

Parish Information Bulletin

September 2017



parishbulletin@mendip.gov.uk

Shape the District

See page 3 to find out more...



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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

Shape the District

Working together to make Mendip a great place to live and work in.

Introducing Shape the District, the Council's new Corporate Strategy 2017/20.

On 17 July the Council adopted its new Corporate Strategy Building on the Council's significant achievement to date in securing the future of public services in Mendip through innovation and new ways of working.

We have made great progress in recent years towards securing the future of public services in Mendip. This has been achieved through a more enterprising, collaborative and optimistic way of working.

To deliver on our future growth objectives we need a financial base that is both sound and sustainable. In the current economic reality this is far from secure, so we must continue to explore and deliver better ways of working together, to shape the kind of place that our communities (both residential and business) want.

Our Priorities

Transformation

We Will:

- pursue a prudent approach to investment and other commercial opportunities, to boost income and/or safeguard services.
- develop and deliver strategic options for services, exploring a range of models that could include
- commissioning, selling, merging or divesting.
- work with our full range of partners to coordinate and deliver services focused on specific groups, improving customer experiences while reducing duplication.
- continue to develop Shape Mendip as an exemplar of public sector best practice, enhancing our reputation as a great place to live and work.
- develop and train our staff and councillors to build the right skills, to deliver our strategy and strengthen our culture of innovation and collaboration.

Inclusive Growth

We Will:

- work with our business community to deliver the ambitions of our Economic Strategy and increase the economic vibrancy of the Mendip area.
- work with our communities to deliver successful place shaping through vehicles such as the Local Plan, towns working groups and Neighbourhood Plans.
- challenge our partners to fully deliver the Somerset Sustainability & Transformation Plan and adapt our services to support the actions to prevent ill health and promote the mental wellbeing of our residents.
- use our position as a community leader to influence partners who can in turn deliver outcomes that improve the wellbeing of Mendip residents.
- work with partners at county, regional and national levels, to build stronger communities where people are supported to live well in good quality homes.



For more information, please visit www.mendip.gov.uk/Shape the District

Many of our commitments involve us working in partnership with public, private and voluntary sector partners. There will be more detail about the projects that sit under these commitments in our Quarter 1 Performance Report which will be considered by Scrutiny Board on 18th September

Mendip Closed Circuit TV System

The Mendip CCTV System was opened from a Control Room based in Wells in October 2003.

There had previously been locally run systems in several of the Mendip Towns, by the Local Councils, Frome, Glastonbury, Shepton Mallet and Street, supported by Monitoring by Community Volunteers.

The Government Grant secured in the late 1990s, enabled the installation of cameras in Wells and the expansion of the camera populations in the other four towns, with the consolidation of all monitoring in a centralised Control Room and the appointment of a Monitoring Office.

The 50 cameras across Mendip are supported by the five towns and Mendip District Council, The service largely supports the request for images, of incidents by the local police. Images are recorded and are retained for a certain number of days. It is important to remember, that if something happens, that needs reporting to the police or an insurance company, that the sooner this is done the better, as images are not retained for extended periods.

It is always important to remember that Mendip is a low crime area, but still there is a need to address some of the criminal activities that take place in our public space areas, covered by the cameras. The level of Incidents requests from the police peaked in 2007 and have since partially reduced to the current level of circa 350 per annum.

Since the opening of the Control Room the performance is reported each quarter to the Mendip CCTV User Group, where representatives of all the stakeholders, the five towns, MDC and the Police meet. These meetings cover the latest Statistics and any other related issues that the Members wish to raise and discuss.

The tradition of Community Volunteers, supporting the Monitor Officer still continues and new volunteers are welcome to apply. This requires an Application and a formal vetting via the Disclosure Barring Service (DBS). If there is an interest please contact Chris Reeves on 01749 341559 or email chris.reeves@mendip.gov.uk for further details.



Rode Neighbourhood Plan

The Rode Neighbourhood Plan was “made” by Mendip District Council’s Cabinet at its meeting on 7th August. That means that the plan is formally part of the Development Plan for the area and will be used to help determine planning applications.

Villagers voted 80% for, 20% against the plan at the referendum which was held on 18th July 2017.

The Parish Council has consulted widely on the plan with residents, businesses and a range of interest groups during its production.

The document was also considered by an independent examiner.

Mendip’s Local Plan sets out the overall development strategy for the district, including housing numbers and broad locations, whilst the Neighbourhood Plan looks in more detail at Rode. It contains local objectives and policies for the village, including protecting its character and heritage, design requirements for new building, public open spaces and housing needs. It is a powerful tool shaping the area.

It is Rode’s Plan, prepared by the Rode Neighbourhood Plan Group.

The plan and background documents can be viewed on the Council’s website at www.mendip.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning and on the Rode Parish Council website at www.rodeparishcouncil.webs.com/

For further information please contact a member of the Planning Policy team by email planningpolicy@mendip.gov.uk or by telephone: 0300 303 8588.

Invest in Mendip newsletter

For the latest economic and business news locally, the August edition of the Invest in Mendip newsletter is now online at <http://bit.ly/2wd2ZxF>

Collective Energy Switching

Collective Energy Switching is when consumers get together to negotiate a group deal with gas and electricity suppliers, with a third party actively negotiating a better tariff on behalf of the group through an auction process.

The amount saved will vary, but in previous rounds of energy switching that involved Mendip residents, people who signed up to the scheme saved an average of £205.88 on their annual fuel bills.

The Big Community Switch, which is open to all Mendip residents, aims to help prevent people slipping into fuel poverty by making easier and more convenient for people to participate in energy switching.

The way the process works is:

- Residents visit iChoosr's Big Community Switch website - www.bigcommunityswitch.com - where they can follow a simple online process to register their interest.
- Up to five households can be registered on one email address and residents without internet access will be supported through the registration process by the council.
- Mendip residents are then pooled with other local authority schemes (around 60 currently) and energy companies bid against each other in a reverse auction to offer the group of customers the best deal.
- A no-obligation offer is then sent to each resident who has registered in the scheme and they have a month to choose whether to accept it.
- If residents choose to accept their offer they are then switched to the new supplier and supported to ensure a smooth and hassle-free transfer.

Residents who wish to take part in the next round of energy switching need to have registered by 9 October 2017.

Mendip District Council has partnered with iChoosr, a leading expert in collective energy switching, to operate the scheme in the district.

Residents who are keen to be part of the process can register online via www.bigcommunityswitch.com, contact Mendip District Council on 0300 303 8588 or visit any Council Access Point for more information.



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

Main topics - Mendip's Marketing Strategy and Improving your Parish Forum

We're looking at new ways of marketing Mendip as a great place to live, work and do business. With support from marketing experts, we would like to gather some feedback from you and your colleagues on your perceptions of Mendip District Council and its activities. We would also like to explore with you how we can make the Parish Forum better. In advance of the 26th September, we will be sending out a short questionnaire by email for you to complete, to help inform the discussion.

January 18 2018

Your Forum – your ideas

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

Community Funding

THE AVIVA COMMUNITY FUND

Grants up to £25,000 for not-for-profit groups in the UK for projects that make a real difference in their local community (programme opens to applications on 12 September with a 10 October deadline)

Insurance company [Aviva](#) is making over £1.5 million available to support not-for-profit groups in the United Kingdom to deliver projects that will make a difference within their local community.

The [Aviva Community Fund](#) operates as a competition with the most-voted for projects receiving funding or going forward to a judging panel, depending on the amount of funding requested (i.e. with the exception of awards of £1,000, securing the most number of votes doesn't guarantee a grant award - that's up to the judging panel).

All applicants are encouraged to widely promote their projects and gather as much support from their local community as possible.

The most-voted for projects asking for up to £1,000 will secure their funding. The projects with the most votes asking for up to £5,000 or more will go through to the Finals and be judged by Aviva's judging panel.



In 2017, the awards will be given out in the following categories:

1. Health and Wellbeing - projects related to helping people take control of their physical and mental health. These could include anything from walking clubs to reduce loneliness, improving playgrounds and sports clubs and associations to community centres running well-being initiatives;

2. Skills for Life - projects that aim to help communities and individuals improve their lives by learning useful new skills, particularly digital skills. Projects in this category can help people of all ages develop abilities to make their lives easier or more fulfilling. This could include budget training for families, job skills or getting up to speed with new technology.

3. Inclusivity - these projects will recognise that successful communities value all people, acknowledging that every person adds something to the whole, and work to develop closer ties within the community, such as multi-faith education, accessibility improvements and community integration programmes; and

4. Community Support - these should be projects that are important to the wider community. They can be anything from regeneration projects to local support groups, or community events. This category aims to help communities make their surroundings and aspects of their life sustainable.

PLEASE NOTE: projects should be underway by December 2017 and, ideally (although this isn't essential), completed by 31 December 2018.

Voluntary and community groups, charities, social enterprises, Community Interest Companies, and faith organisations (for projects that are not solely religious and are open to the wider community) are eligible to apply.

Eligible applicants must:

- o Have been in existence for at least 6 months;
- o Be a not-for-profit organisation or group for community good;
- o Be able to meet the due diligence requirements; and
- o Have an income of £1 million or less.

In 2017, there are 4 funding levels:

1. 380 awards of up to £1,000;
2. 40 awards of up to £5,000;
3. 20 awards of up to £10,000; and
4. 8 awards of up to £25,000.

Projects that do not need additional funding will have a better chance than of succeeding than those relying on other funds being secured.

Entries will be accepted from 9am on Tuesday 12 September to midday on Tuesday 10 October 2017.

Other significant dates are:

- o Tuesday 24 October to Tuesday 21 November - Public Vote;
- o Tuesday 28 November - finalists announced; and
- o Tuesday 16 January - winners announced.

Applicants are required to register on the Aviva website before they can submit a project to the competition.



Applicants are encouraged to add videos (which must be hosted on YouTube) and photos to their project submission to paint a better picture for the public.

The public will be able to vote for their favourite projects.

[A toolkit can be found on the Aviva website](#) offering hints, tips and tricks for publicising projects and gathering support.

For further information and to register, visit the [Aviva website](#).

Contact details for the programme are:

Aviva

PO BOX 4

Surrey Street

Norwich NR1 3NG

Email: communityfund@aviva.co.uk

THE RON PICKERING MEMORIAL GRANTS

Micro-grants for young athletes aged 15-23 in Great Britain to help with training and equipment costs

The main purpose of the [Ron Pickering Fund](#) is to provide financial support for talented young athletes in Great Britain aged between 15 and 23 (grants for athletes aged over 23 can be made in exceptional circumstances), ideally while they are still in education.

The Fund is designed to assist young athletes with their training and equipment costs, and encourage them to continue participating in sport in order that they can reach their potential and learn the ethic of fair play.

Grants range in value depending on the athlete's age, ability and personal circumstances but have always had an impact on the athlete's ability to develop with a view to helping recipients make the difficult transition from junior to senior level through support for equipment, specialist coaching or travel and importantly help build the athlete's confidence and self esteem through recognition.

Previous recipients have included Greg Rutherford, Denise Lewis and Mo Farah.

The charity also assists coaches, athletic clubs and the Schools Athletics Associations and in the past has supported the development of Sportshall Athletics around the UK in order to introduce more young children to athletics.

There is no minimum or maximum grant award level for this fund, although allocations are generally less than £500.

While there is broadly a 50% success rate, the average grant during the last financial year was just £200.

During the year ending 31 July 2016 the Fund there were in excess of 470 applications of which £44,600 was awarded to a total of 221 successful athletes from 119 clubs.

Match funding is not required.



Applications to the 2018 programme will open in September 2017 for decisions made in January 2018.

An application form will be available to complete online at the Fund's website once the programme opens.

For further information, visit the [Ron Pickering Memorial Fund website](#).

Contact details for the Fund are:

The Ron Pickering Memorial Fund

Tel: 01438 715814

Email: info@rpfm.org.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, 11 September 2017

Starting on 11 Sep 17 at 18:30 for 3 hours until 21:30

[Monday, 11 September 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.

Corporate Asset Management Group (CAMG), Tuesday, 12 September 2017

Starting on 12 Sep 17 at 15:00 for 3 hours until 18:00

Scrutiny Board, Monday, 18 September 2017

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

[Monday 18 September 2017](#)

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

Full Council, Monday, 25 September 2017

Starting on 25 Sep 17 at 18:30 for 3 hours until 21:30

[Monday, 25 September 2017](#)

This meeting will be held in the Council Chamber starting at 6.30 pm. An agenda will be published 7 days ahead of the meeting.

Planning Board, Wednesday, 27 September 2017

Starting on 27 Sep 17 at 18:00 for 3 hours until 21:00

[Wednesday, 27 September 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.

Cabinet, Monday, 9 October 2017

Starting on 09 Oct 17 at 18:30 for 3 hours until 21:30

[Monday, 9 October 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

