



EXTRA SEDFIELD

PUBLISHED BY SEDGFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

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Cllr Julie Towler	6 Mitford Court TS21 2JE	07979 376997
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DURHAM COUNTY COUNCILLORS		
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MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT		
Paul Howell MP	paul.howell.mp@parliament.uk	07435 328153
TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES		
Front Street, Sedgefield TS21 3AT		
Town Clerk:	Dr. Jane Ayre	town.clerk@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk 01740 621273
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Projects & Media Coordinator:	Natalie Chowns-Smith	natalie@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk 01740 621273

Contacting your Town Council

CONCERN	WHO TO CONTACT	WHAT ACTION WE WILL TAKE
Parish Hall enquiry / Cemetery matters / Village Green	Council Office - 01740 621 273 or email julia@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk	Answer your questions and provide assistance.
Wanting an allotment.	Projects & Media Coordinator 01740 621 273 natalie@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk	We will add you to the waiting list and contact you when an allotment becomes available.
Seeking a donation for your group / organisation.	Write or email the town council / Community Chest / Mayor via Council Offices or town.clerk@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk	The request will be placed before the next appropriate council meeting.
Concerned about a planning application or action the town council is undertaking.	Write or email the town council and / or come along to a council meeting. A schedule of which can be found on the Town Council's website at www.sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk/events. Public participation is a standing agenda item on each committee agenda.	Members will listen to your views and take into account when making their decision.
Wanting regular information regarding planning applications and community matters.	Admin Officer 01740 621 273 jane@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk	We will add you to the Residents Database email circulation list.

Contacting Durham County Council

CONCERN	WHO TO CONTACT	CONTACT INFORMATION
General Enquiries including noise disturbances	Customer Services	03000 26 0000
Refuse / street lights / pest control / dog fouling / stray dogs / grass cutting / litter / graffiti / roads and footpaths	Highways / Streetscene / Street Lighting	03000 26 1000
Planning Applications	Planning	03000 26 1060
Benefits	Revenues & Benefits	03000 26 2000
Council Tax	Council Tax	03000 26 4000
Apply / Renew Bus passes	Sustainable Transport	03000 26 8667
Apply / Renew Blue Badge	Blue Badge Scheme	03000 26 9425
Social Housing	Livin	0845 50 55 500

Alternatively, Durham County Council concerns can be placed via text on 07786 027 280 starting with the word INFO or the online complaints portal www.doitonline.durham.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!

NOISE DISTURBANCES

If you have concerns with noise disturbance in and around Sedgefield, please see the contact information at the bottom of the page to find out the correct way to report it.

The Sedgefield Plan

With The Sedgefield Plan formally adopted, its dedicated website will now be closed.

If you would like to view The Sedgefield Plan, the Regulation 19 Decision Statement or the corresponding evidence base, you can find it all on our website at www.sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk/thesedgefieldplan.

HEADSTONE SAFETY TESTING: COMPLETE

We have now completed our annual headstone safety testing operations at our cemeteries.

Unfortunately, a number of headstones have been found to require urgent attention and have been marked with red/white warning tape. Where next of kin details are known, the council has written letters detailing the work that needs to be undertaken to make the headstones safe. An advisory notice has also been displayed in the cemetery noticeboard. If you are visiting the cemetery and find a headstone marked with warning tape, please contact the council offices so that we can provide you with the necessary advice on what to do next. If repair work is not undertaken by 2nd March 2020, the council will oversee a programme of work to lay down these unstable headstones.

SAVE THE DATE 2020:

Mayor's Civic Ball

Date: Friday 6th March 2020

Annual Town Meeting

Date: Tuesday 5th May 2020

VE Day 75 Commemorations

Dates: Fri. 8th & Sat. 9th May 2020

Sedgefield Fireworks Display

Date: Friday 30th October 2020

Sedgefield Snow Party

Date: Saturday 28th November 2020



MAYOR'S CIVIC BALL

The Mayor of Sedgefield, Cllr Leo McCormack, will be hosting the annual Mayor's Civic Ball at Hardwick Hall Hotel on Friday 6th March 2020.

Tickets for this black-tie event cost £35 each and include drinks on arrival, a three-course meal, tombola, auction and an evening of entertainment.

The entertainment will kick off with international singing star Peter Grant, accompanied by world class musician, platinum album producer and orchestrator for the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra,

Danny McCormack. This will be followed by a short performance by the Watermelon Dance group and to conclude the evening, the mayor's charity band will take to the stage, playing some 60s rock and roll.

Funds raised throughout the evening will be donated to Cllr McCormack's chosen charities, Butterwick Hospice and Alzheimer's Society, as well as local community groups.

To book your tickets now, contact jane@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk or call 01740 621273.



ANNUAL TOWN MEETING NOTICE

Sedgefield Town Council's Annual Town Meeting will be held at 7:00pm on Tuesday 5th May 2020 in the Parish Hall.

The meeting serves as an ideal opportunity to find out what your town council has been doing over the last year,

along with plans for the future. All residents are welcome – and encouraged – to attend and ask questions.

Further information will be posted on our website, displayed on the noticeboards and shared via Twitter when it becomes available.

MAYOR'S FESTIVE REGAP

It has been a busy, but really pleasant, couple of months leading up to the end of the year.

The Sedgefield Fireworks Display is a really lovely family event and the standard of Halloween Howler entries made it a very difficult choice in picking the Mitchell family as the winners. Moreover, as mayor, I was thrilled to set off the fireworks display.

I wasn't sure what to expect from the Snow Party but I was amazed at the turnout and it proved to be a wonderful community event. The illuminated snowmen looked fantastic and Charlie who won the glowstick raffle was overjoyed to switch on the festive lights. The Community College Brass Band were splendid and added to the occasion. Many thanks to the council staff for their hard work in making this such a success.

It was a great honour to represent the town in the Remembrance Day services at St Edmund's Church and at St Luke's Church the following day. They were both very moving occasions. My thanks go to David Hillerby for all his hard work in organising the St. Luke's events over the years.

Prior to the Civic Carol Service, Sandra and I had the pleasure of judging the elf Christmas craft activity at the two primary schools. Both sets of children excelled themselves. The carol service itself was well attended by residents and neighbouring dignitaries and was an enjoyable evening aided by the fine singing of the combined primary school choir.

On Saturday 14th December, the Community College Brass Band played traditional Christmas tunes at Sainsbury's to raise money for one of my chosen charities, Butterwick Hospice. My thanks go to all of the students involved but particularly to Simon Ferry, the subject leader for music, for all of his efforts in organising such a joyous event.

COUNCIL TAX PRECEPT 2020/21

Over recent years, there have been significant changes in local government funding and it is anticipated that there will be more changes 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 provide services and amenities within the parish.

The Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (LCTRS) grant, which is provided directly from central government to Durham County Council, has been distributed to local town and parish councils using a formula basis set by the county council.

That formula has seen the grant to Sedgefield Town Council being decreased year on year and for 2020/21 it will be removed entirely, resulting in a reduction of £7,352 for the financial year.

For Sedgefield Town Council to continue delivering its current services, as well as proceed with refurbishment work in the Parish Hall and the town council offices, complete the essential extension of Butterwick Road Cemetery, and protect areas of village green, it has been necessary to increase the precept for 2020/21 by 5.5%. This equates to an increase of £8.29 per annum for each Band D household.

COACH TRIP

Thank you for all the lovely feedback provided following our Christmas coach trip to York!

We're glad everyone had a fantastic time buying Christmas presents, exploring the market and taking in the sights with a warm brew in hand. As always, we are looking for suggestions for our next summer coach trip destination so please let us know where you would like to go.

SINGLE USE PLASTICS PLEDGE

Sedgefield Town Council is delighted to sign up to the County Durham Single Use Plastics Pledge. It's important that we all try to do what we can to help the environment.

Single use plastics are used only once before they are thrown away or recycled. These items are things like plastic bags, straws, coffee stirrers, water bottles and most food packaging. It is thought that more than five trillion pieces of plastic are in the world's oceans and it can take years for it to break down.

Most of it isn't biodegradable, it doesn't rot like paper or food and so it can hang around in the environment for hundreds of years.



Sedgefield Town Council is going to try to reduce its usage of single use plastics by:

- Signing the County Durham Single Use Plastics Pledge and do as much as it can to reduce usage
- Make our local community aware that we have signed the pledge and encourage others to do so. Pledge certificates will be displayed in the Parish Hall and town council offices.
- Try to seek alternatives to single use plastics wherever possible
- Encourage Parish Hall users to look at ways in which they could reduce their use of single use plastics. We will make a reference to this in the Parish Hall user policy.

VILLAGE GREEN

Please be mindful to not park on or drive across grassed areas of village green.

We also want to remind everyone that no items should be placed on village green. This includes skips, benches, tables, signs, ornaments, plant pots etc. We will monitor these areas for further evidence of vehicle damage and unauthorised objects.

If you are unsure which areas in Sedgefield are recognised village green, feel free to get in touch or visit the 'Village Green' page on our website to look at the expandable map.

VE DAY 75

The programme of VE DAY 75 commemorations in Sedgefield is now taking shape, starting with an ecumenical service on the morning of Friday 8th May followed by a performance by the primary schools' joint choir in Ceddesfeld Hall and a 'street party', entertainment and activities in Ceddesfeld grounds throughout the afternoon for which residents and families are encouraged to bring picnics and enjoy entertainment and activities by local groups.



provided by local singer Lily Grundy of Betty's Boudoir. The Local History Society will also be holding an exhibition on Sedgefield during World War II in Ceddesfeld Hall over the weekend. Businesses and local premises will be encouraged to participate in a competition to dress their windows in homage to the decorations displayed in the streets on VE Day.

More information about timings, events and entertainment for the weekend will be provided in the Sedgefield News in the coming months. If you are planning a VE Day event in Sedgefield and would like it to be included in the programme, please get in touch.

Sedgefield in Bloom are hosting a themed evening dance in the Parish Hall on Saturday 9th May with entertainment

SEDGEFIELD CITIZEN OF THE YEAR & YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Do you know someone of any age who has made an exceptional contribution to Sedgefield? If so, why not nominate them for the annual Citizen of the Year Award or Young Citizen of the Year?

Award entry forms will be included in an upcoming edition of the Sedgefield News. The award will be presented at the Annual Town Meeting on Tuesday 5th May 2020.

YOUTH CLUB FUNDING SUCCESS

We are delighted to announce that thanks to the AAP's Youth Fund Grant, Sedgefield Youth Club will be holding a 2020 summer holidays programme of 12 sessions including the usual Monday nights, additional daytime sessions, a coffee morning AND four fun trips to leisure centres and activity parks picked by the members themselves! Please look out for publicity material nearer the time.



East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership

Sedgefield Youth Club has also been selected as one of Sedgefield Co-op's Local Causes for 2020! If you have a Co-op membership card and live in Sedgefield or the surrounding area, you can choose Sedgefield Youth Club as your local cause. In doing so, 1% of the money you spend on Co-op products and selected Co-op services throughout the year will be donated to the club.

SEDGEFIELD YOUTH CLUB - IN OUR OWN WORDS

Sedgefield Youth Club was founded in 2017 with a regular, weekly session in the Parish Hall and we have been growing ever since.

Now well established in the community, our focus is to provide our members with fun, safe activities that help build skills, relationships and provide lifelong memories. Some of our favourite things to do are baking foods from around the world, crafting and having fun parties like our 'Camp-In' and Halloween disco! We also think it's important that our members take away real-life experience, with the young people actively taking part in fundraising and having seats on our membership committee. Your support through the Co-op membership scheme will make a huge impact on the services and facilities we can provide for young people. Thank you!

SEDGEFIELD PARISH HALL

Are you looking to hold a party, social event or meeting in Sedgefield?

The Parish Hall located beside the doctor's surgery has three rooms, two kitchens and a bar area ready for hire! Get in touch with us or visit our website www.sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk/facilities to find out more.

