

27 August 2019

To: The Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council; Councillors Phil Barnett; Jeff Cant; Jo Day; Billy Drummond; Sue Farrant; Nigel Foot; David Marsh; Gary Norman; Erik Pattenden; Sarah Slack.

Substitutes: Councillors Jeff Beck; Chris Foster; Pam Lusby Taylor; Steve Masters; Elizabeth O'Keeffe; Martha Vickers.

Also to: All Members of the Council for information.

Dear Councillor

You are required to attend a meeting of the **Civic Pride, Arts & Leisure Committee** to be held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Market Place, Newbury on **Monday 2 September 2019 at 7.30 pm**. The meeting is open to the Press and Public.

Yours sincerely,

Hugh Peacocke
Chief Executive Officer

AGENDA

1. Apologies

Civic Manager

2. Declarations of interest and dispensations

Chairperson

To receive any declarations of interest relating to business to be conducted in this meeting and confirmation of any relevant dispensations.

3. Minutes (Appendix 1)

Chairperson

To approve the minutes of the meetings of the Civic Pride, Arts & Leisure Committee held on Monday 1 July 2019 (previously circulated).

4. Questions and petitions from members of the public

Chairperson

Town Hall, Market Place, Newbury, RG14 5AA

☎ (01635) 35486

☎ (01635) 40484

🐦 @NewburyTC

✉ towncouncil@newbury.gov.uk

🌐 www.newbury.gov.uk

📘 NewburyTC

Newbury Town Council is committed to continuing to make Newbury a better place to live, work and visit

5. Members' questions and petitions

Chairperson

6. Music in the Market Place

Chairperson

Councillor David Marsh to advise on how Kennet Radio might continue this event into the future and await further proposals.

7. Newbury Town Civic Awards 2020 (Appendix 2)

Chairperson

To review the 2019 Newbury Town Civic Awards and

To approve arrangements for the 2020 Newbury Town Civic Awards

8. Remembrance Sunday Planning (Appendix 3)

Chairman/Civic Manager

To approve the report on the planning for Remembrance Sunday, 10 November 2019

9. Heritage Open Day (Appendix 4)

Chairperson

To approve the arrangements to open the Town Hall to the public for Heritage Open Day, in conjunction with the National Heritage Open Day events and in line with the West Berkshire Council's opening dates of Shaw House and the Museum on Saturday 14 September 2019.

10. 75th Anniversary of VE Day 8-10 May 2020

Chairperson

To note that Councillors Jo Day and Sarah Slack have agreed to join this Working Group, the first meeting of which will take place on 18 September 2019 at 2.30 pm.

11. Raising the Profile of the Council in the Community (Appendix 5)

Chairperson

To note the letters of congratulations that the Mayor of Newbury has sent to residents and organisations in the community since the last meeting of this committee.

12. Forward Work Programme for Civic Pride, Arts & Leisure Committee meetings 2018/19 (Appendix 6)

Chairperson

To note and agree any other items that Members resolve to add to the Forward Work Programme

13. Civic Events

Chairperson/Civic Manager

a) **To review** civic events since the last meeting of the Committee

- Mayor's Drive & Tea Party 3 July
- Twinning Ceremony between Newbury and Carcaixent 13 July (Appendix 7)

b) **To note** the programme of civic events until the next meeting

- Heritage Open Day: 14 September
- Mayor's Charity Quiz in aid of Time to Talk: 20 September
- Remembrance Sunday
- Mayor's Coffee Morning in aid of Over 80's Parcel Fund: 30 November

c) **To receive** ideas for suggested or potential future events or activities.

If you would like a paper copy or large print copy of this agenda please request this from the Reception Desk at the Town Hall.

Minutes of a meeting of the Civic Pride, Arts & Leisure Committee held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Market Place, Newbury on Monday 1 July 2019 at 7.30pm

Present

Councillors Phil Barnett; Martin Colston; Billy Drummond; Sue Farrant; Nigel Foot; Olivia Lewis; David Marsh; Gary Norman; Erik Pattenden; Sarah Slack (Vice-Chairperson).

Officers present:

Joyce Lewis, Civic Manager

Margaret Gore, Corporate Services Officer.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Martin Colston, presided over the Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

1. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

Proposed: Councillor Martin Colston

Seconded: Councillor Gary Norman

Resolved: That Councillor Jo Day be elected as Chairperson of the Civic Pride, Arts & Leisure Committee for the Municipal Year 2019/2020.

There were no other nominations.

Proposed: Councillor Martin Colston

Seconded: Councillor Olivia Lewis

Resolved: That Councillor Sarah Slack be elected as Vice-Chairperson of the Civic Pride, Arts & Leisure Committee for the Municipal Year 2019/2020.

In the absence of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson, Councillor Sarah Slack presided over the remainder of the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Councillor: Jo Day

Absent: Councillor Jeff Cant

3. Declaration of Interest and Dispensations

The Civic Manager declared that Councillors Phil Barnett, Billy Drummond, David Marsh and Erik Pattenden are also Members of West Berkshire Council, which is

declared as a general interest on their behalf and a dispensation is in place to allow them to partake in discussions relating to West Berkshire Council business.

4. Minutes

Proposed: Councillor Billy Drummond

Seconded: Councillor Sue Farrant

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Civic Pride, Arts & Leisure Committee held on Monday 19 November 2019 and 25 February 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairperson.

5. Questions and petitions from members of the public

There were none.

6. Members' questions and petitions

There were none.

The Vice-Chairperson, Councillor Sarah Slack agreed that agenda Item 12 (Jack of Newbury Statue Project) be discussed at this time.

7. Music in the Market Place

Proposed: Councillor Sue Farrant

Seconded: Councillor Billy Drummond

Resolved: That Music in the Market Place event be removed from the Forward Work Programme. The future of this event to be reviewed at the next meeting.

8. Newbury Art Trail

Proposed: Councillor Gary Norman

Seconded: Councillor Martin Colston

Resolved: That Councillor Sue Farrant work alongside the Civic Manager, Joyce Lewis to consider the wording and photographs for a new information panel for Lock Island's Ebb & Flow work of art.

9. Newbury & District Arts Association (previously Forum)

Proposed: Councillor Sue Farrant

Seconded: Councillor Gary Norman

Resolved: That Members approve of this organisation operating without support from Newbury Town Council and that a report on its progress is expected at the meeting of this committee in November. This item will be added to the CPA&L Work Programme for December.

10. Newbury Town Civic Awards 2019

The report on the 2019 Newbury Town Civic Awards was received and noted by the Committee. It was suggested that consideration could be given to some form of Green award in the future.

11. Community Clean 2019

Members received a report on the 2019 Community Clean Event which took place on the afternoon of Saturday 23 March 2019. After a short discussion, Members agreed that this should take place on a more regular basis.

Proposed: Councillor David Marsh

Seconded: Councillor Sue Farrant

Resolved: That Members put together a report with suggestions for future Community Clean event to be discussed at the next meeting of this Committee scheduled for Monday 2 September 2019.

12. Jack of Newbury Statue Project

Members received a presentation from Dr David Peacock, local historian, the Artist, Luke Webb, and Garry Poulson who is Chairperson of the fundraising committee for this project.

This item will be on the September agenda and Garry Poulson should be invited to give the committee an update on the financial position of the project.

13. Heritage Open Day

The information regarding the opening to the public of the Town Hall for Heritage Open Day, was received and noted by the Committee. It was also noted that volunteers would be requested nearer the time to Steward the event.

14. The Twinning of Newbury with Carcaixent, Spain

The information regarding the twinning ceremony for the second stage of the twinning between Newbury and Carcaixent in Spain that is taking place on Saturday 13 July 2019 in the Corn Exchange, was received and noted by the Committee.

15. Mayoral Honours Boards

Proposed: Councillor Billy Drummond

Seconded: Councillor Sue Farrant

Resolved: To commission a report into the preservation of the Mayoral Honours Boards in the Council Chamber.

16. 75th Anniversary of VE Day 8-10 May 2020

The information regarding the national and local celebrations and commemorations that will take place to recognise the 75th Anniversary of VE Day was noted by the Committee.

Proposed: Councillor Martin Colston

Seconded: Councillor Sue Farrant

Resolved: That a working group be set up to consider local celebrations and commemorations for this event.

17. Raising the Profile of the Council in the Community

The information regarding the letters of congratulations that the Mayor of Newbury has sent to residents and organisations in the community since the last meeting was noted by the Committee.

18. Forward Work Programme for Civic Pride, Arts & Leisure Committee meetings 2019/20

It was agreed that the following items be amended for future agendas:

- Remove – Music in the Market Place
- Add – Newbury Art Trail Leaflet

Proposed: Councillor Nigel Foot

Seconded: Councillor Erik Pattenden

Resolved: That a working group, consisting of Councillors Sue Farrant, Nigel Foot, Gary Norman, and Erik Pattenden be formed to consider the best way to act on Strategy Point TL8 – Encourage residents' participation in social, recreational and sporting activities.

19. Civic Events

- a) The information regarding Civic events held since the last meeting of this Committee was received and noted.
- b) The information relating to future Civic Events as detailed on the agenda was received and noted by the Committee.
- c) There were no additional ideas for suggested or potential future events or activities.

There being no further business the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 9.35pm.

Chairperson

Newbury Town Council

Public Report

Report to Civic Pride, Arts and Leisure Committee, 2 September 2019.

Agenda Item No 7: Newbury Town Civic Awards 2020

To review the 2019 Newbury Town Civic Awards and

To approve arrangements for the 2020 Newbury Town Civic Awards

Background

The Council holds a Civic Awards event each year to recognise the huge contribution individuals and local businesses can make to the local community. The award categories this are:

- The **Newbury Town Civic Award**,
- The **Young Persons Civic Award**,
- The **Newbury Town Business Civic Award**.

Nominating someone for the Civic Award is a wonderful way to thank them for the work they do. We probably all know someone who volunteers, or goes the extra mile for a neighbour, and whilst they don't expect recognition it is an opportunity to let them know that their efforts are appreciated.

The current process for the awards and judging is set out on the attached Appendix 2.1. The Civic Awards are held with the Annual Town Meeting, normally in the third week of March (not to be confused with the Annual meeting of the Town Council- Mayor- making). In recent years the accommodation in the council Chamber, restricted to 60 persons, maximum, has not been sufficient for both events to be held on the same evening and often people are left outside the Chamber while the Civic Awards are taking place. Officers are of the view that the Civic Awards merit the focus of a stand-alone event and can be separated from the Annual town meeting. This would allow a better planned and better organised event, in a more comfortable setting. It would give the awards the extra focus and profile they deserve.

Financial and Legal implications

As we already run these annual awards, there is no legal restriction on making this a stand-alone event. The current budget provision is £500 which the Council may review if the event is to grow in profile and importance.

Reference to Council Strategy, where relevant

It is an objective of the Council to run and sponsor an annual Civic Awards scheme (Strategy, objective O2.6)

Equality and Diversity impacts

The awards are open to all of the communities in Newbury. (See appendix 2.2 for a list of last year's winners)

Other information

The Council could expand the Awards to include categories which help to deliver the Council's Strategy (such as Climate Action or recycling).

(The Council will also need to review the business of the Annual Town Meeting and this will be on the agenda for the next meeting of this committee, on 2 December)

Recommendation(s)

That the Council resolves to make the Annual Civic Awards a stand-alone event.

Signed: Hugh Peacocke
 Chief Executive Officer

27 August 2019.

Service Plan – Civic Award Schemes

The Civic Award Presentations take place annually in conjunction with the Annual Town Meeting. The awards recognise the amount of volunteering which takes place in our community or for the benefit of this community and/or its residents.

There are three awards

- Newbury Town Civic Award – all age groups are eligible to be nominated and is funded by Newbury Town Council
- Newbury Town Young Persons Civic Award is aimed at the 25 years and under age group. This award is sponsored by Swift Couriers.
- In 2018 a new award aimed at Businesses in this community was launched.

Immediately after Christmas a planning meeting is arranged including:-

The Mayor
Chair of CP,A&L
Civic Manager
Any sponsors?

The awards schemes are launched in January/beginning of February with a press release and photograph of the previous year's winners indicating how people can nominate volunteers for the award.

Details of the awards are also sent to:-

- local organisations and youth groups
- Charities and support groups
- Secondary schools and college
- Placed on NTC website / email signatures
- Bus stops
- Notice board
- NTC Councillors

Invite judges to a meeting at closure of the nomination period providing them with copies of all nominations separated into the two awards. The judges need to choose a winner of each award and they may choose a highly commended for the Newbury Town Civic Award if there are enough nominations and if it is difficult not to recognise a second person.

Invitations to the Presentation Evening to be circulated to the following and maintain a list of responses:-

Nominees
Nominators
MP
Chairman
Mayor's Chaplain
Rector of St Nics
Previous Award winners
Media
Councillors
Civic Staff

- Purchase an award for the Civic Award winner to retain
- Purchase an award for the Highly Commended recipient to retain
- Arrange for plinths and engraving of the above awards and the engraving for the ongoing Civic Award
- Retrieve the ongoing award from the previous Young Persons Award winner and return to Swift for them to arrange engraving on the plinth.
- Create certificates, signed by the Mayor for all nominees to be presented on the evening (Tony Hiller to create certificates).
- Purchase and organise refreshments for the evening, arranging for Mace bearers to serve following the award ceremony and prior to the annual town meeting.
- Arrange a running order for the Awards, including who needs to speak and what information if covered and a list of award nominees for each award finishing with the winner.
- On the presentation evening, guests arrive via the Civic and Mansion House entrances. Town Crier will greet from the Civic entrance and Caretaker on the Mansion House door.
- Just prior to starting time, the Civic Entrance is closed and the Town Crier will move to the Chamber (Caretaker will remain on duty at the open Mansion House door).
- The Town Crier to announce the Mayor who comes into the Chamber and formally welcomes everyone.
- There is then a brief introduction to the Annual Town meeting, then the Civic Awards start.
- The Mayor will invite the other judges to join him at the front of the room.
- Young Persons Award first followed by the other award.
- The Town Crier and Town Marshal, alternating will read information a nominee, then that nominee will be invited to come up to receive their certificate. The judges will form a line so that each Judge will shake the hand of the nominee, the Mayor being the last one and he/she will present a certificate.
- Allow the opportunity for photographs following each presentation.
- Each of the award presentations will finish with the winner.
- At the end of the presentations, everyone is invited to partake of refreshments at the rear of the room whilst photographs of the nominees and winners are taken on the Civic Staircase.
- Prior to the award winners leaving, ensure that they are given the boxes for their award.

Next day, issue a press release and photographs of winners/nominees and ensure it is placed on the website. Post certificates to those nominees unable to attend.



NEWS ITEM

Date: 19 March 2019

TOWN COUNCIL HONOURS UNSUNG HEROES OF THE COMMUNITY.

The 2019 Newbury Town Civic Award, the Newbury Town Young Persons Civic Award and the Newbury Town Business Civic Award were presented at the Annual Town Meeting of Newbury Town Council on Monday 18 March 2019 by the Mayor of Newbury, Cllr Margo Payne. The awards recognise the town’s unsung heroes, those people who have made an exceptional contribution to our community on a voluntary basis.

Terry & Maureen Dummett were presented with the Black Horse trophy as the winner of **The Newbury Town Civic Award 2019**. Terry & Maureen have given freely of their time to increase safety for the community in Wash Common over the past 30 years. They just go quietly about keeping their eyes and ears open and their caring attitude seems to help them recognise whenever something is amiss and needing attention. Between them they have been volunteer gate keepers for the car park at Wash Common, both ends of the day, meaning that the neighbours have peace and quiet overnight without movement of vehicles in, to or from the car park. Whenever a car is parked in the car park at locking up time, they search the area to locate the driver and put notes on cars saying where to contact to get out. Terry & Maureen have, on numerous occasions, had to call the emergency services during the night to assist for various reasons, in addition they are very active with Neighbourhood Watch.

The winner of the the **Newbury Town Business Civic Award** was the **Newbury Weekly News**. Our truly local paper championed the Rosemary Appeal to successfully raise £5.4m for a state of the art cancer care and renal dialysis facility which opened at West Berkshire Community Hospital in 2018. They continue to highlight the growing plight of homeless people on the streets of Newbury, supporting the establishment of a night shelter in the town centre and raising funds for the Newbury Soup Kitchen through

Town Hall, Market Place, Newbury, RG14 5AA

(01635) 35486

(01635) 40484

@NewburyTC

towncouncil@newbury.gov.uk

www.newbury.gov.uk

NewburyTC

their successful Best in Business Awards. Each Christmas the Newbury Weekly News runs the Over 80's Parcel Fund, now in its 121st year. Nearly 2,000 elderly people received goodies over the 2018 festive period in a real community effort with schools, scouts and businesses all getting involved. It also provided parking spaces for the Volunteer Centre West Berkshire to park their handybuses and they give hundreds of brand new books to local primary schools each year to encourage literacy and they run the Young Photographer of the Year Competition to encourage creativity. NWN also sponsors the Newbury Town Council school debating competition and Newbury Pancake Races, in addition, they support scores of charities and good causes and many of the community events in our town would not happen without their backing.

And finally, the winner of the **Newbury Town Young Persons Civic Award**, was **Lily-May Fisher**. Lily-May is a kind-hearted 9 year old child who is a young carer for her mum. Lily-May often has to deal with adult issues and take on responsibilities well beyond her years. She looks after her Mother when she is unwell, phoning for assistance when required whilst reassuring her mum. Added to this, Lily-May helps out at home on a daily basis, waking up her younger siblings and making them and herself breakfast and packed lunch. She then goes to school for the day where she is doing amazingly well. After school, Lily-May looks after her siblings, washes up after dinner, does her homework and she likes to brush and style her mum's hair. Before she goes to bed herself, Lily supports her mum getting her siblings bathed and into bed. When mum is poorly, Lily gladly does more to help. She is always polite, well-mannered and willing to go that extra mile to help others. She is a role model for her peers with her positive attitude and selfless willingness to put her family first.

The Mayor of Newbury, Councillor Margo Payne, congratulated all the nominees for the Awards.

Town Hall, Market Place, Newbury, RG14 5AA

☎ (01635) 35486

☎ (01635) 40484

🐦 @NewburyTC

✉ towncouncil@newbury.gov.uk

🌐 www.newbury.gov.uk

📘 NewburyTC

Newbury Town Council

Public Report to Civic Pride, Arts & Leisure Committee 2 September 2019

Agenda Item No. 8:

Remembrance Sunday Planning

Background/Objective

Newbury Town's Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service is organised by the Civic Manager on behalf of this Council. This is a community event held with the assistance from a number of organisations within this community including, the Royal British Legion, Police, Boys Brigade, Scouts and Guides.

Remembrance Sunday this year will be taking place on Sunday 10 November 2019. In preparations for the event, a meeting was held on 27 August with respective stakeholders to ensure all involved were familiar with the event and to provide updates of any changes for 2019.

Notes

- 3rd Dias to be used in Mansion House Street for the Mayor to take the salute, thanks to the Army at Denison Barracks
- Potential new first aid company to be used
- Usual sound company not available, looking into alternatives
- Parade Marshal to be the Senior RSM at Denison Barracks
- Barry Digby in new role of Town Marshal for the first time
- Standard Bearers training led by RBL Standard Bearers will take place in the Council Chamber from 7.30 pm on Friday 8th November 2019.

Elisa Adams

Civic Manager

27 August 2019

05 08 19

Newbury Town Council

Public Report

Report to Civic Pride, Arts and Leisure Committee, 2 September 2019.

Agenda Item No 9: Heritage Open Day

To approve arrangements for Heritage open Day at the Town Hall, on 14 September 2019.

Background

Heritage Open Days is England's largest festival of history and culture, bringing together over 2,000 organisations, 5,000 events and 40,000 volunteers. Every year in September, places across the country throw open their doors to celebrate their heritage, community and history. It's a chance for the public to see hidden places and try out new experiences – and it's all FREE. This year, Heritage Open Days 2019 will be from 13-22 September.

The Town Council proposes to run a Heritage Open Day event in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm on Saturday 14 September.

Objective

To promote the heritage and history of Newbury by encouraging members of the public, especially the Newbury Community, to visit the Town Hall and view the civic staircase, the paintings and the Council Chamber. The Town Maces and the mayor's chair will be on display. People will be welcome to view the honours boards and there will be access to the profiles of the Mayors available on the Council's website.

Financial and Legal implications

The Council has the general Power of Competence and has the authority to run this event. Several Councillors have volunteered to assist in stewarding the event, but there are other costs associated with it. There will be at least one officer on duty while the Town Hall is open to the public and the event normally includes a free coffee morning. (Estimated cost £150)

Reference to Council Strategy, where relevant

O1.2 Promote the use and enjoyment of the Town Hall for all of the people of Newbury, including as a venue for meetings, conferences, receptions, the celebration of weddings, etc.

O2.20 Promote the heritage and conservation of Newbury and its appreciation to the public and promote events and activities that recognise, highlight and protect the town's traditions, heritage and history.

Equality and Diversity impacts

The event will be open to all of the communities in Newbury. The Chamber is on the second floor of the Town Hall and a lift is available for those who wish to use it.

Options

The proposed event accords with the Strategy objectives above. Previous experience has shown that the hours of opening are the best attended.

Consultation

There has not been an external consultation in this matter.

Other information

The event will be promoted on our website and social media, as well as the Council's notice boards. We will also send a press release to our usual media distribution list.

Recommendation(s)

That the Council approves the arrangements for the Heritage open day event at the Town Hall on Saturday 14 September 2019.

Signed: Hugh Peacocke
 Chief Executive Officer

27 August 2019.

Public Report to Civic Pride, Arts & Leisure Committee 2 September 2019

Agenda Item No xx – Raising the Profile of the Council in the Community

Background

In accordance with the Newbury Town Council Strategy, Other Objectives No. 5
“Acknowledge the contributions made by those who improve Newbury life”

Objective

To raise the profile of all the positive things that happen in this community and,
wherever possible, acknowledge them.

Raising the Profile of the Council in the Community

Letters of congratulations sent since the last meeting of this committee

15 07 19	BID – Congratulations on a successful Jazz Festival
15 07 19	NTTA – Congratulations on a successful twinning weekend of events
15 07 19	Corn Exchange – Congratulations on successful fundraising and reaching their target
16 07 19	David Ball – Retirement from Rosemary Appeal
16 07 19	Jo Butler – Sky Dive for Downs Syndrome
16 07 19	Lorraine Mitchell who won Gold for GB in Duathlon in Romania
16 07 19	Matthew Rossiter on winning Challenge Cup in GB Men’s Four in Henley
16 07 19	Tanya Witby – 3 rd place in Ironman Norway triathlon
09 08 19	Ben Marshall (Cocoa Ben) Bronze Award in Academy of Chocolate Awards
09 08 19	Dave Mallett – congratulations on 50 yrs. long service with ATS Newbury
09 08 19	The Rosemary Appeal – congratulations on reaching funding target
09 08 19	Strawberry Hill Medical Practice – rated ‘GOOD’ by the Quality Care Commission.
09 08 19	Supt J Weems – leaving Newbury force to work as Head of Force Intelligence
09 08 19	Supt N John – Appointed Commander of West Berkshire Local Policing
09 08 19	Charlotte Payne – Shattered the British under 18 hammer record

Joyce Lewis
Civic Manager
15 08 19

Newbury Town Council

Work Programme for Civic Pride, Arts & Leisure Committee Meetings, September 2019

Standing Items on each (ordinary meeting) agenda:

1. Apologies
2. Declarations and Dispensation
3. Approval of Minutes of previous meeting
4. Questions/ Petitions from members of the Public
5. Questions/ Petitions form Members of the Council
6. Work programme and future business
7. Newbury & District Arts Association
8. Past Civic Events
9. Future Civic Events
10. Discussion on Potential Future Civic Events

Meeting Date	Item
June	Election of Chairperson Music in the Market Place planning Report on Mayor Making Report and Review Civic Award Presentation Evening Town Hall Heritage Open Day Report on Civic Awards Charity Coffee Mornings To discuss and review the number of members for each working group
September	Remembrance Sunday Planning Civic Awards Heritage Open Day Remembrance Sunday Planning
December	Reports on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage Open Day • Remembrance Sunday Budget and future projects Annual Town Meeting Music in the Market Place report Community Clean Ebb and Flow information panel
Feb/March	NTTA Report

Newbury Town Council

Public Report

Report to:

Civic Pride Arts & Leisure Meeting, 2 September 2019

Agenda Item No xx: – A Report on the Twin Town Visit to Newbury which took place between 11 – 15 July 2019 and the Twinning between Newbury and Carcaixent on 13 July 2019

Background

The Newbury Twin Town Association arranged a twinning visit to Newbury as part of the Thematic Network activities. This provided an ideal opportunity to complete the second half of the twinning agreement between Newbury and Carcaixent, Spain on 13 July 2019 the first half having taken place in Carcaixent in March 2019.

Event

Newbury Twin Town Association invited guests from our twin and linked towns to visit Newbury between 11–15 July 2019, including a large contingent being invited from Carcaixent. All invited guests were accommodated in the homes of NTTA members during their stay providing an opportunity for new friendships to be formed and for the visitors to experience home life in this country. The programme of events included a conference on *'Brexit the price of divorce' which took place in Newbury College followed by a lunch in the college. A discussion on Brexit also took place between younger members of the twinning group and a production provided by the Italian contingent was performed. On a lighter note, a Gala Dinner took place at Newbury Racecourse and a farewell party including hog roast and barn dance took place on the Sunday evening.*

On the civic side, the Mayor of Newbury hosted a Mayor's dinner inviting Mayors and Mayor's representatives from the visiting towns to join her on the Friday evening. This was well received and Madam Mayor received grateful thanks from each of her guests.

On the Saturday morning the twinning of Newbury and Carcaixent was completed in a ceremony in the Corn Exchange. The ceremony was repeated in Spanish as it progressed by two interpreters which was well received, particularly by the Mayor of Carcaixent who doesn't speak English but very bravely opened his own speech in English. Our Town Crier, Brian Sylvester, explained the format of the event as it progressed. Watership Brass, the Newbury Town Band, provided a wonderful musical accompaniment to the occasion playing background music as guests took their seats, processional music and National and European Anthems. Barry Digby, our new Town Marshal, did a sterling job at bringing the Mayors, Councillors and Dignitaries from the Town Hall, into the Corn Exchange and seated in the correct positions. Then managed to get them back to the Town Hall for a glass of cava and slice of celebration cake.

The whole event was greatly enjoyed by our European guests who enjoy experiencing our ceremonial and viewing our regalia and robes, particularly by the Spanish who felt very much as though they were well and truly welcomed into Newbury's twinning circle.

Joyce Lewis
Civic Manager
24 July 2019