



About Town

Lydney Town Council Newsletter

Lydney Town Council aim to produce a quarterly Newsletter which will be distributed throughout the parish as well as being available on to download via the website

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 enhanced?

Could you become a Councillor?

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 you 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 the Council Officers who are there to help you, they are professionally trained staff who are employed to carry out the lawful functions and duties of 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 by GAPTC and the District Council.

What should I do if I am interested?

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

Whilst the 'term' of election is usually for that of 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 Bye – 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:
ceolydneytowncouncil.co.uk
or contact: The Elections
Dept, Forest of Dean District
Council.

What does your Town Council do all year?

A good question! The standard answer is that we are the first tier (local council) of a 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.

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. 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

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

Our Community Our Future'

This is the time of year when the Council starts to think about its plans for the next year and its commitment to our townspeople to provide ongoing improvements in the town and to ensure that everyone benefits from what is achieved.

Previously Council have contributed to a Parish Plan, known as 'Turning the Tide', this together with the document produced in partnership with FODDC – The Lydney Area Action Plan has provided a complete survey of what the town offers, the nature and the needs of the population and where the town needs to improve. These were not just paper exercises as the process involved full consultation with the public, producing an Action Plan which concentrated on the main areas for improvement such as the affordable housing, health and provision for the elderly, the local economy, the needs of young people and traffic and transport.

Since the DRAFT Action Plan was launched many things have been achieved. A good number of affordable houses have been provided and whilst some improvements have been achieved in elderly provision the main battle has been to hang onto what we have already got and I think that we have been successful in this objective to date. The skateboard park has been completed and some improvements to the recreation ground have been made. Car Parking and Rural Transport is still a problem and although this is somewhat if a moving target we are starting to grasp the nettle.

But of course a community never

stands still, challenges appear almost on a monthly basis. The council is therefore starting to look at what is needed in the town in order to prepare an Action Plan for the next three - five years and the changes to legislation through that of the Localism Act, reforming Planning etc is set to provide the community with the power to be heard. This will involve once again the whole community in raising issues and more importantly becoming part of the solution and consultation sessions will be planned to achieve just this. The result will be a Neighbourhood Development Plan (if this is what you, the community believe is called for) from which an invaluable Action Plan will once again be produced so as to provide the new focus for Council activity and improvement.

It is important that we to look at our wider community and maybe also the needs of neighbouring parishes that rely on Lydney to provide our services and amenities. There is a sense of rural isolation as public transport services become more and more restricted as facilities

become more and more centralised. Our community facilities become more and more inadequate and in great need of refurbishment, some concentrated thinking will have to take place so that vital improvement can take place.

Just how many new houses can Lydney sustain?

It is true that we have to have continuous growth and maintain existing services but there must be a limit on the number of people who can comfortably live in Lydney. It is difficult to achieve a balance between sustainable growth and becoming a large dormitory town with people travelling daily to seek work in other places. It is these kind of challenges that the Town Council will be uncovering and exploring with your assistance, identifying possible solutions which are achievable and will provide us all with major improvements.

'Why not take the opportunity to become actively involved in shaping Lydney – watch this space for info on the NDP Steering Group formation or visit our Website; www.lydneytowncouncil.co.uk '

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!'

Don't Forget!



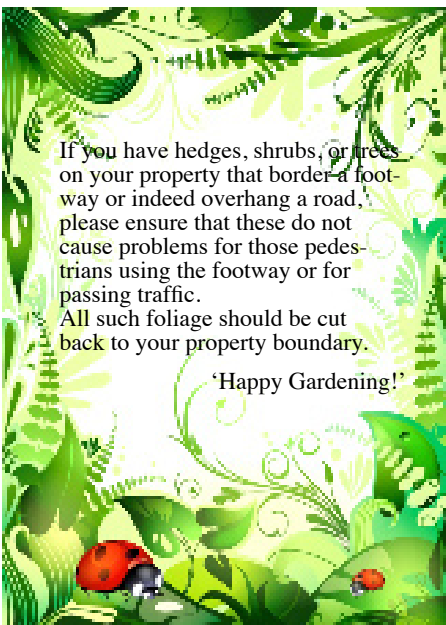
November 5th - Fireworks in Bathurst Park, starting at 6pm.

Entry – over 16s - £2.00, Children 5 – 16 only £1.00, under 5s Free



Sunday 13th November

Annual Service of Remembrance and Reconciliation, to take place at St Mary's Church



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!'

USEFUL

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Town Councillors

John Bartle	0777 2759448
Bob Berryman	842036
Derek Biddle	842108
Ruth Bonser	841813
David Edwards	840106
Carol Harris	841026
Janice James	843847
Charlotte Matthews	836105
Brian Pearman	841452
Bert Stapleton	841482
Brian Thomas	842373
Frank Williams	

Town & District Councillors

Val Hobman	841079
Bill Osborne	841970

Town & County Councillor

D Cooksley	844351
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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	

Merry Christmas

Winter is in the air and a new year just around the corner, a time when family and friends gather to reaffirm old bonds and remember absent loved ones, a time of good will –

A Merry Christmas from to you from Lydney Town Council

Visit our website at www.lydneytowncouncil.co.uk