

# NEWPORTFIRST

**Your Town Centre Needs You.....** It is just under a year since Newport's 'town team' was formed and what a year it has been with many individual achievements contributing to our long-term aspiration to make Newport town centre a better place for residents, shoppers, visitors / tourists, and for traders / businesses.

In less than one year and with limited means your town team has carried out a number of important surveys; developed a plan of action with clear priorities; introduced a 'shop local' campaign and supported businesses to better promote themselves; introduced the **NEWPORTFIRST** newsletter exclusively for traders & businesses; secured a hosted web-site presence & a face-book site to let people know what we are about; carried out & provided interim feedback from the high street health-check; and much more.

There's more planned including work to better promote the markets and improve the market hall; new training & awareness courses; ambassador schemes for shop workers and for taxi drivers; rolling out the work of the visitor economy group including a £40,000 bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a package of exciting projects (heritage trails, town maps, events, etc.) to help attract more visitors and shoppers.

Very little of this would have been possible without one-off funding provided by government, and the town & borough councils. If the town team is to continue we must find ways of raising funds to meet the costs of a dedicated resource in our town team manager and associated administrative costs for printing, meeting rooms, promotional materials and so on. The town team's medium-term funding plan includes proposals for introducing a membership scheme and a members' subscription as set out below:-

Type of business	Examples	Proposed membership Subscription
Key Attractor	Waitrose & Cooperative Supermarkets	£100 minimum contribution
Multiple / Regional Trader	Boots, M&Co, B&M, Costa Coffee, Banks & Building Societies, etc.	£50 minimum contribution
Independent / Small Businesses	Daisy Chain, No.45, Aragon Paper, Nelson Wines	£30
Market Traders	All indoor & outdoor market traders	£10

Our intention is to introduce the membership scheme and subscriptions from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014. Whilst we have little choice in principle NTT directors would welcome your feedback on these proposals.

*Yours sincerely*

**Mark Freeman, Chairman: Newport Town Team**

**Breaking News.** . . it is understood that Newport Town Council are planning to reduce grants to community groups for the coming year with the grant to the town team dropping 80% from £5,000 to just £1,000 in 2014/15. We all understand a need to be frugal with tax-payers money but this action appears to focus on areas that offer great value for money for relatively small sums. Make your views known: write to the Mayor at The Guildhall, High Street, Newport TF10 7AR or at [mayor.newport@btconnect.com](mailto:mayor.newport@btconnect.com) before Wed 12<sup>th</sup> February.



**Making the case for 'Fairtrade'**..... It is great when we can buy something that is grown within a few miles of where we live, but there are still products that we love like tea, coffee, bananas and chocolate that we need to import.

Fairtrade is a simple way each of us can make a difference through our everyday choices. It is about better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world. A price is paid to the Fairtrade producers to cover their costs of production and then in addition they receive a Fairtrade premium. This extra money is invested in their communities on economic, social or environmental projects. We know that the farmers are getting a good deal.

Both supermarkets in Newport have a small range of Fairtrade products (all bananas are Fairtrade) and the Making A Difference stall in the Indoor Market sells just Fairtrade items. It stocks the essentials like tea, coffee and chocolate, and also a wide selection of gifts and novelty items. The animal tape measures, sequin purses and friendship bracelets are all best sellers. The stall is run by volunteers and all profits go to charity. £100 has just been donated to Macmillan Cancer Research, and £75 between three other charities (Christian Aid, Newport Lions for the Prostate Cancer testing and the Children's Society) Fairtrade fortnight this year runs from 24<sup>th</sup> February to 9<sup>th</sup> March. A great time to swap to Fairtrade. Chocolate tasting will be taking place on the stall on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February and Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March (*Article by Jane Newey, Making A Difference*)

**Contacting the Town Team:-**

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