

## Youth forum links

TOWN councillors will seek closer links with the Fishguard and Goodwick Youth Forum after appointing a councillor to act as its representative.

Mayor Cllr Maggie Stringer and Cllr Chris John attended the forum's meeting on Tuesday, 17 July, and Cllr Stringer said that it is "important" to develop strong links between organisations like the forum and the POINT youth club and the town council.

Cllr John has been appointed as the council representative on the forum.

"It was a very positive meeting," Cllr John told councillors at a meeting on Tuesday.

"It was a real chance to get a connection between the council and the forum."

## Council grants

FISHGUARD and Goodwick Town Council approved over £1,000 of grants to local causes at its meeting on Tuesday.

Councillors approved a £500 grant to Goodwick Brass Band and Goodwick Mini and Junior Rugby Club, £25 to Withybush Radio and £25.49 to Goodwick and District Playgroup.

The grant for the brass band will be used to pay for adjudicators as the West Wales Brass Festival makes its inaugural visit to Pembrokeshire later this year, where it will be held at Ysgol Bro Gwaun.

Mayor Cllr Maggie Stringer said hosting the event will be an "honour" for the town.

Goodwick Mini and Junior Rugby Club will use its money towards a £17,000 project to develop a pitch on wasteland next to the Phoenix Centre and adult Rugby Club.

Finance Committee Chair, Cllr Sally Wilson, said the new facility would "benefit them and lots of people in the community" and is something the council is proud to support.

Goodwick and District Playgroup will receive packs of Crayola pens, costing £25.49, after it sent a list of required items to the council.

# Youngsters voice their views on the community

YOUNGSTERS in Fishguard and Goodwick are disaffected and feel they have no say in what happens in the community.

That is just one of the revelations uncovered in the recent Youth Survey, put together by Fishguard and Goodwick Youth Forum.

Over 80 per cent of youngsters, aged 11-18, answered no when asked 'Do you feel you have a say in what happens in your community?' - one of 35 questions posed on various community topics in the survey.

The results of the questionnaire will be utilised by youth organisations and community groups that

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need information for service planning, but some answers make for stark reading.

Over 75 per cent of youngsters said that are 'few' or 'no' opportunities to stay in the area after they finish school, with a lack of jobs in any sector being a driving factor.

With pressure growing over anti-social behaviour of a minority of youngsters in the twin towns, the police do not fare much better, and are having difficulty reaching the

town's youngsters. More than half of the 11-18 year olds said they are 'not aware' of the local Police Community Support Officer.

Among issues raised when asked about what one thing they would change in Fishguard and Goodwick, youngsters said there should be more job opportunities; the youth club should be open more often; people should respect their communities; the building of a snooker or pool hall and multi-use games area.

A Youth Forum spokesman said: "We recognise from this survey that young people have raised some valid issues which they feel need to be

addressed in order for them to play an active role in their community.

"Fishguard and Goodwick Youth Forum will look at these results and in partnership with other organisations will try and develop ways of addressing the identified issues in the report."

The report was designed by Youth Forum members Jack Ribbons, Kathryn James, Ieuan Llewellyn, Jake Smith, Zoe Sinnott, Cameron Fowler, Scott McDonald, Llŷr Tobin and Angharad Jenkins-Wendon.

The survey was commissioned by Fishguard Goodwick and Lower Town Civic Society.

## Community facility welcomes a er school club

A COMMUNITY facility in Newport has welcomed its latest venture with a new after-school club.

Newport Kids After School Club has been running since half-term at the new facility adjacent to the playing fields building.

Built with the help of Planed and the Newport Playing Field Charity, it was officially opened in January by the mayor Byron James and Jane Howells of Planed.

It plays host to a number of community groups and hosted the Olympic Torch celebrations and the Queens Jubilee party in June.

The building plays host to a Mother and Toddler Playgroup on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursday mornings, and is now

also home to the newly launched After School Club, providing children from the local school with use of the facility until 5.30pm.

Despite only running for six weeks, the club has been a roaring success and organisers are now taking on more play-workers.

Local county councillor, Paul Harries, said: "We are delighted with the success of this community facility, which is the culmination of several years of hard work and commitment by 'Dros Blant - 4 Kids' in conjunction with the Playing Field Charity.

"We hope it will grow from strength to strength and provide an opportunity for children and parents to enjoy its facilities."

For more information contact Helen on 01239 820363.



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## Meeting rescheduled

A MEETING between Fishguard and Goodwick Town Council and outside agencies about the growing problem of underage drinking in Fishguard has been delayed until September after the council received little to no responses on its invitations.

Originally scheduled for 31 July, councillors decided to

reschedule until after its August hiatus to give invitees, including police, school representatives, licensees and supermarket managers, a chance to respond.

Cllr Alex Allison, who brought up the subject at a meeting earlier this month, backed the move to postpone the meeting and added he

has been surprised by the level of response received on the subject since it appeared in the *Echo* last week.

"I've been surprised by the response, so it is obviously something people are concerned about," he said.

"Moving the meeting back will give an opportunity for everyone to be there."

## Ed to take on rowing challenge

A NORTH Pembrokeshire man will take on one of the world's toughest challenges to raise £250,000 for Breakthrough Breast Cancer.

Ed Curtis (right), along with Nick Rees from Surrey, will be testing the limits of their strength and endurance by rowing the Atlantic Ocean as part of the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge, starting in December 2013.

They are taking on the lung-busting race to raise money and awareness for the charity. Nick's wife and Ed's lifelong friend, Ellen, was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2009 at the age of 33.

Ed and Nick will row from La Gomera in the Canary Islands to English Harbour in Antigua - a distance of 2,600



nautical miles.

The journey takes on average 50 days to complete while the pair row 24 hours a day, in shifts of two hours on, two hours off.

They will burn 8,000 calories a day and lose 20 per cent

of their bodyweight during the crossing.

Father of two Ed, 37, has lived in north Wales for 10 years but is "Pembrokeshire born and bred" and his parents still live in Dinas Cross. He said: "I love a challenge and there are few bigger challenges than this."

"We have to be a bit mad to take this on, but we should get through it because we are both very determined and, more important, close friends."

The duo will be hosting a fund-raising bash at the Boat Club in Newport on Saturday, 28 July, from 12.30pm.

To find out more about Ed and Nick's challenge visit [www.breakthroughatlantic.com](http://www.breakthroughatlantic.com).