

Ask for/Gofynnwch am  
Our Ref/Ein Cyf  
Your Ref/Eich Cyf  
Tel/Ffôn  
Direct Dial/Rhif Union  
DX

**+441633 656656**

E-Mail/E-Bost Jane.Mudd@newport.gov.uk

Civic Centre/Canolfan Ddinesig  
Newport/Casnewydd  
South Wales/De Cymru  
NP20 4UR



19<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Secretary of State

### **Re: UK City of Culture 2025 Competition**

As leaders of the five local authorities that comprise the former “Gwent” we believe that there is a strength and unique appeal in a City of Newport led, regional offer and would welcome your support for our bid.

As a region, our past, present and future are inextricably linked. We share a social, cultural and economic history underpinned by our internationally recognised heritage. From Roman settlements at Caerleon and Caerwent to Norman settlements across the region, an industrial heritage built on coal, iron and steel; a UNESCO World Heritage site at Blaenavon, the advancement of democracy through the chartist and suffragette movements and the birthplace of the architect of the NHS. Our unique geography and landscape, framed by our industrial and maritime heritage, has shaped this shared history and culture.

Our heritage assets are internationally recognised; this is acknowledged by the investment that our heritage organisations have made in the restoration of our assets including the £8.75m investment in the Transporter Bridge by HLF and the recent announcement of £5m investment by Cadw in Caerphilly Castle. The unique landscape is complementary to and forms part of this cultural heritage; the Gwent Levels, Valleys Regional Park, Brecon Beacons National Park, Cwmcarn Scenic Drive, the Monmouthshire and Brecon canal, all enhance the visitor offer and contribute to the well being of our communities.

We have a strong case to make in terms of our cultural identity across a range of themes including, heritage, arts, sports and music. We can also demonstrate that there are measurable benefits for the region associated with being the City of Culture in 2025. Alongside economic growth from increased tourism, we can build and celebrate more cohesive communities and showcase the digital and data focussed opportunities which are available for investors.

Within this Newport is a Gateway City; gateway to Wales, the gateway to England and a global gateway through our international port. We are also a City of Sanctuary. Newport is fast emerging as a ‘Data City’ within a digitally empowered region and we need to nurture and grow that opportunity. We need to embed it in everything we do to ensure that the region develops in a resilient and sustainable way, for the benefit of our future generations.

Capacity to deliver a year round programme of events will be the key to any successful bid. The International Convention Centre Wales is located within Newport. Facilities within Newport and the surrounding region are excellent and in some cases unique. We have hosted numerous high profile events including the Ryder Cup, G8 Summit, NATO summit, Tour of Britain, British Transplant Games, National Eisteddfod and the Urdd Eisteddfod within the region.

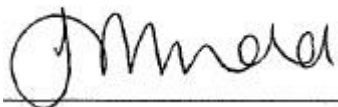
The “Gwent” local area has a rich cultural heritage and a growing presence and expertise in digital and data. There is strong potential to develop a bid that both embraces our past and projects forward to the future, incorporating advanced digital technology to take forward access to cultural

events and experiences across the whole of the "Gwent" region. Our strength however, lies in our people and our communities; both our spatially defined neighbourhoods and communities and our communities of interest. Ours is a region rich in social and cultural capital and a successful bid would provide the global platform on which to showcase this.

We would value your support for a Newport led bid for UK City of Culture 2025. As we collaborate to build back better there is a significant opportunity to develop a blueprint for a modern connected city embedded within a region steeped in history and culture. This will showcase the "Gwent" regional offer at its finest and deliver a lasting legacy of cultural enrichment and economic prosperity.

Thank you for your support and encouragement on this topic.

Yours sincerely



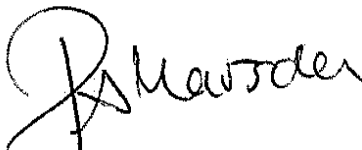
Cllr Jane Mudd Leader  
Newport City Council



Cllr Nigel Daniels Leader  
Blaenau Gwent Council



Cllr Richard John  
Monmouthshire County  
Council



Cllr Phillipa Marsden Leader  
Caerphilly County Borough Council



Cllr Anthony Hunt Leader  
Torfaen County Borough Council

To Whom It May Concern,

I came to Newport when I was 5 years old and now I'm 23, and to say that Newport has evolved by leaps and bounds would honestly be an understatement. I have had the privilege to watch the city bloom and flourish, and to play a significant part in its development in the last 18 months. We are a vibrant, diverse and multi-cultural city with so much to offer to the nation and becoming the City of Culture would allow us to bring the city to life in a way that would be exciting and engaging for the citizens of Newport. I wholeheartedly support Newport's bid to become the City of Culture. I am certain that the positive impact that this would have on Newport and its citizens would be profound as it could be a crucial step in the rapid evolution of Newport, a city that is becoming a beacon of inspiration and creativity. Furthermore, this would give us the opportunity to work collectively to organise a series of events that would showcase all the talent that Newport has to offer and would be beneficial for all citizens in Newport. I look forward to playing a part in Newport potentially becoming the City of Culture.

Sincerely,

Andrew Ogun (Arts Council of Wales & BLM Gwent)

[andrewogun@hotmail.com](mailto:andrewogun@hotmail.com)



Dear Jane

UK City of Culture 2025.

I am from Newport and have been committed to the evolution and promotion of the arts in the city for over 35 years. Ballet Cymru, the company I founded in the city in 1986 has grown to be one of only two Arts Portfolio Wales professional dance companies in Wales and its ambition is to be a National company for Wales based in the city.

We are proud and positive ambassadors for Newport in the cities we visit as part of our two UK national tours we undertake every year and through our international touring to countries including Italy, China, Bermuda and the USA.

We are good at working in partnerships which have included projects with The BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Newport Live and The Dahl Foundation. Our stakeholders include The Arts Council of Wales, The Paul Hamlyn Foundation and The Linbury Trust. Our Patrons include Cerys Matthews, who has worked with us on multiple projects and Catrin Finch who has performed and created music for us including for the National Eisteddfod of Wales.

Our outreach programmes reach over 4000 young people every year, including our national *Duets* programme that benefits 197 young people from challenged economic backgrounds and provides two years of free training. The company work with many schools across Newport and are continually inspired by the inspiration and potential of the young people in the city.

If being UK City of Culture can help Newport give more opportunities to these exceptional young people, if it can help the city find its cultural identity and pride, and if it can help signpost regeneration through the arts, then I wholeheartedly support, and look forward to using all our resources to support, Newport City Council's UK City of Culture 2025 bid.

Yours sincerely,  
Darius James OBE  
Artistic Director  
Ballet Cymru

✉: [dariusjames@welshballet.co.uk](mailto:dariusjames@welshballet.co.uk)

t: +44 (0)1633 892927

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Ballet Cymru  
Uned 1, Stad Fasnachu'r Wern,  
Tŷ-du, Casnewydd  
NP10 9FQ Cymru DU

Elusen rhif. 1000855

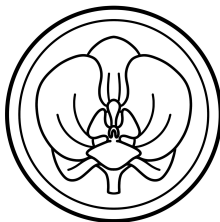
Cofrestredig yn Lloegr ac yng Nghymru  
Gwent Ballet Theatre Cyf. 02535169

Ballet Cymru  
Unit 1, Wern Trading Estate,  
Rogerstone, Newport  
NP10 9FQ Wales UK

Charity No 1000855

Registered in England and Wales as  
Gwent Ballet Theatre Ltd. 02535169





## **UK City of Culture Application : Newport**

To the Head of Dept. of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS),

Newport, not Newport Isle of Wight, not Newport Essex or even Newport west Wales. This is about Newport, South Wales and why it is so great. A city that is still young in adopting the title of 'City', but soon to be celebrating its 20th Anniversary of her proud status.

I was approached to write this supporting information and I was filled with what some would call 'home spirit' of the news that a bid was being submitted for Newport (Casnewydd) to be recognised as the UK City of Culture.

In recent months I have proudly moved back and 'come home' to Newport after studying and developing my professional career away for the last 15 years working within the Broadcast sector amongst other areas. I am proud to say that over those years, as cliché as it may sound, I have worn Newport proudly on my sleeve and still continue to do so. I have never been shy to profess such to others and when engaged in discussions, jump to proclaim many reasons as to why Newport is so special and admirable.

I have been fortunate enough to have lived and worked in some of the most rapidly developing and culturally diverse cities within the UK over the years, that being Manchester and Leeds and have witnessed and experienced rapid change in day to day life and arts and business develop around me.

Let's cut to the point now. What makes Newport so special? Simple. If you need an answer to that big question as to why Newport? Well, it's the people!

You look around you and it's buried deep within the river banks of the Usk or etched in the walls of buildings that once stood before, a long line of people of instigators and purveyors of such great things for Newport over the years and especially its arts and musical history (past, present and ever growing). Those brave people (through ever changing economic climates) independently persevere to run our music venues, pubs and clubs, record stores, eateries, art galleries, breweries, art spaces, skateboard shops and theatres - just to name a few, providing breeding grounds of creativity, entertainment and development to new and emerging people. Newport is full of these wonderful people.

I think that's a testament to why I've decided to produce a Feature Documentary Film '*The Rock of Newport*' focusing on Newport's musical heritage and to open my own production company 'Black Orchid Films' operating out of Newport and focusing on these great people and some of their stories.

Newport is not shy of being committed and extremely passionate and supportive to its arts and live music scene. No, I'm not just talking about a few instances, like when Mike Peters MBE played Le Public Space (a 100 cap venue) 2 years ago, or far back when David Bowie played in Newport Centre in 1989...ever heard of a place called 'The Legendary TJs'? There's plenty of stories there. Let's jump back say, 10 years even before that to 1979 when The Cure, Adam Ant, The Pretenders and The Sex Pistols all each in their own right played a club on a hill in Newport's then town centre.

### **BLACK ORCHID FILMS LTD**

**Barnabas Arts House, New Ruperra St, Newport, south Wales, NP20 2BB**

[www.blackorchidfilms.com](http://www.blackorchidfilms.com) | [thisisblackorchid@gmail.com](mailto:thisisblackorchid@gmail.com)

Don't get me started on some of the biggest universal exports of music originating from here over the last 30+ Years; 60ft Dolls, Goldie Lookin Chain (GLC), The Darling Buds, Skindred, Feeder, and home for sometime to the late Joe Strummer (The Clash), furthermore South Walian friends of Newport, the Manic Street Preachers even operate a studio out of Newport.

Newport is a city built on tradition, not only of that of old traditions and nostalgia and days gone by, old tales around a beer and a time that once was. Newport's tradition is built upon change and diversifying with the times and a tradition of resilience, resurgence and reinvention. .

In the last few years especially, even despite the COVID pandemic that has hit everyone, the vibrancy and desire for the arts, music and creative nucleus inside of people is more prominent and busting with energy more than ever before and it's refreshing to see in people of all ages and walks of life in Newport. Newport does not prejudice.

It is a given, but under people's breath, you listen quietly enough, and unashamedly you can hear them say that Newport is already a City of Culture. But this city needs its attention from the outsiders to help develop and nurture its minds and ideas.

On a personal note, I have even spent time personally and professionally associated to Hull, Derry and Coventry (the three most recent Cities of Culture). All places too that rightly deserve such accolades.

I couldn't think of a City or a home, more willing of this title, than Newport.

Yours sincerely,

**Nathan Jennings - DIRECTOR**

+44 (0) 7740 117 680

**BLACK ORCHID FILMS LTD**

**Barnabas Arts House, New Ruperra St, Newport, south Wales, NP20 2BB**

[www.blackorchidfilms.com](http://www.blackorchidfilms.com) | [thisisblackorchid@gmail.com](mailto:thisisblackorchid@gmail.com)

**From:** christopher thomas <[christopherdavidthomas71@gmail.com](mailto:christopherdavidthomas71@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** 14 July 2021 16:28

**To:** Mudd, Jane (Leader) <[Jane.Mudd@newport.gov.uk](mailto:Jane.Mudd@newport.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** CITY OF CULTURE 2025

Jane,

On behalf of Celf Caerleon Arts, I would like to support the City Council in its submission of an Expression of Interest for the City of Culture 2025.

Celf Caerleon Arts is a not-for-profit organisation registered as a Community Interest Company.

We organise a range of arts events during each (normal) year in and around Caerleon, focussing on a 2 week Arts Festival in early July, usually attended by thousands from a wide area, but also a Christmas Farmers' Market and a celebration of the Welsh New Year.

The content of the July event typically includes open-air Shakespeare in the Caerleon Amphitheatre; a Literary Day and All Wales Comic Verse competition at the Priory Hotel; Welsh choirs (Morrison Orpheus or Treorchy Male Voice); Songs of Praise at St. Cadoc's Church; a range of music events at venues throughout the village; a popular free weekend event - The Big Free - at the Festival Field (Wildflower Meadow) - including in 2019, nearly 40 stalls, for arts and craft groups; nearly 30 bands/singers playing at the Field and 2 nearby pubs; and renowned wood sculptor, Chris Wood.

We are committed to enabling participation in the Festival from across the whole community and would welcome the opportunity to cooperate with others to ensure a successful City of Culture.

regards,

Chris Thomas

Director, Celf Caerleon Arts

Tim Davidson,

Chair, Celf Caerleon Arts



GOL/RW/025/21

14 July 2021

Cllr Jane Mudd  
c/o Newport City Council  
Civic Centre  
Newport  
NP20 4UR

Dear Cllr. Mudd

**Re: Newport - City of Culture 2025**

I was delighted to hear that you were preparing a bid for City of Culture 2025, which I'm certain would have significant benefits for the cultural and social well-being of our tremendous city and the Gwent region. It is also an initiative which I believe has a complete fit with the shared aspirations of all the Newport partner organisations, to celebrate the richness of character and diversity that is the hallmark of Newport.

This letter is to signify our complete support for your expression of interest and to let you know that Coleg Gwent would willingly participate in the project.

There are potentially many ways in which we could be involved - we are a major part of the skills and training network that serves the city and surrounding region and have a major role to play in supporting our creative industries. But in addition to this, we are the 'learning home' for thousands of young people and adults in Newport and Gwent and would be delighted to engage them in creating projects, organising events and coordinating volunteering. I'm sure that the College would be able to add significant value to the programme and that collectively we would advance the social, cultural and economic regeneration of Newport and our wider region.

I wish you the very best of luck and look forward to working with you to promote Newport and Gwent as the 2025 City of Culture.

Yours sincerely

**Guy Lacey**  
Principal / Chief Executive *Pennaeth / Prif Weithredwr*  
Ffôn \* Tel 01495 333501  
[guy.lacey@coleggwent.co.uk](mailto:guy.lacey@coleggwent.co.uk)

Pencadlys/ Campws Brynbuga  
Y Rhadyr  
Brynbuga NP15 1XJ

Campws Dinas Casnewydd  
Ffordd Nash  
Casnewydd NP19 4TS

Campws Crosskeys  
Ffordd Risca  
Crosskeys NP11 7ZA

Parth Dysgu Blaenau Gwent  
Rhodfa Calch  
Glynebwy NP23 6GL

Campws Ponty-pwl  
Ffordd Blaendare  
Pont-y-pwl NP4 5YE

Headquarters/Usk Campus  
The Rhadyr  
Usk NP15 1XJ

City of Newport Campus  
Nash Road  
Newport NP19 4TS

Crosskeys Campus  
Risca Road  
Crosskeys NP11 7ZA

Blaenau Gwent Learning Zone  
Lime Avenue  
Ebbw Vale NP23 6GL

Pontypool Campus  
Balendare Road  
Pontypool NP4 5YE

Newport, August 5th, 2021,

To Whom It May Concern

The Cwtsh Community and Arts Centre at The Handpost, Newport was formed in 2013 after much hard work by a committed band of local people.

In November, 2013, the Cwtsh began holding monthly Open Mic sessions at the Murenger House in Newport and, it is fair to say, we have kept 'the flame of poetry' alive in Newport. We have hosted poets and writers from all over South Wales and even further afield. Amongst those poets and prose writers we have welcomed are such names as Mike Church, Jonathan Edwards, John Freeman, Ben Banyard, Christopher Norris, Siôn Tomos Owen, Nigel Jarrett, Mike Jenkins, Matthew Barnard, Katherine Gallagher, Dylan Moore, Ben Ray, Eluned Gramich, Wendy Holborow, Matt Nunn, Clare E Potter, The Red Poets, David Briggs and David Clarke and Katherine Stansfield to name but a few, we were well on course to celebrating our 75th Open Mic at the Murenger until the pandemic put an end to all such plans.

The Cwtsh First Friday sessions first began on February 3rd, 2017 at 7.30 pm and have featured many writers, artists, photographers and people of interest from the local area and further afield. We have had Nigel Jarrett talking about his new novel *Slow Burning* and various others including Gillian Brightmore, Professor Bernard Knight, Belinda Bauer, Peter Finch, Mike Jenkins, Jon Gower and Catherine Fisher. Jan Newton, Tess Hadley and Robert Wilson have all helped to keep the ball rolling. Cath Little has read her stories from Welsh and Celtic Folklore.

Katie Batchelor, Will Cross, Dylan Moore, Rachel Ward, Evonne Wareham, Jill Barry, Chris Goddard, Christine Watkins,

Jan Newton, Tessa Hadley and Robert Wilson all came to the CWTSH to play music, show their photographs and read from their work to an appreciative audience.

The Cwtsh has also carved out a growing reputation as an impressive local Art Gallery. We have held exhibitions by, amongst others, Josh Cranton and Rhys Jones, Gerard Whyman, Conor Elliott, The Shared Walk Collective, Photography Students from Cardiff and Vale College, Alix Edwards, Kamila Jarczak and Ella J Wilding.

Cwtsh has also catered to other needs such as computer courses, Ukulele clubs, creative writing classes, French classes, Spanish classes, Welsh classes, poetry workshops, poetry one to ones, art classes and many other activities including running a Children's Library which is held once a week.

Newport, or *Casnewydd*, as it is known in Welsh, has long been one of Wales's best kept secrets with a culture and a history all its own. From its leading literary figures; from Arthur Machen and W.H. Davies to Leslie Thomas and Catherine Fisher; from its 1839 Chartist Uprising connections to its renowned Roman remains in the Caerleon area of the City, (the Headquarters of the Second Augustan Legion), and the exploits of its rugby and football teams, to the River Usk with its second highest tidal rise and fall in the world, spanned by our very own iconic Transport Bridge, Newport is showing that it is no longer content to hide its 'light under a bushel' and is ready and willing to demonstrate to the world in general and the rest of the UK in particular that it would be proud to wear the mantle of the UK City of Culture in 2025.

It goes without saying that being crowned the 2025 UK City of Culture would bring great benefits to all of Newport and provide an immeasurable boost to those many local organisations who do so much to maintain and uphold culture in all its varied and differing forms in our city.

Everyone at the Cwtsh Community and Arts Centre stands ready to play a full and active part in any or all of the proposed

events, that are slated to be part of Newport's bid, and we give our wholehearted backing to Jane Mudd and Newport City Council in their efforts to ensure that Newport wins the nomination for UK City of Culture, 2025.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Roderick, Chairman of the Cwtsh Community and Arts Centre. [alanroderick11@gmail.com](mailto:alanroderick11@gmail.com)

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The Chrysalis Centre  
3 Town Bridge Buildings  
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[www.cyfannol.org.uk](http://www.cyfannol.org.uk)



13<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Councillor Jane Mudd,  
Leader Newport City Council  
Civic Centre,  
Godfrey Road  
Newport  
NP20 4UR

**Reference: City of Culture 2025**

Dear Councillor Mudd

I am writing on behalf of Cyfannol Women's Aid and its support of Newport City Council's application for City of Culture 2025.

As an organisation with over 40 years history of delivering services within Newport and wider Gwent, we recognise that we are part of a vibrant community that supports and makes real difference to people lives.

As part of this, we would be happy to collaborate with similar agencies within the city to co-deliver workshops that include:

- The women's movement in Newport
- The third sector community
- Housing and regeneration
- The importance of arts, culture, and community in recovery

We are fully supportive of Newport City Council's application and hope that the rich and diverse culture of Newport is recognised.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Kell  
Development & Fundraising Manager





13<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Jane

On behalf of the Celtic Manor Resort and International Convention Centre Wales, I write to fully endorse and support the submission for the City of Newport to become the City of Culture in 2025.

City of Culture status will help Newport make a step change in its cultural offering and leave a lasting legacy for the experience of people visiting the city. It represents a fantastic opportunity for Newport to build on recent redevelopment in the city centre, revitalise other areas, and galvanise the community to work on a project they can feel real pride in.

Newport has a strong cultural tradition to draw on from the Roman fortress of Caerleon to its industrial heritage as one of Britain's most important coal-exporting ports in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The spirit of its people continues to reflect the famous Chartist Rising of 1839, but Newport is a city with significant areas of deprivation, which would stand to gain most from City of Culture status.

Newport has a proud track record for hosting major events of the stature required to formulate a City of Culture programme of events. Here at the Celtic Manor Resort, we have partnered with the City Council on the two most significant events to be held in the city this century - the 2010 Ryder Cup and the 2014 NATO Summit.

These global events required robust civic teamwork, meticulous planning and community engagement, all of which we were able to achieve in partnership with both Newport City Council and Welsh Government.

Since staging those successful events on the world stage, we have greatly enhanced our facilities with the building of ICC Wales, a game-changing venue for Wales as a destination to attract business and cultural events.

Among the first events to be staged there when the new venue opened in September 2019 were the UK Space Conference, An Experience with Arnold Schwarzenegger, and the Nutcracker On Ice Christmas show, all of which enjoyed the involvement and enthusiasm of the local community.



With state-of-the-art facilities including a 1,500-seat auditorium and separate 4,000 sq m main hall and the expertise of our experienced leadership team, ICC Wales would be ready to host and support fantastic events for the City of Culture programme.

Facilities at the Celtic Manor Resort, consistently voted the UK's Best Hotel at the Meetings & Incentive Travel Awards, would also be available to support Newport's City of Culture status.

I reiterate my support for this submission and look forward to working with Newport City Council to bring this incredible opportunity to fruition.

Yours sincerely

Chief Executive  
The Celtic Collection and ICC Wales



To: Newport City Council

Date 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021

Dear Tracey,

Further to our recent chat and you sharing the exciting news that the City of Newport will be bidding to become the City of Culture in 2025, we at Newport Market would like to offer our full support at all levels leading up to this, during the time of judgement and obviously in the delivery of full and exciting programme of events to celebrate Newport being the City of Culture in 2025.

The Market over the next 5 years is building an Events Calendar which will work with the whole of the community on a collaborative basis and it will include, Weddings, Birthdays, Festivals, Conventions etc.. More importantly, however, we are looking to bring in Digital Art Galleries, Book Festivals (Similar to Hay on Wye), create workshops for many Independent Artists/Makers and develop this to a point where the Market will become the independent hub for all levels of commerce in the City

Newport is on an upward trajectory, which is hugely exciting for us all and we feel the Market in its place next to the Bus Station and Railway Station is ideally placed to be able to assist Newport to win this bid. We as a Company will place all our resources for your availability as and when required.

The refurbishment of the historic indoor market is due to be completed within the next six months and events and celebrations will be a core part of the operation. We have worked in partnership with the Council to deliver this project and we fully intend to continue this great partnership to celebrate everything Newport has to offer, now and in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Baston – Director

**DS Properties (Newport Market) Ltd., Off Edge, Station Approach, Penarth CF64 3EE  
Registered Company Number 12026160**



**Ethnic Minorities  
& Youth Support  
Team Wales**

**Tîm Cymorth  
Lleiafrifoedd Ethnig  
& Ieuenctid Cymru**

13<sup>th</sup> July 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

**Letter of Endorsement**

I'm writing on behalf of Ethnic Minorities and Youth Support Team Wales in order to endorse Newport City Council's bid to be recognised as the UK's City of Culture in 2025. As an organisation, we have two projects currently being offered in Newport: Black and Minority Ethnic Children & Young People and Newport Youth Futures which aims to work with children, young people, and families from an ethnically diverse background between the ages of 0-25. We have over 200 clients in Newport that have benefited from the services we have offered. Without the partnership work and support of the Connected Communities team at Newport City Council we would not have been able to achieve the successes we have had and made a key difference to the lives of individuals and communities. We would be thrilled to support Newport City Council to be the UK City of Culture in 2025, continuing to showcase and celebrate the diverse communities who live in Newport.

We wish you Newport City Council the best of luck with the bid and look forward to our continued partnership working.

Yours sincerely,

**Rocio Cifuentes,  
EYST Chief Executive**

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**Ethnic Minorities and Youth Support Team (EYST) Wales**

Head Office: Units B & C, 11 St Helens Road, Swansea, SA1 4AB | Cardiff Office: 1st Floor, St Pauls Church, Butetown, Cardiff, CF10 5JA

Tel No: 01792 466980 | [www.eyst.org.uk](http://www.eyst.org.uk) | [info@eyst.org.uk](mailto:info@eyst.org.uk)

Registered Charity No: 1152486 | Company No: 6709767

Patron of the Organisation: Rowan Williams, Baron Williams of Oystermouth, PC, FBA, FRSL, FLSW





Jane Mudd  
Leader  
Newport City Council  
Civic Centre  
Newport  
South Wales  
NP20 4UR

9<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Jane

Please take this letter as acknowledgement of our full support and willingness to participate in Newport's application to become the City of Culture 2025.

We believe it will be great for the City of Newport and the wider Welsh communities if we were to win this prestigious accolade.

We will be putting together separately a document outlining the ways in which we will be able to support this application under separate cover over the coming days

Best of luck in this and I believe by working in partnership with ALL stakeholders, we can become the City of Culture 2025. If you have any questions or queries at this stage, please let me know.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, enclosed in a hand-drawn oval. The signature is stylized and appears to read 'Simon J. Pullen'.

Simon J. Pullen

Centre Director

Friars Walk Shopping Centre

Cc Anna Rippin – Bewonder

Joanne Parcel – Newport City Council



To Councillor Jane Mudd, Leader of Newport City Council

Dear Councillor Mudd,

As Chair of the Friends of Newport Museum & Art Gallery (FONMAG) I am writing on behalf of the Friends in full support of the bid by the City Council for Newport to be nominated as UK City of Culture 2025.

We are an independent group in Newport supporting the arts and cultural provision of Newport Museum and Art Gallery. We support the preservation, presentation and development of the collections of the Newport Museum and Art Gallery in cooperation with the management and staff. We aim to promote awareness of and stimulate interest in Newport.

We feel that the designation of Newport as City of Culture 2025 would showcase the arts and enhance the cultural provision within the City, and we would like to contribute in any way we can.

Your faithfully

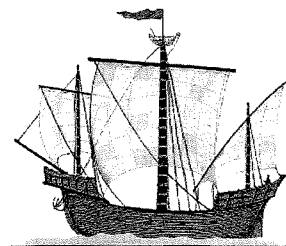
A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "C. A. Hutchings".

Christabel Hutchings (Chair) & Committee

Friends of Newport Museum and Art Gallery

# Friends of the Newport Ship

The Ship Centre, Unit 20, Estuary Road,  
Queensway Meadows Industrial Estate, Newport, NP19 4SP  
Registered Charity No 1105449  
[www.newportship.org](http://www.newportship.org)



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Correspondence address: Secretary, PO Box 109, Caldicot, NP26 9AR  
mobile: 07718 751391 e-mail: [secretary@newportship.org](mailto:secretary@newportship.org)

Councillor Jane Mudd,  
Leader, Newport City Council,  
Civic Centre,  
Godfrey Road,  
Newport,  
NP20 4UR

14<sup>th</sup> August 2021

Dear Councillor Mudd,

Re: City of Culture 2025

I am writing on behalf of the Friends of the Newport Ship to offer our support of Newport City Council's application for City of Culture 2025.

Newport has a wealth of heritage and culture much of which has not been fully exploited in the past. The initiative by the Council to place greater emphasis on this City's potential in this regard is very welcome.

The Newport Medieval Ship is internationally unique; it is the most complete 15<sup>th</sup> Century European ship ever recovered anywhere in the world and, when it is re-assembled and on view to the public, will probably attract over 100,000 visitors to Newport each year, including many from outside the UK. This will provide a major boost to the local economy.

Newport is indeed fortunate to have two iconic heritage attractions with the Ship and the Transporter Bridge and numerous other important historic features such as the Chartists, the Romans, maritime history, Fourteen Locks, the Newport Museum and Art Gallery etc.

We would be happy to collaborate with other heritage and cultural bodies within the city to provide a programme of talks and other events as part of the Council's application for City of Culture 2025.

We are fully supportive of Newport City Council's application and hope that the rich and diverse culture and heritage of Newport are recognised and appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Kenny', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Robert Kenny  
Secretary

# The Baroness Wilcox of Newport



July 17<sup>th</sup> 2021

Dear Secretary of State

## Newport 2025 City of Culture

I am writing to you in support of the Regional Bid for the 2025 City of Culture. As the former Leader of Newport City Council before my elevation to the House of Lords I strongly supported the development of cultural and artistic developments in the city and the wider region based on my experience of over thirty years as a Performing Arts teacher in South Wales schools.

I saw at first-hand how empowering and uplifting a role the arts can play in people's lives and I'm proud that many of my former pupils from city and valleys comprehensive schools now work in the entertainment industry across the UK.

There is a continuing inequality within Newport and the "Gwent" region of arts organisations commensurate with the size and diversity of the population and arts funding has always been less than required. This bid would be a generational change in that position and will lead to a greater sense of national and international identity. One of my final discussions as Leader in conjunction with the Newport Economic Network under the chairmanship of Professor Simon Gibson CBE was to try and bring a major UK arts museum to locate an annexe in Newport – the onset of the pandemic set that aside but I'm sure discussions could soon be revived in the light of this important bid.

It is notwithstanding that the investment, jobs and reduction of inequalities would follow in the light of the bid but I cannot emphasise enough the real hunger for change that is embedded in the city and its region as we move towards a better future after the most disruptive of times.

Newport is the UK's city of democracy – the home of the enfranchisement of people and the gateway city of Wales. It could and should be the UK City of Culture 2025 and I put my full support behind the bid.

Yours sincerely

*Wilcox of Newport*

Lady Wilcox

**House of Lords London SW1A 0PW**

**Tel: 07816 779 456   020 7219 5503   Email: [wilcoxd@parliament.uk](mailto:wilcoxd@parliament.uk)**





## Jayne Bryant

Aelod o'r Senedd dros Gorllewin Casnewydd

—  
Member of the Senedd for Newport West

### Senedd Cymru

Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd, CF99 1SN

 [Jayne.Bryant@senedd.cymru](mailto:Jayne.Bryant@senedd.cymru)

 [senedd.cymru/JayneBryant](https://twitter.com/senedd.cymru/JayneBryant)

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### Welsh Parliament

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 01633 376 627

 [JBryantWales](https://twitter.com/JBryantWales)

 [JBryantNewport](https://facebook.com/JBryantNewport)

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July 2021

To whom it may concern,

As the Member of the Senedd for Newport West, I wholeheartedly support Newport City Council's bid for the City of Culture.

Newport and the Gwent Valleys are tied through our cultural bond.

In Caerleon, we have almost 2,000 years of rich history with the most complete Roman amphitheatre in the UK, impressive fortress baths, and the only remainder of Roman legionary barracks on view anywhere in Europe.

Our unique Chartist heritage puts Newport and the Gwent Valleys squarely at the forefront of modern democracy whilst Tredegar House, the Transporter Bridge and the Gwent levels are living landmarks to the great story and traditions of Wales, and these British Isles.

Modern day Newport can boast the UK's newest events venue in the International Convention centre right next door to the Celtic Manor, the host of both the 2010 Ryder Cup and the 2014 NATO Summit. Newport has been a hot-bed of an alternative music scene over many years with venues such as Le Pub leading the way. The Geraint Thomas Velodrome has been home to some of the most successful British athletes and Olympians of any era, and our football, rugby and athletics teams have shown how they galvanise support throughout the region. With our artists, art gallery and the Riverfront and Dolman, it's clear that Newport has so much to showcase.

This is such an exciting opportunity to highlight the diverse community and hundreds of different cultures which make up our proud City. We must take every advantage of the cultural opportunities on our doorstep, and I believe becoming a City of Culture would offer a fantastic chance to demonstrate everything we have to offer.

Very best wishes,

**Member of the Senedd for Newport West**

Aelod o'r Senedd dros Gorllewin Casnewydd



**Senedd Cymru**  
**Welsh Parliament**

# JESSICA MORDEN MP

*Labour Member of Parliament for Newport East*

**Suite 2, 7th Floor, Clarence House, Clarence Place, Newport, NP19 7AA**

**T 01633 841 726 F 01633 841 727**

**jessica.morden.mp@parliament.uk**

Our Ref: JM32884

16 July 2021

To whom it may concern

## **Re: City of Culture Bid**

As the MP for Newport East, I am very pleased to support the Newport led, Gwent-wide bid for our city to become the 2025 UK City of Culture. I believe that we have a convincing case to make with regards to our cultural identity across a range of areas including, heritage, arts, sports and music. And as the Chair of the Western Gateway All Party Group in Parliament - promoting cross-border economic collaboration between south Wales and western England - I believe our City and wider region has huge untapped potential.

Gwent is an area recognised internationally for its rich heritage - be it the Mesolithic footprints on the Gwent Levels; the Roman Ampitheatre at Caerleon, or the UNESCO Blaenavon Industrial Landscape. Newport has a long and proud history of an industrial city centred around the coal, iron and steel industries and the internationally recognised Newport Transporter Bridge serves as an iconic reminder of our city's industrial past. As the setting of the Newport Chartist uprising of 1848 and the home of Aneurin Bevan, Gwent can also lay legitimate claim to being the City of Democracy and the birthplace of the NHS.

Newport's distinctive character also comes from its role as a gateway city. Whilst no longer being a hub for coal transportation, the docks have welcomed people and goods from across the world which have helped Newport to become a thriving multicultural centre as well as in recent times a city of sanctuary. Our communities are all the stronger for that diversity.

We have a bright future too. The Port of Newport is a steel, metals, recycling, and renewable energy hub, which highlights the city's strategic importance in creating the materials and jobs of the future. Indeed, Newport is fast emerging as a 'Data City' with a reputation for expertise in digital and data within a digitally empowered region. Our steel industry is also an example of an industry innovating and developing new products - Llanwern produces cutting-edge automotive steels used by the likes of BMW and Land Rover, while Liberty Steel in Newport has ambitious plans focused on Green Steel technology and renewable energy. That focus on sustainability is at the heart of Newport's future - we have a proud record as Wales' best recycling city, and host some of Wales' most unspoiled conservation sites at Newport Wetlands and across the Gwent Levels.

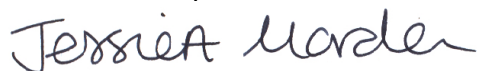
Our city is more than prepared to become the 2025 City of Culture. Home to the Celtic Manor and International Convention Centre, Newport and the surrounding region have already attracted high profile international events including the NATO Summit, the 2010 Ryder Cup, the G8 Summit, Tour of Britain, British Transplant Games, National

Eisteddfod and the Urdd Eisteddfod within the region. We also have world class sporting facilities at the Geraint Thomas Velodrome of Wales, the Football Association of Wales' Dragon Park Development Centre in Newport, and the Centre for Sporting Excellence. Our region is also home to some of the most iconic names in Welsh sport: from Joe Calzaghe and the Pontypool front row to Ryan Jones, Taulupe Faletau, Aaron Ramsey and Becky James. Meanwhile our extensive cultural footprint also extends to the worlds of literature (Arthur Machen, WH Davies, Owen Sheers); music (Manic Street Preachers, Marina and the Diamonds, Feeder); and on stage and screen (Luke Evans, Aimee-Ffion Edwards, Caroline Sheen).

The title of 'City of Culture' is not just simply a tag but a huge opportunity for a city like Newport, which serves as a Gateway to Wales located between the hubs of Bristol and Cardiff. The £300m economic boost that came with the successful 2017 City of Culture bid in Hull - another port city and regional hub with a similar socioeconomic profile to Newport - sets a precedent for what can be achieved.

Being a UK City of Culture would give a real boost to Newport - and the wider county of Gwent - and give us a global platform to show the rich history and distinctive character which makes our region so special. It would be an excellent opportunity to bolster our tourism sector but also put culture at the heart of the city's regeneration so that Newport can achieve its full potential of being the cultural hub it deserves to be.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'Jessica Morden' in a cursive, flowing script.

Jessica Morden MP  
Newport East

To receive regular emails about Jessica Morden's work in Newport East and in Westminster please let us know by emailing [jessica.morden.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:jessica.morden.mp@parliament.uk) asking to be added to her email list.

# JOHN GRIFFITHS MS - NEWPORT EAST

**Address:** Room 2, 7th Floor, Clarence House, Clarence Place, Newport, NP19 7AA

**Telephone:** 01633 222302 **E-mail:** john.griffiths@senedd.wales



**Senedd Cymru  
Welsh Parliament**

To whom it may concern,

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July

## Letter of Support: Newport - UK City of Culture 2025 Bid

I am writing to give my support to the development of a City of Newport-led regionally focused bid for the UK City of Culture 2025. Newport is the gateway to South Wales. It is both economically and environmentally diverse, rich in history and where people from all backgrounds are made to feel welcome. It is why I am proud to represent Newport East in the Welsh Parliament and is the place in which my family and I have always lived.

It is a place of great contrasts - where our proud local industry, such as our steelwork sites sit alongside the beautiful and unique Gwent Levels landscape. Walking around the popular Newport Wetlands nature reserve, this contrast is clear to see with the Liberty Steel site and Uskmouth power station as the backdrop. The Level's criss-crossed network of fertile fields and historic watercourses (known as reens) are also treasured by locals and visitors from outside of the area.



Also, part of our city's history is the popular Tredegar House – a 17th-century mansion which for over five hundred years was home to the Morgan family and later Lords Tredegar, one of the most powerful and influential families in the South East Wales area. Close by and opened by Lord Tredegar himself in 1906 is also the iconic Transporter Bridge. It spans over 645 feet and is 242 feet in height – meaning it can be seen from most vantage points in the city.



Like many from Newport, I am passionate about my sport. The city's Rodney Parade is the second oldest sports venue used in the Football League. But arguably the most memorable moment at the stadium was in a rugby game in 1963 when Newport RFC beat a previously undefeated All Blacks team in front of a packed crowd of 25,000. As well as

rugby and football, it has also hosted athletics meetings and cricket matches, so it is a place of real interest for those interested in both sport and history.

We have a strong performing arts scene. At its centre is the lively Riverfront Theatre and Arts Centre which brings people from across the area into contact with the arts and with professional performances, film screenings and workshops. There is also the Dolman Theatre, Ballet Cymru, Barnabus House, the Newport Male Voice Choir – all of which have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, but places and groups which I know people are very much looking forward to getting back to as we return to some normality.

Newport is also proudly multicultural – and over the years I have worked with local groups to promote positive community cohesion. One of these groups has been Maindee Unlimited, who hold the annual Maindee Festival. The event was cancelled last year due to the pandemic but is set to return this year. The festival is an awash of colour and involves people of all ages, backgrounds and ethnicity and celebrates the values of togetherness and tolerance.



Our area would make a fantastic UK City of Culture in 2025 with everything it has to offer and everything it stands for - and that is why I am very pleased to give my support in the development of this bid.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John".

**John Griffiths – Member of the Senedd for Newport East**

# **Ruth Jones MP**

Member of Parliament for Newport West  
HOUSE OF COMMONS, LONDON SW1A 0AA

E-mail address: [ruth.jones.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:ruth.jones.mp@parliament.uk)

Parliamentary Telephone: (020) 7219 4916

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To whom it may concern:

16/07/2021

Cc Cllr Jane Mudd - Leader of the Council

Dear Sir,

I would like to add my support the Newport City bid to become UK City of Culture 2025. As a person born and bred in Newport I have been able to see first hand the city grow and develop over the years. We have a diverse community and we embrace many different cultures here. We are also proud of our industrial heritage which has shaped our current position within Wales and the United Kingdom.

Our celebrations of our varied cultures range from male voice choirs to modern dance to street performance to opera. We like to have a varied cultural programme in our theatres, our community centres and on our streets.

We also celebrate the fact that our present has been greatly influenced by our past. Whether that be the influence of the Romans and their amphitheatre or the great Transporter Bridge built over 100 years ago and still working today. Iron, coal and steel have all played their part in forging our strong loud and proud traditions that continue right across the city today.

I do hope you will look favourably on this bid.

Best wishes,

***Ruth***

**Ruth Jones MP**  
**Member of Parliament for Newport West**



27 July 2021

Dear Secretary of State

I write with regard to the UK City of Culture 2025 Competition.

As a Regional Senedd Member for South Wales East I wish to register my support for a bid led by the City of Newport. I was born and brought up in Newport. It is where I live and part of the region I am proud to represent.

As a region, our past, present and future are inextricably linked. We share a social, cultural and economic history underpinned by our internationally recognised heritage.

We have a strong case to make in terms of our cultural identity across a range of themes including, heritage, arts, sports and music. I feel strongly about this as the first woman of colour to be elected to the Welsh Parliament.

We can also demonstrate that there are measurable benefits for the region associated with being the City of Culture in 2025. Alongside economic growth from increased tourism, we can build and celebrate more cohesive communities and showcase the digital and data focussed opportunities which are available for investors.

Within this Newport is a Gateway City; gateway to Wales, the gateway to England and a global gateway through our international port.

Capacity to deliver a year round programme of events will be the key to any successful bid. The International Convention Centre Wales is located within Newport. Facilities within Newport and the surrounding region are excellent and in some cases unique. We have hosted numerous high profile events including the Ryder Cup, G8 Summit, NATO summit, Tour of Britain, British Transplant Games, National Eisteddfod and the Urdd Eisteddfod within the region.

I fully support a Newport led bid for UK City of Culture 2025 and hope it will prove successful.

Yours sincerely

**Natasha Asghar**





0300 200 6565 

@Senedd 

@PeredurPlaidAS 

/POwenGriffiths 

To whom it may concern,

Dyddiad | Date: 23 July 2021

## Pwnc | Subject: Newport City of Culture Bid

I wish to support Newport's bid to become UK City of Culture 2025. As one of the four regional Senedd members for South Wales East, I recognise the immense benefit this title would deliver for the city and the surrounding area.

Newport has long been an important cultural hub in the rich history of our country; Wales. From the days of the city's patron saint Gwynllyw to the scene of the Chartist uprising and right through to modern times, Newport has shaped culture and society much further afield than its boundaries extend to. In more modern times, Newport cultivated a thriving indie music scene that coalesced around key venues in the city and attracted international recognition and press coverage.

Achieving UK City of Culture could well have the same transformative effect on Newport as it has had on Hull and Derry; two previous recipients. While both cities saw extensive improvements in time for the year they were classed 'City of Culture,' the benefits reverberated for long afterwards and are still continuing to this day. Derry enjoyed a tourism boom for its year as City of Culture which has continued afterwards. With regard to the impact on Hull, the University of Hull estimated that the events associated with UK City of Culture attracted more than five million people, £220 million of investment and created 800 new jobs.

We must also remember the genesis for the UK City of Culture award; to replicate the impact that European City of Culture status had on Liverpool. It may have been more than a decade since Liverpool was awarded this honour, but the effects of this title are still felt today. A study carried out by the two universities in Liverpool found that there was a 50% growth in grassroots cultural initiatives throughout Liverpool's inner-city, between 2005 – 2018. The study also found that the proportion of Liverpool residents that viewed their city in a positive light increased significantly after European City of Culture status was bestowed upon it – from just 27% in 2007 to 44% the following year. As a Member of the Senedd whose portfolio covers communities, I would dearly love to see these significant ancillary benefits extend to Newport and its surrounding area. With its sea-faring and



working class history, Newport has much in common with Hull, Derry and Liverpool and I am confident it will successfully follow in their wake, thus strengthening the legacy of this prestigious title.

It is for all these reasons that I think Newport would be a more than worthy recipient of UK City of Culture status and therefore it has my full backing.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peredur Owen Griffiths', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Peredur Owen Griffiths MS

0300 200 6565

@Senedd

@PeredurPlaidAS

/POwenGriffiths

I bwy bynnag a fynno,

Dyddiad | Date: 23 Gorffennaf 2021

**Pwnc | Subject: Bid Dinas Diwylliant Casnewydd**

Hoffwn gefnogi cais Casnewydd i ddod yn Ddinas Diwylliant y DU 2025. Fel un o bedwar aelod rhanbarthol y Senedd ar gyfer Dwyrain De Cymru, rwy'n cydnabod y budd aruthrol y byddai'r teitl hwn yn ei sicrhau i'r ddinas a'r cyffiniau.

Mae Casnewydd wedi bod yn ganolfan ddiwylliannol bwysig ers tro byd yn hanes cyfoethog ein gwlad; Cymru. O ddyddiau nawddsant y ddinas Gwynllyw i leoliad y Siartwyr yn cynyddu ac yn iawn hyd at yr oes fodern, mae Casnewydd wedi llunio diwylliant a chymdeithas ymhellach o lawer i ffwrdd nag y mae ei ffiniau'n ymestyn iddi. Yn fwy modern, roedd Casnewydd yn meithrin sîn gerddoriaeth ddigymerau ffyniannus a oedd yn cyd-fynd â lleoliadau allweddol yn y ddinas ac yn denu cydnabyddiaeth ryngwladol a sylw yn y wasg.

Gallai cyflawni Dinas Diwylliant y DU gael yr un effaith drawsnewidiol ar Gasnewydd ag y mae wedi'i chael ar Hull a Derry; ddau dderbynnydd blaenorol. Er bod y ddwy ddinas wedi gweld gwelliannau helaeth mewn pryd ar gyfer y flwyddyn, cawsant eu dosbarthu'n 'Ddinas Diwylliant', roedd y manteision yn troi'n ôl am amser hir wedyn ac yn dal i barhau hyd heddiw. Mwynhaodd Derry ffyniant twristiaeth am ei flwyddyn fel Dinas Diwylliant sydd wedi parhau wedyn. O ran yr effaith ar Hull, amcangyfrifodd Prifysgol Hull fod y digwyddiadau sy'n gysylltiedig â Dinas Diwylliant y DU wedi denu mwy na phum miliwn o bobl, £220 miliwn o fuddsoddiad ac wedi creu 800 o swyddi newydd.

Rhaid inni hefyd gofio tarddiad gwobr Dinas Diwylliant y DU; i efelychu'r effaith a gafodd statws Dinas Diwylliant Ewrop ar Lerpwl. Efallai ei bod wedi bod yn fwy na degawd ers i Lerpwl gael yr anrhydedd hon, ond mae effeithiau'r teitl hwn yn dal i gael eu teimlo heddiw. Canfu astudiaeth a gynhaliwyd gan y ddwy brifysgol yn Lerpwl fod twf o 50% mewn mentrau diwylliannol ar lawr gwlad ledled canol dinas Lerpwl, rhwng 2005 a 2018. Canfu'r astudiaeth hefyd fod cyfran trigolion Lerpwl a welodd eu dinas mewn goleuni cadarnhaol wedi cynyddu'n sylweddol ar ôl i statws Dinas Diwylliant Ewrop gael ei roi arni – o ddim ond 27% yn 2007 i 44% y flwyddyn ganlynol. Fel Aelod o'r Senedd sydd yn llefarydd ar gymunedau, byddwn wrth fy modd yn gweld y manteision ategol sylweddol hyn yn



ymestyn i Gasnewydd a'r cyffiniau. Gyda'i hanes o'r môr a'i ddosbarth gweithiol, mae gan Gasnewydd lawer yn gyffredin â Hull, Derry a Lerpwl ac rwy'n hyderus y bydd yn dilyn yn llwyddiannus yn eu sgîl, gan gryfhau gwaddol y teitl mawreddog hwn.

Am yr holl resymau hyn y credaf y byddai Casnewydd yn derbyn statws Dinas Diwylliant y DU yn fwy na the deilwng ac felly mae'n cael fy nghefnogaeth lawn.

Yn gywir,



Peredur Owen Griffiths MS

**Dame Rosemary Butler DBE**

**13 Highfield Close**

**Caerleon**

**Newport**

**NP18 3DW**

Councillor Jane Mudd  
The Leader  
Newport City Council

19 July 2021

*Dear Jane*

**Newport - UK City of Culture 2025**

I have lived in Newport for most of my life and served as a Newport councillor for 26 years during which time I was Mayor, Deputy Council Leader and long-time Chair of the Council's Leisure Services Committee. I also represented Newport West on the National Assembly for Wales for 16 years. I know Newport extremely well and have long believed that it has an outstanding claim to be recognised as a UK City of Culture.

It is, in fact, a city of many cultures, some of them with deep roots.

Because it was an important port for hundreds of years there are long established communities who arrived here by sea; Irish, Caribbean and, notably, the largest Somali community outside Africa. During the nineteenth and twentieth centuries people from throughout Wales, Scotland and all parts of England came to Newport to find work in the coal and steel industries and the docks. More recently the City has welcomed large numbers of immigrants from Asia and Eastern Europe. Their integration into Newport's civic life has been very successful. And yet Newport is a distinctly Welsh City. Due to its two Welsh Language primary schools and its Welsh Language secondary school a growing number of its citizens now speak our native language, a language that was widely spoken here until only two centuries ago.

All communities are proud of their individual cultures and have nurtured them. And yet together they have resulted in a tolerant, multi-cultural city where its citizens have enjoyed learning about each other's heritage. This is evident every year in the joyous Pill and Maindee Festivals.

I strongly believe that the people of Newport would embrace the multiple range of opportunities the award of UK City of Culture would open to them.

Such opportunities would also be welcomed by the many artists, craftspeople, musicians and cultural workers in our City. Newport has an extraordinarily rich cultural life. As someone who has worked closely with this community for many years I am constantly surprised at the wealth of artistic and musical talent in Newport.

Equally important, the award of UK City of Culture would allow Newport to share its many treasures with the rest of Britain, some well known and others less so, and inform the world of its often central role in the history of the UK.

I support this application with wholehearted enthusiasm and much confidence.

Yours sincerely

*Rosemary*

**Dame Rosemary Butler DBE**

**rosemarybutler43@gmail.com**





14 High Street  
Newport  
NP20 1FW

RS007588

Dear Jane Mudd

We are writing in support of Newport's bid to be named UK city of culture 2025.

Newport is Le Public Space's home, and the home of its owners, the community. LePub is a co-operatively owned pub and arts venue. We write on behalf of that community.

Le Pub was born 30 years ago in a small building on a side street in Newport. In 2017, at almost 25 years old and having built up a national reputation, the building was placed on the market and Le Pub's future in doubt. Newport had seen the closure of many venues over the years, including the legendary TJs and the community was determined that Le Pub should not go the same way. Le Public Space was reborn out of this crisis. A community venture bringing a bigger, more central space with accessibility at its heart. Four years on, Le Public Space is a thriving venue in the heart of Newport's independent arts community.

Newport of course is home to UK's intellectual Property Office, charged with protecting and advancing innovation and the City takes innovation in the arts and culture seriously. Newport's importance as a historic seat of sedition is celebrated by the city in annual events celebrating the Chartists, their fight for their voices to be heard and the spirit of collectivism driving change for the better. Le Public Space have worked with Diverse Vinyl, Ye Olde Murenger House, The Westgate Hotel, McCanns, Newport Market and countless other local independent businesses together with Newport City Council and NewportNOW to make Newport's Record Store Day events among the liveliest in the country, to support local ventures such as Art on the Hill in building from scratch and collectively making Newport somewhere that new ideas can thrive. During the pandemic when other exhibition space was unavailable, Le Public Space provided window space for local artists to display their work. We also produced livestreamed events in theatre and music, allowing local creatives to continue to work and to reach audiences.

A regular performer at Le Public Space, Sean McGowan, said of Newport (at the Big Busk, a community music event organised by Le Pub/Le Public Space):

"There's one thing I love about this city and about the people in this town, there is a genuine sense of community here...from going across all these different acts, different places. From the craft shop to the skate shop, there's so much to say for independent business and for community. I feel like every time I come back to Newport... I've got somewhere I could be welcomed and feel as if I could belong... We don't have anything like this and certainly not anything as sincere as this. So I think you're very fortunate and I think you should be very proud of yourselves."

You can be confident that Newport will take the step-up that city of culture status gives us, and use it to share our community with more people like Sean who are not fortunate enough to be part of it already.

Yours

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Samantha Dabb'.

Samantha Dabb on behalf of the Le Public Space Board



22 July 2021

Councillor Jane Mudd, Leader, Newport City Council  
Civic Centre, Godfrey Road Newport NP20 4UR

Dear Jane,

**City of Culture 2025**

Maindee Unlimited is super-excited to hear that Newport and the wider Gwent Region is expressing interest in becoming City of Culture 2025.

We will be pleased to lend a hand, roll up our sleeves, put our shoulder to the wheel ( and even our noses to the grindstone) in order that this good thing can happen.

Best wishes for a successful outcome,

John Hallam  
Programme Manager  
Maindee Unlimited

**From:** Cerith Mathias [<mailto:cerithmathiaswriter@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** 15 July 2021 22:55  
**To:** Newrick, Emma (Project Coordinator - Transporter Bridge Transformation)  
<[Emma.Newrick@newport.gov.uk](mailto:Emma.Newrick@newport.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Letter of Support - City of Culture Bid 2025

Dear Newport City Council,

This is to express enthusiastic support of the Newport City Council bid to become the City of Culture in 2025.

As a Cultural Producer, Book Festival Director and Events Manager working in the arts and media, I have experienced first hand Newport's unique and richly diverse cultural offering, which is constantly growing and adapting.

Early in my career, while living in Liverpool, I witnessed the transformative effect on the city during its stint as European Capital of Culture, particularly in drawing communities together and in promoting the arts and cultural experiences for all, engendering a collective sense of civic pride in the city's residents, both long-term inhabitants and newcomers alike. I believe that experience can also be Newport's own.

Newport has a strong cultural infrastructure steeped in history, with a multitude of identities to explore and stories to tell. The city's multilayered identity is a potent backdrop for a city wide book festival, which I'd lend my support in establishing. Building on the successes of the Caerleon Literature Festival and the Gwent Literary Society and tapping into the multitude of homegrown literary lions, both from the past with the likes of internationally renowned scribes W.H Davies and Arthur Machen, but also today's talent such as National Poetry Prize winner Marvin Thompson, Newport's literary scene is an exciting opportunity to celebrate the city's talent, record the tales of the city's residents and nurture the wordsmiths of the future.

Often overshadowed by its neighbour Cardiff, Newport's plucky underdog status has given way to a creatively innovative city, unafraid to endeavour and strive to deliver culturally significant and enjoyable experiences for residents and visitors alike, looking boldly to the future, while also celebrating Newport's past and the people who call the city home.

The city is wholly deserving of the accolade of becoming City of Culture in 2025.

Best Wishes,

Cerith Mathias

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**Cerith Mathias**  
**Mockingbird Media**

Twitter: [@cerithmathias](https://twitter.com/cerithmathias)

Website: [Mockingbird Media](https://www.mockingbirdmedia.co.uk)



Councillor Jane Mudd  
Leader, Newport City Council  
Civic Centre  
Newport  
South Wales  
NP20 4UR

Dear Leader

**Letter of support: City of Culture Expression of Interest**

On behalf of the Newport Food Festival we would like to offer our full support towards Newport's expression of interest to become the City of Culture 2025.

Newport Food Festival is in its tenth year and has become bigger and better with each delivery and has seen a huge benefit to local residents and visitors to Newport.

The Food Festival attracts both visitors and producers from all over the United Kingdom and traditionally offers a wide range of Welsh food and drink amongst diverse culture of food offerings from within the city and surrounding region.

Along with the food offering, a diverse programme is also arranged for children, families, mums, dads and grandparents all catered for with kitchen demos, children's activities, street entertainers and music providing a distinct feeling of pride and uniqueness.

We are proud to be involved in helping to develop Newport in creating and building a city of vision and culture and we are delighted to support Newport's expression of interest to become the City of Culture 2025. We look forward to seeing the animation of the city's streets once again.

Kind regards

*Hywel Jones*

Patron  
Newport Food Festival



## **Newport and Gwent Literary Club**

**To: Cllr Jane Mudd**

**16<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

**In support of Newport's bid for City of Culture 2025**

Dear Cllr Mudd,

Newport and Gwent Literary Club would support City of Culture 2025 status application for Newport, with enthusiasm. We see this as an opportunity to celebrate Newport's rich cultural heritage and to enhance further, the well being of its citizens through exciting local, national, and international events and experiences which will continue from the City of Culture legacy.

### **Background to Newport and Gwent Literary Club:**

Newport and Gwent Literary Club is entering its 75<sup>th</sup> Season. It has met monthly, for Dinner and a Talk on a literary theme, from September to May, almost without break, since 1947.

We have hosted many famous Literary Figures; Archive material is available on our website: [www.newportandgwentliterarysociety.wordpress.com](http://www.newportandgwentliterarysociety.wordpress.com)

We pride ourselves on nurturing emerging Welsh writers as well as bringing established national and international writers, of diverse backgrounds, to Newport.

We have developed a monthly, printed literary Magazine with a growing readership and submissions from within Newport and beyond.

Our social media presence (Twitter: @newportgwentlit) has attracted support and Members from far and wide. Our Membership is growing and is drawn from a variety of socio-economic and age groups. It includes high profile as well as local and national/international Members. (America, England, and Germany, via Zoom)

The Club is a friendly, welcoming community that is intellectually curious and enjoys the fellowship that a shared interest in Literature gives.

### **Examples of what the Club can offer to the bid and the Year:**

- Established links to writers and the Literary world
- Potential development of the Literary magazine to a Newport magazine
- Ready framework and expertise of delivery in person/virtual events
- Potential development of a Newport Literary Prize(s)
- Active participation in, and development of, Literary events and festivals
- Organisational support and advice
- Social media support

We wish the Bid every success and hope to be able to assist in this exciting and important venture.

Yours sincerely,

Sue Beardmore (Club Secretary)

Dr Alun Isaac (Chair)

Email: [newportlitclub@gmail.com](mailto:newportlitclub@gmail.com)

Cllr Jane Mudd  
Leader of Newport City Council  
Civic Centre  
Newport  
NP20 4UR,

16<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Cllr Mudd,

### **Support for Newport's Expression of Interest – UK City of Culture 2025**

We would like to wholeheartedly support the City of Newport in its expression of interest to be the UK City of Culture in 2025.

Newport our city, has so much to offer across the range of cultural activities from art, culture, heritage, sport and importantly our communities and diversities of cultures that makes us proud to be Newport.

The use of cultural assets and programming to engage, connect, expand and improving knowledge, awareness, health, wellbeing and access for all will be of significant benefit to the city and all that live, work and visit the City and region. We believe that the application is perfectly aligned with Newport's Wellbeing plan, specifically the recently updated "Newport Offer" strand of work which leads "A proud and friendly city where people and places thrive now and in the future". One of the goals in the next 5 years is to develop high quality places in line with the Placemaking Charter Wales and being the City of Culture 2025 and all that is included in the journey would align perfectly with the achievement of this goal and in doing so would significantly enhance the delivery of economic, social, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Newport, something of even greater importance after the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic on Newport and the wider region. Being the UK City of Culture 2025 would focus and drive change, investment and develop sustainable long term legacy opportunities for the City and region.

Newport Live as you are fully aware are a key stakeholder in the delivery of cultural engagement, experiences and opportunities for local residents and visitors to our City would also like to work with the region to help deliver such an exciting project, we would seek to use the world class assets bestowed upon us for sport and culture to deliver a unique and diverse programme of sport, art and culture led by communities and leading to the hosting of world class events, competitions and opportunities to visit and explore Newport in the flesh and also via digital using our cutting edge infrastructure for those who could not physically be at an event in the City.

Every day, we work on behalf of the City to achieve the vision of "Inspiring people to be happier and healthier" and I believe these are key outcomes we bring and will

seek to amplify as part of a successful City of Culture 2025 programme. The regional partnerships already in place will also add value and bring additional cultural and heritage experience to the City of Culture portfolio of experiences which would be exciting to bring together in celebration and to further activate cultural experiences for visitors and local residents who will discover the value of culture in the region.

Newport Live is the sport, leisure and cultural not for profit ,charitable, delivery partner for the City of Newport and now privileged to be working with you to support your vision for the City with the Newport Offer, of which a major component is culture and its significant in a city rich with history, diversity, assets and culture. Newport Live are well positioned with international, national and regional partnerships and connections many of whom including the Arts Council of Wales, Sport Wales, artists, performers, national and international governing bodies of sport would support the development of a cultural programme or activity, engagement, events, education and community activation and experiences.

We have the privilege of working with our local communities, communities of interest and many groups and individuals in the City to improve their wellbeing and involve them in leading active and creative lifestyles. Newport being the City of Culture 2025 with the cultural programme this would bring would be transformational for our Gateway city to Wales and wider region, the legacy and opportunity to celebrate Newport's diverse community's cultures would be explored, developed, celebrated, captured, and paraded for all to see and enjoy long into the future.

Newport Live have recently recruited a new Trustee and Non-Executive Director to the Board and now Chairs our new Arts & Culture Board, he is a Board Member of Creative Wales as appointed by Welsh Government. Richie Turner has considerable experience in the City of Culture bid development and delivery, and the strategic and entrepreneurial development of cultural programmes, delivery and legacy of the project. Support through Newport Live's teams including Executive, Marketing, Wellbeing and Community, Education and Creative teams together with the Board would be the highest priority seeking to attract this amazing opportunity to the City and wider region.

Newport together with the wider region is enriched by its community diversity and history. Achieving the award of City of Culture 2025 would have a considerable lasting benefit to the city, region and raise the profile of the cultural significance of Newport, whilst also having a hugely significant positive economic impact. Newport Live would be delighted to be an active partner of Newport City Council in the design, development and delivery of the UK City of Culture 2025 bid and programme of events in the City of Newport and wider region.

Yours sincerely



Steve Ward  
Chief Executive Newport Live



Newport Now BID  
The Riverfront Theatre  
Kingsway  
NEWPORT  
NP20 1HG

Tel: 07824 472543

Email: [kevin@kevinwardmedia.com](mailto:kevin@kevinwardmedia.com)

July 13, 2021

Councillor Jane Mudd  
Leader of the Council  
Newport City Council  
Godfrey Road  
NEWPORT  
NP20 4UR

**UK CITY OF CULTURE 2025**

Dear Jane

On behalf of the Board of the Newport Now Business Improvement District (BID), I am writing to offer our full support for Newport's expression of interest in becoming the UK City of Culture 2025.

As an organisation that represents more than 600 business – across all sectors – in Newport city centre, we recognise the economic benefits and legacy a successful bid would bring.

Newport has impressive cultural credentials. The Roman history of Caerleon, Tredegar House, the Transporter Bridge, its industrial history as a docks and steelworks city, two theatres in the city centre, a vibrant music scene, and the home of the Big Splash street theatre festival.

Like all city centres, Newport is facing considerable challenges in the wake not just of the Covid-19 pandemic but also the seismic changes in the retail landscape.

As we move towards the pandemic recovery phase, diversification of the city centre will be key. We are already seeing transformational projects such as the Chartist Tower hotel, the refurbishment of the indoor market, conversion of the former Mill Street post sorting offices into high-quality office space, and the construction of a new footbridge across the railway station.

In addition to this, more residential accommodation is being created with increasing numbers of people now living in the city centre.

Creative use of public space is a vital component in the reimagining of Newport city centre, and a successful bid for UK City of Culture status would turbo-charge this.

The potential economic benefit of being named UK City of Culture is clear. Hull was the successful bidder in 2017 and the status created 800 jobs and brought in £219m in investment. Just as important was the sense of identity and community engendered – thousands of volunteers manned events and 95% of the city's population attended at least one event.

What happens after being UK City of Culture is just as, if not more important, than what happens during it. Again, using Hull as an example, the legacy has been impressive with significant increases in attendances at cultural events, in tourism, in arts funding, and in infrastructure investment.

Such sustainability over the long term is more than achievable in Newport and will be the golden thread linking a prestigious title to a prosperous future.

The BID looks forward to partnering Newport City Council and other organisations across the city in a successful expression of interest leading to a full bid for UK City of Culture 2025.

You have our full support.

With very best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'K' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Kevin Ward  
MANAGER  
NEWPORT NOW BID



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By email:  
12 July 2021  
Cllr Jane Mudd, Leader  
Newport City Council

## Letter of Support

Dear Cllr Mudd,

Operasonic offer our full support to Newport City Council's bid for City of Culture 2025. Newport is a welcoming, diverse, vibrant place. It is packed with creative communities and becoming City of Culture would allow these groups to shine.

Since 2017 Operasonic has worked with schools and communities across Newport to tell local stories through opera. Through our [work with local schools](#), [community groups](#) and [creative partners](#), we have seen first-hand the amazing ideas and talent the people of this city have to offer.

For example this year, our '[Folk of the Footbridge](#)' project, working with Newport Council's heritage group Fusion and Tin Shed Theatre company, has shown that people are keen to tell their stories and [create work inspired by the city](#).

The city itself is full of potential for a packed City of Culture program, with stunning hilltop views, beautiful park spaces, and rich industrial heritage. Operasonic would like to work on a mixed program of projects in a variety of different locations across Newport, working with local creative practitioners and community groups to create community-led projects, flash mobs, screenings and performances in unusual places.

Newport City of Culture would give the people of Newport the platform they deserve, and a chance to develop and collaborate on more world-class creative projects in the city.

Cofion cynnes,

Rosey Brown  
**Operasonic Executive Producer**



OUR CHARTIST HERITAGE  
Y SIARTWYR: EIN TREFTADAETH

# OUR CHARTIST HERITAGE

c/o 18 Ruperra Close, Bassaleg, Newport NP10 8LP

email: [our.chartist.heritage@gmail.com](mailto:our.chartist.heritage@gmail.com)

Tel. 01633 896908

Reg Charity No. 1176673



OUR CHARTIST HERITAGE  
Y SIARTWYR: EIN TREFTADAETH

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## *Celebrating Newport – Home of the Vote*

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Friday 16 July 2021

Ms Richards

### **City of Culture 2025**

As Chair of both the Board of Trustees and Newport Rising Festival, I write to offer the full support of Our Chartist Heritage to Newport City Council's bid to be recognised as City of Culture 2025.

I have no doubt that our Board of Trustees, volunteers and associated networks would be more than happy to lend their expertise, enthusiasm, time and effort to help develop such a bid.

Yours sincerely

Dr Melinda Drowley

Lynne Richards  
Tourism Officer  
Newport City Council  
Civic Centre  
Godfrey Road  
NP20 4UR



14<sup>th</sup> July 2021

## **TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN – UK CITY OF CULTURE BID**

### **NEWPORT CITY AND COUNCIL REFERENCE**

Race Council Cymru has worked very closely with Newport City Council since 2010. As an organisation that supports 300 grassroots community groups across Wales, we operate a multicultural hub in Newport made up of 25 ethnic minority groups and 60 partners representing organisations in the area. Together with Newport City Council, we are continuing to support these groups and others by constantly meeting with them to share updates and listen to any concerns from all the communities. Our work together also focuses on the impact of our multicultural hub partners on the community through creating artistic and new contemporary programming, as we are interwoven into the fabric of the city.

Our years of work with Black History Wales, the Windrush Cymru elders, the Black Asian Minority Ethnic Youth forum and more, put us in an advantageous position to work closely with the Newport City Council, to design, plan and develop a variety of projects and events, highlighting the diversity of Newport, the variety of cultures and the peaceful co-existence within the community. The Council Leader, Cllr. Jane Mudd has supported all our work with the communities by meeting monthly with us, community leaders and other stakeholders to keep abreast of events within the community. Race Council Cymru is currently in active discussions with the Council to identify a suitable building in the centre of their services, that will accommodate our Newport community hub members and welcome new groups. It will be a place where community members can co-produce and develop projects to promote their rich cultures through arts, dance, music, etc; as well as other events.

Consequently, if successful with this bid, we are already in a collaborative planning process with Newport City Council to develop cultural and artistic events to showcase Newport as a city of Culture in 2025. These include, but are not limited to, developing plans for:

- A global Arts and Culture festival – This will open to visitors and tourists from all over the world and will highlight a variety of activities to suit diverse populations:
  - A global food corner – This will be made up of food stalls that will not only exhibit global dishes but also provide visitors and Tourists with a food tasting experience.
  - Music and dance performances – This corner will have a stage where each community in the Newport area will be invited to develop and promote music and dance from their communities
  - A global fashion show – This will showcase a display of cultural clothes from around the world.



- A children's play area – This will provide entertainment for the children of families attending with them.
- A multi-cultural carnival – This will showcase the music and dance of all cultural groups that are resident in Newport. Each community will be invited to organise their members, dance and music specific to their culture, to join a carnival float
- An exhibition of stories, community heroes/heroines, events and so on – the past, present and possibly the future.
- A music festival that will showcase music and dance groups from the diverse communities in Newport and surrounding areas.

Additionally, we are working very closely with Newport City Council to ensure utmost security within the city and its environs, realising that this is a top priority for any city of culture. Community cohesion and the promotion of peaceful co-existence remains at the heart of our partnership. Our partnership which closely works with the police has been swift to act on any incidents of concern within the city and diminish any potential tension with the city.

It is for these and more reasons that we are happy to recommend and fully support Newport City Council's bid for the UK City of Culture.

Kind regards,



Kay Denyer  
Director  
Race Council Cymru  
[kay@racecouncilcymru.org.uk](mailto:kay@racecouncilcymru.org.uk)



**Screen Alliance Wales**

[www.screenalliancewales.com](http://www.screenalliancewales.com)

By email:

9 July 2021

Cllr Jane Mudd, Leader  
Newport City Council

Dear Cllr Mudd

**Letter of Support – City of Culture Bid 2025**

Screen Alliance Wales are delighted to be able to offer its fullest support for the Newport Council's bid to become City of Culture 2025.

Screen Alliance Wales have been working with Newport City Council for a number of years and has seen it become a leader in encouraging film & TV production to not only locate in the city, but to encourage legacy as a commitment to the community and to ensure fair work and social engagement.

South Wales has been the UK's best performing media cluster outside London. In recent years, the SE area of Wales has become the 'go to' place to produce High End TV and Feature film productions.

Newport and the wider Gwent area act as the gateway to Wales and, as such, provides a wealth of locations, facility companies and crews to service the ever-growing demand for content across a host of broadcasters both national and international. Every location is catered for, from cultural to contemporary, forests to coastline.

Newport has been the home to a number of these programmes and, to enable Newport to fully exploit this area of growth, particular attention needs to be paid to educating and training people of all ages to showcase the many different roles that are available. Screen Alliance Wales have worked with over 16000 people, engaging with students from aged 7 with curriculum-based activities delivered by our fully trained teachers. Through our work we have created a pathway to employment and will be working closely with Newport ensure growth through innovation and learning which will become a tool kit for education and training for the city.

With the growing need to develop innovative ways to get our productions safely delivered and serviced, Screen Alliance Wales are working closely with the council in delivering education and bespoke training from the age of 7 to FE and HE and introducing the many careers and pathways to employment. We work across the production pathway from Catering, Medical, Business Affairs, Accountancy, Electrical through to degree led careers; VFX, Animation, Directing, Writing and Producing.

As you can see, Newport is at the forefront of the Creative Sector in Wales, and we look forward to continuing to work with them on these projects for years to come. Newport fully deserves to be awarded the City of Culture 2025 and this prestigious accolade will help to enhance the exciting and vital work they are already doing as well as bringing significant social and economic benefits for this very diverse and thriving city.

Yours sincerely,

Allison Dowzell – Managing Director

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**THREE  
IMPOSTORS**

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August 2nd 2021

To whom it may concern

Three Impostors is an independent publisher based in Newport, and we are writing in support of the bid by the City Council for Newport to be nominated as UK City of Culture 2025. We were established in 2013, and our first publications were new annotated illustrated editions of the three autobiographical volumes of Caerleon-born writer Arthur Machen. Since then we have produced books on Chartism, a biography of Welsh artist John Selway, new fiction, and more new editions of works by Machen.

Over the year Newport has been overshadowed by the nearby cultural giants of Cardiff and Bristol, but the city has a distinctive, fascinating and diverse history and culture deserving of wider exposure and showcasing. Newport would benefit immensely from the investment in arts infrastructure and cultural network development which would occur if it were to win the 2025 City of Culture title. As publishers we are particularly interested in the suggestion that a proposal to stage a city-wide book festival should be part of the bid - we would love to support and participate in such an event.

We wish Jane Mudd and Newport City Council every success in their attempt to win the the nomination as UK City of Culture 2025.

Yours sincerely

David Osmond Mark Lawson-Jones Richard Frame (Three Impostors)

threeimpostors@gmail.com



**Urban Myth Films Ltd**  
Urban Myth Studios  
Meadows Road  
Queensway  
NP19 4SS

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12<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Cllr Jane Mudd, Leader  
Newport City Council

Dear Cllr Mudd

**Letter of Support – City of Culture Bid 2025**

Urban Myth Films fully supports Newport City Council's bid to become City of Culture 2025. The city is home to our very own tv and film studios (Urban Myth Studios) where we have been producing our high end TV dramas since 2018.

As Urban Myth's production home, Newport has provided us with a wealth of first class creative and technical talent that have been integral to the success of our shows. Over the last four years we have delivered shows to Canal+ (France), Netflix (Worldwide), Disney (UK, Europe & Africa), Sky (UK and Worldwide) and EPIX (USA) showing the true reach of the output that Newport has supported since we setup our base. Shows such as War of the Worlds, The One and Extinction have allowed us to demonstrate that Newport is a significant destination in the cultural ecology of not only Wales and the UK but internationally. We must now focus on nurturing this to encourage growth which in turn have positive effects on the wellbeing of the those living in the city.

It is not just the people of Newport that makes it special and culturally important. Newport is an exciting place for anybody looking for interesting locations to produce television and films. From city to varied residential areas, the estuary to the mountain valleys, Newport and its catchment areas are brimming with camera ready delights. Continued investment in the arts in Newport will support creatives in telling their own stories, set in their own area often bringing new parts of the city to the attention of others.

Urban Myth Films is committed to the continued development of the talent that Newport has to offer. We offer in-house training and in the process of forming valuable partnerships with local education and training providers. Newport has so much potential to be harnessed from the young people in the city who come from such diverse backgrounds. Being awarded the City of Culture 2025 would allow several generations over the next few decades the chance to be seen and their voices heard. The benefits of this will echo across the region and allow for new stories to be told and shape the cultural landscape for the talent of the future.

Your sincerely,

Adam Knopf  
Head of Production / Producer



Professor Julie E Lydon, Vice Chancellor  
Yr Athro Julie E Lydon, Is-Ganghellor

Cllr Jane Mudd  
Leader of Newport City Council  
c/o Newport City Council  
Civic Centre  
Newport  
NP20 4UR

14<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Jane

On behalf of the University of South Wales, I am delighted to support Newport City Council's bid to become the UK City of Culture 2025.

As an institution, we have been at the forefront of cultural and creative innovation within the city since our inception as the Newport Mechanics Institute in 1841. This proud history enables us to offer a significant contribution to Newport's cultural development and its hosting of the UK City of Culture 2025.

Culture and creativity have become a core driver of future innovation, economic growth, and community well-being across South Wales and beyond. Our Faculty of Creative Industries is regarded as the hub for the creative industries in Wales, with over 2,500 students and extensive links with industry partners. Within the University of South Wales group structure is also the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama who provide pioneering performance-based training to some of the most talented actors, musicians, stage technicians, scenic designers, and arts managers from over 40 countries.

I believe that USW has much to offer towards your bid, including:

- inclusive outreach activities in our local communities to support cultural engagement and the development of creative skills
- student participation through targeted internships to support programme delivery and promote graduate employability in the creative industries
- collaborative research and innovation symposiums to contribute to the Cities of Culture knowledge base, specifically facilitating multi-disciplinary discussion on common features, changes, and challenges in creative industries and cultural policy
- engagement with cultural partners, specifically supporting inward investment opportunities to drive economic growth and promote social cohesion

*Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.  
We welcome correspondence in Welsh and English. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay.*

**University of South Wales,  
Pontypridd, Wales, CF37 1DL  
UK  
Tel 08455 76 01 01  
Fax 01443 480558**

**[www.southwales.ac.uk](http://www.southwales.ac.uk)  
[www.decywru.ac.uk](http://www.decywru.ac.uk)**

**Prifysgol De Cymru, Pontypridd,  
Cymru, CF37 1DL, DU  
Ffôn 08455 76 01 01  
Ffacs 01443 480558**

- support for programme monitoring, evaluation and learning, including the use of advanced data analytics, to positively impact the cultural well-being of our future generations
- our accessible and environmentally sustainable Newport city campus being a key performance space for programme delivery
- our values of equality, diversity and inclusion embedded in all aspects of programme delivery

We wish you every success with your bid application and can count on the University to be an active and valued partner.

Your sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Lydon', written in a cursive style.

**Professor Julie Lydon OBE**  
**Vice Chancellor**

## **Letter in support of the bid for Newport to be awarded City of Culture status 2025**

As Members of Parliament for the Caerphilly Borough, we are writing to give our full support to the entry of Newport City Council for the city to be awarded the title of UK City of Culture for 2025.

At first glance you may think it unusual for the MPs for the Caerphilly Borough to be giving such fulsome support to Newport's bid, but the city of Newport does not stand alone; it is the focal point of a strong network of Valleys communities throughout the Gwent area.

Historically this has long been the case. Newport grew enormously as a bustling town during the Industrial Revolution, exporting coal, iron, and steel from the Gwent valleys. An Act of Parliament in 1835 granted permission for docks to be constructed, and from that moment on, there was an "umbilical link" between Newport and its industrial hinterland.

Nor was the link merely industrial; it was also social and political as well. The famous Newport Chartist rising of November 1839 was largely made up of coal miners from the Gwent valleys who marched on Newport to demand democratic rights. In fact, one of the main Chartist leaders who planned and led the rising was a Blackwood man, Zephaniah Williams, and the march on Newport was actually planned in a Blackwood public house. There cannot be any stronger historic link between Newport and the Gwent valleys than this.

Today, Newport is the Gateway City to Wales, and as such has a key role to play in terms of Wales' interface with England and the rest of the UK. Over recent years Newport has hosted a number of international events and conferences, and these have succeeded in giving the city and its hinterland a higher British and international profile.

The past few years have also seen the local and regional economy modernise and diversify, so that today the Newport region manufactures nearly half of all electronic, optical, and electrical goods made in Wales. In other sectors, where the region has lagged behind in recent times, significant progress is being made so that the area is well placed to develop its digital capability.

Newport is acutely aware of its leading role in terms of the Gwent region's economic development, but it also acknowledges that it has an important role to play in helping to articulate and define the area's artistic strength. The Riverfront Theatre and Arts Centre in Newport has proved to be an enormously successful focal point for the city and its region. Its success is an indication of what could be done if the city was successful in being designated the UK City of Culture in 2025. There is also a recognition in the city that cultural vitality has a central role to play in reinforcing economic development and prosperity.

Yours sincerely

Wayne David MP for Caerphilly

Chris Evans MP for Islwyn

Gerald Jones MP for Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney

