



# Newsletter

Autumn 2017

Dear Panel Member,



Welcome to the Involve Newport Newsletter...

This newsletter provides feedback on some of the topics consulted on during the 2017 **Winter** and **Spring** Panel Surveys summarising 'what you told us' and 'what we did'. Please read on for more information!



## What you told us / What we did...

## ...Transporter Bridge

The information gained through the 'Involve Newport Survey' is being used to inform the Council's Heritage Lottery Bid for a major investment to repair and develop the Transporter Bridge. 78.9% of the people recognised the Transporter Bridge is an important Heritage Asset and that it needs support while 71% of people surveyed thought it is Newport's most recognisable landmark.

The Heritage Lottery Fund want to see the maximum community benefit from their investment and consultation and survey responses are an important requirement for the grant application. It is also helpful that such high percentages of the community recognise the importance of the heritage asset central to the bid.



## What you told us... ... What matters to you about the Gwent Levels?

The Living Levels Landscape Partnership, made up of 12 organisations and local authorities and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund to help recapture, enhance and tell the story of the unique Gwent Levels, invited you to inform our second round application, ensuring we take account of the views of local people.



There were a total of 259 surveys completed, with 75.29% of respondents answering 'Yes' to the question 'Have you heard of the Gwent Levels?'

In response to 'What do you associate with The Gwent Levels?' many people cited the Newport Wetlands Reserve area and Goldcliff with very few mentions of place names or features on the Wentlooge level between Newport and Cardiff.

Improved way-marking for walking and cycling along with conservation / restoration were what respondents would most welcome as 'activities in and around the Gwent Levels', with transport to the Levels being perceived as a major 'barrier to accessing the Gwent Levels as an area for recreation and leisure'. Access from the city to the coast, information, user conflict and safety were some of the issues raised with regards to 'walking, cycling and equestrian routes' with CCTV and awareness-raising suggested as effective actions to 'reduce the incidents and effects of fly-tipping and littering'.

Conservation and more activities to engage people with nature were popular suggestions for 'community projects' and when asked what 'iconic species' people associate with the Levels, it was encouraging to see some of the success stories such as the Water Vole featuring with rare invertebrates and flora also being highlighted. However, knowledge & awareness of the threat of 'Invasive Non-Native Species' was limited.

Finally, the Great Flood of 1607 and the influence of the Monks on the landscape were familiar 'stories, myths and legends' with a general appetite to discover more and to also learn some 'traditional rural heritage skills' such as willow work, as well as purchasing 'locally produced 'Gwent Levels' cider from restored orchards'!

## What we did...



Thank you to everyone who took the time to take part in our survey! The responses, along with other data collected, have been used to not only inform project choices reflecting community priorities but also our Landscape Conservation Action Plan (LCAP) which forms part of our second round application to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

In August of this year, the Partnership submitted the application for the delivery of 24 different projects across a variety of themes, scheduled to commence in 2018 if all criteria are satisfied. If we are successful, there will be plenty of opportunities for people to be involved in this exciting initiative and we will hopefully be consulting the panel over the next few years.

In the meantime, if you would like to find out more about the programme or tell us a story about the Gwent Levels, we would love to hear from you. Please visit our Twitter page [@ourlivinglevels](#) / Facebook page 'Our Living Levels' or give us a call on (01633) 292982.

## What you told us...

## ...City Centre: Evening & Night Time Economy

The results of the survey found that 30% of respondents never visited the city centre at night while a total of 74% never or infrequently (once every few months). Reasons given were varied including that mostly people went to eat in Friars Walk or go to the theatres / cinemas, while few went to clubs. Many cited their fear of anti-social behavioural / gangs / begging especially in Bridge Street / High Street putting them off visiting.

Regarding the last two year 36% said it had changed for the better, with 52% saying it was either better or the same. The reasons given included Friars Walk and a better choice of venues to visit, although some said the gangs were off putting, as were the volume of cars parked everywhere.

When rating areas from 1 to 10 (1 being poor and 10 being good) some of the feedback collected were as follows:

- Safe – 61% rated 5 or more with the majority on 5 (15% still rated it at 1).
- Clean – 50% rated this 4 or worse, with a further 20% rated 5.
- Good choice of eating out venues, bars and pubs – Most people rated these as good with scores of 5 or over.
- Good choice of live music – Very evenly split scores across all ratings with 5 most (36%).
- Good choice of shopping and retail venues – Skewed towards the good end of the scale, with 5 and 7 being the most popular at 17%.
- Appealing to families – Fairly even spread of scores, but skewed towards the bad end again with the most popular rating being 5 at 23%.

## What we did...

We have shared these findings with the One Newport Safer City Centre Group to inform future actions.

We have created a newly expanded city centre management team include the Police, Newport Live and Newport Now (BID). Newport Live is continuing to employ two Ambassadors who are working now until 8pm in the city centre.

The Council has installed 35 new bins, which have been put into the city centre with street deep cleans carried out during the summer.

We are set to review the city centre public space protection order, particularly in relation to combatting gang anti-social behaviour and begging, especially around cash points.

There are proposals being considered by the BID to introduce an alternative giving scheme run through local shops. This would be an alternative to giving to city centre beggars directly. Any donations would be given to a local charity to provide support to individuals in need.

The City Centre Partnership team is working towards meeting the [Purple Flag standards](#) for the evening and night time economy with a view to a submission for the award, hopefully in 2018.

**What you told us / What we did...**

**...Newport Market**

The results from the survey highlighted some of the issues that we need to improve at the Market. We are looking at a programme to completely refurbish the toilets. We are also looking to encourage more young people to visit the Market by bringing in stalls aimed at the younger age group. Generally it has highlighted some of the issues which need to be looked at in the Market such as whether the current offer is sustainable, etc.

**What you told us / What we did...**

**...Community Transport**

The survey feedback shows that many people are not happy with the bus services which are currently available but a very few percentage said that they would use a community bus service if one was set up in Newport. We do have a community bus service operating within the Newport area called 'grass routes', operating Monday to Friday further information can be found on the Monmouthshire council web site under grass routes transport.

It is great that those over 60 have a free bus pass and are happy to use it but more work is needed to be done to inform people about bus fares.

**Thank You!!!**

A big thank you to all of you who completed the Winter and Spring Surveys, we really appreciate your feedback. The final response rates for both were as follows: Winter (40%, 259 replies); and Spring (35%, 224 replies).

**Contact Us**

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