



District Centre Renewal Project starts – full details inside



Maindee



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Maindee Newsletter Spring 2022



Welcome to our Spring 2022 Newsletter

The picture on our front cover shows the huge new mural by **Andy O'Rourke** at the **Corporation Road** end of the walkway to Maindee Primary School. The Greening Maindee Team, who commissioned the artwork, have also landscaped and replanted all the borders by the mural, transforming the space. If you have not seen it yet, it is well worth a look.

With Spring flowers in bloom and leaves bursting on trees, the natural world can provide a real sense of **renewal** at this time of year. So having **renewal** as the general theme of this newsletter seems appropriate. An eight page section looks at some of the issues, like **flood risk**, **poor lighting**, **noise** and **traffic density**, facing people using the car park and shops along Chepstow Road.

We also announce a six-month **Maindee District Centre Renewal Project** to start planning the changes that traders and residents think are needed. **Everyone is encouraged and welcome to join in this community-led initiative.**

This newsletter has been delivered to you by one of a growing band of volunteers all working together to help make Maindee a better place for everyone. It's that simple!

About Us

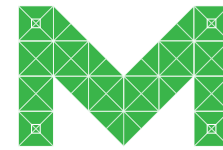
Maindee Unlimited is an incorporated charity run by local volunteers. It was set up in 2015. We are based in the library on Chepstow Road next to the Police Station.

The charity publishes this newsletter three times a year. It is delivered door to door to over 3,000 households in the Maindee area by a team of volunteers. **Contributions are welcome.** They can be dropped into, or posted to the library, or emailed to admin@maidee.org.

Contact us to discuss advertising. Rates are £250: full A5 page; £150: half page; £90 quarter page. Discounted rates available for small local businesses.

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Charity No. 1160272 | www.maidee.org
79 Chepstow Road, Maindee, Newport,
NP19 8BY



Greening
MAINDEE

Walk This Way

Keep Wales Tidy gave the Greening Maindee crew a **'Wildlife Garden Development Package'** to improve the two pedestrian routes either side of Maindee Primary School. Keep your eyes peeled for a wildflower meadow in the walkway next to the bus depot. Fingers crossed for the first crop of fruit from the community orchard as well.

Wonderwall

The front cover of this newsletter shows the amazing new nature themed mural at the Corporation Road end of the school walkway. Skilfully painted by Newport artist **Andy O'Rourke**, it includes large scale images of the types of wildlife you can spot in and around Maindee.

Many thanks to Omar and his family who kindly agreed to allow their gable end to be used for this – and a huge thank you as well to **Jehu, Newport Bus** and **POBL** for their essential and generous funding.



Commemorating Loved Ones

Greening Maindee volunteers recently planted 1,500 daffodil bulbs along the Wharf Road corridor. These were part of a City-wide daffodil planting that **Newport City Council** supported to commemorate the lives of loved ones lost to Covid 19. We hope that these blooms, which should increase and return every Spring, will be a long lasting commemoration of the loss and suffering that sadly affected so many Maindee families.



Volunteers planting bulbs by Corporation Road / Wharf Road junction



Maindee
DISTRICT CENTRE
RENEWAL PROJECT

Time for a makeover

INTRODUCING THE Maindee District Centre Renewal Project

Join our Small and Friendly Greening Crew

Over the past few years we have formed a small but plucky band of Greening Maindiacs. The more people who get involved, the more positive "Greening" local transformations we can make. There are loads of exciting projects lined up for 2022 – and we'd love to have you on-board. Novice or expert, young or old, **everyone is welcome.**

Please contact **John Stone** on 07947 359703 for more info or email **John** at greening@maindee.org



The Maindee District Centre Renewal Project is delivered by Maindee Unlimited in partnership with Wastesavers. The project is financially supported by the UK Government's Community Renewal Fund. Newport City Council is the Lead Authority.

Maindee Unlimited, 79 Chepstow Road, Newport NP19 8BY. Charity #: 1160272 E: admin@maindee.org T: 01633 309443



Ruth Essex and Paul Jones, NCC Strategic Director discussing street furniture on Chepstow Road

Overview by Ruth Essex, Project Manager

The District Centre in Maindee is long overdue for a big makeover. **Chepstow Road is noisy, dirty and too busy** with traffic. Sections of the pavement are too narrow. **The car park is a mess.** The overall feeling is of a tired and worn street that has seen much better days. So, in January, with financial backing from the UK Government **Community Renewal Fund**, Maindee Unlimited began work on the “[District Centre Renewal Project](#)”.

This first phase of the project runs until **July 2022**. We will be designing new layouts for the carpark and the stretch of Chepstow Road that runs through the District Centre.

Designs will prioritise pedestrians and sustainable travel to help reduce some of the negative impacts of petrol and diesel vehicles. There is lots of potential to create more attractive and people-friendly spaces that will also attract more customers for local business.

The project will include a strand looking at ways to reduce waste and pollution and to reuse, share and recycle resources as much as possible. Aimee Parker, our lead expert for this part of the project, can be contacted on [07967918915](tel:07967918915) or aimeeparkerconsultancy@gmail.com

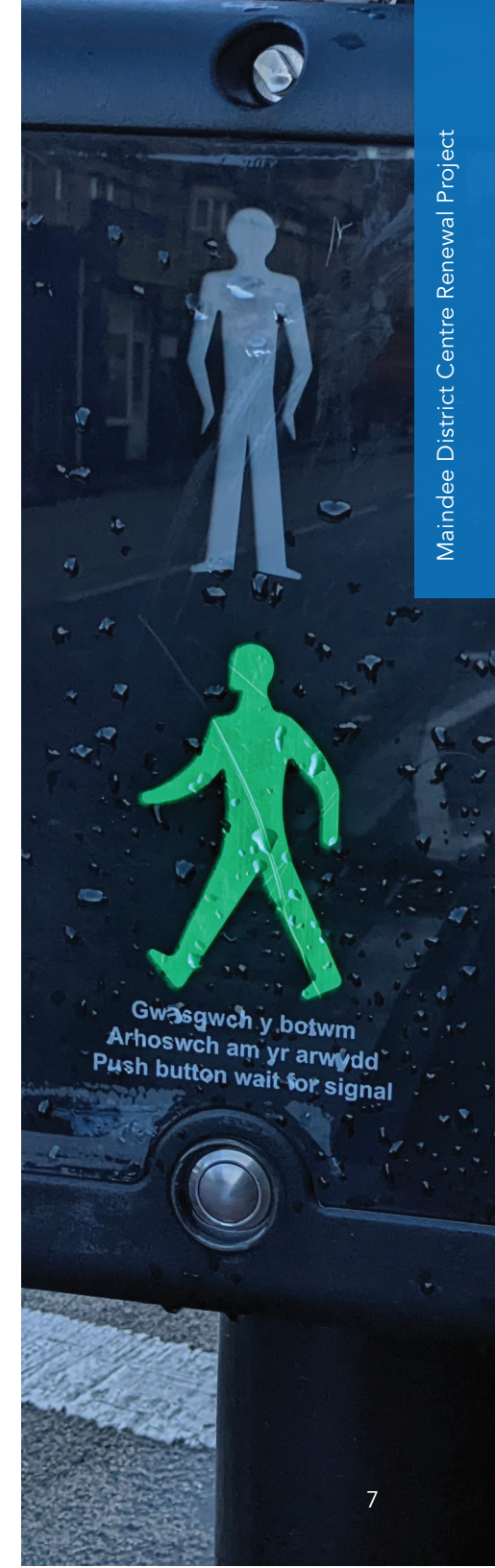
There will be lots of opportunities for local residents and traders to develop and input their own ideas and solutions over the next few months. **Year 7 students at St Julians School have already started on this and we hope this “Class of 2022” will keep an involvement with the project as it moves from planning to implementation in years to come.**

The increasing risk of flash floods means we also need to see how we can improve drainage. “**Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems**”, or SuDs for short, might have a role to play. They are a bit like urban reens: **increasing greenery, reducing the impact of flooding**, helping to **clean the air** and just making people living in the City feel a bit **healthier and relaxed**.

We have just appointed Roberts Limbricks Ltd (www.robertslimbrick.com) whose highly experienced team of Newport-based urban design team will turn everyone’s ideas into the technical design proposals that we will need to raise the multi-million funding needed to implement the changes.

The success of this project and quality of designs very much relies on people who live or work locally getting involved. So get in touch to let us know what you are interested in, to receive updates or just to have a chat. We will be hosting a variety of **online and in-person events** over the next few months and we want to make sure you know about them and can be properly involved if you want to.

Email Ruth at centre@maindee.org or call/text 07769 205375.





On the Buses

Back in 2019, a report came out that could significantly affect traffic in Maindee District Centre. “**The Final Recommendations of the South East Wales Transport Commission**”, now known as “**The Burns Report**”, recommended that a new rapid bus route should be created between the City Centre and the Coldra, taking in the International Conference Centre, Chepstow Road through Maindee, Clarence Place and the Town Bridge.

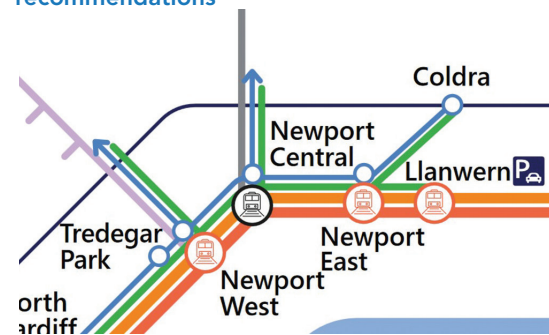
The report saw Chepstow Road as a key corridor for better cycling and bus priority as it connects large amounts of East Newport to the City Centre.

Some pavements in Maindee District Centre are already very narrow and the road itself is often congested with traffic, especially in the multi-lane section by Wetherspoons, so it could be tricky to fit in a dedicated rapid bus route.

The Burns Delivery Unit, that has been set up to implement all the recommendations, is working with the Newport City Council Highways Authority to determine the preferred option for this route.

The timing of this ties in quite nicely with the District Centre Renewal Project. **So, Maindee Unlimited and the City’s Highway Team met recently to discuss ideas.** They have agreed to work closely together to try to dovetail together these two separately funded, but high related, projects – a bit of joined up thinking.

Source: www.gov.wales/south-east-wales-transport-commission-final-recommendations



Shop Talk

“Centre for Cities” reported in January that a third of the commercial units in the City Centre were empty. The recent closures of Lloyds Bank and Cayzers on Chepstow Road might suggest that Maindee District Centre faces similar vacancy problems.

The trend, however, seems to be going the other way. Some of the bigger shop units that had been empty for years (such as the Coop building and 131 Chepstow Road) are now refurbished and back in business. The builders are already converting Cayzers shop and several other new start-ups have opened during the pandemic or are about to open.

One positive factor for Maindee traders is the comparatively low cost of premises. Lower rents plus lower business rates and, in many cases, 100% small business rate relief can make Maindee a good prospect for smaller independent start-ups.

Victoria Ward is the most densely populated area of Newport. The many terraced streets

than surround the District Centre means there is a large resident population within easy walking distance of the shops. Another positive factor.

Bus connectivity is good. Although car parking charges are cheaper than the City Centre (First hour in Maindee: £1; first hour in City Centre: £2.50) the physical environment of the car park leaves a lot to be desired.

Generally, it is **(a)** the tired physical condition of the car park and Chepstow Road, **(b)** the poor use of space for people and the total lack of greenery and **(c)** the relentless noise and dirt from excessive through traffic that are the negative factors that let the Centre down as a modern retail destination.

If the Renewal Project can start to effectively tackle these problems it could be a real help to current and future businesses – and their customers too.



Chepstow Road Car Park



Dealing with trade waste

Maindee Unlimited is researching trader waste and recycling patterns for businesses in Maindee. **We want to help local businesses develop better long term solutions that will reduce the amount of waste you have to deal and increase sustainability.** Aimee Parker will be visiting local businesses over the coming weeks and would appreciate your time to support this research.

You can contact Aimee on 07967918915 or email aimeeparkerconsultancy@gmail.com

St Julians Designers

Should children and young people have a voice in developing plans for the renewal of Maindee District Centre?

If you asked that to Year 7 students at St Julians School they might think you were a bit slow on the update. Since the start of this term teachers and Year 7 pupils have already started developing their ideas and have already caught the eye of the Renewal Project. A new generation of urban planners is emerging!

Not surprisingly, there is a strong call for change. *"I would love to see this area transformed from grey to green"* says Emilia Attorre of Archibald Street. This idea about greening the area is endorsed by Emir Aydin of Corporation Road, who also notes that the area needs to be safer for everyone's future.

In a circular economy we get more use out of things and waste a lot less. This idea is picked up well by Lynda Attwell of Batchelor Road who says she *"would be happy if things in Maindee turned from unused to reused"*.

The first crop of drawings show strong support for new play facilities everywhere. It is refreshing to see this as such a priority – how can we translate this into real delivery?

Interestingly, car parking is not seen as a priority. Is it just because these children are too young to drive – or does this new generation see the world differently from their parents and grandparents?

The unique and forward-thinking ideas that these young people are developing are important. They will be displayed online and in local shop windows over the next few months. Look out for design drawings with multicoloured pathways, outdoor cafés, trampolines, vegetable gardens, painted streets, ducks, flowers, book shelves, ponds, sculptures made of recycled materials and much, much more.



Can we improve our future?



Registration is now open for the People's Assembly

As part of the District Centre Renewal project, Maindee Unlimited invites you to register an interest in the Maindee People's Assembly. We will be running two important workshops for People's Assembly members in April with activities and guest speakers to help us explore what the future of Maindee could look like.

We can cover your childcare costs and you will also receive a gift card (worth £50 for each event you join) as a thank you from us for giving up your time in this way.

Both workshops are in Llyfrgell Maindee Library. The first workshop is on **Friday 22nd April from 10am-1pm**. The second is on **Saturday 7th May 2pm-5pm**. Refreshments will be provided.

If you would like to apply to join the Assembly, please fill in the form below and drop it into the Library by **Monday 4th April**. Or you can text or email your answers to **07967 918915** or **aimeeparkerconsultancy@gmail.com**



Maindee People's Assembly Application Form

Name: _____

Telephone number: _____

Address: _____

Do you require translation services?: Yes No

If yes, please state your first language : _____



INTRODUCING

WALKING



LIVING

STREETS

CYMRU

Walking Friends Wales

Spring is coming! Join a weekly walk with Walking Friends Wales

Getting back that sense of freedom – Being out in the fresh air – Exercising regularly at a pace that suits you – Making it easy to reconnect with others in your local community – Finding new places and routes or sharing familiar ones with others.

We want to make it easy for people over 50 to enjoy the outdoors, get regular gentle exercise and meet new people. The pace and duration of the walks is decided by the group. The walks are led by our wonderful team of volunteers.

First Walk in Maindee: Wednesday 6th April at 11am.
Meet at Llyfrgell Maindee Library: 79 Chepstow Road

Volunteer With Us

We are also recruiting more Volunteers to become Walk Leaders in their community so we can offer more walks and get more people involved. Volunteers are provided with all the necessary training and support to lead walks.

If you think you would like to join the walking group or be a Volunteer Walk Leader get in touch with Ilona.

Email: walkingfriendswales@livingstreets.org.uk

Call or text: 07566 777410



Cronfa Iach ac Egnïol
Healthy & Active Fund

The Triangle Update

The Triangle development on Chepstow Road is nearing completion. The main contractor should finish in early April. After commissioning and landscaping, the whole site should re-opened in May / June. The radical design by London / Berlin architect KHBT features a bright yellow large vertical wall that is already raising some eyebrows.

"Great!", says John Hallam from Maindee Unlimited. "We wanted something attention-grabbing that would really signal change".

The yellow wall is the backdrop to a new children's playstage built over the base of the circular planter. The site will also feature community planting beds, mature trees, grassed play areas, a cafe with outdoor covered seats, outdoor benches and, importantly, new public toilets.



"We are delighted to be re-opening a public toilet for community benefit" says Maindee Unlimited Chair, David Moses.

"It is five years since the Council closed the toilets and local residents and traders were getting fed up with the deteriorating behaviour on the site. It feels good that we have been able to turn that around."

Maindee Unlimited is now finalising a sublease of the café space. The income raised from that will be used to cover toilet cleaning, site maintenance and insurance.

Planning is now underway for a **grand opening**. One idea is to hold a Platinum Jubilee street party on The Triangle and Livingstone Place on **Sunday 5th June – what do you think?**



Great news from Community House

During lockdown, the Coffee 'n' Laughs friendship group at Community House did a fantastic job. By keeping in touch with local vulnerable women on WhatsApp and Zoom, they really helped people feel more empowered and connected.

This is not the only recent award to recognise the good work going on in Community House. Ingrid Wilson, surely the mainstay of the charity, received an MBE in the New Year UK Honours List. Ingrid has been a tireless proponent of global social justice for years. This honour has never been more deserved.

Because of this, plus the overall work of this amazingly diverse group of women, Coffee 'n' Laughs has just won the prestigious **Creative Lives 2021 Celebrating Diversity Award**. This is a major achievement. "Coffee 'n' Laughs is a great gang" says group member Sue Lewis. "We couldn't have spent lockdown with a better set of friends. We natter, knit and stitch, and didn't miss a beat". We wish the group continuing success.



RIGHT: Ingrid Wilson, MBE

LYFRGEL MAINDEE LIBRARY

Run by volunteers!

About a quarter of the people who have volunteered in the past 12 months say that volunteering has helped them to manage a chronic illness.

76% of people who volunteered in the last twelve months say that volunteering has made them feel healthier.

94% of people who volunteered in the last twelve months say that volunteering improves their mood.

96% say that volunteering enriches their sense of purpose in life.

95% say they are helping to make their community a better place.

food waste bags
compostable caddy liners **free**

Lending Library

FREE WiFi

Maindee Food Pantry

BUSINESS HOURS:

Mon.	2.30	to	5.00
Tues.	CLOSED	to	CLOSED
Wed.	10.00	to	5.00
Thur.	CLOSED	to	CLOSED
Fri.	2.30	to	4.30
Sat.	10.00	to	1.00
Sun.	CLOSED	to	CLOSED

Printer

NEW: Maindee Food Pantry



Pop into the Food Pantry for some free food

Loads of great food gets wasted every day. So a group of local food activists have just opened Maindee Food Pantry in the Library at 79 Chepstow Road, NP19 8BY.

They think it is better if people can have food for free than letting it go to waste. Everyone can use the Pantry and take any food they need. There is no charge and you don't have to join anything or show any documents – the big idea is just to save good food from being wasted.

The Pantry, which opened in February, has already saved 575kg of food from being dumped – that's over half a ton in old money! Proper food management procedures are in place and all volunteers are trained – so any food you take is totally safe. The main rules are: **(1)** Respect the crew and everyone else in the library **(2)** Only take what you need **(3)** Take your turn – first come first served **(4)** All food must be weighed before it is taken away.

The Pantry is currently open between 2.30pm and 4.30pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays – and on Saturday between 10.30am and 12pm.

It can be a bit of a lottery knowing what type of food will be there on any given day. *"It all depends on what any supermarket gives us on the day we collect"* says Food Pantry volunteer coordinator, Jane Shatford. *"Things are settling down nicely with the supermarkets now we are getting a more routine collection schedule in place"*. If you think you might be able to help with either food collection or serving in the Pantry then call in during opening hours or email Jane at pantry@maindee.org.

Maindee Food Pantry is part of the Community Fridge network. It acknowledges the generous support of the Hubbub Charitable Foundation.



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