

Market Town Development Group Report October 2025

The group met on the 14th October to review progress on a number of projects and to catch-up with our Market Town Development Officer, Catherine Lines.

The group are currently progressing the sculpture trail and story headed by Cllr Kay Selwyn. Catherine is going to update also look into some grants that may be available to us for this project.

The group are looking at a number of projects now including a possible bandstand, Coat of Arms, Pride of Newent and working with the new estates within town.

Catherine's main work has focused on the Small Business Saturday coming up alongside our Christmas Lights Event on the 29th November. Catherine has worked with local companies to produce a number of publicity items to support and promote small businesses in Newent and the other four forest towns.

Catherine is currently gathering evidence and writing a review of the current projects she has been completing/tasked with whilst in post for Newent.

The group have also agreed that the acting chair of the working group, Cllr Joshua Robertson will write to the business club chair to request that they be mindful of Catherine's hours as she has limited with us in Newent like the other market towns. The group are going to request that any business they may want to involve Catherine in is completed in the first hour and any subsequent business is passed on to a town council representative or is emailed to Catherine.

To also note that Wendy Jackson (Regeneration Manager at FODDC) has had her last day at the Forest of Dean District council and will be moving onto pastures new. The working group noted a thank you to Wendy for all her work.

Cllr Clare Stone also provided an update on an initiative under Project Benedict that the group felt was an excellent proposal. The project involves running a community competition, promoted via social media, local organisations, schools, and clubs, to design a "Welcome to Newent" feature for the lake car park. The feature will reflect the themes of community, heritage, and a hope for the future.

Cllr Joshua Robertson

Acting-chair Market Town Development Working Group

October 2025