



Maindee  
DISTRICT CENTRE  
RENEWAL PROJECT

# Time for a makeover

INTRODUCING THE  
Maindee District Centre  
Renewal Project

Maindee District Centre Renewal Project



UK Government Wales  
Llywodraeth y DU Cymru

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.

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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** or **aimeeparkerconsultancy@gmail.com**

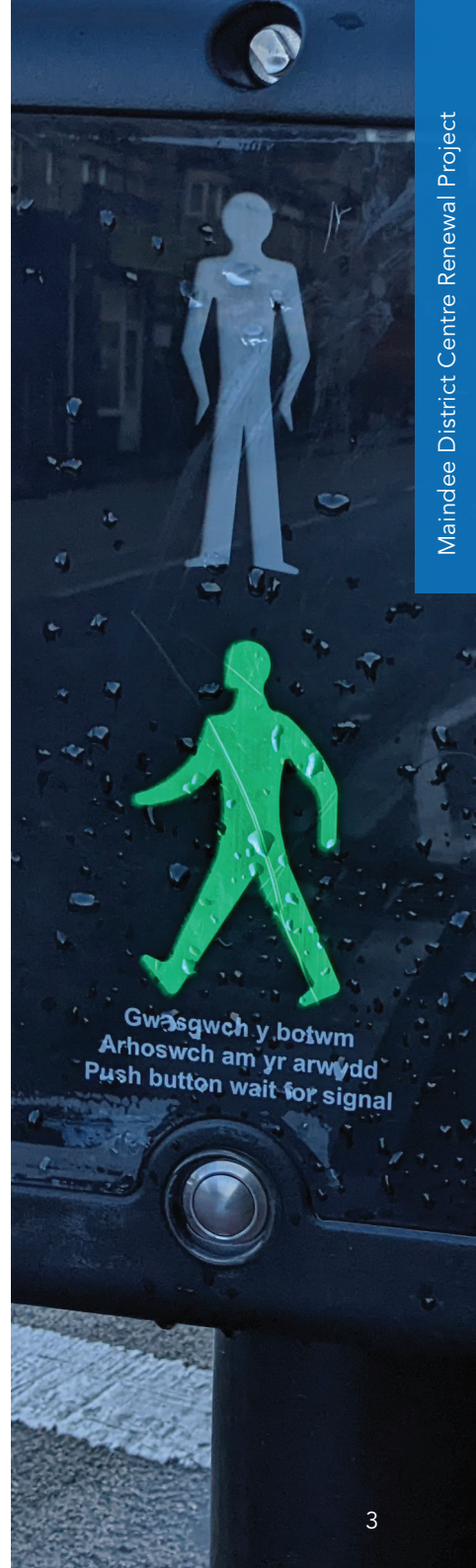
There will be lots of opportunities for local residents and traders to develop and input their own ideas and solutions over the next few months. **Year 7 students at St Julians School have already started on this and we hope this “Class of 2022” will keep an involvement with the project as it moves from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

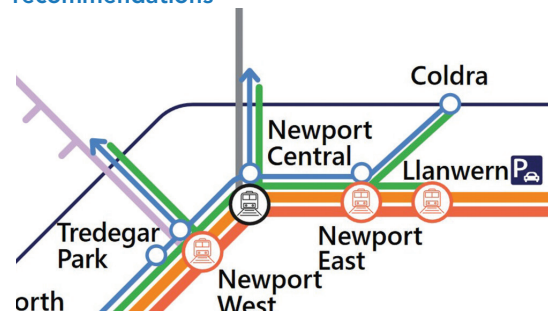
The report saw Chepstow Road as a key corridor for better cycling and bus priority as it connects large amounts of East Newport to the City Centre.

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](http://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](mailto: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 Llyfngell Maindee Library. The first workshop is on **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April from 10am–1pm**. The second is on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> April**. Or you can text or email your answers to **07967 918915** or **[aimeeparkerconsultancy@gmail.com](mailto: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 : \_\_\_\_\_

