

NEWPORTFIRST

It's That Time of Year Again! Thanks to the selfless contributions of a small group of traders & businesses Newport's unique town team continues to deliver a range of key activities to improve all aspects of our town centre economy. ***You could and should play a part too by getting involved.***

All traders & businesses are welcome to join us for the town team's AGM which is scheduled for **6.15 pm on Tuesday 1st March** in our usual venue at the back of **The Phez**. This formality should last no more than 30 minutes followed by our monthly business meeting which will focus on forthcoming town / community events and on delivery of an exciting Pride in Your High Streets programme (see below).

Town Team directors acknowledge that there are many different ways for traders / businesses to contribute to improving the town centre economy for all of our benefits, so get involved by coming along to meetings, arranging to meet our town team manager to share your ideas and issues, or email him at newportshropstownteam@hotmail.co.uk

This Month's Snippets.....

- (1) The annual **St. George's Day Parade** will take place on **Saturday 23rd April 2016** - usual format with good attendance anticipated. Window display competition = red & white theme. Please note: town centre road closure will be in place from ~12.00 to ~1.00 pm.
- (2) Newport Carnival Committee is busy with preparations for this year's event on **Saturday 11th June 2016** - volunteers to Marshall key road closures are desperately needed. Please contact the town team manager at newportshropstownteam@hotmail.co.uk
- (3) Nova Fm need to increase income to become more viable - great opportunities to advertise to their extensive & growing network of listeners. Contact: dale@novafm.co.uk

Pride in Your High Street Funding Boost..... Newport's town centre has received a massive £120,000 boost following recent announcements of funding awards under the T&WC 'Pride in Your High Street' programme. Bids coordinated and prepared by your town team ensured Newport received the maximum amount available under the scheme - ***that has to be great news for Newport traders & businesses.***

Funding has been awarded for three discrete programmes: (i) £20,000 towards an integrated programme of community / cultural events; (ii) £88,500 for physical projects to help boost the local economy & increase footfall; and (iii) £11,500 for town centre focused business support & training.

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The £20k fund for Community / Cultural events includes: a borough-wide conference, an annual voluntary sector fair, a 'big green' festival, engagement of multi-cultural artists & acts, provision for street entertainers & artists, a food initiative aimed at boosting the profile of local eateries, a calendar promoting annual events, and town centre information leaflets including guides & trails.

The initiative includes creating a public events resource facility including 3 years public liability insurance, a new public address system, advertising display stands, plus training & personal development plans for event organisers. To help showcase all that is good about Newport's community events provision is made for an integrated programme of marketing & promotions, media advertising, and a renewed community & business awards initiative.

£88,500 is provided to help increase heritage & leisure visitors, increase town centre footfall, and boost the town's economy. £20k is provided for improvements to the environment and buildings in Canal Quarter - improving access to canal walkways, enhancing the visual appearance, and preparing for future developments. £8k has been awarded to renovate the old toll house and bring it back into a range of potential uses. £30k is available for a business innovation & enterprise centre to support fledgling & increase the number of new start-up businesses in Newport.

This fund also includes £8k to explore and implement a number of innovative off-street parking initiatives to help ease pressures on long-stay parking; £12.5k for replacement & new planters to help Newport in Bloom continue their great work; and £10k for 'wayfinding' signage to direct trade into Newport and for linking the town centre to leisure routes including cycle routes, canal towpaths, and public footpaths.

Finally, a Bridgnorth based company has been awarded £11,500 to deliver a package of business support services into Newport's town centre. The precise details of that support has still to be determined however early contact has been made with the provider to ensure their programme aligns well with ours.

The 'town team' Directors send a huge thank you to all those traders / businesses and to the many voluntary sector representatives who devoted time, making invaluable contributions that helped achieve this successful outcome - more on delivery in the future.

Contacting the Town Team:-

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

Face-book: www.facebook.com/newporttownteam