



EXTRA SEDFIELD

PUBLISHED BY SEDGFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

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COUNCIL ELECTIONS

In March 2021 election notices were published by Durham County Council announcing the start of the election process for all County Council, Town and Parish Council seats across County Durham. Individuals had until 4pm on 8th April 2021 to submit nominations forms to the Returning Officer at Durham expressing their intention to stand for election in a County Council, Town or Parish Council seat (or indeed a combination of any of those). On 9th April 2021 Durham County Council announced whilst Sedgefield Town Council has 15 Councillor seats only 14 people had put themselves forward to stand for election. This meant those 14 people were automatically elected without an election being held on 6th May 2021. In this edition of the Extra you can find introductory articles from Sedgefield Town Council's new Councillors. The Town Council now has one Councillor vacancy which will be filled by co-option ñ please see page 3 for more details.

A WORD FROM THE NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE TOWN COUNCIL, COUNCILLOR MEL CARR

I am pleased and honoured to be elected Chairman of Sedgefield Town Council again this year.

Some Councillors from the previous Town Council have not joined the Council this term, however, I would like to thank them. By working together we achieved many goals, financial stability, Parish Hall and Council Office upgrades, progression and resolution of village green issues and cemetery expansion plans.

There are new councillors who have joined the Council and I look forward to working with them to continue with our plans and achieve the best for Sedgefield in all matters, large and small, for the benefit of the residents.

I also thank the Clerk to the Council, Dr Jane Ayre, the office staff, building maintenance staff and gardening staff who are vital in ensuring many of the Council plans and aims are achieved and we all look forward to working with them again.

The Town Council welcomes David Brown and Chris Lines as the Durham County Council Councillors representing the Sedgefield Ward. David Brown, who is also a member of the Town Council, and Chris Lines are welcome to our meetings to ensure that they hear views expressed by Sedgefield Town Council on behalf of the residents and can assist where appropriate.

NEW MAYOR 2021/22 COUNCILLOR ANN CARR

Thank you for the opportunity to represent Sedgefield as the Mayor. This is both a privilege and pleasure and I will endeavour to carry out the task to the best of my ability, along with thought, fun and friendship wherever I go.

I have lived in Sedgefield for over 50 years with my husband Melvyn. We have two grown up daughters and two granddaughters, Mel is definitely outnumbered!

The Pandemic has affected everyone in some way – big and small. Sedgefield has always been a thriving community and we will build it up again with support and generosity found in the things people do and say. During the year I will be supporting YoungMinds, a charity for children and young people's mental health, as well as local charities and organisations. Sedgefield is a great place to live, work, socialize and bring up family because of who we are. I look forward to meeting you, please let me know if I can be of help in any way.

Warm regards

Ann



Above Mayor of Sedgefield, Councillor Ann Carr

WELCOME TO THE NEW COUNCILLORS



Allan Blakemore David Brown Mark Cant Ann Carr Mel Carr John Finlayson Paul Heasman



Allan Nicholson Jimmy Seymour Julie Towler Alf Walton Mavis Wayman Stephen Winter

Allan Blakemore – I am looking forward to continuing the work which we have ongoing in the Town Council. We have a very healthy community within Sedgefield with activities for people of all ages and I have always enjoyed being part that. Hopefully we can move on now, from the lock down, and begin to have activities together again as we have in recent years.

David Brown – I have been a town councillor since 2003 and look forward to representing residents for a further four years. I am proud to say I have always lived in Sedgefield Parish. My father was a farmer at Bog Hall farm where I was brought up. Upon my marriage in 1964 I farmed at Hopper House Farm which is now run by my son and his wife. Understandably I am the voice for the rural residents (10%) who at this point in time contribute 20% of the precept! Please attend meetings and have your say.

Mark Cant – I am pleased to be able to continue to support the work of Sedgefield Town Council as an independent, non politically motivated individual, for the benefit of Sedgefield.

Ann Carr – I have lived and worked in or near Sedgefield for 50 years and always been interested in what makes our town thrive. I am married to Mel, and we have two daughters. I am concerned with what can be done to preserve what we have in Sedgefield and how to improve it. I will do my best to support the residents of Sedgefield in maintaining and building on all the great things we have in our town.

Mel Carr – I was born in Sedgefield and have lived here for over 60 years. I now live in the centre of the village with my wife Ann. I am pleased to be a Councillor again and will continue to work for the interest of all residents to retain the special and unique character of Sedgefield.

John Finlayson – I am a retired IT Consultant formerly with “HP Enterprise Services” at Wynyard, and I have lived in Sedgefield for 23 years with my wife Dee. I was born in Darlington and grew up in Stockton - and I also lived in the London area for a number of years before returning to the North East in 1998. I am involved with Sedgefield Blues Club and Sedgefield Players, and I am a keen photographer. I look forward to serving the Sedgefield community and working with my fellow Councillors during the coming term.

Paul Heasman – I grew up in Sedgefield, attending Primary and Secondary school in the Town. After a career in the Royal Air Force I am proud to have returned to my home town. I am thankful for this opportunity to represent the views and opinions of the residents in our Town and look forward to working with residents and fellow Councillors to build the best future for our community.

Allan Nicholson – I was born in Sedgefield and have lived here all of my life. I am retired after many years of working in construction and being a CITB trainer and assessor. I enjoy gardening and have an interest in animals. I am well known in the local area and I am passionate about Sedgefield and its nearby villages.

Jimmy Seymour – Sedgefield is a great town to live in. Very soon social activities can resume, businesses will reopen and Sedgefield will be buzzing AGAIN!

Julie Towler – I have lived and worked in Sedgefield for over 40 years and have been the owner of Jaiz Hair salon for over 30 years. My husband Andrew and I have brought our 2 sons up within the village community and they still embrace all that Sedgefield has to offer. I have been a volunteer Guide leader for over 35 years in Sedgefield and the surrounding villages. I have enjoyed my role as town councillor for the last 4 years and I am looking forward to working again as a team with both returning and new councillors.

Alf Walton – Being part of a proud family of many generations in and around Sedgefield, it was a great privilege to be voted onto Sedgefield Town Council in 2013. This position has given me an excellent insight into the working and every day running of the Town Council. I have enjoyed the position of Chairman of the Environment Committee and Allotment Champion for several years also an active member of various committees. In the future, I will give my dedicated service to Sedgefield Town Council and the good people of Sedgefield to the best of my ability.

Mavis Wayman – I look forward to my second term as a Town Councillor. I will listen to and understand the views and needs of the different groups within the Parish of Sedgefield.

Stephen Winter – Sedgefield has been a major part of my life. I attended the then Comprehensive School while living close by and moved to the town in 2000 for a short period, then returning permanently in 2018. I love our “Village Centre”. It really is special, and as a Councillor I intend to protect that special character, while supporting our local businesses develop for the future. Public engagement and involvement is important to me and I would like to improve how the Town Council can build on this in the next term. I also intend to support our local groups, whether that be Sports or Community, to give our residents the best choices and facilities. I will also support / push environmental improvement initiatives and traffic management improvements.

Councillor Vacancy:

Following the Town Council’s recent uncontested election there is one Councillor vacancy which we are now seeking to fill by co-option. If you are interested in this vacancy please visit the News page on our website or contact the Town Clerk at town.clerk@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk. The closing date for applications is Friday 11th June 2021.

THANK YOU AND FAREWELL

Sedgefield Town Council would like to thank the following Councillors who have recently left the Council:

- Vanessa Carmichael
- Fiona Warrand
- Chris Lines
- Gloria Wills
- Leo McCormack

Your work over the years has been greatly appreciated and your dedication to Sedgefield commendable. We wish you well for the future.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Following the conclusion of the Council’s Annual General Meeting, it was unanimously agreed that Cllr Mel Carr will be the Chair of the Town Council and Cllr Allan Blakemore will be Vice-Chair. The Chair and Vice-Chair of our Committees are now as follows:

Policy & Resources: Cllr Allan Blakemore and Cllr Mark Cant.

Environment: Cllr Alf Walton and Cllr Stephen Winter.

Community Development & Engagement:

Cllr Ann Carr and Cllr Mavis Wayman.

Personnel Committee: Cllr Allan Blakemore and Cllr Mark Cant.

Sedgefield Extra: Cllr John Finlayson and Cllr Julie Towler.

Community Chest: Cllr Julie Towler and Mavis Wayman.

TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES REFURBISHMENT AND RE-OPENING

Over the last year whilst office based staff have been working remotely in accordance with government guidance, the Town Council has used this time as an opportunity to undertake much needed refurbishment at its offices. The work has now been completed and we are busy behind the scenes getting the offices ready for re-opening and ensuring they are covid secure. Further information will be shared soon.

Sedgefield Parish Hall Update

We are delighted to report that Sedgefield Parish Hall is now open. We have missed welcoming groups into the Hall and seeing it being used for a wide range of activities. We know that many of you have missed it too. We have been liaising with our regular user groups first to ensure their bookings are scheduled and operate within the current coronavirus restrictions and guidance. We are continuously monitoring central government’s guidance and look forward to the day when all restrictions are lifted. While restrictions are in place this does place many limitations upon bookings meaning we are not yet able to use the Hall as we did before the pandemic. Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding. Hopefully we can accommodate as many bookings as possible. If you have any enquiries regarding the Parish Hall please email jane@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk and we will do our utmost to help.

SEDFIELD TOWN COUNCIL 2020/21 ANNUAL REPORT

The Town Council’s 2020/21 Annual Report is now available from the Town Council’s website www.sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk.

If you require a printed copy, please contact jane@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk

NORTHUMBRIA IN BLOOM AND BRITAIN IN BLOOM UPDATE

Last year the Bloom competitions, which the Town Council has entered and supported for many years, were cancelled due to the pandemic. We are pleased to tell you that both Northumbria In Bloom and Britain In Bloom competitions will resume this year with covid secure arrangements for judging. We all look forward to seeing Sedgefield's wonderful floral displays return and we hope the sun comes out and weather warms up!

COMMUNITY EVENTS

We are continuing to monitor government advice in relation to coronavirus and hope to be able to bring you more news in our next edition of the Extra regarding future community events.

COMMUNITY CHEST FUND

As we hopefully start to recover from the impact of the pandemic, 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. The fund awards small donations of up to £100. Full eligibility criteria and details of how to apply to the fund can be found at the Community Chest page on our website www.sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk.

ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY WORK

The Town Council is always keen to explore ways in which it can play its part in helping the environment. Over recent months as a goodwill gesture we have installed new LED lights to illuminate the footpath through the grounds of St Edmund's churchyard. For the 2020 festive celebrations we used a live tree as the Town's Christmas Tree and solar powered LED lights to illuminate it. We are now looking at a number of options for making our other festive lighting more environmentally friendly.

CONTACTING SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL COUNCILLORS:

Addresses (all Sedgefield)

Tel. no.

Cllr Allan Blakemore	32 Beacon Avenue TS21 3AB	01740 621820
Cllr David Brown	Town Farm House, 3 West End TS21 3BW	01740 622894
Cllr Mark Cant	Mordon Moor Farm TS21 2HN	07818 243774
Cllr Ann Carr	3 The Square TS21 2AB	01740 629070
Cllr Melvyn Carr	3 The Square TS21 2AB	01740 629070 / 07530 315331
Cllr John Finlayson	5 Pine Ridge Avenue, Sedgefield TS21 3EF	01740 622313
Cllr Catherine Hart	To be confirmed	
Cllr Paul Heasman	Contact via Town Council Offices	01740 621273
Cllr Allan Nicholson	3 Eden Drive, Sedgefield TS21 2DX	07903 393861
Cllr Jimmy Seymour	9 Homebryth House, Sedgefield TS21 3BW	07950 600729
Cllr Julie Towler	6 Mitford Court TS21 2JE	07979 376997
Cllr Alf Walton	New Dawn, Low Hardwick Farm TS21 2EH	07452 939238
Cllr Mavis Wayman	32 White House Drive TS21 3BX	01740 620337
Cllr Stephen Winter	3 Milliner Court TS21 2JF	01740 629408

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr David Brown	Town Farm House, 3 West End TS21 3BW	01740 622894
Cllr Chris Lines	41 White House Drive, Sedgefield TS21 3BX chris.lines@durham.gov.uk	07971 868329

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Paul Howell MP	paul.howell.mp@parliament.uk	01325 790580
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TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES

Front Street, Sedgefield TS21 3AT, 01740 621273

Town Clerk:	Dr. Jane Ayre	town.clerk@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk
Admin. Officer:	Jane Young	jane@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk
Financial Asst. /Receptionist:	Julia Rowsby	julia@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk
Projects & Media Coordinator:	Natalie Chowns-Traynor	natalie@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk

CONTACTING DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

CONCERN	WHO TO CONTACT	CONTACT INFORMATION
General Enquiries	Customer Services	03000 26 0000
Refuse / street lights / pest control / dog fouling / stray dogs / grass cutting / litter / graffiti / roads and footpaths	Highways / Streetscene	03000 26 1000
Planning Applications	Planning	03000 26 1060 / www.durham.gov.uk/planning
Benefits	Revenues & Benefits	03000 26 2000
Council Tax	Council Tax	03000 26 4000
Apply / Renew Bus Pass	Sustainable Transport	03000 26 8667
Apply / Renew Blue Badge	Blue Badge Scheme	03000 26 9425
Council Housing	Living	0845 50 55 500

Alternatively, Durham County Council concerns can be placed via text on 07786 027280 starting with the word INFO or the online complaints portal www.doitonline.gov.uk. It is very important that you register your views with Durham County Council. Your voice matters and could make a difference for all local residents!



CONGRATULATIONS!

We are delighted to tell you that Natalie Chowns-Traynor, our Projects & Media Co-ordinator, welcomed baby Elijah John into the world on Good Friday.

While Natalie is off on maternity leave please forward any enquiries to town.clerk@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk