



LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL

Annual Report 2011/12



Lydney

Annual Town Meeting

at

The Town Hall, Lydney

On Monday 16th April 2012 at 7.00pm

All Parishioners on the Electoral Role are invited to attend the Annual Town Meeting.



Cllr B Osborne

Mayor – Lydney Town Council

AGENDA

(Meeting to be called to Order by the Mayor)

Housekeeping

1. Apologies
2. Adoption of the previous Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 18th April 2011
3. The Mayor's Annual Report for 2011/12 (*Including Presentation to; Miss Daisy Birt, winner of the Mayor's Christmas Card Competition 2011*)
4. Annual Police Report
5. To receive the following Annual Town Council Reports:
 - ❖ Finance & Scrutiny Committee - Chairman's Report (*Cllr Pearman*)
 - ❖ Planning & Highways Committee – Chairman's Report (*Cllr Bartle*)
 - Localism In Action
6. Presentation of Lydney Town Council Accounts/Governance Statement for 2011/12 (CEO – Mrs J Smailes)
(Copy of the Public Interest Report available upon request)
7. To receive the annual County Councillors Report (*Cllr Cooksley*)
8. To receive the annual War Memorial Officer's Report (*Cllr Osborne*)
9. To note the annual Charitable Trust Reports;
 - ❖ Bathurst Park
 - ❖ Lydney Recreation Ground Trust
 - ❖ Lydney Town Hall Trust
10. To receive Community Reports (*as submitted*)
11. Public Question Time (*Questions submitted by the general public*)

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ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – 18 APRIL 2011 - 01

Present:

Lydney Town Council

B Berryman, J A Bevan, D Biddle, R Bonser, M Bowring, R D W Clarke, D Cooksley, T Glastonbury, J Greenwood, C Matthews, W J Osborne and A S Stapleton

Mrs J Smailes – Town Clerk

Miss C A Wheeler - Assistant Clerk

Cllr M Winship – Forest of Dean District Councillor

12 Members of the Public

Organisations: Friends of Bathurst Pool, Lydney Dial-a-Ride, 614 (Lydney) SQN Air Training Corps, Friends of Lydney Hospital, Lydney War Memorial Trust Lydney Tennis Club, Lydney Dramatic Society, Lydney Yacht Club, The Victoria Centre, Lydney Festival, Lydney Area in Partnership,

Cllr Berryman welcomed all present to the meeting and reminded attendees that questions may only be raised by registered electors of the parish.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Donabie and James and were duly accepted.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the Annual Assembly meeting dated 19 April 2010 were confirmed and approved as a true record and duly signed. **Moved by Councillor Bowring, seconded by Councillor Glastonbury.**

3. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES**

None.

4. **THE MAYOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2010/11** – Cllr B Berryman

Prior to making his formal report, Cllr Berryman presented the winner of the Inaugural Mayor's Christmas Card Competition, Miss A J Crane, with a framed version of her original card, plus copy of the official Mayor's Christmas Card.

Cllr Berryman then proceeded to read out his report as contained in the Annual Report publication, a copy of which was provided to each attendee.

Cllr Berryman seized the opportunity to re-iterate a statement which was made previously by the Council and published in the local press that it was standard procedure to allow all employees from previous local Councils to carry on with their Local Government Pension Scheme membership (continuous service).

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5. **THE CLERK'S REPORT FOR 2010/11** – Mrs J Smailes

The Clerk read out her report as contained in the Annual Report publication. No questions/comments were raised by attendees.

6. **ANNUAL POLICE REPORT FOR 2010/11** – Superintendent Phil Haynes

Superintendent Haynes thanked the Council for inviting him to attend the meeting and apologised that the Lydney Beat Manager had not be able to attend the meeting due to an incident. Superintendent Haynes informed attendees that PS Carl Bourne was in charge of the Lydney Police station: he understood that PS Bourne was doing a good job and it was intended that he would remain at Lydney.

Whilst Superintendent Haynes stated that the crime level for the Town was relatively low, he would not be happy until the crime figures were zero. Furthermore, that a high amount of attention had been focused on anti- social behaviour in the Town and the Police would continue its policy of partnership working with the Safer Community Team and local youths.

Q – Has any progress been made regarding the Police Station?

A – A consultation event took place a number of weeks ago; the comments will be fed back to the Police with a decision taken on 2 May 2011.

Q – I note that 40% of crime has been detected. How does this compare to the national standard?

A – We do not measure against the national standard and 21% detection was considered to be good. Some of the crimes we see are crimes that people do not wish to report, but they are reported. A 40% detection rate is considered very good.

7. **ANNUAL COUNCIL REPORTS**

Planning Committee

Cllr Glastonbury read out his report as contained in the Annual Report publication. No questions/comments were raised by attendees.

Finance & Personnel Committee

In the absence of Cllr James, the Clerk informed attendees that the Annual Report publication contained a report from the Chairman of the Finance and Personnel Committee, as well as an explanation of the Year End accounts.

During her presentation the Clerk confirmed that the errors in the Council's financial governance should have been identified years ago, but she stressed that the Council relied heavily upon its Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer and the Independent Auditor to draw its attention to any areas of weakness/potential "risk" to the "public purse". The Clerk felt that the errors had been mainly due to a lack of training of staff and Councillors; she stressed that the Council was working hard to ensure that this was addressed and that it was open and transparent, and had demonstrated this by providing members of the public with financial information upon request. The Clerk also stated that the Council accepted the criticism which had been directed towards it, however it had no choice but to increase its Precept and it was hoped that the new Council would be able to move forward in May having implemented numerous financial and procedural control measures.

8. **PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS FOR 2010/11**

This matter was addressed as part of the previous agenda item.

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9. **COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT** – Cllr D Cooksley

Cllr Cooksley presented his report which had been contained in the Annual Report publication. Cllr Cooksley stated that Gloucestershire County Council had been involved in discussions with users of the Naas Lane Community Centre to discuss the future public use; it was looking to implement a surface dressing system to protect the roads; it was committed to recycling 60% of the counties waste by 2020 and that it was committed to enabling people to remain in their own homes as long as possible.

Cllr Cooksley offered his thanks to the Clerk for all her hard work in dealing with a number of issues in an efficient and effective manner.

Q – Are you able to provide an update regarding Lydney Bus Station?

A – No decision has yet been made regarding its disposal and when further information is received it will be dispersed.

Q – It was stated that Gloucestershire County Council were looking at youth provision, yet facilities were being targeted at Naas Lane. What is happening?

A – A discussion is taking place with user groups at present to see if they are willing to take the building on.

Q – Is this being done through the Town Council?

A – The Town Council is assisting (through its officers), but the Town Council is not taking on the building itself.

Q – What about funding obtained through s106 agreements?

A – This may be a possible avenue, but each development has to reach certain “trigger points” before funding is released and a decision has to be made on Naas Lane by 1 June 2011.

Mr Hobman stated that the Centre was very dear to the Town. Cllr Berryman stated that he would personally like the user groups to band together to take on and run the building as a collective group and that the Town Council would be willing to assist with the formation of such an enterprise.

10. **INDIVIDUAL COUNCILLOR REPORT** – Cllr Osborne

Cllr Osborne presented his War Memorial Officer’s report which had been contained in the Annual Report publication. No questions/comments were raised by attendees.

11. **REPORTS FROM CHARITABLE TRUSTS**

Bathurst Park

Cllr Bowring presented his report which had been contained in the Annual Report publication. No questions/comments were raised by attendees.

Lydney Recreation Trust

Cllr Biddle presented his report which had been contained in the Annual Report publication. No questions/comments were raised by attendees.

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Lydney Town Hall Trust

Cllr Clarke presented his report which had been contained in the Annual Report publication. No questions/comments were raised by attendees.

12. COMMUNITY REPORTS

Friends of Bathurst Pool – Mrs S Berryman

Mrs Berryman presented her report which had been contained in the Annual Report publication. No questions/comments were raised by attendees.

Royal British Legion, Lydney Branch – Mr M Rudge

Mr Rudge presented his report which had been contained in the Annual Report publication. No questions/comments were raised by attendees.

Friends of Lydney Hospital – Mr A Midgley

Mr Midgley presented his report which had been contained in the Annual Report publication. No questions/comments were raised by attendees.

Lydney Dial-a-Ride – Mr D Biddle

Mr Biddle reported that the Dial-a-Ride had had a very successful year, with all minibuses involved with transporting special needs children to school. Furthermore, that their forecast for the year stood at £300,000.

Lydney Festival – Mr D Biddle

Mr Biddle stated that it was hoped that SARA would provide a demonstration during the festival event at the Lydney Docks and that high tide would be at 9.00 am on 18 June 2011.

Q – How do you find the time and energy to organise the Festival?

A – We do have a small committee to organise events and we have been successful in our efforts to obtain some sponsors this year.

13. QUESTION/ANSWER SESSION

Prior to taking questions from attendees, Cllr Berryman stated that the Audit Commission had been requested to investigate the financial governance/procedural protocol of the Town Council. The Council would be charged for the work involved in conducting such an investigation, the total cost was therefore unknown at this stage.

Cllr Berryman then drew attention to two items of correspondence which had been received relating to the meeting:

Mr B Lennon

E-mail congratulating the Council on installing new pieces of play equipment at Primrose Hill Meend. Mr Lennon felt that involving children in the decision making process had been inspired as they all seemed to be delighted with the outcome.

Cllr Berryman stated that the scheme had involved members of the public, Primrose Hill School, Ms Kate Wyatt (Forest of Dean District Council), himself and Cllr Bonser.

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Ms M Jones

Letter expressing anger over the increase in the Council Tax. Why was there no insurance to cover the situation with the former Town Clerk? Who were the persons who did not ensure that the correct insurance was in place? Will the persons who employed the former Clerk be standing for election in May and will their names be published?

A – Insurance against the ill-health of the Clerk was not available until 2011 – this has now been taken out by the Council. All minutes, which may be examined, are available in the Town Council offices. Five Councillors were on a Sub-committee which was responsible for employing the Clerk, these being Cllrs Hobman, Bowring, Biddle, Bartle, Preest, although Bartle, Biddle and Preest gave their apologies and did not attend the Clerk's interview. Cllr Berryman then proceeded to read out the names of candidates who were seeking election in May.

Cllr Berryman advised that the Council had also received a letter from Mrs S J Crabbe stating that the Council tax had increased by £120 per year. Cllr Berryman advised that the Council Tax for a Band D property had increased by £2.35 per month (£27.10 per year); that the Council had replied to all letters received and had included details of its Precept with its response.

The following questions were then raised by attendees:

Q – Why has the Council Tax increased by 24%?

A – The Council has already provided an explanation for the increase. The Council was required to comply with the law once a decision had been taken to allow the former Clerk to retire on ill health grounds.

Q – Will our Council Tax go down next year?

A – The amount of the Council's Precept request is dependent upon the service it provides to residents and the necessity to remain pro-active for the benefit of Lydney as a whole. The Council is in your hands as to what services you expect to see in the future. It is noted that the Localism Bill will have an impact on service delivery and delegated powers to the Council. The total budget and the Precept derived will be a matter for the next Council to decide.

Q – I note that the Council will need to put £75k back into its General Reserves. Surely it doesn't have to be put back in one year?

A- The Council was offered the ability to spread the cost of the former Clerk's ill health retirement over a number of years, but it would have been required to pay an additional £8k in interest charges.

Q – The payment of £150k is due to a mistake which was made years ago. I feel that Alan Preest is being made a scapegoat and the situation would not have been brought to light without him, or the problem would have been ignored.

A – The Council, once it had formally agreed upon appointing the former Clerk, were then legally bound to allow continuous service and to allow the employee to transfer their pension. Insurance against ill-health retirement was only available from April 2011.

Q – I note that it may cost in excess of £2,500 for the External Auditor and I feel that if the Council had spent a similar amount several years ago it would have saved money.

A – The Council has worked hard to resolve a number of issues and as mentioned, relies heavily on its Officer and Internal Auditor for advice. If problems are not highlighted to Council it is

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“blind”. Councillors were made aware of a number of issues as soon as they had been discovered by the Acting Clerk (now the Clerk) in September 2010 and a number of actions had therefore already been addressed by the Council/Acting Clerk prior to the instigation of the external investigation requested by Mr Preest.

Cllr Osborne re-iterated that the ill-health insurance had not been available to the Council prior to 2011 and the Town Council was one of the first Councils to take out such insurance. Cllr Osborne stated that he was on the Council at the time of the former Clerk’s appointment and she was appointed on the same terms as her predecessor. The Council addressed a number of issues as soon as they were brought to its attention by the current Clerk and it insured against ill-health retirement at the earliest opportunity.

Q – I feel that the problem is that the Council did not do anything about the mistake. It needs to recognise that action needs to be taken about this.

A – Whilst it may appear that the Council was in a rush to pay the £150k ill health retirement cost relating to the former Clerk, you should be aware that the former Clerk had already worked for a number of years at the District Council and as such had paid in to her “pension pot”. The former Clerk had been permitted to “transfer in” her pension entitlement when she joined the Council and when she left the Council on ill health grounds there was a pension deficit. The amount of the deficit was determined by Gloucestershire County Council Pensions Department as they administer the LGPS locally – the Council had no control over the amount and no part in calculating the sum due.

Q – The former Clerk was already paying into a pension pot and I suggest that the pot had been forgotten. I feel that the former Clerk’s pension should have been taken from her pension pot.

A – If the former Clerk had reached normal retirement age her pension would have been funded from her pension pot, but the former Clerk had to leave before her normal retirement age hence the deficit.

Q – How will the amount be paid for? Will it be continuous?

A – The Council do not become involved in administering the sum, the Council’s total and final involvement is the payment it is legally required to make to Gloucestershire County Council regarding the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Q – Does this mean that the Precept will reduce next year?

A – The Precept is a matter for the next Council to consider.

The Clerk informed attendees that the Annual Report publication included a copy of the Draft Annual Return which had been submitted to the External Auditor, Moore Stephens. The Clerk stressed that the information was not normally included as part of the Annual Report publication, but the decision had been taken to include it at this time and to produce similar each consecutive year. Furthermore, she stressed that Moore Stephens would produce their own report detailing the outcome of the investigation, the contents of which would be made available to members of the public. The Clerk advised that the Moore Stephens report would identify any weaknesses and also detail the actions which have since been taken to address the situation.

Q – Why did the former Clerk not receive a reduced pension?

A – The former Clerk had to be medically assessed prior to being awarded. The possibility of

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part-time working was also investigated and all avenues of enabling the former Clerk to return to work had been exhausted prior to the arrival of the current Clerk.

Cllr Osborne thanked those residents who had attended the meeting, but was disappointed that Councillors had outnumbered residents. He hoped that in the future attendance would increase as members of the public once again became interested in the Town Council's affairs and its renewed approach. Furthermore, Cllr Osborne stated that Council meetings were open to members of the public, but that he was disappointed that only four members of the public had taken the opportunity to attend.

Mr Hobman expressed concern that the former Clerk may be crippled for life and he felt it was unfortunate that the Council had not been able to take out insurance against ill-health retirement prior to 2011. Nevertheless, Mr Hobman was unhappy that the former Clerk was being vilified and he stressed that ill health retirement was evident in the private sector, as well as the public sector, and that wherever it occurred the employer faced a financial cost. Such cost was normally covered by an organisation's profits in the private sector, whereas the Council was only able to meet such a demand through the Precept/General Reserves.

Q – Will the weeds in the Town going to be sprayed? What is happening about the wall at the Town Hall?

A – The weeds will be sprayed by a Contractor and the area maintained by the Town's Ground Staff.

14. CLOSE

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm.

Town Mayor's Report

The past year has been my first term as Mayor of Lydney Town Council, following election last May.

It has been a very busy and productive year and I have enjoyed working with the seven new Councillors and the seven who were re-elected. Whilst the resignation of several Councillors resulted in a cost to the electorate because of the 'call' for a Bye-election, at least democracy confirms interest in the Town Council's affairs. I am pleased to report that the Council now has a very useful spread of experience and skills which it exercises during its decision making processes and I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for their dedication and hard work throughout the year.

As most are aware, Lydney Town Council's previous financial administration was investigated by the External Auditor - Moore Stephens. Council believe the report published to be fair in content and that it provided a balanced overview which illustrated the stringent financial procedures implemented and the measures taken by our Chief Executive Officer since commencing her employment in September 2010. At this point I would therefore like to lodge a vote of thanks to; Jayne Smailes, Chief Executive Officer/Responsible Financial Officer, Carol Wheeler, Executive Officer and Hilary Exton, Finance Assistant for their tireless efforts which have resulted in Lydney Town Council now being in a strong financial and procedural position. The Council can now start to move forward with added confidence, safe in the knowledge that it is at last addressing and resolving issues in a correct, professional manner. The Council is now also in a strong position to lobby external bodies; which include the Forest of Dean District Council, in order to ensure the voice of Lydney's electorate is well and truly heard. With major changes underway in local government, the new Localism Act is targeted on moving key decisions closer to the local community therefore we currently await consequential regulatory changes with considerable interest and will take advantage of such measures which will improve our local community.

It is true to say that the present uncertain economic outlook creates major challenges for our town and its many residents, however strong and united communities are those which have successfully weathered storms - for a community to thrive we all need to be involved in shaping Lydney's future and so please do not be shy of approaching the Town Council, you may even wish to consider being co-opted on to one of the Council committees or a working party, thereby playing an active part in such decisions!

Finally, my report would not be complete without extending a vote of thanks to the Ground Staff and Town Hall Trust Staff who work hard to ensure the Town Council/Trust facilities remain in pristine condition.

Bill Osborne - Mayor

Police report for Lydney Annual Parish Council Meeting

Crimes

- The number of crimes that have taken place across Lydney has reduced from 476 to 410 (66 fewer crimes).
- Statistics suggest you are 16% less likely to be a victim of crime than the same period the year before.
- The chance of having your crime formally detected has reduced from 33% to 30%. The target is to keep this figure above 30%.

Crime Comparison Statistics for Lydney Parish Council
01APR2011 - 30MAR2012 Compared With 01APR2010 - 30MAR2011

Crime Class	Crime 01APR11 30MAR12	Crime 01APR10 30MAR11			Detection Rate 01APR11 30MAR12	Detection Rate 01APR10 30MAR11
Violence	86	100	-14			
Sexual offences	6	7	-1			
Robbery	2	2	0			
Burglary	61	63	-2			
Theft	145	175	-30			
Fraud	7	10	-3			
Criminal damage	84	95	-11			
Drugs	13	20	-7			
Other notifiable	6	4	-2			
=	410	476	-66	16% reduction in crime	30%	33%

Incidents

The number of incidents that get called to police regarding your areas gives an indication of the amount of requests for help or support we receive from your residents. Every incident gets categorised but categorisation is subjective thus you cannot extrapolate any meaningful information from the call grouping.

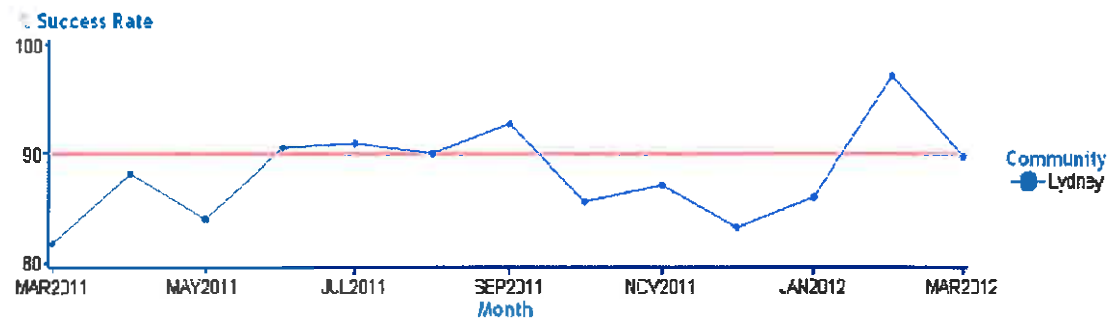
- All you can say from the below is that amazingly we have received the same number of calls from your residents over two consecutive year periods.

Incident Comparison Statistics for Lydney Parish council
01APR2011 - 30MAR2012 Compared With 01APR2010 - 30MAR2011

Call Category	01APR2011 to 30MAR2012	01APR2010 to 30MAR2011	% Diff
Alarms	0	41	
Asb	523	554	
Crime	473	546	
Admin	215	186	
Public Safety	661	599	
Road/Traffic	291	237	
=	2163	2163	0%

Lydney Response times

The Force response time target is to attend emergency requests for help to your residents within 20 minutes. We aim to get to every incident of this nature within this time but accept that occasionally we will fail thus set a target of 90% which is the red line below. We have had 567 incidents that required urgent response and we have averaged getting to the scene on time 502 times thus hitting 88.5% target rate.



Lydney Police Issues

- We have still not decided where a potential Police Information Point will be sited if the Police Station were to close. We have no decision date on this question. The locations that have been suggested are;
 - Library
 - Firestation
 - Youth Centre Naas lane
- We would happily engage with your Councillors if you wanted to conduct Public Councillor Surgeries.
- Your local Officers are still the same; Inspector 627 Richard Boyles, Ps 425 Carl Bourne, Pc 1771 Kate Croudace, Pcs0 49206 Mary Skinner, and Pcs0 49125 Mike Shuttleworth.

SARA PLANS

There are currently two live SARA plans in Lydney.

- 1 – ASB Driving in Lydney, Jan 2012. All beat managers have recently been trained to operate hand held speed cameras. Regular patrols are being conducted of Church Road, Whitecross Road and the local car parks in Lydney. Pcs0's will ASB be trained to issue Section 59 notices which should help us seize vehicles.
- 2 – Drug dealing in Lydney, June 2011. There has been a large amount of intelligence submitted by the local Lydney officer's over the last eight months. Numerous warrants have been executed as a result of this intelligence. A new camera has also been installed at Harrison Way aiming to curb drug dealing and ASB.

Finance & Scrutiny Chairman's Report 2011-2012

I assumed the Finance Chair only in December 2011 having joined the Council in the November. I did however have the benefit of regular attendance at meetings since the May elections, thus being well informed as to the conduct of Council business throughout the period, and I would like to give credit to my predecessor for managing what was still a very difficult time following the second half of the previous financial year.

We have now received the Public Interest Report from Moore Stephens, fully accepted the contents of same, held the required Public Meeting, and I believe drawn a line under this sorry period. Coming out of this process we now have a very positive message to share with the electorate regarding the crucial areas of governance and financial management, having proper systems and controls in place in these key areas, assiduously administered

In spite of having to contend with extra costs such as CCTV and election costs being handed down from FODDC we have managed to halt the decline in General Reserves, and moving forward we have plans in place to further strengthen the situation by proper budgetary processes. Part of this work will be done via a new Business Plan Working Party tasked with bringing to the Finance Committee recommendations to be included in the 5 year plan, a crucial part of their remit being to consult with the electorate across a wide range of issues to enable us to target our efforts and spending to those projects that are important to the whole community. This process of dialogue with the electorate will automatically raise the level of transparency of the Council, another crucial improvement area.

We now have a settled team in the office, and it has been one of the pleasures of my role to work alongside the staff in all aspects of the Council's business. Particularly pleasing is the commitment to training and ongoing development of all staff members. This development of our staff is in my opinion the best investment Council makes and the real returns on this investment will accrue over the coming months and years. We have already commenced the process of recruiting an Apprentice/Office Junior via a government sponsored scheme in order to ease some of the pressure in the

short term, and to enhance the service to the public in the medium to longer term.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all my fellow Councillors and the staff for all the help and encouragement I have received since joining Council, and especially the confidence shown in me when electing me to Chair of Finance & Scrutiny.

In summary, a difficult year, but I believe we now have a sound financial and procedural base on which we can build and face with confidence the obvious and perhaps unexpected challenges in the future.

Cllr Brian Pearman

Chairman

PLANNING AND HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

2011-2012

As most of you will know, all planning applications that come before Lydney Town Council are scrutinised by the Planning Committee which consists of seven Councillors with material considerations then passed back to the Forest of Dean District Council in order that they may make the final decision.

The largest development started last year with its controversial entrance off Lydney By-pass was Higher Lydney Park which is a 49 acre site and has planning permission for 600 homes.



Stage One, Oakdale, which is now under construction will have 54 homes for sale and 80 affordable homes and Stage Two, 24 homes for sale and 40 affordable.

It is very encouraging to see that the builders, Kiers, are using local procurement and I have been informed by them that 80% of all sub-contract work is being given to local businesses in the Forest of Dean. They have also appointed six local apprentices who are being directly employed by them.

The next largest development in Lydney with planning consent is 47 houses off Highfield Hill. Both Lydney Town Council and the Forest of Dean District Council objected to this application on highway grounds but were overruled when the developers appealed and the Inspector ruled in their favour.

The Planning Committee now also consider/address Highway issues passing back our recommendations to Gloucestershire Highways who make the final decision. The Town Council, however, entered into a Winter Maintenance contract with Gloucestershire County Council and now actively address priority areas during inclement weather conditions.

We have four priorities at the present time and they are:

- 1) The roundabout on the Lydney By-pass which has already caused five accidents
- 2) The link road from the By-pass into Town which was promised to Lydney when the By-pass was completed in 1995 (17 years ago)

- 3) Signage from our Rail Station to the Town Centre and the Docks which at present is totally inadequate
- 4) The level crossing where Network Rail are demolishing the signal box and installing automatic barriers controlled from Cardiff

Our prime concern remains that of safety and we have asked Network Rail (again) for a footbridge and/or the existing tunnel to be re-opened. At present there is no safe way to cross the lines for pedestrians and once the barrier is closed there is no way to access both platforms.

Cllr John Bartle
Chairman

LOCALISM IN ACTION

On 29th March, 2012 several Councillors and the CEO from Lydney Town Council attended a Presentation given by the FoDDC in partnership with GAPTC at Council Chambers, Coleford on the Localism Bill. The evening was split to encompass two elements: *Planning Reform and the Abolishment of the Standards Board*

There are many significant changes within 'local' government providing numerous opportunities for Parish and Town Council to play a larger part in shaping their local communities.

One of the most noticeable changes is a reform of the current Planning system, Presentation for which was addressed by **Group Manager - Planning and Housing - Mr Peter Williams**

Neighbourhood Planning

The following categories were discussed -

- Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDP) - Produced by the community and agreed by public referendum.
- Neighbourhood Development Orders (NDO) - Produced by the community and agreed by referendum - this then provides the local Parish/|Town Council to 'shape' its local community
- Community Right to Build (CRB) - Subject to referendum.
- Pre-application Involvement - Only applies to developers of 200+ houses (similarly for commercial development)
- Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) - This is in its early stages of definition; similar to S106 (which will stay but will be limited).

The **Neighbourhood Development Plan** is 'localism' with a positive emphasis.

Whilst NDPs must fit in with the National Planning Policy Framework which will be published this week and supports sustainable development (Growth) it must also fit in with the Local Plan/Local development Framework produced by the District Council.

The FoDDC have a legal duty to support (providing Officer and Advisory assistance) any Parish, Town or Neighbourhood Group who wish to produce a NDP.

So, what are FoDDC doing? Apart from their day job, they are producing the Allocations Development Plan Document (ADPD). FoDDCs Core Strategy Document was adopted Feb. 2012 with sustainability up to 2026, and from this an Area Action Plan for Cinderford has already been completed and formally adopted with Lydney's

ADPD available early 2014, defining what will go where. It will provide 1 process, 1 set of strategy procedures and 1 examination process.

The question posed was - "Is the ADPD a viable alternative to a neighbourhood Plan (i.e local involvement - to what level is unknown) or does Lydney Town Council want to develop its own neighbourhood plan which will require involvement of the local community in its development and acceptance?"

- *If the second option is the choice, then there will be a cost involved (however Government grants up to £20,000 are available)*
- *The process could also be time consuming, depending upon the documents complexity/number of policies included, taking up approx. 2 years to complete.*

The decision as to whether to compile a NDP will formally be considered by Lydney Town Council at the next Full Council meeting in May and FODDC have been advised to this affect.

Miss Claire Childs, FODDC Legal Team Manager FoDDC - Standards

There will be a new Code of Conduct with a statutory duty to promote and maintain high standard of Councillors behaviour which is to be based on the 10 Nolan Principles - whilst there will be no need to give an undertaking to comply with code it is envisaged that most 'local (Parish/Town Councils) will make the adoption of their 'tailored' Code of Conduct mandatory by requiring Councillors to adopt as part of their Standing Orders.

It is anticipated that there will be a Countywide acceptable Code of Conduct which will be consistent with the following principals -

- Selflessness
- Integrity
- Objectivity
- Accountability
- Openness
- Honesty
- Leadership

Other topics covered were;

- **Councillor misconduct**

FODDC will still address Councillor misconduct. The Monitoring Officer will attempt to resolve complaints informally where possible, however there are

no powers bestowed upon the District Council to conduct hearings or impose sanctions - *details to follow*

- **Register of interests**

The concept of '*personal and prejudicial*' interests have been abolished, instead regulations will define disclosable '*pecuniary*' interest (DPI) including that of Spouse, Civil Partner or someone living with the Council Member with the Monitoring Officer being required to maintain a Register of Interests which must be made publicly available and displayed on the District/Town Council's own website.

DPI's are similar to prejudicial interests with the following differences;

- If DPI registered, no need to disclose at meetings.
- When unregistered but disclosed, must be registered within 28 days
- If attend meeting and aware of DPI, must disclose, even if they withdraw from meeting

Criminal sanctions now apply if Councillor;

- Fails to register pecuniary interest within 28 days of taking office
- Fails to declare PI at meetings
- Fails to register with 28 days of disclosure
- Participates in any discussion or votes in which member has Pecuniary Interest
- Makes an executive decision in which member has Pecuniary Interest

The aforementioned may result in a fine up to £5000 and/or disqualification for up to 5 years.

Predetermination

Section 25 of Act came into force 15 Jan 2012, the effect of this Section is to make it clear that just because a Councillor has a given view on an issue it does not automatically follow that the Councillor has a closed mind on the matter. There is still a common law bias however, that it is best to issue a disclaimer showing that a Councillor still has an open mind.

LOCALISM - In Summary

This is a huge 'Act' which grants a number of powers to Communities, individuals and Local Councils, allowing communities to work together, bestowing the ability to provide and deliver a choice of services locally!

Lydney Town Council now need to consider what this could mean for Lydney!

LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL

FINANCIAL STATEMENT -

MARCH 2012 - YEAR END

Opening Bank Balances as at 1st April 2011

LLOYDS BANK - Current	00101278	36,451.11
LLOYDS BANK - General Reserve	01290309	31,811.96
General Reserve (Earmarked Reserves - S106)		29,191.50
General Reserve (Lydney War Memorial)		1,143.00
	Bank Balances	98,597.57

PAYMENTS

Payments APRIL	19,095.48
Payments MAY	95,782.98
Payments JUNE	38,649.68
Payments JULY	20,873.95
Payments AUGUST	25,734.02
Payments SEPTEMBER	24,613.90
Payments OCTOBER	48,756.11
Payments NOVEMBER	32,746.88
Payments DECEMBER	19,797.30
Payments JANUARY	17,623.94
Payments FEBRUARY	31,069.84
Payments MARCH	36,498.69
Payments MARCH (post Mtg/prior to Year-End)	15,040.01

Total Payments YTD 426,282.78

Detailed below

RECEIPTS

Receipts APRIL	207,851.92
Receipts MAY	1,058.96
Receipts JUNE	2,226.57
Receipts JULY	3,055.70
Receipts AUGUST	3,956.45
Receipts SEPTEMBER	195,965.96
Receipts OCTOBER	11,018.17
Receipts NOVEMBER	11,573.20
Receipts DECEMBER	1,767.53
Receipts JANUARY	10,763.64
Receipts FEBRUARY	2,467.08
Receipts MARCH	3,097.14

Total Receipts YTD 454,803.12
Total 127,117.91

Receipts Summary attached

Reconciled Bank Statements as at end

March 2012

LLOYDS BANK - Current account		14,186.68
LLOYDS BANK - Earmarked Reserves:		
S106	29,191.50	
Lydney War Memorial	1,318.00	
Primrose Hill Play Area	8,000.00	
Playbuilder Grant from FoDDC (Zip wire)	634.00	
Outdoor Gym (£10k+E2k VAT:Prev Maths Prole Cemetery)	25,000.00	64,143.50
LLOYDS BANK - General Reserve	48,787.73	112,931.23
Bank Balances as 31-Mar-12		127,117.91

Bank Statements attached

(E) RESERVES & EARMARKED RESERVES

0.00 check

MARCH YEAR END PAYMENTS

Payments made by Direct Debit/Standing Order in month

Fuel Genie	69.00	Monthly	DD	LGA1972 s112
Tate Computer Technology	62.40	Monthly	STO	LGA1972 s112
Dean Truck Repairs (Lease RJ57 RFX)	180.00	Monthly	STO	LGA1972 s112
British Telecom (22.12.11-29.2.12)	713.65	Quarterly	DD	LGA1972 s112
	1,025.05			

Spending Power

Payments made prior to year-end

PWLB	7,643.43	Half Yearly	6587	LGA 1932 sch13
A4 Office Products	63.11	Monthly	6588	LGA1972 s111
Forest Equipment Services Ltd	862.52	Monthly	6589	Litter Act 1983 ss 5.6
Forester Newspapers Ltd	199.80	Ad hoc	6590	LGA1972 s111
Forest of Dean & Wye Valley Review	756.00	Ad hoc	6591	LGA1972 s111
Konica Minolta	489.79	Quarterly	6592	LGA1972 s111
Lydney Town Hall Trust	55.00	Ad hoc	6593	LGA 1972 s 134(4)
Moore Stephens	388.80	Ad hoc	6594	LGA1972 s111
Imagitec	366.00	Ad hoc	6595	LGA1972 s112
P & L Security	116.00	Ad hoc	6596	LGA1972 s111
SITA UK Ltd (re Feb-12)	78.71	Monthly	6597	LA Cemetery Orders 1977 & 1986
Work Safely Ltd	2,416.20	Ad hoc	6598	LGA1972 s111
Postage Stamps	396.00	Monthly	6599	LGA1972 s112(2)
Petty Cash	183.60	Monthly	6600	LGA1972 s214
Total Payments prior to Year End	14,014.96			
Total Payments PRIOR TO YEAR END	15,040.01			

A list of unrepresented Cheques (For information only)

see overleaf

N. Jones

Authorised:
[Signature]
30-Mar-12

BUDGET STATEMENT						
	ORIGINAL BUDGET	REVISED BUDGET	ACTUAL	DIFF.	VAT (Rec'd)	Gross
BANK BALANCE AT 1 APRIL 2011 (Current Account)			36,451.11			
General Reserve Account			62,146.46			
Balance			98,597.57			
INCOME						
S106	0.00	0.00	0.00			0.00
CHAMBER HIRE / WAYLEAVES	300.00	300.00	214.20			-85.80
ALLOTMENTS	160.00	160.00	150.00			-10.00
CEMETERY	20,000.00	12,600.00	17,581.88		£744.80 contrib Glas Police	4,981.88
MISC INCOME	50,000.00	0.00	12,258.01			12,258.01
INTEREST	100.00	100.00	50.77			-49.23
PRECEPT	387,765.00	387,765.00	387,765.00			0.00
OFFSET FROM RESERVES/INCOME	25,000.00	15,000.00				0.00
INCOME sub total	483,325.00	415,925.00	418,019.86			17,094.86
EARMARKED RESERVES - INCOME	0.00	0.00	10,125.00			10,125.00
INCOME sub total	483,325.00	415,925.00	428,144.86			
VAT REPAID To Town Council		0.00	13,800.94			13,800.94
<u>Contra Entries:</u>						
Corporate VAT registration repayment to Trusts		0.00	11,557.32			11,557.32
Income Refunds		0.00	1,300.00			1,300.00
TOTAL INCOME	483,325.00	415,925.00	454,803.12			DEBTORS AT YEAR END: £0.00
EXPENDITURE						
S137	0.00	0.00	25.00	-25.00	ACCRUALS 0.00	-25.00
TRAINING	2,000.00	2,000.00	1,783.27	216.73	0.00	216.73
CORPORATE COUNCIL - PAYROLL	200,279.00	174,424.00	173,986.02	437.98	0.00	437.98
CORPORATE COUNCIL - ADMIN/OTHER	22,050.00	23,300.00	22,807.24	492.76	452.14	40.62
HEALTH & SAFETY	0.00	3,600.00	3,510.40	89.60	0.00	89.60
VEHICLE COSTS	2,500.00	2,965.00	2,963.32	1.68	0.00	1.68
AUDIT (NB no provision shown in 10/11)	2,000.00	2,000.00	14,333.40	-12,333.40	3,240.00	-15,573.40
INSURANCE	9,100.00	9,155.00	6,148.03	3,006.97	0.00	3,006.97
CIVIC EXPENSES	500.00	700.00	614.82	85.18	0.00	85.18
CEMETERY	8,060.00	8,545.00	8,379.50	165.50	164.00	1.50
CHRISTMAS EVENT/LIGHTS	10,250.00	10,250.00	5,989.46	4,260.54	270.00	3,990.54
GRASS CUTTING	9,150.00	11,065.00	10,980.00	85.00	0.00	85.00
LITTER PICKING	4,700.00	6,400.00	6,396.62	3.38	0.00	3.38
FUEL - DIESEL	0.00	1,485.00	1,186.36	298.64	100.00	198.64
FUEL - PETROL	0.00	400.00	396.15	3.85	0.00	3.85
PERSONNEL/FINANCE COMMITTEE	4,000.00	440.00	0.00	440.00	0.00	440.00
AMENITIES COMMITTEE	2,860.00	1,370.00	1,068.86	301.14	0.00	301.14
HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE	2,860.00	2,710.00	2,521.16	188.84	0.00	188.84
PLANNING COMMITTEE	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ELECTION	3,000.00	1,500.00	252.00	1,248.00	6,156.38	-4,908.38
CONTINGENCY (Incl P/capier renewal)	1,250.00	535.00	0.00	535.00	0.00	535.00
PWLB (Loan)	15,316.00	15,316.00	15,286.86	29.14	0.00	29.14
EARMARKED (LGPS)	150,000.00	75,000.00	74,333.00	667.00	0.00	667.00
GRANTS (Inc £450 free grants)	450.00	450.00	330.00	120.00	0.00	120.00
GRANTS - Youth Council	0.00	500.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	500.00
GRANTS - LYDNEY TOWN HALL	12,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
GRANTS - BATHURST PARK	20,500.00	20,500.00	20,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
GRANTS - REC TRUST	0.00	0.00	1,363.21	-1,363.21	0.00	-1,363.21
GRANTS - Admin/Stamps	0.00	500.00	337.00	163.00	0.00	163.00
CCTV	0.00	13,815.00	13,783.78	31.22	£244.80 contrib Glas Police	31.22
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	483,325.00	400,925.00	401,275.46	-350.46	10,382.52	-10,732.98
OFFSET INCOME / EXPENDITURE TO DATE		15,000.00	12,150.00		0.00	2,850.00
<u>Contra Entry:</u>						
Corporate VAT registration repayment to Trusts		0.00	11,557.32			11,557.32
Income Refunds		0.00	1,300.00			1,300.00
BUDGET / TOTAL EXPENDITURE		415,925.00	426,282.78			
(VAT TOTAL) for information only		0.00	17,110.38			
BALANCE TOTALS						
Current Account			14,186.68			
Earmarked Reserves:						
S106		29,191.50				
Lydney War Memorial		1,318.00				
Primrose Hill Play Area		8,000.00				
Playbuilder Grant from FoDDC (Zip wire)		634.00				
Cemetery		25,000.00				
Outdoor Gym (£10k+£2k VAT)		0.00				
Total Earmarked Reserves		64,143.50				
General Reserve		48,787.73				
BALANCE TOTALS (General Reserve Account)			112,931.23			
BANK BALANCES AT: 31st March 2012			127,117.91			

LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL

ACCUALS/PROVISIONS AS AT 31ST MARCH 2012

2011/12

Details	Supplier	Budget Heading	Gross Amount £
<p><u>Invoices received:</u> Supporting docs awaited > <i>Pay after Precept Rec'd</i> > <i>Pay after Precept Rec'd</i></p>	<p>Lydney Engineering Ltd (Electricity charge) FoDDC May-11 costs FoDDC Bye-election Lydney North</p>	<p>Establishment Charges Election Election</p>	<p>202.14 4,360.10 1,796.28</p>
<p><u>Orders placed, invoice awaited:</u> 19.03.12 £84 LTC/485</p>	<p>Columbaria</p>	<p>Cemetery</p>	<p>84.00</p>
<p><u>Contracts, invoices to year end awaited:</u> 1 mth £80 contract 1 mth £100 approx - mthly 1 mth £250 contract/DD</p>	<p>SITA UK Ltd Fuel Genie British Telecom</p>	<p>Skip Hire - Cemetery Vehicle Costs Establishment Charges</p>	<p>80.00 100.00 250.00</p>
<p><u>Anticipated invoices relating to 2011/12:</u> estimated £270 per JS: £900 IA per JS: £2,340 EA</p>	<p>Electricity for Ch Lights (£267.43 for 10/11) Internal Audit for 11/12 (provision) External Audit for 11/12 (provision)</p>	<p>Christmas Audit (Wildin) Audit (Moore Stephens)</p>	<p>270.00 900.00 2,340.00</p>
			<p>£10,382.52</p>

Lydney Town Council

Annual Return – Section 1 (2011/12) Workings

31 March 2012

	<u>Original per LTC</u>	<u>Adjustment Re: opening Drs & Crs</u>	<u>Revised</u>	<u>Adjustment Re Closing Crs</u>	<u>Adjustment Re Closing Drs</u>	<u>Other Adjustments</u>	<u>Final</u>
Balances brought forward	98598	73562	25036	-	-	-	25036
Annual Precept	387765	-	387765	-	-	-	387765
Other receipts	30255	(1)3320	26935	-	-	(6)10125 (7)13801	50861
Corporate	173986	(2)(2552)	171434	-	-	-	171434
Loan Interest & Capital Repayments	15287	-	15287	-	-	-	15287
Other Payments	212003	(3)(74330)	137673	(4)10383	(5)(6950)	(6)12150	153256
Balance c/f	115342	-	115342	104959	111909	123685	123685

1. Opening creditor re PAYE due at 31 March 2011.
2. Opening debtors outstanding at 31 March 2011.
3. Opening creditors re Glos LGPS at 31 March 2011.
4. Closing creditors per LTC list.
5. Closing debtors re VAT recoverable (quarter ended 31 March 2012).
6. Earmarked reserves omitted.
7. Net VAT repaid during year omitted.
8. Offset expenditure omitted.

Lydney Town Council

Reconciliation Between Reserves and Bank Balances

31 March 2012

Bank Balances	127118
Debtors	<u>6950</u>
	134068
Less creditors	<u>(10383)</u>
Balance of reserves c/fwd per Annual Return	<u>123685</u>

Section 1 – Accounting statements for

LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL

Readers should note that throughout this annual return references to a 'local council' or 'council' also relate to a parish meeting.

	Year ending		Notes and guidance							
	31 March 2011 £	31 March 2012 £								
1 Balances brought forward	159,409	25,036	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year.							
2 (+) Annual precept	310,212	387,765	Total amount of precept received or receivable in the year.							
3 (+) Total other receipts	83,320	50,861	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept received (line 2). Include any grants received here.							
4 (-) Staff costs	287,313	171,434	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include salaries and wages, PAYE and NI (employees and employers), pension contributions and employment expenses.							
5 (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	15,287	15,287	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the council's borrowings (if any).							
6 (-) All other payments	225,305	153,256	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).							
7 (=) Balances carried forward	25,036	123,685	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) – (4+5+6)							
8 Total cash and short term investments	98,598	127,118	The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – to agree with bank reconciliation.							
9 Total fixed assets and long term assets	658,520	674,268	The recorded book value at 31 March of all fixed assets owned by the council and any other long term assets e.g. loans to third parties and any long term investments.							
10 Total borrowings	136,640	133,096	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).							
11 Trust funds (including charitable) disclosure note	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>YES</td> <td>NO</td> <td>YES</td> <td>NO</td> </tr> <tr> <td>✓</td> <td></td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	YES	NO	YES	NO	✓		✓		Disclosure Note: The council acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing trust funds or assets. (Readers should note that the figures above do not include any trust transactions.)
YES	NO	YES	NO							
✓		✓								

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2012 the accounting statements in this annual return present fairly the financial position of the council and its income and expenditure, or properly present receipts and payments, as the case may be.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer

N Jayne Smiles

Date 2/4/2012.

I confirm that these accounting statements were approved by the council on this date:

2/4/2012.

and recorded as minute reference:

2012-04-02 Item 8

Signed by Chair of the meeting approving these accounting statements.

Date 2nd April 2012

Section 2 – Annual governance statement

We acknowledge as the members of:

LYBNEY TOWN COUNCIL

our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including the preparation of the accounting statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the accounting statements for the year ended 31 March 2012, that:

		Agreed – Yes No	'Yes' means that the council:
1	We approved the accounting statements prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations and proper practices.	Y	prepared its accounting statements in the way prescribed by law.
2	We maintained an adequate system of internal control, including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	Y	made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.
3	We took all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and codes of practice that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of the council to conduct its business or on its finances.	Y	has only done things that it has the legal power to do and has conformed to codes of practice and standards in the way it has done so.
4	We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.	Y	during the year has given all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about the council's accounts.
5	We carried out an assessment of the risks facing the council and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	Y	considered the financial and other risks it faces and has dealt with them properly.
6	We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the council accounting records and control systems.	Y	arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether internal controls meet the needs of the council.
7	We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	Y	responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.
8	We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on the council and, where appropriate have included them in the accounting statements.	Y	disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year-end if relevant.
9	Trust funds (including charitable) – in our capacity as the sole managing trustee we discharged our responsibility in relation to the accountability for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.	Y	has met all of its responsibilities where it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.

This annual governance statement is approved by the council and recorded as minute reference

2012-04-02 item 8

dated 2/4/2012.

Signed by:

Chair

dated

Signed by:

Clerk

dated

[Signature]
2nd April 2012

N Jayne Smiles
2/4/2012

***Note: Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'No' response. Describe how the council will address the weaknesses identified.**

Section 4 – Annual internal audit report to

The council's internal audit, acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, carried out a selective assessment of compliance with relevant procedures and controls expected to be in operation during the financial year ended 31 March 2012.

Internal audit has been carried out in accordance with the council's needs and planned coverage. On the basis of the findings in the areas examined, the internal audit conclusions are summarised in this table. Set out below are the objectives of internal control and alongside are the internal audit conclusions on whether, in all significant respects, the control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of the council.

Internal control objective	Agreed? Please choose from one of the following		
	Yes	No*	Not covered**
A Appropriate books of account have been kept properly throughout the year.	Y		
B The council's financial regulations have been met, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	Y		
C The council assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	Y		
D The annual precept requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.	Y		
E Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	Y		
F Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.	Y		
G Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with council approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	Y		
H Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	Y		
I Periodic and year-end bank account reconciliations were properly carried out.	Y		
J Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments or income and expenditure), agreed to the cash book, were supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records, and where appropriate debtors and creditors were properly recorded.	Y		
K Trust funds (including charitable) The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.	Y		

For any other risk areas identified by the council (list any other risk areas below or on separate sheets if needed) adequate controls existed:

Print name of person who carried out the internal audit **ROBERT LEONARD LEWIS, F.C.A.**
 Signature of person who carried out the internal audit **R. L. Lewis** Date **5/4/2012**

***Note:** If the response is 'no' please state the implications and action being taken to address any weakness in control identified (add separate sheets if needed).

****Note:** If the response is 'not covered' please state when the most recent internal audit work was done in this area and when it is next planned, or, if coverage is not required, internal audit must explain why not (add separate sheets if needed).

County Council Report 2011/2012

The County Council has produced its budget for 2012/13 of £392.20m. Savings of £30m have been achieved with further savings of £29m envisaged. The new budget includes an additional £9m investment into services for older and vulnerable people. Funding of £36m has been made available for capital investment into roads, schools and other services. An allocation of £12m has been committed for economic stimulus. The County's grant from government has been reduced from £137.8m for 2011/12 to £125.1m for 2012.13, representing a 9.2% reduction.

A three year Fire Service plan has been approved, which includes extended community support during crisis phase of severe flooding, working more closely with the Ambulance Service whilst utilising firefighters' medical skills, investment in a new, specialist heavy rescue vehicle, extending response standards and improving equipment and training for large animal rescue. The first of four new County Fire Stations has been completed and includes a 'Life Skills Centre' to provide safety educational facilities for young and old, including road safety and safety in the home.

A new Coroners' facility has also been completed.

'The Big Community Offer', launched in 2011 has resulted in the acquisition of Lydney Community Centre in Naas Lane, which is currently run by an enthusiastic team of local volunteers.

As part of NHS changes, Gloucestershire County Council now has the responsibility to ensure that the county has a 'Local HealthWatch' It is intended to make sure that service properly meets the needs of people in the county.

County Councillor David Cooksley

Head Gardener's Annual Report 2011-2012

Bathurst Park

We have had another hard working, but rewarding, year in the Park and Town.

The flower beds looked great and we had many positive, kind comments throughout the year from local residents and visitors. In order to try and reduce cost this year we not only reused Winter bedding but also divided plants filling in gaps in the beds, so in the Spring the beds are bursting with colour. We have also been working hard digging over beds in the Winter months, raising the levels and putting manure on to feed the soil, plants and roses. I have also planned a red, white and blue theme for the Park and Town to celebrate the Jubilee and 2012 Olympics.

We have maintained to a high standard the football, rugby, cricket, bowls and tennis facilities, which are all used regularly and enjoyed. Many positive and rewarding comments have been received regarding the playing surfaces and we have also re-installed the crazy golf putting green for the summer months which adults and children enjoy.

Litter, as usual, seems to be an ongoing problem, especially in the warmer, lighter evenings. However, vandalism appears to be less of a problem than it has in the past

We continually check that the play equipment and the Park are safe and pick up litter which is our main priority every morning. The Trust was fortunate in obtaining a grant to purchase/install outdoor fitness machines around the sports fields. This equipment installation has been well received by adults and teenagers, I have lost count of how many people that think "what a great idea it was to put in such equipment in the Park" and who would like to offer a big "Thank You" to those people responsible for gaining the funding and arranging its installation.



Around the Town

We have been working hard in and around the Town making sure our time is equally divided, thus giving the best service and value for money.

We have been through the Town of Lydney weeding where we can and tidying areas along the street, especially around the Town Hall, Library and bottom of the Town around the Catholic Church area.

We have also painted and maintained benches and flower tubs. The Spring tubs have been planted with daffodils which give value for money and a great show of colour.



During periods of snow the Council has set up a Winter Action Plan in partnership with Gloucestershire Highways. This means we will now grit priority areas around the Town, e.g. around the Hospital, the High Street, etc. We will also check and re-fill grit bins around Lydney. The Town Council also purchased two pedestrian grit spreaders which help to address the job more efficiently, both in respect to the amount of grit used.

We are also ready to help out when there is any flooding in our area by providing sandbags supplied by the Highway depot at Cannop.

Another task is litter picking at the train station and emptying bins at the Docks. We litter pick all around the Trust areas, including the wood and the lake and have cut the footpath along The Cut and have also tidied up after individuals had "fly tipped" on ground by the Cricket and Football Clubs.

We have also strimmed grass around the Town - Court Road, Beauchamp Meadow, the triangle at the Bus Station, around Lydney Recreation Trust garages, around the Lake and up to the Train Station, the Council Offices and the footpath between Mount Pleasant and Faller Fields.

Around the Trust we have edged paths, cut back shrubs and trees and painted where we can. Hopefully during the Spring/Summer months the River Lyd will also be cleared of rubbish when the water level is at its lowest.

Cemeteries

Thomas Wales, one of our members of staff is based in the Cemetery most days. He has been busy weeding and clearing paths, cremation plots, neglected graves, etc. He has maintained benches, railing gates, bins and when possible, mowed grass on the entrance to the Cemetery to keep it tidy. He has also planted and looked after flower displays, maintaining a high standard at all times.



General

We are constantly re-evaluating the way in which we work to give you the best value for money and an efficient service to Lydney.

My family and I live in the Town and I am consistently looking for ways to improve our local areas and also keep up the high standards we set, both as an employee and through the eyes of a resident.

Finally, I would like to thank my team "Tommy, Trevor, Corinne and Ryan" for their hard work throughout the year and I look forward to another rewarding 12 months.

James Young
Head Gardener



WAR MEMORIAL OFFICER'S REPORT

The aim of the Trust is to bring all the Nations War Memorials up to date before their centenary in 2018. Lydney's, thanks to complete renovations in 2005, remains in pretty good condition; with the Cadet forces annual clean up it should stay a credit to our Town for many years.

The annual Citizens Act of Remembrance at 11.00 am on 11th November 2011 was well attended. The pupils of Severnbanks School were word perfect as they read the role of honour, as was the Mayor's Cadet Ben Vaughan who read the Epitaph. Whilst 1 Rifles were unable to join the service this year due to them recently having returned from Afghanistan, they were with us in spirit; a posy of poppies was laid on their behalf.

There was, however, one negative to an otherwise perfect service and that was the lack of respect shown by the BIFFA team and this was brought to the attention of the BIFFA Manager who not only apologised, but also forwarded a donation towards the memorial cleaning/service costs.

2012 will see a joint Remembrance Parade take place, this being due to the 11th November falling on a Sunday, an excellent attendance is anticipated.

Finally, any kind donations offered in respect of this worthy cause are always most welcome - Thank you!

Cllr W Osborne



BATHURST PARK AND RECREATIONAL TRUST

I have been Lead Councillor for the Bathurst Park and Recreational Trust since April 2011 and I would like to present the following report.

Bathurst Park is a superb attraction for Lydney, admired by residents and visitors alike and I would like to thank the Head Groundsman and all of the Ground Staff for their hard work in maintaining it to such a high standard. The Town Council Ground Staff have had to work with a reduced budget, replacing flowers with shrubs in certain areas, however, they have managed to ensure that the Park and its facilities remain of a high standard.



The park is used by many organisations and clubs as well as residents of all ages, it is also used for events organised by Churches Together and Lydney Festival. The Town Council/Trust believes that the cost of maintaining the park to such a high standard is justified as it is enjoyed by so many people.

The firework display on 5th November was a very successful event; with attendance high little expense was incurred by the Trust.

McCarthy and Stone have once again sponsored a floral display in the park, this additional funding 'assists' with the upkeep of the flower bed. Trustees would appreciate sponsorship from other sources, interested parties are therefore asked to contact the Trust via the Town Council office.

A recent addition to the Park is that of an 'Outdoor Fitness Centre', the funding for which was secured by Cllr Matthews with no expense to the Council. The Trust will also be applying for grant funding to improve the perimeter fencing, to install a disabled play area and to replace of some of the existing equipment.

The Trust looks forward to yet another pro-active year and as such would encourage any members of the public with innovative ideas to get in touch!

Bob Berryman
Lead Councillor



Trust Secretary: Mrs Jayne Smailes

Lydney Recreation Trust

Council Chambers, Claremont House,
High Street, Lydney, Glos, GL15 5DX

Telephone: 01594 842234

Fax: 01594 842312

Registered Charity No: 301569

2011-2012 Annual Report from Cllr Derek Biddle, Lead Councillor for Lydney Recreation Trust

Lydney Recreation Trust was successful in funding the Multi Ball Park with a grant from Biffaward for £25k. This was installed in the summer and has proved an instant hit with young sports users.



The skatepark users also benefited with a £10k SITA grant that financed the old volcano being recycled to make longer end ramps. This is part of a three stage improvement which the young skate boarders negotiated with the supply company Evolution. Stage two of the improvements is for a new Jump Box to be installed next to the volcano and support for the funding is being undertaken by the skate boarders.

Discussions for future use of the land south of the Lydney by-pass with Time & Place are still on going, but funding is proving a major difficulty. The need for more playing pitches for rugby & football has also featured in discussion for this area.

There has been good progress on negotiating the 25yr leases with the sports clubs which has been undertaken by Kevin Toombs and the Trust's Solicitors - Francis Law, and hopefully should be concluded soon

*Cllr Derek Biddle
Lead Councillor
Lydney Recreation Trust*

LYDNEY TOWN HALL TRUST ANNUAL REPORT

2011/12

It is comforting to know, despite being 123 years old, our beloved Town Hall still provides a facility to host various main events throughout the year together with other, local based organisations. The trust is grateful for the continued patronage of our current regular users including:

- ❖ Mr & Mrs Crossman
- ❖ Severside Flower Club
- ❖ Regency Dance Club
- ❖ Wyedean School
- ❖ National Blood Service
- ❖ Lydney Drama Club
- ❖ Robert Barley
- ❖ Forest Musical Society
- ❖ Lydney Air Cadets
- ❖ Lydney Dial-A-Ride
- ❖ Mansell Hearing Centres
- ❖ Forest of Dean District Council



Thanks are also extended to the Caretaker and the Assistant Caretaker and Town Council staff involved in the day to day running of the building.

As with many old Town Halls, ours requires a lot of regular maintenance to keep it in prime condition, with less use and high costs it is in great need of some revitalisation.

With the loss of revenue from the District Registrar and imminent departure of Lydney Dial-A-Ride who will shortly be relocating, there will be an even greater need to maximise the future use of the Hall.

The Town Hall is currently run by Trustees comprised of Lydney Town Councillors with the Town Council having been appointed Sole Corporate Trustee with the land and property of the Charity invested in the Council, however the Committee of Trustees has recently proposed that the future day to day control of the premises should be community led and will subsequently be actively involved in the creation of a new Management Committee made up of representatives from the aforementioned User Groups, members of the local community and two elected Town Councillors. Advance notification and relevant

details have already been circulated to interested parties and User Groups and anyone interested in being actively involved have been requested to submit a letter to this affect.

The Town Hall is a beautiful and iconic building which forms an important and integral part of Lydney's history and every effort should be made to preserve it. Whilst benefitting recently from improved toilet facilities, much more needs to be done to ensure its future use and it is hoped that the 'management' structure will then attract suitable funding from external sources.

With commitment, forward thinking and sustained use, Lydney can continue to be proud of the fact that it has one of the best Town Halls in the county.

Cllr David Cooksley
Lead Councillor
Lydney Town Hall Trust

COMMUNITY REPORTS

FRIENDS OF BATHURST POOL

ANNUAL REPORT

16th APRIL 2012

The summer of 2011 was slightly better weatherwise than the previous four years but we still did not have any prolonged period of sunshine to draw in the crowds.

Income on normal activities exceeded 2010 by £3,200 and overheads increased by £1,200. The numbers coming through the gate increased from 3,916 to 5,204 generating an income of £8,645. The shop continues to do very well and with a greater variety of confectionery now available a surplus of £4,100 was created.

Our plan for 2012 was to build a brand new toilet block complete with disabled facility and we were very fortunate to secure funding from four different sources which enabled this project to go ahead. We now have a building that blends in perfectly with the surround, and before opening this season will be fitted out with the necessary cubicles, lighting and electric hand dryers.



Also under discussion is the provision of a non-slip pool surround as we have at last found a company that can undertake such work. It is hoped that work may commence prior to May, and will be funded by our own reserves.

We have recently had meetings with Lord Bledisloe and his Estate Manager regarding possible contributions towards the installation of solar panels to raise the temperature of the water, and to tidy up the front car parks to make the approach to the site more attractive. Both these projects are also under discussion.

At our AGM in February we gained two more Committee Members who are already very willing helpers and since then another person has offered to become a Trustee and to help out on a regular basis. This is very encouraging but we would still welcome willing volunteers that are prepared to man the shop and the ticket office if we get busy.

The Friends of Bathurst Pool are fiercely proud of their achievements since the new Committee was formed in 2003. In the last nine years we have relined the pool, built a new shop, rebuilt the pumphouse, laid a new patio, erected high security fencing and gates and built a new toilet block. This has all been achieved through excellent funding, an exceptional willingness by local contractors to help out whenever necessary with no charge for labour and a dedicated team made up of our Committee and Trustees.

We now have a unique, excellently maintained facility in the heart of our community which attracts visitors from far and wide. Our popular serious swim club has already generated a lot of interest for the coming season, so with this in mind we are once again looking forward to the summer of 2012 at Bathurst Pool.

Sheila Berryman
Trustee

Review of the work by the Lydney Branch of the Royal British Legion.

At present there are 3 active caseworkers that cover most of the forest area, apart from the assistance to the older generation in the form of mobility, i.e., the supply of E.P.Vs and assistance, with showers or "wet rooms ".We have also been able to supply white goods when these are needed.

There have also been cases that we have been called on to give support, when there has been a marriage breakdown, in one instance when a husband became violent towards the children, this caused us to move the wife and children to a safe house, we also advised the police to keep an eye on the family.

A second case when the husband for reasons unknown left the family home stranding the wife and children, this is a case we keep an eye on.

If there is anything that brings us great pleasure it is the fact that this Branch and its welfare committee have very good relations with our local county regiment the 1st Rifles at Beachley Camp. What is, very noteworthy, is that for the first time in the history of The Royal British Legion in Lydney that contact has been made with our County Regiment.

We have been of assistance to a number from the camp, with resettlement in "civvy street", also helping a young family who had very serious problems, whose husband had been wounded in Afghanistan. We provided the family with a holiday on his return.

At present, we have been advised that there are to be a number of redundancies from the 1st Rifles during the coming year, this will increase our work load as we understand that this could be as many as 74.

The impression that we only cover the army is incorrect, we in actual fact cover all three services as well as all reserve services, the other rather poor image is that we are an "old boys drinking club". Whilst we do have a club in town it is not as active as the Branch or Welfare Committee in the real work of the Legion.

It has been and still is a privilege to help all, from those who served in the second world war to those who are at present in service.

I trust that this report is of some value.

W.Powell.

Lydney Branch Welfare Secretary.

LYDNEY WAR MEMORIAL TRUST ANNUAL REPORT APRIL 2012

The Lydney War Memorial Trust is the body responsible for the maintenance and administration of the almshouses in Church Road, Lydney, near the War Memorial. There are, in fact, two houses and four flats.

The Trust continues to meet each month at the Town Council Chamber. In the last year, all the Trustees remained the same, although at the AGM Mr Frank Bennett agreed to take over the role of Chair, replacing Mrs Ruth Richardson who had acted as Chair for many years. Attendance at the meetings by the Trustees has been very good with all meeting except one being quorate. Gill Moir continues to act as a clerk for the Trust.

The Trust continues to maintain all six properties to a high standard and during the year various works have been carried out to improve the flats and houses. Because the properties are over eighty years old, maintenance costs are relatively high. At the end of August 2011 one of our oldest residents, Mrs Clare Hillier, sadly died. This led to one of the almshouses being vacant. After discussion with existing tenants, one resident moved from a flat to the vacant house, and another moved from an upstairs to a downstairs flat. This has led to the Trust redecorating and recarpeting three out of the six units. This work has now been completed and we are in the process of advertising for a new tenant for the vacant flat.

The last Quinquennial Survey was carried out in July 2009. We were pleased that the surveyor noted some significant improvements since the last survey and also that he did not identify any work requiring immediate attention. Any issues requiring attention "as soon as practicable" have been considered and addressed where appropriate or possible at the current time. The other points raised are being reviewed and addressed, where appropriate, over time.

The Trust continues to maintain a good relationship with the residents, who can phone the clerk at any time should any problems arise.

Frank Bennett (Chair)

Lydney Area in Partnership 2011-2012

The LAiP year has been concerned with supporting the Lydney Yacht Club bid for funding for a cafe and toilets at the docks. Unfortunately the build costs made the project unsustainable which has resulted in the idea being postponed. Small funds have been offered from the Internal Drainage Board plus some volunteer time to service the swing bridge and start to dredge part of the canal to provide more boat moorings.

David Flint from STAG attended a meeting to encourage the formation of a rail users group to lobby for improve the passenger facilities at Lydney Railway Station and press for a larger car park which now has insufficient capacity with up to ninety cars parking in a car park designed for seventy two cars. New electronic information boards have proved to be very helpful for rail users, but a larger waiting room, a safe railway crossing bridge and toilet facilities are needed to improve the travel experience of all passengers at Lydney Station. The removal of the old signal box is noted now that full automatic traffic barriers are being installed.

The Hydro project at New Mills Forge is "on hold" due to the low return on the capital investment, but it has focused the project group on the task of attempting to preserve this wonderful stone structure built in 1825, together with Upper Forge which is in a perilous state of repair and it will take a large Heritage Lottery grant to provide the necessary finance to pay for the stone mason to repair the fallen masonry.



Friends of Lydney Hospital, Annual Report to Lydney Town Council 2012

The past year has been characterised by the continuing uncertainty over future management arrangements for administering health care throughout Gloucestershire, including how the community hospitals will be owned and run. This debate remains ongoing with the recent judicial review into the legality of Gloucestershire Care Services as the principal care provider, a major complicating factor. The Friends continue to monitor the situation including close engagement with all levels of management, and will advise the Town Council if they believe that intervention into the debate would be beneficial for the local hospital.

At the present time, the hospital continues to be owned and operated by NHS Gloucestershire. The management is progressively being combined with that of the Dilke Hospital, and the Friends try to maintain a vigilant overview to ensure that this does not impact adversely on the high quality standards which have always been the hall-mark of Lydney Hospital. To date there is little evidence that the operation of the two hospitals as a combined unit is having any serious impact on these high standards. Positive feedback from the community suggests that the local population remain content with the services being provided at Lydney Hospital.

Fundraising has continued throughout the year with a very successful Summer Fete once again providing the majority of the funds expended on new equipment and facilities. The major expenditure this year was on replacement specialist beds and mattresses for the in-patient wards at a cost of approximately £20000; this has significantly improved patient comfort and recovery. Some new items of equipment have been purchased for the out patient clinics which will help reduce the need for travel to Gloucester for specialist care; and new TVs have been purchased for the MIU and the Paediatric Clinic.

The Friends have taken over the upkeep of the garden in front of the hospital and this has much improved the appearance. Also the Friends continue to maintain a close interest in the staff including special efforts at Christmas, keeping in regular contact with staff who have recently left, and generally dropping in from time to time for an introductory chat with new staff members. This helps create a pleasant and friendly atmosphere which is much appreciated by all the staff.

An important new development implemented in the past year has been the distribution of a Friends Newsletter throughout the local community. This is now prepared every six months, and the initiative appears to be appreciated by local people.



Neds Top Residents Action Group Report

The last year proved particularly busy for the Neds Top Residents Action Group. Members were involved in the following activities:

- 1) Providing an initial contribution to the Lydney Area Action Plan. Representatives of the group attended presentation by Nigel Gibbons at the the Lydney Area in Partnership Annual General Meeting which was held on Wednesday 21st September 2011 and he has agreed to meet with the group again as the plan unfolds. The group impressed upon him the need to recognise the importance of the peripheral parts of Lydney and the surrounding landscape as important contributors to the growth and attractiveness of the Town.
- 2) The group have tried to develop a more constructive partnership with LAiP but have received no information from them since the Annual General Meeting, which was held on Wednesday 21st September 2011, proved inquorate. The Lydney Online website which hosts the partnership details: <http://www.lydney-online.co.uk/> has not added new minutes since April 2011. There is concern about what the partnership is doing and the overall impression of this website being out of date.
- 3) The residents were given the opportunity to contribute to the POVY (Pillowell, Oldcroft, Viney Hill and Yorkley) plan, (although they are outside of the West Dean Parish), which provides a useful action plan for local residents and contributes to the West Dean Parish Plan. NRAG recommends this process to Lydney Town Council. It was organised by GRCC and encouraged local participation and ownership.
- 4) The group have had useful contact and support from Gloucestershire Highways regarding signs, visibility issues and traffic calming, all of which have proved productive. The signage has been particularly helpful. Traffic getting lost because of Sat Navs continue to be a problem. A large crane on a flatbed lorry was grounded on the corner of the Old Dam Road trying to turn a corner it was far too long to navigate.
- 5) Members of the group have had litter collection days. The autumn revealed a great deal of small litter particularly 'Take away food' wrappers and containers that have been collected. The FoDDC have also been active in this regard. There have been serious problems with dumping of building waste, mattresses and tyres on the Old Dam but this problem has eased of late.

- 6) The group have a strong commitment to protecting the landscape and wildlife. We are pleased to report that Red Kites were seen over Neds Top in February. There is concern about the future use of one of the loveliest parts of the Top, adjacent to Tingley wood , an area particularly important for wildlife. Planted as 'set aside' some time ago the site has changed hands several times and attracted debris and residents are keen to see it retain its amenity values for residents, walkers and visitors to the locality. It also has significant archaeological value.
- 7) Members of the group wrote to FoDDC advising that it was opposed to car parking charges in Lydney. This was because any financial gains would diminish in the face of failing business rate returns as High Street retail premises struggle and it would encourage roadside parking around the town.



The view from the public footpath at Neds Top above Tingley Wood looking towards Allaston Road

- 8) Two members of the group attended the Special Meeting of the Town Council on 9th March 2012 regarding the Public Interest Report. The group experience of planning governance had been very poor and they welcomed the appointment of the new CEO and the commitment of the Council to provide greater transparency in all areas of council business and will work tirelessly towards restoring public confidence. The group hope that the Council and members will engage bodies such as NRAG to consult with over developments that affect our lives and well-being. The groups have found Council officers to be very helpful and inclusive in all their recent dealings with them.

Lydney Dial-a-Ride 2011-2012

The Core Vision for Lydney Dial-A-Ride remains clear, it is to prevent social and rural exclusion by providing transport to those who are frail or elderly, people who have temporary or permanent disabilities and for those who do not have regular access to public transport or a car of their own.

Lydney Dial-a-Ride has consolidated its position during 2011, maintaining its Home to School Contracts and delivering a high level of service to its Dial-A-Ride passengers.

Louise has continued to actively promote the Charity, working closely with Newent Dial A Ride and Third Sector Services, sharing best practice, policies and contacts to ensure service levels are maintained across the district.



We have 14 voluntary drivers; they are based within the South of the Forest of Dean from Tutshill to Mitcheldean. They use their own vehicles and take passengers to medical appointments both within and outside the County. We continue to actively recruit more volunteers, as they remain an integral part of the organisation.

We have formed close relationships with other voluntary organisations for example Gloucestershire Young Carers. We transport twice a week a number of children who may be responsible for caring for someone within the home to activities where they can join other children in similar situations. This gives them the opportunity to be with their own peer group and allows them to be part of a support network.

We have catered for over 33,557 passenger journeys during 2011-2012 and currently have a fleet of twelve minibuses.

We employ thirty-eight staff within the organisation including five staff across our three Charity shops based in Lydney, Coleford & Cinderford. The shops raise vital funds for the charity enabling us to maintain a modern fleet of vehicles and replace them on a regular basis.

We continue to increase the number of volunteers within our shops and also work with placement agencies within the County. They place those who have been long term unemployed with us for 8 - 12 weeks to allow them to gain work skills to help them find permanent employment.

The next twelve months will see a great deal of change for the Charity; we are looking to operate a small number of rural bus routes on behalf of Gloucestershire County Council. This will ensure that service to some outlying villages will not be lost due to the Bus Network Review that was undertaken in 2011. Additionally we are negotiating with Gloucestershire County Council to take over the running of Lydney Bus Station. This will give us our own premises as well as opening up a currently derelict building. The aim is to move the Lydney Shop into the building creating a combined waiting/ shop space. It will become a travel information point for the general public and enable us to have a base from which to promote the Charity to encourage new members to join.

Finally we would like to take this opportunity to thank Lydney Town Council for their ongoing support.



THE VICTORIA CENTRE 2012

It is a pleasure to report that the Centre, which was registered as a charity in 1977, is still in operation, offering lunches to retired residents of the area three days a week for forty nine weeks per year. What is equally important is that this service is manned, as always, by a team of truly dedicated volunteers.

The building which houses the Centre has undergone some modernisation in recent years and work is still in progress. Thanks to grants from LAGS and the Gloucestershire Freemasons Fund and generous donations from local enterprises Greggs Bakery and McCarthy & Stone, automatic doors will be installed soon together with a heat exchange ventilation system and new kitchen roof. Such renovations are aimed at improving the health and safety of all our visitors. Meanwhile we continue to enjoy the support, both financial and moral, of local people, churches and businesses.

The Friday Exercise Club is proving very popular and is still receiving free coaching from Ginger Gym, while the Cooperative Funeralcare, Lydney is now sponsoring the lunch that rewards the members afterwards.

The Wednesday Club, which caters mainly for those who are housebound, offers entertainment with the lunch and occasional trips to local beauty spots or restaurants.

A lunch at the Centre is an opportunity for people to get together, enjoy a two course meal of locally sourced food cooked on the premises and, perhaps more importantly, make new friendships or renew old ones. The price is still reasonable at £4 and although that marks a slight increase due to rising prices it still, we hope, represents value for money.

*Booking for lunch or the exercise club is essential.
Call Annette on Dean 843418*



Lydney Community Centre Management Committee

2011-2012

The closure of all youth services by Gloucestershire County Council together with community use of Naas Lane Community Centre in June 2011, caused a great deal of frustration and anger from members of the clubs and associations who used the centre. The facility was offered to the public for a peppercorn rent under the Big Community Offer, this galvanised over two hundred volunteers from the community and user groups to accept the challenge and negotiate an interim lease with GCC.



The Committee registered to form a "not for profit" organisation with charitable status with the assistance of Coop UK. The LCC volunteers have redecorated one room, purchased new curtains and sixty new chairs to improve the ambience for the users.

Regular Table sales are planned following the first successful event and last week a fashion show was a sell-out, which has demonstrated the potential of the venue for a wide range of events. In partnership with Vibes Youth Cafe the LCC has run a ten week series of circus skills workshops for young people and it is hoped to build on this event to provide more opportunities for youth events.

Derek Biddle

LYDNEY TENNIS CLUB ANNUAL REPORT 2012

At the time of writing, Lydney Tennis Club is in the process of undergoing some fundamental changes. We are in hopefully the final stages of our negotiations for a long-term lease, which will allow the club to pursue funding to improve its facilities. We are also in the process of applying for the LTA 'Clubmark' accreditation, which will also allow us to seek funding from the sport's governing body.

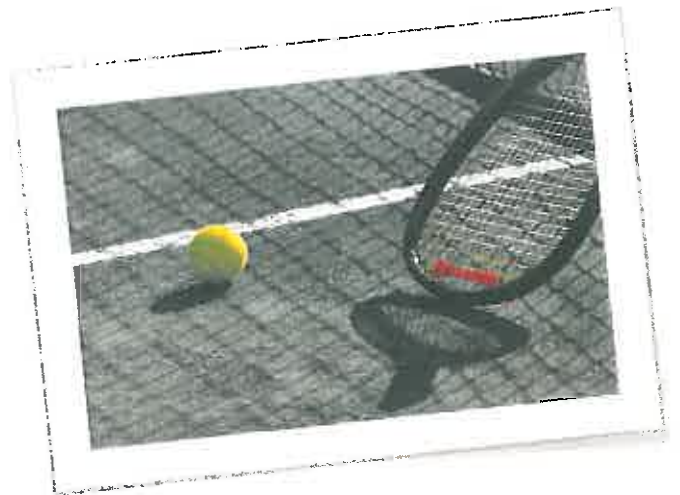
The club was successful at the end of 2011 in applying for funds from the Gloucestershire Environment Trust towards the cost of replacing floodlights on two of its courts. We are, though, still £5000 short of the required total and with hopes to refurbish the club's facilities by cleaning all courts + repainting two of them and replace the surround netting which seems to have been there for ever, the need for funding is vital.

The membership saw a general rise in all categories last year, particularly so amongst the juniors with numbers rising from 44 to 91 and the overall membership from 95 to 163. The hope now is to both retain the current members and to increase membership further.

With the rise in junior numbers, we are able to enter 3 junior teams in the Gloucestershire League, with the hope of increasing this number to 5 next season. We continue to run 2 Men's + 2 Ladies teams in the Summer League also, in addition to the team entered in the Gloucestershire Winter Mixed League.

So all in all, plenty of development and plans for development, which is as it should be. There will hopefully be more positive news to report next year.

Martin Godwin
Chairman



No 614 (Lydney) Squadron Air Training Corps Report

April 2012

It is again with great pleasure that 614 Squadron reports continued and positive progress since we last reported to the Town Council. We continue to occupy the Town Hall for our twice-weekly parades and every use is made of the excellent training space made available to us. Since last year, our numbers have dropped slightly, although we still maintain over 40 cadets on our register. As before, we remain very 'top-heavy' with male cadets, although we are looking for ways to actively encourage greater female participation. Possibly our biggest problem is perception and a lack of awareness that all cadet opportunities are equally open to girls as they are to boys. As has been the case for several years, the Squadron's biggest problem has been its shortage of adult staff. The start of 2011 saw the prospect of 2 new uniformed staff, however, changes in career paths for the individuals concerned resulted in their not taking up Squadron posts to any great effect. Despite our disappointment, we do of course wish them both well in their careers.

Regulations persist in curtailing some of our most basic pursuits, however, we remain a very active youth organisation and I am pleased to be able to report another period of achievement. Air Experience Flying in the Grob Tutor is still a highlight of our training programme as is flying in the Viking glider in which several cadets achieved solo and advanced solo standard. Residential activities have included annual camp at RAF Shawbury featuring helicopter and fixed-wing flying, adventure training in Llanbedr in Snowdonia, overseas camps in Germany and Cyprus and selection for an international exchange to the United States. Also, and as with last year's report, in the academic field cadets continue to progress through their aviation-related subjects to achieve their BTEC Certificates and also their Diplomas in Public Services. Within the community the Squadron has participated in the Remembrance Day activities and has assisted at the Speech House fireworks display, the Rotary Club half-marathon, Coleford Carnival of Transport and a variety of other charity events.

An event worthy of mention is the very sad death of a well-known Lydney character, Mr Douglas 'Dit' Thomas who commanded 614 Squadron for over 20 years. A few weeks ago, the Squadron was represented at Dit's funeral and words of tribute were given at his subsequent memorial service.

For the future, 614 Squadron continues to search for dedicated accommodation and looks to recruit a more robust adult-staff basis. In addition, encouragement has been given for the Squadron to expand further into the Forest of Dean, although this will require additional adult staffing. However, wherever we are based and whatever support we receive, 614 Squadron will continue to be an excellent youth movement that offers meaningful and worthwhile opportunities to the young people of the Lydney and surrounding community.

Flight Lieutenant Laurie Clark RAFVR(T)
Officer Commanding

Commanding Officer
S/Lt (SCC) Mike Chard RNR
☎ 07890428348

Unit Chairman
Mrs Carol Tiley
17 Crooked End Place, Ruardean
Gloucestershire, GL17 9YN
☎ 01594 542044 (evenings)
✉ carol.tiley@btconnect.com



Registered Charity 286701

TS ROYAL FOREST
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Lydney Youth & Community Centre
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Gloucestershire
GL155AT
forestofdeanscc@btinternet.com
www.forestseacadets.web.officelive.com
01594-841058

"Parvis e glandibus quercus"
Great oaks from acorns grow

We aim to encourage young people in achieving their full physical, social and intellectual potential. Ensuring all feel valued and supported by providing them with valuable life skills. Striving to deliver the best opportunities in a challenging, stimulating and supportive nautical themed training environment.

We take the young people from the Forest and surrounding areas and through adventurous training we help them towards responsible adulthood by encouraging valuable personal attributes and high standards of conduct, using a nautical theme based on the customs of the Royal Navy.

We take part in many community events such as parades, fundraisers, dinners, sporting events etc. Unfortunately due to fund raising needs we have to spend more time than I would like raising funds for the unit. As you are aware the Forest of Dean is not the most affluent area and carers or parents of cadets sometimes cannot afford to pay for their child to attend all the activities on offer, in these cases the unit pays for these cadets. A typical weeks course can cost anything between £50- £250 with a summer camp costing around £450. We now have over 50 members so you can see how much money we need to raise to fund their activities.

Because of the increased numbers of cadets we took the opportunity to take over the youth club building at the Naas lane site, this being a brick built building is a vast improvement on our other building. The building needed a major investment to bring it up to the safety standards required for habitation by a youth group. In March we have just moved in but will continue to renovate and update the building to make it suitable for use.

I have lived and worked in the Forest of Dean for over 15 years now and have seen a dramatic increase in anti-social behaviour involving the youth of Lydney. Our unit itself has suffered because of this, we have had numerous windows smashed, and most parade nights we spend a good deal of time cleaning up the detritus left behind by the drug and alcohol users, who seem to regard the area around Naas Lane community centre as their meeting place, litter bin and sometimes their toilet! We have engaged with the youth of Lydney and recruit young people from all walks of life with no discrimination to race, sex, colour or ability.

For some young people, who are perhaps not as gifted at school as others sea cadets is a lifeline we offer real qualifications cadets can use to find a worthwhile career, we have CVQO status which is the equivalent of 5 GCSE's.

We concentrate on "Life Long Learning" for our cadets, the qualifications earned by them are recognised by national governing bodies and can be used in all walks of life. For example some recently qualified first aiders have used these valuable skills at home.

Sub-Lieutenant (SCC) M Chard, RNR
Commanding Officer

Commanding Officer
S/Lt (SCC) Mike Chard RNR
☎ 07890428348

Unit Chairman
Mrs Carol Tiley
17 Crooked End Place, Ruardean
Gloucestershire, GL17 9YN
☎ 01594 542044 (evenings)
✉ carol.tiley@btconnect.com



Registered Charity 286701

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Our achievements for the past year,

- We have used our new rowing boats and with the limited resources available within Lydney the cadets have earned 18 rowing qualifications, we will have to explore other locations within the Forest and surrounding areas to continue training with these cadets. We continue to use Lydney Boating Lake for our novices.
- We have increased the boating available to cadets, we are now spending more time on the water than we have in the past 5 years.
- Cadets represented the Forest of Dean in numerous competitions including Swimming, Marching, Rowing, Sailing, shooting & engineering we won the Football and the Cadet Piping competitions
- We now have Duke Of Edinburgh qualified staff and as a result we have 14 cadets completing their bronze award.
- 2 Cadets have qualified in offshore sailing and 6 cadets have qualified in power boating.
- 6 further cadets have qualified in Meteorology and have been supplying data to the UK Met Office which forms part of their forecasts.
- We have organised charity events for Help for heroes, Children in need & red nose day, we helped out at the living in history event, the harbour festival, and the 90th anniversary of the Royal British Legion events.
- We have had stalls at fetes around the Forest Of Dean including the Lydney Hospital Fete where we assisted other stall holders.
- We have represented the Forest Of Dean in numerous

We continue to rely on the support of the community and the council for what we do, the cadets do a great deal for the Forest and especially as we are based here, in Lydney, they deserve recognition for the things they achieve. Unless they get this recognition the cadets feel disheartened and let down. The staff at the unit continue to work very hard to maintain the high standards set, we do not get paid and we give at least 20hrs per week, we do not seek reward for what we do but hope the cadets will get the recognition and facilities they deserve.

Sub-Lieutenant (SCC) M Chard, RNR
Commanding Officer

Lydney Dramatic Society 2011-2012

Lydney Dramatic Society has enjoyed another successful year. We performed a 3 Act Play, "Wanted One Body", which was very favourably received.

Our young members of the "Scene Setters" did extremely well at the Gloucester Drama Festival winning six awards.

The pantomime this year was written by one of our members Sally James and it did particularly well, all credit to her.

We are now based in Lydney Community Centre after spending a year at Springfield Church. We are pleased to be back as we regard the Centre to be our home. We have nothing but praise for Springfield; we were treated very well and thank them profusely for their hospitality.

We are currently rehearsing for a 3 Act Play due to be performed in late June.

New members are always welcome, we meet Thursdays at 7.30 pm. The "Scene Setters" meet on Fridays 6.30 pm - 8.00 pm and 8.00 pm - 9.30 pm at the Community Centre.

Nancy Moore





LYDNEY FESTIVAL REPORT FOR YEAR 2011-2012

With funding support being reduced as a result of the economic situation, the emphasis of the festival focused on local, young and talented artists & musicians.

The concert by pianist Alex Kirk & percussionist Rhydian Griffiths was of the highest order. The concerts given by the Lydney Area Primary Schools and Wydean School displayed a wide range of musical skills: all those performing showed great enthusiasm and obvious enjoyment in participating.

Sharp humour and robust story telling were on show when comedienne Janie Godley entertained with descriptions of her chaotic Glaswegian life.

Local verbal skills were in action once again at the Slam Poetry Event when four Lydney poets competed against Cheltenham, providing, as usual, hilarious entertainment before an appreciative audience.

The Lydney Docks Music Festival, in partnership with the Lydney Yacht Club, was a great success with support from SARA, the Severn Fishermen, Purton Hulks, the Tall Ships Association, Lydney Training Band & Forest Brass. The forty visiting boats, dressed overall, created a unique festive atmosphere, and those attending experienced nostalgic echoes of yester years at Lydney's historic harbour.

Derek Biddle



Lydney and District Twinning Association

This year, 2012, is the 21st anniversary of the Lydney & District Twinning Association. Over this period the twinning with Bréhal in Normandy, a small town near Granville, north of Mount St Michel, has forged friendships and nurtured common interests and promoted greater understanding of our different cultures and histories.

We are always keen to increase our membership and especially want to encourage younger people and families to join us, to ensure that the Twinning continues to be vibrant and on-going. At present we have 67 members and are pleased to have recently been joined by some younger families.

This year we are hosting our Bréhal friends over the last weekend in May, and as usual they will arrive on the Friday afternoon and leave on Monday morning. We will welcome them with a small reception where they will meet their hosts who will then entertain their guests individually until Sunday evening, when we will all get together for our evening of feasting and entertainment. There is a lot of competition between the two towns as to which is the more welcoming and has the best entertainment and most delicious food etc. Last year the French excelled themselves and it will be difficult to match them.

Some of the French speak excellent English and likewise some of us speak very good French, but there is a complete range of linguistic skills on both sides. Lack of language ability never seems to be a bar to forging friendships when everyone is keen to communicate.

Our visits take place on alternate years and last year the Mayor of Bréhal hosted a champagne reception to mark the 20th year of the twinning association. Our next visit to Bréhal will be in 2013.

During the course of each year we hold some fundraising events in order to raise the finance needed towards the cost of entertaining our visitors, and members also pay an annual subscription of £5 per person or £10 per family. The encouraging feature in the last few years, both in France and in England, is the increase in membership in both towns, which bodes well for the future.

Judy Capps (Chairman)

11.04.2012



Lydney Town Council

2011 - 2012 LIST OF COUNCILLORS

<p>MAYOR Mr William Osborne 25 Valley Road Lydney Glos GL15 5QN Tel: 01594 841970</p>	<p>Mr John Bartle 2 The Old Mead 28 Grove Raod Lydney Glos GL15 5JG</p>	<p>Mr Robin Berryman Stedman 77, High Street Aylburton Glos GL15 6DE Tel: 01594 842036</p>
<p>Mr Derek Biddle Hurst Farm Lydney Glos GL15 4LN Tel: 01594 842180</p>	<p>Mrs Ruth Bonser 24 Forest Road Lydney Glos GL15 5LB Tel: 01594 841813</p>	<p>Mr David Cooksley 3 Swan Road Lydney Glos GL15 5RU Tel: 01594 844351</p>
<p>Mrs Jan Cordon Marie Cottage Montpellier Road Bream Glos GL15 6LZ Tel: 01594 562554</p>	<p>Mr David Edwards 33 Templeway Lydney Glos GL15 5HU Tel: 01594 840106</p>	<p>Mrs Carol Harris 63 Klondyke Avenue Lydney Glos GL15 5PN Tel: 01594 841026</p>
<p>Mrs Valerie Hobman 31 Albert Street Lydney Glos GL15 5LU Tel: 01594 841079</p>	<p>Mrs Janice James 3 Bathurst Park Road Lydney GL15 5HG Tel: 01594 843847</p>	<p>Ms Charlotte Matthews The Old Vicarage Lords Hill Coleford Glos Tel: 01594 836105</p>
<p>Mr Brian Pearman 18 Bracken Close Lydney Glos GL15 5AH Tel; 01594 841452</p>	<p>Mr Albert Stapleton 3 Mount Pleasant Lydney Glos GL15 5QE Tel:01594 841482</p>	<p>Mr Brian Thomas Soilwell Barn Allaston Road Lydney Glos GL15 4EX Tel: 01594 842373</p>
<p>TOWN/DISTRICT COUNCILLORS</p> <p>Cllr V Hobman (Lydney East - Labour)</p> <p>&</p> <p>Cllr B Osborne (Lydney East - Labour)</p> <p><u>(Details as above)</u></p>	<p>DISTRICT COUNCILLORS</p> <p>Cllr: James Bevan Dane Hollow Cottage Highfield Lane Lydney Glos Tel: 01594 842148 Email: James.Bevan@fdean.gov.uk</p> <p>Cllr J Davis 1 The Spires Lydney Glos GL15 5QX Phone: 01594 842884 Email: Judy.Davis@fdean.gov.uk</p> <p>Cllr: Terry Glastonbury Tall Pines The Tufts New Road Bream GL15 6HL Tel: 01594 562102 Email: Terry.Glastonbury@fdean.gov.uk</p> <p>Cllr M Winship Severn Lodge Church Lane Alvington Lydney, Glos GL15 6BQ Tel: 01594 528289 Email: Marion.Winship@fdean.gov.uk</p>	<p>COUNTY COUNCILLOR</p> <p>Cllr D Cooksley (Lydney - Conservative)</p> <p><u>(Details as above)</u></p>
<p>Chief Executive Officer/RFO</p> <p>Mrs Jayne Smailes Tel: 01594 842234 E-Mail: ceo@lydneytowncouncil.co.uk</p>	<p>Executive Officer</p> <p>Miss Carol Wheeler Tel: 01594 842234 E-Mail: exec.officer@lydneytowncouncil.co.uk</p>	<p>Finance Assistant</p> <p>Mrs Hilary Exton Tel: 01595 842234 E-Mail: Finance.assistant@lydneytowncouncil.co.uk</p>

The following persons, having been elected/co-opted to council, resigned/chose not to take up office) during 2011/12;

Ms Judy Davis, Mr Adrian Jones, Mr K Morgan, Mr A Preest & (Cllr F Williams – deceased)