



EXTRA SEDGEFIELD

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SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCILLORS

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MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

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TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES

Advice & Information Centre, Front Street, Sedgefield TS21 3AT

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Contacting your town council

The town council is always interested in your views, comments and suggestions, (particularly the positive ones!). There are several ways in which this can be achieved. The following table indicates the quickest way to get your voice heard or problem sorted.

PROBLEM	WHO TO CONTACT	ACTION WE WILL TAKE
Street lights not working Litter dropped Footpath problems Dogs fouling	Telephone council offices 01740 621273 (if no-one available leave a message on the answerphone). Send information via e-mail to Jane / Julia as shown or via the town council web-site at www.sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk	We will sort out the problem or if necessary contact Durham County Council and contact you with the outcome.
Booking the Parish Hall	Telephone the council offices as above.	We will send you a booking form and information.
Wanting an allotment	Telephone / write to the council.	We will add you to the waiting lists and contact you when an allotment becomes available.
Seeking a donation for your group /organisation	Write to the town council.	The request will be placed before the next appropriate council meeting.
Concerned about a planning application or action the town council is undertaking	Write to the town council and / or come along to a council meeting. The monthly meetings are held at 7pm on the second Monday of each month (except August). You can speak at 'Public Participation'. Agendas for meetings are placed on the notice board outside the library.	Members will listen to your views and take into account when making their decision.
Want information re planning, crime warnings etc	Register with our Sedgefield information circulation e-mail system by e-mail to jane@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk	We will add you to the database.
Want to volunteer to paint a seat, help with projects etc.	Contact the council offices or e-mail angela.simpson@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk	We will be in touch!
You want to talk to an individual councillor	Contact details for all councillors are included in every Sedgefield Extra and / or available from the offices.	Alternatively a meeting can be arranged with the councillor. In addition councillors sometimes arrange a surgery - details are circulated.
You want to know what the town council is doing and how it is representing you	Come along to the monthly meeting of the Annual Town Meeting in May.	Members will listen to your views and comments.

Council Tax PRECEPT

Over recent years there have been significant changes in local government funding and it is anticipated that further change will also be seen in the coming years.

Every year, each town and parish council sets a precept which is a charge that is determined locally and is added to, and collected along with, Council Tax. This precept money is then used to deliver services and amenities within that town or parish. In addition to this precept many principal local authorities also provide town and parish councils with further funding. Over recent years the level of funding from central government distributed via Durham County Council has reduced and this reduction is forecast to continue over the coming years. For Sedgefield Town Council to not only continue to deliver its existing services but also to finance the refurbishment work in the Parish Hall, extend Sedgefield Cemetery, establish a youth facility and introduce the new National Living Wage as well as pay for increased pension costs, it has been necessary to increase the precept for 2017/18 by 2.97% (based upon Band D). This equates to an increase of £3.40 per household per annum. Sedgefield Town Council will continue to robustly monitor its budget in order to identify any further efficiency savings.

Photocopying Service in the Council Office

From 1st April 2017, the cost of photocopying for users with an allocated code will be 6p per page black and white copying and 8p per page colour copying (note: these charges are for single sided copies, double sided copies will be charged at double the price).

For private individuals the cost of photocopying will be 12p per page black and white copying and 15p per page colour copying (note: these charges are for single sided copies, double sided will be charged at double the price).

Printers Available

Sedgefield Town Council has three x Samsung CLP-320 colour laser printers, toners not included, available to collect from the council office with the contribution of a financial donation to the 2016/2017 Mayor's Charity.

Sedgefield Town Council do not accept any responsibility for the future maintenance of the printers after collection.

FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED!



Snow Party 2016

Thank you to everyone involved in the 2016 Snow Party. Santa, his helpers and his reindeer had another busy day of making lists and giving out gifts!

Congratulations to Lizzie Addison (below) who won the honour of switching on Sedgefield's Christmas lights and received a Christmas goody bag including some panto tickets generously donated by Sedgefield Players. Sedgefield Town Council hopes that you enjoyed the festivities and had a wonderful Christmas!



Snowman Competition

Mayor Chris Lines had a difficult time judging the Snow Party's Snowman Competition this year!

Unlike previous years when a set activity was sent out to the schools, children from Sedgefield Primary School and Hardwick Primary School were left to their own devices and came up with some amazing creations! Well done to all involved and a big congratulations to the winners from each school. Check out the winners below:

Hardwick Primary School:

NURSERY: Alice Legg, Penelope Huntington
RECEPTION: Nathaniel Warnett
YEAR 1: Ella Mcritchie
YEAR 2: Alfie France
YEAR 3: Beau Redden
YEAR 4: Imogen Groves
YEAR 5: Brooke Gallacher
YEAR 6: Isabelle Temperton



Sedgefield Primary School:

RECEPTION: Jack Ainscough
YEAR 1: Layla Atkinson
YEAR 2: Daniel Dickenson
YEAR 3: Iona Darnton
YEAR 4: Mimi Mcgirr
YEAR 5: Issak Carrol-Knight
YEAR 6: Harry Lowther



Local Elections Thursday 4th May 2017

Elections for both Sedgefield Town Council and Durham County Council will be held on Thursday 4th May 2017.

The administration is carried out by Durham County Council who will soon publish the timetable for these elections along with the publicity materials, nomination papers etc. A copy of the timetable will be displayed on the town council's website, noticeboards and inside the March edition of Sedgefield News. Notice of an election triggers 'purdah' which is the pre-election period specifically between the announcement of an election and the final election results. It prevents local and principal councils from making announcements about any new or controversial initiatives which could be seen to be advantageous to any candidates or parties in the forthcoming election or which may commit any incoming new administration to policies which it wouldn't support.

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Do you know someone who has made an exceptional contribution to Sedgefield this year?

If so, why not nominate them for the annual Citizen of the Year Award! Award entry forms are included inside this month's edition of the Sedgefield News. The closing date for nominations is Wednesday 22nd March 2017.

The award will be presented at the Sedgefield Town Council Annual Town Meeting in May 2017.

HALLOWEEN HOWLER WINNER

Congratulations to Bethany Brown for winning the 2016 Halloween Howler competition with this spook-tacular two-storey pumpkin house!

Well done to all who braved the weather and entered the competition. Mayor Chris Lines and his son Sam had a fang-tastic time picking the winner!

Mayor's UPDATE

I am over half way through my year as Mayor of Sedgefield and the time has flown by. The last couple of months have really showcased what a strong community spirit we have here.

Occasions like Remembrance Day, the Snow Party and the Christmas carol service saw residents gathering together in large numbers and highlighted the many wonderful qualities of Sedgefield. Those events wouldn't be possible without the selfless work of many volunteers, but they also represent just a tiny proportion of everything that happens in our community. Every day, somewhere in Sedgefield, volunteers are hard at work organising events, sustaining clubs, societies and other groups of all kinds, and helping to keep our community vibrant. Thank you to all of you – even if it's not always said out loud, the work that you do is hugely appreciated!

Don't forget, there's still time to enter my Sedgefield Selfies competition (tag #SedgefieldSelfies on social media). I have received some great entries so far, showcasing some of your favourite places in Sedgefield. The Dun Cow has generously provided a £50 prize voucher and the overall winner will be revealed during the ball on Friday 3rd March. The best images will also appear in a gallery on the town council website. You can view all of the selfies and find out more about how to enter the competition at www.facebook.com/MayorofSedgefield2016to17.

You will also find details about all of my events during the year and photos from those that have already taken place. My final event could be my most challenging - on Saturday 1st April I will run a 'Mayoral Marathon' in Hardwick Park. Starting with the weekly 5km Sedgefield parkrun at 9:00am, I will then continue around the same route time and again until I have completed the full marathon distance. As with all of my events, I will be raising money for three charities - the Lullaby Trust, the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation and the Friends of Sedgefield Harriers - along with other local good causes. All donations will be gratefully received and can be made at the town council offices or online at <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/MayorofSedgefield2016-17>.

Mayor's CHARITY BALL

Places are now available at the Mayor's Charity Ball, which will be held at Hardwick Hall Hotel on Friday 3rd March 2017.

Tickets for this black tie event cost £30 each and include a three course meal and entertainment by the Emerald Thieves. Based in County Durham, the Emerald Thieves are Glastonbury Festival regulars, with a fantastic international reputation, having performed throughout Ireland, Europe and the Middle-East. They fuse traditional Irish music with modern indie-folk, rock and pop hits. The five-piece

group play electric fiddle, acoustic and electric guitars, mandolin, Hammond organ, bass and drums, and will certainly persuade guests at the ball to get up and dance. There will also be a tombola, bottle draw and auction on the night and the event will raise money for the Mayor's Charity Fund. Contact jane@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk or call 01740 621273 to book tickets.



Civic Carol Service

The annual civic Christmas carol service in early December was a magical occasion. St. Edmund's Church was packed with residents of all ages and civic guests from around the region.



The service was led by lay reader Michael King, with excellent contributions from Sedgefield's other churches. The highlight of the evening was a performance by the combined choir of our two primary schools, who sang beautifully. During the service, the team at St. Edmund's took the opportunity to use the improved lighting system to help create a very special atmosphere at key moments, and that worked really well. Christmas trees from the festival also lined the church, adding another lovely touch to a memorable evening. Half of the collection from the service has been donated to the Mayor of Sedgefield's Charity Fund. Thank you to everyone who was involved in or attended the service.

Youth Working Group UPDATE

Sedgefield Town Council's Youth Working Group is responsible for exploring opportunities to improve youth provision in the town, whether that is through events, facilities or representation.

As a priority, the town council has allocated a budget to this work, so that real progress can be achieved on a sustained basis. The working group decided that it was clear that the council needed to properly get the direct input of young people to move forward. Over the last year, the group has undertaken a wide-ranging programme of consultation, working closely with Investing In Children. Recognising that the needs of primary school pupils are clearly different from those of older children, the project has involved a series of public events, face-to-face meetings and an online survey. Encouragingly, the research uncovered consistent feedback from both age groups about what they like about life as young people in Sedgefield and what changes they want to see take place.

In addition, towards the end of last year, a group of students from Sedgefield Community College approached the town council with a request for better youth facilities. Councillors Lynne Dentith and Chris Lines met with them at the college and were very impressed by their ideas and enthusiasm. Again, the views expressed in the meeting were consistent with what other young people had said.

By the end of 2016, the town council had established from young people that a) there is a demand for a youth facility, ideally based somewhere like the Parish Hall, b) young people would welcome the provision of events such as bus trips (similar to those organised for other residents), and c) young people do not feel that they have a strong voice in

decisions in Sedgefield and are interested in the creation of some form of 'youth council'. While the town council cannot deliver everything immediately, we do now have a clear sense of what we need to address. Crucially, that has been provided by young people themselves.

Work has already started to arrange some dedicated time and space in the Parish Hall for young people, and we hope that this can start soon and become a regular facility. We are also exploring options for organising bus trips and other events - these provide additional challenges, due to issues around child protection, but we are actively investigating what could be possible. For these ideas, we hope that it will be possible to work in partnership with neighbouring communities, sharing relevant expertise and creating economies of scale. We are also developing initial ideas for a form of ongoing youth representation in Sedgefield, that is formally linked to the town council and can help ensure that youth provision remains a focus of our work. However, that will be shaped by young people themselves - the town council's job will simply be to help set it up and then continue to support it.

For all of the above to happen and succeed, it is essential that young people, such as those who have already got involved in this project, continue to contribute and help shape what happens in Sedgefield. Anyone under the age of 18 who would like to play a role is encouraged to get in touch with the town council.

HEADSTONE Safety Testing

Sedgefield Town Council is legally required to undertake headstone safety testing annually to ensure that headstones are stable and safe.

Testing in Butterwick Road Cemetery and St Edmund's Churchyard will take place very soon. Any headstones found to be unstable will be marked with red/white warning tape and the town council will, where such details are known, contact the next of kins as well as place advisory notices on the Cemetery noticeboard.

Foundation Level of NATIONAL QUALITY AWARD

Sedgefield Town Council has for some time been working towards the attainment of the Foundation Level of the National Quality Award.

An application for this accreditation has now been formally submitted and we'll keep you updated on progress through future editions of the Extra.

Community Chest

Do you know of any local groups who may require additional funding to support their work?

If so, Sedgefield Town Council's Community Chest fund may be able to help. For eligibility criteria and details of how to apply please go to the Community Chest page on www.sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk.