



LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL



2014/15 ANNUAL REPORT

Lydney

Annual Town Meeting

at

The Town Hall, Lydney

On Monday 20th April 2015 at 7.00pm

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

B Berryman

Cllr B Berryman

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 7th April 2014
3. The Mayor's Annual Report for 2014/15
4. Annual Police Report
5. To receive the following Annual Town Council Reports:
 - ❖ Planning & Highways Committee – Chairman's Report (*Cllr Greenwood*)
 - ❖ Amenities Committee Report (*Cllr B Thomas*)
 - ❖ Burial Committee Report (*Cllr Harris*)
 - ❖ Finance & Scrutiny Committee - Chairman's Report (*Cllr Pearman*)
 - Budget Comparison
 - ❖ CEOs Report
 - ❖ Head Grounds Man Report
6. To receive the Annual County Councillor's Report (*Cllr Preest*)
7. To note the annual Charitable Trust Reports;
 - ❖ Bathurst Park and Recreation Trust
 - ❖ Lydney Recreation Ground Trust
8. To receive a selection Community Reports (*Hard copies enclosed*)
9. Public Questions (*Questions submitted in advance of meeting by the general public*)

Note: Notice was given W/C 30th March 2015, both in the Press and via our Notice Boards, advising Council had entered the purdah period. For this reason questions submitted in writing have received a formal written response (contained herein). Should any member of the electorate however wish to raise a further question following this evenings meeting they are respectfully requested to submit their question, in writing, to the Town Council for which they will then receive a formal response, tendered by the Mayor, as part of the Town Council's May Full Council Meeting to which they are more than welcome to attend.

10. Close

**Annual Town Meeting
Held at Lydney Town Hall, Lydney
Monday 7 April 2014 at 7.00 pm**

Present: Lydney Town Council
B Berryman (Mayor), J Bevan, D Biddle, R Bonser, C Harris, C Matthews, B Pearman, A Preest, S Rudge, C Vaughan

Mrs J Smailes - Chief Executive Officer
Miss C Wheeler - Executive Officer
Miss K Hammond – Administrative Assistant
Mr R Lewis – Independent Internal Auditor, Wildin & Co

Gloucestershire Police
Superintendent PC P Hopkins

35 Members of the Public

Councillor Berryman welcomed all present to the meeting and explained that no practice fire evacuations were scheduled during the event. Attendees were then informed of the location of the fire exits and were reminded that questions from the electorate would be taken later in the meeting.

All attendees were provided with a bound version of Lydney Town Council's Annual Report 2013/14.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received and noted from Cllrs Greenwood, Hobman, Osborne and Thomas and District Cllrs Davis and Glastonbury

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting dated 15 April 2013 were confirmed and approved as a true record and duly signed. **Proposed by Cllr Biddle, seconded by Cllr Harris.** Vote carried.

3. **MAYOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2013/14** – Cllr B Berryman

Cllr Berryman read out his report, as contained in the Council's Annual Report for 2013/2014.

4. **ANNUAL POLICE REPORT**

PC Hopkins advised that the crime numbers had reduced when compared to 2013; that an operation to tackle speeding in the Parish would shortly be undertaken by Police and that with regard to the closure of the Police Station, a Police Information Point (PIP) would be operated from the Fire Station, however, no timeframe for the closure of the Police Station had yet been given.

Q – I agree that its time something was done to address speeding in the Parish.

A – Whilst Officers did undertake an operation a fortnight ago, no vehicles were found to be speeding. However, the imminent operation would be of a different type.

Q – We hardly see a Police Officer in Lydney.

A – I spend 2-3 hours per day walking the streets in the Town.

Q – Will you also be targeting drivers who use their mobile phones whilst driving?

A – Yes. We will also be targeting those drivers who do not wear their seatbelts.

Q – Speeding in the Town also occurs at night.

A – I will ensure that all comments are relayed to the new Sargent, Richard Pitman.

Members of the public also highlighted that the number of cars speeding in Bream Road was on the increase and welcomed the presence of a Police Officer at the meeting.

5. **LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Planning and Highway Committee – Cllr J Bevan

Cllr Bevan read out his report, as contained in the Council's Annual Report for 2013/14.

Amenities Committee – Cllr R Bonser (on behalf of Cllr B Thomas)

Cllr Thomas read out the Committee's report, as contained in the Council's Annual Report for 2013/2014.

Burial Committee – Cllr C Harris

Cllr Harris read out her report, as contained in the Council's Annual Report for 2013/2014.

Finance and Scrutiny Committee – Cllr B Pearman

Cllr Pearman read out his report, as contained in the Council's Annual Report for 2013/2014.

CEOs Financial Report – Mrs J Smailes

The CEO summarised her report, as contained in the Council's Annual Report for 2013/14

6. **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT** – County Cllr Preest

County Cllr Preest read out his report, as contained in the Council's Annual Report for 2013/14.

7. **FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT COUNCIL'S REPORT** – District Cllr J Bevan (on behalf of Mr P Hibberd)

District Cllr Bevan read out Mr Hibberd's report, as contained in the Council's Annual Report for 2013/14.

8. **HEAD GROUNDSMAN'S REPORT** – Mr J Young

Mr Young read out his report, as contained in the Council's Annual Report for 2013/14.

9. **CHARITABLE TRUST REPORTS**

Bathurst Park and Recreation Trust – Trustee C Matthews

Trustee Matthews read out her report, as contained in the Council's Annual Report for 2013/14.

Lydney Recreation Trust – Trustee Biddle

Trustee Biddle read out his report, as contained in the Council's Annual Report for 2013/14.

10. **COMMUNITY REPORTS**

Lydney Tennis Club – Mr Martin Godwin, Chairman

Mr Godwin read out the Club's report, as contained in the Council's Annual Report for 2013/2014, however, he highlighted that a section had been removed from the report pertaining to the decommissioning of the Trust's footbridge which he had originally supplied.

Mr Godwin was advised of the Council's editorial rights and the necessity to comply with health and safety legislation/Duty of Care.

Lydney Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group – Cllr Brian Pearman, Chairman
Referencing the Group's report contained in the Council's Annual Report for 2013/14, Cllr Pearman advised that the Group's Consultation Statement amounted to 126 pages and the Examiner's Version of the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) had been formulated from consultation exercises. Thanks were expressed to all those who had participated in the consultation exercises and Cllr Pearman stressed that the NDP was an enabling document which could be used in the future to resolve issues.

Cllr Pearman advised that he had personally hand delivered a copy of the Examiner's Version of the NDP to Forest of Dean District Council on 4 April 2014 and then outlined the steps which would then need to be taken by said Authority prior to holding a Referendum on the document.

All present were advised that further information on the NDP could be obtained via the Group's website (www.lydneyndp.org.uk) and that upon adoption the NDP became a Statutory Planning Document which could be used to plan/shape the Town. Cllr Pearman provided details of the Group's next meeting, which was available for all interested parties to attend.

Lydney Town Hall Trust Management Committee – Mr Colin Knight, Chairman
Mr Knight read out the Committee's report, as contained in the Council's Annual Report for 2013/2014.

Lydney Community Centre – Ms P Stokes (on behalf of Mr D Biddle, Chairman)
Ms Stokes read out the Centre's report, as contained in the Council's Annual Report for 2013/14.

Lydney War Memorial Trust – Mr F Bennett, Chair
Mr Bennett advised that due to the departure of a tenant the Trust had secured new tenants for one of its properties who had undertaken an overall of the garden. The Trust had applied for funding to provide a walk-in bath at a cost of £6,000, however, as funding had not been secured the Trust had elected to provide the tenant with a shower facility instead.

Mr Bennett advised that the Trust's properties had been rewired; that the flashing on one of the chimneys had required replacement; that on Christmas Eve the aerial for one of the properties had failed which required the installation of a more powerful system in the loft space.

Friends of Lydney Hospital – Mr A Midgeley, Chairman
Mr Midgeley advised that the Friends of Lydney Hospital (FOLH) were actively involved in Gloucestershire NHS Trust Care in the Community events. From the meetings which had been attended it was felt that health and social care arrangements in the Forest would be the subject of scrutiny and debate. Mr Midgeley felt that all Councillors would need to play an active part in networking with decision makers.

Mr Midgeley advised that FOLH engaged in monthly communication sessions which appeared to be working well and he reported that fundraising efforts continued. All present were informed that the annual Hospital Fete continued to act as a major fundraising event for the Hospital and also acted as a vital link to draw the Hospital and the community together. Mr Midgeley advised that a major project undertaken by FOLH was the refurbishment of the staff room which had been really appreciated by the hospital's staff and that FOLH produced a six-monthly newsletter which was distributed throughout the Town.

Royal British Legion – Lydney Branch – Mr M Rudge, RBL Branch Chairman and Mr F Bennett

Mr Rudge clarified that the Club, not the Branch, had gone into administration, however, the Club's auditors had allowed it to continue to trade at the present time. It was noted that the building had been left in Trust to the Branch and would continue to exist as long as the Branch remained.

Mr Rudge advised that the Branch had taken part in the Armed Forces Event together with Dean Forest Railway and he was pleased to report that attendance at the Remembrance Service had been the largest ever. Mr Rudge explained that whilst the Remembrance Service was a civic event for the Town, it was organised on the Council's behalf by the Legion and he highlighted the positive relationship which existed between the two organisations.

Attention was drawn to the fact that 2014 was the anniversary of the Great War and that the Legion had submitted an outline to the Council as to how the event could be commemorated.

Thanks were expressed to Mr S Rudge, Poppy Appeal Organiser and it was noted that since Mr S Rudge had assumed the role he had raised in excess of £100,000 for the Appeal. Mr Rudge advised that he was a member of the Gloucester County Committee and that the Lydney Branch possessed one of the most active Welfare Committees.

Mr Bennett advised that the Branch came under the South West Midlands and that an office had been set up in Bristol in May. It was noted that holidays/breaks were made available to current and past serving members of the armed forces and those eligible were encouraged to telephone the Legion's Contact Centre in Cardiff for further information. Mr Bennett reported that the Welfare Committee had received a number of legacies and he highlighted that any money gained would be "ring fenced" for Lydney and Aylburton residents only. Attendees were encouraged to contact the Legion if their ancestors had served in WWI or if they possessed any artefacts from the period.

Mr Rudge advised that the Branch now operated a "Pop In Centre" which had been received with great success. It was noted that that the Centre had dealt with 16 cases during the four weeks it had been open.

Lydney Dial-a-Ride – Mrs L Currie, Manager

Mrs Currie advised that the organisation was focused on a core vision to prevent social and rural exclusion. Mrs Currie advised that over the last 12 months the organisation had taken on a schools contract for pupils with special education needs.

Attendees noted that Lydney Dial-a-Ride now leased the Bus Station from Gloucestershire County Council which housed the buses, offices and shop. Mrs Currie advised that Dial-a-Ride were now able to accept concessionary bus passes and funding had been obtained to cover the cost of engaging a Forest Transport Co-ordinator.

Neds Top Residents Action Group – Mr R Deeks

Referencing his report which was contained in the Council's Annual Report for 2013/14, Mr Deeks highlighted that increased traffic had been noticed on the local roads due to the work which was being conducted on the A48; that development on greenfield sites was a big cause for concern for the Group and highlighted that one proposed development equated to the size of 15 football pitches; suggested that the issue surrounding the proposed development at Allaston was related to sustainability; advised that the Group had engaged with the Neighbourhood

Development Plan and offered congratulations to Cllr Pearman on the work undertaken so far.

Mr Deeks called for work to take place on the infrastructure in the Town in order to ensure that any development was sustainable and he also highlighted the importance of providing sustainable transport.

Lydney Yacht Club – Ms K Kilby, Vice Commodore

Ms Kilby advised that the Club had been moving forward over the last few years to increase its membership and gain younger members. Attendees were informed that the Environment Agency planned to sell the Harbour, nevertheless the Club were determined to get involved with the development of the Harbour and had organised more training courses for members of the public and young people.

Ms Kilby reported the Club would participate in the Lydney Festival again; that on 28/29 June it intended to fill the Harbour with boats and anticipated attendance figures of 2,000 over the entire weekend.

Lakeside Residents – Mr G Blake (on behalf of the residents)

Mr Blake provided a report on the events leading up to the flooding which occurred on Christmas Eve 2013. The main points of Mr Blake's report are shown below:

- February 2013 – timber which had interfered with over-head electrical cables on land at the rear of 115 Lakeside Avenue was felled.
- Whilst residents had contacted Forest of Dean District Council and Lydney Town Council to request the removal of said timber no action was taken.
- Christmas Eve 2013 – during a storm a quantity of the timber entered the watercourse subsequently blocking the trash screen at the rear of 115 Lakeside Avenue, which caused flooding to occur in numerous properties in Lakeside Avenue.
- It was noted that a number of elderly and frail residents had to be evacuated from their properties and the owner of 115 Lakeside Avenue performed heroics on the night to unblock the trash screen in the dark which prevented the problem from becoming much worse.
- Since the flooding, investigations are on-going to ascertain if there are insurance implications for the properties which had flooded (it was known that due to a previous flood no insurance could be obtained for 115 Lakeside Avenue), in addition legal investigations into the ownership of the trash screen.
- Appreciation was voiced for the work Lydney Town Council Members and staff had undertaken to unblock the watercourse and its continued assistance, advice and shared concern.
- It was noted that a multi-agency meeting has taken place with Lakeside residents, during which it was stated that the trash screen was 90% blocked; that Forest of Dean District Council were performing checks on the watercourse to remove any rubbish, especially when adverse weather was forecast; manhole covers surrounding 115 Lakeside Avenue have been replaced with gully tops which it was hoped would assist with any future flooding occurrences.
- Regretfully a large quantity of the original timber/rubbish/detritus still remained in situ despite Forest of Dean District Council being asked to remove the material fourteen months ago.
- Concern was expressed that Forest of Dean District Council had stated that it had no intention of repairing or replacing its broken fences which currently allowed easy access onto the site.

In view of the above Mr Blake called on Lydney Town Council to maintain pressure on Forest of Dean District Council to ensure that the aforementioned material was removed from site and to continue to work together to establish land ownership in the area.

11. **QUESTION/ANSWER PERIOD**

Three questions were received in advance of the meeting which are summarised below:

i) **Question submitted by Mrs M Walker**

I would like to bring up the “problem” of A Boards on the pavements in the Town Centre. Whist I have raised the issue previously with County Cllr Preest, I have yet to receive a response.

County Cllr Preest advised that he had met with Mr B Watkins, Gloucestershire County Council to discuss the matter and it was not perceived to be an issue at present. It was stressed that sufficient width was provided for mobility scooters/double buggies, however, County Cllr Preest called for members of the public to inform him if specific issues were experienced.

Responding to a further comment made by Mrs Walker, County Cllr Preest requested that Mrs Walker provide details of specific locations where problems were experienced with A Boards in the Town. Once the information had been received County Cllr Preest gave a commitment to arrange for Mr Watkins to re-assess the specified areas.

ii) **Question submitted by Mrs M Walker**

How can the Town Council justify increasing our Council Tax again this year – bringing the increase in 5 years to 57.88% compared to the increases by Gloucestershire County Council of 2.3%; Gloucestershire Police of 7.08% and Forest of Dean District Council of 2.3%?

Cllr Pearman, Chairman, Finance and Scrutiny Committee advised that upon reviewing the Town Council’s Precept over a 5 year period it was not possible to arrive at the same figure as quoted by Mrs Walker. Responding to a further question raised by Mrs Walker, it was highlighted that a number of issues affected individual’s Council tax bills (e.g. the tax base). Attention was drawn to the spreadsheet which detailed the audited figures for the last 5 years and the decrease in the Precept, when compared to the previous year, was highlighted. However, all present were informed that the way in which the Local Council Support Tax was calculated by Forest of Dean District Council had now changed which affected the Council’s budget.

Other comments were made by attendees, as it had been noted that whilst Forest of Dean District Council had not increased their Precept, they had introduced charges for other services (e.g. green waste bins, car parking, etc). Whilst some attendees felt that, following the decision to substantially increase the Council’s Precept approximately three years ago, residents should by now receive a reduction in their Precept Demand, the CEO explained that the Council’s Precept was now at the required level in order to provide such services as deemed necessary by the Town Council. It was emphasised that the Town Council was responsible for two Charitable Trusts; the CEO encouraged Members of the Public to put forward suggestions to the Council as to how the Council’s Precept may be reduced whilst still providing the facilities (including the Charitable Trusts, St Mary’s Closed Churchyard and Lydney Cemetery) desired by residents as any such suggestions would be carefully analysed and applied if appropriate. The CEO also

explained that the Council's Earmarked and Free Reserves were almost at the required level and explained the advice which had been received from the National Association of Local Council's that Parish/Town Council's should not ever "flatline" their Precept Demands but should arrive at their respective calculation via PBP (Policy, Budget, Precept). Accordingly, in her capacity of Responsible Finance Officer the CEO recommended that as a minimum the Council should always increase its Precept in line with inflation and take into account any community projects it wishes to undertake.

Responding to a question which had been raised by a member of the public, Cllr Pearman advised that whilst the Council had taken the decision to pay the sum demanded by the Local Government Pension Scheme in respect of the previous Clerk's early retirement on ill health grounds from its General Reserves back in 2011/12 and 2012/13, the Council had decided to spread the re-building of its General Reserves over a number of years. It was also stressed that during this period the Council had also decided to take on a number of tasks (e.g. provision of CCTV for the Town) and that it had been required to cover the costs of numerous By-elections, all of which had affected its budget/General Reserves.

Referencing the Public Interest Report which had occurred over three years ago, the CEO stated that she would be happy to meet members of the public to explain the Council's accounts and urged them to contact the office to arrange an appointment.

iii) **Question submitted by Ms K Gandy**

Who is responsible for the maintenance of the car parks in Lydney, particularly the car park in Octavia Place, Lydney as the car park has become overgrown by vegetation and the drains in the car park have not been cleaned out for 10 years.

Cllr Bevan read out the response which had been received from Mr B Watkins advising that whilst Octavia Place was a publically maintained Highway, the general road sweeping of urban areas was the responsibility of Forest of Dean District Council. It was noted that Mr Watkins had requested Gloucestershire County Council's contractor to conduct an inspection of Octavia Place; the contractor had also been instructed to remove any vegetation.

Questions submitted from the Floor

Q – I feel that the current restriction on the Bream Road car park exit has been a disaster which has worsened on flow of traffic from the Bream Road junction. Since the introduction of car park charges usage of the car park has gone from full to empty.

A – A temporary barrier was located to prevent cars from using the rear exit of the Bream Road car park as the car park was being used as a "rat run" and vehicles were exiting the car park at speed. Concern had been expressed for the safety of the public and young people. As the trial period for the temporary barrier has now expired, Lydney Town Council are pushing for its removal and replacement with a chicane system.

Q – If a suggestion is made to install a roundabout at the Bream Road junction it would not work; the junction needs traffic lights.

A – The requested chicane would reduce vehicle speed in the Bream Road car park and Gloucestershire County Council will be implementing parking restrictions in Bream Road, however, this action has been delayed due to an objection which had been received from a member of the public. A Town Council representative has attended a Lydney Air Quality Management meeting at Forest of Dean District Council and has suggested that the model which

was promoted at the meeting needed to be re-modelled in order to incorporate Dean Forest Railway timetables. The installation of traffic lights at the Bream Road junction had been included in the model.

12. **CLOSE**
The meeting closed at 9.52 pm.

The Mayor's Annual Report

2014/15

Once again I have to report a disappointing year for Lydney Town Council with no progress on the public crossing at the station, no action with the road junctions at Bream Road and Forest Road and no movement on a new supermarket.

Oakdale continues to be a cause for concern as it is still isolated with poor pedestrian access and no buses. I am hopeful that having attended a Stakeholder meeting with the developer we are at last turning the corner with these and other issues. One problem is that some of the work is tied up with the commencement of Phase Two of the house building.

We still have no Youth Council, but again I am hopeful that after the election the new council, in conjunction with Dean Academy, and other youth groups, will manage to move this concept forward.

On a positive note the Town Council, with Forest of Dean District Council and Gloucestershire County Council have carried out work to help alleviate the flooding problem in Lakeside. Attenuation Ponds have been re-instated and Penstock put in place with a further chestnut stave measure planned. This has been financed by Lydney flood money; other engineering options in relation to the flooding at Fallers Field are also being considered. There are still concerns with the grid on the stream at the end of Lakeside and also the drains at Faller Fields. The flood defence meetings continue to take place regularly and we have been promised by Gloucestershire County Council that money for improvements will be forthcoming.

Lydney Town Council with Dean Forest Railway and Forest of Dean District Council continue to clear the banks of the River Lyd to increase the water flow thus helping to keep Lydney town free of flooding.

The standard of the Cemetery, St Mary's 'closed' Churchyard and Bathurst Park has been maintained. The ground staff have continued their excellent work in and around the town and I would like to thank them for the high quality that has been achieved under the leadership of Head Groundsman - Mr James Young.

The number of allotments is due to be increased with a quantity of raised beds; one advantage being they will be accessible to disabled people.

The NDP is still sitting with Forest of Dean District Council some 12 months after its submission, awaiting their decision on its independent review and subsequent referendum.

The Christmas light switch on was again a great success with a good attendance by the public. A committee has already been formed to make improvements for 2015; led by Cllr Harris.

Increased numbers attended and enjoyed the firework display in Bathurst Park, with it being the best display to date.

For a town with a population of nine thousand, Lydney continues to offer an excellent selection of sports clubs, all of whom play at an exceptionally high level. The town boasts cricket, rugby, football and hockey plus clubs for tennis, angling, boxing, bowls, netball and swimming. There is also a number of strong groups; scouts, guides, air cadets and sea

cadets. All these groups involve the children of the area and I would like all of them and all charitable groups for their hard work in the town. Their actions are the heartbeat of our community.

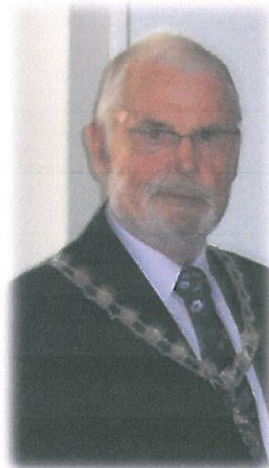
Each year staff appraisals are carried out and discussions then take place with all of our employees as to what courses they and the Council feel are required in order to increase the council's efficiency. Courses like weed spraying, road side working and chainsaw use now allow for such work to be undertaken 'in-house'. Office staff are also afforded suitable/relevant training, making them an efficient/effective team. Our CEO is now able to carry out training of staff and councillors and also assists other councils and groups, advising on current legislative and financial practice. Staff meetings regularly take place so that any problems can be dealt with immediately. The Council now has a well trained, enthusiastic, efficient and competent work force, something the Council is proud of and one that is likely to stand the community in good stead in the future.

I have been somewhat disappointed with the number of councillors who have resigned over the past four year term, (list/reasons cited available upon request). I would urge anyone who is considering standing for the May election's to firstly research fully the role, and then to commit to the four year term and the desire to move Lydney forward rather than harp on about its past as councillor resignations remain a significant financial drain on the Town Council's resources and is a notable waste of our electorate's money.

Please realise before you stand that Lydney Members have previously resolved not to draw any expenses and therefore give of their time voluntarily, and are always in the firing line for criticism, however remain keen to donate their time and expertise to working for and improving our local community.

Finally, I would again like to thank my wife, fellow councillors and staff for all their help and support during this past year.

Cllr Bob Berryman
Mayor



Police Report

Lydney Annual Police Report 2014/2015

Local Staff

Forest Inspector – Stephen Chester
Forest South Sergeant (Coleford/Lydney/Sedbury) – PS Pitman

Lydney beat manager – PC 2142 Hopkins
PCSO Tom Oliver
PCSO Dan Wilce

Crimes.

- ❖ The number of crimes that has taken place across Lydney have increased from **351** (13/14) to **381** same period 14/15. This is an increase of 30 crimes (just under 10% increase)

Detected Crimes.

	Disposal										Total
	Adult Caution	Adult Conditional Caution	Det Charge / Summons	Det NFA Community Resolution	Det NFA Formal Warning Possess	Det NFA Penalty Notice Disorder	Det TIC Prev. Recorded	Restorative Disposal Level 1	Youth Caution	Youth Conditional Caution	
Lydney	6	1	73	4	6	4	3	9	5	9	120
Total	6	1	73	4	6	4	3	9	5	9	120

Road Traffic Collisions.

- ❖ During the period of 9 March 2014 – 15th March 2015 there have been **79** Road Traffic Collisions. In a comparison to 9 March 2013 – 15th March 2014 there were **90** Collisions reported. (**decrease of 11**)

Police Report

Response Times

Each incident reported to the Police is given a grading depending on the severity of the incident. This ranges from suspects no longer at the scene, date when the offence happened and also risk to life factors.

Grade 1's require trained officers to respond with lights and sirens illuminated. In urban areas the response times are set at **10** minutes. Rural areas are set at **20** minutes.

In the period – 9 March 2014 – 15 March 2015 there have been:

340 **Grade 1's**
856 **Grade 2's**
529 **Grade 3's**
418 **Grade 4's**

There have been **2143** incidents created by Police.

Lydney Policing Issues.

- ✓ I have been informed that Lydney Police Station will be closing towards the end of March 2015. At this stage there is no facility for officers to start or conclude them there and they will be based at Coleford. I am looking at dedicated days and times to ensure a surgery will be run.
- ✓ Steele Avenue – Drugs – A drugs warrant was recently conducted and a large quantity of drugs (Heroin) was found. We are working closely with Housing on this matter.
- ✓ Albert Street Carpark – This is patrolled daily and has been constantly reviewed. However, apart from youths gathering, talking loudly and playing music there are no offences and no reason to ask them to leave. Also the reported incidents are minimal.
- ✓ Wheeled Respect – this is a speeding operation which is run in Lydney 3 monthly. The last was a success and we targeted the 20mph zone.
- ✓ We have a future plan to implement 'thank you for keeping me safe' – This is working closely with Lydney COE and in particular the school gate parking issue. There is a scheme in place in Tutshill which has been successful using Colin the Croc.
- ✓ Community Speed Watch is available for members of the community to be trained using the speed gun. Minimum of 6 people required and gun provided by Road Safety Partnership.
- ✓ A number of successful warrants have taken place and arrests made around illegal sale of Tabaco in Lydney.

PLANNING AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE – 2014/2015

It has been a relatively busy year for the Committee and I would like thank the Committee of Cllr Alan Preest, as Vice-Chair, and Cllrs Berryman, Harris, Thomas, Vaughan and Pearman. We were joined later in the year by newly co-opted Cllr Openshaw. D. Street Esq. was also co-opted to the Committee, and was able to engage fully in all debates, although without voting rights.

The Committee has very limited power. We are in fact only Statutory Consultees which means in essence that the power to make decisions ultimately lies with the Forest of Dean District Council's (FODDC) Group Planning Officer and his Committee, except other than in special circumstances, for example very large developments which could be called in and examined by the Secretary of State.

Copies of Planning Applications applicable to our area are sent to the Town Council for scrutiny by our Committee; we are permitted to respond by means of 'material comment' (which means any comment returned by the Town Council must be both factual and in line with recognised planning terminology i.e. if the planned extension to a property was too large for the plot of land the comment returned may well be - *Objection; over development of footprint*). If an application is not deemed to be seen as controversial and Members have not been lobbied by any of our constituents then we normally now state either 'no comment' or 'no objection'. FODDC Officers at District level will normally make a decision on most applications under delegated powers.

We were sad to see Cllr Pearman resign later in the year as he had shouldered the burden of the work over Lydney Town Council's submission to the Allaston Inquiry.

PLANNING

The majority of the Planning Applications that the Council debated were unanimously approved with no objection. Of course, there were many that also divided the Committee at times, but the Committee worked hard to find solutions and reach a general consensus.

Regarding supermarkets, their fate seems to remain out of the hands of this Council, out of the hands of FODDC and in the hands of lawyers and the Courts.

The Council were agreed on the application regarding an Application for c. 80,000 photovoltaic solar panels at the Purlieu. They were deemed to hamper smaller, more appropriate schemes, with insufficient community benefit and questions over drainage. A revised application for c. 50,000 was also refused by FODDC.

Many of the on-going issues at Oakdale are now on a better footing after work by residents, the Council, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) and developers over the year. A round-table meeting at the beginning of 2015 has seen agreements on the way forward for signage, access, bins, post boxes etc. However, all parties will have to continue to work on delivery, as many issues remain entangled with the second phase of development.

At the beginning of the year Two Rivers Housing reported 360 homes were sought in Lydney, of which 195 were requested 1-bed, and 111 2-bed. It is not yet clear what effect the 'Bedroom Tax' is having on demand or the position of tenants.

The most contentious and contested development has been for c. 200 houses on greenfield land off Driffield and Allaston Roads. The Council's position has remained unchanged over a year that has seen revised plans, a strong local campaign and the Application being called in. What was not expected was FODDC's decision not to defend their decision at that Inquiry; the reason given was that there was insufficient planning permission granted to fulfil a '5-year supply'. Lydney Town Council has remained opposed to the application on the grounds that the land is open space, outside the settlement boundary, with major access and substantial run-off problems and these objections were reinforced at the Inquiry, with the Inspector's report expected on or around 25th June 2015.

The Yorkley Court Community farm lies outside the geographical remit of Lydney Town Council, and although Lydney Town Council was asked to opine and intervene, the property is not within the Council's jurisdiction.

Lydney Town Council will not be taking forward their own mobile CCTV in the scheme proposed at District level. The mobile CCTV will be hired in as and when required.

Gloucestershire Constabulary were able to confirm that the 20 mph zones would be enforced.

More grit bins are the agenda for the new administration after May 7th and would be available for the winter of 2015/16.

HIGHWAYS

The links between Lydney Town Council and Gloucestershire County Council through the activities of Cllr Preest had seen some progress with the Highways concerns affecting the town.

The aggressive recent winters have caused havoc with the roads and there is a very significant backlog of potholes that still need to be repaired.

Parking restrictions have been confirmed for Bream Road; N.B. parents of children at Lydney C of E School are reminded that they can park for free in the Car Park at the bottom of the hill while walking their children to school.

The good news is that money has been confirmed for road improvements at Forest Road, Bream Road, a cycle link from the town station to the railway station and improvements at the railway station itself.

Many thanks again to the Committee over the 2014/15 Civic Year.

James Greenwood
Chairman

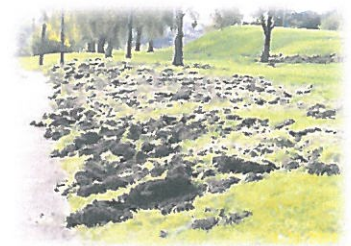
27th March 2015

Amenities Committee Chairman's Report 2014 to 2015

This has been my fourth year as a Lydney Town Councillor and third as Chair of the Amenities Committee.

As I explained in my first report back in 2013, the Committee was created to focus on the multitude of details that need to be dealt with to create a better place for us all, in which to live. In short, it exists to look after the provision of the practical elements.

A major setback in this last year was the intrusion of the wild boar onto Primrose Hill playground. After previously clearing the area of the broken and damaged wooden play items, we were about to order and install stronger metal equipment for the younger children. To the distress of the local residents and the town councillors, before this could happen, a number of boar arrived under cover of darkness and destroyed a large area of turf in their search for food. We tried to deal with the problem by investigating the installation of special fencing around the area to force the boar to move elsewhere, but the council could not be sure that this would work. The cost of installing fencing and repairing the large area of turf prevented us from taking this any further at this time.



The only good news is that the bracken and brambles which had become established on the boundary of the woodland has been cleared freeing up additional useful space. The disturbed turves will be scarified and harrowed to create a suitable area for re-sowing with grass seed. We have also taken the opportunity to remove an area of Japanese Knotweed that was threatening to become established over a wider area.



We also trialled the creation of wildflower beds on the western approach to the town near to Taurus Crafts; there was a mixed success that we have learned from. An army of slugs emerging from the hedgerows destroyed the majority of the seedling plants over a two week period. The final blow was the infestation of 'fat hen' weeds later in the season obscured the flowers that had survived! This year we are using weed-killer and slug pellets twice before sowing to give the seeds a chance to become established. The 'fat hen' will

be dealt with by hand before it takes over again. In addition to these flower beds on the western approach to Lydney we are also trialling another on the eastern edge of the town.

Some of the items we deal with seem perennial. The provision of litter and dog fouling bins happens during the course of the year with salt gritting bins usually come to the fore in October. A seasonal item that we are experimenting with is the Christmas Lights. We have established a working party lead by Cllr Carol Harris to improve the display through the town. One of her early recommendations is to replace the artificial tree that we have used for the last two years with a genuine specimen.

The council is still looking for additional space to increase the provision of allotments in the town. The Amenities Committee considered renting an area of Cambourne Meadow from the Recreation Trust but this was rejected as unsuitable because of earlier soil contamination. We have since decided to install raised beds on part of the South Road site, filled with clean topsoil. We trust these will be ready for use before too long.

We must give thanks for Cllr Harris's efforts to establish a 'Lydney in Bloom' action group. You will all have seen the remarkable work by the grounds staff in clearing the tired beds by Hylton Court. It is planned to continue this work, to regenerate and brighten other areas of the town. The town has also benefitted from a grant of 400 trees from the Woodland Trust for planting in Bathurst Park and Cemetery.

Cllr Brian Thomas

Burial Committee

'We aim to keep the cemetery to a standard that provides a place of comfort, tranquillity and reflection for all those who visit.'



In 1952 a Cemetery, managed by Lydney Town Council, was opened on the west side of Church Road and occupies a triangular site on the corner of Church Road and the A48.

The maintenance and upkeep of the Cemetery remains of utmost importance. Grass cuts are carried out by our Town Council Ground Staff during the growing period each year (normally this is from the start of April until the end of October) on a weekly basis. A member of Ground Staff also visits the cemetery regularly during the normal working hours (Monday to Friday), and carries out general tidying/ maintenance work within the cemetery.

This year the Committee have carried out repair work to the tarmacking/edging of the entrance path in order to prevent a slip/trip hazard.

The 'Garden of Reflection' is slowly maturing over the years.

A new interment vault has been installed in the Cemetery along with new benches and floral displays, thereby creating a second area for quiet reflection.

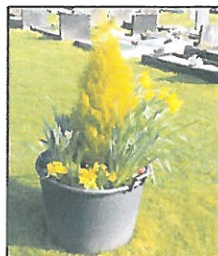


The old 'Garden of Remembrance' has been further enhanced by laying a weed suppressing membrane and layer of slate to the top surface, providing uniformity. The outside wall has been power washed, the railings are due to be painted when the weather improves.



The Burial Committee and Ground Staff work closely to ensure that Cemetery maintenance remains a priority and we appreciate the many positive comments which we receive throughout the year from members of the public to this affect.

*Cllr C Harris
Chairman*



Finance Chairman's Report 2014/2015

I have just completed my third full year as Finance Chairman, and as last year, Lydney Town Council like Central Government has faced and will continue to face significant challenges on the financial front.

Following the previous year's progress in how the Council manages its budgets and monitors /controls its expenditure and income (*making the best possible use of public money*) and improving governance/procedures, this has been a year of consolidation; the key benchmarks being:-

- **The Year End Return was again signed off on time by the External Auditors with no issues**
- **The Council finished the year within budget and will do so again this year**
- **The Council's General Reserves are approaching the desired level but more work needs to be done in this area**

This really is the result of a team effort involving both Staff and Councillors working together, and this must continue in order to enable Council to meet the challenges coming its way, such as a possible 'capping' of local councils in the next couple of years. A sound and robust financial base and management controls will enable the Council to face the future with confidence.

Last year I spoke of training, and I can report that the training undertaken by all of our staff during the year means Lydney Town Council have the best trained, qualified and motivated staff we have ever had, the dividends of which will be realised over the coming years. I am aware that the report by the Mayor contains a section on training so I will refer you to this section of the report for more detail.

I would like to dispel a myth that seems to exist in the minds of some members of the electorate; that a rise of say 3.1% increase in the Council Precept results in a 3,1% increase in the overall council tax bill - I have been asked the question previously.

Currently the total bill at band C is made up, in round figures as follows;

Glos CC	£969.33	67%
FoDDC	£144.26	10%
Police	£184.65	13%
LTC	£151.76	10%
Total	£1450.00	

The 3.1% increase in this year's precept equates to **£4.52 per year or 9p per week.**

For context, the charge of £26.00 per year for green waste collection equates to a Precept increase of 17.83%, but of course FoDDC have 'frozen' Council Tax!

We also suffered a reduction in **Local Council Tax Support Grant** from the Principal Authority (FODDC) of £8,000.00 which equates to approximately a 1.7% charge to our Precept, but of course FoDDC have 'frozen' Council Tax!

Clr Brian Pearman

LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL

FINANCIAL STATEMENT - YEAR END 2014/2015

Opening Bank Balances as 1st April 2014

LLOYDS BANK - Current account		50,568.76	
LLOYDS BANK - Youth Council (Current)		885.96	
LLOYDS BANK - NDP (Current)		3,627.55	
LLOYDS BANK - Earmarked Reserves:			
S106	29,191.50		
Lydney War Memorial	1,197.00		
Primrose Hill Play Area	8,000.00		
Cemetery	1,842.14		

-£30,434.22 2013/14 Commitments Brought Forward

LLOYDS BANK - General Reserve	40,230.64		
	<u>150,631.40</u>	<u>190,862.04</u>	
		<u>245,944.91</u>	

RECEIPTS

Receipts APRIL	242,989.58		
Receipts MAY	4,139.31		(Incl 1st instalment of Precept)
Receipts JUNE	10,287.64		
Receipts JULY	3,739.01		
Receipts AUGUST	6,070.91		
Receipts SEPTEMBER	237,701.04		
Receipts OCTOBER	16,121.04		(Incl 2nd instalment of Precept)
Receipts NOVEMBER	965.91		
Receipts DECEMBER	4,710.60		
Receipts JANUARY	8,556.86		
Receipts FEBRUARY	1,320.78		
Receipts MARCH	2,871.05		
NDP: Income banked to NDP current a/c	153.74		Receipts Summary attached
Youth Council: Income banked to YC current a/c	-		(£153.74 Comm Dev Grant)
Lydney In Bloom: Income banked to LIB current a/c	520.00		None in 2014/15 to date
	520.00		(£500 Donation 25/11 & £20 Lloyds ex-gratia 15/1)

Total Receipts YTD 540,147.47

PAYMENTS

Payments APRIL	23,319.38		
Payments MAY	34,736.21		
Payments JUNE	58,611.03		
Payments JULY	38,250.01		
Payments AUGUST	27,100.31		
Payments SEPTEMBER	44,243.49		
Payments OCTOBER	75,277.45		
Payments NOVEMBER	32,964.41		
Payments DECEMBER	25,307.45		
Payments JANUARY	27,415.10		
Payments FEBRUARY	27,012.63		
Payments MARCH	14,991.83		
Payments PRIOR TO YEAR END	36,455.93		Detailed below
NDP: Cheque Payments to date from NDP a/c	917.94		See Separate Financial Statement
Youth Council: Cheque Payments to date from YC a/c	-		None in 2014/15 to date
Lydney In Bloom: Cheque Payments to date from LIB a/c	430.20		

Total Payments YTD 467,039.37

Total 319,058.41

Reconciled Bank Statements as at end MARCH

LLOYDS BANK - Current account	91,848.82	
LLOYDS BANK - NDP - current	9,629.81	
LLOYDS BANK - Youth Council - current	885.96	
LLOYDS BANK - LGPS - current	10.00	
LLOYDS BANK - Lydney In Bloom - current	94.10	

Bank statements attached

LLOYDS BANK - Earmarked Reserves:			
S106	29,191.50		
Lydney War Memorial	1,347.00		
Play Areas	8,000.00		
Cemetery	13,842.14		
Walkers Are Welcome Signage	2,000.00		
Machinery	11,500.00		
NDP Earmarked	4,296.62		
LGPS Provision	5,000.00	75,177.26	
LLOYDS BANK - General Reserve		141,412.46	216,589.72

Bank Balances as at: 31-Mar-15 319,058.41

0.00 check

YEAR END PAYMENTS

Payments made by Direct Debit/Standing Order

	Postcode	Cha. No		
Dean Truck Repairs	02.03.15 GL15	234.00	DD	Monthly
TOS Fuel Genie	13.03.15 WV1	102.52	DD	Monthly
State Computer Technology Ltd	20.03.15 HR4	79.20	DD	Monthly
Rest Equipment Services	20.03.15 GL16	720.76	DD	Monthly
ablestream Ltd	20.03.15 CF23	146.64	DD	Monthly
Dean Truck Repairs	30.03.15 GL15	234.00	DD	Monthly
British Telecom	30.03.15 EC1A	115.80	DD	Quarterly
TA UK Ltd	31.03.15 BS22	99.64	DD	Bi-annual
WLB	31.03.15 EC3M	7,643.43	DD	Bi-annual
Direct Debits: Sub total		<u>9,375.99</u>		

Details/Spending Power:

via General Power of Competence

Interim Payments made in advance:

Cheque Cancelled	-	7815
Interim Payments: Sub total	<u>0.00</u>	

Cheque Cancelled

LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL

Payments for approval prior to Year End Closure:

Corporate: Payroll	~	13,339.92		BACS	Monthly	March
Corporate: HMRC	~	3,853.33		BACS	Monthly	March
Corporate: Glos LGPS	~	4,930.14	22,123.39	BACS	Monthly	March
Training Expenses	~	23.40		7816	Ad hoc	Training
Training Expenses	~	196.84		7817	Ad hoc	Training
Training Expenses	~	22.44		7818	Ad hoc	Training
GAPTC	GL2	2,096.27		7819	Annual	Subscriptions
Kane Mailing Systems Ltd	CF82	192.00		7820	Annual	Establishment Charges
Lydney Engineering Co Ltd	GL15	239.74		7821	Quarterly	Establishment Charges
Network Connections	GL13	1,260.00		7822	Annual	CCTV
Richard Cole Contractors	TQ9	1,156.80		7823	Ad hoc	Churchyard
SLCC	TA1	19.95		7824	Ad hoc	Training
Tate Computer Technology Ltd	HR4	18.00		7825	Quarterly	Establishment Charges
Work Safely	GL14	107.88		7826	Ad hoc	PPE/H&S
Petty Cash	~	100.53		7827	Monthly	Cemetery, Estab Chgs, Mtg Costs, Fuel

Lloyds Bank plc: Bank Charges - Lydney In Bloom a/c

5.70

Bank Charges

Lloyds error - to be refunded in April

Unpresented Cheques - Written Back at Year End

<i>Mr Cackett</i>	-48.00	7695
<i>Whitehouse Press</i>	-435.00	7715

*Not presented
Cheque cancelled, redrawn - revised amount*

Payments for approval: Sub total

27,079.94

TOTAL PAYMENTS YEAR END

36,455.93

A list of unpresented Cheques (For information only)

PB Safety	44.50	7806
Training Expenses	23.40	7816
Training Expenses	22.44	7818
GAPTC	2,096.27	7819
Kane Mailing Systems Ltd	192.00	7820
Network Connections	1,260.00	7822
Richard Cole Contractors	1,156.80	7823
SLCC	19.95	7824
Tate Computer Technology Ltd	18.00	7825
Total	<u>4,833.36</u>	

Authorised:

N. Jones

31-Mar-15

Lydney Town Council - Accounts Summary 2014/15

	Prior Year 2012/13	Last Year 2013/14	This Year 2014/15	Difference	Note	Explanation required
1	123,685	202,138	215,588	13,450	Increase	106.65% 100% 6.65%
2	415,765	387,781	416,047	28,266	Increase	107.29% 100% 7.29%
3	52,690	136,373	128,540	-7,833	Decrease	94.26% 100% -5.74%
			<u>760,175</u>			
4	186,278	221,186	243,371	22,185	Increase	110.03% 100% 10.03%
5	15,287	15,287	15,287	0	No Change	100.00% 100% 0.00%
6	188,437	274,231	206,493	-67,738	Decrease	75.30% 100% -24.70%
			<u>-465,151</u>			see overleaf
7	202,138	215,588	295,025	79,437	Increase	136.85% 100% 36.85%
8	215,954	245,944	319,058	73,114	Increase	129.73% 100% 29.73%
9	722,067	780,135	795,333	15,198	Increase	101.95% 100% 1.95%
10	121,813	113,714	105,124	-8,590	Decrease	92.45% 100% -7.55%

Lydney Town Council Audited Accounts (approved by Council 13.4.15)

The following explanations address variances in excess of 15% in the Annual Return* 2014/15

Box 6 Total Other Payments

3,951	Closed Churchyard: Maintenance of old stone wall
-5,300	Health & Safety: fee reduction negotiated / less Tree works
-3,807	Insurance: premium reduction negotiated
-12,254	Christmas Lights purchased last year, not in 2014/15
-4,166	Allotment Improvements last year, not in 2014/15
-2,178	Playarea Improvements last year, not in 2014/15
-12,658	Machinery purchased last year, not in 2014/15
-12,740	By-election costs not required 2014/15
-462	Additional Grass Cutting not required in 2014/15
-18,124	Development of the NDP in 2013/14, not required 2014/15

variance
£0.00

-67,738

Reconciliation of Boxes 7 & 8 on Section 1 of the Annual Return

319,058.41	Figure in Box 8 of the Annual Return
-28,551.74	Less Creditors at 31 March 2015
4,517.85	Plus Debtors at 31 March 2015
295,024.52	Figure in Box 7 of the Annual Return

check to Box 7 abc
£0.00

Signed:

N Payne
RFO

Date:

13/4/2015

R. L. Linn

Independent Internal Auditor

14/4/2015

LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL-BUDGET FORECAST 2015/16

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
	£	£	£	£	£	£
5132	0	0	0	0	0	0

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
	£	£	£	£	£	£
TRAINING (Councilor)						
GAPTC Training/Refresher HASAW Training/First Aid						1,500
TRAINING (Employee)						
SICC & NALC events/First Aid/Fire/Chainsaw etc						5,000

CORPORATE

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
	£	£	£	£	£	£
EXPENDITURE						
	1,500	2,000	4,500	6,908	6,902	6,500
Sub Total:						6,500
				243,060	263,783	
Sub Total:						263,783

LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL-BUDGET FORECAST 2015/16

2010/11 2011/12 2012/13 2013/14 2014/15

£ £ £ £ £

ESTABLISHED COSTS

Advertising	750	0	500	550	550	550
Building Maintenance	4,000	6,000	6,000	6,300	1,000	1,000
Establishment Charges	4,800	3,500	3,500	1,500	6,500	7,150
Messing Costs	0	0	0	2,400	1,500	1,500
Newspapers	500	2,500	500	2,500	2,600	2,600
Office /IT Equipment & Maintenance	0	0	0	2,500	2,500	3,000
Photocopier	0	0	0	4,600	4,600	5,000
PPE	0	0	1,000	400	500	1,000
Stationery	1,000	5,750	5,750	6,000	6,000	6,000
Subscriptions	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,700	2,700	3,000
Telephone/Internet	1,500	1,500	1,500	3,400	4,300	4,300
Website Maintenance	0	0	0	1,950	1,950	2,000
Health & Safety	0	0	1,000	3,000	3,200	3,500
VEHICLE COSTS						
Vehicle Lease & Insurance	2,500	2,500	4,700	4,700	4,000	4,200
Fuel	2,500	2,500	2,000	1,200	1,200	1,200
			6,700	5,900	5,200	5,400
AUDIT						
Internal Audit fees	700	700	800	1,800	1,800	1,800
External Audit fees / Investigations (Ex.Au. Reserve)	1,800	1,300	3,200	2,500	2,500	3,000
			13,000			0
	2,500	2,000	17,000	4,300	4,300	4,800
INSURANCE						
General Insurance	6,350	6,100	6,100	6,100	6,100	6,710
Ill-Health Insurance	6,350	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,300
		9,100	9,100	9,100	9,100	10,010
LEGAL FEES						
Legal fees	1,000	2,500	2,500	3,000	1,500	3,000
Advisory Fees		1,500	1,500			2,100
Employment Consultant		3,500	3,500	3,500	3,600	2,100
Review/ update H&S Policies		0	0	500	500	500
	1,000	4,000	7,500	7,000	5,600	5,600
LOAN						
Public Works Loan Board	14,550	21,250	20,750	272,360	301,683	15,300
						15,300
						81,710
Sub Total:						

2015/16

£

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
	£	£	£	£	£	£

CIVIC EXPENSES

Civic Expenses (to include Christmas Cards)			250	250	300	500
British Legion - Civic Service donation	400	250	250	250	250	250
Mayor's Reception	1,000	250	500	250	350	1,000
Mayor's Christmas Window Competition				100	100	100
Printing Costs - re. Order of Services x 2 (outsourced)	1,400	500	1,000	1,100	1,100	1,100
Sub Total:						
	1,400	500	1,000	1,950	2,100	2,950

FINANCE & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Responsible for Grants)

DONATIONS / GRANTS

Lydney Town Hall Trust	27,920	12,000	20,000	0	0	0
Lydney Town Hall Trust - loan to cover approx £10k deficit			10,000	0	0	0
Bothurst Park Trust - Grant	112,630	20,500	20,500	22,500	24,500	26,000
Bothurst Park Trust - Litter picking	0	0	0	14,000	14,500	17,000
Lydney Recreation Trust	13,429	0	0	0	10,000	10,000
Free Grants	6,000	450	5,300	16,500	8,000	8,000
	159,979	32,950	55,800	53,000	57,000	61,300
Sub Total:						
	159,979	32,950	55,800	53,000	57,000	61,300

Youth Council

Youth Council Provision	0	0	1,000	1,000	500	300
Sub Total:						
	0	0	1,000	1,000	500	300

BURIAL COMMITTEE

CEMETERY COSTS (Previously part of Amenities Committee)

Cemetery Maintenance	1,000	1,000	1,000	2,000	2,000	2,500
Cemetery Rates	600	600	600	650	650	1,000
Vase Blocks	1,500	1,500	1,500	2,500	10,908	2,500
Ship Hire	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,500
Grass Cutting (R Cole)	1,300	2,210	2,210	0	0	0
Memorial Testing				1,500	1,500	1,500
Additional Cremated Remains vault	4,700	1,500	2,000	1,000	3,500	3,800
St Mary's Churchyard / Wall					15,000	2,500
Cemetery Project					5,000	0
Provision for Additional Burial space	10,350	8,060	8,560	8,900	39,808	5,000
Sub Total:						
	10,350	8,060	8,560	8,900	39,808	20,300

LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL-BUDGET FORECAST 2015/16

PLANNING & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

Legal Fees - Planning
Highways General

	2010/11 £	2011/12 £	2012/13 £	2013/14 £	2014/15 £	2015/16 £
Legal Fees - Planning	500	500	500	500	500	500
Highways General			3,660	250	200	200
						700

NDP

NDP Steering Group
Photocopier Recharge to LTC
Stationery / Postage
NDP Assistant

NDP Steering Group				8,758	500	500
Photocopier Recharge to LTC					2,000	2,000
Stationery / Postage					750	750
NDP Assistant						
				8,758	3,250	3,250
						2,700

see 2014/15 Commitment

CCFL

Maintenance Contract
Additional CCTV

Maintenance Contract	0	0	2,500	2,500	2,700	2,500
Additional CCTV	0	0	0	3,000	0	2,000
	0	0	6,660	23,766	9,900	4,500
Sub Total:						8,450

ELECTION FEES

Election Fees

Election Fees	4,000	3,000	13,200	10,000	10,000	12,500
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CONTINGENCY

Contingency

Contingency	1,000	1,250	4,500	1,000	500	1,000
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360,604	483,325	429,317	487,092	513,323		TOTAL 536,588
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Town Clerk (CEO) Annual Town Report 2014/15

The Council as an organisation is in a sound state. It has good governance procedures and operates in an efficient manner. The services provided are in the public eye and the standard of work remains high, and recognised as such by independent examination.

Whilst the Council remains a "Quality Council" (*awarded two years ago by a County Accreditation Panel on behalf of the government department of Communities and Local Government in association with the National Association of Local Councils*) it is currently working toward the new local council accreditation and hopes to achieve quality 'Gold' during 2015/16.

The Council's administration/governance, necessary for a public organisation spending public money, is carried out efficiently. The challenge in the last financial year, and into the future, is to maintain these standards whilst facing the external pressures that the economic recession and reduction in public spending bring with them. Indeed, it is at these times when the need for the services the Town Council provides is at its greatest. The Council's Five Year Action Plan (currently being addressed/updated) will therefore clearly map its future strategic aims and objectives; it will provide a process and means by which to achieve its visionary goal.

In financial terms the year was a good year. The Council has a sound budget setting process, delivered via the **Policy, Budget, Precept** process; a record of operating strictly within financial targets can be evidenced via its meeting minutes and audit reports. The Council's General Reserves are now nearing a reasonable level which will provide for a community 'buffer' allowing the Council to 'manage' the delivery of local services should further service provision cuts by FODDC become apparent. The greatest threat to the Council's budget however remains the reduction/retention of the 'Local Council Support Tax', administered currently by the Principal Authority (FODDC) which resulted in a reduction of £8000.00 (eight thousand pounds) against last year's figure.

Finally, the town continues to benefit from the work performed by its dedicated and hard-working Town Councillors, supported by a team of professional employees. It would be wrong to mention any individuals as all make a contribution to the Council's success therefore I would like to end my report by thanking those Councillors who are now nearing the end of their term of office, for their positive input in relation to moving Lydney forward, and also the staff for their hard work and dedication which they continue to demonstrate daily.

Jayne Smailes
CEO – Lydney Town Council

Head Groundsman's Report

Lydney Town



The Ground staff have had a hard working year throughout the town. The main priority is safety and also keeping everywhere clean and tidy.

We have been busy working closely with 'Lydney In Bloom', tidying up and redesigning the area around Hylton Court at the bottom of Lydney. We removed old shrubs and prepared the ground, laid turf and created new flower beds. We also weeded the area and painted, thus raising the area to a higher standard as befits the Town.

We have assumed responsibility for undertaking weed spraying in a number of areas throughout the Town, including the High Street and sections of the surrounding roads. We are also treating areas of Japanese Knotweed which have grown on land for which the Town Council is responsible for.

The Ground staff have assumed responsibility for planting and maintaining the floral displays/wild flower areas which had been created at the entrances to the Town. You may have already noticed the increased display of daffodils on the entrance to the Town from Aylburton. The Council has agreed to expand/improve on these floral displays and we hope that like us, you will look forward to viewing this year's summer display. We have also maintained the high standards we have previously set for the flower tubs in the Town; this summer's display will be red, white and blue.

Furthermore, you may have noticed new 'finger post signs' which we have installed in the Town, thereby assisting visitors with locating important features in the Town.

St Mary's Churchyard

The Ground staff have been very busy keeping everywhere clean, cut and tidy. We set ourselves high standards and enjoy working towards them.

We keep the grass very short and tidy in the growing season, with cuts undertaken most weeks. We have maintained the boundaries and cut back where needed and are thankful for the kind positive comments we receive throughout the year from members of the public.

Bathurst Park



The Ground staff have had a good year in the park, maintaining the high standards we set ourselves. Thankfully the weather has been kind which allows us to carry out many of the maintenance jobs we need to do.

We have created a new woodland area (corner of the Park by the Church end) and planted new trees in and around the park areas. These trees were gifted to the Bathurst Park and Recreation Trust by the 'Woodland Trust' and consist of 105 x Rowan, 90 x Silver Birch, 60 x Wild Cherry, 60 x Common Oak, 60 x Grey Willow and 45 x Field Maple and were as a direct result of a successful grant application which was submitted by our NDP Admin Assistant, Ms Alison Crawshaw.

Before



After



The trees are a great addition to the Park and benefit will be seen in future years.

It is one of the joys of our job to hear how much the Town's people, club users and visitors are happy and enjoying the use of Bathurst Park.

Overview

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

Ground staff are committed to raising the visual appearance of the Town to a higher standard for the enjoyment of both residents and visitors. Health and Safety and tidiness are always our main priorities.

Whilst two members of Groundstaff left our employment, I am pleased to report that we have two replacement of staff; Mr Peter Edwards, Leading Hand/Groundsman, who has settled into the team well, works to a high standard and brings his knowledge of Health and Safety to us. We have also employed Mr Richard Brown, as a Groundsman, who is hard working and very conscientious about any job he is undertaking. They are both a welcomed asset to the team, bringing extra knowledge and skills which we intend to utilise fully.

It is a great time to be working for Lydney Town Council, always striving to be the best for the Town. The Ground staff take pride in everything we do and are looking forward to the coming year.

James Young
Head Groundsman



**GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY
COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

County Councillor's Report 2014/15



Two major issues have dominated the County Council business at the start of 2015; I will begin with those.

Firstly, the budget. Last year I stated that £25 million of savings year on year would have to be made for the next three years. That process has now begun and for 2015/16 the savings achieved. The minutes of my budget speech are as follows:

Extract taken from Meeting 18 February 2015

'Cllr Alan Preest, the Leader of the UKIP Group, thanked Officers and was pleased that the Council had adopted a zero-based budget approach. He said that the Council needed to plan for the long-term and to start to address the cause of problems rather than the symptoms. He referred to the work currently being undertaken on the A40 at Over to improve traffic flow from the Forest of Dean. He hoped that the Council would take steps to improve employment opportunities in the Forest of Dean so that fewer people need to travel to Gloucester and Cheltenham for work. He believed that there should be another look at unitary local government in order to make public services more joined up and achieve efficiency savings.'

GCC have achieved a zero budget increase. Secondly, many of you will be aware of the Javelin Park incinerator issue, again, the minutes of my speech are as follows:

Extract taken from Meeting 18 February 2015

'Cllr Alan Preest stated that UKIP members accepted that a responsible decision had to be made based upon the fact that "we are where we are" and that it was important that there was a solution for the county's waste. He recognised that the costs of cancellation would have a huge impact on the County Council and the people of Gloucestershire'. (Somewhat of an understatement!)

The vote was then taken and the decision to proceed with an incinerator at Javelin Park was made. An extremely tough decision but, under the circumstances, as far as I am concerned the correct one.

GCC promoted a scheme entitled "Active Together" during the year. Each County Councillor was given £40k to promote health, fitness and well-being throughout their division. Lydney Cricket Club, Lydney Football Club, Lydney Rugby Club, The Victoria Centre Fitness Club, Lydney Tennis Club, Lydney Golf Club, the Bathurst Park and Recreation Trust, Bathurst Pool, Lydney (Nedstop) Healthy Walking Initiative and The Naas Lane Centre Welcome Project were all principal beneficiaries. I also awarded £2.5k to the Come and Play pre-school group under the GCC Children's Activity Fund.

Although numerous problems with highway surface issues remain on going I am pleased to report that major work was carried out during the year in my division through Aylburton and along Newerne Street in Town.

I would urge individuals to continue to report highway defects via 08000 514514 or highways@gloucestershire.gov.uk.

The facilitation by Lydney Town Council of both the Flood Management Group and the Oakdale Stakeholder Group have both, to date, addressed many outstanding issues and continue to closely monitor the situation, with GCC assistance as and when required.

Redundant kitchen equipment from the Fairtide Centre was donated by GCC and put to good use in the Town Hall kitchen.

Regular meetings between senior GCC Officers, GCC Councillors and myself continue with a view to improving Lydney and its surrounds. Serious representations by myself have been made regarding GCC highway impact on large scale development and concerns on flooding impact relating to new build; both these issues remain on-going.

£1 million was awarded by the Local Enterprise Partnership brokered by GCC towards the Lydney Transport Strategy during 2014. Following this a Stakeholders meeting was arranged late 2014 in Lydney, it was well attended and indeed a success. However, my concern and, I know this was shared by others present, was just how far off the pace FODDC staff appeared to be contrary to their GCC counterparts, particularly on basic Core Strategy issues and Air Quality Management. However, committed funding has been allocated to the Bream Road/High Street junction signalisation, the cycle link from Town to the Railway Station which will complement the excellent work carried out on behalf of the Lydney Neighbourhood Development Plan by Cllr John Openshaw and Mr Dave Street, and the Station underpass and extension of the Station car park.

The most profound disappointment of the last year is the District Council's reluctance to progress our Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). Last year in my report I urged our six District Councillors to "fight our corner" – has that happened? I will leave it up to you to decide.

Finally I would like to thank the Lydney Town Council staff, led by Jayne Smailes, for their hard work and professionalism.

I am not up for election as County Councillor this year; my wish post 7 May this year for those who have the privilege to become elected, is that they adopt a positive, hands-on, teamwork approach for the good of Lydney.

Cllr Alan Preest

Gloucestershire County Councillor

**CUSTODIAL/SOLE TRUSTEE
REPORTS**

Bathurst Park & Recreation Trust Annual Report 2014/2015

Following the resignation of Trustee Osborne as Chairman of Bathurst Park & Recreation Trust, I have since taken on the role.

Bathurst Park is a key staple of the community, and I feel it only right to give special thanks to Lydney Town Council's groundsmen, who towards the end of 2014 had to maintain the facilities in the face of on-going vandalism. We as Trustees of the Park fully appreciate the work that you do.



Last summer afforded the Park a number of public performances by Lydney Town Band. Special thanks to Trustee Biddle for the provision of seating. The events had been reasonably well attended and a number of positive comments received as a result. A similar event was held by the 'Churches Together', a *songs of praise event*, which was also well received.

In November we were once again treated to an exceptional fireworks display which was enjoyed by all and was notably the largest/best attended fireworks event to date. Unfortunately several members of the public were subjected to pick-pockets, and as such, consideration will be given to engaging a security firm to undertake patrols at such events in future.

During this past year we also celebrated the 90th anniversary of the Lydney Royal British Legion, and a commemorative tree was planted to mark this occasion.



Whilst several park maintenance projects were completed during 2014/15 one area we aim to address/improve as part of our 2015/16 budget commitment is the standard of cleanliness of the changing rooms and outside toilets; we aim to increase the cleaning frequency of these facilities during the 2015 summer holidays.

Following a review of the Park by the Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association, we have decided to seek funding in order that we may then provide cycle racks, both around the park and hopefully, throughout the town.

The Trust also chose to participate in the '**Gloucestershire County Council Active Together Scheme**', with the intention of acquiring grant funding for the purchase of additional outdoor gym equipment for young people. I am pleased to say we were successful, and acquired £2,000 in funding, we aim to combined this sum with a grant from '**Awards for All**', to purchase a large trampoline which will be in place shortly.

The Trust hope that Bathurst Park remains the hub of community events; if anyone has any ideas or suggestions for future events in the park, please do contact the Trust Secretary.

Cllr Harry Ives
Chairman



2014 was yet another exciting year for **The Coffee House** in Bathurst Recreation Park. Having had a excitingly good first season in 2013, it seemed unlikely that we would be able to top the number of visitors using the park and its newly appointed facilities. However, proving more and more popular with the local community and tourists alike we saw an amazing 26% growth on last year's sales, demonstrating just how wrong we were.

Not only did we continue to provide excellent homemade cakes and fair trade freshly ground coffee, teas and soft drinks, but we expanded the food provision to include homemade soups, Hot Jacket potatoes and made to order salads and sandwiches. These carefully thought out additions can only have influenced our success this year and have been greatly received by many, some of which have taken the time to review "The Coffee House and Park" on www.tripadvisor.co.uk. Here you will see since the beginning of 2014 we are now ranked #2 in places to visit in Lydney with 100% rating, which is fantastic.

Below are examples of the glowing reviews:

"What a gem in the park"

Had a very pleasant surprise when we took our grandson to the park. Hadn't been in the new café but had heard great reports. We were not disappointed. Hot choc was great as was the tea and cakes, a lovely play area for the little ones and a selection of things to read. Comfy seats and sofas too. We will definitely be back.

Visited August 2014

"Another good year"

Well done Clare another good year, thanks for making me so welcome. Roll on Easter this year when you open again - have missed you. Love your homemade soup.

Visited November 2014

This year we also saw several customers utilising the venue to host events such as the Diabetics Society Walk and Talk, a ladies church discussion group, the triangle club (for adults with disabilities), birthday parties and a Punch and Judy show, allowing us to provide a different service to the community of which we plan to grow. We also had an incredible last opening night on November 5th. Bursting at the seams we provided the usual hot and cold drinks with the addition of Pulled Pork Rolls which proved to be a hit.

We have also been busy gaining awards and accolades. For the second year running we have been presented with the top award of 5 stars for our Health and Hygiene provision in the workplace and we were also visited by a mystery shopper, and have been certified as Coffee Experts, one in only 50 in the country. Kieran Taylor, our apprentice, also qualified at the end of 2014 with an NVQ level 2 in Food and Drink service.

Without a doubt, The Coffee House is moving from strength to strength. This year we aim to embark on an advertising campaign throughout local schools and nurseries to promote the use of the park and healthy living through fresh air and play. We hope to install an outdoor ping pong table with the help of LTC funding, which will look to bridge the gap between young children and adults, encouraging outdoor activity to this important part of the community. We are indeed "a hidden gem" and so we will continue to promote our wonderful facility to the uninformed community and tourists so that we can all benefit from its splendour.



Lydney Recreation Trust Annual Report for 2014/15

Over the course of the last year the Trust has been approached by several organisations which have expressed an interest in using its land, these include

- the provision of a community orchard
- the provision of temporary allotment space
- the provision of additional rugby and football pitches

Whilst the Trust is in continuing dialogue regarding the provision of additional sporting pitches, the two organisations which were interested in providing a community orchard and also temporary allotment space have decided not to progress their projects.

The Trust has continued to comply with its riparian ownership responsibilities and has carried out river bank clearance work over its land. We were delighted to work in partnership with volunteers from The Dean Forest Railway to facilitate the clearance of the river banks on land owned by both organisations south of Albany Bridge and would like to thank the volunteers for their hard work. Moving forward, the Trust will need to consider how it wishes to use/maintain the land in the future to ensure that it does not return to its prior unmanaged state.

Following the disruption to the electrical supply for the pump which drains the sporting area, the Trust has worked hard to restore the connection and conduct health and safety improvements to the pump house. Thanks must be given to Western Power Distribution for their assistance with replacing the electrical supply cable.

Dog fouling on the Trust's land, particularly the sporting pitches, has been a significant problem in recent months. Whilst the responsibility for enforcing the legislation requiring dog owners to pick up their dog's waste lies with Forest of Dean District Council, at its last meeting the Trust resolved to install four dog waste bins (with bag dispensers) on the designated sports area in order that owners have no excuse for not collecting their dog's waste. The bins and dispensers will be installed over the next few weeks and we look forward to seeing an improvement.

Alan Preest
Trust Chairman



COMMUNITY REPORTS

Lydney Neighbourhood Development Plan



I would like to open by reminding you of the rationale behind the Lydney Neighbourhood Development Plan; The Plan is effective for 10 years, firmly endorses and encourages community involvement, consultation and engagement in everything that affects the community, not just in relation to this Plan but with all local projects and initiatives.

The Plan provides an economic and socially sustainable vision for the future of our town, and sets out clear planning policies to realise this vision. These policies accord with higher level planning policies; the National Planning Policy Framework, the Forest of Dean District Council Core Strategy, and, through discussion with Forest of Dean District Council, has due regard to the Allocations Document now approved by the Local Planning Authority (FoDDC).

The Examiners Version of the NDP was delivered to FoDDC on 11th April 2014 for comment and issues were raised regarding the need for environmental assessments/screening documents. We are still awaiting comment from Natural England to be able to complete the work, and move the plan to independent examination and subsequently to referendum.

The NDP Group have been in contact with the *Department of Communities and Local Government* and our MP, Mark Harper, highlighting what is seen as an unacceptable delay but with no real support being forthcoming. It is also worth noting that FoDDC recently approved their Allocations Document having addressed the required assessment in isolation however knowing that the NDP Steer Group still awaits this evidence despite the group having received an assurance from DCLG that NDPs are fully supported by Central Government and FoDDC being in receipt of funding, aimed at 'supporting' the development/implantation of such a Plan!

A positive action springing from the NDP is the Lydney Revolutions Project; a comprehensive plan for sustainable transport (*cycle and pedestrian*) throughout the town. This has become embedded in Gloucestershire County Council's "Lydney Transport Strategy" with funding for the first phase, along with improvements at the rail station, already approved. The plan also informed the overall highways strategy with indicative costs for the various phases included in the "pipeline" funding schedule. This is a very clear indication of how seriously some of our 'partner' organisations view a well put together NDP and bodes well for Lydney's future and that of the Plan in general.

I would like to close this report by thanking everyone who has contributed to date, no list of names as I am sure to miss out someone, but please remember; this is "*an enabling document*", the work doesn't stop when the Plan is adopted, instead it is then that the really exciting work commences, turning the Plan into reality, changing and benefiting the town.

Cllr Brian Pearman

Lydney Dial-a-Ride Presentation to Lydney Town Council

April 2015

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 continued to maintain its Home to School Contracts and deliver a high level of service to its Dial-A-Ride, Rural Bus Routes and Voluntary Car passengers.

Louise has continued to actively promote the Charity, working closely with other Community groups within Gloucestershire and further afield; sharing best practice, policies and contacts to ensure service levels are maintained across the district.

The organisation has now been in its new home at Lydney Bus Station for two years, during that time we have created a stronger presence for the Charity within the town and we receive good feedback from our customers both waiting for the public buses and Dial A Ride passengers. They report that the Charity is more accessible and they enjoy coming into the Charity shop and making use of the seats while they wait.

Additionally we are now in year two of the Forest Routes project. A lottery funded five year project which has brought together the four main community transport groups within the Forest of Dean to look at ways we can become more sustainable, increase the marketing of the services and encourage more passengers to make use of our services.

We have maintained relationships with other voluntary organisations for example Gloucestershire young Carers. We transport their service users to after school or school holiday activities allowing them to spend time with their peers and have fun.

We have catered for 30,387 passenger journeys during 2014-2015 and currently have a fleet of fifteen minibuses.

Funding still remains an issue for the Charity with falling grant income and the need to look at additional income streams remains vital to the overall organisation. During this year we took the difficult decision to close the Coleford Charity shop due to a fall in the number of customers and sales. However we have launched an EBay Charity shop as this keeps our overheads to a minimum, it is still early days on this project but it has been well received.

We employ 37 staff, mainly part-time, within the organisation including six staff across our three Charity shops based in Lydney, Cinderford and the online shop. The shops raise vital funds for the charity and contribute to us maintaining a modern fleet of vehicles and replacing them on a regular basis.

We have increased the number of rural bus routes we operate to seven, and now operate the 35a Monmouth to Cinderford and the 23a Cinderford to Lydney. All of the rural bus routes have been a great success, with consistent numbers of passengers travelling with us each week. The advantage of these routes are the ability to take the Concessionary Bus Pass enabling passengers in these small villages and hamlets to be able to access their local services.

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

WAR MEMORIAL OFFICER'S REPORT 2015/16

The aim of the Trust is to bring all the Nations War Memorials up to date before their centenary in 2018, currently our Community Project Assistant is currently awaiting confirmation as to the success of a recent grant application to facilitate the renovation of Lydney's War Memorial.

In my capacity as War Memorial Officer I recently received a letter from a relative wishing to research their ancestry. This person was provided with relevant information which assisted her in her quest for which she was most appreciative.

The Town Council and Lydney Royal British Legion organised the Annual Town Remembrance Parade; a total of 40 poppy wreaths were laid. On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month Mr Osborne once again organised/led the Citizen's Act of Remembrance at which Severnbanks School read the role of honour.

'At the going down of the Sunday and in the Morning We Will Remember'.

Many Thanks

Cllr Stan Rudge



Lydney Multi Agency Flood Defence Committee
Chairman's Report 2014/15

One of the unexpected benefits to come out of flooding problems experienced in the winter 2012-2013 has been the willingness of so many parties to work together to reduce the risk of any future reoccurrence.

The two main areas of initial concern were Lakeside Avenue and Fallers Fields. The Lakeside problem stemmed from an undersized culvert that had become filled by debris washed down until it was 90% blocked. After the initial clearance of the waste material from within the pipe, the manhole covers were replaced with perforated covers that provided a partial solution, allowing the surface water to re-enter the pipe after passing the blockages. Unfortunately Fallers Fields requires a different engineering solution that is still being designed and worked on by a contractor.

The main change in flood prevention and alleviation has been the change from passing the excess surface water downstream as fast as possible, to holding it in attenuation ponds which reduces the flow of the excess water.

Some members of the committee walked the River Lyd watercourse and identified several areas of concern. Recommendations included: investigating the culvert under Network Rail heading South (no flow?); several areas including Recreation Trust Land and other areas adjacent to the Lyd needed clearing to improve the flow. Another problem stemmed from the A48 drainage because of a larger culvert directing water into Plummers Brook and onwards into Lakeside. Arrangements were made to fit a 'Penstock' device to reduce the larger pipe capacity to the size of the smaller one receiving it. Additionally, there were plans to dig swales on the site of the solar farm.



Concerns were also expressed regarding flooding at the Oakdale Development as it was coming out onto the A48.

Clearance work along the Lyd was carried out by DFR part funded by FoDDC and GCC. 98 trees had been cleared on Lydney Recreation land and a further 30 trees on DFR land.

Recently we received an update on the FoDDC plans including the news:-

'The overhead electricity lines to the rear of Lakeside Avenue will be removed and replaced with an underground service during the next few months, which should provide the benefit of less brush cutting being required. The clearance of bracken and bramble to the rear of Lakeside will be carried out bi-annually by FODDC and the CCTV survey of the culvert will be completed annually.' - yet another example of the benefits of working together.

In summary, whilst there is still much to do, considerable progress has been made and there is every reason to be confident that the further improvements will be achieved now that all agencies are working together effectively.

Cllr Brian Thomas

FLOODING AT LAKESIDE AVENUE, LYDNEY

It is now 15 months since the last serious flooding at Lakeside. We have been fortunate that this winter has been relatively mild without too much heavy and sustained rainfall. To give an overview of the situation to date:

I have attended the "flood defence" meetings at Lydney Town Council for the last 12 months acting as the representative for Lakeside residents whereby we have strived to alleviate the threat of flooding to Lakeside. It has been with the dedication and commitment of Lydney Town Council whom I cannot commend highly enough for their support in helping to drive this forward. Equally, the Officers at Forest of Dean District Council and Gloucestershire County Council, given the resources made available to them, have implemented measures to slow down the flow of water during peak rainfall.

Lakeside was allocated £40,000 in July 2014 for flood defence measures. A "penstock" has been installed at the culvert on the south of the bypass (Hurst Farm area) and a form of rustic damming attenuation is programmed and will imminently be installed upstream of the Lakeside catchment up towards Rodley Manor.



A balancing pond has been re-instated on the north side of Lydney By-pass by Gloucestershire County Council. Open gully tops have been fitted as covers in the highway outside 115 Lakeside Avenue. There is a commitment by Forest of Dean District Council to carry out an annual CCTV survey of the culvert and an annual clearance of the banks of the watercourse at the end of the growing season each year and prior if necessary. They will also inspect the trash screen in the event of any "yellow" weather alerts. As riparian owners they will carry out regular walks of the watercourse at least every three (3) months.

The topography of the Faller Fields development, which is an equally contributory issue as the trash screen as the cause of internal flooding of several properties in December 2013, is still under discussion. To date, we are at the point whereby Gloucestershire County Council Highways and their contractors, Amey, are in dialogue with the developer of the site regarding measures to find a solution to the problem created at Faller Fields (water comes overground from the culvert causing properties to flood that previously did not experience such a problem). Amey are at the design stage to achieve a solution and have visited the site along with Brian Watkins, Gloucestershire County Council, who has confirmed that a commitment has been made to finance any work needed and we anticipate that work may be completed by the end of the summer.

Ownership of the trash screen is on-going between Colin Legg, 115 Lakeside Avenue, and Forest of Dean District Council and has been so for the last three (3) years. It is not unreasonable to say that this is far too long and a conclusion should be sought as soon as possible from Forest of Dean District Council.



It was extremely disappointing last summer when we, the residents, discovered that water run-off from Lydney By-pass has been diverted to the Lakeside catchment. Following further investigation it was discovered that Forest of Dean District Council, who had been appointed as consultees to the scheme by Gloucestershire County Council Highways, had advised that no water was to be discharged to the Lakeside catchment. Not only did we discover that this advice was completely disregarded and the decision made to install a balancing pond on the north side of the By-pass and send the water to Lakeside, but that the pond was never completely installed or if it was, had been seriously neglected to the catastrophic detriment to Lakeside residents as it sent huge volumes of water to the Lakeside catchment which was already unable to cope at peak rainfall periods. Coupled with the By-pass water it was also discovered by the residents that culverts have been installed under the By-pass from the Hurst Farm area which we have now been informed is the result of the diversion of watercourses from that area. Once again with the documentation in the public arena cataloguing all the flooding to Lakeside over the last 50 years or so we would ask how, only 20 or so years ago, the powers that be could be allowed to sanction and pass such an application; at some point someone needs to be accountable for such decisions.

The solar farm on the Hurst Farm area is also now causing concern with regard to the run off of water during peak rainfall which is adding to the volume of water that is eventually arriving at Lakeside. The question needs to be asked why, with even this comparatively recent development, were measures not put in place on the site to prevent water which should never be allowed to fall to Lakeside, to now be allowed to do so.

To conclude, we are hopeful that the measures talked about will go some way to make a difference when it matters and Lakeside residents do not have to re-live historic experiences of serious flooding. Key word here being "MAINTENANCE".

I will continue to attend the Flood Defence meetings to pursue, hopefully one day, a major scheme that Lakeside residents really need to allow them to have real peace of mind instead of living in constant fear of flooding during heavy rainfall.

No-one can deny that the Lakeside culvert is inadequate for what it is being asked to do and cannot deal with heavy volumes of water during peak rainfall. Whilst we hope that the measures in place will really help, it is merely a "sticking plaster". With the prospect of further development in the area it only adds more fear to Lakeside residents and we would remind Councils' of their duty of care to the electorate when considering future developments and planning applications.

Rosemary Christodoulides
Lakeside Flood Group



MMC2



Bromford.



Oakdale – Higher Lydney Park

The new community at Oakdale, or Higher Lydney Park, will ultimately deliver circa 590 new homes in Lydney. The scheme has a range of different properties ranging from 2, 3 and 4 bed houses through to 2 bed apartments and bungalows. This is a multi tenure development with homes for outright sale and shared ownership properties. With a variety of new affordable and sustainable homes managed by Bromford and Rooftop Housing.

The development comprises the existing former golf course adjacent to JD Norman Industries Ltd and utilises the existing green open spaces and specimen planting throughout the master plan. The planning has involved many years of discussion with local stakeholders with much care taken at the design stage to ensure that both a sense of space and of place making is achieved.

The development has been split into 3 phases. Currently two of these phases have been constructed. The final phase, to the remaining land to the east, will be developed over the next couple of years. Ultimately the scheme will have a bus route into Lydney Town Centre.

The new homes have been built by Kier Living who have achieved 5* status in the recent annual Home Builders Federation (HBF) customer satisfaction survey. Other key partners are MMC2, who are the landowners and executive developers. MMC2 in conjunction with Kier Living are also providing temporary Managing Agent services to the development until such times that the construction phases are completed.

The Town Council work very closely with all key development stakeholders, feeding into the design of the scheme and contributing as a forum for best practice and information dissemination. They have worked hard to make Oakdale a good place to live providing a customer notice board on the development and allowing the Town Council Offices to be used for Stakeholder meetings.

Forest of Dean District Council has also been heavily involved in the development of this scheme. Bromford and Rooftop have worked very closely with the Local Authority to ensure new homes are let to local people. If you local, and you are interested in renting a property, please contact Forest of Dean District Council to register on Gloucestershire Homeseeker. Alternatively you can register on line at www.gloshomeseeker.co.uk

Bromford, as the largest provider of affordable homes at Oakdale, have a very regular presence on the scheme. Their Housing Manager Mary Skinner, visits the scheme every week. Visit Mary at Twitter [@maryskinner66](https://twitter.com/maryskinner66) to see what she is doing. If you live in a Bromford home and have a question about your tenancy, would like to make a request or report a repair please telephone: 0330 1234 034 or email info@bromford.co.uk. Alternatively you can email Mary at mary.skinner@bromford.co.uk.

If you are a rooftop customer your Housing Officer is Terry Shutt. Terry's email address is Terry.Shutt@rooftopgroup.org. If you wish to report repairs please call 01386 420800 or visit the website rooftopgroup.org

If you own your own home and have some questions for the developer, or wish to purchase a property at Oakdale, please contact Kier Living on 01767 355500

Any issues around the communal open space, including trees and the play area, should be submitted to MMC2 via Lydney Town Council. Tel: 01594 842234 or email: ceo@lydneytowncouncil.co.uk

Oakdale has its own Residents Group called Oakdale Links which has a dedicated website. Please see www.oakdalelinks.org.uk for further details.



Forest of Dean
— DISTRICT COUNCIL —

Forest of Dean District Council, High Street, Coleford, GL16 8HG
Telephone 01594 810 000 Minicom 01594 812 500
Visit the Council website at www.fdean.gov.uk

Oakdale Stakeholders Meeting

Contact: Rachel Capon
Direct Line: 01594 810000
Direct Fax:
Email: Rachel.capon@fdean.gov.uk
Our Ref:
Your Ref:
Date: 2 April 2015

Dear All

Re: Litter bins and provision of dog waste bins

I would like to make it clear that Forest of Dean District Council is not responsible for the provision or emptying of dog waste bins and as such will not provide funding to the Management Company or Lydney Town Council to empty dog waste bins.

Forest of Dean District Council provides litter bins in the main towns, villages and on streets in the district which are emptied weekly (one week by street cleaning crews and one week by refuse collection crews). The budget for provision and emptying of litter bins is limited so careful consideration goes into deciding where and if new litter bins are placed.



As the walkway between the Oakdale estate and Cambourne Place was heavily littered FODDC has installed 2 litterbins, one at each end of the walkway. These will be emptied by the street cleaning crew / refuse crews on alternate weeks. If the bins end up full of dog faeces, for health and safety reasons, they will have to be removed because they cannot be emptied on a refuse truck without clogging up the vehicle mechanism and covering the operators all over with dog faeces.

The Oakdale estate has also been added to the Forest of Dean District Council Zone 3 street cleaning schedule so the area will be litter picked on a monthly basis. It is worth noting that 33 bags of litter were removed during the first litter pick.

The green open space area on the Oakdale estate is not maintained by the Forest of Dean District Council, it is the responsibility of the management company. Two litter bins were installed by the developer on the open space area and it is the responsibility of the management company to get them emptied and pay for the cost of emptying them. The photo shows the litterbins that are in situ and they are regularly overflowing with dog faeces. The FODDC have received numerous complaints from residents about these litter bins



as they are not being emptied regularly and has tried to work with Bromford housing to come up with a solution. Options include:

- 1) The management company arrange for a company to empty the bins on a regular basis. The cost of this is the responsibility of the management company.
- 2) The management company remove the litter bins and install dedicated dog waste bins across the estate and arrange for a company to empty the dog waste bins on a regular basis. The cost of this is the responsibility of the management company.
- 3) The management company remove the litter bins and advise residents to take their dog waste home. Note: small amounts of dog waste can be placed in general household refuse bins as long as it is mixed with other household waste.

Yours faithfully



Rachel Capon
Joint Waste Team
Forest of Dean District Council

Lydney In Bloom Annual Report 2014/15

The newly formed 'Lydney in Bloom' Committee has met on several occasions; we have identified several areas within the town which we feel require attention, improving Lydney visually for all of its residents and visitors alike.

This year we were fortunate enough to receive a donation from Mr J Thurston (Watts Group) which the 'Lydney in Bloom' Group, very much aided and supported by the Town Council's Ground Staff, have used to transform the area around Hylton Court. I am sure you will agree the area now looks simply stunning. We would like to thank those of you who have kindly commended the team on their work.

It is now important to continue this momentum, our aim being to improve all such areas however to achieve this goal we need your help.

'Do you have an hour or two spare?

Would you be willing to assist the Group by weeding/watering the newly planted areas'?

'Do you know of any 'budding' gardeners who would like to join us to share their ideas and skills'?

- It doesn't matter if you don't know your petunias from your pansies your help would be wonderful!

*CLLr Carol Harris
Lead - Lydney In Bloom*

**LETS MAKE
LYDNEY BLOOM
THIS YEAR AND
EVERY YEAR**



FRIENDS OF BATHURST POOL ANNUAL REPORT

20th April 2015

The summer of 2015 was another huge success for the trustees of The Friends of Bathurst Pool.

The season started well in May when we opened to allow the serious swim club to begin. This becomes more popular every season and this year the membership increased to 102.

Although August was not a good month weather wise, this was more than compensated by the excellent attendance during June and July. The mini heat wave at the end of July saw 5348 people through the gate creating an income of £16770 over a period of fourteen days. Group bookings, birthday parties and end of term celebrations vastly increased this year, proving that to many youngsters it is an excellent venue to mark a special occasion.

At this time last year we spoke about the two major improvements that we intended to make before we opened. We are delighted to report that we were able to complete these projects. The archaic method of dosing the chemicals by hand was replaced with the most up to date automatic system and new stainless steel edging around the perimeter of the pool was installed. In addition to this, changing room numbers one to thirty five were completely re-roofed. All this work was financed by our own funds and much of the time consuming labour carried out by our own dedicated trustees and their helpers.

We have secured one major grant for improvements this year. This is a restricted fund and will be used to complete the non-slip surface around the pool and to lay some artificial grass in parts of the picnic area.

Our murals around the interior walls are beginning to show signs of deterioration and we would like these to be renovated to their former standard. They are an iconic feature of the pool with their many bright colours and original designs.

Our Annual General Meeting has taken place and once again the enthusiasm of everyone present was extremely encouraging. Working parties have been discussed and arrangements made to clean, paint and attend to any jobs that may want doing. After being locked up for the winter the site always needs some TLC and we are in no doubt that by the beginning of May we will be ready to look forward to another sunny season at Bathurst Pool.

Sheila Berryman
Trustee/Treasurer



Friends of Lydney & District Hospital

Annual Report 2014/15

Registered Charity No: 277785



The past year has seen the hospital very well utilised especially the in-patient wards and the minor injuries unit; this results from a combination of an exceptionally large number of patients requiring admission to Gloucester Royal and the subsequent need to release patient beds at the earliest opportunity, and the closure of the minor injuries unit in Chepstow. Out-patient clinics have reduced somewhat partly due to the shortage of specialist staff to cover these clinics from Gloucester, but also due to the extended closure of the operating theatre following the breakdown of the patient lift in November. The repair has been further delayed as the manufacturer does not hold spare parts which have to be specially ordered from their suppliers. It is probable that this situation will continue for a further 2 months. However the day ward has been used throughout for in-patients and the pressure on these beds is such that it is probable that even if the theatre had been serviceable, the operations would have been postponed so that the ward could be used for in-patients.

There have been no changes in the management arrangements for the hospital over the past year, and Gloucestershire Care Services NHS Trust continues to be the responsible authority for the hospital. The Friends continue to have an active and constructive dialogue with the Trust at all levels, on matters relating to the hospital.



Fundraising has been reasonably successful although the annual summer fete in 2014 was badly affected by inclement weather which significantly reduced the attendance and consequently the sum raised was less than in previous years.

However a number of generous donations from members of the public, various organisations and local companies throughout the year has ensured that overall fundraising has been satisfactory to maintain those projects and purchases which have been seen as a priority by staff and local people. At the present time, a major modernisation of the in-patient ward control and reception area is underway with particular emphasis on making the environment more sympathetic for the increasing number of elderly patients suffering from dementia and other related conditions. This project, costing £70,000, is being jointly funded by the Friends and the Health Trust in equal share.



A very successful lunch reception was held in June to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Physiotherapy Unit in memory of the late Viscount and Viscountess Bledisloe. The lunch was held at Lydney Park Mansion at the invitation of the current Viscount and Viscountess Bledisloe; all the available tickets were quickly sold out and a substantial sum was raised for the Friends.

Photographs below illustrate the wide variety of organisations including local schools who provide valued support to the Friends of Lydney & District Hospital.



Pillowell School



Vintage Vehicles Society



ReeceR Space Ltd

Dean Forest Railway Review of 2014



2014 was a year of consolidation and improvement of facilities at the railway and we once again benefitted from healthy visitor numbers throughout the season. Our special events continue to be popular and our 'Day Out with Thomas' events were their busiest they have been for a number of years with an average of 1000 people a day visiting the railway.

The most noticeable improvement in 2014 was the creation of our new website which includes many more opportunities to sell tickets and products on it. It is also 'responsive' so it adapts itself to the screen of the person viewing it so it's easier for people to use their mobile phones to get information on the railway. Our online presence in terms of Social Media continued to gather pace and our Facebook community is quite a bit larger than many comparable attractions and I urge you all to 'Like us' on Facebook to get all our latest news and offers.

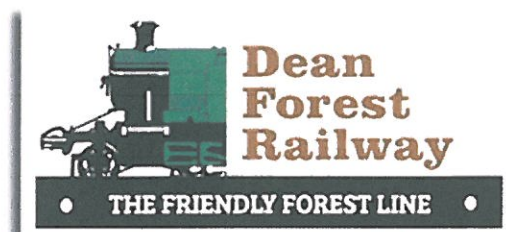
We worked with Lydney Town Council in 2014 to secure the required funding with Gloucestershire County council to carry out clearance activity of our land next to the river by Albany Pumps. The result is that you can now get new views of the railway and there are far fewer trees and foliage that could be at risk of falling into the river and blocking it up. This work was carried out by a contractor working with a large group of volunteers and I would like to thank everyone that made this possible.

During the year we also benefited from working with Amey Colas who brought their railway track maintenance vehicles to the railway for training on a number of occasions throughout the year. As part of the deal we secured 300 tonnes of ballast to shore up our track bed as part of their training which has improved the experience for our visitors whilst on board the train through a smoother journey.

This relationship relied on our physical link to the National Rail Network that proved very useful in 2014 as in March we used it to facilitate a visit of a First Great Western Class 150 diesel unit providing a trip from Gloucester to Parkend as a special charter. This was the first time in almost a century that people had been able to take a train directly between these two stations and we sold the 130 seats very quickly! We hope to work with First Great Western again in the future to potentially bring in a unit from the Bristol area.

Our improvements to the visitor facilities at Norchard have continued and the new cafe building is now open to the public providing a warm dry environment for our customers to relax whilst waiting for their train to arrive. The railway continues to make investments in the visitor experience and looking ahead to 2015 we want to be seen as somewhere that people can visit every day of the year to look around our facilities at Norchard.

Ben Gray
Chairman





LYDNEY TOWN HALL

ANNUAL REPORT OF LYDNEY TOWN HALL 2014 - 2015

The Volunteer Management Committee which was formed in May 2012 set out eagerly once more to face the daunting and interesting challenge that lay ahead for the current trading year. During this year, in September to be exact, the hall celebrated its 125th Birthday.

Now in our third year managing this iconic hall we are now accustomed to the day to day running together with its needs. The two resident care-taking staff are most helpful and we are grateful for their continued assistance, John also assists with the small maintenance jobs that crop up from time to time; he really is a very handy type of person to have around.

By capacity we are the third largest hall in the county and one of only two halls in the county with a sprung floor. Furthermore it is acclaimed that the acoustics are first class. The hall with its bar, lounge, stage facilities taken together with six additional rooms is a first class venue suitably for a variety of purposes from Dances, Theatre productions, Public Meeting and Parties to give an example.

Trustees meet on a monthly basis to debate and discuss the various topics that have to be addressed to ensure the smooth running of the hall. Various Sub Committees have been formed and meet as and when necessary. Several Trustees have moved on during the year. We have been joined by Felicity Edwards and are actively seeking to recruit additional Trustees with appropriate skills.

Judith Cadogan is now in her second year running the bar together with our range of catering which is steadily increasing. The year has seen an improvement on income from both these two sources. The bar is staffed, when required, entirely by volunteers. The number of private hires, for a wide variety of functions and events, has also shown an increase as has the subsequent footfall through the door.

During the past year several improvements have been made including the removal of the old side counter in the lounge to be replaced by a smaller more practical counter. The bar lounge has been decorated and new carpet fitted. The bar now also has its own sound system. Over the year numerous items of decorations, maintenance and improvement have been achieved, much of it by volunteers.

We are currently establishing the best ways to improve our catering provisions. On the subject of catering, during the year we have managed to obtain a considerable amount of extra items of equipment for the kitchen mainly thanks to various forms of generosity. The kitchen itself now needs decorating together with some additional tiling and shelving.

Thanks to a grant from the Town Council three sets of fire exit door, long overdue for replacement, have been fitted. The committee are researching funding streams to assist with much needed improvements to the hall. Eventually, fingers crossed, we will be successful with a substantial grant or two. In the meantime we have been fortunate in obtaining a few small amounts of funding.

This is the first complete year that we have been without the rental income from both Dial a Ride, who had a permanent office at the hall, together with the Air Cadets, who hired the hall every Sunday Morning and Thursday evening, both having terminated their tenancy as each moved into their own purpose built accommodation. The loss of this regular income has given us an even bigger hurdle to overcome from purely a financial perspective.

We have a professional presence of the World Wide Web. It is interesting to see the number of "Hits" gradually increasing. Facebook and Twitter interest is also increasing. In this electronic age we have to use every means at our disposal to advertise and promote our wares.

The Town Hall is available for hire to anyone or any organisation subject to the normal Rules and Conditions for hire. Of interest, during the past year we have hosted a couple of wedding receptions, a first for us, which have gone down well and has certainly encouraged interest.

One hire for a Children's' Party has now led to several more bookings. We are currently building on this interest.

Our regular Dance Class is also showing a steady increase in interest and attendance.

Our '*Wish List*' for the hall is long and varied. To this end we have now produced a comprehensive Business Plan. If, and when, we are able to secure any grant funding, the trustees have a lot of ideas on how we can sustain and improve the viability of the building for the benefit of residents of the Forest of Dean in general.

Finally, trustees wish to assure the town's resident of their continued determination to ensure the survival and success of the Town Hall and eventually to make it self-financing and an even greater credit to the community.

Colin Knight
Chairman

LYDNEY WAR MEMORIAL (ALMSHOUSES) TRUST
ANNUAL REPORT APRIL 2015

The Lydney War Memorial (Almshouses) Trust is the body responsible for the maintenance and administration of the almshouses in Church Road, Lydney, next to the War Memorial. The properties are divided into two houses and four flats.

The Trust continues to meet each month, at the Naas Lane Community Centre. In the last year, one Trustee has stepped down – Mr Frank Bennett who moved out of the area. Mr Mel Rudge has joined the Trustees, representing the British Legion, and acts alongside the other four Trustees; Mrs Ruth Richardson, Mrs Valerie Hobman, Mr Bill Osborne and Mrs Sue Osborne.

At the AGM Mr Frank Bennett stepped down as Chair in the light of his impending move and Mrs Ruth Richardson agreed to take on the role, with Mrs Valerie Hobman taking over from Mrs Ruth Richardson as Vice Chair. Attendance at the meetings by the Trustees has been generally good, with all but two meetings in the year being quorate. Gill Moir remains as the clerk for the Trust and the Trustees would like to record their thanks to her.

Over the winter of 2013/2014, during which there were prolonged periods of heavy rain, several of the units suffered from significant water ingress, due largely to the exceptional weather conditions. A report was commissioned from a chartered surveyor, who has developed an agreed programme of work which is currently under way. This includes reducing the height of two of the chimneys, for which planning permission has been granted, making repairs to the remaining chimneys, replacing flat roofs, repositioning certain windows and reviewing the render and construction of the front elevation. It is expected that this extensive programme of work will be completed towards the end of April, after which the Quinquennial survey, which is currently due, will be undertaken. It has been agreed with the surveyors to delay the Quinquennial Survey until the current programme of work has been completed.

There have been no changes to tenants during the year. After a serious accident, one of our residents spent a significant time in hospital and respite care before returning to the Almshouses. We are pleased to report that she has made an amazing recovery and has shown fantastic determination to get back on her feet.

During the year we have reviewed and revised the Charity's scheme, which governs the running of the Trust, to ensure it remains applicable, and we are in the process of agreeing appropriate amendments with the Charities Commission.

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

Mrs Ruth Richardson (Chair)



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION REPORT

As the main custodians of Remembrance the R.B.L. has entered a very busy period commemorating various campaigns from the Great War 1914 – 1918.

Here in Lydney we started with a commemorative service at St Mary's Church on Saturday 9th August 2014. Preceding this ceremony local Sea and Air Cadets walked through Town wearing cards with names of those who lost their lives during this conflict. The Dean Forest Railway laid on a special Train carrying school children to the Church.

Remembrance Sunday, 9th November 2014, in conjunction with Lydney Town Council was once again a very successful ceremony. It appears to be getting bigger year on year, with approximately 40 wreaths being laid at the War Memorial. I must give a special "thank you" to the Air Cadet Marching Band and the Lydney Town Training Band for their special part in this event.

February 9th 2015 saw us have another successful Poppy Concert at Lydney Town Hall. It was our 30th Annual Ceremony. For a change the weather was good and full house attended. Special thanks must be given to all the participants for giving us such an entertaining evening.

Due to this event our Poppy Appeal stands at about £17,000. We still have a further six months to run before the 2014/15 collection finishes so we are hoping to create a new record here in Lydney. For this we must give a big "thank you" to Stan Rudge our P.A.O and his team for the sterling work they put in throughout the year.

We now have a well-established Pop In Centre at 3 Hill Street (the Old Legion Club) on Tuesdays between 09:00hrs to 12:00hrs. This is for any serving, ex-serving personnel and their dependants to call in to seek any possible help. It is proving to be one of the busiest outreach centres in the county.

As you are all well aware there is no longer a Legion Club here in Lydney but the Branch, which is the Charity side, is still going strong. Due to the generosity of the trustees, we still operate from the same building. 3 Hill Street and Watney Hall are run independently by the building trustees but all Legion Members do get discounts. Can I please recommend to the local community to use these premises for any function; the building has been almost totally renovated. We can recommend the changes and the food available is first class and cheap.

With the support of this community and local area at large this building and the Lydney Royal British Legion can go on to greater things.

R.B.L. Branch Chairman
Mel Rudge





LAiP notes for 2014

The Lydney Railway Station Improvement Consultation last autumn by invited stakeholders identified the underpass as a possible crossing for passengers when the level crossing barrier is closed. The LAiP committee are disconcerted that the figure to improve the underpass could be half a million pounds. Passengers would like more covered waiting areas during inclement weather and more car parking spaces as recently the 72 spaces were easily filled and up to 24 cars were parked in the road adjacent.

Dean Forest Railway announced this year that they would like to manage a Ticket/Information Office at the station, which would be welcomed improvement.

At a meeting with the Lydney Station Master, David Flint stated that a commuter train from Lydney to Severn Tunnel and then through the tunnel to Abbots Wood and Temple Meads morning, and then returning in the evening had been looked at in the past and he was keen to raise the possibility again. He noted that First Great Western Sunday morning service to Cardiff had been introduced, but only to Severn Tunnel because of Network Rail franchise restrictions.

The sale of Lydney Docks took nearly a year to organise because of Defra's involvement, but a sale was finally announced during the summer. The recent docks meeting Rob Millar reported that five people/organisations had expressed interest in part of the land at the docks, but no one had expressed an interest in the whole site. EA has been engaged in talking to all interested parties to attempt to find a compromise which could be acceptable to all involved. The undergrowth on the banks of the second basin have been cleared of tree, shrubs and bushes allowing a clear vision of the moored yachts.

Regarding the Pine End Site there is no definite news, only unsubstantiated rumours.

Lydney Park Estate owners of the Upper Forge site has not responded to the request for financial assistance towards the feasibility study by Geoff Bysouth which would cost £5k. This study is essential for a Heritage Lottery bid to be made to restore this early C19th industrial heritage site.

Funding for Lydney from two landfill companies is now unavailable to LAiP as SITA has moved its office from Lydney to Avonmouth and Biffa has reduced its qualification area from 10 miles to seven miles, reducing dramatically funding opportunities through Entrust.

Unfortunately the Dean Forest Railway scheme launched four years ago to raise approximately £120k to repair the St. Mary's Halt bridge appears to have run out of steam. It will be very disappointing if this iconic bridge is allowed to rust away.



Photos of St. Mary's bridge and Upper Forge bridge.



Age Concern Annual Report 2014/15

Age Concern Forest of Dean is a charity that has been delivering meals across the Forest to the elderly and housebound for over 20 years. The service began in a Portacabin behind the Dilke hospital but soon outgrew the facilities there and eventually moved to the top floor of the Enterprise Centre in Cinderford. From there we re-located in 2012 to a purpose-fitted kitchen in a building rented from the District Council in Foxes Bridge Road in Cinderford. Over the years we have also offered advocacy and advice and information but these services had to be terminated almost 4 years ago when the funding we received from Comic Relief came to an end and was not extended. For about 10 years we have also been providing befriending, whereby a volunteer visits an elderly, often lonely and sometimes demented client for an hour or two each week. The charity is run by 8 Trustees and employs 15 people; it has a charity shop in Lydney and one in Cinderford and is supported by around 100 volunteers. We now offer the two services, delivering meals to individuals and 21 Lunch Clubs and befriending. The meals are cooked each day in the central kitchen, and are delivered by volunteers. Meals currently cost £3.90 for a three-course meal consisting of soup, main course and pudding. Special diets are catered for as are individual preferences and week-day meals are plated up by the driver in the client's home. Weekend meals are currently delivered chilled on a Friday to be re-heated in a microwave oven by the client.

Our mission is to use our two services to help older people to retain their independence and remain in their own homes for as long as possible, thereby improving their quality of life. Most of our current clients are in their late 80s and 90s or are even over 100 years old and we are very proud of our success in serving them. Age Concern only operates in the Forest and is a local charity for local people.

Most of our funding comes from our charity shops which are managed by an employee and staffed otherwise by volunteers. The grant situation is challenging but we receive some help from the County and District Councils, from town and parish councils and from local organisations and individuals. We are very grateful for all of these as the cost of operating a commercial kitchen is very high. Our volunteer drivers are offered expenses as some of them deliver meals several days a week and we depend heavily on their support.

Volunteers are always required, for meal delivery, befriending and staffing the shops. Anyone wishing to volunteer or to receive a meal should telephone 01594 827927.

Daphne Pearson

THE VICTORIA CENTRE

VICTORIA ROAD, LYDNEY, GLOS, GL 15 5DG TEL: 01594 843418)

President Mrs M Goss Treasurer Mr John King Secretary Mrs P Biddle



Gloucestershire Freemasons Fund



Amazingly this local charity, which caters mainly for the older generation, is 40 years old this year. It began very modestly in the Springfield Chapel Hall, was adopted by the Royal Forest of Dean Rotary Club and moved with its financial help to its present location in Victoria Road. Over successive years it has become a much loved and supported institution.

Two days a week lunch is provided, on a third, lunch, trips and entertainment, and on a fourth lunch and exercise session.

In 2014, for the first time, the Centre opened on Christmas Day; an event that sought out those who live alone. It is hoped that this will become a regular feature.

A new venture too is planned to be launched, namely to open on a fifth day for gardening and craft clubs followed by a light lunch.

All these activities, however, would not be possible without the support of local councils, grant bodies, businesses, local people and, most importantly, the many volunteers who turn up week after week to help cook and serve the meals and who work endlessly to raise funds to subsidise the cost of the lunches and to improve the building.

Please drop in and see what goes on; you will be very welcome.

Pearl Biddle



Christmas Day



Red Nose Day at the Exercise Club



Lydney & District Amateur Dramatic Society 2014-2015

This year Lydney & District Amateur Dramatic Society had a fairly quiet year. We were unable to put on our usual annual pantomime due to lack of helpers, but we hope to rectify this and be back treading the boards for 2016.

The Society put on a very successful evening of drama which included our youth section 'The Scene Setters' at the Lydney Community Centre.

We were able to donate £200 to the Friends of Lydney Hospital, which was presented by our Secretary, Sheila Jones, at their annual fete.

The Society enjoyed a Christmas meal at 'The Ugly Duckling' in Lydney and we hope to make that an annual event.

We have to say 'goodbye' to our patient long suffering and very talented wardrobe mistress Maggie Charles. She will be moving to be nearer her grandchildren. We shall miss you Maggie.

Our very clever and adept stage manager Steve Sayers is also stepping down from duty. He will be sorely missed.

We are in rehearsal for an evening of one-act plays; this includes the 'Scene Setters' to be held in the Community Centre in June.

We are always looking for new members – back stage and on stage. We rehearse every Thursday at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre; come along you will be made most welcome.

The Scene Setters meet every Friday, apart from school holidays, from 6.30 pm–8.00 pm and 8.00 pm–9.30 pm at the Community Centre.

We look forward to seeing you!

Lydney & District Amateur Dramatic Society
March 2015





**Lydney
Community
Centre**



ANNUAL TOWN MEETING REPORT 2014/15

I am pleased to report that the third year of volunteers managing the Centre has seen a continued and steady growth in usage by community groups, clubs and associations. The situation has been boosted further by Kate Newall moving the Welcome Trust from Severnbanks to the Centre and sharing Room 1 with Gloucestershire College. The spin off for the centre has therefore been increased daytime usage. Additionally Riverside Church members, Bob & John, who had been planning to organise a weekly Job Club but needed broadband, which was wholeheartedly supported by the LCC committee who not only installed wi-fi in the whole building but also a hearing aid loop in Room 3 with the aid of three small grants.

Though the GCC lease was agreed by all parties, it has yet to be signed and until such time the LCC cannot make large grant applications. However, the exception has been the Sib Group pre- feasibility grant which is designed to assist new emerging community schemes to plan their futures while being fully aware of all the possible pit falls. The consultation led on two aspects with Rob Johnson of fsl architects assessing the building and Jane Grindley of Coop Futures concentrating on managing and marketing. The work started well last winter, but unfortunately, due to Coop Futures' financial constraints, Jane was made redundant: Jo White has taken over the role which has caused a hiatus in proceedings. There was a marked slowing down on progress during the summer and the final report has not yet been completed. This has proved frustrating as several of the options to improve the centre were thought to be very exciting and will need to be developed further, possibly via another Sib Group feasibility grant.

My main Saturday task during the summer and autumn was to supply wire brushes and paint for the Glos Community Payback teams. The estimate of six weeks work to paint the railings lengthened to 18 weeks, £800 worth of paint was applied and I trust you all agree that the effort was worthwhile. I understand that the Sea Cadets plan to paint their railings at Easter.

The Social Events Group led by Gill Cooksley, continued their good work with 2 quiz nights and several concerts, the highlight being Chepstow Male Voice Choir. The new piano was christened, incidentally, with a morning recital on the Heritage Day in September.

I would like to acknowledge the financial support that LCC has received during this current year from Lydney Town Council and FODDC, Rotarians & Lions Associations, and Charities which include; Summerfield, Barnwood and Glos Freemasons. I feel this widespread support acknowledges and emphasises the importance of the work the volunteers are undertaking at the Lydney Community Centre.

I would finally wish to thank my fellow officers for their support and hard work, and the very efficient and professional way in which they have pursued their duties. The number of voluntary hours being notched up each year is amazing and for future fund raising grants we need to record the hours put in and assess their monetary value.

D Biddle

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@btinternet.com



Registered Charity 286701

TS ROYAL FOREST
Forest of Dean Sea Cadets
Lydney Youth & Community Centre
Naas Lane
Lydney
Gloucestershire
GL155AT
forestofdeanscc@btinternet.com
www.forestseacadets.web.officelive.com
01594-841058

I am Lt (SCC) Mike Chard RNR the Commanding Officer of TS Royal Forest, the Forest of Dean Sea Cadets One of the biggest youth organisations in the Forest of Dean.

Our mission statement is:-

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 to 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 now have 40 children enrolled as cadets have 14 dedicated staff members to look after them

Cadets from the unit take part in various activities and events during their time with us recently we have acquired a building at Lydney harbour which enable us to use the facilities there and go boating for longer each evening.

- We have a member of staff qualified as a rowing instructor, this enabled us this year to use our two trinity rowing boats to their maximum potential, we have awarded 54 rowing qualifications to our cadets.
- We have staff qualified in Snorkelling & Mountain Biking which is a bonus for the unit and is are good activities offered to the cadets.
- Cadets have earned nearly 200 qualifications since our last inspection and Staff have earned nearly 100 qualifications in the year including 6 boating qualifications, 9 First Aid qualifications, a member of staff qualified to become a marine engineering instructor another has qualified as a rock climbing instructor and one staff member has passed his foundation degree in management
- We have competed in numerous competitions both at Sea cadet District & the much bigger Sea Cadet Southwest Area level,
- We continue to make a major commitment to the local community attending fetes, regattas, parades etc and we assist with events in the Forest area such as community days and the half marathon.
- The unit we are in now has been used by other community groups for coffee mornings and table sales. As well as local dance groups

The Parents and supporters PASA is working well and has a number of fundraising events they have organised. We have continued good relations with other organisations within the Forest of Dean, members of staff are chairing meetings of the Royal Naval Association and other staff members are members of the Severn Area rescue association, we also have regular contact with the Forest Of Dean Rotary Club and Lydney Sailing club.

Our projects for the upcoming year will be to refurbish our building at the harbourside and fit new showers at the unit to enable cadets and staff to stay over more at weekends.

We have started the cadet expansion programme with Dean academy this not only will attract significant funding and will bring new cadets to the unit as well as give the unit the use of some school facilities, the unit is also aiming for a school staff member to join our team as a SPOC liaison between the academy and school.

Refurbishment of the unit has allowed it to be used by others, Area courses have been run at the unit and we are looking to expand that with Area First Aid and catering courses being run in the future.

The unit has sought new partners in the use of the building, this opens up new streams of funding as well as advertising Sea Cadets to others, it also secures the future of the unit for many years to come. The unit hosts a local dance class as well as the Forest Of Dean History society and First Aid Courses are being run for other charity and local organisations.

The unit has regular contact and exchange visits with the local Air Cadet unit, they have been to us and taken part in seamanship and boating whilst we have been to their unit for a parade night. Both compete in sports and First Aid.

Village Agent Report

[Work undertaken in Lydney 2014 – Feb 2015]

During the year Lydney Library has started running Community Drop In Sessions; local people can call in and chat to various representatives of agencies such as the Police, Great Oaks, and the Village Agent et al.

I have visited a large number of clients in the Lydney Area during the year with a variety of problems, these range from requests for smoke alarms, fitted free by the Fire Service, to residents seeking assistance with the completion of benefit claim forms.

As a Village Agent I am permitted to visit clients in their own homes. Anyone who is 50+ can contact me on Telephone Number 07776245712 and leave a message stating contact telephone number, brief details of the problem and of course their name and I will be only too happy to assist where I am able.

During 2014 I attended an open day at Goode Court where with other agencies I was able to promote the work undertaken by Village Agents. One outstanding event I would like to mention was the 'Don't be Tricked' campaign; a series of short plays put on by year 12 pupils from Lakers' School, aimed at the over 60s, raising their awareness. Apart from the obvious message about not being scammed by criminals, another spin-off was the interaction between young people and elderly residents. Many of our young people do not have the opportunity to meet up or speak to elderly residents, likewise elderly residents can potentially live many miles from family/grandchildren, therefore such an event helps to build lasting friendships by generating social value. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to PCSO Tom Oliver from Lydney Police Station who was one of the driving forces behind this year's presentations.

All in all it has proved a busy and productive year.

If you are over 50 and live in Lydney, Ruspidge, Soudley, Cinderford, West Dean Parish or Coleford and you need help with daily living, please contact me, Mike Morgan, your Village Agent, and I will arrange a visit at your home or elsewhere to discuss how I can help you.

My contact telephone number is: 07776 245 712.

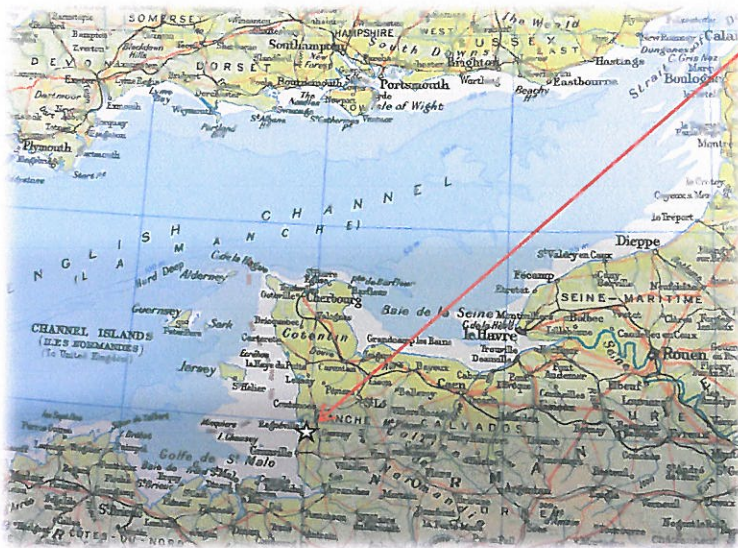


THE LYDNEY & DISTRICT TWINNING ASSOCIATION

The Lydney and District Twinning Association is in its 24th year and indeed several inaugural members are still closely involved. This year, 2015, it is our turn to go to Bréhal for a long weekend over the May Bank Holiday and we hope that between 15 and 20 members will be able to take advantage of the wonderful hospitality of our French twins.

The Association is open to all who would like to experience life in France, make new friends, practice their French and be prepared to be hosts when the French come to visit us on alternate years.

The Twinning is self-funding and we have a few fund raising events during the two-year period to help pay for some formal entertainment of our French visitors when they come over for a long weekend. This is usually an evening diner with some entertainment. Last year when they came in July we had a very enjoyable evening at Lydney Town Hall with dinner organised by the Twinning catering committee and folk dancing with The Downfielders from Stroud.



Bréhal is such a lovely area, being very close to the sea, and last September the Lydney Golf Club spent a wonderful sunny weekend joining in the Bréhal Golf Club's 50th anniversary celebrations at the golf course which is literally by the sea, practically on the beach. Some non-golfers took the opportunity to have a couple of swims!!

The problem that we have is that core members are getting older and we very badly need to attract new members. We realise that the young with families are very busy these days and also that they have more

opportunities to travel than ever before, but the opportunities presented by the Twinning Association are special. We really would welcome more families/couples to come and join us.

The chance to experience another culture and language is quite different from the usual holiday of eating in French restaurants, using a bit of restaurant French and looking at the scenery. This is really getting to know the area and the people.

The spectrum of our ability to communicate in French and English is enormous!

As you can imagine from a few words and lots of gesticulations at one end to fluent conversations at the other, it is truly amazing what interesting conversations it is possible to have with school-day French and English and how much it is possible to improve.

Judith Capps
Chairman
13.02.15



LYDNEY RFC ANNUAL REPORT

Lydney RFC continue to help bring the community together through sport and in particular rugby which the town has a strong tradition.



Our 1st team have had a difficult season in National League 2 South but continue to battle on to avoid relegation.



Due to some tireless work by members of the club Committee we have been successful in obtaining a grant from Sport England to enable the Club to install a completely new biomass boiler. This work should be completed in time for the next season.

Gloucestershire
County Council

approved a Get Active Together grant of £8500 which has helped improve the Clubs equipment which enables the training of all players at Lydney RFC to continue.



Currently an application for £500 to enhance the Clubhouse, prior to the Rugby World Cup from NatWest is being processed.



Our Mini Chairman has recently submitted an application to Gloucestershire County Council for a grant through the Children's Activity Fund to help with running the next Mini Festival.

On a positive note the Mini & Youth section continues to thrive with over 150 players and following on from the excellent Mini Festival which was held on the Recreation Ground in September 2014 the planning is

now in full swing for the next one to be held on Sunday 4th October.



The support of the Town Council and in particular the community are paramount to the continued success of Lydney RFC and with their help we aim to keep sport and in particular rugby at the heart of the community.

Rob Beswick

Lydney RFC Mini & Youth Chairman



Managers Report Lydney Youth Café 2015

The Youth Café has had another successful year in serving the young people of Lydney. We remain open for 3 evenings per week, Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 5-7.30. The café averages 25 young people per session.

Staff levels are currently 3; consisting of a Manager, 2 paid youth workers and 1 volunteer.

Funding remains a concern and this year we have secured £10k from *Awards for All* for a healthy eating project for the young people. £1100 was received from Tesco and £2k from Newgrove Trust. Applications to The Tudor Trust and Santander were unsuccessful and whilst we have not received any funding from Lydney Town Council we are currently working on a partnership bid.

We still receive the *Service Level Agreement* from the FODDC, which is currently just over £3k per year. The café was also successful in funding from Homebase and 2 new docking stations and new kitchen equipment was bought for the kitchen.

The Café held its annual coffee morning in July, which was well attended. The café is still recycling all its waste using the recycling bins and the young people are very aware of the impact this has on the environment.

In November The Youth Café celebrated its 10-year birthday serving the young people of Lydney at its current premises, 25 Newerne Street, Lydney. The birthday celebrations included a party with food supplied free of charge by Tesco and a feature in The Review, with presentation of the Tesco cheque.

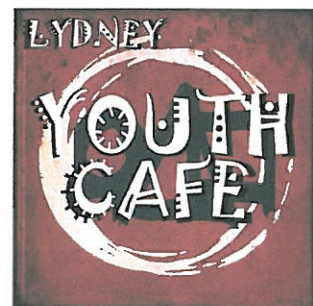
Looking towards the future the café has recently been affiliated with *Young Gloucestershire*, which is providing support now that The Forest Network is disbanding.

The café is also now providing free wifi to the young people and has a Face Book page, which is regularly updated.

The café continues to provide Ccard information and advice on; sexual health, drugs and issues that concern the young people of the town.

We are in the process of trying to update the outside space adjacent to the café so young people have access to the garden and we are hoping to introduce some raised beds with further funding so the young people can gain some gardening skills. We have also introduced a healthy menu at the café and the young people can enjoy healthier options such as fruit smoothies, homemade curry and soup.

Catherine
Manager



Neds Top Resident's Action Group

2014/15

Introduction

The Neds Top Residents Group has had a busy year supporting the development of a sustainable, friendly community on the north east fringe of Lydney. There was a baby born this month which brought great joy and happiness to everyone on Neds Top.

Renewable Energy

Sadly, one of the main activities of the group was resisting a planning application (P0871/14/FUL) from a renewable energy company, AEE (now Green Hedge Renewables) who sought planning permission to erect a massive solar farm on a 37 hectare site known locally as Horage Wood or the Purlieu. This was strongly resisted because of the landscape damage and the impact on local businesses, particularly the Dodson family at Forest Oak Farm, who had made such a huge personal investment in developing their excellent holiday and dog training premises.¹ The development was unanimously opposed by the Neds Top, Purlieu and North Lydney Communities. After token consultation and insultingly small offers of 'community payback' the proposal was modified but remained entirely unacceptable and was rejected by the District Planning Committee. The company have said that they would not appeal this decision. NRAG employed the services of Richard C Brock MA(Cantab), Dip TP MRTPI, a planning consultant to formulate an excellent response. Much of the campaigning and support was led through social networking and a great deal of support was generated through Facebook created by Forest Oak Farm.² Thanks are due to Lydney Town Council, Forest of Dean District Council, County Councillors, Mark Harper MP, CPRE, Dave Street, Sheila Constable, Carol Harris who spoke at the Planning meeting and the many, many other individuals who supported the campaign. The lack of a proper planning framework for renewables leaves communities unprotected and a legacy of mistrust of renewable energy companies that does nothing to help the delivery of sustainable energy and preventing climate change.



The proposed site stretched from Neds Top to the A48. The excavations on the fields were archeological investigations that showed medieval charcoal workings. The site was forest until 1942

Web Site

The group established a website that has been very popular and has attracted a number of enquiries. <http://nedstop.org.uk/>

¹ <http://www.forestoakfarm.co.uk/site/index.php>

² <https://www.facebook.com/StopSolarFOD>

Active for Health

The County Council Active for Health Scheme and Cllr Alan Preest awarded the group £1,500 to improve local footpaths for walkers and the group plan to work with Walking for Health and other local groups to encourage local footpaths to be used. If anyone is interested in this work they are encouraged to contact the group.

Traffic

The Old Dam/Church Walk/Oldcroft Junction. The Church Walk junction is obscured by the hedge bottom right and there have been collisions with traffic descending from Neds Top meeting traffic from Lydney. The situation continues to be monitored. The roadworks on the A48 and the recent events at Yorkley Court have created diversions that have brought large amounts of traffic through Neds Top. The group supports a campaign to reduce speed limits along Church Walk to 20 MPH.

Wildlife

Goss hawks have become a common sight. The regular large populations of Redwings and Fieldfares visited the large grasslands fields again this year, but there have been fewer starlings. There was a marked drop in the numbers of swallows in summer 2014.

Boar

Boars have continued to proliferate around the edge of the Forest and have disrupted the road side vegetation to the extent that commoners believe it has eroded available grazing. The group supports a cull and the efforts of Cllr Brian Thomas to ensure there is proper management.

Save Alaston Development

The group strongly supported the aims of the Stop Allston Development believing the further erosion of the settlement boundary was inappropriate, too many green fields had been lost, and that the potential growth of Lydney, with the numbers of new houses already permitted, is unsustainable.³ Neds Top uses the same traffic arteries and these are now congested at peak times and compromising environmental capacity. The group strongly supported the resistance of the SAD at the appeal earlier this year.

Allocations Plan

The FoDDC allocations plan is a welcome document although the group felt that small affordable housing projects of 10-20 dwellings should be permitted in villages to provide for sustainable village communities. The boundaries of settlements should be defended at all costs. One serious concern is that older people are increasingly migrating to Lydney or Coleford as they get older because of lack of transport, access to shops and appropriate housing and support in villages.

Other news:

Lydney Dial-a-ride continues to provide an excellent village service. The provision of a new village community centre in Yorkley is a welcome development. A new sheep commoner has replaced the Barclays who retired from commoning last year. There is a general view that the animal husbandry is very good. Broadband continues to be a major issue for home workers. *Fastershire* has yet to arrive in Neds Top.

³ . <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Stop-Allaston-Development/164487527087725>

Walking Matters

Annual Report 2014/15

Walking matters for well documented health reasons. Here in Lydney we are very well placed for some wonderful & varied walks. Forest, farm & riverside vistas for all to enjoy free of charge.



The Upper Forge bridge project completed by the Forest of Dean Ramblers last year now connects Norchard Woods to Kidnalls & Millrough Woods. This is via a new definitive Public Right of Way which has been negotiated as part of the project. This means that, unlike the old stone bridge which was a private crossing which the landowner turned a blind eye to people using, the path is now legally protected for all time. Did you know that volunteers countrywide contribute the equivalent of £1million through their work to clear paths and improve the countryside? If you would like to learn more about the Forest of Dean Ramblers & their walk programme please visit <http://fodramblers.org.uk/>

The Forest of Dean Walking For Health project is an ideal way for beginners to make a start with led walks lasting between 30 – 55 minutes with tea & coffee at the end. More details at <http://www.walkingforhealth.org.uk/forest-dean-walking-for-health> or telephone 01594-841964

If you are a keen, strong walker then the Bristol & West Long Distance Walkers Association cover the Forest area as well as the Mendips, & Cotswolds. More details & walk programme can be found on their web site at www.ldwa-bristolandwest.org.uk

It is hoped to start up a Walkers Are Welcome scheme in Lydney to encourage businesses to become involved in promoting walking tourism. There is currently a need for people to join the committee to bring this scheme to fruition. Contact Kate Wyatt Community Engagement Officer Kate Wyatt Kate.Wyatt@fdean.gcsx.gov.uk or 01594 812636 Weds & Thurs only.

This year local walk volunteers have led walks for the WI and also a Tesco staff charity walk in aid of Alzheimer's.

*Dave Street
(Rambler)*



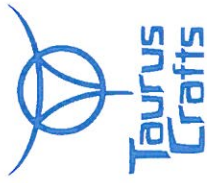
Plummers Brook in Tingley Wood



Bluebells in Norchard Wood



Lydney Lake



CREATING OPPORTUNITY THROUGH SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

In 1995 a couple of co-workers from the Camphill Village Trust took a lease from Lydney Park Estate in a stable yard to set up an arts and crafts visitor centre as a base for a working community inclusive of people with learning disabilities. The objective was to provide work experience, education and training to people whose needs were not well met through mainstream providers.

Here is where we are now:



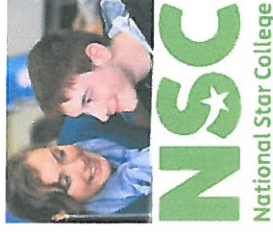
300,000 visitors a year. Events programme: music, crafts performance, theatre and exhibitors



Employs 20 people. Including 5 people in our own supported employment scheme



Collaboration with the National Star College to provide 6 internships under a Steps to Work Programme



Provider of apprenticeships and in any one year provides about 30 work placements a year from a few weeks through to full time



Base for 17 artisan businesses from therapy to food, stone carver to artists



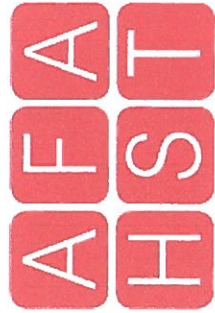
Platform for 50+ local suppliers to the gift shop and cafe and lots of market traders



Collaboration with Art Shape to deliver an Artisans programme to support the Can Do Craft Market of products made through CVT workshops and micro-enterprise



Provider of affordable social housing to people who might be vulnerable in the mainstream rental market



In any one year uses 30+ local contractors, from trainers and IT support through to builders and cleaners

Setting up businesses to provide employment to people on placement in training – Future Clean, an environmental car cleaning and valeting business



**LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL
ATTENDANCE RECORD
2014/15 AND CONTACT
LISTING**

Lydney Town Council

CURRENT LIST OF SERVING COUNCILLORS (2014 – 2015)

<p>Mr Robin Berryman Stedman 77 High Street Aylburton Glos GL15 6DE Tel: 01594 842036</p>	<p>VACANCY – Resignation Cllr J Bevan (Resignation from LTC - Feb 2015)</p> <p>REMAINS A DISTRICT COUNCILLOR</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 James Greenwood Old Severn Bridge House Purton Lydney Glos GL15 4AX Tel: 01594 842454</p>	<p>Ms 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>Mr Harry Ives 17 Valley Road Lydney Glos GL15 5QN Tel: 07771 704826</p>	<p>Mr John Openshaw Silverwood Upper Common Aylburton Glos GL15 6DQ Tel: 01594 843987</p>
<p>VACANCY – Resignation Cllr W Osborne (Resignation from LTC - February 2015)</p> <p>REMAINS A DISTRICT COUNCILLOR</p>	<p>Mr Brian Pearman 18 Bracken Close Lydney Glos GL15 5AH Tel: 01594 841452</p>	<p>Mr Alan Preest 7 Greenacre Bream Lydney Glos GL15 6AP Tel: 01594 564107</p>
<p>Mr Stan Rudge 4 South Road Lydney Glos GL15 5LG Tel: 01594 841512</p>	<p>Mr Brian Thomas Soilwell Barn Allaston Road Lydney Glos GL15 4EX Tel: 01594 842373</p>	<p>Ms Claire Vaughan 20 Bledisloe Way Lydney Glos GL15 5GF Tel: 07581 146903</p>
<p>DISTRICT COUNCILLORS</p> <p>Cllrs: Hobman (Lydney East)</p> <p>(Details as above)</p>	<p>DISTRICT COUNCILLOR</p> <p>Cllr J Bevan Dene Hollow Cottage (Lydney East) Highfield Lane Lydney, Glos GL15 4LL Phone: 01594 842146 Email: James.Bevan@fdean.gov.uk</p> <p>Cllr J Davis 1 The Spires Lydney (Lydney North) Glos GL15 5QX Phone: 01594 842884 Email: Judy.davis@fdean.gov.uk</p> <p>Cllr W Osborne 25 Valley Road Lydney (Lydney East) Glos GL15 5QN Tel: 01594 841970 Email: bill.osborne@fdean.gov.uk</p> <p>Cllr M Winship Severn Lodge Church Lane (Lydney West) Alvington, Lydney, Glos GL15 6BQ Phone: 01594 528289 Email: Marion.Winship@fdean.gov.uk</p> <p>Cllr T Glastonbury Tall Pines The Tufts (Lydney West) Bream, Glos GL15 6HL Phone: 01594 562102 Email: Terry.Glastonbury@fdean.gov.uk</p>	<p>COUNTY COUNCILLOR</p> <p>Cllr A Preest</p> <p>(Details as above)</p>
<p>CEO & Executive Officer</p>	<p>Mrs Jayne Smailes CEO/RFO/Proper Officer Tel: 01594 842234 E-Mail: ceo@jydneytowncouncil.co.uk</p>	<p>Miss Carol Wheeler Executive Officer Tel: 01594 842234 E-Mail: exec.officer@jydneytowncouncil.co.uk</p>

Councillor Full Council Meeting Attendance Record

Councillors 2014/2015

	May-14	Jun-14	Jul-14	Aug 4th Ex Ord -14	Aug 14 - Annual hol	Sep-14	Oct-14	Oct 20th H&S - 14	Nov-14	Dec-14	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15	Total Number of Absences
Cllr B Berryman	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	0
Cllr J Bevan	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	R	3
Cllr D Biddle	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	3
Cllr R Bonser	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	2
Cllr J Greenwood	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	2
Cllr C Harris	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	0
Cllr V Hobman	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	3
Cllr H Ives	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	4
Cllr C Matthews	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	1
Cllr J Openshaw	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	0
Cllr B Osborne	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	R	4
Cllr B Pearman	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	0
Cllr A Prest	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1
Cllr S Rudge	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	0
Cllr B Thomas	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1
Cllr C Vaughan	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	2
CEO	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	0
Minute Taker	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	0

Codes

✓ - Attended

A - Absent

R - Resigned

N/A - Not yet a councillor

Resignations during 2014/15:

Cllrs: - Bevan

Matthews

Osborne

Town Council of Lydney

Council Chambers, Claremont House,

High Street, Lydney, Glos, GL15 5DX

Telephone: (01594) 842234

Fax: (01594) 842312

www.lydneytowncouncil.co.uk



Customer Information Point/ Opening Times

**9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Monday to Thursday
9.00 a.m. to 12 Noon Friday**

MISSION STATEMENT

'Lydney Town Council is dedicated to meeting the needs and aspirations of the whole community , to improving the quality of life for people living in Lydney and to enhance the attractiveness of the town as a place in which to live, work, visit or invest.

Corporate Objectives

- *To provide a strong and independent voice for Lydney*
- *To provide high standard and cost effective services*
- *To preserve and enhance the traditions, character and identity of our Market Town*
- *To promote Lydney as a clean, safe, welcoming and socially inclusive town for all*
- *To support, maintain and promote the use of local facilities*
- *To encourage appropriate developmental growth*
- *To encourage citizenship and localism*
- *To work in partnership with others to achieve more for Lydney and its surrounding areas'*

The Coffee House



Why Not Visit Bathurst Park, Lydney?



Arguably the best park in county. Bathurst Park has something for everyone: beautifully kept gardens to meander, vast sports fields, tennis courts, putting green, assault course, trim trail, and of course a children's play area.....you may even spot a passing steam train. And when you're done relax and unwind in our recently renovated coffee shop, open 7 days a week from March 28th - November 5th

A truly wonderful way to enjoy the outdoors with your family and friends and it's on your doorstep!

For more info call: 07587092094