

DRAFT - Annual Town Meeting (Parish Assembly)
Held at, Lydney Town Hall, High Street, Lydney

Wednesday 24th April 2024

Time: 6pm

Present: Lydney Town Council

T Saunders (Mayor), C Harris, H Ives, R Holmes (Deputy Mayor),
S Holmes, P Johns, M Jones, R Kemsley and E Taylor.

Mr M Greenfield – Town Clerk
Mrs L Bendall – Assistant Clerk (Minute Taker)

Present: 16 Residents

Cllr Saunders welcomed all present to the meeting and explained that everyone had access to a copy of the Annual Town Meeting Report 2023/2024.

It was noted that a digital copy of the report is available on the Town Council's website.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received and noted from Councillor Cave.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting dated 24th May 2023, were confirmed and approved as a true record and duly signed. Proposed by Cllr Harris, Seconded by Cllr Taylor

Resolved: Majority Approved

3. **THE MAYOR'S REPORT**

The mayor commented that the Annual Town Meeting Reports for 2023/24 were available for residents within the documentation provided, it was noted that reports from Council Committees, Lydney's County and District Councillors, Bathurst Park & Recreation Trust, Lydney Recreation Trust and various community organisations were included.

4. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

- (i) **Youth Groups** – a resident asked how the council planned to tackle the apparent lack of facilities for the younger generation within Lydney commenting further that the youth have nowhere to go meaning they hang around the town, this can lead to anti-social behaviour.

RESPONSE: The Council highlighted that Lydney was activity rich with youth clubs and groups including multiple sports, music, dance and cadets to name a few. The Lydney Youth Hub is still active and currently based at the Cricket Club after moving out of the Community Centre. Lydney Youth Hub is seeking volunteers to help run the club. It was noted that the council had invested 3 years ago into the Lydney Youth Hub. The difficulty was that not all young people were interested in joining local groups despite trying to engage with them.

COMMENT: Local Police Officer commented that the neighbourhood and PCSO Teams regularly engage with any youths they see whilst walking through the town, and they actively encourage them to engage with local available groups.

COMMENT: A resident commented that in order to volunteer to work with youth groups a GDPR test and Police check were needed and this deterred some people from volunteering.

- (ii) **Speeding Traffic** - a resident raised concerns relating to the speed at which cars travel through the town with no apparent current control in place. The resident felt a speed camera that showed your speed when entering the town at Highfield Road would be more appropriate than the current cameras in-situ. The resident had raised his concerns to local Police Community Support Officers and Highways with no success.

RESPONSE: The council noted that currently there were 2 Vehicle Activated Sign cameras when entering Lydney by Highfield Road, one by the junction to Kimberley Drive and one towards the bottom of the hill to raise awareness of the 20mph speed limit throughout the town.

Council holds regular Highways meetings with representatives from both Gloucestershire County Council and Highways and has agreed to raise the concerns at the May meeting. The outcomes will be shared following the meeting.

COMMENT: The local Police Officer commented that the speed van was situated midway on Highfield today (24.04.24) and that the local Neighbourhood Police Team do go out to enforce speeding traffic.

- (iii) **Severn Way Walk** – a resident queried if the council were aware of a developing walkway that eventually will link into Gloucester paths. The resident commented that there is strong interest in walking within the area and a recent walking festival with 2 walks starting from Lydney which was well attended and supported. The improved paths would encourage people into Lydney.

RESPONSE: The council commented that the pathways fall under the Public Right of Ways team based with Gloucestershire County Council. The council will look into this further at the upcoming Highways meeting, including current signage.

5. **CLOSE**

Cllr Saunders thanked the organisations for their contributions to the Annual Town Meeting Report 2023/2024.

Cllr Saunders encouraged residents to visit the stalls situated around the room, and to speak with the Royal British Legion about the 6th June D-Day Commemoration and other events.

The meeting closed at 6.32pm.