



NEWPORT



ACTION PLAN

FEBRUARY 2009

PLANED's 'Shaping Our Futures' Project is part financed by the National Assembly for Wales through the Community Facilities & Activities programme



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Newport Sustainable Community

BACKGROUND STATEMENT AND PROPOSALS FOR ACTION 2009

CONTENTS:	The Action Plan Area	1
	Introduction & Way Forward	1
	Summary Statement	2
SECTION 1	Community, Services & Housing	4
SECTION 2	Environment	14
	a) Conservation & Enhancement ,	14
	b) Resources & Energy, Waste & Recycling	15
	c) Infrastructure, Traffic, Transport & Parking	18
SECTION 3	Local Economy	21
SECTION 4	Heritage, Culture, Arts and Crafts	27
APPENDIX A	Newport Achievements since 2004	30

This Document has been prepared by the Newport Community Forum. Thanks also to Dr. Brian John for his contribution of photographs. The contents of the Plan were agreed at a Public Meeting held on 23rd March 2009 following circulation of the Draft Document to households in the community of Newport.

THE ACTION PLAN AREA

Introduction & Way Forward

In February 2008 a well attended public meeting was held, using PLANED's "Sustainability Tool Kit", for Newport community to update and add new opportunities to the 2004 "Newport Action Plan" and to look at projects which would contribute to long term sustainability. A follow-up meeting in November 2008 resolved that a replacement document should be given a new title and be more flexible. It was also agreed that the list of "proposals" is not exhaustive or fixed but will be responsive to changing needs and circumstances as they arise.

This "Introduction" and the "Commentaries" to each Section under "The Action Plan Area" aim to describe Newport's current situation and needs. The "proposals" attached to each Section list the many ideas for sustainable development put forward by members of the community to improve the quality of life of people living in, working in, or visiting the area of Newport.

Newport has undertaken several studies and produced other Plans in nearly 20 years of community initiative working. Many people are rightly critical of the small amount that has been achieved as a direct result. It is hoped that this time around, more community members will realise the benefits of working together to make sure that priority improvements are implemented.

Newport Community Forum will undertake to see proposals taken forward together with Newport Town Council (NTC), all interested groups in the area, Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC), Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (PCNPA), PLANED and other organisations such as the Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services (PAVS), utility companies, private businesses and individuals. Such working together is nowadays an essential factor in attracting both public and private sector support.

As well as guiding and inspiring the work of the community in

future, the Newport "**Proposals for Action**" will inform PCC in preparing the County's own "Community Plan" which is the overarching strategy statement for Pembrokeshire. This is a major route by which the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) plans to receive information from local communities on their needs and ideas for sustainable development. The Proposals will also inform PCNPA in developing the "Local Development Plan" (LDP). The increased opportunities now afforded to Newport Town Council by WAG to make improvements to the quality of life of the community through a new "power of wellbeing" and the increased possibilities for NTC to provide facilities and to deliver services which are currently the responsibility of the County Council means that the community itself will be able to carry through more of its own proposals in future.

Other improvements may involve higher levels of government and/or the private sector or may be carried out by utility companies.

Finally, it is hoped that this "Newport Sustainable Community Background Statement and Proposals for Action" will guide the large number of second home owners to realize the help that is required by Newport and encourage their involvement in solutions.

Summary Statement

Newport is an important settlement in the northern welsh speaking area of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park. Newport's importance in this respect is reflected in the location of the PCNPA Information Centre at Long Street.



Newport has a long history as a market town serving its hinterland for many commercial, social and recreational purposes. Newport is a community hub in its area, classified as a "Tier 3, LOCAL CENTRE" and "TOURISM FOCUS" in the Welsh Assembly Government's, "Wales Spatial Plan".

Newport is also a “DISTRICT SHOPPING CENTRE” in the emerging PCNPA “Local Development Plan”.

Primary, infant and nursery school children from several surrounding communities attend Newport school. The doctor's surgery and the private dental surgery serve an even wider area.

The West Wales Eco Centre, based in Newport town centre, serves a very wide area by providing advisory services across South West Wales, Mid and North Wales.

Newport's abiding strength lies in its beautiful and historic surroundings, both within the town and the surrounding countryside as well as the coast, which is the primary reason why people want to live here and enjoy doing so and why so many visitors come to the area.

Nowadays, Newport faces particular challenges including:

- Steadily decreasing resident population size
- Peripherality - both in respect of distance to markets and distance from many services. Also a perceived sense of being left till last by Authorities
- A very marked demographic imbalance with exodus of young people and increase in the proportion of the population over retirement age.
- The high number of homes empty in winter months yet difficulty of finding property for long term renting.
- An explosion in the population size in summer months adding greatly to demands on services, shops and other small businesses
- High residential property values and related problems of shortage of affordable housing to buy, high council tax charges, high cost of land near the town and increasingly, conversion of retail space to residential use.
- A reduction in the number and range of shops and services in recent years.
- A high proportion of the few jobs within the town taken up by people commuting in to work as it is too expensive to live

here. On the other hand, many residents travel to other centres to find higher paid jobs.

- ❑ Public transport to access health, welfare, educational, training and recreational. services and facilities provided for use by Newport people in other centres- Fishguard, Cardigan, Crymych, Haverfordwest.
- ❑ Weakening Welsh culture and traditions and reducing use of the Welsh language.

SECTION 1

Community, Services & Housing

The community needs to persuade the Local Authority, higher levels of government, Pembrokeshire Coast National Park and service providers that it is unrealistic to base their policies, plans and service and facility levels for Newport on Census population figures or PCC "mid term estimates" alone, but must accept that often the number of people



using services and facilities, especially in the summer when more houses, including the very many holiday homes are occupied, is very much higher. Authorities must also be reminded that such facilities and services are also used by smaller communities around Newport throughout the year, especially by families with young children, as well as by day visitors to NE Pembrokeshire in the season.

Newport is lucky to have a doctor's surgery, dentist, natural health centre and pharmacy to cater for basic health and welfare needs of the community. Newport also has a bank and post office as well as a small number of shops, cafes, restaurants and pubs which provide something of a social centre for many.

Newport has had a tradition of strong family links which however is

weakening as the exodus of young people and influx of second home owners continues. There is a nucleus of residents with a community oriented spirit and the creativity that has developed a range of social and recreational activities. There are also a remarkable number of community groups and there are meetings,



activities, classes, outings, fairs and festivals for all to attend throughout the year and regattas in the summer months. However, most groups struggle to keep going, especially for lack of secretarial support. It is often the same people doing much of the work in several organisations. Finding storage space for records, archives and equipment is always a problem.

Despite, or in other respects because of, the very high number of older residents, the Newport Senior Citizens Welfare Committee (NSCWC), The Senior Citizens Luncheon Club and 50+ Group have experienced especial difficulties and a proposed Good Neighbour Scheme failed to be established recently. Although supported by the Town Council and the same few local people who help and donate, NSCWC is short of funds to help those less well off for days out and holidays. The needs of the growing numbers of older people, many of whom live alone, need to be identified and addressed. Distance from emergency services is a particularly worrying problem. Very regrettably, many people have to leave Newport towards the end of their lives to find suitably designed housing or nursing home accommodation.

The shortage of young people living in Newport weakens sports clubs, and rugby, football and tennis all have difficulty raising teams in recent years.

The Newport 'Dros Blant/4 Kids' group has developed from a Steering Group to a formal Committee with the remit to develop an 'Out of School Childers Provision' for Newport and the surrounding area. This is to incorporate a pre school, out of school, holiday club

and social community facility for children 0-14. The new 'Dros Blant/4 Kids Committee' brought together all relevant individuals and groups, including School, Town Council and existing 'Pre School Group' It undertook an extensive feasibility study of all suitable locations in and around the Newport area. This resulted in a suitable building being identified, which could be further developed to widen its current user groups to include an 'out of school facility'. The location of the site offers a wide range of possibilities.

Full details are given on The Committees 'Aims and Objectives' 'Feasibility Study 'and 'Historical Context' available to view on Newport Town Council web site.

The community facilities include:

- ❑ **The Memorial Hall** which is a Registered Charity and run by a management committee of volunteers. Most of its income is through hire fees. The main multipurpose space is an auditorium with a seating capacity of 250 which serves a wide geographical area for some gatherings. This also accommodates some indoor sports, dance, theatre etc. Smaller rooms are used by community groups for meetings, the Senior Citizen's Luncheon Club, classes etc. The Youth Club uses the facilities offered by the whole building. The large kitchen is a useful asset but there is an inconvenient layout of rooms, especially in relation to access to toilet facilities, and the activities at the Hall are severely hampered by lack of parking space. More storage space is also badly needed. The structure is poorly insulated and some groups think the Hall is too cold and uncomfortable for their use. Rising fuel costs will be an increasing problem. The Trust deed prevents secular uses of the Hall on Sundays and does not allow consumption of alcohol. The potential of the Hall is not fully exploited.
- ❑ **Ysgol Bro Ingli**, which has provided a successful venue for



Music Society Events and the Town's first History Exhibition. The school hall is used by the Mother and Toddler and Meithrin groups but the school's own timetable unavoidably limits the amount of time that these activities can run. There is a perception that as this school was built as "a community school" it is under-utilised.

- ❑ **The (private) Boat Club** offers for hire, a meeting space with beautiful sea views, preferred by several groups for this reason and for the better ancillary facilities it offers over the Memorial Hall's Committee room. There is a second smaller room available and a small galley-kitchen for hire.
- ❑ **The West Wales Eco Centre** makes available for hire a "community resource room" (and another smaller space) used for mostly more serious gatherings such as Town Council Meetings and some classes.
- ❑ **Places of Worship:**
 - ◆ **St Mary's Church** itself is used for some Music Society concerts.
 - ◆ **St Mary's** also has a medium size hall, **The Church Chapel** with the facility of a kitchen used for a variety of activities, including fairs and sales.
 - ◆ **Tabernacle and Bethlehem Chapels** each have meeting rooms which have been improved recently, also with small kitchens that have provided for meetings, sales and exhibition space. **Ebenezer Chapel** makes a fine space for choral events.



PCC provides a part-time library which is well used, both by older sections of the community and, as it has a small but well arranged children's area, by young families as well. The 2 computers are always in demand and usually require booking in advance. The library is in a popular location, close to the town centre but PCC consultants have noted that the pedestrian access is currently inadequate from the narrow pavement on the main road.

Recreational facilities in the town include:

- ❑ **The playing field, tennis courts and skate park** on land owned by Newport Town Council and administered by Newport Playing Field Trust of which Newport Town Council is the sole Trustee. (Yr Hen Castell is also part of this property) There is a changing rooms building consisting of storage, changing rooms, communal showers and toilet facilities. They are at present underused and expensive to run: a possible upgrade/replacement to meet changing community needs is being considered.
- ❑ The **multi-use games area (MUGA)** constructed by PCC in consultation with NTC utilising money from the “New Opportunities Fund (National Lotteries Funding). It is situated on PCC land and is made available for school and community use. Newport Town Council is currently exploring the possibility of creating a ‘Nature Playing Field’ on this site.
- ❑ The **children’s playground** also constructed on PCC grounds and equipped through the Carningli Rural Initiative with Newport Town Council. The equipment is currently being assessed for improvement and updating by NTC
- ❑ **Parc Y Plant**, formerly the old school playing field, bought from Dyfed County Council in 1994 by Newport Community Council. A covenant exists to maintain the said land for use only as a Playing Field for the benefit of the Community. In the past, the Town Council has explored the possibility of overturning the covenant and of selling this area for housing, using the proceeds for community facility development elsewhere and PCNPA has assessed this area as suitable for this purpose during the LDP process. PCNPA has also suggested alternative kick around sites if Parc Y Plant were to be replaced. Plans for the upgrading of the urban footpaths are well advanced.
- ❑ The Barony-owned **Parrog Green**, which the Lady Marcher has kindly allowed the community to use for several festivals and fairs. This area requires some levelling and drainage to make it more suitable for activities in the winter.
- ❑ The Friends of Newport and Nevern own and maintain a small public garden at the top of Market Street.
- ❑ The Victoria (Jubilee) Gardens.

Newport town Council also owns the former PCC depot site at **Parrog Yard**. The plot was purchased with the idea of providing a youth club and other community facilities. At a public meeting in 2004 the community asked the Town Council to investigate 4 options for its future use. These were affordable housing, craft/workshop space, a youth facility that was also a multipurpose community facility and use as residents' off-street (as at present). The Council has built up a fund for a youth facility. There is a restrictive covenant on this land.



The NTC owned shelter at Parrog has been renovated recently and NTC are currently in negotiations with the land owner regarding the feasibility of reinstating Cwm shelter.

Recreational facilities and services provided for use by Newport people by the County Council but in other centres - Fishguard, Crymych and Haverfordwest - are difficult to access by public transport, especially on Sundays and in the evenings which are periods of peak demand.

Because of high property values, council tax charges are higher in Newport than for equivalent properties elsewhere in Pembrokeshire, yet the input to the community in terms of support, services and facilities provision by both the County Council and the National Park is perceived to be less.

Newport's marked demographic imbalance is exacerbated by the cost of housing. A high proportion of Newport's houses are empty for most of the winter, and only a few second home owners offer their property to be used as "winter lets, asking tenants to leave for the summer months when holiday letting is far more profitable. Several people are forced to live in caravans throughout the year. Many



young people move away, at least in part, because they cannot find a home to buy or rent. This is despite the construction of 13 extra Housing Association houses for rent in 2008 with initially 100% local needs letting policy attached to them, for Tai Cantref received well over a hundred eligible applications for these. This policy may not apply in the future

Ongoing Proposals

Encouraging pride in Newport and in 'good neighbour' practice by:-

- ❑ Continuing to develop the existing community spirit, particularly by
 - ◆ Improving working relationships between the Town Council and community groups.
 - ◆ Developing more positive links with other public bodies which affect the form and nature of Newport (for example PCC, PCNPA).
 - ◆ Being aware of the needs of older or less mobile residents; for example, operate a 'visit a neighbour' scheme.
- ❑ Promoting and expanding a community events programme which could include the mounting of exhibitions and the promotion of arts and crafts festivals / carnivals / regattas, the autumnal fireworks etc.
 - ◆ Form an Events Group to develop and publicise business and community events and occasions in and around Newport.
 - ◆ Prepare and circulate a Newport newsletter and display monthly bulletins covering proposed events, current issues, operating times of buses, car share schemes etc.
 - ◆ Reinstate the Town Crier.
- ❑ Establish a forum for young people to:
 - ◆ Develop and publicise a programme of activities and decide which facilities should be improved or created to meet their changing needs.
 - ◆ Liaison with other organisations, for example Princes Trust etc.

- ❑ Improved links between the youth club and users of existing clubs, facilities and activities should lead to a greater continuity in membership and activities of the numerous organisations already present in the town.
- ❑ Investigate the feasibility of developing an out-of-school facility for the 0 to 14 age group for out of school hours and during the holidays when parents are working. The feasibility study will need to assess the likely number of children, the opportunities to use a suitable existing property and the depth and range of skills within the broader community to manage the 'club'.
- ❑ The proposal could be allied to a Youth Drop-In Centre with allied art and craft facilities; a proposal which was also seen as a priority project. A plot, owned by the Town Council could form the site of a possible centre. One of the services offered could be a library with IT facilities.
- ❑ Promote and increase interest in the Senior Citizens Lunch Club and associated events.
- ❑ Reflecting the results of the survey and ensuring that adequate provision is made for young people, upgrade the facilities of the Memorial Hall e.g.
 - ◆ Prepare and sell produce for local events.
 - ◆ Upgrade acoustics, lighting etc and install projection equipment to allow performances of drama, concerts etc, including discos and to show films.
 - ◆ Create opportunities for the display of painting and other exhibitions.
 - ◆ Overturn the restriction on a licence for the consumption of alcohol at the Memorial Hall
 - ◆ Pursue plans for a car park for the hall.
- ❑ Develop a multi-purpose centre to complement existing facilities for use by the clubs and associations to include
 - ◆ Sports activities
 - ◆ Business meetings
 - ◆ Land for car parking and recreational use
 - ◆ Attract commercial activities to help generate income - possibly by investigating development of the Parrog Yard Depot as a possible community facility.

- ❑ Make best use of the Parc y Plant and the sports field to form the nuclei of recreation activity – possibly concentrating on multi use of the sports field.
- ❑ Provide more benches in community garden areas.
- ❑ Open a cyber café to provide IT opportunities and a daytime / evening place especially for young people and for the café to be open on an all year basis. The café could also form the role of a first call drop in centre.
- ❑ Encourage the Library to open on Saturdays.
- ❑ Broaden the range of health / lifestyle opportunities already available in Newport – for example spa / jacuzzi, aromatherapy, alternative treatments, gymnasium / fitness suite/ swimming pool.

New Proposals

- ❑ Urgently, install a large community notice board at the Square
- ❑ Carry out a study of the needs of children and their families and the needs of young people – to identify where existing facilities are inadequate, what further facilities are needed and how they can best be provided in a sustainable way.
- ❑ Club facilities for the tennis club and other community groups, attached to the playing field.
- ❑ Investigate the possibility of supporting the return of especially younger people to live here. Connect with the Llwybro Routes Project to identify ex Newport residents wishing to return.
- ❑ In all new housing, sustainable energy production, sustainable drainage and sanitation, and land for growing food.

Housing & Services

Ongoing Proposals

- ❑ To develop affordable and sustainable housing for purchase or for rent to meet local needs by:
 - ◆ Identifying sites, particularly small sites, for the construction of new affordable housing - a proposal of paramount importance.

- ◆ Identifying existing buildings for adaptation or conversion for residential use.
- ◆ Involving the expertise of the ECO Centre to use and develop local skills to construct, restore and maintain property – and subsequently to operate as part of a north Pembrokeshire housing repair / development team.
- ◆ Promoting the construction of eco friendly / low impact houses – possibly through liaising with:
- ◆ PCNPA as Planning Authority to meet local housing needs in a sustainable manner, possibly using the ‘exceptions’ policy, and where appropriate using innovatory design and the use of materials. Such approaches should reduce building and building maintenance costs.
- ◆ -PCNPA, Pembrokeshire College and Ceredigion College to develop building restoration and new eco-friendly technology skills.
- ◆ Encourage Tai Cantref to identify and purchase new sites for development of affordable housing.
- ◆ Encourage the creation of affordable small holdings.
- ◆ Encourage the availability of agriculturally tied housing to buy or to rent.
- ◆ Combine work units with housing.
- ◆ Encourage self-build to reduce costs.
- Encourage greater all year occupancy of ‘second’ homes by:
 - ◆ Involving second / holiday home owners in progressing the proposal by either providing short term rented accommodation for local needs or by increasing the opportunities for visitor rentals throughout the year thereby generating increased income for local businesses
 - ◆ Requesting the County Council to ‘rebate’ all or part of the second home Council Tax to Newport Town Council to facilitate a Newport Development Fund.
- Link the development of new housing with the construction of new employment opportunities either as separate buildings or to incorporate such needs in the initial design of individual

residential accommodation. Working from home / studio scale employment is likely to feature prominently in the Newport economy.

- ❑ Liaise with Dyfed Powys Police and maintain the neighbour friendly / low crime risk culture.
- ❑ Strengthen existing medical facilities and services, provide for an NHS dentist.

New Proposals

- ❑ Encourage the development of residential care for the Elderly
- ❑ In all new housing, sustainable energy production, sustainable drainage and sanitation, and land for growing food.
- ❑ Provide suitably designed accommodation for elderly people within any new housing Association development

SECTION 2

Environment

a) Conservation & Enhancement

Newport is located on Cardigan Bay, at the southern edge of the estuary of the River Nevern and built into the sea-facing foot hills of the Preselis. It is from the estuary that the strong natural setting of the town, which gives such a powerful “sense of place”, can be best appreciated. The close juxtaposition of beautiful estuarine and coastal scenery with the pastoral agricultural and woodland mosaic of the ground rising gently above the town and towards the upland areas of Carningli Mountain, makes Newport the “jewel in the crown” of this lovely area.



The network of paths around the town is kept open due to the dedication of Newport Paths Group in making sure that they are adequately maintained. The work of this largely voluntary group

has been praised as setting a high standard to the rest of the County.

Western Power has carried out some under-grounding of cables and removal of telegraph poles recently which is to be welcomed, but still large parts of both Conservation Areas are scarred by overhead wires. There is support locally for the conservation of environmental elements with a social or historic significance and for continued improvements, particularly through a “Townscape Heritage Initiative” to enhance the retail centre which includes a number of attractive Victorian shop frontages. There is a very strong wish that this should be done in such a manner as to reflect the existing character which is a tidy rural scene rather than a ‘manicured’ setting. It is important that appropriate building materials and techniques are used when restoring or converting property and for new build.

Newport has very regrettably lost areas of vegetation in the town centre to housing in recent years. It is important to retain and enhance wherever possible the woodland, trees and hedge banks of the area.

Newport is short of useful open space in the town centre but benefits from a small garden on Market Street, owned and well maintained by the Friends of Newport and Nevern and also from the generosity of the private owner of the area around the bus shelter allowing the Town Council to manage this for the community.

The town is not as tidy and clean as it should be in the summer months. There is a problem of the main “changeover day” not coinciding with refuse and orange bag collections.

b) Resources & Energy, Waste & Recycling

There is a considerable interest in the environment amongst people in Newport. The West Wales Eco Centre which grew out of Newport’s original voluntary “Energy Group” is now of national

importance and has the continuing support of the community. The recently formed Newport Area Environment Group (NAEG) has a lot of support in its aim for Newport to become a “Transition Town”, facing up to climate change by reducing our carbon footprint wherever possible, and to “peak oil and gas” by using resources efficiently and in a sustainable way in planning our future.

Though recycling opportunities have increased recently, notably through Newport Area Environment Group’s initiative in increasing plastic and cardboard recycling, NAEG still aims further, with an aspiration of “zero waste” for the Newport area.

Community energy generation schemes and domestic micro-generation of energy may face barriers imposed by PCNPA planning restrictions, particularly in the large parts of the town designated as Conservation Areas.

Ongoing Proposals

- Promote access to the countryside around Newport for people of all abilities for open air recreation, through maintenance and enhancement of the Rights of Way network, and the provision of information, working with the Newport Paths Group and the PCNPA. A paths system that encourages use by all sections of the community is a practical aspect of the healthy living agenda, and encourages people’s understanding and enjoyment of the environment.
- Support the development of the cycle network around Newport including a bike lane between Newport and Dinas, Newport and Llwyngair.
- Produce appropriate leaflets and interpretative materials.
- Develop an Eco-trail.
- The Medieval Pottery Kiln at the Memorial Hall to be consolidated, interpreted and made accessible for public



viewing. Construct a working kiln at the same site.

- ❑ Encourage the County Council to increase the frequency of summer time refuse collection.
- ❑ Examine the possibility of employing a street sweeper at peak times.
- ❑ Explore the installation of bird hides along the south side of the estuary. (Possible partners South and West Wales Wildlife Trust, Biodiversity Partnerships and PCNPA).
- ❑ Seek to improve beach management, including ways of reducing impact of cars and dogs on the local beaches.
- ❑ Request PCC to enforce their by-law controlling the regulation of jet-skis and large motorboats; including speed limits.
- ❑ Investigate the sensitive enhancement of the town to include placing underground electricity cables in the Conservation Areas.
- ❑ Investigate the feasibility of reinstatement of the Cwm shelter.
- ❑ Aim for a carbon neutral and a self-sufficient Newport by reducing the demand for power and supporting the generation and use of renewable energy - the ReNewport concept.
- ❑ Support the management of woodland to provide pelleted fuel and coppicing woodland to produce biofuel for local use.
- ❑ Encourage close relationship between the Eco Centre and the town to include awareness raising open days.
- ❑ In conjunction with the ECO Centre, examine possibilities for energy generation through wind, solar, biological, wave and stream power and its subsequent use by the community.
- ❑ Encourage the NPA to relax the current Planning regime and support the application of solar panels etc to generate hot water and windmills for electricity generation

New Proposals

- ❑ Explore the feasibility of Newport becoming a Transition Area.
- ❑ Carry out a feasibility study of Newport's potential for domestic microgeneration of energy and for community energy generation.
- ❑ Community composting scheme, ideally at allotments or at community food growing site.
- ❑ Plant more trees wherever possible around Newport,

particularly to replace those removed at Parc Y Plant, to shade Newport Car Park, to enhance Parrog Road.

- ❑ Sewerage and rain water should be separated at source as both are useful on their own. Rainwater for irrigation, washing and amenity, sewerage for gas and land nutrients after anaerobic digestion. Alternatively it can be processed without expensive pumps or UV bulbs using settlement, bacteria, sun and reed beds for tertiary treatment.
- ❑ Encourage Welsh Water to investigate the installation of an Anaerobic Methane Digester
- ❑ Develop a scheme of sampling and testing be carried out during at least one bathing season, to establish the water quality of the Nevern at the bridge and at Cwm during low water.
- ❑ Carry out a photographic survey of bathing patterns and densities, along the entire waterline of Traethmawr to establish the most appropriate place for a designated sampling point.

c) Infrastructure, Traffic, Transport & Parking

A regular bus service operates 12 times a day (and once on Sundays) through the centre of Newport on the A487 Trunk road between Haverfordwest and Fishguard to Cardigan. In addition, a coastal bus (Poppit Rocket) operates a limited service throughout the year, linking Newport to Moylegrove and St Dogmaels. Preseli Rural Transport Association's "Green Dragon Bus" runs just 2 days a week three times a day, between Newport and some nearby villages and a membership based "dial a ride" scheme operates through the year.

Newport's roads existed long before the advent of motorised transport, and the town now suffers from shopping streets congeded with vehicles especially in summer, with dangerously narrow or non existent pavements and a shortage of public parking to serve them. It is difficult for many residents living quite close to the town centre to walk safely into town.

The County Council allows the use of the school car park throughout the summer holidays to supplement the town Car Park but this is even further from Newport's shops. There is also insufficient off road parking for residents. The Parrog Yard currently accommodates 25 residents' cars which would otherwise have difficulty finding off-road parking.

A comprehensive study of Newport's traffic and pedestrian problems has been mentioned in a series of PCNPA Plans over 20 years. Any traffic management schemes, other works to public utilities, street furniture and lighting, etc should be undertaken in a manner that is appropriate to Newport.

Despite huge infrastructure investment and grant funding over decades, Newport's sewerage system continues to give grounds for serious concern. During mildly wet conditions, untreated raw sewage, diluted only in rain water, is discharged into the Bay only just beneath the water level at low tides and close to popular bathing areas. At such times, this is a situation considerably worse than that existing as long ago as the 1970s.

Traethmawr Beach (which is in Nevern and to which many travel by car from Newport) gained Blue Flag status in 2007 and lost this again the following year due to bathing water quality failure. Bathing at Cwm, where many Newport people prefer to swim because it is easily reached on foot, does not currently benefit from the protection afforded by the EU Bathing Water Directive as it is not a "designated bathing water".

Ongoing Proposals

- ❑ Install traffic calming / safety measures on the approaches to and within the town, including
 - ◆ Speed restriction measures along the A487(T).
 - ◆ Traffic lights on the A487 to manage east / west flow during the summer.
 - ◆ 10 mph speed limit from Marsh Path to Morawelan and the Boat Club.

- ◆ 'No parking' restrictions either side of the road to the school.
- ☐ Improve public / community transport by:-
 - ◆ Increasing the frequency of and/or extend the existing service times for both local buses, especially during the evening.
 - ◆ Operating buses which can carry bikes.
 - ◆ Operating a community bus service based on Newport.
 - ◆ Negotiating a child and young persons fare reduction scheme that will encourage greater use of local transport.
 - ◆ Operating a Newport area car share scheme.
 - ◆ Liaise with rail operators and the North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum for improved services from Fishguard.
 - ◆ Bus operators to use more small buses in the Newport area to reflect the road network.
- ☐ Improve parking arrangements by:
 - ◆ Increasing the number of car parking spaces, may be looked at as part of an enhancement scheme.
 - ◆ Operating a residents parking scheme during the summer peak
 - ◆ Employing a Traffic Warden at peak times to regulate on-street parking and reduce associated traffic hold ups.
 - ◆ Review the car park charging policy, for example by allowing certain exceptions including free parking for residents at beach-side locations.
- ☐ Discuss with the County Council ways of reducing the volume of road traffic through Newport and the disturbance arising from vehicle movements.
- ☐ Encourage car users to use energy efficient vehicles.
- ☐ Investigate the possibility of a summer time park and ride.
- ☐ Improve pavements – Long Street to the School / Doctor's Surgery / Post Office and the Parrog Road junction including the provision of drop kerbs where appropriate.

New Proposals

- ❑ Review the car park charging policy, for example by allowing certain exceptions including free parking for residents at beach-side locations.
- ❑ Discuss with the County Council ways of reducing the volume of road traffic through Newport and the disturbance arising from vehicle movements.
- ❑ Encourage car users to use energy efficient vehicles.
- ❑ Investigate the possibility of a summer time park and ride.

SECTION 3

Local Economy

Newport's economy has been largely tourism dependent. Newport is an ideal centre for touring the many ancient Celtic monuments to be found in the Welsh-speaking area of the National Park. The Long Distance Coastal Path, with its abundance of wild flowers and secret sheltered coves, runs along both sides of the River Nevers where it is accessible to wheelchair users on the Newport side. Newport has many other footpaths and walks of varying length through the surrounding countryside which can be enjoyed throughout most of the year. Circular walks from the town lead the visitor to the heights of Carn Ingli with splendid vistas to Snowdonia, the Wicklow Mountains and St. David's Peninsula. The estuary is especially rich in wildlife, particularly at Newport Bridge which has been reconstructed sensitively by PCC to still provide an excellent platform to view this.

Thus, many of the tourist attractions of the area - the sea and beaches, the paths and countryside, the history and archeology are free for visitors to enjoy- which means that they are only of indirect assistance to Newport's economy. Newport's Castle is a private residence and Newport has no museum, sports or leisure centre - no "wet weather facility" - for use by visitors, which could provide some tourism income to the community.

Of accommodation provision, a large proportion is "self catering" from which the highest proportion of the income i.e. the rent, does not circulate locally when owners live elsewhere. Newport has a static caravan site within the town centre and other caravan sites, all of which provide more affordable holiday accommodation. Anecdotal evidence says that campers are more likely to use local shops and restaurants and are thus important to the local economy. Newport is short of serviced accommodation, the income from which is more likely to be used here. The Youth Hostel is closed for 5 months of the year except for the occasional group booking.

There is an independent thriving long established pre school/ playgroup which has the use of Ysgol Bro Inqli School hall.

The explosion in population size in summer months adds greatly to demands on services, shops and other small businesses and this marked swing in demand is difficult for businesses to manage.

Newport's retail centre is both tourism reliant and a tourism asset. The shops are mainly "lifestyle businesses" and would not survive without tourism but nor would visitors have such a pleasant time here without them. The retail centre is used by many people living in the surrounding communities, especially when they come into town for other purposes such as to visit the surgery, school, library, natural health centre etc. However, many Newport residents travel to other centres to shop where it is easier to park, traffic congestion is less in the summer and pavements are safer, and the range of goods to purchase is greater and probably cheaper. Addressing these problems would encourage more to shop locally.

Newport is a property hotspot in West Wales which makes it difficult to find affordable accommodation within the town to run a business. Property commands a higher value as resident rather than as commercial premises and some shops have converted in recent years.

There has been marked and worrying reduction in the number and range of shops and services. The recent loss of the bookshop and last remaining petrol station are particularly lamentable.

The National Park Information Centre and accommodation booking service has recently also provided some office space for rangers and officers which is a welcome move and the Centre is now being expanded to give improved exhibition space.

The Eco Centre also houses a small exhibition space.

A County Council owned Business Park accommodates 2 workshop units, with the rest of the site remaining unused for 17 years (apart from construction of the private dental surgery). Newport is distant from large markets, which has deterred manufacturing units from establishing here.

The main employers in Newport are the West Wales Eco Centre, Richards Bus Garage, the retail centre including pubs and restaurants, Ysgol Bro Inqli, the surgery and school. There is a high number of self employed with many small businesses operating from home. Anecdotal evidence says that, apart from all year round residents and second home owners, who visit at holiday times, there are increasing numbers of people who live here for part of the time, supported in their work by broadband access. There are many people in the Newport area who make their living through art or craft work and at present their income from this is largely tourism dependent.

Many of the jobs within the town are taken up by people commuting in to work as it is too expensive to live here. On the other hand, many residents travel to other centres to find higher paid jobs. Few members of the Newport Collective (who are amongst many who make a living in the area from arts and crafts) actually live in Newport where their retail outlet is based.

Newport Area Environment Group works to encourage an economy orientated around a creative and positive response to the challenge of post carbon living – for a localized economy which reduces our

collective carbon footprint by cutting down on transport of food and other goods. The survival of Newport's retail centre is a vital element in this. NAEG also aims to encourage more growing of food and production of goods locally, and to share, reuse, repair and recycle more. Allotments and community land for food are a high priority.

NAEG would also like to see planning policies which encourage a living/ working countryside in the area around Newport so that people can grow more food and live on the land that they work.

Ongoing Proposals

- Seek immediate involvement in any plans to regenerate North Pembrokeshire.
- Encourage Pembrokeshire College to develop an outreach base at Newport as a north Pembrokeshire centre for higher and skills based education.
- Build on Newport's reputation as an Eco Centre and encourage expansion of its sustainable building and life style agenda.
- Support farm development / diversification / intensification through a local training programme – to include coppicing / hedging courses and identification of opportunities for organic farming and for countryside management skills.
- Encourage hedgelaying of Pembrokeshire banks.
- Request the Welsh Assembly Government / PCC or private sector to construct / convert existing property on the industrial site for starter units for the development of small enterprises particularly for adding value to local products - a principal aim of which would be to provide local employment prospects for local post school / college residents.
- Organise an occasional 'street market' in Market Street to sell local produce, products and services. Theme fairs to take place during the year - it could link to the development of allotments in the Newport area with their potential to grow food for local consumption.
- Urge PCC and Newport Town Council to accept their

responsibility for the provision of allotments if requested by more than 6 residents and work with Newport Allotment Association (NAA) to secure the provision of suitable plots.

- ❑ Encourage:-
 - ◆ shops and other businesses to locally source goods and materials
 - ◆ residents to purchase locally, thus stemming the leak of locally generated expenditure from the Newport economy.
 - ◆ local spend at local shops to maintain the existing range of services
 - ◆ development of additional opportunities; for example fish and chips, 'nearly new' clothes.
- ❑ Broadening the attraction of Newport for the shoulder / off-peak visitor with the development of natural history / themed walks / fishing trips etc thereby encouraging businesses and services to remain open throughout the year. Opportunities also arise to benefit from the increasing interest in Celtic cultures and that of the Welsh language.
- ❑ Encourage businesses to accept the Euro.
- ❑ Developing eco tourism and a trail in combination with the ECO Centre, PCNPA, Youth Hostels Association (YHA) and BTCV (British Trust for Conservation Volunteers).
- ❑ Develop links with nearby tourist attractions, for example Castell Henllys, to increase interest and spend throughout the year.
- ❑ Support 'tourism Newport' with links to accommodation / food providers, developing quiet tourism based on walking, cycling, birdwatching, canoeing etc. Encourage more accommodation providers, guest houses etc.
- ❑ Encourage PCNPA authority to review the role of its Information Centre to meet the needs of the Newport economy.
- ❑ Contact with Stena Ferries to promote Newport as a potential taste of Pembrokeshire.
- ❑ Develop the existing twinning links with Brittany and Anapolis, USA, and other related possibilities, for example Eire via Stena Ferries.

- ❑ Investigate re-establishing the Estuary Ferry.
- ❑ Encourage PCNPA planning authority to look favourably on non-tourism businesses in countryside diversity.
- ❑ Eco build a light industrial site (including housing units) to support transition to repair and recycle good and add value to local produce.

New Proposals

- ❑ Strive to become a 'Walkers are Welcome' town
- ❑ Investigate access to Newport Castle by creating a circular walk in the castle grounds.
- ❑ Examine the role of Carningli in the future of Newport with regard to farming, food production, management, SSSI, environment and culture.
- ❑ Investigate the possibilities of increasing the use of the river Nevern and the Newport Bay area food production, recreation, environmental sustainability and sport.
- ❑ An extended Business Park with work/live units themed to support "Transition" - adding value to local products, reuse, repair, recycle - but also to accommodate an expanded and purpose constructed (and therefore in itself a demonstration of suitable eco building in the National Park) West Wales Eco Centre with exhibition/demonstration space and an education/training facility, particularly in eco-build, as an annexe to Cardigan or Pembrokeshire Colleges. This would help address demographic imbalance, could bring empty accommodation into use in term time and support tourism.
- ❑ Employ a town caretaker, maintenance worker, grounds-man and street cleaner to look after the town and its facilities.
- ❑ Explore ways of localising the economy including by establishing a local currency.
- ❑ Employ renewable energy, including tidal devices, for use in manufacturing processes.
- ❑ Provide relevant 'out of school children service' to encourage returning families to work.
- ❑ Encourage renewable energy and sustainable drainage in all new commercial premises

- ❑ Strengthen the retail centre and businesses producing food and other products locally for local distribution, by all means, including a weekly local market, (at least in the summer months).

SECTION 4

Heritage, Culture, Arts & Crafts

Newport, together with Carningli, is registered as a “Landscape of Special Historic Interest in Wales”. Newport is important as a unique survivor of a medieval “planned borough”. It is a Norman “planted” town with a strong grid of streets lined by burgage plots, served by hand hewn streams running down to the Nevern estuary, all overshadowed by a Norman castle and St Mary’s Church with its fine tower. Some burgage plots have been lost to housing in recent years and the historic streams are totally neglected as important features of interest.

The Castle, the Neolithic chambered tomb of Carreg Coetan Arthur and the mediaeval pottery kiln beneath the Memorial Hall, are of national significance. Yr Hen Castell is probably the site of the original Norman stronghold. All of these have little or no on-site interpretation.



Newport is now the smallest town in Wales and proudly retains borough status granted in 1215, with its own sessions meetings and Mayor. The all male Court Leet and Court Baron, appointed by the Lady Marcher, still meets and “Mayor-making” and the annual “beating of the bounds” are now festive events attracting tourist interest. The Norman lords granted the right to hold fairs and markets in order to stimulate trade, the largest of which, Ffair Gurig, continues today

Newport Parrog was once a lively sea port. This settlement

predates the town below which it nestles but to which it has now long been joined. Shipbuilding, fishing, slate quarrying, coastal trading and lime burning were important in the past. Parrog has an attractive coastal character, with impressive vertical slate sea walling and older buildings along the shore - relict warehouses and limekilns- standing today as reminders of its maritime, industrial and commercial past. The original name for this neighbourhood was “Trefdraeth”, “the township on the shore”, the Welsh name for Newport used today.



Newport’s town centre and Newport Parrog were designated ‘Conservation Area’ of special architectural and historic interest in 1999.

There is a strong cultural association with the opposite bank of the River Nevern, where the south facing fertile land traditionally provided grain for the Newport community. At the end of the 16th century, Newport Bridge which links the town with Nevern had six arches and was built of stone. It was demolished because the townspeople believed that the “sweating sickness” that had decimated their numbers was carried to them by the inhabitants across the river. The huge stepping stones (which probably predated even that bridge) were used for crossing thereafter and are still visible at low tide to this day.

From the summit of Carningli, or “Mons Angelorum”, St Brynach is said to have communed with the Angels. On the two peaks of Carningli, there are the remains of an Iron Age fortified village of more than 25 households, again with no on-site interpretation.



As capital of the hundred of Cemais, Newport in the 13th and 14th

centuries was a centre of military control and of foreign influence in the midst of Welshry. By the 15th century, however, a great number of burgage holders bore Welsh names, and thereafter, Welsh culture and language strengthened till recent times. As the town has inevitably become an exceptionally attractive place to live, it has attracted inward migration which has led to cultural change, perhaps most noticeable in some reduction in the everyday use of the Welsh language. However, children of Ysgol Bro Ingli are educated in the Welsh medium and most incomers make some attempt to learn Welsh. PCNPA is currently involving the school in recording the memories of older Welsh residents of Newport's past.

The beauty and history of the area have attracted a large number of artists and crafts people to live and work here. Newport has a picture framer, 2 art galleries, 2 craft shops and each year a series of exhibitions and sales. There are art and craft groups meeting throughout the year and also summer art courses for visitors.

Ongoing Proposals

- Form / reform groups for drama, dance (including salsa), choral or other music occasions.
- In liaison with education and accommodation providers, develop opportunities for Welsh learners and those with an interest in the Welsh culture to have theme events / holidays at Newport.
- Develop a heritage trail around Newport to reflect the archaeology, ecclesiastical, social and maritime history of the area. The trail could be augmented by the development of freestanding sculptures or of a sculpture park as part of an existing attraction.
- Identify suitable premises and resources to develop and manage a town museum scheme.

New Proposals

- An equipped art and craft facility with space to rent and also

as a drop-in centre (membership or hourly rate) for local artists and makers. This could also be used as training space for local people to build skills and expand their creativity. This could be combined with a gallery/shop to showcase local art and craft, possibly working with existing groups such as Newport Collective that has been in existence for over 13 years.

- ❑ Investigate the possibility of setting up an Historic Buildings Preservation Trust to preserve buildings of historic importance in the Newport area, e.g., Yr Hen Castell, Newport Castle, Carreg Coetan, the Lime Kilns, the Memorial Hall mediaeval pottery kiln, etc.,.
- ❑ Survey and record the gravestones in both the town cemetery and St Mary's graveyard.

APPENDIX A

Some Newport Achievements Since 2004

Community, Services & Housing

- ❑ A Study of the Memorial Hall was commissioned by PLANED on behalf of the committee.
- ❑ Memorial Hall improvements to enable more dance, indoor gymnastics and sport with grant secured by Pembrokeshire Regeneration Unit. Skate Park built by the children, the Town Council, Newport Playing Field Trust and WCVA.
- ❑ Sandy beach improved between the Boat Club and Camelot.
- ❑ Multi-use Games Area funded by National Lottery, after consultation between PCC and Newport Town Council, constructed on PCC land adjacent to Newport Playing Field for community use .
- ❑ Resurfacing of Newport Tennis Courts by Newport Tennis Club.
- ❑ Bike racks provided at Newport Car Park and at the Square.
- ❑ Newport 4 Kids childcare group set up with support from Newport Community Forum.

- ❑ Web Forum for young people on Newport Town site
- ❑ Community land Trust established by To Gwrdd .
- ❑ Newport Housing Needs Survey carried out by Newport Town Council with Pembrokeshire Housing Enabler.
- ❑ 13 extra Housing Association units built by Tai Cantref.
- ❑ National Lifesaving Championships 2007 hosted by Newport Surf Life Saving Club.
- ❑ Winter Festival instigated by Newport Town Council set up under the auspices of Newport Bay Spring Festival Committee with support from Newport Chamber of Trade, PLANED and PAVS.
- ❑ Extended Christmas lights provided by Newport Town Council.

Environment

- ❑ Newport Area Environment Group (NAEG) formed through Newport Community Forum.
- ❑ Town Awareness Raising Days arranged by NAEG with the Eco Centre.
- ❑ Increased recycling services, initially through NAEG with PLANED/PCC/SRS support, now by PCC.
- ❑ Improved Long Street pavement provision under Safe Routes to Schools Scheme
- ❑ Conservation Area Improvement Grants to some eligible residents and businesses managed by PCNPA.
- ❑ Parrog Shelter revamped by The Town Council with PCNPA help
- ❑ Newport Allotments Association formed
- ❑ Some under-grounding of overhead cables by MANWEB and BT following requests from Newport Town Council.
- ❑ Garden furniture and Kitchen Herb Garden at Newport Memorial Hall
- ❑ 'Dog waste' bags along the more popular routes (especially at the Parrog) with associated emptying regime.
- ❑ Recycling facilities at Newport to include plastics, and more frequent collection of the skips for paper, tins and glass.
- ❑ Bike racks installed.

Local Economy

- Broadband connected.
- Newport Town website set up by Newport Town Council with Newport Chamber of Trade and Tourism.
- Newport Moorings Committee established with the aid of the Town Council
- Town map redesigned and repositioned by Newport Community Forum Enhancement Group with PLANED.
- Three Walks in Newport Leaflet produced with PLANED

Heritage, Culture, Arts & Crafts

- History Society formed by Newport Community Forum.
- Sound and lighting facilities improved in Newport Memorial Hall by Newport Untrained Theatrical Society (NUTS) and Newport Town Council.
- Newport Heritage Leaflet produced by Newport Heritage Group with PLANED
- Yr Hen Castell management plan by CADW/PCNPA organised by Newport Playing Field Committee Secretary.