

Parish Information Bulletin

July 2017



parishbulletin@mendip.gov.uk

Gypsy and Traveller Site Count

See page 3 for more details...



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If you wish to submit an item for the Parish Council Information Bulletin, please email it to parishbulletin@mendip.gov.uk

Count of Gypsy and Traveller Caravans and Sites

The next Count of Gypsy and Traveller Caravans and Sites is due to take place on **Thursday, 13th July, 2017.**

Mendip District Council must complete the return no later than 26th August but it is the position as existing on 13th July that must be reported.

As on previous occasions this office does its best to keep an awareness of all sites on the District but it is possible that there are new sites, or changes to existing sites, that have not been brought to our attention, or have been misreported. Current office commitments continue to make this particularly relevant and emphasises the importance of information provided by you.

As on previous occasions I would be very grateful for any information that you can provide in respect of sites within your areas. The information that you have provided in the past has proved very useful and has contributed to the accuracy of the return submitted to the Government Office.

Please do not assume we have full knowledge of any site as too much information is better than too little.

Nil returns would also be appreciated.

Please can you send any information on gypsy and traveller sites over to dave.woodridge@mendip.gov.uk

Thank you for your assistance.

Mendip landlord training event

Local landlords are being invited to attend a one-day training session aimed at bringing them up to date on the latest legislation affecting the housing sector.

The training session takes place at Mendip District Council's offices at the Shape Mendip Hub, Cannards Grave Road, Shepton Mallet and will cover the following areas:

- Homeless Reduction Bill (Guidance to Act) and implementation
- Compulsory Money Protection for Letting Agents
- Rent Repayments - Housing and Planning Act 2016
- How to ensure electrical appliances are properly safe and compliant (The Electrical Equipment Safety Regulations 2016)
- Consumer Protection - to include lettings fees ban and options
- HMO update
- Housing part of Universal Credit not available for some 18-21 year olds



The training will be delivered by Stephen Fowler, who has many years of experience letting and managing rental properties.

The training session takes place on Tuesday 4 July 2017 from 9.30am - 4.30pm. The day includes lunch and refreshments throughout.

The training session costs £20. For two or more delegates there is 10% off.

To book your place please ring 01749 341410, email PrivateSectorHousing@mendip.gov.uk or contact Carol Plenty on 01749 679553 - ext 2208 or email CPlenty@mendipymca.org.uk

Free Food Safety courses

Mendip District Council, in partnership with Element Skills Training, are offering fully funded Food Safety training to companies within Mendip

There will be four separate courses taking place on 5 July, 12 July, 18 July and 26 July, all starting at 9:15am. The courses are open to any food business in Mendip which employs fewer than 250 people and are completely free to attend.

Each course has two parts;

The Level 2 Award in Food Safety for Manufacturing (QCF) is a qualification aimed at food handlers working in a manufacturing environment. The qualification is intended for learners already working in manufacturing and those who are preparing to work in the industry.

The Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering (QCF) is a qualification aimed at caterers and other food handlers. The qualification is intended for learners already working in catering and those who are preparing to work in the industry.

The courses will take place at the meeting room at 3 Solutions, Shepton Mallet. If you are interested in attending any of these courses, please contact Tim Rigby at Element Skills Training on 01934 712103 or trigby@cavc.ac.uk



Mendip Parish Forum

The Mendip Parish Forum is for clerks, elected members and community representatives from across Mendip. The forums are held quarterly in the Council Chamber at the Mendip District Council offices.

Date of next Forums

September 26 2017

Possible topics to include;

Core Services Contracts
Somerset Waste Partnership
Dark Skies (Mendip AONB)
Dispensations

Look out for more details in subsequent Bulletins

January 18 2018

Your Forum – your ideas

Please send suggestions to Sara Skirton – sara.skirton@mendip.gov.uk
or call 01749 341340.

Community Funding

Variety Club Equipment Grants

Grants for specialist equipment for the direct use of children up to the age of 18 years who are sick, disabled or disadvantaged and are resident in the UK (applications may be submitted at any time)

The [Variety Club's Equipment Grants scheme](#) offers funding for specialist equipment which will be of clear direct benefit to a child or children up to the age of 18 with a disability/disabilities and/or with special needs.

The scheme aims to provide whatever equipment is required, whether it is:

- o Medical, such as monitoring equipment;
- o Basic care like feeding tubes or hoists; or
- o Sensory play or mobility equipment for a nursery or playgroup.

There is no lower or upper limit on the level of grant which may be awarded. However, **most grants are for less than £5,000. Many requests are for sums under £1,000.**

Applications can be made on behalf of individual children. These must be supported by a letter from an appropriately qualified medical professional, such as an occupational therapist, physiotherapist or paediatrician.



Applications can also be made from non-profit making groups and organisations working with children up to, and including, the physical age of 18 years. These include statutory bodies (schools and hospitals), hospices and small registered charities. The applicant must confirm that they will take responsibility to arrange for the maintenance and insurance of any equipment funded by Variety.

Funding is not available for:

- o Standard household equipment/furnishings;
- o Standard medical equipment;
- o Repayment of loans;
- o Garden adaptations;
- o Garden sheds or summerhouses;
- o Cost of a family/wheelchair adapted vehicle;
- o Administrative/salary costs;
- o Laptops, iPads, computer hardware;
- o Maintenance or on-going costs;
- o Travel costs;
- o Therapy sessions;
- o Reimbursement of funds already paid out;
- o Hire, rental costs or down payments;
- o Trips abroad or holiday costs;
- o Trampolines (due to safety aspect);
- o Medical treatment or research;
- o Education/tuition fees;
- o Trikes, bikes or buggies.

Applications may be submitted at any time.

Application forms are available to download from the [Variety Club website](#).

Payments are usually made on receipt of invoices from the supplier.

Contact details for the scheme are:

Julie Thomas
Grants Programme Manager
Variety Club
Variety House
93 Bayham Street
London NW1 0AG
Tel: 0207 428 8120
Email: grants@variety.org.uk



The Mutals Interim Support Fund

Grants up to £25,000 for organisations seeking to develop as a Public Service Mutual (application deadline 31 July 2017)

The [Mutuals Interim Support Fund \(MISF\)](#) will award grants for organisations to purchase professional advice and support to help them consider, develop or grow a public service mutual.

Following a successful pilot earlier this year, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) is extending the programme and making a further £200,000 of grant funding available during the 2017/18 financial year.

In this, phase 2 of the MISF, £100,000 is available.

Applicants can apply for a grant of up to £25,000 to enable them to access bespoke, professional advice to consider, develop or grow a public service mutual.

Preference will be given to applicants who can match the funding they're seeking, or make a substantive contribution towards matching, through financial or in-kind resources.

A public service mutual is an organisation which:

- o Has spun out (i.e. moved out) of the public sector;
- o Continues to deliver public services;
- o Enables employees to have a substantial degree of influence and involvement in running the organisation (for example, staff may own shares or have representation on its board).

The public service mutual model encompasses a broad range of employee-led structures, including charities, social enterprises, community interest companies, partnerships, and joint ventures.

Applicants who have already spun out of the public sector will need to demonstrate that they're operating a financially viable organisation. Evidence of this could include a copy of financial statements, audited accounts or a statement from an auditor.

Grants must be used to purchase professional advice to help organisations consider, develop or grow a public service mutual.

This could include:

- o Stakeholder consultation and engagement activity;
- o Development of an options appraisal;
- o Review of existing service provision;
- o Development of new service specification;
- o Legal advice on new organisational structures and operating models.

Applicants must meet the following criteria:



1. The majority of services must be delivered in England;
2. Grant funding must be spent and claimed by 31 March 2018.
3. They must have a clear idea of the professional support they need to progress their projects. They should be clear about the activities and outcomes that the work will support within the next 12 months, and the level of funds needed to progress this;
4. They must show they have the support of a senior sponsor within their organisation, for example an executive director or chief executive, to progress their project;
5. They will need to demonstrate they have identified sufficient internal resources to work with external suppliers who will provide the professional advice and support;
6. They will need to demonstrate they have explored alternative avenues for funding the professional advice they're seeking, and outline why these avenues were not available or appropriate;
7. They must have a clear idea of the services and activities they wish to consider or deliver through a public service mutual model;
8. They will need to demonstrate that a public service mutual is potentially a suitable and viable model for delivering services, or how this funding will help determine this.

Preference will be given to:

- o Applicants who have already undertaken work towards considering or developing the public service mutual model, and who intend to implement this within the next 12 months; and
- o Applicants who can show they have the support of staff in the service areas concerned in relation to their project.

Applicants that do not meet the criteria can reapply before the deadline, or for future rounds of the MISF.

Applications are now open until midnight on **Monday 31 July 2017**.

DCMS will aim to inform applicants of the outcome by **Monday 14 August 2017**.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport expects to announce a third phase with a further £100,000 available later in 2017.

For further information about the scheme and to access an Expression of Interest form, visit the [GOV.UK website](http://GOV.UK).



News from the Monitoring Officer

Standards Committee

The Standards Committee has an important role in seeking to ensure high standards of behaviour amongst Members of the District Council as well as Parishes.

Contact details for SALC and SLCC	
Somerset Association of Local Councils Edgar Hall Somerton Business Park 8 Cary Court Somerton TA11 6SB Telephone 01458 270922	Society of Local Council Clerks The Society of Local Council Clerks Main Office No.8 The Crescent Taunton TA1 4EA Telephone: 01823 253646 Fax: 01823 253681 www.slcc.co.uk

Parish Declaration of Interest Forms

Guidance for completing the Parish Declaration of Interest Forms can be found on the website following the link <http://www.mendip.gov.uk/article/2321/Parish-Councils>

A date for your diary

Cabinet, Monday, 10 July 2017

Starting on 10 Jul 17 at 18:30 for 3 hours until 21:30

[Monday, 10 July 2017](#)

This meeting will be held in the Council Chamber, Mendip District Council, Shepton Mallet. The meeting will commence at 6.30 pm. An agenda will be published 7 days ahead of the meeting.

Planning Board, Wednesday, 12 July 2017

Starting on 12 Jul 17 at 18:00 for 3 hours until 21:00

[Wednesday, 12 July 2017](#)

This meeting will be held in the Council Chamber, Mendip District Council, Shepton Mallet at 6 pm. An agenda will be published 7 days ahead of the meeting.

Audit Committee, Wednesday, 26 July 2017

Starting on 26 Jul 17 at 15:00 for 3 hours until 18:00

[Wednesday, 26 July 2017](#)

This meeting will be held in the Council Chamber, Mendip District Council, Shepton Mallet at 5.30 pm. An agenda will be published 7 days ahead of the meeting.

Corporate Asset Management Group (CAMG), Tuesday, 1 August 2017

Starting on 01 Aug 17 at 15:00 for 3 hours until 18:00

[Tuesday 1 August 2017](#)

This meeting will be held in the Council Chamber at Mendip District Council at 3pm. An agenda will be published 7 days ahead of the meeting.

Cabinet, Monday, 7 August 2017

Starting on 07 Aug 17 at 18:30 for 3 hours until 21:30

[Monday, 7 August 2017](#)

This meeting will be held in the Council Chamber, Mendip District Council, Shepton Mallet. The meeting will commence at 6.30 pm. An agenda will be published 7 days ahead of the meeting.

Contact details for the committee officers are as follows:

Claire Dicken

claire.dicken@mendip.gov.uk

01749 341341