

NM NEWPORT MATTERS



The official newspaper of Newport City Council



SUPPORTING OUR ARMED FORCES

SEE PAGE 2



EVENT SAVED AND INVESTMENTS PLANNED IN BUDGET

Image courtesy of www.michaelhallphotography.co.uk

Newport City Council has agreed its budget for the forthcoming year with council tax set to increase by 3.9 per cent – 1.1 per cent lower than the figure that was consulted on.

For a household in a Band D property council tax will be £974.61, an extra £36.59 a year, which works out at around 70p a week.

Because of this lower level of increase, Newport continues to have the second lowest council tax in Wales.

With a better than expected settlement from the Welsh Government, it also means the council can reduce the amount of savings it had to consider, and can also invest in other council services.

Leader of Newport City Council, Councillor Bob Bright, told the budget meeting on February 24:

“We were able to completely remove 11 savings proposals based on the feedback received after consulting with a number of individuals and organisations. Stopping funding

for events, such as Newport Food Festival, have also been taken out of the savings proposals.

“We were able to increase funding to schools, which now will receive a 3.5 per cent increase, one of, if not the highest in this area and indeed Wales. Funding for on-going investments in the council’s streetscene infrastructure and assets is also agreed.

We introduced a ‘Small Business Growth Fund’ to offer a range of support to new entrepreneurs and small businesses looking for

a ‘kick start’, thus helping to maintain Newport’s position as the best place in Wales to start a business. £25,000 will also be allocated to further the work with those who rough sleep”.

The council also had to consider budget pressures including costs relating to the new National Living Wage; funding the increase in employer’s National Insurance costs and the costs of meeting the Welsh Language standards at £280,000 in 2016/17.

Cllr Bright continued: *“These pressures are requirements that have to be met. They amount to nearly £4.3m in 2016/17 and must be met with no additional funding being provided.*

“The final 0.7 per cent reduction in the settlement has still resulted in a challenging budget, but with fewer savings having to be made than originally feared.

Details of the annual council tax bill can be seen on our website. www.newport.gov.uk

SHOWING SUPPORT FOR OUR ARMED FORCES

An event to mark the signing of Newport's Armed Forces Community Covenant took place at the Newport Gwent Dragons match against Glasgow Warriors at Rodney Parade last month.

The covenant is a promise from the nation that those who serve or have served in the armed forces, and their families, are treated fairly.

Newport City Council is committed to supporting the armed forces community by working with a range of partners from the public services, charities and other community organisations who have signed the covenant.

On the night there was music from the band of the Prince of Wales's Division and visitors met soldiers from the 104 Regiment Royal Artillery.

A minute's silence was held to mark the 25th anniversary of the First Gulf War (Operation Granby) before the game kicked off.

During half time, the covenant was publicly signed on the pitch by Councillor Bob Bright, Leader of Newport City Council; Councillor Ray Truman, Deputy Leader and Chair of the One Newport Local Service Board and Lt Col Erik Bengtsson MBE of 104 Royal Artillery.

Other partners, including the Royal British Legion and forces charity SSAFA, also signed the covenant on the night.

Councillor Bright said: "We owe an obligation to service people who have put their own lives on the line to protect and defend us. The covenant is a way that the council and other organisations in the city can show their respect



and gratitude to those who have served and continue to serve our country."

Councillor Truman said: "I would like to thank all those organisations who have pledged their support for those who serve, and have served, in the armed forces and hope that others will join us.

"I would also like to thank everyone at Rodney Parade for allowing us to share this important occasion on a match night and making it a very public event."

Councillor Mark Spencer, the council's Armed Forces Champion, added: "The covenant is a visible way of showing the support that we and other organisations offer to those people who have served and continue to serve our country. We owe them all a debt of gratitude."



Lieutenant Colonel Erik Bengtsson, Councillor Ray Truman and Councillor Bob Bright

GET READY FOR IMPORTANT ELECTIONS IN 2016

On Thursday 5 May 2016 voters in Wales will go to the polls for National Assembly for Wales and Police and Crime Commissioner elections.

At the National Assembly for Wales election, residents of Newport will be able to vote for regional and constituency assembly members.

These are the people responsible for presiding over a wide range of issues in Wales including health, education and housing.

The Police and Crime Commissioner oversees the running of the local police force, including appointing the Chief Constable, setting the local budget and deciding what the priorities should be for the police in their area.

Will Godfrey, Electoral Registration Officer for Newport City Council, said: "Only people who are registered can take part in May's elections. People living in Newport will need to register to make sure that they don't miss out on voting on polling day.



"Registering is easy and you can apply online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote in just a few minutes. You will need your date of birth and national insurance number."

Rhydian Thomas, Head of Wales Office at the Electoral Commission, said: "Anyone not yet registered to vote should do so as soon as possible so they will be able to have their say on issues that directly affect their day-to-day lives in Wales. It's important that anyone who is eligible to be on the register,

but has not yet registered, does so. The deadline to register to vote is Monday 18 April 2016."

Those who would prefer can still apply using a paper form. The form can be downloaded from the registration site or alternatively be requested from your local electoral services team.

Contact your local team on **01633 656656** or email: uvote@newport.gov.uk and return it by 18 April 2016, the registration deadline.

PARKS TO BE LOCKED EARLIER

Parks in Newport City Centre are to be locked an hour earlier during the summer months.

The decision was made following an incident last year which led to the council re-examining its lone working policy. The change brings Newport City Council facilities in line with other local authorities and venues such as the park at Tredegar House.

Park gates will be locked from **8.30pm** from **9 May to 22 August**. All Newport cemeteries will open at park times but remain on winter closing hours and closed to vehicles from 5pm. Pedestrian gates will remain open as at present. <http://goo.gl/DX19aO>



VELOTHON WALES 2016 ROUTE REVEALED



The stunning 140km route for Velothon Wales 2016 has been revealed. Up to 18,000 cyclists are expected to take part in this year's closed-road event on Sunday 22 May, taking in some of the most beautiful and challenging roads around south Wales.

Cyclists, spectators, residents and businesses can now visit www.velothon-wales.co.uk and journey through the full 140km route via an interactive map.

As previously announced, the 50km route has been withdrawn from this year's event to minimise disruption. It means the loop from Newport, under the M4 at junction 28, along Forge Lane, through Rhiwderin to

Caerphilly is not happening and the residents here will not be affected.

There will be changes from the inaugural event in 2015 on the Usk Road from Caerleon to Usk, where the route turns right at the Cwrt Bleddyn Hotel just before Llanybi and travels through Tredunnoch and past the Newbridge on Usk before joining Abernant Road towards Usk.

The route then travels through Llantrisant and Llanllywel before arriving in Usk via Maryport Street, before a right turn into Church Street. It leaves Usk along the B4598, Porthycarne Street, through Chain Bridge and Nantyerry before re-joining the 2015 route on the A4042 south of Llanover.

From there the course then follows the same route as in 2015 and riders will once again take on the very same 140km as some of the world's best pro teams in the UCI classified 1.1 professional road race.

Starting in Cardiff city centre, it takes riders out of the capital via the docks and along a 7.5km stretch along the coast road through the Gwent Levels.

Passing through the villages of Peterstone and St Brides, cyclists will reach Newport taking in stunning views over the River Usk and local landmarks such as the Transporter Bridge.

Leaving the city centre via Langstone towards Caerleon, cyclists will pass

the old steelworks and climb 1.6km to enjoy spectacular views of the Celtic Manor and surrounding area.

After the new changes detailed above, the route then goes up to Abergavenny on the A4042 heading up to Llanfoist for The Tumble climb, a famously challenging 6km stretch of road with an average gradient of 9 per cent.

After tackling The Tumble, riders will begin their journey back towards Cardiff, through the Unesco World Heritage Site at Blaenavon then to Pontypool, Ystrad Mynach, Hengoed and on to Caerphilly – past the castle and up the famous Caerphilly Mountain – before finishing in front of thousands of spectators in Cardiff city centre.

Residents and businesses who will be affected by the road closures associated with the event will start to receive letters with information about the event this month.

Velothon Wales is one of the latest events in the UCI Velothon Majors. The UCI Velothon Majors are a global series of cycling events which take place in iconic cities including Berlin, Stockholm and Stuttgart. Velothon Wales attracted over 12,000 participants in 2015, making it the second biggest sportive in the UK and one of the world's top 10 biggest cycling events.

For more information see [Facebook.com VelothonWales](https://www.facebook.com/VelothonWales) [Twitter.com/VelothonWales](https://twitter.com/VelothonWales) [Instagram search VelothonWales](https://www.instagram.com/VelothonWales)

LOCAL CHARITY CONTINUES TO HELP MAKE PEOPLE FEEL AT HOME



A Newport based charity is looking for more partners and further donations to build on £67,000 worth of charitable work provided last year.

Raven House Trust, based in Cromwell Road in Newport, has been helping local people with food and furniture for over 21 years. The charity works with various bodies and organisations including Newport City Council. It provides food to people at locations that are convenient to them including Stow Park Church, Bettws Foodbank and Caldicot Foodbank which are all part of its distribution network.

In 2015 Raven House Trust saw food and furniture to the value of £67,000 given out throughout Gwent and beyond. In Newport, many primary schools donated food, and it received much needed help from the pupils of St Andrew's Primary School and St Julian's High School, who assisted in the preparation of food parcels for the homeless. It would like to see more local volunteers helping with this work, and just a few hours spared can make this task more efficient for all concerned.

The charity is always in need of good quality furniture to pass on to local families and individuals in need,

and wants to remind residents to think of Raven House Trust and contact them when they have unwanted items that still have years of good use left in them.

For those who need the charity's help with furniture, items are provided free of charge with just a delivery fee of £30 to help with the running costs of the delivery van.

Personal visitors are welcome at the shop 276 - 278 Cromwell Road, from 9am to 3pm, Monday to Thursday. Alternatively you can call **01633 762999** or email: contact@ravenhouse.org

GOOD REPORTS FOR NEWPORT SCHOOLS

Newport City Council's cabinet member for Education and Young People, Councillor Debbie Wilcox, is delighted to see so many schools awarded a green status from the national categorisation system, as applied by Welsh Government.

Categorisation is a method of assessing the support needs of a school for it to continually self-improve and attain high standards. A green school needs little support, a red school requires considerable external support.

St Joseph's RC Secondary School is the only secondary in the region to be awarded green and Newport has the highest percentage – 50 per cent – of green primary schools across the region – almost twice the regional average. Newport has no red primary schools.

Councillor Wilcox said: "All Newport primary and secondary schools are on a continuous school improvement journey. The local authority has approved each school's categorisation and will provide additional, tailored support to those which require it.

Secondary schools in a red category will receive the highest level of support.

"The national categorisation system is a nationally defined process which is moderated across Wales and has been introduced by Welsh Government to drive school improvement using performance data.

"The information provides the basis for tailoring support to individual schools. We work with all schools in Newport to ensure that good practice is spread across primary and secondary schools and that result standards are raised and we will continue to do so.

"The categorisation system is a rigorous process and it identifies that there is continued work to do in the city to raise standards but it must be stressed that there is plenty of good practice happening in Newport's schools.

"As a council we believe firmly in ensuring that all children are provided with the opportunity to maximise their attainment and achievement. It will continue to challenge and support head teachers and governing bodies to ensure this aim is achieved."



NEW LAW SEES A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR WALES

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. It will make the public bodies listed in the act think more about their long-term, work better with people and communities and each other, look to prevent problems and take a more joined-up approach.

This will help to create a Wales that we all want to live in, both now and in the future.

To make sure we are all working towards the same vision, the act puts in place seven well-being goals.

A prosperous Wales
A resilient Wales
A healthier Wales
A more equal Wales
A Wales of cohesive communities
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language
A globally responsible Wales

We need this law as Wales faces a number of challenges such as climate change, poverty, health inequalities, jobs and growth. To tackle these we need to work together. To give our children and grandchildren a good quality of life, we need to think about how the decisions we make now will impact them. This law will make sure that our public sector does this.

The act puts in place a 'sustainable development principle' which tells

organisations how to go about meeting their duty under the act.

Doing something in accordance with the sustainable development principle means that the body must act in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Public bodies need to make sure that when making their decisions they take into account the impact they could have on people living their lives in Wales in the future.

The public bodies in Wales covered by this act include:

- Local authorities – including Newport City Council.

- Local health boards.
- Public Health Wales NHS Trust.
- Velindre NHS Trust.
- National Park authorities.
- Fire and rescue authorities.
- Natural Resources Wales.
- The Higher Education Funding Council for Wales.
- The Arts Council of Wales.
- Sports Council of Wales.
- National Library of Wales.
- National Museum of Wales.
- Welsh ministers.

as Wales' first statutory Future Generations Commissioner.



The Future Generations Commissioner for Wales has been appointed to act as a guardian for the interests of future generations in Wales, and to support the public bodies listed in the act to work towards achieving the wellbeing goals. Sophie Howe took up her post in February 2016

For more information visit: www.gov.wales and www.thewaleswewant.co.uk

WELSH MEDIUM SECONDARY SCHOOL AND DUFFRYN HIGH SCHOOL UPDATE

A planning application for a new Welsh medium secondary school and major improvements to Duffryn High School has been resubmitted to Newport City Council for a decision to be made by the full council in May.

It follows the decision by the planning committee to refuse permission for the proposal after Natural Resources Wales objected to the application because of a potential flooding risk.

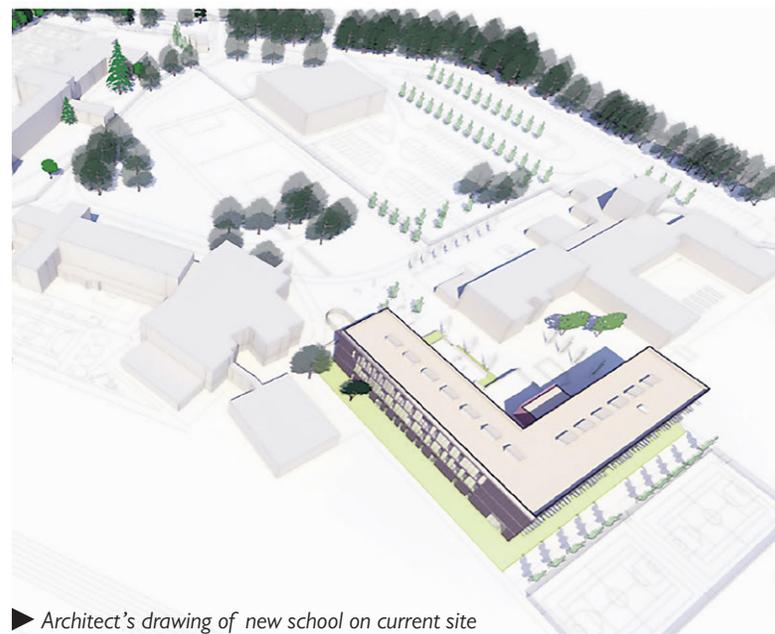
The council is committed to providing Welsh secondary education in Newport and making major improvements to the Duffryn High School buildings.

Therefore, it has been decided that the application should be resubmitted because of the importance to the city of both developments, especially for staff, pupils and parents, and should go to the full council for a decision.

This resubmission and redetermination is no reflection on the correctness of the earlier decision taken by the planning committee, based on planning officer advice.

However, in view of the significance of this application in terms of educational need and the wider strategic development of the Duffryn area, it was considered appropriate and more democratic for all councillors to take collective responsibility for this decision.

In May, all 50 councillors will have the opportunity to consider the proposal and any submissions that are made.



► Architect's drawing of new school on current site

DIWEDDARIAD O RAN YSGOL UWCHRADD CYFRWNG CYMRAEG AC YSGOL UWCHRADD DYFFRYN

Mae cais cynllunio ar gyfer ysgol uwchradd cyfrwng Cymraeg newydd a gwelliannau mawr i Ysgol Uwchradd Dyffryn wedi cael ei ail-gyflwyno i Gyngor Dinas Casnewydd am benderfyniad i gael ei wneud gan y cyngor llawn ym mis Mai.

Mae'n dilyn penderfyniad gan y pwyllgor cynllunio i wrthod caniatâd ar gyfer y cynnig ar ôl i Gyfoeth Naturiol Cymru wrthwynebu'r cais oherwydd y perygl posibl o lifogydd.

Mae'r cyngor wedi ymrwmo i ddarparu addysg uwchradd cyfrwng Cymraeg yng Nghasnewydd a gwneud gwelliannau mawr i adeiladau Ysgol Uwchradd Dyffryn.

Felly, penderfynwyd y dylai'r cais gael ei ail-gyflwyno oherwydd pwysigrwydd y ddau ddatblygiad i'r ddinas, yn enwedig i'r staff, disgyblion a rhieni, a dylai fynd i'r cyngor llawn am benderfyniad.

Nid yw'r ailgyflwyniad ac ailbenderfyniad hyn yn adlewyrchiad ar gywirdeb y penderfyniad cynharach a gymerwyd gan y pwyllgor cynllunio, yn seiliedig ar gyngor swyddog cynllunio. Fodd bynnag, o ystyried arwyddocâd y cais hwn yn nhermau angen addysgol a datblygiad strategol ehangach ardal Dyffryn, ystyriwyd ei bod yn briodol ac yn fwy democrataidd i'r holl gynghorwyr gymryd cyfrifoldeb ar y cyd am y penderfyniad hwn.

Ym mis Mai, bydd pob un o'r 50 cynghorydd yn cael y cyfle i ystyried y cynnig ac unrhyw gyflwyniadau a wneir.



CGI of new school building

WELSH NATIONAL HEALTHY SCHOOLS SCHEME

Three Newport schools have won a top award for being active and healthy.

The National Quality Award is awarded to schools in the scheme who demonstrate excellence in health promotion through education, showing pupils how they can live healthy lives into adulthood.

The award involves seven health themes – food and fitness, mental and emotional health and wellbeing, personal development and relationships, substance use and misuse, environment, safety and hygiene.

Each theme embraces leadership and communication, curriculum, ethos and environment, and family and community involvement.

The three local schools who have achieved the National Quality Award

are Eveswell Primary, who initially achieved this in 2007 and who have been re-accredited for sustainability and improvement in 2014; Lliswerry Primary who achieved their award in 2014 and Langstone Primary who achieved their's in 2015.

Newport City Council's Cabinet Member for Education and Young People, Councillor Debbie Wilcox, said:

"This is a fantastic achievement for all those involved. The council is delighted that three of our schools have received this award. Well done everyone."

Newport mayor, Councillor Herbie Thomas, added his congratulations to the schools:

"I would like to thank all the teachers and pupils who took part in this award. Your commitment to the scheme is commendable and deserving of this recognition."

Newport City Council is very proud of all three schools who received glowing reports demonstrating that they didn't just pass, they were exceptional in their health promotion work.

A National Quality Award is made after two assessors visit a school over two days touring the school accompanied by a small group of pupils, visiting at breakfast, lunchtime and after school clubs. In the background, healthy schools coordinators were also involved in delivering training, leading network sharing sessions and secondments to the local authority to share their expertise.

Welsh Network of Healthy School Schemes



Cynlluniau Ysgolion Iach - Rhwydwaith Cymru



Cllr Debbie Wilcox and Cllr Herbie Thomas, Mayor of Newport, with some of the winners.

ACTIVE JOURNEYS PROGRAMME FOR SCHOOLS

Sustrans has officially launched the Active Journeys Programme which includes a new advice service for schools in Wales.

This advice service comprises of two elements; an info line that schools can contact for advice and guidance and planned proactive communications to promote what they offer to schools.

They are also planning a bi-monthly communication and if anyone has any suggestions for case studies to be included please feel free to get in touch with them.

They shared information about the programme and advice service through social media (e.g. **Twitter - SustransCymru**) and referred schools to their recently revamped schools webpage.

You can access this page at www.sustrans.org.uk/wales/education

and for Welsh medium schools www.sustrans.org.uk/cymru/addysg

They also sent a newsletter to schools in Wales. To sign up email: schoolswales@sustrans.org.uk

Drivers must take account of all local parking restrictions, and should also consider the safety of all pedestrians and other road users at all times.

Gwent Police are responsible for enforcing parking regulations, but in the light of recent complaints, the council would like to remind people not to park on any grass verges or pavements which could endanger the public's safety.



PLEASE PARK CAREFULLY

Newport City Council would like to remind all parents and carers who use a vehicle to take a child to school to be considerate when dropping children off.

BREASTFEEDING WELCOME SCHEME



A new breastfeeding initiative is being launched in Newport which is being funded by Aneurin Bevan University Health Board and Newport City Council, under the One Newport partnership.

The Breastfeeding Welcome scheme encourages all premises, which are open to the public in Newport, to support breastfeeding families outside of the home by being welcoming, friendly and supportive.

The hope is that breastfeeding will become normalised

and breastfeeding families will feel more comfortable and confident about feeding their babies in public places and spaces. Any premises displaying this logo have attended a breastfeeding awareness session and are committed to being a *Breastfeeding Welcome* premises.

If you are a business or organisation that would like to be a part of this scheme, or a breastfeeding family that would like to suggest public places to be a part of this scheme, contact **01633 656 656** or email: one.newport@newport.gov.uk



CLEARER CCTV WILL HELP REDUCE CRIME

Newport City Council is a leading member of the 'One Newport' community safety partnership which provides a CCTV monitoring service to cover the commercial area of the city centre.

The service operates on a 24:7 basis, 365 days a year and works closely with the police in preventing and identifying perpetrators of crime or antisocial behaviour.

This service is essential for providing evidence to the courts.

It has been run by an experienced team for just over fourteen years and has been working on behalf of Blaenau Gwent Council for the past two years; this includes an out of hours call handling service.

CCTV monitoring covers the commercial area of the city centre in Newport and across the Blaenau Gwent area, plus various remote

sites such as schools and other council owned buildings and sites.

Newport City Council has recently invested in a community safety fibre network across the city centre, providing high quality connectivity between the cameras and the control room.

This is further enhanced with the purchase and installation of new CCTV cameras replacing the aging ones which have been in service

for up to nine years. It really is a case of 21st century technology for a modern city centre.

The improvement in image quality is incredible and also allows the police to zoom in on individuals, vehicles or locations for better identification.

The opening of the new Friars Walk shopping centre has seen the council working closely with the site management. Council CCTV operators are able to view locations

using the cameras covering the areas which are accessed by the public.

The radio network, provided by the Business Against Crime Partnership, is coordinated by the council CCTV team allowing speedy contact between the partners and police.

The CCTV management team are continually working with the operators looking for new ideas so that the council continues to get value for money from the service.



THIRD CITY SUMMIT SEES DELEGATE NUMBERS CLIMB



More than 200 business leaders and owners in Newport attended the third Newport City Summit last month.

Key speakers from some of Newport's leading organisations attended The Riverfront Theatre and Arts Centre where delegates were able to mix with like minded people and get information from the host of companies represented at the event.

A lot has happened in the last 12 months; the opening of Friars Walk in November 2015 was a major milestone for the city and many other key developments are well under way.

This year's summit outlined what's next for Newport to ensure that the city reaches its economic potential and supports local businesses.

Key speakers included Amanda Davies, the group chief executive of the Seren Group; Will Godfrey, chief executive of Newport City Council who outlined what the City Deal means; Matthew Turner from Cardiff University's National Software Academy; Lee Jones, manager of the Lloyds Bank Contact Centre in Newport and local entrepreneur Roger Hiscott.

Will Godfrey, chief executive of Newport City Council, said:

"It was very pleasing to see so many local businesses sign up to this year's City Summit. More than 200 companies pledged their support to this important Newport event."

"This year's summit examined what the future holds for Newport, building on the success of Friars Walk, and looking at ways we can work with and support Newport businesses and how we are staking our place in the proposed City Deal."

Head teachers from the city's secondary schools were also invited to see how the skills and education agenda is developing in the city.

FRIARS WALK - 4 MONTHS ON

Just over three years ago banners across the city centre announced Newport is 'open for business' – and the opening of Friars Walk has well and truly delivered that promise.

The opening of the multi million pound Friars Walk development

in Newport city centre has attracted thousands more visitors to the city, created much needed jobs and drawn in a wide variety of new businesses.

Cllr Bob Bright, Leader of Newport City Council said:

"We now have a city centre we can be proud of and one that caters for visitors' needs, whether that is shopping, leisure or work."

"We are also seeing exciting new and returning businesses to our city centre who will be contributing millions of pounds to our local economy, which will bring significant benefits for many years to come."

The latest statistics reveal that Newport's average weekly footfall for November 2015 was 202,000. This is an increase of 17 per cent on the same time last year. The last occasion that November's average weekly footfall was higher, was back in 2008.

This positive news comes on the back of another recent survey which named Newport as the best city in Wales to start up a business. Out of 69 cities across the whole of the UK, Newport was named as the 28th best place to start up a business.



BREATHING NEW LIFE INTO LANDMARK BUILDINGS

Newport's highly successful Vibrant and Viable Places (VVP) programme is continuing to make a huge difference to key buildings in the city centre.

The city council, with investment of around £15 million from the Welsh Government, has worked with private and third sector partners to deliver projects that are providing new homes, improved business opportunities and jobs.

Welsh Government Minister Lesley Griffiths recently joined Newport City Council's Deputy Leader, Cllr Ray Truman, and Cllr John Richards, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Investment, to visit two of the schemes.

Businessman Jahan Abedi has used a loan from the VVP programme towards restoring the former King's Hotel in High Street.

Conversion of the building into apartments, offices and retail use is well underway and several of the flats have already been snapped up before completion. A company is also due to move into the office accommodation with more than one hundred members of staff.

They then moved on to Griffin Island, between Griffin Street and

Skinner Street, where housing association Seren is refurbishing and converting the empty upper floors of the Victorian building into a range of 27 modern apartments with the assistance of a grant from VVP.

Located in the heart of the city centre conservation area, the homes have been sensitively designed to retain the character and significant historic fabric.

The apartments are being constructed in two phases by Greenwich Communities,

with the first 11 apartments due to be ready during April/May 2016.

The apartments are available for intermediate rent through Seren's in-house lettings company Serenliving and will be allocated via Home Options Newport.

Greenwich Communities have employed 14 people on site who had previously been unemployed, equating to 182 weeks of paid work.

PUBLIC WIFI NETWORK NOW AVAILABLE

NewportCityConnect from Pinacl, will provide users with unlimited 24:7 free WiFi access across key city centre locations including Upper Dock St, Corn St, the railway and bus stations, and Newport Market.

Visitors and residents can access NewportCityConnect from any wireless enabled device. The WiFi allows users to log in via social media or a simple registration form and users can get back online easily when in range of the network.

Pinacl launched a similar solution in York last year which now has around 2,000 users a day. They created the CityConnect brand specifically for public WiFi networks that have been used for other local authorities and organisations.

Small retailers have also opted for CityConnect solutions to enhance their existing network with a user friendly social WiFi overlay.

Mark Lowe, Strategic Relations Director, Pinacl explained:

"We are delighted to be launching our exciting CityConnect public WiFi service within Newport, offering a quality and easy to use WiFi service."

"Local businesses will also be able to benefit from commercial opportunities advertising on the Wi-Fi service."



GREAT WESTERN CITIES ONE STEP CLOSER TO CREATING BRITAIN'S WESTERN POWERHOUSE

The Severn region has the potential to become Britain's next major economic 'powerhouse' according to a new report launched by the Great Western Cities (GWC) – Bristol, Cardiff and Newport.

Commissioned by GWC and authored by Metro Dynamics, the report examines the benefits of greater sharing, matching and learning between the three city regions – including an influential role for universities, businesses and civil society.

It concludes that collaboration could strengthen the voice of the west in UK economic and public policy decisions, positioning the area as a potential contender to take on a 'powerhouse' mantle.

The report was launched at a special debate in Bristol hosted by Insider magazine. This touched on key topics from the report, which identifies major potential for the three city regions in strengthening transport links, expanding renewable energy and improving its international profile.

The assessment follows the emergence of two high profile economic collaborations elsewhere in the UK - the Northern Powerhouse and Midlands Engine. Compared to the Northern Powerhouse the GWC already boast higher levels of commuting between Cardiff or Newport and Bristol than that between Manchester to Leeds or Liverpool.

Reducing journey times between Cardiff, Newport and Bristol by just 20 minutes could result in savings of more than £1 billion over the next 60 years.

Councillor Bob Bright, Leader of Newport City Council said: *"It is no coincidence that Newport's presence on the UK stage has risen since the inception of the Great Western Cities collaboration. We truly have strength-in-depth with these three ambitious and unique city partners working closely together for a combined benefit. This report further strengthens the case that we already fully support."*

Ben Lucas, managing director of Metro Dynamics added:

"The case for a Great Western Powerhouse is a strong one. Our research shows that there are already more people commuting between the Cardiff and Bristol Metros than between Leeds and Manchester, even though the journey is equally slow. As with the Northern Powerhouse, better connectivity will reap big rewards in creating a larger, more productive labour market across the Great Western Cities. This is Britain's western opportunity – it's up to the three cities, business and Government to seize it."

The GWC launched an initial prospectus in spring 2015. During the last year, the cities have been focused on developing their own regional devolution deals working with their respective governments. The potential for a new economic powerhouse for the west will build on any devolution deals which are secured, but is purely about connectivity and collaboration. This means it would complement but not supersede any devolution deal for any area and would not impose a formal system of governance between the cities.



**GREAT
WESTERN**

**DINASOEDD
MAWR Y**



AWARD FOR NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL APPRENTICE



► Sam Shingler, centre, is congratulated by Peter Clissold, left, director of Safe and Secure Training and Cllr Deb Davies, cabinet member for Street Scene and City Services

Newport City Council apprentice Sam Shingler has been singled out for a top award.

Sam, who is employed in the Street Scene and City Services department, and who won apprentice of the year with Safe and Secure Training Newport, has now been chosen as a worthy winner of the sustainable resource management award at this year's annual Quality Skills Alliance (QSA) Apprenticeship Awards.

Sam picked up his award at a celebration evening held at Cardiff and Vale College's City Centre Campus, on Thursday 10 March.

The awards celebrate the success of the QSA's standout apprentices from over the past year.

More than 200 guests attended the event including winners and their guests, partners and providers from the QSA, along with representatives from government, education and the business community of Wales and beyond, who gathered together to celebrate all the achievements of the apprentices.

Councillor Deb Davies, Cabinet Member for Street Scene and City Services was also invited to attend the awards ceremony.

Councillor Davies said: "Many congratulations to Sam! Hugely deserved and certainly reflects how hard he works for Newport City Council. It was an honour to attend the event."

WHY YOUR RECYCLING IS SORTED AT THE KERBSIDE

There are two main ways of collecting household recycling; one system is where residents put their recyclable items in a variety of containers and it is sorted on the kerbside – this is known as a **kerbside sort**. The other method is where residents put all of their recyclable items in one container which is sorted at a different recycling facility - this is known as a **co-mingled** collection.

In Newport, recycling is collected using the **kerbside sort** system. This method has been chosen as it reduces costs and is more environmentally friendly.

Collecting materials using the kerbside sorting method reduces costs in a number of ways. The boxes used by residents are much cheaper to buy than wheelie bins or the one-use plastic bags, and the vehicles that collect the recycling are cheaper to operate than the larger bin lorries.

If all materials were collected in one container (co-mingled) they would have to be sent off site to be sorted which would cost the council an extra £150,000 to £330,000 per year.

Of the recycled materials collected from Newport residents, 99.97 per cent is sold to UK companies to be converted into energy or other products. This practice generates up to £1 million every year which helps pay wages and reduces the cost of running the service by Newport City Council.

If recyclable items were collected all in one container the income generated by the kerbside sorting method would be lost. If waste which could be recycled was sent to landfill instead it would cost £80 – £125 per tonne,

which would cost the council at least £1.4 – £1.8 million per year.

For more information on where your recycling goes you can visit www.wastesavers.co.uk

To find out more about recycling in Newport - what goes in each box and your collection days visit www.newport.gov.uk/recycling



SLIMMER BINS

Over the past couple of years residents have been given **slimmer wheelie bins for their rubbish in order to increase recycling across the city.**

There are still a number of households who are yet to receive the smaller 180l bins and these will be delivered from the week beginning Monday 22 March 2016.

Residents will not need to do anything, the bin crews will simply change any household's 240l bins for the 180l size once the old bin has been emptied.

PEOPLE IN SOUTH EAST WALES ARE MOST CONCERNED BY FLY-TIPPING, SAYS CAMPAIGN GROUP

A recent survey conducted on behalf of Fly-tipping Action Wales has found people across South East Wales are the most concerned by the sight of illegally dumped waste.

Six out of ten people surveyed from the region agreed that fly-tipping was embarrassing, the highest of any region in Wales, while seven in ten people saw fly-tipping as an eyesore.

The survey shows the work done by local authorities in the area to build awareness around the issues of fly-tipping, as Councillor Deb Davies, Cabinet Member for Streetscene and City Services at Newport City Council, explains: "We take great pride in our communities and over the last year have delivered

a number of initiatives on the ground to clear up fly-tipping and highlight the negative effects it is having on the local economy, tourism and the environment.

"We have worked tirelessly with community groups, local businesses, schools and partners in raising awareness of the impact and cost of illegal waste depositing.

"Our officers also rely on our residents to let us know of incidents which we will investigate and where necessary take legal action against proven offenders."

Gary Evans, programme manager at Fly-tipping Action Wales, added: "We work with over 50 partners, including the 22 local authorities across Wales to reduce the number of cases of fly-tipping.

"Local authorities play an important part in the prevention and clearance of fly-tipping. Newport City Council has done a fantastic job educating the community on fly-tipping and we look forward to seeing this work continue in the future.

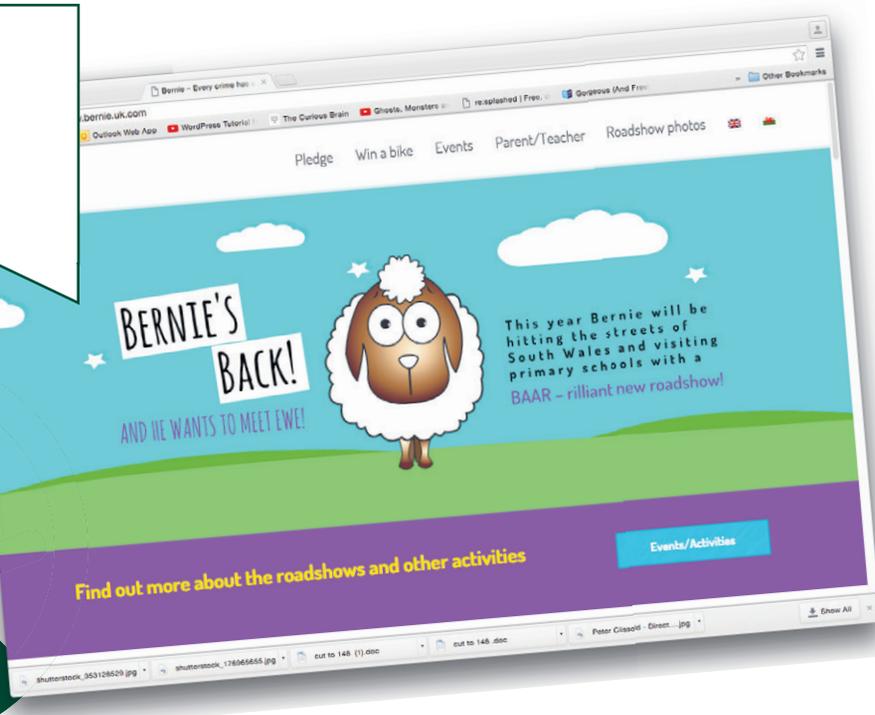
"We all have a duty of care to ensure the waste from our homes is dealt with responsibly and legally and a failure to do so can result in serious fines.

"If you require further information and advice on how to get rid of your unwanted waste please visit our website, www.flytippingactionwales.org"

To report incidents of fly-tipping or to report fly-tipped waste contact Newport City Council on **01633656656** or www.newport.gov.uk



HELP STAMP OUT GRASS FIRES



South Wales Fire and Rescue Service is keen to involve local people, especially children, in preventing deliberate grass fires.

Just before and during the Easter holiday period, there has traditionally been a rise in the number of fires across Wales stretching fire crews to breaking point.

Huw Jakeway, Chief Fire Officer, said: "Deliberately set grass fires are extremely unpredictable and can spiral out of control within minutes.

"Every time our firefighters are called out to a deliberately set grass or mountain fire, not only does

it cost the taxpayer thousands of pounds, negatively impacts on the environment, wildlife and carbon footprint and puts firefighters at needless risk, but it also means that firefighters could be diverted from attending a real emergency."

As part of this year's campaign, Bernie's Roadshow will be visiting some schools in south Wales.

However, youngsters can also become a grassroots ambassador and sign a pledge.

They can also follow Bernie on Twitter or Facebook. twitter.com/BernieSWFRS www.facebook.com/Bernieswfrs

Visit www.bernie.uk.com

GARDEN WASTE COLLECTIONS TO SPRING BACK

From Monday 14 March, Newport City Council will restart collecting garden waste. Residents are reminded to put garden waste bins out by 7am on their scheduled collection day, which is on the same week as the bag for cardboard.

The garden waste bin should only be used for garden waste including grass cuttings, leaves, shrub and hedge clippings, twigs, plants and flowers.

Garden waste bins which are contaminated by litter or other wastes cannot be emptied.

Did you know that your garden waste can also be used for compost? Composting is an inexpensive, natural process that transforms your waste into a valuable and nutrient rich food for your garden; it is easy to make and use. Compost improves your soil's condition and your plants and flowers will love it!

Further information including collection dates and advice can be found on the council's website newport.gov.uk/recycling



NetworkRail

As part of our Railway Upgrade Plan, we are working to electrify the South Wales Mainline through Newport.

This essential work means that we need to close Bridge Street Road bridge for several months this year, in order to fully reconstruct it. We will also prepare the railway station for electrification

Want to know more? Visit one of our drop-in centres:

Tuesday 15 March
10.30am – 2.30pm
Newport Indoor Market

Thursday 17 March
3.30pm – 7pm
Share Centre,
88 Stow Hill

Monday 21 March
3pm – 7pm
Stow Park
Community Centre,
1 Brynhyfryd Rd

Wednesday
23 March
10.30am – 2.30pm
Newport Indoor Market

Wednesday 27 April
Meeting 3pm – 7pm
Newport Cathedral,
Stow Hill

Thursday 28 April
10.30am – 2.30pm
Newport Indoor Market

TWO FAMILIES SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES OF FOSTERING



Picture posed by models

Could you be a foster carer? For those of you wondering what it entails we met two families who talk about their experiences and why they give up their time, their love and their home to help these troubled kids.

Steph and Ciaran have two children, a toddler and a new baby, and have been foster carers for several years. After going through interviews with the fostering panel and being thoroughly vetted the couple were approved to take youngsters aged from newborn to 18 years.

Their first foster child was a three year old boy who came to them as an emergency placement following a breakdown in his family care, but the youngster ended up staying eight months.

"Foster carers should never be a replacement family for a child who comes to you, but they do need to feel secure and cared for. We are not here to replace their parents and visits to parents, if possible, are always encouraged," says Ciaran.

The view of many people considering taking up fostering is that an older child would be more troublesome than a younger one.

"Personally, I think you can reason with teenagers and if they are not happy, talk things through," said Steph.

"I've always wanted to look after and care for people, maybe because of my childhood. As foster carers we look after a youngster's emotional needs, offer praise, comfort and a routine. Some kids have never had this in their life and many don't have a male role model so it is good that Ciaran is the main carer and I work during the day. This works really well for us and our young family."

A foster family are legally only allowed to have up to three looked after children. When the couple decided to foster they made a call to Newport City Council and a social worker visited the home to discuss the reasons behind their decision.

"We were made to think really hard about what fostering involves and the assessment is very thorough but it needs to be. You should really want to do fostering and explore all the advice and be prepared to have you own family life go under the microscope too. But the rewards are great when you see you have brought about a positive change in a child's life," said Steph.

Children are placed in foster homes for a wide variety of reasons. They could be neglected or abused, and need to learn they can be in a safe environment with a routine they can trust.

Carol and Kevin decided to foster after their two sons joined the armed forces and they had room in their large family home.

"We have always been involved in youth groups with our own sons and Kevin ran a football team for years, plus we always felt this was a large family home and we had the space. We did the training and worked with social services and while I was working we offered respite care at weekends. When I was made redundant I decided we could offer full time fostering" said Carol.

The couple were asked to have a brother and sister they had cared for on a weekend on a full time basis after their mum was taken into hospital. They knew from social workers that the children had been moved from home to home and found it hard to settle anywhere.

"We found the kids didn't value anything because they had never had their own stuff so we created a bedroom each for them. We wanted them to feel safe and part of the family while still keeping contact with their mum" said Carol.

The couple believe the children now benefit from having a good diet, a routine and know behaviour boundaries and are learning self respect.

"We've had tantrums and rows but they are just testing us out. They know we are here for them. It is a wonderful thing to see these children grow in confidence. We are fair but firm" she said.

Because of their family circumstance the children have now been placed with Carol and Kevin full time while helping the youngsters to maintain relations with their mum.

"It's a rollercoaster of emotions sometimes but we deal with things as they come up and back each other up, we are a team, we're all a team. They are good kids" said Kevin.

And advice to people thinking of fostering. Says Carol: *"It's tough at times but the rewards are great. Talk to social workers, learn the pitfalls, use your initiative and be diplomatic."*



WE NEED FOSTER CARE.



Become a Foster Carer with Newport City Council
01633 656656 or visit www.newport.gov.uk/foster



WHAT'S ON...

Newport Museum and Art Gallery
01633 656656



Until 14 May 2016

**Exhibition:
The Grosvenor School of Modern Art**

The Grosvenor School of Modern Art was founded in 1925 by Scottish artist Iain Macnab. It soon occupied a leading role in the promotion of modern print-making techniques. Today many Grosvenor School artists are best known for their bold and dynamic linocuts, then a novel technique taught by Claude Flight.

All works in this exhibition are by artists associated with the Grosvenor School. They form a part of a larger group of prints collected by Newport Museum and Art Gallery in the 1950s.

Price: **free admission**
email: museum@newport.gov.uk

**Tuesdays – Saturdays,
Until 22 April**
Stuck for something to do with the kids over the school holidays?

Why not pop along to Newport Museum and Art Gallery and do one of the free trails? Older children and families can explore the museum and art gallery displays searching for clues. For the little ones, there is a 'fairy door' toddler trail. Fun for all the family.

Price: **free admission**
email: museum@newport.gov.uk



Newport Museum and Art Gallery

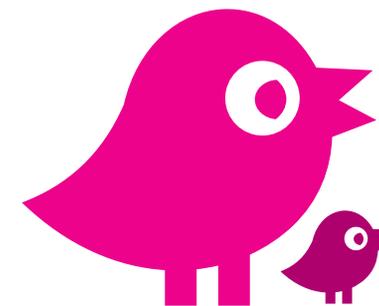
Newport Wetlands
01633 636363

Wednesday 23 March 2016
Bearded Reedling and Breakfast Walk

Take part in this guided walk and the challenge to find the most elusive birds hiding in the reedbeds, the bearded reedlings. Setting off early will give you more chance of hearing them ping, and if you're really lucky you'll see the males establishing their territories from the top of the reeds.

Price: RSPB member £5.50, non-member £7.50, includes breakfast roll and hot drink.

email: newport-wetlands@rspb.org.uk
Booking is essential.



CARE AND SUPPORT IN WALES IS CHANGING: GIVING YOU MORE OF A SAY

Care and support in Wales is changing. From April 6, people will have more say about how social services assess and deliver their care and support.

A national awareness campaign is being launched to inform people in Wales about the changes being introduced by a landmark new Welsh law, the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

It will radically transform the way social services are delivered in Wales to meet the needs of individuals and make services sustainable for the future.

The act gives people a stronger voice and real control over the support they need to remove barriers to their wellbeing. It focuses on earlier intervention; increasing preventative services within the community and helping people maintain their independence.

It provides a framework to enable people to get the help they need before their situation becomes critical. The act also promotes

integration between health and social care in order to achieve improved wellbeing outcomes and provides for a strengthened approach to safeguarding people.

The act also:

- Introduces new eligibility criteria focused on individual need, replacing the current threshold system.
- Gives carers an equal right to assessment for support to those they care for.
- Ensures easy access to information and advice is available to all.
- Keeps children and vulnerable adults safer by making powers to safeguard people stronger.
- Requires local authorities and health boards to come together in new statutory partnerships to drive integration, innovation and service change.

The national awareness campaign will be delivered in partnership with local organisations across Wales using a variety of media.



Caiff eich
GWASTRAFF
BWYD ei
droi'n **YNNI**
i bweru ein
cartrefi



Your
FOOD WASTE
is recycled into
ENERGY
to power our
homes



Ailgylchwch eich gwastraff bwyd er
mwyn pweru ein cymuned leol

Recycle all your food waste to
power our local community



recycle for Newport
ailgylchu dros Gasnewydd

(01633) 656 656
info@newport.gov.uk

