

NM
NEWPORT
MATTERS

The official newspaper of Newport City Council

**FOOD FESTIVAL
BIGGER AND BETTER
IN 2016**



Next month will see the return of Newport's popular food festival and with an amazing line-up taking shape, it promises to be the best yet!

The Tiny Rebel Newport Food and Drink Festival 2016 will boast around 80 stalls, the return of the popular Teenchef competition and expert chef demonstrations. The main activities on Saturday 1 October will centre on High Street and Newport Market, including its gallery level, and surrounding areas.

This year's festival will also boast a range of fringe events, from a Friday evening festival supper at

The Ridgeway Bar and Kitchen, to a treasure hunt, outdoor chef demonstrations and children's competitions at Friars Walk, all made possible thanks to the support of local businesses.

The main sponsor, Tiny Rebel, is hosting an exciting week-long calendar of events including a brewery tour, beer school, meal deals, live music and even a hangover club!

Coupled with live music and street entertainment on the day, there will be more choice than ever for festival visitors.

For more information see pages 3 and 6.



Councillor Ray Truman and Jayne Rose of NCH with volunteers from community group, Pride in Pill

**PRIDE IN NEWPORT
CAMPAIGN
LAUNCHED**



Newport City Council's campaign to encourage residents to care more for their environment has had a boost thanks to Newport City Homes.

The registered social landlord is the first organisation to sign up to the Pride in Newport campaign, launched earlier this year.

While the campaign covers the whole of the city, Newport City Homes (NCH), is concentrating on its tenants in

Pill and encouraging them to improve their local environment by keeping areas outside their homes clear of litter and debris.

Pride in Newport was launched to tackle the growing problem of fly-tippers dumping illegal rubbish on sites across the city which last year cost the council more than £1.6 million to clear.

The campaign is supported by the emergency services, Fly-Tipping Action Wales, the South Wales Argus and community groups

who care for the environment.

The campaign also launched a hotline number to report fly-tipping on the highway or council land which is available on a 24 hour basis – the number is 07973 698582. The council has a duty to tackle fly-tipping on public highways and land it owns. The council also has powers to require private landowners to deal with fly-tipping on certain types of land.

Councillor Ray Truman, Newport City Council's Deputy Leader and

Cabinet Member for Environment, Sustainability and Transport thanked Newport City Homes' board member and Pill resident Jayne Rose for the organisation signing up to the campaign.

"The message from the Pride in Newport campaign is that we all need to work together to keep our city as clean as possible and to tackle illegal fly-tipping."

"We are delighted Newport City Homes has signed the agreement and look forward to

more organisations coming on board," said Cllr Truman.

Jayne Rose, for NCH, said: *"I think it's an inspirational campaign which will give our tenants pride in where they live. Hopefully now the rest of the residents will get together and support the scheme."*

Pride in Newport is also using covert CCTV cameras to catch fly tippers and gather evidence with the view of pursuing culprits through the courts.

WORK UNDERWAY ON WELSH LANGUAGE SECONDARY SCHOOL

Work on Newport's first Welsh language secondary school, Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed, is well underway.

In July, the city's Mayor Councillor David Atwell, led the ground breaking on the site in Duffryn, accompanied by students, teachers and governors. Work has continued over the summer break.

Duffryn High has also reopened this month as John Frost School and is benefitting from refurbishment and extension works as part of the wider project.

The development, which is due to open in September 2018, will deliver up to 900 school places in future years, and meet the growing demand for Welsh medium secondary education.

Leader of Newport City Council, Councillor Debbie Wilcox said: "Well done to all who have worked so hard to get us to this important stage. I'm delighted that as well as a new Welsh secondary school John Frost School will have a much needed refurbishment."



Councillor Debbie Wilcox

COUNCIL WINS SOLAR FARM APPEAL

In October 2015, the council's planning committee granted permission for a solar farm in Michaelstone.

Campaign group Keep Us Rural applied for a judicial review of the decision which was won by the council. A bid for them to appeal was also subsequently refused.



Cllr Ray Truman, far left and Cllr Debbie Harvey with gardeners Justin and Andrew, Gwent Crematorium staff and representatives from the Select Committee

GREEN FLAG FOR GWENT CREMATORIUM AND BELLE VUE PARK

Gwent Crematorium, in Croesyceiliog, has been awarded Green Flag status for the first time in recognition of its beautiful gardens and floral displays.

And Belle Vue Park retained its Green Flag status in the scheme run by Keep Wales Tidy with support from Welsh Government.

Councillor Ray Truman, Deputy Leader of Newport City Council and Cabinet Member for Environment Sustainability and

Transport, praised the hard work of all those involved in making the grounds of the crematorium a peaceful haven for the bereaved.

"I would like to thank the parks department for leading on the project, the Gwent Crematorium management team, and gardeners Andrew and Justin for their hard work in creating such magnificent displays," said Councillor Truman

In a separate ceremony at Belle Vue

Park, Councillor Debbie Harvey, Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport, congratulated Newport City Council's parks department on achieving Green Flag status for the ninth year running:

"I would like to thank all the staff involved in helping to maintain this beautiful park to such a high standard and the Friends of Newport Ornamental Parks for their time and efforts to help improve our parks."

PRAISE FOR COUNCIL'S WORK WITH CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Newport City Council's approach to working with children and families, with the help of charity Barnardo's Cymru, has won high praise following an independent review.

The Institute of Public Care (IPC) recently evaluated the Integrated Family Support Service (IFSS) – the first partnership of its kind in the UK. The Institute's verdict was that it was "one of the most impressive overall models" it had seen.

Just over five years ago, the IFSS was set up with a vision to develop a range of family support services capable of

promoting child and family wellbeing and actively preventing the need for care and support.

The report highlighted a number of positive outcomes including:

- Referrals to social services have more than halved
- The rate of children in need has steadied and is low compared with similar authorities in Wales
- The number of children with disabilities requiring a child in need intervention has reduced dramatically
- Newport now has one of the

lowest and steadiest rates of looked after children per 10,000 population compared with similar authorities

- Staff recruitment and retention figures have improved significantly

Councillor Gail Giles, Newport City Council's Cabinet Member for Education and Young People, said: "The development of Newport's IFSS, in partnership with Barnardo's Cymru, has clearly prioritised the wellbeing of our young people and their families. I am delighted that independent experts have recognised and acknowledged the excellent work being done."

WE USE WELSH

Newport Matters is produced six times a year and is now fully bilingual.

New legislation was introduced earlier this year by Welsh Government, and Newport City Council is now offering its services in both the Welsh and English language.

Our social media is also now delivered in Welsh – make sure you follow or like us in the language of your choice

 NewportCityCouncil
CyngorDinasCasnewydd

 @NewportCouncil
@CyngorCasnewydd

APPLYING FOR A SCHOOL PLACE



Parents needing a reception place in Newport in September 2017 for their child born between September 2012 and 31 August 2013 should apply now.

If you want your child to attend a Roman Catholic school you should apply to them direct.

If your child is in Year 2 now you will need to apply for their junior school place in the autumn term as will parents of children due to start secondary school in September 2017.

Parents and carers can apply online via www.newport.gov.uk/schooladmissions

CREATING A DIGITAL CITY



ONS volunteer Brenda Miles, user Kerry Davies with council cabinet members

Newport City Council has taken another step forward in its commitment to create a digital city.

As the first council in Wales to adopt the Digital Inclusion Charter as a whole organisation, Newport has embraced the aim of the charter, developed by Digital Communities Wales, which is to promote digital skills and help people get online.

Councillor Roger Jeavons, Newport City Council's Cabinet Member for

Community Services, Work and Skills, said:

"Times are changing – more and more people are using the internet, mobile devices and social media to access council services and we must keep pace. Our digital strategy details clear plans on how information and technology will be used to develop better access to services, respond to the expectations of our citizens for a 24/7 council and support people to develop their skills and confidence when using such technology. Adopting this charter perfectly

complements the aim of our digital strategy."

The charter includes six pledges:

1. Ensure that all our staff and volunteers have an opportunity to learn basic digital skills, and that they take advantage of this opportunity.
2. Ensure that digital inclusion principles are embedded into our day-to-day activities.
3. Encourage and support our staff and volunteers to help other people to get online and have the confidence to develop basic digital skills, and help other organisations to embrace digital tools.
4. Commit support and resources for digital inclusion activities and initiatives in Wales in whatever ways we can.
5. Share best practice and activity around digital inclusion with Digital Communities Wales so that our activities can be co-ordinated for maximum impact and measured consistently.
6. Look to build local partnerships amongst organisations who want to share ideas and co-ordinate activities with others in their area.

Other work being carried out to develop Newport as a Digital City includes:

- Helping local businesses access superfast broadband
- Proving free Wi-Fi in the city centre, in public buildings such as libraries and leisure centres, and on local buses
- Offering support and training to help people get online. For example, Digital Fridays are drop-in sessions held at Newport's libraries where volunteers give advice and help people get more IT savvy
- Using technology within council service areas to deliver more efficient services
- Increasing the number of services that can be accessed/ requested online

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



GIVE A DOG A HOME

Newport City Dogs Home (formerly Coronation Kennels) takes in and cares for stray and abandoned dogs like Buster (pictured).



Staff look after the dogs until their owners reclaim them or until a permanent home is found. They are supported by Four Paws Animal Rescue, Friends of the Dogs (Wales) and Summerhill Veterinary Centre.

Anyone who thinks they can offer a new loving home for a dog or would like to volunteer to help at the kennels can visit www.newport.gov.uk/newportdoghome.



JOIN US FOR A FULL DAY OUT

Whatever whets your appetite, you'll be sure to find it on offer at the Tiny Rebel Newport Food and Drink Festival 2016.

Meats, cheeses, spices and preserves, breads, pastries, cakes and crepes, to pies, pasties, oils and sauces, there will be over 80 exhibitors ready to fill your fridge with delights.

Take part in the tasting events, or pick up some top tips at our chef demos. Watch the next generation of chefs battle it out in the Teenchef competition, sponsored by the Celtic Manor, under the watchful eye of Newport born Michelin star chef, Hywel Jones, patron of the food festival.

When you've worked up an appetite exploring the offering and activities, there will be plenty of refuelling choice – Asian, Greek, Italian or Welsh, burgers, pizza, paella or seafood, and of course ice cream for when the sun (hopefully!) comes out.

And we promise to keep you refreshed whether your tippie is Tiny Rebel beer, ale, wine, cider, spirits or something soft.

What promises to be a bigger and better festival has been made possible thanks to the support of local businesses.

Supporting sponsors of this year's event are Tiny Rebel, Admiral, Celtic Manor Resort, The Golden Lion Magor, Everett Tomlin Lloyd & Pratt Solicitors, and Clarks - Newport's family-run sweetener, syrup and dessert sauce business.

For more information about all the festival activities, events and exhibitors and how to book special events, visit www.newportfoodfestival.co.uk, like us on Facebook www.facebook.com/newportfoodfestival, or follow us on Twitter @NewportFoodFest.

Tiny Rebel
NEWPORT
FOOD & DRINK
FESTIVAL

OPEN 9 TO 5

SATURDAY 1st OCTOBER 2016

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HIGH STREET & NEWPORT MARKET

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SPONSORS

Admiral, Celtic Manor Resort, Friends Walk, Western Power Distribution, Everett Tomlin Lloyd & Pratt, The Golden Lion, Clarks

RESTORATION WORK CREATES NEW HOMES

Newport's Vibrant and Viable Places (VVP) projects have already brought 78 new homes to the city centre, as well as improving over 30 existing flats, and there are many more in the pipeline.

The Welsh Government awarded the city council more than £17 million under its three year VVP programme, an investment that has created or enabled over 300 jobs.

Now in its final year, the council has worked with the private and third sectors on a range of schemes which have transformed key buildings into homes,

They range from the first completed project on

Cardiff Road to a landmark building in High Street.

A large house next to the Royal Gwent Hospital which had been vacant for several years was converted into comfortable apartments thanks to a scheme by the Pobl Group (formerly Seren).

The former King's Hotel, a landmark in the city centre, has been sympathetically restored into high-quality apartments, office space and retail units.

Other schemes have included enhancements to the outside of flats in the refurbished National Buildings in Commercial Street and Newport Market. Downstairs are smart new retail units

which are occupied by some existing businesses and some new ones, including an expansion area for a children's nursery.

Pobl have another scheme which is creating impressive new homes above the shops on the upper floors of Griffin Island between Griffin Street and Skinner Street.

Other VVP projects due to start this financial year include a residential scheme in Commercial Street which will see a new and improved entrance to Park Square car park, apartments and a retail unit, creation of a new public space at the lower end of Commercial Street and refurbishments to further properties around Mariner's Green.



REGENERATION SCHEME APPLAUDED



► Artists Impression

Councillor John Richards, the council's Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Investment, has welcomed a proposed multi-million pound investment in Ringland by Newport City Homes (NCH).

It is planned to transform the area around the shopping centre into an improved community and modern hub while tackling anti-social behaviour and deprivation.

As part of a wider regeneration programme, two blocks of maisonettes in Ringland Circle and Cot Farm Circle were demolished last year.

Councillor Richards said:

"Our vision for regeneration is not just about the city centre and it is fantastic news that NCH is preparing to undertake such a significant programme of investment in one of our older estates."

Ceri Doyle, CEO at NCH said:

"It's an exciting time to be in Newport. The city is really starting to realise its potential and we know that investing in our vibrant and diverse communities will bring benefits to the whole city."

PLANS FOR CITY'S ARCADE

A first round application to the Heritage Lottery Fund towards a project to restore the historic Market Arcade has been made by the council.

One of the issues with the Grade-II listed structure has been its multiple ownership but many have recently been working with the council to try and secure its long-term improvement.

PROTECTING HOMES FROM FLOODING

Construction of a new scheme to improve flood protection for more than 660 properties in Crindau is set to begin this autumn.

Natural Resources Wales has awarded the £10 million contract to Galliford Try who had to meet several planning conditions before work can start on the ground.

NRW said the scheme would also improve the local environment and create a new amenity area.

For more info and updates visit www.naturalresources.wales/crindau



AWARD-WINNING LOFTUS GARDEN VILLAGE

Loftus Garden Village was named the best residential development at the Insider Wales Property Awards.

Pobl Group's £28 million was developed with the city council and is being constructed by Lovell.

It includes one of three co-operative housing pilot

projects in Wales. Loftus Village Association Housing Co-operative is legally responsible for the day-to-day running of 19 of the 250 affordable 'arts and craft' style homes, managed by a committee of up to 12 residents.



MANIC STREET PREACHERS TUNE IN TO NEWPORT

Planning permission has been granted for a recording studio in Newport for Welsh band Manic Street Preachers.

Newport City Council approved the conversion of a Caerleon property from a residential building into the studio.

That's certainly music to our ears.

COUNCIL BUDGET AND SERVICES

Like councils across the country, Newport has had to make considerable savings over the last few years and dramatically change the way we deliver services.

Around £48m of savings have already been made in the last five years, but we still need to find a further £24m of savings by 2020/21.

Over the next few months the council will be asking you about the things that are most important to your wellbeing both now and in the future and how you think we could do things better and save money.

This feedback, along with previous consultation responses, discussions with partners and data on the population of Newport, will be used help plan future services and shape proposals for the 2017/18 budget.

For more information and to have your say visit www.newport.gov.uk/budget



50+ INFORMATION DAY



Help and advice on a wide variety of subjects will be on offer at a 50 Plus information day on Saturday, 26 September from 10am to 3pm at Newport Centre.

Entry is free and there is a raffle and refreshments plus 80 stalls to browse and pick up useful information.

LOOKING AFTER THE LIVING LEVELS



Some people may be unaware that Newport has an iconic landscape of international significance right on its doorstep.

Communities have lived and worked on the Gwent Levels since the area was reclaimed from the Severn Estuary in Roman times

The Living Levels Landscape Partnership, which includes the council and is led by the RSPB, aims to reconnect people to this historic and vibrant place and give it a sustainable future.

It has been awarded finance from the National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery

Fund towards a conservation action plan and it is hoped that future funding will be available for the delivery of the plan.

The partnership intends to achieve its aims by forging a strong partnership with the community at its heart. The project aims to restore, protect, and tell the story of the unique landscape.

Members of the Living Levels team will be out and about in community so if you want to find out more about how you can get involved in this exciting project contact them on **01633 292982.**



Tourism in Newport last year had an economic impact of more than £286 million – a rise of 8.3 per cent on 2014, according to the latest tourism figures.

More people visited the city (2.69 million, up 4.6 percent) and with the numbers for day visits and stays also rising by 3.3 per cent and 8.7 per cent respectively.

An independent activity model, called STEAM which is used by all councils in Wales, also showed that the number of jobs in the tourism industry rose by 9.2 per cent to 3,124 (full time equivalent).

Councillor John Richards, Newport City Council's Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Investment, said:

"These latest figures demonstrate that tourism has again grown in the city and makes a significant contribution to the local economy."

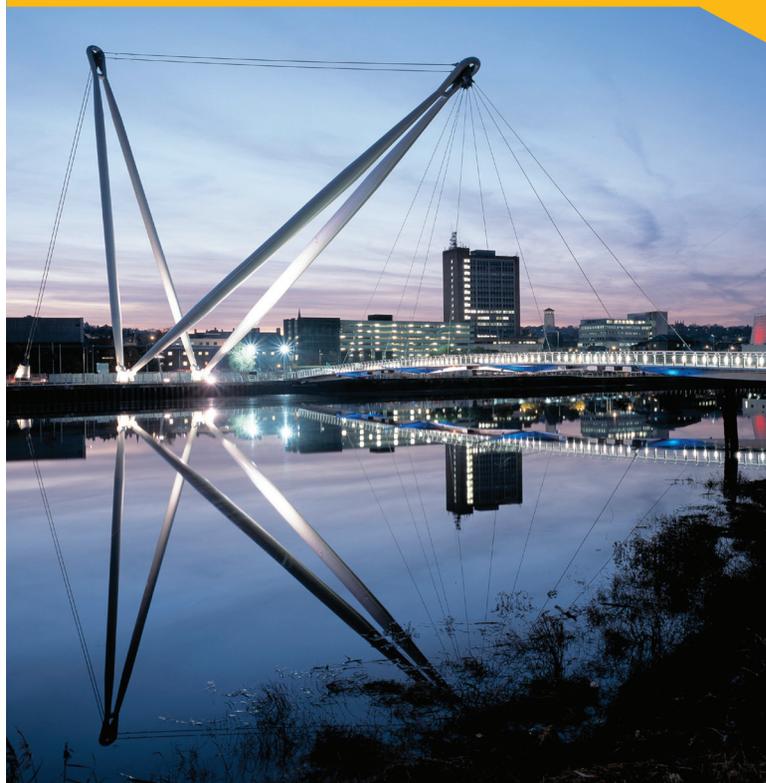
"Business tourism is an important element of the economy and the council has supported the development of the Wales International Convention Centre. It is forecast that it will benefit 1,200 bed spaces in our hotels and guest houses."

Between 2012 and 2014, there were more than 15,700 overseas business tourism visits on top of 69,000 such visits from the UK (Blue Sail south east Wales's research study 2015/16).

"Newport is well and truly on the business conferencing map," said Councillor Richards.

Among recent visitors to the city were American couple Tony and Margo Floyd who had their marriage blessed on the Transporter Bridge.

TOURISM IN NEWPORT BOOSTS ECONOMY & JOBS



Both praised the city with Mr Floyd describing local people as the most welcoming they have ever met. He added he had fallen in love with Newport and the people adding that it was like a "little slice of heaven".

Councillor Richards said:

"I would like to thank the council officers who are working hard to support the tourism industry in Newport in so many ways and also pay tribute to all those businesses and their

staff who provide such a warm welcome to our visitors."

"Newport has a lot to offer both in the city and right on its doorstep and we are doing what we can to encourage visitors to come here – and want to return."



MAYOR'S CHARITY EVENTS



Mayor Councillor David Atwell is raising money for three good causes: Welsh children's hospice Ty Hafan; armed forces charity SSAFA and Pets As Therapy.

Upcoming fundraisers include:
1 October: Choir concert, 7.15pm in Newport Cathedral
13 October: Mayoral dinner, 7 for 7.30pm, Junction 28

For more information or tickets contact the Mayor's Office; telephone 01633 413015 or email david.atwell@newport.gov.uk

SUCCESS FOR TRAINEES

Eight trainees have successfully completed a 14 month course to improve their horticultural skills.

The Heritage Horticultural Skills Scheme is backed by the Heritage Lottery Fund with support from seven partners including Newport City Council, Aberglasney Gardens, Picton Castle, St Fagans, Duffryn Gardens, Bodnat Gardens and Cardiff City Council.

The trainees have achieved a Level Two in the Royal Horticultural Society qualification and Lantra Level Three.

During their course the trainees worked in a variety of gardens including Belle Vue Park in Newport. The course means those who have graduated have developed skills which will help secure the future of heritage parks and gardens throughout Wales.

Councillor Debbie Harvey, Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport, said she is delighted Newport City Council can play its part in enabling trainees to qualify in horticultural skills.

"Belle Vue Park recently retained its Green Flag status for the ninth year running and it is due to the skills of our parks and grounds staff that the park is such a wonderful place to visit," said Cllr Harvey

CONNECTING PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY

Since it was launched in autumn 2014, a Newport City Council service to tackle social isolation has helped more than 1,500 residents, including 336 carers.

Community Connectors is a team of five, including two specifically for carers, who assist people to access services in their area, help them to meet others in their community and provide advice on the support available.

An important part of their role is keeping the community directory regularly updated and using the information in it to connect people to groups or organisations.

This invaluable online document contains the details of about 500 local organisations and can be found on the council website (details below)



▶ Rebecca Wilford and Leigh Vella with Cllr Cockeram, centre

Councillor Paul Cockeram, the council's Cabinet Member for Adult and Community Services, said: "Tackling social isolation, especially among older and vulnerable residents, has been one of my priorities. The team is able to help those who feel lonely to bridge the gap with their local community. This could be by finding activities they can enjoy with others or a group that will provide companionship and support."

Council leader Councillor Debbie Wilcox said: "I would like to congratulate Councillor Cockeram for introducing this excellent scheme and the Community Connector team for their sterling work."

For more information call 01633 235650; visit www.newport.gov.uk/communityconnectors or email communityconnectors@newport.gov.uk

DATA CHECKS FOR FRAUD

Data supplied by Newport City Council will be compared to information provided by other public bodies in order to prevent and detect fraud.

The Auditor General for Wales requires the council to take part in the National Fraud Initiative data matching exercise and to this end will provide details of the council payroll, insurance claimants, private supported care home residents, market traders, taxi drivers, council tax, parking permits and blue badge holders.

WHAT'S ON



SATURDAY | OCTOBER
9am to 5pm
High Street and Newport Market

Sponsored by:



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CLARKS
• THE NATURAL SWEETENERS •

PLEA TO DOG OWNERS

Irresponsible dog owners who allow their pets to foul the streets, parks and open spaces in the city are being targeted in the next step of the Pride in Newport campaign.

The council is reminding residents

and visitors of its 'Bag it and Bin it' campaign which tells pet owners to pick up faeces left by their dog.

Increased patrols by enforcement officers will take place in the earlier part of the day with community safety wardens

checking up on offenders in the evenings.

Enforcement officers will be approaching dog walkers and will assess whether or not the walker is acting responsibly and checking whether a dog is micro-chipped and whether it has a collar and tag.

If a walker is a responsible dog owner they may be entered into a prize competition where winners will be judged once a month.

Stencils have been appearing on pavements to get the Bag it and Bin it message across and bi-lingual leaflets handed out to enforce the message.



SMASHING NEW TENNIS COURT

Work is due to start this month on upgrading one of the tennis courts at Beechwood Park in Newport.

Newport City Council has agreed to the revamp going ahead on the court near Mrs T's café in the park.

A new perimeter fence will be put up and a new surface laid complete with tennis markings and new nets and posts.

In order for the new court to be used effectively a number of conifer trees surrounding the old court, which do not offer any horticultural or historical importance, will be felled.

The tennis court refurbishment work will be carried out for the council by W&M Garden Services Ltd.

Councillor Debbie Harvey, Newport City Council's Cabinet Member

for Culture, Leisure and Sport visited the park to see where the new court will be built.

"Tennis is a sport loved by many people, young and old, and every parent likes to see their children fit and active and taking up tennis is one way to achieve this.

"I look forward to unveiling the new court in the spring," said Cllr Harvey.

Rhys Jones, tennis development officer for Newport Live, said he learnt to play tennis at Beechwood Park courts, and is delighted the work will see the court back in action.

"The revamped court will be a valuable resource for Beechwood Park and for many local tennis players, including those who are team coach. It will be great to see it once it is back in action," said Rhys.

Keen tennis players Abbie and Ben Hastings from Newport are coached by Rhys's team and

gamely tried to have a knockabout on the old court so are looking forward to it being replaced.



▶ Councillor Deb Harvey with Abbie and Ben Hastings and members of the Newport Live tennis development team