

DRAFT - Annual Town Meeting (Parish Assembly)
Held at, Lydney Town Hall, High Street, Lydney
Wednesday 29th April 2026
Time: 6pm

Present:	<u>Lydney Town Council Cllrs</u> T Saunders (Mayor), C Harris, S Hillier, M Jones, R Holmes (Deputy Mayor), S Holmes, P Johns, J Gregory, T Lindsay, and E Taylor
Also Present:	Lydney County Cllr M Howard Lydney District Cllr M Topping FoDDC Market Towns Officer C Lines Mrs L Bendall – Deputy Clerk/RFO Mrs L Gay – Senior Administration Officer (Minute Taker)
Residents:	24 Residents

Cllr Saunders welcomed all present to the meeting and explained that everyone had access to a copy of the Annual Town Meeting Report 2025/2026. Residents could also scan the QR Code for access to all reports.

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

<https://lydneytowncouncil.gov.uk/annual-town-reports>

1.	<u>APOLOGIES</u> Apologies from Cllrs C Evans and G Phelps were received.
2.	<u>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</u> It was proposed and seconded that the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Wednesday 30 th April 2025 be approved. Resolved: Majority Approved
3.	<u>THE MAYOR'S REPORT</u> The mayor commented that the Annual Town Meeting Reports for 2025/26 were available for residents within the documentation provided, it was noted that reports from Council Committees, Lydney's Councillors, Bathurst Park & Recreation Trust, Lydney Recreation Trust and various community organisations were included. The mayor thanked the organisations for their contributions to the Annual Town Meeting Report 2025/2026.
4.	<u>PUBLIC QUESTIONS/COMMENTS</u> The mayor reminded residents that unfortunately the council were unable to answer questions on behalf of other organisations including Highways, County Council, Forest of Dean District Council or the Environmental Agency.
(i)	Coffee Mornings – a resident asked the question – Quarterly Coffee Mornings, when is the next one? RESPONSE: Cllr T Saunders responded the first Monday in June (1st June).

- (ii) **Speed Cameras on Highfield Road** – concerns were raised again about the lack of signage alerting motorists to the speed limit and the presence of Vehicle Activated Speed (VAS) cameras on Highfield Road. A query was also raised about the possibility of installing a VAS camera that displays actual vehicle speeds.
- RESPONSE:** Cllr Harris confirmed that there are currently two operational VAS cameras installed on Highfield Road as you enter Lydney. Cllr Harris agreed to raise the suggestion of additional or alternative VAS signage at the next multi-agency Highways meeting. County Cllr M Howard also agreed to speak to Nathan Choat, Highways.
- (iii) **Speeding through the High Street** – a resident commented drivers are driving in excess of 20 miles per hour.
- RESPONSE:** County Cllr M Howard answered he would look into this.
- (iv) **Parking at the War Memorial** – a resident raised concerns regarding the parking at the war memorial and blocking the public foot path.
- RESPONSE:** County Cllr M Howard responded he will arrange for clear signage to be installed requesting that vehicles do not park in this area and obstruct the public footpath.
- (v) **State of paths around Lydney Lake** – a resident commented on the state of the paths around Lydney Lake (Rec Trust).
- RESPONSE:** Cllr T Saunders responded it's Rec Trust land which is a charity. Funding is needed to help fund the re surfacing of the paths.
- (vi) **The Alms houses by the Avenue** – a resident commented that there is currently insufficient lighting when walking along the avenue. Another resident mentioned that lighting used to be installed, but it attracted groups of young people at night, resulting in excessive noise levels.
- RESPONSE:** Chairman of Alms houses commented he will investigate this.
- (vii) **Weeds all over Lydney paths** – a resident commented Lydney paths are covered with weeds.
- RESPONSE:** Lydney Town Council shared a proposal for a deep clean of Lydney town centre, working collaboratively with Gloucestershire County Council (GCC), Forest of Dean District Council (FoDDC), and Lydney Town Council.
The idea is to organise an initial half-day, focused on the area from Forest Road through to beyond the former Co-op building, with the aim of making a visible and positive impact in a short space of time.
GCC will confirm date.
- A resident commented Scouts, 14–18-year-olds, were looking for a project and would like to get involved with the town's deep clean.

(viii)	Litter covering bushes along front of Tesco – a resident complained about the amount of litter in the bushes along front of Tesco. RESPONSE: Cllr T Saunders commented she will speak to Tesco directly.
(ix)	Overflow car park at Lydney Station – a resident commented it's being used for storage containers and too many cars parking on the side of the road. FoDDC allowed this. Five years plan and 3 years left. Cllrs M Topping and M Howard will look in to this.
(x)	EMR and General reserves – a resident asked the question EMR and General reserves within Lydney Town Council.
	RESPONSE: Cllr R Holmes, Chair of Finance & Scrutiny, clarified councils must maintain between 3 to 6 months of general reserves.
(xi)	Resident asked a question regarding Economy housing.
	RESPONSE: Cllr T Saunders commented that unfortunately this topic was not the appropriate forum to answer this question.
(xii)	Email received from a resident
	Dementia friendly communities are inclusive communities. LTC is already a member of the FODDAA, and the Armed Forces Support Network.
	Resident would like to use their skills, knowledge and connections (which include their work connections at FoDDC) to support and enable the community to be more inclusive and better access information and support.
	We would like to propose a task group for lydney looking at dementia inclusive communities but more generally too equity/equality, Diversity, Inclusion and belonging.
	RESPONSE: Lydney Town Council agreed that this would be explored further and that a meeting is to be arranged with the Demetia Lead councillor(s) when re-appointed in the May meeting.
5.	<u>CLOSE</u>
	Cllr T Saunders encouraged residents to visit the stalls situated around the room and to speak to their local councillors to raise any queries and questions.
	The meeting closed at 6.53pm.