

ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY 6TH JULY 2022

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

TOWN CLERK'S UPDATE

1. PLATINUM JUBILEE:

ATC kicked off proceedings with the delivery of the Proclamation at 2pm on the 2nd June outside the Town Hall, with town crier for the day Cllr Simcock, accompanied by the Mayor and Macebearer, plus Chair of MCC Cllr Wright, and flag bearer for the day Cllr Eldridge. A crowd of 100 people were outside to witness this, and on St Johns Square and Frogmore Street gatherings followed and took photos which were shared widely online.

The two community events hosted by ATC in the Market Hall were well received by the community, showcasing the market hall in a different layout and being able to have live music performances again. On Thursday evening we were supported by the Borough Band, Choirs for Good, and Motion Music providing musical interludes between the two performances. Food vendors out on Brewery Yard and the selection of stalls inside the market made it a great night out, culminating in the lighting of the clock tower as our Beacon.

On Sunday 5th June we had Rivers & Roads, The Hollywells, plus the Dance Attack Collection performing their award-winning dance routines, and DJ Matt Lane entertaining the crowd between the sets. The street party atmosphere was commented on by all who attended, and being able to have everything inside meant the inclement weather didn't deter the crowds. Again we were supported by a small selection of food vendors and long standing traders, and they were thrilled to see the hall buzzing and being put to good use after such a tough two years.

The Chronicle ran with our press releases and photographs, with the Proclamation photo making front page, so thank you to all who sent me their pics – and a special mention to our Town Council Dog stole the show in a Platinum Jubilee headband . . . !! My thanks to everyone who came to lift and shift tables and chairs, and who helped to steward at the events. It was a challenging build up, and all worth it to see how much the community appreciated the opportunity to come together to celebrate such a momentous historical event.

2. EVENTS 2022

We have not yet had an opportunity to hold another online Events Meeting with organisers and businesses since the elections. Many events have happened or are about to happen in the next month, but once summer is out the way we will be keen to see how preparations are going for the winter season.

The Abergavenny and District Tourism Association are trying to plan a launch event for their brochure to be held in the TIC but this may not happen due to many members now being in the thick of their busy season.

Bailey Park is hosting a large number of weekend events so it is good to see this space being utilised in the town after a 2 year break.

3. REMEMBERANCE PARADE 13TH NOVEMBER 2022

Plans are in place to sit down with reps from the local RBL to discuss this year's parade in September as it is felt there may be more wishing to take part due to the ongoing situation in Ukraine. Provisionally Matt Lane has been booked to do the PA again, but road closure notices need submitting shortly, along with an event plan for rough numbers attending, and booking of fencing and bollards to put along the route. It may be prudent to have security again as we did last year due to the numbers attending, and St Johns Ambulance. We will need to have volunteers to assist with setting out the PA and fencing off areas prior to the event. Access to the Town Hall will also need to be booked as we now get charged for access outside of normal working hours (£30 per hour).

4. CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON 19TH NOVEMBER 2022

We have been contacted by members of the Y Fenni Business Community to sit down and discuss this soon, and a provisional booking has been made with Matt Lane to do the PA for this (£250). Discussions have been around having the switch on at Frogmore Street, and this will involve a road closure and stewarding, plus bringing in a stage area for the event. New owners at Panevino were meant to be fitting external power to the building so we should hopefully be able to access power for such an event, but it would be prudent to ask as many businesses throughout town where they feel the switch on should be, and what time? Traditionally a Saturday afternoon around 4pm has been preferred, as lots won't shop that day, simply come for the event and then go home. It would be useful to have feedback from Councillors to know what their local residents feel about the event and if they would rather keep it at the Town Hall, or try a different approach. Costs will have to be looked in to, but the Business Community may be willing to assist with some if we can work collaboratively on the project.