





I hope you all had a happy and peaceful Christmas and managed to get some time with your loved ones.

We know this year the council has to make some tough decisions when tackling the many challenges ahead in the face of budget pressures.

However, we also want to ensure Newport is an attractive place to live, thereby encouraging employers and creating jobs. Our staff work very hard to ensure our services are delivered while dealing with the growing demands especially in social care for both children and adults.

We plan to ensure we invest in a strategic way and this will include helping schools by investing £3.1m in their budgets and more than £1.2m in special education needs provision.

And from July 1 the council will be in a position to tackle the scourge that is illegal parking and this will mean the whole city will benefit in the long run.

Debbie Wilcox

Leader, Newport City Council



Last year was an amazing year for Newport with a stream of high-profile events hosted in the city including the inaugural ABP Newport Wales Marathon and 10k, Tour of Britain and Wales Velothon.

The city is again set to be prominent on the local, national and international event calendars – here's a taster of what's coming up in 2019.

Runners from countries across the world flocked to Newport for the **ABP Newport Wales Marathon and 10k,** thousands of supporters lined the streets and hundreds of volunteers provided support along the fast and flat route.

The event returns on Sunday 5 May and registration is open now – places are filling up fast at **newportwalesmarathon.co.uk** Road closures, transport and the general delivery of the event have all been reviewed – look out for info on changes and improvements for this year.

The city's well-established

Admiral City of Newport

half marathon was sadly struck
by snow last year – twice! Fingers
crossed for better weather this year
when it returns on Sunday 3 March
and raises invaluable funds for

St David's Hospice Care. Find out more about the race that showcases the iconic features of Newport cityofnewporthalfmarathon.com

One of the highlights of 2019 is certain to be the

Westfield Health British Transplant Games.

More than 850 transplant recipient athletes and more than 1,500 supporters, including donor families, are expected in Newport between Thursday 25 and Sunday 28 July. Organised on behalf of the charity Transplant Sport UK, the aim of the Games is to raise awareness of and increase organ donation. The Games include over 25 sporting and social events and competitions

for all abilities, from fishing through to track and field, including the Donor Run, an inclusive event open to the public. There will also be some new events specially hosted by Newport. See

britishtransplantgames.co.uk for the latest news.

This summer will also see the opening of the new and exciting International Convention Centre Wales at the Celtic Manor Resort. Having taken inspiration from the world's best convention centres, the specifically designed building will cater for over 5,000 delegates and world-class conventions. Of course, the line-up of locally

focussed events will continue to be a priority for the council. Plans are already being made to bring back the hugely popular food festival with the hope of continuing its year-on-year growth. The support of local businesses is essential to its success – please get in touch if you can offer your support!

However, there are no plans for Velothon Wales to continue in 2019 or beyond. Despite a successful event in 2018, in which more than 8,000 riders took part across three distances, series owners IRONMAN have not been able to find a sustainable model for future events. For all the latest information visit www.newport.gov.uk/events

NATIONAL SOFTWARE ACADEMY EXPANDS INTO NEW OFFICES



The National Software Academy has experienced great success in the past two years; growing its student numbers, hosting ministerial visits and family open days, and picking up a number of technology awards.

This has resulted in them expanding to take up residence in Newport City Council's Information Station in the city's old railway station building. The move will accommodate the ever-growing cohort of students choosing to study for the degree which focuses on the skills, knowledge and hands-on experience required to be immediately effective as a commercial software engineer.

The new facilities will enable the academy to expand its teaching facilities, providing students with a study space that mimics a workplace environment and integrates industry working practices. It supports Newport's economic development by putting a pool of talented software engineers in the heart of the city's growing tech hub.

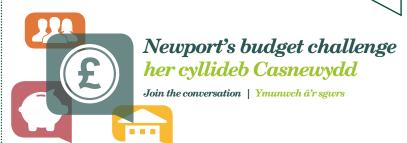
CHANGE IN COUNCIL TAX RULES

Newport City Council has decided to end the discretionary 50 per cent council tax discount for long-term empty properties.

The change will come into force from April and will mean that in future owners will pay the full rate of council tax.

It is aimed at reducing the number of empty homes in the city and part of the increased income will be used to help get them back into use.

HAVE YOUR SAY BUDGET PROPOSALS



Newport City Council's cabinet has considered the budget for 2019-20 and how services could be delivered within the limited resources available.

A public consultation on a series of proposals for changes to services and support provided by Newport City Council will now run until 30 January 2019.

The council provides more than 800 services for more than 151,000 people living in more than 65,000 households.

Demands on certain services, particularly in social care and education, are continuing to increase and show no signs of diminishing while Welsh Government funding, which contributes the bulk of the finance needed to run services, has remained static over the last five years.

Councillor Debbie Wilcox.

Leader of the council. said: "The funding we receive has stayed more or less the same and that means the gap between the money we get and what we have to spend keeps getting bigger.

"Many services are being stretched almost to breaking point but we have fewer staff and resources to meet ever-increasing needs.

"Council tax contributes less than a quarter towards the total budget and, however much we might not want to do it, we have to consider raising it substantially. Newport currently has the second lowest council tax in Wales and even with a suggested rise of 6.95 per cent, which equates to an extra £1.40 a week for a Band D property, we still expects to hold such a position.

"While cuts have been made across the public sector there is no doubt that local government has taken the brunt. We have already made significant savings and efficiencies –

£45 million over the last five years. but the demands show absolutely no sign of diminishing in the future. Even more 'new' savings must still be found – at least £33m by 2023.

"The real challenge, however, is that we want to do more than just provide the basic services that we have to provide by law – we want to ensure Newport is an attractive place to live, thereby attracting employers and creating jobs. That is why we must also make sure we invest in a strategic way."

Proposals for 2019-20 are available to view at www.newport.gov.uk/budget where you can also find out more about where the council's funding comes from and the general budget challenge.

The public consultation will run until 30 January 2019 and all responses will then be considered by cabinet at its February meeting.

SOLAR FARM GIVEN GO-AHEAD BY MINISTER

A proposed huge solar farm on land to the south of Llanwern Steelworks has been given planning consent by the cabinet secretary for energy, planning and rural affairs.

The application by the Gwent Farmers' Community Solar Farm Scheme was decided by the Welsh Government as it is a development of national significance. An independent inspector held hearings in relation to the plan and recommended permission was granted.

For more information visit www.planninginspectorate. wales.gov.uk

LOOKING FOR A JOB?

We need talented people to deliver services to Newport residents and in return offer an attractive benefits package.

We publish jobs on the council website and if you know what sort of role you would like you can even set up a job alert.

The jobs page is constantly updated, check www.newport.gov.uk/jobs to see what roles we are recruiting for now.

MEN FINED FOR HOUSING RULES BREACH

Two men were fined thousands of pounds after being found guilty of housing offences relating to a rental property in Newport.

The case of Abdul Kahim of Queens Hill Drive, Newport and Muhammud Rubel Ahmed of Wellington Road, Northampton was heard at Cwmbran Magistrates' Court when they were found guilty of offences relating to 24 Caroline Street, Newport.

The prosecution was brought by Newport City Council's environmental health officers as a result of an investigation following a referral from Rent Smart Wales.

The council is obliged to licence Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) (any house with three or more tenants who are not a family) and enforce the management regulations to ensure HMOs are provided with the correct facilities and that they are maintained to provide safe homes.

During an inspection officers found numerous breaches of the House in Multiple Occupation (Wales) Regulations 2006 including unsafe electrics which posed a fire risk, no fire alarm system, an upstairs floor which was so unsafe a person could fall through it and a missing handrail on the stairs.

In addition officers requested essential documents relating to the property but none were received.

Ahmed and Kahim were both handed a fine of £2,000 for operating an unlicensed HMO; £9,000 for multiple breaches of the House in Multiple Occupation (Wales) Regulations 2006; a

£3,000 fine for failure to provide documents and were ordered to pay £811.63 costs and a £170 victim surcharge taking the total to £14,981.63 each.

Councillor Ray Truman, Newport City Council's cabinet member for licensing and regulation said:

"Tenants are entitled to live in accommodation that is safe. The inaction by these individuals was completely unacceptable."

Any unlicensed HMO or poor housing conditions can be reported to the Rogue Landlord Hotline telephone: 01633 235233.

WINTER **ROAD MAINTENANCE**

During winter months the council monitors weather advice each day to decide whether to grit roads and pavements. When temperatures fall we grit to improve safety and reduce delays caused by bad weather.

Gritting routes are prioritised according to use and potential risk. Priority is given to city centre pavements and paths and to those that give access to schools, hospitals and care providers.

Yellow grit bins are provided to help clear local roads and paths when there is snow and ice. The grit is to be used on public roads and pavements only, it is not for private use. You may wish to purchase salt or grit from a local store, or use table or dishwasher salt to clear private driveways and footpaths.

Read more and see gritting routes at www.newport.gov.uk/gritting

Keep safe this winter.

GREEN WASTE COLLECTIONS BACK IN MARCH

Residents across Newport keen to get out in their gardens can be sure the council will soon be picking up the green waste collections again.

Garden waste can be stored in the orange lidded bins until collections start again in the week starting 4 March.

Rubbish and garden waste collections are collected fortnightly on alternate weeks while recycling boxes and bags are collected weekly by Wastesavers.

To check on your collection days just click on the link on the council website www.newport.gov.uk/recycling

REMEMBERING THE **SUFFRAGETTES**

Newport City Council has successfully applied for Heritage Lottery Fund money funds to create a new public work of art in the city to honour the suffragette movement and raise awareness of the centenary of the 1918 Representation of the People Act.



Newport City Council's

foster team's expert and

does not end when they

A fostering officer is assigned

worker. Training is also given

before and during fostering.

We need foster carers for:

permanent fostering

• temporary fostering, from an overnight stay to a few months

• respite care for families needing a regular or one off break

People may be interested in

fostering but don't consider it because they believe they

Here we answer some common

Do I need a spare room? Yes.

Can you work and be

Do you need to own your

own home? No, you can be in rented accommodation.

own children? Yes, fostering

can be a whole family affair.

Can you foster if you have your

I'm too old/too young to foster.

age limit, your ability to foster is

other checks that are undertaken

as part of the assessment process.

dependent on your health and

Can I be a single carer?

as either single carers

or as a couple.

All kinds of people foster

There is no minimum or maximum

a foster carer? Yes.

questions and dispel some myths...

will not meet the criteria

to each carer, and the child

will have their own social

start looking after children.

professional support for carers



women over the age of 30 to vote, and also paved the way for universal suffrage in 1928, when all women over the age of 21 were able to vote on equal terms with men.

The project will see the creation of six mosaics in St Paul's Walk as a visual reminder of the

suffragette movement and women's empowerment, providing a place of interest for residents and visitors.

A local artist will work with pupils at some of Newport's local primary schools to sketch, design and create the mosaics which will be unveiled later this year.

TEMPORARY HOME FOR RINGLAND **LIBRARY**

Ringland library has moved to a temporary home while work to renovate Ringland **Community Centre and** create a new neighbourhood hub takes place.

The library's temporary location is Unit 7 in Ringland shopping centre.

As the unit is smaller than the present library building there will be fewer books on display and fewer PCs, however the Open Zones which support employment skills, reading groups and storytime sessions for younger children should not be affected.

Newport City Council made the decision to move the library service as it would be impractical for the library to stay in its present location while the building work went ahead.

FOSTER CARERS



We're in a same sex relationship so wouldn't be considered. Same sex couples can be foster carers.

Do the children stay with you forever? We need all types of foster carers, some children will need a family until they reach independence or some children will need someone to care for a shorter time and then move on

We have pets so would that be an issue? You can have pets and be considered as a foster carer as they would be included in the assessment process.

I'm not sure who to approach about fostering. Every Welsh council has a fostering service and every local authority, like Newport, needs foster carers to care for our own children.

We work hand in hand as a team to care for our children with our foster carers.

To foster for Newport City Council visit www.newport.gov.uk/fostering or call **01633 210272**

TIP SHOP USE



Tonnes of household items were saved from going into the skips on Docks Way according to figures released by Newport City Council's recycling partner, charity Wastesavers.

The Tip Shop at the HWRC site recorded 9,683 individual items pass through its doors varying from a large play house to musical instruments to ski boots.

Since April 2017 the Tip Shop diverted 50,212 items weighing more than 140 tonnes from landfill.

Philip Davies, retail manager at the Tip Shop said:

"Volunteering has helped some people take the first steps back into the rhythm of regular work while others have the chance to gain valuable retail work experience."

WE WANT OUR FOR OUR CHILDREN

to find out more.

HOUSING FOR OLDER PEOPLE



Newport residents aged 55 and over who are experiencing difficulties managing their accommodation or need support to resolve housing issues can turn to a new service.

Lighthouse 55+ is delivered in partnership by Newport City Council and Age Cymru Gwent. It is free of charge and confidential.

Support and information can be provided by trained and experienced workers for issues such as:

- Potential eviction or repossession
- Housing options, finding alternative and suitable accommodation. or homelessness
- Financial issues and maximising income, such as setting payment or repayment plans, budgeting, debt management and claiming welfare benefits.
- Obtaining aids and adaptations to enable people to remain independent in their own homes.

Anyone can make a referral, or can self-refer, by phoning

01633 235201 during office hours or emailing

floating.support@newport.gov.uk

Those who can be helped by the scheme will be allocated a dedicated support worker who will discuss concerns and develop an individual plan.

Lighthouse 55+ is funded by the Welsh Government's Supporting People programme via the city council.

The programme is a national government initiative that funds housing-related services aimed at preventing homelessness and ensuring that vulnerable people have the support they need to live independently for as long as possible.

In Newport, Supporting People's housing-related services are provided to more than 4,000 people at any one time to help vulnerable people remain in

their own homes or settle/ resettle into the community.

It does not fund personal care services (such as help with bathing, dressing, or the taking of medication) or housing management activities (such as rent arrears or antisocial behaviour).







MANSION HOUSE WEDDING OPEN DAY

If you are planning a civil wedding ceremony in 2019 or beyond, come and pay the Mansion House a visit on Sunday 17 March 2019 between I lam and 3pm and see what we can offer.

The Mansion House is a truly beautiful late Victorian house, full of character and set in lovely grounds.

It was a private home until it was bought by Newport Corporation in 1939 and served as the official residence of Newport's Mayors until 2011, when it became home to the City of Newport Register Office.

You are welcome to call in during the open day to look around the ceremony rooms and take a wander through the pretty lawned garden - perfect for your photographs.

Staff will be on hand to answer any questions. Here are some comments from happy couples who held their ceremonies at the Mansion House:

'Myself and my husband were overwhelmed from start

to finish, would highly recommend the Mansion House'

'We were treated as if we were the only people who had ever been married there. Exceptionally friendly and professional service, it made our day even more special.'

Call in see us on Sunday 17 March to see how the staff can help make your day truly special.



MY NEWPORT - SERVICES **AT YOUR FINGERTIPS**

Newport City Council has launched a new app and online system where you can report, request and pay for council services 24 hours a day.

My Newport also allows you to register as a user and then track the progress of your request.

Councillor David Mayer, cabinet member for community and resources, said:

"We want to make it easier for our residents to communicate with us and request the services they need. Although we will continue to welcome calls and face-to-face enquiries, this new system will make it much easier for people to get in touch when it suits them – and easily be able to see what is happening with their request."

From fly tipping, to council tax, housing advice to registering a birth, My Newport puts hundreds of council services at your fingertips.

For more information visit www.newport.gov.uk or search' Newport Council' on your app store.

GRANTS WELCOMED

Newport City Council welcomes the additional grants being made available from Welsh Government which will help accelerate a number of new transport projects in the city.

As a result, the amount Newport has been awarded in 2018 through the Local Transport Fund has increased to over £800,000.

The council is committed to the Welsh Government's Active Travel Act and to provide schemes that promote healthy lives.

The new projects for 2018/19 and beyond include:

- £77,000 to help progress the work on an Active Travel footbridge linking Devon Place to Queensway to take the construction phase to tender.
- £30,000 towards looking at potential pedestrian and cycle routes linking Lliswerry, Lysaghts Village and Monkey Island;
- £25,000 to begin work on a city centre sustainable transport study.

Councillor Roger Jeavons, cabinet member for Streetscene said: "The grants mean we can continue towards ensuring our city has plenty of Active Travel networks".

UNUSUAL RECYCLING ITEMS



Did you know Newport City Council has collection points in the Household Waste and **Recycling Centre in Docks** Way for more unusual items which can be recycled?

The latest venture is aimed at parents with babies and local nurseries who may be using food and drink pouches, as part of the EllaCycle recycling programme which comes under the umbrella of the national Terracyle project.

Other materials collected as part of the Terracycle initiative are, for instance, Tassimo coffee pods and packaging or biscuit wrappers, meaning this can be recycled and raise money for charity at the same time.

In the last 12 months £1,100 has been raised for the Sparkle Appeal from the Tassimo collections, and so far council staff contributions have raised another £125 from the biscuit wrappers.

The council also collects pens from offices and schools and this scheme has raised £85 for the Mayor's charities.

So please save all your baby food pouches, Tassimo pods or biscuit wrappers and help us recycle and raise money for charity by bringing them to our recycling centre!

The Household Waste Recycling Centre on Docks Way is open 7.30am - 4.30pm Monday to Friday and 9am-4.30pm

GREEN ENERGY SCHEME FOR CAERLEON

A new community grant scheme for Caerleon has recently been launched as a result of a green energy development.

Officially approved a few years ago, Lightsource SPV 209 Ltd has created a solar energy operation in the ward of Caerleon which is now successfully up and running.

The operator has specified that a ngrant is to be applied for the benefit of the community of Caerleon and a scheme has now been developed to support a wide range of needs/options.

In accordance with the deed the amount of grant available may vary over its initial 20-year period.

The scheme is being run through GAVO, with the Caerleon Community Grants Panel. Grants will range from £250 to £2,000. The first round of applications will close on Friday I March 2019.

Successful applicants will be notified shortly afterwards. Subsequent rounds will be advertised depending on funds available.

Guidance notes/criteria and application forms are available from

jane.shatford@gavowales.org.uk



PREPARING TO LAUNCH CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT

Drivers who park illegally will be fined by Newport City Council from July I once **Civil Parking Enforcement** (CPE) comes into effect.

However until that date parking offences are still under the jurisdiction of Gwent Police.

In order to take on CPE council officers have been reviewing traffic orders and checking regulations in readiness for the big day.

A formal application for the transferral of parking enforcement powers to the council was made to the Welsh Government on September 2018.

It follows confirmation of Gwent Police's intention to withdraw from parking enforcement and the council's decision in January 2018 to apply for civil enforcement powers within the city.

Councillor Roger Jeavons, the council's cabinet member for Streetscene said: "With the police withdrawing from enforcement, and continuing dissatisfaction being expressed by residents and businesses across the city regarding the rising levels of illegal parking, the introduction of civil parking enforcement is widely welcomed across the city.

"We have officers working behind the scenes reviewing traffic orders and checking all the regulations are watertight in readiness for us taking charge."





SUPPORTING INDEPENDENT BUSINESSES





A specialist team offers support to businesses whether they are new start-ups, already established in Newport, or looking to relocate to the city – ranging from grants, to advice on finance, location and available properties.

Councillor Jane Mudd, cabinet member for regeneration and housing recently visited some of the city's newest independent traders who have been supported by the council.



Tibetan Dawn

Tibetan Dawn is based in Newport Arcade and offers a range of goods that support a 'healthy lifestyle for mind, body and spirit'. Meryl Tsering started the business 14 years ago, focussing on markets, festivals and online sales. Many of the items are imported from India, supporting Tibetan refugees with other local suppliers now contributing to her colourful range of items including clothing, homeware, vegan soaps, organic essential oils, original artworks and much more.

Meryl said of her new location: "It is great to have a city centre base – in the heart of history and the city's independent quarter. The grant I received from the council was an essential step in moving my business forward."



The Jewellery Repair Shop

The Jewellery Repair Workshop is another new independent business located in the beautiful Victorian Newport Arcade. With a fully qualified and talented jeweller on-site, they are able to provide a custom jewellery service as well as on-site jewellery repairs.

Owner Sonia Lloyd, said: "I was very grateful to receive help with both my rent, funds to buy essential equipment and great general business advice. I have worked in jewellers for many years, but wanted to do it for myself! I'm really pleased with how things are going, seeing new shops opening and footfall increasing."



Underhive Games

With board games seeing a resurgence, family-run Underhive Games are offering collectable card games, table-top war games and niche board games, scenery and books.

The new store, located on High Street, is also hosting community driven events and clubs and is designed to appeal to newcomers and experienced gamers alike.

Owners Andy and Gemma Beese benefitted from a grant toward the first year's rent and shop fit-out.

"We're so excited and want everyone to feel they can pop in and have fun in a really relaxed environment."



Holy Cheesus

Ryan Harris opened his grilled cheese sandwich business on Bridge Street as he wanted to bring something new to the city.

The menu offers a range of cheesy delights from macaroni cheese sandwiches to weekend breakfast bagels, plus an evertempting specials board – hits have included the RnBrie and Hellapeno Nachos.

Ryan said: "The response has been brilliant – people come from the valleys, Penarth, Birmingham and Bristol. The hope now is to expand the business. The council and UK Steel Enterprise, who provided a start-up grant have been 'brie'lliant with their support

Councillor Mudd said of her tour of the new businesses:

"It amazing to see such a fantastic range of independent businesses making Newport their home. The goods and services they are offering really add to our city centre. I am very proud that the council has been able to support them and strongly urge any other businesses looking to set up, relocate or expand in Newport to get in touch to see what support we can offer."

For more information on support for businesses visit www.newport.gov.uk/business

COTYLEDON **SETTLE INTO** THEIR NEW HOME BELLE VUE PARK



The new tenants at the café and pavilion at Belle Vue Park in Newport are settling into their new home.

Cotyledon, run by Jan Walsh and her team, has given the premises a fresh new look using the talents of up and coming local design company Bonhomie Interiors.

And Newport City Council's cabinet member for culture and leisure Councillor Deb Harvey paid a visit to the café in November to welcome the new tenants.

Councillor Harvey said: "We are delighted Cotyledon is in residence at Belle Vue Park's café and Pavilion.

"Jan and her team have some exciting ideas for the future and we hope residents will support them in their new venture."

Visitors to the café can enjoy locally sourced ingredients. A popular supplier is Welshman's Lunch whose brownies and vegan cakes are proving a big hit with staff and customers alike.

The pavilion will also be used widely as Jan is planning twice monthly artisan markets. It will also be used to host celebrations including

weddings, christenings, birthdays and baby showers to name a few.

"We know some people thought the café and Pavilion were closed but we wanted to invite Cllr Harvey here to show her our new look and explain what we plan to do with the site in the future," said Jan.

"This is a beautiful building and our new bale green colours and ivv garlands are a reflection of bringing the outside in, we also employed an up and coming local design company Bonhomie Interiors to help with the revamb and we hope beoble like what we are doing here."

Dog walkers have their own space in the Pavilion building with Jan happy to provide tables, chairs and coffee in the large entrance hall which also houses drinking water for pets.







RIVERFRONT THEATRE 01633 656656

www.newportlive.co.uk/riverfront

18 January

Superstars of Welsh Wrestling

Come and see the top international stars battle it out

in this one night extravaganza.

20 January

A Night in Vienna:

Welsh National Opera WNO Orchestra returns to the Riverfront with their popular New Year concert.

6 February

Sinfonia Cymru in concert

Lunchtime performance at 1pm - shake off the winter blues and get ready for spring with a concert of delightful music for oboe and piano.

16 February **Comedy Club 4 Kids**

Suitable for kids aged six and over.

9 March

Sinfonia Cymru in concert 28 March

Here Come The Girls

Dance show featuring ballroom and latin including Strictly stars Dianne Buswell and Amy Dowden.

NEWPORT MUSEUM & ART GALLERY 01633 656656

www.newport.gov.uk/heritage I February – I7 March

Newport Annual Members' Juried Exhibition from Ilgenfritz and Wright Galleries.

DOLMAN THEATRE 01633 263670

www.dolmantheatre.co.uk

15 - 19 January **Death in High Heels**

Newport Playgoers present this mystery

12 - 16 February Table 5

Newport Playgoers Society production.

22 February Lovestruck

Magor Amateur Dramatic Theatre Company presents three comedy/drama shorts.

26 February – 2 March **Peter Pan**

Newport Pantomime Society present this magical story offering pantomime fun for all the family.



www.newport.gov.uk/childcareoffer