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News: Historic Lamppost gets new home

Friday 12 January:

The lamppost, moved from Chapel Place in the summer, has now been successfully restored to full working order and erected at its new location in Cumberland Walk, below the steps from Cumberland Gardens.

The reason for moving the lamppost column was that the Council was advised that it needed an electricity feeder box next to the column so the electricity supply could be disconnected from the ground in an emergency. However once the column was out of the ground, and the restorers could see what they were dealing with, it transpired that we could provide a door in the base of the column and place the electricity feeder equipment within the column itself.

Cllr Melvyn Howell, Leader of the Council, said: 'I've been involved with this project from its infancy and am delighted that the lamppost is now in working order. Tunbridge Wells Borough Council has worked hard to ensure the post remains in its original area and is pleased that it didn't need an accompanying electricity supply box as, this would have been an obstacle for less mobile people. The new location will allow the light to guide pedestrians and I hope that those who pass it will appreciate its heritage.'

Ptolemy Dean, Local Restoration Expert and TV Presenter, said: 'I am delighted that Tunbridge Wells Borough Council has reinstated this historic lamp post, and has demonstrated that the repair and reuse of historic street lights is both feasible and desirable. I very much hope that it will be the first in a series of restored lamp posts that will enhance our town.'

Pictured: L-R Ptolemy Dean, Cllr Melvyn Howell and Cllr David Wakefield



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■ **News: Historic Lamppost saved and replicas installed in Chapel Place, Royal Tunbridge Wells**

Tuesday 15 August: An inactive historic Victorian lamppost was carefully removed by contractors yesterday, from Chapel Place Royal Tunbridge Wells. Tunbridge Wells Borough Council has worked with partners from the Civic Society and the Town Forum to introduce three new replica lampposts that will comply with EDF Energy's requirements to maintain the electrical components. The Victorian post will be restored and erected elsewhere in the town's conservation area.

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Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1RS
Telephone 01892 526121 | SMS Text 07870 526121 | Textphone 01892 545449 | Fax 01892 534227