

# Parish Information Bulletin

September 2018



[parishbulletin@mendip.gov.uk](mailto:parishbulletin@mendip.gov.uk)

# Financial Assistance to Improve Homes in Mendip

More information on page 3



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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](mailto:parishbulletin@mendip.gov.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.

The last forum on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2018 was attended by 17 people representing 11 parishes.

### Date of next Forum

Scheduled for 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

### Your Forum – your ideas

or Emma Plummer [Emma.Plummer@mendip.gov.uk](mailto:Emma.Plummer@mendip.gov.uk) or call 01749 341325

## Financial assistance to improve homes in Mendip

The Private Sector Housing team at Mendip District Council have just released a new Safe and Healthy Homes Policy to provide financial assistance to Mendip residents.

### Safer Home Grants and Loans

Grants of up to £10,000 and loans of up to £25,000 are available to help home owners complete essential repairs to their home. Contact Mendip District Council's Private Sector Housing team to see if you are eligible on 0300 303 8588.

### Empty Home Grants and Loans

Grants of up to £15,000 and loans of up to £25,000 are available to help pay for essential improvements to bring empty homes back into use. Contact Mendip District Council's Private Sector Housing team to see if you are eligible on 0300 303 8588.

### Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs)

Disabled Facilities Grants of up to £30,000 are available to pay for adaptations so disabled people can live safely in their homes. Works commonly include stair lifts and level access showers. Contact Somerset Direct on 0300 123 2224 for an Occupation Therapist referral.



## Energy Efficiency Improvements

Financial assistance is available for energy efficiency measures from a variety of sources. Contact the Centre for Sustainable Energy on 0800 082 2234 to get free impartial advice on how to access the best funding for you.

All grants and loans are subject to eligibility. For more information look on our website [www.mendip.gov.uk/housing](http://www.mendip.gov.uk/housing); Email: [privatesectorhousing@mendip.gov.uk](mailto:privatesectorhousing@mendip.gov.uk); For telephone enquiries please use the numbers above.

## Health Connections Mendip



Living better and feeling better starts with a simple step – connecting

- Could you benefit from free one-to-one sessions, to talk about your health and wellbeing and set goals for the future?
- Would you like to find out about local groups and projects that could help you, or that offer volunteering opportunities?
- If you're managing a long-term condition, could you benefit from practical and lasting support to help you get more from life?

The right support can make a real difference. As well as working one-to-one with people, Health Connections Mendip runs Self Management Programmes, On Track Goal Setting Groups and Talking Cafes. You can also access a [directory](#) on the Health Connections website, which provides lots of information about local services and support groups. If you have an idea for a new group, please get in touch as we have helped many people set up, run and promote their groups.

Contact us today on 01373 468368, via [mendip.healthconnections@nhs.net](mailto:mendip.healthconnections@nhs.net) or visit our website [www.healthconnections-mendip.org](http://www.healthconnections-mendip.org)

## Enterprise Mendip Sessions

There are a number of programmes and workshops which are being organised in the Mendip area to help local businesses grow. Flyers have been sent to all clerks. The programmes and sessions can be found below:

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- Grow with Digital Shepton Mallet 2018/2019 - a range of course with dates from September 2018 to April 2019
- Shepton Mallet Chamber of Commerce – January MOT for your body, 23 January 2019
- Grow 2018-2019, Wells, a number of free sessions for local businesses October 2018 to January 2019
- Enterprise Mendip, Glastonbury and Street, a number of free session for local businesses September 2018 to March 2019
- Wells Business School for Entrepreneurs 2018-2019 programme October 2018 to January 2019

For future reference the complete program will be live on [www.mendip.gov.uk/growwithdigital](http://www.mendip.gov.uk/growwithdigital) and <http://www.mendip.gov.uk/businesseventsandworkshops>

## Shepton Area Men's Shed



### SHEPTON AREA MEN'S SHED



Fancy getting out of the house once a week?  
Spanner or screwdriver? Paintbrush or computer? Head or hands?  
Whatever your interest....it can be more fun with others around.

**EVERY TUESDAY 9.00 - 12.00am**

**EVERY THURSDAY 2pm-5pm**

At The Woodbin, Barley House, Charlton  
Trading Estate, Shepton Mallet, BA4 5QE  
(behind Somerset Care & Repair)

## JUST TURN UP!

For more information contact [info@sheptonshed.org.uk](mailto:info@sheptonshed.org.uk) or call Graham on 07966 361796



# Landlords - are you ready for the HMO licensing changes on the 1<sup>st</sup> October?

From the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018, residential landlords who let properties to 5 or more unrelated occupants must now have a licence to operate.

These properties known as Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) require a licence to operate legally, and an application should be made to the Council by the 30<sup>th</sup> September.

Properties operating without a licence from the 1<sup>st</sup> October are likely to be in breach of the law and subject to a **financial penalty of up to £30,000**.

Landlords who believe their property will now require a licence are advised to contact the Private Sector Housing Team at Mendip District Council by emailing [psh\\_enquiries@mendip.gov.uk](mailto:psh_enquiries@mendip.gov.uk), calling 01749 341490 or visiting our website at [www.mendip.gov.uk](http://www.mendip.gov.uk) for advice and an application form.

## Mendip backs initiative to help residents cut their fuel bills

Mendip District Council is once again backing the popular Big Community Switch which is a collective energy switching scheme which has seen some local residents save hundreds of pounds by switching their energy supplier.

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.

There is a vast array of options for people looking to compare the market and switch suppliers either individually or collectively. Mendip District Council is continuing to back The Big Community Switch run by iChoosr as one way of helping Mendip's residents get a better deal on their energy bills.

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](http://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 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 8 October 2018.

Cllr Philip Ham, Portfolio Holder for Transformation, said: “Collective Energy Switching has already proved extremely popular, with people in Mendip saving an average of £205 on their annual fuel bills.

“This is a great opportunity for people to be in with a chance of making a very impressive saving on their energy bills, so I would encourage local people to take part – it really is a quick and straightforward process.”

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](http://www.bigcommunityswitch.com), contact Mendip District Council on 0300 303 8588 or visit any Council Access Point for more information.

## New Class Co-ordinator for Mendip joins the Ageing Well team at UK Somerset!



Shape Mendip Creativ



Ageing Well is a programme managed by Age UK Somerset and it is dedicated to improving the health and well-being of older people. Staying active is incredibly important for both physical and mental well-being and Tracie Philpott will be helping co-ordinate some important classes in the Mendip area.

Over the last year, Age UK Somerset has worked with Somerset Public Health to implement the Otago Exercise Programme (developed at the University of Otago Medical School in New Zealand), “*Stay Strong, Stay Steady*” in Somerset. It is part of an intervention called *Falls Prevention*, aiming to keep people independent as they get older and community-based classes are considered essential. All classes are led by qualified Otago instructors and are held in community venues.

The aim is to help participants improve balance and rebuild muscle strength, giving them increased confidence and a better chance of remaining independent. Going ahead, it is expected that these key classes will form part of the expected referral route for all older people, depending on their level of ability. Participants must commit to at least 50 hours (over a period of months) but this includes home practice and short walks. These specially developed classes are accessed by referral only.

Three new *Stay Strong, Stay Steady* classes are about to start in the Mendip area, in Frome, Wells and Glastonbury. If you would like to find out more – if you feel you or someone you know would benefit – please contact Tracie.

Call 01823 345626 or email [tracie.philpott@ageuksomerset.org.uk](mailto:tracie.philpott@ageuksomerset.org.uk)

## Spread the cost of heating your home this Winter



### Spread the cost of heating your home this winter

If you are one of the UK's 1.3 million plus households which have a heating oil tank or you have another off-gas heating system, you may be interested in the bulk buy fuel scheme funded by Somerset Councils.

The scheme offers an interest-free loan (Representative 0% APR) over six months and is delivered by not-for-profit lender Wessex Resolutions CIC. The

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loan enables eligible applicants to spread the cost of bulk buying home fuel over a number of months rather than paying out a large sum in one go.

To apply you must be either a homeowner or private tenant living in Somerset and rely on either oil, wood, Calor Gas or coal as your main source of home heating.

For more information, call Wessex Resolutions direct on 01823 461099, email [enquiries@wrcic.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@wrcic.org.uk) or visit [www.wessexresolutions.org.uk](http://www.wessexresolutions.org.uk).

Loans have a fixed interest rate and representative 0% APR and are subject to status. Missing future payments could affect your credit rating and ability to obtain credit in the future.

To date, we have recycled over five million pounds of local authority funds for the benefit of future clients.

For further information, please contact Nina Barnard at Wessex Resolutions on: 01823 461099 or email: [nina.barnard@wrcic.org.uk](mailto:nina.barnard@wrcic.org.uk)

Wessex Resolutions CIC, your community lender  
in partnership with your local council.

## Community Connector Training Sessions

Health Connections Mendip (HCM) are offering free locally-tailored signposting Community Connector training to organisations, groups and individuals in the Mendip area.

There are over 650 community connectors in Mendip and the number is growing.

'Community Connectors' are members of the community who:

- signpost friends, family, colleagues and neighbours to the support in their own communities as well as HCM phone line, website, Health Connectors or Talking Cafés
- do not refer to group/services or take people's telephone numbers but enable a far greater number of individuals to access health support and advice
- are aware of the wider determinants of health and are also able to signpost to support such as housing, education and debt advice
- can be very effective at integrating with local communities and providing a bridge between local people and other services.

The training can be from 30mins to 1,5hrs long, with the longer sessions being more interactive.



Next public 30-min Community Connector training sessions are planned at the Council Chamber, Mendip District Council Offices, Shepton Mallet on:

- 02 October 2018 – a public session – 2-3pm
- 18 October 2018 – at the Parish Forum – time tbc on the agenda

If you would like to hold a training session with your local group or within your organisation/team, please contact Community Connector Co-ordinator Julie Carey-Downes on [mendip.communityconnectors@nhs.net](mailto:mendip.communityconnectors@nhs.net) or Nataliya Wills on [Nataliya.Wills@mendip.gov.uk](mailto:Nataliya.Wills@mendip.gov.uk) and we can discuss the details, such as the number of people and contents of training to suit your needs.

## Older People's Information Event



**A FREE event for older people, their friends and family  
Come and find out what's available in your community**

**Where: Council Chamber, Mendip District Council,  
Shepton Mallet BA4 5BT**

**When: Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 10am – 1pm  
No need to book, just drop in at any time**

There will be information stalls on: exercise and balance, healthy eating, keeping connected, volunteering, getting online, community transport, benefits and finance, planning ahead, home safety, equipment and home adaptations..... and much more!!

For further information please contact Health Connections Mendip on:  
t: 01373 468368 e: [mendip.healthconnections@nhs.net](mailto:mendip.healthconnections@nhs.net)

## A warm welcome for new member of the Community Involvement team.



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Somerset charity CCS – the ‘Community Council for Somerset’ welcomed a new member of their ‘Community Involvement Team’ to the organisation this month. Ade Murphy, the new CCS Community Involvement Officer for Mendip and South Somerset joined the charity in August and has started to meet organisations seeking support for community consultation or funding across the area. Ade who is a nationally qualified Youth & Community worker has been working freelance as a health trainer for a number of years and comes with wide experience of supporting organisations to develop by offering help with applications for funds, especially the Heritage Lottery fund and the Big Lottery.

When planning a community project its essential that you have a very clear idea of the needs of your community. CCS has worked with many community groups to carry out effective and inclusive community consultation. This may involve holding open days, meetings or coffee mornings or it may be a paper or online survey. This research will then shape your project and helps you put a better case to funders to achieve success. CCS can help you to work out the best way to carry out this consultation and can also help you to find the funds to pay for this stage of project development. We offer a service that takes you from idea through to results which includes:

- pre-survey expert advice
- custom questionnaire design
- advice about printed and online surveys
- in-house inputting service and comprehensive analysis service
- report writing and presentation of findings

If any organisation in the area would like help with project planning and support, funding advice or community consultation can get in touch with Ade at the Community Council’s office in Taunton on 01823 331222 or by email: [ade@somersetccc.org.uk](mailto:ade@somersetccc.org.uk)

## Community Funding



Spark can support groups to get themselves ready to apply for funding; writing a constitution, getting any relevant policies and procedures in place and ensuring you have the right management structure.

We have a funding database to search for any new funding opportunities and for groups who need a bit more support we have recently employed a funding officer. For more information email [Sharon.blyth@sparksomerset.org.uk](mailto:Sharon.blyth@sparksomerset.org.uk)

**THE MASONIC CHARITABLE FOUNDATION EARLY YEARS OPPORTUNITIES GRANTS** - Grants up to £150,000 for charities in England and Wales to enable disadvantaged and vulnerable children & young people to achieve the best



possible start in life (application deadline 5 October 2018 for Large Grants and 26 October for Small Grants)

The Masonic Charitable Foundation's Early Years Opportunities Grants Programme offers small grants up to £15,000 and large grants up to £150,000 to registered charities in England and Wales to create the best start in life for disadvantaged children and young people aged up to 25 years.

Grants Guidelines, together with an application checklist and an online eligibility test are available on the Masonic Charitable Foundation website. Applicants must complete the online eligibility test in order to proceed to the application form.

**THE LITTER INNOVATION FUND ROUND 2** - Grants up to £10,000 for local authorities, charities, not-for-profit organisations, educational institutions, and small and medium enterprises in England for new projects that show innovative and creative solutions to reducing litter in local areas across England (application deadline 5 October 2018)

The overall aim of the Litter Innovation Fund (LIF) (DEFRA funding administered by the Waste and Resources Action programme (WRAP)) is to find new ways of reducing and preventing litter/littering through new methods and interventions, that have not been tried and tested before.

For further information about the scheme and how to apply, visit the WRAP website

**THE TRIANGLE TRUST 1949 DEVELOPMENT GRANTS** - Core funding up to £80,000 for UK organisations working to support the rehabilitation of offenders and ex-offenders (application deadline 23 October 2018)

The Triangle Trust 1949 Development Grants Programme is designed to support the development of a solid foundation for the future for agencies working with the rehabilitation of offenders and ex-offenders, and - in its next funding round - unpaid carers; for example by diversifying income streams or setting up a social enterprise to become more sustainable in the long term.

Further information is available on the Triangle Trust website. The Trust is happy to discuss potential applications by email ([info@triangletrust.org.uk](mailto:info@triangletrust.org.uk)) or by phone (01707 707078).

### **OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTIVE PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA TO PARTICIPATE IN FREE FOREST SCHOOL SESSIONS**

Following a successful pilot, Wellington, Somerset-based dementia charity Reminiscence Learning will be starting a new series of Forest School sessions in partnership with Otterhead Forest School this September



If you know somebody with a memory impairment, who would be interested in taking part in a Forest School session, with or without their carer, please contact Juliet Wilson at Reminiscence Learning at [office@reminiscencelearning.co.uk](mailto:office@reminiscencelearning.co.uk) or by phone on 01823 668676.

### **THE MASONIC CHARITABLE FOUNDATION LATER LIFE INCLUSION GRANT**

**PROGRAMME** - Grants up to £150,000 for local and national charities in England and Wales that are working to reduce loneliness and isolation in later life (application deadlines: 5 October 2018 for Large Grants and 26 October for Small Grants)

Further information, including an Eligibility Checker, guidance notes and application form is available on the Foundation's website.

**THE TAMPON TAX COMMUNITY FUND** - Grants up to £10,000 for not-for-profit organisations working at grassroots level to deliver projects that improve the lives of disadvantaged women and girls in the UK (grant programme opens on 17 September with a deadline of 26 October)

The purpose of the Tampon Tax Fund is to allocate the funds generated from the VAT on sanitary products to local projects that improve the lives of disadvantaged women and girls across the UK. The Fund is managed by the UK Community Foundations network. Applications will be assessed by the relevant local Community Foundation. Eligible projects will be taken to a local panel, where a decision will be made on which projects have been successful. Applicants will be notified shortly after the panel meeting.

The list of local Community Foundations can be found on the UK Community Foundations website.

**THE YOUTH MUSIC PROGRAMME** - Grants up to £200,000 for music-making projects in England that increase the number of children and young people with the opportunities to take part in high quality musical activities (application deadlines 9 November 2018 and 7 December 2018)

The Youth Music Network's vision is that 'life-changing' music-making is available to all children and young people. Applications to Fund A are accepted 3 times each year.

Application forms for Fund A and Fund B are available to complete online at the Youth Music Network website.



**MUSIC FOR ALL MUSIC IN THE COMMUNITY GRANTS** – Awards up to £2,500 for UK based community organisations and individuals that are bringing musical projects to their local communities (application deadline 1 November 2018)

Music for All's Music in the Community Grants programme is aimed at community groups, schools, charitable organisations and individuals in the UK that require financial support to fulfil their potential in developing truly sustainable music programmes. Priority will be given to applicants who are most in need of help.

Further information about the Music for All programme, together with an application form, is available on the [Music for All website](#).

**THE ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT SCHEME FEASIBILITY GRANTS** - business support, including grants up to £10,000, is available to help leaders of established charities and social enterprises working in the youth or homelessness sectors in England (application deadline 31 October 2018)

Applicants should initially register their interest by completing the short form on the [SSE website](#).

This will provide access to the full application form, which should then be completed and submitted by the deadline of 1pm on Wednesday 31 October 2018.

**THE A B CHARITABLE TRUST** - Grants up to £20,000 for small to medium-sized UK registered charities that defend human rights and promote respect for vulnerable individuals in the UK (application deadline 30 November 2018).

Further information is available on the [A B Charitable Trust website](#).

**THE NATIONAL CHURCHES TRUST CORNERSTONE GRANTS PROGRAMME** - Grants up to £50,000 for the conservation and sustainable use of church buildings in the UK, particularly urgent structural repairs or the introduction of kitchens and accessible toilets (application deadline 5 November 2018)

Further information, together with an online application form is available on the [Trust's website](#)

**THE DENISE COHEN CHARITABLE TRUST** – Small grants for UK charitable organisations carrying out general charitable purposes in the UK (applications may be made at any time in writing)

PLEASE NOTE: the Trust does not maintain a website. Further information can, however, be found on the [Charity Commission website](#).

Applications may be made at any time in writing, addressed to:

Martin Paisner CBE  
 Trustee  
 Denise Cohen Charitable Trust  
 Berwin Leighton and Paisner  
 Adelaide House  
 London Bridge  
 London  
 EC4R 9HA  
 Tel: 020 3400 1000  
 (The Trust does not advertise an email address.)

## 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	
<p><b>Somerset Association of Local Councils</b></p> <p>Edgar Hall            Somerton Business Park            8 Cary Court            Somerton            TA11 6SB            Telephone 01458 270922</p>	<p><b>Society of Local Council Clerks</b></p> <p>The Society of Local Council Clerks            Main Office            No.8 The Crescent            Taunton            TA1 4EA</p> <p>Telephone: 01823 253646            Fax: 01823 253681</p> <p><a href="http://www.slcc.co.uk">www.slcc.co.uk</a></p>

### 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>

## Calendar of meetings 2018-2019



Mendip District Council has prepared a calendar of its public meetings to be held in 2018/2019. Please contact [committee\\_services@mendip.gov.uk](mailto:committee_services@mendip.gov.uk) if you wish to have a copy.

It should be noted that this calendar may be subject to change. However, any changes will be because of the timetable for Council business - it will not be possible to make changes to suit individuals.

The calendar was agreed by the meeting of Full Council in May 2018.

## A date for your diary

### **Planning Board, Wednesday, 17 October 2018**

Starting on 19 Sep 18 at 18:00 for 3 hours until 21:00

[Wednesday 17 October 2018](#)

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, 22 October 2018**

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

[Monday 22 October 2018](#)

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.

### **Audit Committee, Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018**

Starting on 24 Sep 18 at 17:30 for 3 hours until 20:30

[Wednesday, 31 October 2018](#)

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.

### **Contact details for the committee officers are as follows:**

Claire Dicken

[claire.dicken@mendip.gov.uk](mailto:claire.dicken@mendip.gov.uk)

01749 341341

