

**Sedgefield Town
Council**



Annual Town Meeting

Tuesday 18th May 2021

7 p.m.

Sedgefield Parish Hall

Sedgefield Town Council Annual Town Meeting 2021

Tuesday 18th May 2021

7 p.m.

Sedgefield Parish Hall

Notes:

Councillor attendance at this meeting will be in accordance with the Council's Covid Secure Meetings Policy.

Members of the public wishing to attend must email the Town Clerk

(town.clerk@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk) by noon on Monday 17th May 2021 to register their wish to attend. Due to required social distancing measures capacity for members of the public to attend will be limited.

AGENDA

1. Welcome by the Chairman
2. Apologies
3. Chairman's Report 2020/21
4. Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting 2019 (As attached)
5. Matters Arising
6. Reports

6.1 Town Council Annual Report 2020/21 (presented by Chairman – copies of the Annual Report will be available from 9am on Tuesday 18th May 2021 on the Town Council's website www.sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk)

6.2 Sedgefield Charities (provided by Mrs Anne Gladwin – see attached report)

6.3 Sedgefield Development Trust (provided by Mr Roger Clubley - see attached report)

6.4 Durham Constabulary (provided by Sgt Alex Clarke – see attached report)

7. Any other business

**Cllr. Mel Carr
Chairman**

10th May 2021

Sedgefield Charities Report to Sedgefield Town Council

Introduction

This report will give a brief overview setting out the activity of the following charities known collectively as the Sedgefield Charities for the year up to 31st December 2020.

- The Sedgefield District Relief in Need Charity (charity number: 230395)
- The Howle Hope Estate (Charity number: 230409)
- The Sedgefield Educational Foundation (charity number: 527317).

STATUS AND OPERATION OF THE CHARITIES

Governance

Sedgefield District Relief in Need Charity is an unincorporated charity governed by a scheme granted by the Charity Commissioners in 1998. Under this title it has drawn together the endowments and objectives of many smaller charities, dating from 1630 to 1933, set up for the benefit of the parishioners of Sedgefield and the surrounding villages.

The Board of Trustees for the Relief in Need Charity is also responsible for the Howle Hope Estate Charity. Similarly, the Howle Hope Estate Charity is an unincorporated charity governed by a scheme granted in 2000. The Estate, formerly Howle Hope Farm, was jointly owned by the Relief in Need Charity and the Sedgefield Educational Foundation from 1734 until its disposal in 2000. The proceeds of the sale are invested to provide income for the work of the Relief in Need and the Education Foundation charities. The income is split 78:22 respectively, reflecting the charities' original interests in the farm. The three charities work closely together, being known locally as the "Sedgefield Charities". The charities have a number of Trustees in common, but, since the Foundation's area of benefit is smaller than that of the Relief in Need Charity, the composition of the Boards differ slightly.

The Trustees meet twice a year to consider applications for help. Requests are made to the Clerks to the Trustees. The Clerks gather the relevant information on behalf of the Board. With respect to applications for assistance, all decisions are made by the Board of Trustees or by the Chair of the Board, perhaps in consultation with the Vice-chair. The decision process may differ dependent on the urgency associated of the application. Urgent applications which are received between meetings, usually for the needs of an individual, are approved by the Chair. There may be wider discussions between the Chair and Vice-chair or among the Trustees by e-mail.

The Sedgefield Educational Foundation is governed by a scheme approved by the Charity Commissioners in 1983. However, its antecedents can be traced back to 1734 when a share was taken in Howle Hope Farm. The farm was jointly owned with Sedgefield District Relief in Need Charity and the income supported a variety of educational purposes.

A Department of Education deed of 1909 established the charity as the Howle Hope Estate and refers to the need to educate children so as to "encourage the scholars in industry". Sold in 2000, the proceeds from the farm were invested and the income passes to the Relief in Need Charity and the Educational Foundation in the ratio 78:22 respectively.

The three charities work closely together, being known locally as the "Sedgefield Charities" and having a number of Trustees in common. However, since the Foundation's area of

benefit is smaller than that of the Relief in Need Charity, the composition of the two Boards differ slightly.

The Trustees meet twice a year. The particular business of the October meeting is to receive applications from students and determine the number and level of grants to be made.

Area of Benefit

The Charities can provide "relief in need" either directly to individuals or to other charitable bodies providing the same sort of help within the area of benefit. The area of benefit broadly covers the present civil parishes of Bishop Middleham, Bradbury, Cornforth, Fishburn, Mordon, Sedgefield and Trimdon.

The Trustees for the Education Foundation are empowered to make grants to young people under the age of 25 years residing in the present civil parishes of Bradbury, Fishburn, Mordon, and Sedgefield.

Nature of Help

Relief in Need - Help can be given by gifts of money, by the provision of goods, equipment, either outright or on loan, or by providing services. Support may be offered in cases of hardship, infirmity, disability or other handicap. For examples, in the provision of furnishings or bedding, medical requisites, mobility aids, the funding of hospital visiting, transport for the disabled, fees for education or training and the purchase of books, assisting with living expenses and providing respite care.

Education Foundation - The Trustees make grants to young people following courses leading to qualifications "higher than A-level or its equivalent". Applications to help fund post-graduate courses are not usually considered. However, the Trustees may give consideration to an application where a post-graduate course is necessary to enter an occupation, eg. teaching or law.

The value of a grant is graded according to the resources of the family. An award may be renewed each year, subject only to the academic success of the student and there having been no significant improvement in the circumstances of the family. Applications falling outside the Trustees' guidelines are referred to the Trustees of the Sedgefield Relief in Need Charity when appropriate.

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS IN 2020

It should be noted that the impact of the Covid19 pandemic on the economic and social activities within the Charity's area of benefit has been far reaching and fundamental. There have been fewer applications for grants than might have been expected.

Quality of life

There has been a decrease of some 49% in the value of relief in need grants distributed to organisations and individuals in 2020 when compared to those distributed in 2019. Grants were made to three organisations in 2020 which included Sedgefield Pop-in Club, Marie Curie Cancer Centre and Sedgefield Development Trust.

The decrease in the value of the grants that were distributed in 2020 was the result of a reduced number of applications for grants being received in the year from organisations and individuals. The combined value of the relief in need grants made to individuals during 2020

was less than the value of the grants distributed in 2019. There was a 51% reduction in the value of the grants distributed.

Education and Training

The Relief in Need Charity offers help to students pursuing courses beyond A level and who fall outside the remit of the Sedgefield Educational Foundation. Often because they reside outside the Foundation's area of benefit. Grants of up to £600 are made, depending on the families' income. In 2020, five grants were made, four of a value of £600 and one of a value of £300. The Charity also continued to support the Foundation in meeting the demand from the applicants in its area of benefit. The Relief in Need Charity made a grant to the value of £3,150 to the Education Foundation in 2020. There was a 6% reduction in the value of the education grants distributed directly to individuals by the Relief in Need Charity, grants of a combined value of £2,700 were distributed.

Grants awarded by the Education Foundation Trustees totaled a value of £3,150. Seven applications for grants were received, three for renewals and four for new grants. Six grants were approved, one of a value of £300, one of a value of £450 and four of a value of £600.

The students who received grants are studying a wide range of courses: veterinary nursing, forensic psychology, primary education, visual arts and psychology and counselling.

DEVELOPMENT

During 2020, the responsibilities of the Clerk to the Trustees passed from John Hannon to Anne Gladwin and Simon Nott. The new Clerks are working jointly in the role. Cllr Rob Gilbert and Cllr Christine Luke ended their terms as trustees. They were replaced by Cllr Paul Trippett and Cllr Penny Preason respectively. Ken Threlfall passed away during the year. Mrs Sue Dobson became a trustee.

The links with health, social work and education professionals were maintained in 2020. The network of contacts includes a number of organisations that make referrals for grants on behalf of individuals that find themselves in need of support. The details of the Charity appear on a number of local and national websites providing access for those seeking help. The details of the charity are also promoted in the local media and periodically on posters distributed by the Clerks within the area of benefit. The particular circumstances of this year have hampered any development work that would otherwise have occurred.

Sedgefield Development Trust Chairman's report to AGM, Feb 2021 for 2020

In October 2020 SDT was twenty; we were fully incorporated as a Company Limited by Guarantee and a Registered Charity by March 2001.

These milestones have probably passed most people without notice, 2020 has been a difficult time and a devastating year for so many.

For SDT it has been a time for us to adapt what we do, and how we do it, while still being of value to our area of benefit. We have also had to ensure the Trust is sound, strong and in shape to be of value to our communities in the coming months and years. A very brief note on each of our projects appears in Appendix 1.

The year has seen the co-option of Mark Darling as a Trustee and the launch of the BUG project – hence forward known as the BAT: Bicycle and Active Travel Group. Also, one of our longer serving Trustees, Olwen Downs, has decided to step down at the end of this meeting; thank you again, Olwen, for your help and support over the years. I have recorded the membership of the Trustees & Executive Meetings over the last year at Appendix 2.

Apart for figuring out how projects can run, or not, over the past twelve months we have also put some effort into reviewing and revising various policies, Hazard and Risk Assessments, our Governing Documents and how we operate. There is more to do and that can proceed over the next months.

During these reviews an important issue has been thrown up. We have been functioning with data, correspondence and other files held largely on the personal computers of Trustees and other volunteers. This means the control of data related to the GDPR is complicated and more vulnerable to errors as well as making joint inputs to work difficult. It also makes handing a role, or strand of work, on to a different person un-necessarily complex. Our recent decision to establish a single central, on-line server with access for volunteers to areas they need to, has great potential to improve the way we work.

I see this improvement in our functionality as crucial for the Trust as over the next few months it is increasingly clear that some of the longest serving Trustees (and oldest) need to do less, or even no more, and others fresher, younger Trustees take on a little more. The new server and ways of working will be the foundation of these changes.

Overall, I do feel that the Trust is well able to grasp the opportunities which will follow the decline of the grip of the pandemic.

Thank you all for your work and support over the last year; we all know there have been numerous spontaneous expressions of gratitude from our community too.

Roger Clubley, Chairman. 21st February 2021

Appendix 1, SDT projects in a year of Covid-19.

DIDO	Suspended pending the passing of the virus
Sew Easy	Suspended pending the passing of the virus
Sedgefield News	Continued throughout, but with reduced content
Sedgefieldweb.co.uk	Continued throughout
Farmers Market	Suspended during first lockdown, operating with revised Risk Assessment since July and with extra precautions
Sedgefield Energy Switch	Continued throughout but without personal visits to help individuals too challenged by internet submissions.
Sustainable Energy.	Suspended pending return of activity at County.
Woodland & Wildlife	Continued mostly without interruption but with social distancing applied to all site working.
Homework Help.	Initially suspended, re-started in September on-line only with fewer beneficiaries.
Bees of Hardwick	Continued throughout with social distancing and other precautions.
BAT	Established during the year with activities suited to working in lockdown, some initiatives on hold until the virus has passed.

Appendix 2, Membership & Roles of Trustees & Executive Meeting 2020.

Through the past year the Trustees and their roles have been:

Roger Clubley	Chairman and Trustee
John Fitzpatrick	Company Secretary and Trustee
Mike Ashwell	Treasurer, Vice Chairman and Trustee
Gloria Wills	Trustee
Olwen Downs	Trustee
Sandy Clubley	Trustee
Tamzin Lafford	Trustee
Melissa Hinton	Trustee
Cathryn Gathercole	Trustee
Mark Darling	Trustee, (co-opted during the year)

All are also Board Members and Directors of Sedgefield Development Trust Ltd.

Monthly meetings are also attended by other key supporters, generally including: Peter Burnip, Gerard Lyons, Matt Wilson, Clare Midgley, Tim Dredge, Janette Savage and Ali Guy. Mel Carr attends regularly as the Town Council representative.

Sedgefield Annual Police Report 2020-2021

	2019/20	2020/21
Reported Crime	323	291
Solved Rate	18.3%	15.5%
Burglary		
Residential	6	6
Commercial	16	5
Theft of Motor Vehicle		
Theft from Motor Vehicle	7	2
Criminal Damage	12	8
Public Order	45	52
Violence Against Person		
With Injury	21	14
Without Injury	18	16
General ASB		
Youth ASB	80	140
	40	60

Summary

The last year has been a challenging time for everyone and the police are no different. As an organisation, we have had to adapt quickly to a new way of

policing in order to meet the stringent requirements of the public health restrictions during a worldwide pandemic.

During the first lockdown, police officers from the local beat teams were re-deployed to Response duties to support teams depleted by the effects of the virus. Throughout this period our PCSO's continued to patrol and attend incidents to provide a visible presence and reassurance to the local community.

As the full scale of the pandemic began to unfold, we began to change our processes and were required to make some difficult choices on what incidents we would and would not attend. Face to face contact became a distant memory and the world of virtual policing began to emerge. Many departments embraced home working however, for obvious reasons, the local beat team and other frontline policing teams continued with their duties albeit in a slightly different light.

As you can see from the figures, recorded crime for the Sedgefield Ward has fallen by 10%, which given the restrictions on movement for large parts of the year seems logical. The fall in the Solved Rate is disappointing and has been reflected in other areas around the county. There is an on-going piece of work to improve the investigative processes amongst all departments responsible for investigating crime. Early indications suggest that this is already bearing fruit and I hope to have some more positive news in the coming months.

In terms of individual crime type, you can see that Residential Burglary figures have remained static with the previous year's figures, however, the other indicator crimes such as Commercial Burglary and Vehicle crime have fallen. As much as we would like to take credit for this, the restrictions on movement throughout different times of the year have no doubt worked in our favour.

Other crime types, such as criminal damage and minor offences of Violence have seen slight rises but given the fact that schools have been closed for extended periods and that the lockdown has lasted for so long it is perhaps of no surprise. The fact that the pubs have been closed would also help explain the fall in public order offences.

The most obvious and worrying figures are around anti-social behaviour both general and youth. The continued period of lockdown restrictions must be having an impact on the local community. There was a big spike in July last year when the pubs reopened and this is something that, as an organisation,

we are planning for come June when hopefully the restrictions are removed in their entirety.

Following the prime Minister's roadmap announcement, we have seen more people out and about and a gradual increase in youth related ASB in and around the centre of the town. Schools have been closed for extended periods and young people, have missed out on key moments in their social development and they are obviously keen to make up for lost time. Indeed, we are conscious of not being too heavy handed in dealing with young people out and about on a weekend, however we will intervene when it starts affecting the quality of life of other residents. This issue is something that we will focus on over the coming months and hopefully we can establish a happy medium as we emerge from this crisis.

I hope you all have great summer and thank you for your continued support.

Regards

Alex

PS 577 Clarke

Sedgefield & Shildon NPT