



About Town



Lydney Town Council Newsletter - Winter 2014/15

LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL NEEDS YOU!

- Are you interested in wanting to help your local community, to ensure local provisions for both the young and old are maintained and further enhanced?

- Why not become a Town or even District Councillor?

Town and District Council elections will be taking place in May 2015; if you are not happy with how the Town or District Council's approach this is your opportunity to make a real difference!

Becoming a councillor is a most rewarding experience. It gives you the opportunity to help your local community and be part of a dedicated team providing key services for your area.

Being a councillor is a great way to gain political experience and useful skills in public speaking, debating and problem solving.

'New councillors are good news. They mean fresh ideas and fresh enthusiasm.'

To be eligible you must be:

- A British subject or a citizen of the Irish Republic or the EU and resident in the UK.

- At least 18 years old on the day you are nominated.

- Either on the electoral register for the council area in which you are seeking election, or have lived or worked in that council area for at least the last twelve months.



.....In accordance with section 80 of the Local Government Act 1972, a person is disqualified from being elected to a local authority if he/she:

- is employed by the local authority, holds a paid office under the authority or holds a politically restricted post within a local authority, as defined in s.2(1) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989; or is subject to a bankruptcy restrictions order or interim order; or
- has within five years before the day of election been sentenced to a term of imprisonment of three months or more (including a suspended sentence) without the option of a fine; or
- has been disqualified under Part III of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (which relates to donations and other offences).

Do I have the time?

It is possible to spend much of your time on council work but the vast majority of councillors have full time jobs, families and hobbies.

Unless you take on responsibility as a Chairman or Vice-Chairman of a committee, your work for Lydney Town Council should not involve more than a few meetings a month (although this depends on the number of committees/panels you serve on).

In addition to this there are community consultancy discussions and public forums all of which enable you to engage actively with the community and local issues.

How much do I need to know?

You are not going to be expected to take direct responsibility for running the council on the first day you are elected. The main qualifications are an interest in your community and a willingness to learn.

Knowledge, experience and confidence will soon follow.



You will receive support from Lydney's CEO and Council Officers who are there to help you, they are professionally trained staff who are employed to carry out the lawful functions and duties the Council.

- You may also 'call' upon the experience of a fellow council member!

In addition you will be encouraged to attend training sessions provided in-house or by the County Association and the District Council.

Can I afford it?

Lydney Town Councillors have resolved not to claim expenses; preferring to use 'public money' for what it is intended; serving the electorate of Lydney, however consideration will be given to any elected Member who wishes to claim 'out of pocket' expenses.

What should I do if I am interested?

You may like to consider attending the Town Council Meetings which will provide you with 'first hand' experience of how Lydney Town Council conduct its business, giving you a better understanding as to the work of a councillor and the commitment involved.

If you are then genuinely interested you will need to contact the Democratic Services Dept, Forest of Dean District Council (Tel: 01594 812626) January 2015 to register your interest/request a nomination pack (Full instructions will then be sent to you by FODDC who administer the election process).

The term of office you will be expected to serve is a 4 year period.

Council member vacancies do occasional occur mid-term, these such vacancies are publicised on the Council Notice Boards, and on our Website and Council publications. Such vacancies are then addressed by either means of a By-Election or Co-option.

To find out more about becoming a member of Lydney Town Council contact: The Chief Executive Officer Tel: 01594 842234

E-mail: ceo@lydneytowncouncil.co.uk or contact:

The Elections Dept, Forest of Dean District Council. Tel: 01594 812626)



What does your Town Council do all year?

What we are *not* is possibly easier to list.

- We are nothing to do with the church, who are governed by Parochial Councils (PCC)
- We are not politically affiliated
- We are not “residents” associations or “lobby” groups
- Town councillors are not paid however, what we do is represent the residents who live within our Parish in matters of local government.

A good question!

The standard answer is that we are the first tier (local council) of a current three tier system of local government, with Forest of Dean District Council, and Gloucestershire County Council (local authorities) being the next two tiers, all elected by people in the area.

Parish and Town Councils were formed by an act of parliament in 1894, to look after the interests of those who live within the parish/town community, with the District and County Councils being responsible for health, police, education, planning, litter, public transport & highways amongst other things.

Parish and Town Councils do however have a wide and varied range of powers in relation to the provision of services and facilities which can and does bring direct benefit to the local community.

Some of these include:

- Local Planning (which covers anything from satellite dishes to new developments and roads)
- Economic Development
- Environmental Matters
- Community Projects
- Leisure and Recreation
- Contact with the District and County Council
- Complaints (!)
- Information and advice

Lydney Town Council is also Custodial Trustee of many of Lydney’s community assets i.e Bathurst Park and Lydney Recreational Grounds which means as an elected member you would also undertake a trustee role.

As Lydney continues to grow and prosper, the representational aspect becomes increasingly more important. Decisions taken by the District and County Councils may potentially affect the quality of life within our town, therefore the role of the Town Council is of utmost importance.

Lydney needs you as one of its next Town Councillors!



Lydney Neighbourhood Development Plan & Projects News

The Lydney Neighbourhood Development Plan is currently at the pre-examination stage; FoDDC ensuring the Plan is compliant with all the relevant legislation, particularly in the area of environmental and habitat regulation assessments. This work is almost complete, and we look forward to moving the Plan to examination followed by referendum.

Some interesting consequences of the Plan having reached the current stage are: It enabled the controversial Allaston Development Appeal to be “recovered”, Mark Harper being involved here, and has been of considerable help to the residents of the area protesting against the development. The Secretary of State Eric Pickles, whose department will decide this appeal, appor-tions considerable weight to emerging NDP’s as they are based on public consultation and therefore represent the views of local people.

The “Lydney Revolutions” shared cycle/pedestrian route scheme is already being taken forward and is considered an integral element of the Lydney Transport Strategy, particular acknowledgement and credit should be given to Cllr John Openshaw and Mr Dave Street for their work on the project. The NDP Group, GCC, FoDDC and Network Rail are working together to refine the strategy and seek funding for the various elements planned. It was heartening to see the high profile given to the NDP by the consultants employed by GCC who produced to the paper that went before GCC Cabinet in December.

The regular Flood Defence Meetings, driven by Lydney Town Council over the last eighteen months, is a direct spin off from the early work on the NDP. All stakeholder organisations and members of the public have been involved and to date major improvements have been made, these include:

- Clearance of the Lyd water course
- Clearance of culverts under the main rail line and at Lakeside Avenue.
- CCTV and visual investigation and monitoring of storm drains in Lakeside Avenue.

Most recently work has been undertaken between the Bypass and Lakeside Avenue; aimed at reducing the flow of storm water into the Lakeside area and thereby reducing the flood risk. Whilst much has been achieved in the last eighteen months there is still more to do (I would like to say a big thank you to all those involved in filling and delivering sandbags to the Lakeside area).

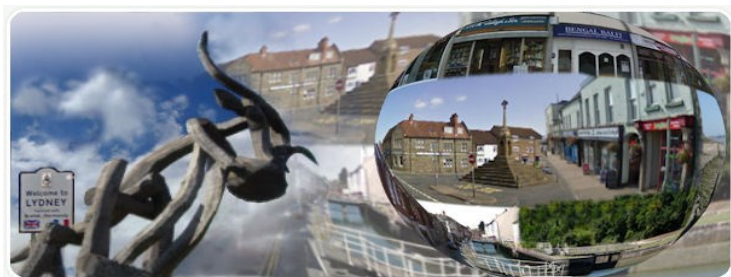
As you will already be aware from having read the preceding pages, in May 2015 Lydney Town Council Members may well change as all local and District Council seats are once again democratically contested/filled as part of the ‘election’ process. Whilst the aforementioned process will not directly affect the Membership of the Lydney NDP Steer Group it is worth mentioning that it provides an opportunity for anyone who wishes to enhance/ contribute to our local community to come forward and join the Council and /or one of its many Project Groups.



**Vote Yes for the adoption
of Lydney’s NDP**

Lydney needs you.....

**Why not find out more or better still,
stand for election in May 2015!**



**‘Your opportunity to shape
Lydney’s Future....’**

*- Report provided by Cllr B Pearman, Lydney Town Councillor
and NDP Chairman*



Warm and Well' have trained energy advisors who can give practical advice on making your home warmer. This includes information on installing loft and wall insulation or renewable technologies, as well as making sure your heating is working efficiently.

They can also help you stretch your energy even further if you are worried about how you are going to pay your fuel bills this winter. The Warm and Well advice team have the information to ensure you receive the help you need.

If you live in Gloucestershire and are

struggling to pay your fuel bills, you may be able to receive a home visit from one of their advisors. If you live in certain areas you may be eligible to receive financial support for installing loft and cavity wall insulation. Speak to one of our advisors today to find out if you qualify.

Warm and Well advice line on 0800 500 3076 or email warmandwell@severnwe.org.uk

All offers are subject to survey and funding availability. To find out the full criteria for each element, speak to a Warm and Well adviser.

Warm and Well is managed by Severn Wye Energy Agency.



Gloucestershire

Village & Community

Agents

Providing older people in

Gloucestershire with easier access to information and services.

Managed by Gloucestershire Rural

Community Council

Jointly funded by Gloucestershire County Council and NHS

Gloucestershire

www.villageagents.org.uk

Contact Mike Morgan on : 07776 245712



LYDNEY TOWN HALL

Over the past few months improvements have been made to the lounge area in as much as it has been decorated, the old counter serving the kitchen demolished to be replaced with a new servery which fits in well and gives greater space. To complete the job a new carpet has been fitted with new curtains at the window. As an extra a sound system has been installed allowing music to be played in the area as and when required. The next stage is to replace the tables and chairs.

The multi functional building can host a variety of needs from live theatre, presentations, meetings, parties and dances but to name a few. Of interest the hall is the third largest in Gloucestershire by capacity and boasts one of only two sprung dance floors.

Lydney Town Hall is now 125 years of age, the milestone being passed in September last. The volunteer trustees, who now run and administer the building, have ambitions that the hall will, by stages as when funds are available, be improved in all aspects to become a prized asset for the town for a further 125 years.

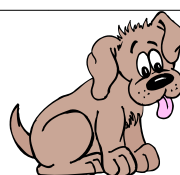
With the hall becoming more used, recently it has hosted a live Musical, two Wedding Receptions, several more in the pipeline, several Parties including Children's. Also several Presentations have been hosted together with Tea Dances, Dance Classes and Competitions.

Early November saw a capacity attendance to enjoy music for dancing, or just listening, from Todd Miller and the Joe Loss Orchestra; of interest Britain's longest running Show Band who first played at the hall over forty-five years ago.

The hall has its own web site www.lydneytownhall.com is the site to visit for information also for an e-mail alert every time an event is posted. Why not register, it costs nothing, in order to be able to know what is going on in the town.

To conclude the Trust is always on the look out for anyone who would like to join the growing band of Friends of Lydney Town Hall. If you have a particular skill, or can just spend a little time assisting with the running of the hall from, serving refreshments at certain functions, helping behind the bar, or elements of repair and general maintenance, then please log onto the site for contact details.

- Report provided by Colin Knight , Lydney Town Hall Trust Management Committee Chairman



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!'

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

Your views matter to us!



Gloucestershire
VILLAGE
& COMMUNITY
Agents

FREE COMPUTER SESSIONS

Computers for Carers – Any carer over the age of 50 is entitled to up to 8 hours of free 1-2-1 tuition in their own homes.

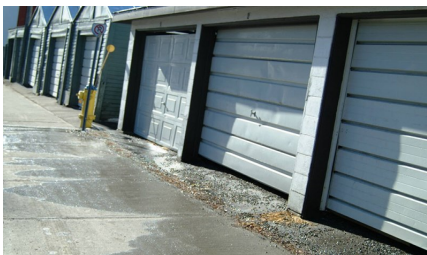
Online hub – We will be running taster sessions in rural areas for anyone. This is a chance to have a taster and to gain access to an independent learning programme online. People are welcome to learn on our laptops or their own at these group sessions. These sessions are only a 1.5 hour taster, not a course. FFI: contact Katie Lake at Gloucestershire Rural Community Council Tel: 01452 528 491

CHIMNEY SWEPT CERTIFICATE

Houses with open fires or solid fuel burners are advised to have an annual certificate to say that the chimney/flue is in good condition and has been properly swept. Always ensure that your chimney or flue has been properly swept ready for winter and is kept regularly swept. A chimney fire can also cause damage to your home and surrounding structures if your house is attached to another property. If you then try to claim from your insurance company you may find that they will refuse to pay out if you have cleaned your own chimney or had a friend do it and cannot prove it has been properly cleaned and maintained. The certificate can be issued by a chimney sweep who is a member of an accredited professional organisation.

If you are over 50 and live in Ruspidge, Soudley, Cinderford, West Dean Parish, Coleford or Lydney 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.

Garage to Rent



at Hams Road, Lydney

Please contact Lydney Recreation
Trust on 01594 842234
for details



In The Park

The coffee shop will be open from
April 2015—10am until 4pm (springtime)
and 10am until 5pm (throughout the
summer)

Come and sample our homebaked pastries
and cakes, fairtrade freshly ground coffee,
organic farmed icecream and so much
more....

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Town Councillors

Bob Berryman (Mayor) - 01594 842036

Derek Biddle - 01594 842180

Ruth Bonser - 01594 841813

James Greenwood - 01594 842454

Carol Harris - 01594 841026

Harry Ives - 07771 704826

John Openshaw - 01594 843987

Brian Pearman - 01594 841452

Stan Rudge - 01594 841512

Brian Thomas - 01594 842373

Claire Vaughan - 07581146903

Town & County Councillor

Alan Preest - 01594 564107

Town & District Councillors

Valerie Hobman - 01594 841079

William Osborne - 01594 841970

James Bevan - 01594 842146

District Councillors

Judy Davis - 01594 842884

Terry Glastonbury - 01594 562102

Marion Winship - 01594 528289

Council Staff

Chief Executive Officer/RFO

- Mrs Jayne Smailes - 01594 842234

Executive Officer

- Miss Carol Wheeler

Finance Assistant

- Mrs Hilary Exton

Admin Assistant

- Kate Hammond

Part-time Admin Assistant

- Alison Crawshaw

Head Groundsman

- Mr James Young

Leading Hand/ Groundsman

- Mr Peter Edwards

Groundsman

- Mr Tommy Wales

- Mr Ryan Berryman

- Mr Richard Brown

- Mr Anthony Bayliss