutory requirement of the Welsh Government School Admissions Code that the council (as the admissions authority for all community and voluntary controlled schools in Newport) carries out an annual consultation on the school admission arrangements for the next but one academic year.

Consultation will open this month and run until February.

Keep an eye out on our social media for updates.



GARDEN WASTE COLLECTIONS RETURN

Garden waste collections will resume week beginning 27 February 2023 following the winter break.

In the meantime green waste can be taken to the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) in Docks Way for free collection.

Flower cuts can be put in the food waste caddies with food waste.



To find out your collection date or to book a space at the HWRC visit newport.gov.uk/recycling

HELP US SHAPE THE FUTURE OF NEWPORT

The council will soon be seeking residents' feedback on the next phase of our work on the replacement local development plan (RLDP).

The RLDP will set out a framework to guide development and land use in Newport between 2021 and 2036.

It will contain policies and proposals which will provide for the development needs and aspirations of the city as well as protecting and enhancing its social, cultural and environmental assets.

The next stage of preparing the

RLDP will be to consider the growth and spatial options.

The growth looks at how much housing and employment opportunities is likely to go up over the next 10-15 years. A range of scenarios will be set out to provide an indication of how big the growth could be.

The spatial options looks at where in the city this future growth, be that housing developments or office space, could be located.

Each scenario will also be assessed for how they address the RLDP's visions, issues and objectives, which we consulted on last year.

Consultation will commence early this year, and will include a number of community engagement events where you can learn more about the RLDP and the scenarios for growth.

Feedback from these events and the consultation survey will help us refine the scenarios and decide what the best options are for Newport.

Please keep an eye on our consultation website newportrldp.co.uk and our social media channels for further

details as they are made available.

You can also sign up to receive notifications on the progress of the RLDP via the website, by emailing LDP.consultation@newport.gov.uk, or writing to us at Planning Policy, Newport City Council, Civic Centre, Newport, NP20 4UR.



SIGN UP TO OUR RESIDENTS E-NEWSLETTER

Have you signed up for our residents newsletter yet?

We'll send you regular emails with the latest news and information from Newport City Council direct to your inbox.

We'll also let you know when there's big news or an event you might be interested in.

Subscribe to our mailing list at newport.gov.uk/signup

