

NEWPORTFIRST

Pride in our High Street.....Newport's town centre is looking almost perfect at present - just ask any shopper or trader / business and you will get an overwhelmingly positive response, but this doesn't happen by chance.

Everyone agrees that the contribution of Newport's Heart of England in Bloom team is fantastic - so a huge thankyou to Daphne Rogers and her team. Other vital contributions are often less visible including regular pressure cleaning of footways to remove stains and chewing gum (commissioned by Newport Town Council); litter picking, emptying of litter bins, channel sweeping and weed spraying services funded by T&W Council; and regular volunteer litter picks. Most traders / businesses and their landlords play a part too keeping their buildings in good repair and attending to their frontages.

Sadly, a minority of traders / businesses and their landlords are letting the rest of us down. A walkabout by a local councillor recently identified 17 action points.

They include:-

- Disrepair and poor external decoration;
- Broken windows;
- Damaged window frames;
- Plants and weeds growing between the frontage and the street;
- Plants and weeds growing from roofs and in rainwater gutters;
- Dirty privately owned passageways;
- Overflowing and often smelly trade waste bins;
- Accumulated pigeon droppings on building frontages, fascia & window areas.

In the first instance traders / businesses and your landlords are asked to reflect on the state of your premises and to take action where you can. To help in this process I will be contacting the 17 traders / businesses to share with you brief findings from the walkabout and to seek your cooperation in resolving these mostly low cost problems. Thank you in advance for what I know will be mostly positive responses.

Contacting the Town Team:-

Mike Atherton, Newport's Town Team Manager

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Website: <http://www.allaboutnewport.co.uk/newport-shropshire/town-team.php>

Face-book: www.facebook.com/newporttownteam

Business Crime Survey..... Thank you to everyone that took time to complete the recent business crime survey. We have had a really good response which means the findings will properly reflect both your crime related experiences and what you would like to see implemented to prevent or reduce the impact of such events. More information of the analysis and main findings will be available in the next edition of this newsletter.

Welcome Packs for new Residents and Students Plans to produce and distribute Welcome Packs for new residents and students are well in-hand. If you are a town team member and want to include any promotional material or offer leaflets in the pack then please contact the town team manager as soon as possible. Resident packs will be distributed from mid-August and the student packs mid-September.

Concerns About Ethical Practice of Service Providers..... A Newport trader / business has raised with the 'town team' issues they claim to have experienced when dealing with a company called Blackstar Merchant Services - a third party service provider for card transactions.

The trader / business operator alleges that they were 'tricked' when a sales representative claimed they had signed a service contract and they believed they were signing off a PCI compliance form.

We'd like to know if this was a genuine error or if it reflects sharp practice and so if you deal with this company or have had contact with them in the past please let the town team know about your experiences - both good and bad as appropriate.

Meantime, the concerned trader / business has been advised to report their experiences to Trading Standards at Telford & Wrekin Council for further investigation.

Membership Subscriptions..... A huge **thank you** to all those traders / businesses that have already paid their 2015/16 town team membership subscriptions - greatly appreciated.

And a brief reminder if you haven't yet paid - BACS transfers to Lloyds Bank, Acct No: 14641560 & Sort Code: 30-96-02; or cheques / cash direct to the town team manager, or post to him c/o 53 Beechfields Way, Newport, Shropshire TF10 8QA **THANK YOU.**

Macmillan Coffee Morning..... Calling all cafes & restaurants in Newport - here is your opportunity to participate in the national Macmillan cancer fund-raising event which is taking place on Friday 25th September 2015. To register simply log onto their web-site at www.coffee.macmillan.org.uk/ where you can find out more and order your free coffee morning kit. The event raised over £25m in 2014 providing relief and support to for patients and their families affected by cancer.