

Public Consultation – Proposed Town Centre Office for Newent Town Council

Newent Town Council is considering the purchase of a town centre property to provide a permanent base for the Council and its services. This proposal would involve an increase in the Council's precept (local council tax contribution), and before any decisions are made, we would like to hear your views.

With the ongoing discussions around local government reorganisation and the potential removal of the current two-tier structure (County Council and District Council), it is important that Newent Town Council is well placed to take on any additional responsibilities that may be passed down in the future.

We believe the potential benefits to the community could far outweigh the costs. These include:

- Central and easily accessible location for all residents
- A single hub for Council services and local information
- Increased town centre footfall supporting local businesses
- Space for community groups, events and drop-in sessions
- Long-term cost savings through ownership stability
- Visible commitment to Newent's town centre
- Improved facilities including accessible meeting and training spaces
- Opportunity to host exhibitions and events
- Partnerships with services such as Citizens Advice
- A long-term community asset generating pride
- A secure and visible place for volunteers, coordination, and emergency planning
- Digital access points to support inclusion and resident engagement
- Potential income generation from renting out space
- Greater confidence, transparency and collaboration between Council and community

We invite residents to share their thoughts on the following questions:

1. Should Newent Town Council maintain a permanent office presence within the town centre for improved accessibility and visibility?

☐ Yes ☐ No

2. Do you support a potential increase in the council precept to fund such a purchase?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Comments:
