



# About Town

## Lydney Town Council Newsletter

### Synopsis of Mayor's Annual Report 2011 - 2012



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

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

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

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

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

Bill Osborne - Mayor

# LOCALISM IN ACTION



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

One of the most noticeable changes is a reform of the current Planning system;

## Neighbourhood Planning

- Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDP) - Produced by the community and agreed by public referendum.

Neighbourhood Development Orders (NDO) - Produced by the community and agreed by referendum – this then provides the local Parish/Town Council to 'shape' its local community

- Community Right to Build (CRB) - Subject to referendum.
- Pre-application Involvement - Only applies to developers of 200+ houses (similarly for commercial development)
- Community Infrastructure

Levy (CIL) - This is in its early stages of definition; similar to S106 (which will stay but will be limited).

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

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

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

### So, what are FoDDC doing?

Apart from their day job, they are producing the Allocations Development Plan Document (ADPD). FoDDCs Core Strategy Document was adopted Feb. 2012 with sustainability up to 2026, and from this an Area Action Plan for Cinderford has already been completed and formally adopted with Lydney's ADPD available early 2014, defining what will go where. It will provide 1 process, 1 set of strategy procedures and 1 examination process.

**“Is the ADPD a viable alternative to a neighbourhood Plan (i.e local involvement – to what level is unknown) or does Lydney Town Council want to develop its own**

**neighbourhood plan which will require involvement of the local community in its development and acceptance?**

If the second option is the choice, then there will be a cost involved (however Government grants up to £20,000 are available)

- The process could also be time consuming, depending upon the documents complexity/number of policies included, taking up approx. 2 years to complete.

**Lydney Town Council believe it should retain its right to be the driving force in shaping the towns future.**

## LOCALISM - In Summary

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

### WANTED!



'For Fouling on our Pavements'  
'Please, ensure that the Dog Waste Bins

provided are used, not only is it unpleasant for those that may 'step' in yesterday's dinner, but it gives me a bad reputation!

# LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL Year End

31st March 2011

31st March 2012

|                                            |                |                |                                                                          |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Balance brought forward                 | <b>159,409</b> | <b>25,036</b>  | Total Balances/Reserves at start of year                                 |
| 2. (+) Annual Precept                      | <b>310,212</b> | <b>387,765</b> | Total amount of Precept received                                         |
| 3. (+) Total other receipts                | <b>83,320</b>  | <b>50,861</b>  | Total Income/Receipts, less Precept                                      |
| 4. (-) Staffing Costs                      | <b>287,313</b> | <b>171,434</b> | Staffing Costs (Salaries, PAYE, NI, Pension etc)                         |
| 5. (-) Loan Repayments                     | <b>15,287</b>  | <b>15,287</b>  | PWLB (Total Borrowing)                                                   |
| 6. (-) All other Payments                  | <b>225,305</b> | <b>153,256</b> | Total Expenditure (less Staffing costs)                                  |
| 7. (=) Balance Carried forward             | <b>25,036</b>  | <b>123,658</b> | Total Balances/Reserves at Year End (Total must equal (1+2+3) – (4+5+6)) |
| 8. Total Cash and short term investments   | <b>98,598</b>  | <b>127,118</b> | Sum of all current and deposit accounts. (Bank Reconciliation)           |
| 9. Total fixed assets and long term assets | <b>658,520</b> | <b>674,268</b> | All fixed assets owned by the Council                                    |
| 10. Total borrowing                        | <b>136,640</b> | <b>133,096</b> | Outstanding capital balance as at 31st March                             |

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

### Town Councillors

|                       |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| John Bartle           | 0777 2759448 |
| Bob Berryman          | 842036       |
| <i>(Mayor)</i>        |              |
| Derek Biddle          | 842108       |
| <i>(Deputy Mayor)</i> |              |
| Ruth Bonser           | 841813       |
| David Edwards         | 840106       |
| Carol Harris          | 841026       |
| Janice James          | 843847       |

|                    |        |
|--------------------|--------|
| Charlotte Matthews | 836105 |
| Brian Pearman      | 841452 |
| Brian Thomas       | 842373 |
| Vacancy            |        |
| Vacancy            |        |

### Town & District Councillors

|              |        |
|--------------|--------|
| Val Hobman   | 841079 |
| Bill Osborne | 841970 |

### Town & County Councillor

|            |        |
|------------|--------|
| D Cooksley | 844351 |
|------------|--------|

### District Councillors

|                   |        |
|-------------------|--------|
| James Bevan       | 842146 |
| Judy Davis        | 842884 |
| Terry Glastonbury | 562102 |
| Marion Winship    | 528289 |

### Council Staff

|                             |        |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| Chief Executive Officer/RFO |        |
| – Mrs Jayne Smailes         | 842234 |
| Executive Officer           |        |
| – Miss Carol Wheeler        |        |
| Finance Assistant           |        |
| – Mrs Hilary Exton          |        |

Visit our website at <http://www.lydneytowncouncil.co.uk/>



### What's new in Bathurst Park!

The flower beds are starting to look great, and the Town Council Ground Staff have received many positive and kind comments throughout the year from local residents and visitors.

In order to try and reduce costs this year, Winter bedding plants have been divided, by Spring the beds should be bursting with colour, the colour theme being that of red, white and blue therefore in keeping with Jubilee and 2012 Olympic celebrations.

The summer months will also see the re-installation of the crazy golf putting green, enjoyed by adults and children alike.

Unfortunately litter, as usual, is an on-going problem, especially in the warmer, lighter evenings, if you enjoy using the Park and its facilities please help us to keep it looking tidy.



*Finally, thanks to the work in completing a Grant Application Form by Cllr C Matthews, the Trust were fortunate in obtaining a Big Lottery sum which was used to purchase/install the outdoor fitness machines now situated around the perimeter of the sports fields.*

*The Council/Trust have lost count of the number of people who have expressed their note of thanks, adding what a good idea it was to put such equipment in the Park!*

*If you have not already visited the Park or indeed if you feel like embarking on a fitness drive, what better way than in the open air!*

## HAVE YOUR SAY!

Although your Town Councillors may be contacted at any time should you have any form of concern, this Newsletter is an excellent way to bring your views, ideas, concerns and comments to a wider audience - in other words, to everyone within our community!

Any subject is permitted;

You may wish to ask a question  
(replies printed in the same edition wherever possible)

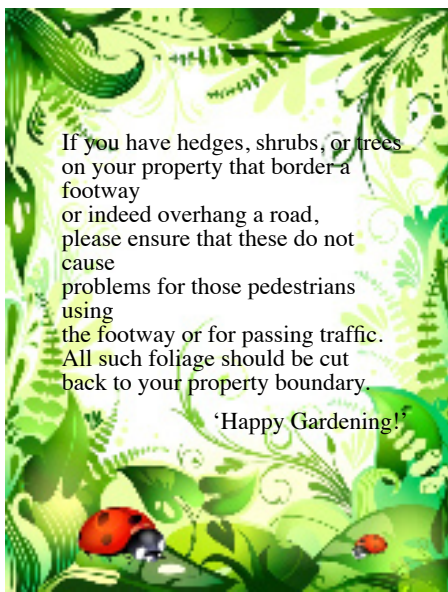
You may like to 'air' a concern or just generally pass comment relating to a community issue?

Whatever your thoughts, the Town Council cannot assist if they are unaware — so help us to change this

Please write to us,

**C/O Lydney Town Council,  
Council Chambers Claremont House,  
High Street,  
Lydney GL15 5DX.**

***'Your views matter!'***



If you have hedges, shrubs, or trees on your property that border a footway or indeed overhang a road, please ensure that these do not cause problems for those pedestrians using the footway or for passing traffic. All such foliage should be cut back to your property boundary.

'Happy Gardening!'