



Mini Town Crier

By Newquay Town Council

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THE TOURISM SUMMIT

Right: The Mayor and Town Crier attend the Tourism Summit
Picture by Mr Mark Godsell



In the previous year of 2012, Newquays Tourist Information Centre held a summit which was free to attend for Tourism related businesses in the town. Newquay is one of the prime Tourist destinations in the county and it is key to its continuing success that businesses work together to provide the most enjoyable experience for visitors. The Tourist Information Centre works tirelessly to give local businesses the opportunity to promote themselves to the betterment of the town.

Newquay Town Council held the Summit again this year. The Lighthouse Cinema very kindly allowed the use of their foyer and cinema screen for the all-day event on 24th January 2013. The idea behind the summit is to bring the

businesses of Newquay all under one roof to discuss ideas on how to improve trade during the season.

The Tourist Information Centre team put a lot of time and effort into co-ordinating and promoting the event. There was a series of presentations and displays to interest and inform those who attended. The guest speaker, Mr Ben Moxom, did an excellent job of helping to identify who visits Newquay, why they come and what methods would work best to encourage more visitors.

SETTING THE PRECEPT FOR 2013/14

One of the most important tasks Newquay Town Council face is setting the annual Precept. This is the amount of money requested by the council, through Council Tax, in order to provide essential services needed by residents.

Cornwall Council also requests a sum of money to provide services such as refuse collection, road works, and car parks along with many more. There are currently changes being proposed to the way in which Cornwall Council calculates local Council Tax.

The Government are giving local authorities the opportunity to take a grant which could hopefully minimise any impact these changes may have however there are no guarantees whether this would be available in future years. The council discussed the issue at their Full Council meeting held on 23rd January 2013. With advice from the Town Clerk they voted to keep the precept the same as the previous year (2012-13) in order to continue running services. This will also open opportunities to take over more local assets which could be of great benefit to the town. Options for reducing the precept were considered by the council however it proved that these were too high risk as the grant from Government could cease leaving Newquay Town Council unable to guarantee the continuous smooth running of services. Newquay Town Council also considered the option of raising the precept however members felt it unfair to ask more from the people of the Town in such a tough economic climate.

THE MAYOR CELEBRATES HIS YEAR IN OFFICE

Councillor Kevin Towill, Mayor of Newquay, invited fellow councillors, residents associations, charities and other guests to celebrate his mayoral year. The event

took place on Friday 15th March 2013 at the Bristol Hotel in Newquay. Guests were treated to a 3 course meal of their choosing with an accompanying pianist to add to the ambiance. The Mayor thanked all of those who attended and for everyone who has helped support him and the Town during the year. The proceeds from the event went to various charities chosen by the Mayor himself.

PRIORY WOOD REFURBISHMENT

The Town Council acquired the lease of the Priory Wood land roughly a year and a half ago. Since this time the Council has looked into promoting access to the site for families, walkers, and cyclists. The Town Councillors recognised the historic and environmental importance of the area and were happy to take on this responsibility.

Priory Wood soon came under the remit of the Footpaths, Bridleways and Open Spaces committee. Members serving on that committee were keen and pro-active in identifying areas where the woodland could benefit from improvement.

Throughout last year volunteer groups, in conjunction with the Council, have worked hard towards regenerating the area and improving the biodiversity of the woodland. Tree planting projects and woodland management plans have been put in place to help achieve this.

The woodland requires continuous management to ensure footpaths and ancient tracks are not overgrown with vegetation. Due to the abnormal weather of last year it was been difficult to manage this growth.



*Left:
Priory Wood
before work
was undertaken
Picture by Miss
Joanna Kenny*

In the early months of 2013 the Town Council temporarily merged the responsibilities of the previous Footpaths committee with the Planning committee on a trial-only basis. Members successfully adopted these new responsibilities and quickly turned their attention to the matter of Priory Wood.

It was discussed at the January and February Planning committee meetings to obtain quotes from local contractors on what the cost would be to cut back the growth and to keep it maintained throughout the year. After discussion by members, a local contractor was given the task of clearing the footpath through Priory Wood and to keep it maintained to a respectable standard throughout the year.



Above: Priory Wood after the recent refurbishment
Picture by Mrs Jill Bunt

The Town Council is pleased have restored Priory Wood to its former glory and would like to encourage members of the public to visit this historic area. Thanks to the groundwork put in by the members of the Footpaths committee and the on-going hard work by the Planning committee, Priory Wood has become an area of natural beauty that the town can be proud of.