

Parish Information Bulletin

November 2018

parishbulletin@mendip.gov.uk



STAND UP FOR WHAT YOU BELIEVE IN

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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

Mendip Parish Forum

The Mendip Parish Forum is for clerks, chairs, 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 18th October 2018 was attended by 15 people representing 11 parishes. The agenda can be found [here](#). Additional presentations from the evening have been sent to Parish Clerks.

NEWS : We Need volunteers!

We are forming a small working group to look at the development of the Parish Forum and are looking for volunteers. Councillor Linda Oliver who is the lead for Parish Liaison will be part of this group and there will be representation from SALC. There will be a meeting at the beginning of December, date to be confirmed. Please email Emma.plummer@mendip.gov.uk if you are interested.

Date of next Forum

Scheduled for 17^h January 2019.

Your Forum – your ideas Your Forum – your ideas and agenda items.

Please tell us what is important to you ... what would like on the agenda for the next Forum or have you got an item for the monthly Parish Bulletin ?

Please send to Emma Plummer - Emma.Plummer@mendip.gov.uk or call 01749 341325

Community Connector Training at the Parish Forum

At the **Parish Forum on 18 October**, representatives from 11 parish councils and some employees of Mendip District Council became community connectors.

The short training sessions provided information on what signposting is, how to signpost effectively and what support and services are in the Mendip area as listed on the Health Connections website.

What Parish Councillors do all have in common is an active interest in their local community and a concern for it. Much of the role of the Parish Councillor is representing and dealing with the issues of those who elected them. This training is well-suited in supporting them in this role.





Stand Up For What You Believe In

On our successful and enlightening Question Time event held on the 24th October, a panel of our current members from the district council gave the public an opportunity to learn more about what it takes to be Councillor. Our members were quizzed for their knowledge and expertise.

Our Become a Councillor Campaign doesn't stop there! We ask you to follow our campaign #candidates and ask you to stand up for what you believe in and become a Councillor.

By becoming a Councillor you could make a significant and positive difference to your community by standing as a candidate at the upcoming elections next year in May.

If you are interested in becoming a Councillor and missed our quizzical evening, please don't hesitate to send in any questions you have to elections@mendip.gov.uk or visit www.mendip.gov.uk/candidates



Thefts in Frome

There has been a marked increase in theft of lead from residential properties within Frome. This may spread to our more rural communities.

Please be vigilant, report suspicious vehicles/activity. Although difficult to property mark, consider past code stamping.

Your local neighbour policing team are actively targeting known suspects.



Mendip District Council Christmas Opening Hours



Mendip District Council will be open as normal over the Christmas period except for Bank Holidays.

See below breakdown of office opening hours:

Monday 24th December 2018	Christmas Eve – Office open as usual
Tuesday 25th December 2018	Christmas Day – Bank Holiday
Wednesday 26th December 2018	Boxing Day – Bank Holiday
Thursday 27th December 2018	Office open as usual
Friday 28th December 2018	Office open as usual
Monday 31st December 2018	New Year’s Eve - Office open as usual
Tuesday 1 January 2019	New Year’s Day - Bank Holiday

Landlords –Have you applied for a licence?

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

These properties known as Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) require a licence to operate legally, and an application should have been made to the Council.

Properties operating without a licence 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 may require a licence are advised to contact the Private Sector Housing Team at Mendip District Council by emailing psh_enquiries@mendip.gov.uk, calling 01749 341490 or visiting our website at www.mendip.gov.uk/hmo for advice and an application form.

Residents can report an unlicensed HMO by contacting us on the above details.



centre for
sustainable
energy

Winter Warmth Bundle

Did you know that you might be entitled to help with the cost of keeping warm this winter? Contact the Home Energy Team at the Centre for Sustainable Energy to claim your Winter Warmth Bundle and stay cosy this winter. You could be eligible for:

- Up to £765 off your gas and electricity bills
- Free or subsidised loft or cavity wall insulation
- Financial help for new heating systems
- Extra help in a power cut or water outage
- Free draught-proofing or LED lighting
- Home or fire safety checks

The Home Energy Team is a council backed service providing free, impartial advice about keeping your home warm, using your heating system, understanding your energy bills and making energy saving improvements as well as registering for free power cut advice. Advice can be given through home visits as well as over the phone.

If you, or someone you know, would benefit from speaking to a trained energy advisor, then get in touch.

Call **0800 082 2234**

email **home.energy@cse.org.uk**

web: **www.winterwarmthbundle.org.uk**



RAISING ASPIRATIONS

Community Mentoring Programme

Could you help a young person to realise their full potential?

Raising Aspirations matches volunteer mentors with students from Crispin School, Street. It encourages students to develop their self-belief and aspirations. Commitment is approximately one hour a month during term-time.

Proven Impact

Independent evaluation has shown that students taking part in raising aspirations have experienced better outcomes including improved GCSE results.

Benefits to mentors

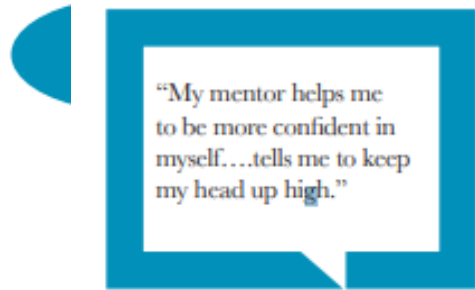
Mentors receive training before the start of the programme and ongoing support during the mentoring period. The 'GROW' coaching model used within the programme can also benefit businesses and community groups.

Interested?

To find out more please contact:

Sharon Blyth:

E: sharon.blyth@sparksomerset.org.uk; T: 01935 475914



If



Community



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

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>



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 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

Scrutiny Board, 5 November 2018

Starting on 05 Nov 18 at 18:00 for 3 hours until 21:00

Monday 5 November 2018

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.

Planning Board, Wednesday, 21 November 2018

Starting on 21 Nov 18 at 18:00 for 3 hours until 21:00

Wednesday, 21 November 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, 26 November 2018

Starting on 26 Nov 18 at 18:30 for 3 hours until 21:30

Monday, 26 November 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.

Contact details for the committee officers are as follows:

Claire Dicken claire.dicken@mendip.gov.uk 01749 341341