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NEWPORT MATTERS

The official newspaper of Newport City Council

WALES NATIONAL ARMED FORCES DAY

Newport will proudly host the annual Welsh celebration of our armed forces and those who serve and have served on Saturday 24 June.

Thousands of people are expected to attend the day-long event which will begin with a parade through the city centre and end with a concert featuring some very special guests.

It is an opportunity for people to show their support for the

armed forces community including veterans, those currently serving, cadets and their families.

Armed Forces Day in Wales is a partnership event between councils, Welsh Government, the tri-services – Royal Navy, Army and RAF – and other partners.

Find out more about the exciting programme for the day on page 3.



DEVELOPMENT BOOSTS FOR CITY

Completion of a key project, the opening of an impressive new footbridge and the planned opening of a new technology hub add up to good news for the city centre.

And further afield in the city, one of Newport's leading companies is relocating to a new site and creating new jobs.

As part of the regeneration of the High Street area of the city centre, the formerly rundown King's Hotel was transformed into apartments and offices. Now the Welsh Government has approved funding to complete the third phase of the scheme.

Up to £250,000 from the Transforming Towns fund will be used for King's Chambers to include four new office units, a ground floor commercial unit, a new disabled access and lift plus improvements

to the car park and courtyard.

It will complement other work that's been carried out including the restoration of Market Arcade and the refurbishment of Newport Market. Together with Newport Arcade and popular music venues, such as Le Pub, the area is being rejuvenated.

Tramshed Tech is moving into the former railway station in Queensway and will be opening its second co-working space in the city centre later this year. It already has 40 workspaces across three floors in Griffin Place.

Nearby, the impressive new footbridge, providing a safer, more accessible linking route between Devon Place and the city centre than the previous subway, has opened. Read more about it on page 2.

One of the city's most prestigious businesses, SPTS Technologies – part

of the US-based KLA group – was given planning permission by the council to expand its Welsh headquarters.

It is relocating from its site off Ringland Way to a new £80 million headquarters in Imperial Park where up to 750 people could be employed.

SPTS Technologies, which has Welsh Government "anchor" status, manufactures and sells next-generation technology for the semi-conductor and microelectronics industry, has been based in Newport for over 40 years.

Recently, the Welsh Government's economy minister Vaughan Gething, confirmed his support for the expansion of Newport's compound semiconductor cluster, and called on the UK government to prove its commitment with a fully-funded strategy to make the sector in Newport a world leader in this technology.



NEWPORT - TREE CITY OF THE WORLD



Newport City Council's tree work has been recognised with a major international award.

Newport has received tree city of the world status, a programme run by the Arbor Day Foundation and the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations.

The programme is an international effort to recognise cities and towns committed to ensuring that their urban forests and trees are properly maintained, sustainably managed, and duly celebrated.

A total of 168 cities and towns from 21 countries were recognised in 2022, with Newport one of over 50 cities earning the recognition for the first time.

The council was recognised for its management of the city's tree stock.

This includes having policies in place for maintaining trees, as well as its work managing the impact of ash dieback disease, which has impacted trees at a number of sites in the city.

Any tree affected by ash dieback has been removed by the council, with at least two new trees planted in replacement for each tree removed.

The council was also recognised for its green canopy planting ceremonies back in March 2022.

All schools in the city were invited to plant a tree as part of the platinum jubilee celebrations for Queen Elizabeth II, with special ceremonies taking place at five schools.

An avenue of trees was also planted in Tredegar Park, with 80 trees being installed alongside the active travel route which runs through the park.

To find out more information about the programme, visit treecitiesoftheworld.org



NEW RAILWAY STATION BRIDGE OPENED TO THE PUBLIC



A new active travel bridge linking the city centre to Devon Place has been officially opened to the public at Newport railway station.

The new bridge replaces the old subway, providing residents and visitors with a safer, more accessible linking route across the main railway line.

The bridge has been built to active travel standards, enabling easy use for wheelchair users, cyclists and walkers. It has been funded through Welsh government’s active travel fund.

The scheme also includes improved paving around the transport hub and incorporates sustainable drainage features that

capture rainwater and divert it to the newly installed planters.

This is the latest piece of active travel infrastructure to be completed in Newport, following on from refurbishments to active travel paths in Coed Melyn, Tredegar Park and Gaer Fort.

Speaking about the opening, council leader Councillor Jane Mudd said: *“The new bridge is going to be a fantastic piece of infrastructure for our residents and for visitors to our city.*

“Our residents had made it clear to us that a safer, more accessible link between Devon Place and Queensway and the city centre was important to them. The new bridge provides that link.

“By making it easier for people to choose active travel options when travelling to and from the city centre, we are helping to build a greener, healthier Newport for everyone.

“The bridge is also another step in delivering our wider regeneration plans for the city. Having delivered a number of key projects including the refurbishment of the historic Market Arcade and indoor market, the refurbishment of the former Post Office sorting building on Mill Street is underway and will deliver flexible commercial space which has become even more accessible as a result of the new bridge.”

The provision of the bridge has been a complex project, with a number of challenges to overcome including working

over an electrified railway line, working under the station and in the old subway.

These challenges have been overcome through the collaborative efforts of several parties. The council led the project, in partnership with Network Rail and Transport for Wales. The council team was supported by Arup, Grimshaw and Corderoy for design and project management.

Alun Griffiths Ltd were principal contractors, while Cass Hayward led on the design of the bridge, and fabrication and installation was carried out by Pro Steel of Pontypool.

PLANNING ADVICE



Do you intend undertaking any development works at your home, business or another location such as building something new, making a change to your building externally or changing the use of your building?

Then make sure you know the planning rules and understand whether you need to apply for planning permission and/or building regulations.

Detailed information and guidance are available on the website at newport.gov.uk/planning and the council also provides planning pre-application advice.

A face-to-face advice service is also available every Monday (except bank holidays) in the Central Library and Museum building in John Frost Square and a phone service is available on Mondays and Thursdays between 9.30am and 12.30pm. Telephone 01633 656656

If you need planning permission or building regulations and don’t get it, it could prove costly as it could lead to you having to remove what has been done and even legal action.

Don’t take the risk – ignorance is not an excuse.

SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES IN NEWPORT

Newport’s Family Information Service (FIS) provides free accessible information for families and childcare professionals who live or work in Newport.

If you live or work with children or young people from 0 to 20 and are looking for

childcare, information about early years education, activities for your children or parenting support, the team can help.

Whether you have just had a baby, are returning to work, or looking to stimulate your child’s social development the team can support you with searching for childcare. They can also provide advice on your child’s education options from three years old.

If you are considering a career in childcare - or already working

with children - access to training programmes is also available. Careers include playgroup leader, playworker, nursery assistant or childminder and it is possible to build qualifications as you go.

Childsplay Nursery, which has been a user of the local FIS for many years, said: *“FIS has been an incredible source of advice and training within our sector. The cost of the courses offered is affordable, which in the current economic climate is a great help to the financial side of the nursery.*

“We cannot thank the organisation enough for all the help and guidance they provided during the pandemic, but most importantly they were a listening ear and a point of support not just for us but many nurseries in our area.”

For more information on the services offered visit newport.gov.uk/fis

Alternatively you can phone 01633 210842 or email familyinformationservice@newport.gov.uk.



NATIONAL FRAUD INITIATIVE

Newport City Council has a duty to protect the public funds it administers and may use information provided for the prevention and detection of fraud.

The initiative may share this information with other bodies responsible for auditing or administering public funds.

The auditor general for Wales currently requires the council to take part in the National Fraud Initiative data matching exercise, which is carried out under the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004.

For this initiative, information from the following databases will be provided to the auditor general:

- payroll
- trade creditors payment history
- trade creditors standing data
- housing waiting lists
- electoral register
- council tax
- council tax reduction scheme
- residents parking permits & blue badges
- taxi driver licences
- concessionary travel passes

This information will then be compared to information provided by other public bodies in order to prevent and detect fraud.



For more information, please visit newport.gov.uk/finance or contact the chief internal auditor on 01633 656656



JOIN THE SALUTE TO OUR FORCES



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Service people, veterans, the Military Wives, parachutists and the Red Arrows – just some of the very special guests taking part in the Wales National Armed Forces Day in Newport.

Councillor Jane Mudd, Leader of Newport City Council, said: “We are putting together a programme of events that will showcase our armed forces and pay tribute to them.

“We hope that Newport residents and people from all parts of Wales will attend to show their appreciation for our service people, both past and present, and honour their contribution to our country.

“I would like to thank our sponsors – SNC Mission Systems UK and MJ Event Support – Welsh Government, and the Ministry of Defence for the Armed Forces Day grant for giving their backing to the event.”

Councillor Mark Spencer, the council’s armed forces champion,

said: “This will be a memorable day for the city and I’m sure residents and other visitors will give a warm welcome to the representatives of the armed forces and veterans.

“As part of the day’s commemorations we will be re-signing the Armed Forces Covenant. As well as celebrating our armed forces, there will also be time to reflect on those who made the ultimate sacrifice including a ceremony marking the loss of HMS Turbulent and her courageous Newport-born commander John Wallace Linton in 1943.”

The day’s highlights will include:

- Military parade from High Street to John Frost Square which is expected to start at 10am
- Service vehicles and displays along the riverfront from 10am with stalls inside the Riverfront Theatre

- and Arts Centre for charity and voluntary organisations that support the armed forces
- 11am – Red Arrow flypast (weather permitting)
- Approximately 11.30am – the Tigers Army Parachute and RAF Falcons display teams (weather permitting)
- 12pm – Army Activity Zone inside Rodney Parade
- 12.45pm – Commemoration of the loss of HMS Turbulent on the Riverfront

At 4pm, a concert will begin in Rodney Parade with another display by the Tigers Army Parachute Display team (weather permitting).

There will be performances by the Regimental Band and Corps of Drums of the Royal Welsh, the Royal British Legion Band of Wales Quintet, the Cardiff Military Wives Choir and the Gwent

and Powys Army Cadet Band.

During the concert, there will also be presentations of Armed Forces in Wales awards and the handover to Swansea who will be hosting Wales National Armed Forces Day in 2024.

The concert will end around 6.30pm with the Regimental Band and Corps of Drums of the Royal Welsh playing the 1812 Overture accompanied by the firing of 104th Regiment Royal Artillery guns.

Tickets can be ordered via Rodney Parade box office and collected on the day. Telephone 01633 670690 or email ticketing@dragonsrugby.wales.

All times were provisional at the time of going to press but will be confirmed closer to the date.

Full details of the programme can be found at: newport.gov.uk/armedforcesday

SUPPORT FOR THOSE WITHOUT A HOME

Homelessness or the risk of homelessness is something the council works hard to prevent as we know the terrible impact it can have on families and individuals.

However, it is dealing with an unprecedented demand for both temporary and long-term

housing. The availability of accommodation is simply not keeping pace with demand.

During the pandemic, there was an increase in the number of households presenting as homeless and this has continued because of the current financial crisis.

Those who find themselves at risk of homelessness or homeless will not be able to move straight into long-term housing and could face having to live in temporary accommodation for a significant period.

Sadly, this winter there was an increase in the number of people sleeping out and an emergency overnight provision was offered on a total of 32 occasions between 13 December and 12 March during very cold weather used by between 7 and 22 people.

Beds, bedding, toiletries and refreshments were supplied in a staffed venue in the city centre.

People were also assessed and supported to move into suitable accommodation wherever possible.

The council continues to work with a range of partners to offer support and assistance to those who are rough sleeping as well as those who are at risk of homelessness.

Find out more at newport.gov.uk/homelessness



COST-OF-LIVING SUPPORT



Many families and individuals continue to face financial challenges because of the ongoing cost-of-living crisis.

Although many will find they are using less energy as the weather improves, the government's financial support has also ended.

Newport City Council has been providing support which has included providing warm spaces in some venues and giving grants to community organisations who were doing a similar thing during the winter months.

It has also been working with schools to make a difference to the lives of children from

low-income households.

A new strategy was provides bespoke, targeted and universal approaches to tackling all aspects of poverty that impact on children and their families.

Between December and February, 150 warm welcome sessions were held across the city attended by more than 1,100 people.

Funding was also given to help food organisations who have also been struggling because of the cost-of-living crisis. A total of £100,000 was allocated to help with their costs, including equipment and food.

GAVO – Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations – gave vital assistance by administering both grant schemes.

In April, a second cost-of-living event was held in The Riverfront following one in November.

Hundreds of people attended both events, and a series of community events, where they received advice about the range of assistance that is available.

Further community events are planned and more information about these as well as support and advice to help people cope with the financial crisis can be found at newport.gov.uk/support

SOCIAL CARE WALES ACCOLADES



Two council projects were finalists/winners at this year's Social Care Wales Accolades.

The Oaklands short break service won/was nominated for the building bright futures for children and families award.

Oaklands provides short-term breaks for children with additional needs. The service supports families by providing their children with a safe, caring and nurturing family-oriented home from home.

Our community connector service meanwhile won/was nominated for the supporting unpaid carers category.

The service provides unpaid carers in Newport with advice, information and assistance.

The project team runs a carer's café, and a carers network which shares regular information with over 230 members.

www.socialcare.wales/the-accolades/

EXTENSION OF FREE SCHOOL MEALS IN SCHOOL

The Welsh Government has announced that free school meals will continue to be provided to children from lower income families in Wales during the school holidays, until the end of May half term 2023.

The extension of the provision will support lower-income families through the cost-of-living crisis, as energy and other costs are expected to rise.

Those already receiving benefits related free school meals (rather than universal free school meals) will continue to receive the payment voucher throughout the school holidays.

If you are not already claiming additional support and think you may be eligible, for more information visit newport.gov.uk/schoolmeals



CHANGES TO RECYCLING CONTAINERS

Earlier this month, we began delivering new blue recycling bags to every house in Newport.

The new bag is 60 per cent bigger than a box, which will help you to recycle more and help us increase our recycling rate as a city.

We have sent a letter and a leaflet out with each new bag to explain how the changes work.

The changes are:

- **Cardboard and paper** go in the new blue bag.
- **Glass and small electrical items** to go in your existing green box. We have also given you a sticker to go on the box to remind you what you should put in it.
- **Clothing or textiles** now go in a plastic bag, tied securely and left out with your recycling for collection.
- **Metals, plastics and food and drink cartons** go in your red bag as before.
- **Food waste** goes in your food waste bin as before.

Plastig | Plastic

Metel | Metal



Cardbord | Cardboard

Papur | Paper



Poteli a jaria gwydr
Glass bottles & Jars

Offer Trydanol | Electricals



Ailgylchu gwastraff bwyd
Food waste



Dillad | Clothes



Rhowch ddillad mewn bag wrth ymyl eich ailgylchu i'w cadw nhw'n sych.
Place next to your recycling in a bag to keep them dry.

If you want us to take away your existing blue box to be recycled, please leave it out along with your next recycling collection.

For further information, visit newport.gov.uk/recycling.



PROTECTING AND ENHANCING OUR ENVIRONMENT

CORPORATE PLAN FOCUS

In January's Newport Matters we shared with you our new corporate plan which aims to deliver an ambitious, fairer, greener Newport for everyone.

In March we focussed on the theme of education and opportunities.

This month we look in more depth at the second of the four main objectives:

Newport is a city that seeks to protect and enhance our environment while reducing our carbon footprint and preparing for a sustainable and digital future.



Why did we choose this objective?

It is important for the council, our partners, and our communities to do everything we can to protect and enhance the environment and biodiversity around us such as our parks, open spaces, woodlands, and our urban areas across the city.

This objective will focus on how we will deliver our organisational climate change plan and our local area energy plan, ensuring placemaking is integrated in new and existing buildings, homes, and services for the long term.

We will provide more support and opportunities for households and businesses to recycle and use more sustainable products.

Accessible transport and infrastructure is vital for the economy, well-being, and health

of our communities. We also need to move away from the reliance on cars and provide alternatives for people to use.

Infrastructure is also about our digital networks and how we connect with businesses, families, and public services. It is important for our communities to have easily accessible digital services and support.



How we will achieve this...



Become a net zero carbon council and city through the delivery of the council's organisational climate change plan and local area energy plan.



Transform Newport's highways and transport system to improve air quality and safety. Promote active travel across the city and south east Wales region.



Collaborate and involve developers, communities, and businesses to create buildings for working and living in that are sustainable, affordable and enhance the environment.



Collaborate and support investment into a digital infrastructure which will provide equitable access for residents and businesses across Newport.



Continue our progress as a world-leader for recycling contributing towards Wales's net zero waste goal.



Support and champion reputable businesses that comply with environmental and regulatory requirements and take action against organisations that do not.



Protect and enhance the biodiversity and environment of Newport's urban and rural communities, improving well-being and health.

For more information about the corporate plan visit newport.gov.uk/corporateplan

HELPING PEOPLE TO LIVE INDEPENDENTLY

Newport's occupational therapy service can help people who are recovering from illness, adapting to a disability, or in need of support with daily living.

The team offers information and advice on techniques, equipment and adaptations to the home.

Part of the service includes information on assistive technology which aims to promote independence, choice and control. Such technology can help those living with dementia, reduce isolation and loneliness, provide assistance with sensory loss and support with shopping. Items include fall detectors, smoke alarms, GPS watches and

smart devices and speakers.

Further information on what is on offer can be found on the council's website newport.gov.uk/telecare

You can also pop into our newly opened Smart Hub in the city centre to take a look at some of the technology.

The hub opened in April and can be found on the first floor in Newport Market.

To request an assessment for occupational therapy call 01633 656656, or email info@newport.gov.uk.



ENSURING UNPAID CARERS IN NEWPORT ARE RECOGNISED IN THE COMMUNITY



Over 6.5 million people in the UK are unpaid carers and it is likely that three in five of us will become unpaid carers at some point in our lives.

An unpaid carer is someone who cares for a relative, friend or neighbour who couldn't manage without their support. This could be due to illness, disability, mental ill health, substance misuse or frailty. They can be of any age - young carers might care for a relative by helping with cooking, cleaning, shopping or looking after siblings while older carers might care for their spouse, a relative or friend.

The council's community connectors provide a wide range of information, advice and assistance to unpaid carers in Newport to ensure they are supported to maintain their own wellbeing, enabling them to continue caring. This includes sharing information on local support services and activities, as well as providing information about voluntary organisations that can help carers to re-connect with their community.

Carers Week takes place between 6 and 12 June and the theme for this year is **'recognising and supporting carers in the community'** - encouraging communities to come together to recognise the huge contribution unpaid carers make to society.

To find out more about events for carers during Carers Week email community.connectors@newport.gov.uk or call 01633 235650. Carers can also sign up to the Carers Network to receive regular news and information.

For more information about the support available visit newport.gov.uk/carers.

STRAY DOGS NOW HAVE TWO-LEGGED FRIENDS

Run by the council, the award-winning **Newport City Dogs Home** takes in stray and abandoned dogs.

A new community group of volunteers has been established to help and support the pets being cared for by the home.

FOND (Friends of Newport Dogs) supports the home by fundraising for emergency medical care, essential equipment, food and bedding.

The caring group is also involved in long-term project such as improving the play and recreation facilities for the dogs during their stay until they find their "forever" homes.

To find out more about FOND or becoming a volunteer visit the Facebook page FOND Friends of Newport Dogs.



NEW 20MPH DEFAULT SPEED LEGISLATION

From 17 September 2023, 20mph will become the default speed in many streets across Wales.

You can now see what these changes will look like in Newport by viewing our 20mph street map.

The map shows which streets will take on the new 20mph default speed limit. It also shows which streets we are recommending have a 30mph speed limit. These have been determined using criteria set by Welsh government.

Get ready for 20mph

From 17th September, most 30mph limits will change to 20mph in Wales.

#ReadyFor20mph



MAKE YOUR SPRING CLEAN SUSTAINABLE



Springtime is the perfect time to have a declutter and clear out any items you no longer want or need. Instead of simply throwing them away so that they sit in landfill for hundreds of years, why not give them a new lease of life by donating, upcycling or repairing.

There are a number of places in Newport where you can take these items. Wastesavers Reuse Centre in Maindee and the Tip Shop at the household waste recycling centre, take unwanted items, including furniture, and sells them on for charity.

If you don't really want to part with an item but it is broken, why not take it to a repair café

where it could be fixed rather than throwing it away. Repair cafés are friendly environments so not only will you be reducing waste, you could also learn a new skill, save money and meet new people.

There are a number of repair cafes across the city, such as Re:Make Newport, Wastesavers' Repair Café and Sero Zero Waste.

Located on Skinner Street, **Re:Make Newport** opened its doors in October 2021. As part of the Repair Café Wales Network, the aim is to encourage people to borrow - not buy, and repair - not throw away. Repair sessions are held between 10am and 1pm, Tuesday to Saturday. More information is available at remakenewport.org

Wastesavers' Repair Café can be found at their Re-Use Centre in Maindee and is open from 9:30am to 12:30pm on Thursdays and Fridays. For more information on the repair café and reuse centre visit wastesavers.co.uk

Award winning **Sero Zero Waste** is a space where the local community can take action against waste through sustainable workshops, repair cafes and clothes swaps. They also provide a service where customers can reuse your containers by refilling food, personal care and household cleaning products instore. Find out more at serozero.waste.com

For information and advice on living sustainably visit newport.gov.uk/greenliving

MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO A CHILD'S LIFE WITH FOSTER WALES NEWPORT



Foster Care Fortnight, which began last week, is The Fostering Network's annual campaign to raise the profile of fostering and show how it transforms lives.

This year's theme is Fostering Communities and the campaign also showcases the commitment, passion and dedication of foster carers.

Foster Wales Newport is one of 22 local authority teams who are here for children, not for shareholders.

We want local carers so children can stay in their communities and maintain important bonds.

Children are at the heart of everything Foster Wales Newport does and the team strives to match children with the right carers for the best possible outcomes.

If you are interested in fostering, contact us for an informal chat – call 01633 210272 or email fostering@newport.gov.uk

For more information visit fosterwales.newport.gov.uk

SOCIAL CARE RECRUITMENT BUS

A new recruitment bus that looks to help people take their first steps into the social care sector is touring Gwent this year.

Visitors to the bus will be able to speak with a number of social care employers to start their careers in care.

A wide range of rewarding roles will be on offer and people will get the chance to meet and talk to people who already work

in Gwent's social care sector.

The recruitment bus will be on the road until September 2023, visiting venues across Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen.

For a full list of dates and times on where the bus will be located, visit the WeCare Wales website. www.gwentrpb.wales/wecare-wales



ABP NEWPORT MARATHON AND 10K 2023

Last month saw the return of the ABP Newport Marathon and 10k.

Thousands of runners and supporters turned out for another memorable event, which saw course records broken in both races.

Congratulations as well to Lizzie Dimond of Lliswerry Runners, who won the women's marathon race on home turf!

