

PRIORY WARD NEWS

FROM COUNCILLOR JOHN L PROSSER

Member Priory Ward -Vice Chairman MCC

CONSERVATIVE

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A snapshot of issues in our ward: February 2014



Dear Householder,

As the County Councillor and one of the Town Councillors for Priory Ward I have compiled this newsletter to update you on some Ward issues. If you have other issues you wish to discuss please contact me on **01873 850534**

Community Engagement on Budget Savings

With the advent of severe financial pressures from Local and National Government latest estimates suggest MCC needs to find savings of circa £9 million next year and a further £11 million over the following three years. As a Council we are very much aware how other authorities are having to make severe cuts to services they provide. Our Council are keen to maintain services rather than cut them and are trying to find alternative ways of funding and supporting services. Public consultation meetings have been held around the county, including at King Henry V111 School, where members of the community submitted suggestions for solving our problems. One idea submitted was to start a Monmouthshire Lottery scheme and the practicalities of doing this are being investigated! A further feedback meeting was held recently and final decisions will be made at our budget setting meeting of full council on 27th February.

The Economy and Development Select Committee which I chair scrutinised several budget savings mandates put forward by officers. One mandate suggested moving the Tourist Information Centre (TIC) from the bus station to the Castle thus reducing staff costs. The committee totally rejected this idea and advised the officers to reconsider. The Brecon Beacons National Park are also considering withdrawing funding from the TIC. However I am pleased to report that other locations are being considered including the possibility of moving to the Tythe Barn!

Plans to build a new library are still in the budget and the council are seeking views from the community as to whether a new library is wanted.

CLLR JOHN PROSSER—01873 850534

Livestock Market Development

The long awaited Livestock Market at Bryngwyn was officially opened at the end of November (see right) and has been well received. All livestock trading has been transferred from Abergavenny to the new modern market facility. It is planned that Morrisons will be given access to the



Abergavenny site in the near future and it is hoped the new food store will be completed by the end of the year. At my suggestion some stones from the old slaughter house building have been retained and will be used in a new sensory garden being developed by the Friends of Bailey Park!

Bailey Park

The Friends of Bailey Park are making good progress, working in close liaison with Town and County Council. Recent improvements have included fencing at the Rugby Club entrance, and the ongoing regeneration of the



old greenhouse area to form a tranquil sensory garden (see picture). A major event is planned for this summer involving community groups organised by Dr David Studdert of Cardiff School of Social Sciences. The centre piece will include activities around the old swimming baths. At a Transition Town event held in the Market Hall in November I manned the Town Council table. A complaint was received of late night noise from the children's play area. MCC and the local PCSO have been informed and are working to eliminate this.

Park Lane

Following complaints from residents I organised the cutting back of the hedgerow and collection of leaves in Park Lane. Some concern has also been expressed about overhanging trees, and tree roots along the pathways.

Bailey Court Trees

To help some residents of Bailey Court I obtained permission for trees blocking out light to be cut back on Ross Road.

Dog Mess

The problem of dogs fouling the pavements continues. Additional warning signs are being erected along Llwynu Road and Park Crescent.

Grosvenor Road Housing Development

The protests regarding sewer connections for the new housing development along Grosvenor Road have abated as a connection to the main sewer is the option being pursued instead of a temporary sewerage plant which the developers originally applied for. This eases community concerns over potential spillages. We still have problems at the lower end of Ross Road during severe weather and we look towards Welsh Water upgrading the sewer system by April 2014.

Pot Hole Repairs

I recently chased several complaints of dangerous pot holes and I am pleased the Area Engineering Department sent out their rapid response team to fill holes including Oxford Road, Richmond Road, Alexandra Road, Albert Road, and the junction of Hereford Road and Grosvenor Road. Well done to the team who carried out the work on the same day!

These are temporary measures and now need to be followed up by road resurfacing!



Whole Place Plan

The MCC Whole Place Plan initiative is intended to provide a sense of focus for members of the community for local service delivery identifying clear priorities for local action. A Programme Board and a Town Team are being organised to coordinate activities for the development of Abergavenny Town. If you wish to be involved in the Town Team please contact me on 01873 850534 and I will put you in touch with the right people!

Town Council Calendar of Events

The Town Council has developed a Calendar of Events on their web site at www.abergavennytowncouncil.gov.uk . If you wish to add your event please contact the Town Clerk on 01873 735820.

Boundary Review

An MCC committee recently reviewed all town and community council boundaries. For Priory they recommend moving the Priory Church and surrounds into Grofield ward, adding Heol Hamlin and north side of Park Crescent to our ward, and renaming it Park instead of Priory. Details can be found at: <http://www.mcc-communityboundaries.weebly.com/> Representations can be submitted online or by post to Election Office, Monmouthshire County Council, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA by 28th February.

MCC Services

Your Town Council continue their dialogue with MCC regarding the possible transfer of services to the Town Council. These could include toilets, parks, road cleaning, and even the Tourist Information Centre!

Work on Committees

I am Vice Chair of Monmouthshire County Council, Chair of the Economy and Development Select Committee, a member of the Audit Committee, the Local Democracy Committee, the Bryn y Cwm Area Committee, and as the Armed Forces Champion I sit on the Armed Forces Community Grant Scheme Panel, and I represent MCC on the Reserve Forces and Cadets Association, the Aneurin Bevan Health Board Community Health Council, and the Stakeholders Reference Group. I also attend ADPAC meetings (Abergavenny and District Partnership Against Crime), and town twinning meetings. Please contact me if you wish to discuss any of the above!

Welfare Reforms

If you are concerned about Welfare Reform issues contact One Stop Shop on **01873 735800** or the Benefits Enquiry Helpline on **0845 6088569**

Ward Walkabout

I will be walking the ward on Friday 21st February visiting Premier Shop at Hereford Road at 10am, Bailey Park Grandstand at 10:15, the Tourist Information office at 10:30, the One Stop Shop at 10:45, and outside Fairfield Community Hut at 11:15. I can always be contacted on **01873 850534** or **07814 808324** at any time!

Community Police Contacts

Our new Neighbourhood Police Inspector is Inspector Roland Giles. He is supported by Toney Patey Neighbourhood Sergeant, Shane Prosser Neighbourhood Officer, and Police Community Support Officer for Priory Ward Amanda Yung. They can be contacted by telephone on **01495 233917** (office) or by email at **abergavenny@gwent.pnn.police.uk**. The current Ward Priorities are to deter vehicle crime and to deter shop lifters.

In emergency dial 999—To report a crime you should dial 101

To report issues to MCC contact One Stop Shop on 01873 735800

If you wish to discuss any issues with me please contact 01873 850534