

# Newent Business Club Meeting Report and Request

Monday 13th October 2025

The business club welcomed the arrival of 3 new businesses in the town centre this month.

- Charlotte Keating Art - in the shambles
- Toadstools Bookshop - in the Shambles
- Unveiled Bridal - in the old Stock exchange premises on church Street

The expansion of Ingrams into the next door unit was also welcomed.

## **Visit Newent**

The FB page has now passed 500 followers.

The website needs more content and 3 new articles were promised by group members.

## **Advertising and Promotion.**

The club will continue to advertise in The Wincross Parish Magazine and Down the Line.

Club queried any progress on updating former 2021 Discover Newent by NTC. Club has set aside a contribution of £250 towards printing cost (includes £100 NTC refund)

## **Project Support**

The club voted to support a community bulb planting project with a donation of £150.

## **Shop Local**

A FB competition is planned for the "Count Up" to small business Saturday, with what promises to be a very exciting hamper of local goodies as the prize.

## **Update from Market Towns Officer Catherine Lines**

Catherine is working on a business directory for each of the 4 market towns, which will be customisable for various themes and events.

Her other main focus currently is the shop local campaign.

## **Events**

Feedback from Newent Celebrates was mixed from a trading perspective, with some being extremely busy and others not so much. All members however were supportive of the event for its community building and "putting newent on the Map" aspects.

## **Environment, Highway Matters and Brown Signs**

Cllr Gill Moseley updated club members on topics covered in the Highways meeting held on the 2nd October 2025 between HCC Highways and NTC that would improve the local environment in and around Newent. This included replacing faded traffic signs, removing redundant traffic sign poles, clearing vegetation to main Welcome to Newent signs and upgrading of the Brown signs.

It was encouraging to see four business premises have frontage improvement work done over recent months. ( Red Lion, Hair Salon at 35 Church Street, Newent Initiative - Drop in Centre, former Stock Exchange into Unveiled Bridal shop and improvements to expand Ingrams.

## **New traders Welcome**

The meeting welcomed Charlotte Keating and James Haines. James gave an overview of his business Bettees Health Suite, which is trading well in the first year.

### **Town Planting - Request for Council**

Club members feel that town planting can make a big difference to the overall appearance and appeal of the town centre and are keen to support the council in giving our town centre planting the wow factor.

Under the co-ordination of Emma Haines - who is a florist, designer and plantswoman - the club would like to bring forward a proposal for a planting scheme for 2026 which would be sustainable, affordable and beautiful. The aim would be to bring a full, costed plan to the Council's November meeting.

As a precursor to this, and to give council an idea of what can be achieved. **The club requests permission to refresh the 3 planters outside Spar**, retaining and reusing viable plants. And adding a mix of: Hellebore, Viola, Skimmia, Heather, Small variegated Ivy, Dianthus (Carnation), Leuco Brownii (the grey spikey one), Cineraria. Plus tulip and hyacinth bulbs, for spring colour, to supplement the daffs which are already there.



This would be done at the club's own expense and on the understanding that, if council decided to go with a different planting scheme for 2026, the plants provided might be removed.

The club would request that if this were to happen, they could be given notice and an opportunity to salvage the plants they have provided.

