



EXTRA SEDGEFIELD

PUBLISHED BY SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

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As government restrictions start to ease and more guidance is issued for group activities and events, we are going to consider the implications of these for Sedgefield Town Council, and in particular for our Parish Hall and calendar of community events during the remainder of 2020. It is possible that some of our events may not take place this year, but we will keep you informed and look at alternative options where we can. Thanks to the hard work of our small team of town council staff – and the willingness of councillors to adapt to new ‘virtual’ processes – we have been able to press ahead with much of our programme of work, along with online meetings. You can read more about all of that in this issue. As you will see, the town council continues to be very busy, as always working on behalf of Sedgefield’s residents.

SEDGEFIELD PARISH HALL

While outdoor markets and external activities are beginning to re-open, there has been no guidance issued at the time of writing to indicate when indoor activities will be given the go ahead to resume. Please be assured that the town council is continuously considering the latest advice from central government. However, we are mindful that once community buildings are deemed safe to re-open, this may not necessarily mean that activities in the Parish Hall can resume straight away, as limits to the number of people taking part in indoor activities are likely to continue for some time. As soon as we have an indication of when the hall will be allowed to re-open, we will get in touch with all of our regular users directly. The Parish Hall is currently being deep cleaned and will then be professionally disinfected so that it will be ready for users as soon as we are allowed to re-open.

MAYOR’S CHARITY DONATIONS 2019/20

Despite the unfortunate end to the 2019/20 civic year which resulted in the cancellation of his final fundraising event, the Mayor of Sedgefield, Cllr Leo McCormack raised a fantastic £6,306.69 throughout his year in office for his chosen charities and local groups. Normally, the mayor would have presented donations to their chosen charities as the council’s Annual Town Meeting in May, but due to the lockdown restrictions and subsequent emergency legislation, no such meeting took place and cheques were instead sent out to the following:

Butterwick Hospice Adult’s Section **£3500**
Alzheimer’s Society **£2000**
Sedgefield Players **£75**
Sedgefield Cricket Club **£75**
DIDO (Days In Days Out) **£75**
SVP (Saint Vincent De Paul Society) **£75**
Sedgefield Twinning Association **£50**
Sedgefield Baby & Toddler Group **£50**

Dementia Cafe **£50**
Sedgefield Youth Club **£50**
Taste and See Group **£50**
Pop-in Club **£50**
Sedgefield Scouts **£50**
Sew Easy **£50**
Sedgefield Brownies
(two groups) **£50 each**

VIRTUAL COUNCIL MEETINGS



Office-based staff have been utilising Microsoft Teams since lockdown began and have found it a very efficient and useful tool to communicate while working from home. Over recent weeks, we’ve been busy extending the use of Microsoft Teams to all councillors. On 1st June 2020, we held our first virtual Special Meeting to approve our 2019/20 year end accounts and we’re delighted to report that the meeting ran smoothly with no technical issues. Work is now underway to prepare for our virtual monthly and Policy & Resources Committee meetings on Monday 13th July 2020 at 6pm. More information will be issued nearer the time regarding these meetings and arrangements for public participation.

COUNCIL OFFICIALS 2020/21

Soon after the lockdown restrictions came into effect, central government enacted emergency legislation called "The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020". These regulations have a range of implications for local authorities, including councillors continuing in their current positions until May 2021. For Sedgefield Town Council, this means the following councillors will continue with their respective roles:

Chair	Councillor Mel Carr
Vice-Chair	Councillor Gloria Wills
Mayor 2020/21	Councillor Leo McCormack

Committee:	Chair:	Vice Chair:
Policy & Resources	Councillor Gloria Wills	Councillor Mel Carr
Environment	Councillor Alf Walton	Councillor Stephen Winter
Community Development & Engagement	Councillor Allan Blakemore	Councillor Chris Lines
Personnel	Councillor Gloria Wills	Councillor Ann Carr
Sedgefield Extra	Councillor Chris Lines	Councillor Leo McCormack
Community Chest	Councillor Vanessa Carmichael	Councillor Mavis Wayman

PUBLIC LITTER BINS

We have received a number of reports regarding the misuse of litter bins in the town, particularly those in the grounds of Ceddesfeld Hall. This is a polite reminder to all residents that public litter bins are designed to hold general litter and not household waste or items such as carpet, electricals or small items of furniture. These larger items, more appropriately disposed of in landfills or through Durham County Council's refuse collection service, fill up the bins much quicker than they can be emptied and make it harder for others to dispose of their waste responsibly while enjoying the town. We will be monitoring the bins for further evidence of misuse and will take the necessary action to prevent more cases.

COUNCIL OFFICE REFURBISHMENT

For some time, the town council has been looking at ways in which it can improve its very dated office building. At the Special Town Council meeting held in June 2020 it was agreed that with the current pandemic restrictions, now is the perfect time to progress this work to minimise disruption to staff and the public. This work will include alterations to our reception area to ensure we have appropriate arrangements in place to deal with longer-term social distancing and security requirements. We hope that this will be the first phase of a longer-term project to review the other elements of the office footprint, including the garage and car park at the rear of the building.

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2019/2020

In previous years, the town council's Annual Report and Accounts have been launched at our Annual Town Meeting in May. While no such meeting was permitted to take place this year, the full document has been completed and can be found on our website at

<http://www.sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk/annual-report-and-accounts/>.

SEDGEFIELD'S FLORAL DISPLAYS

Despite there not being any Britain in Bloom or Northumbria In Bloom competitions this year, our gardeners Stephen and Ben have been working hard over recent weeks to plant up the council's floral beds and tubs and ensure that Sedgefield looks as stunning as always for the enjoyment of residents and visitors. At the time of writing, the glorious sunny weather has been replaced by rain, but we are hoping that the sun will return and shine on the town!

WINTERTON ALLOTMENT BOUNDARY FENCE

Following the unfortunate fire near Winterton Cottages at the end of May, one of the boundary fences at the Winterton allotment site was severely damaged. We aim to replace this as soon as possible and apologise to our allotment holders at the site for the inconvenience caused.