

Parish Information Bulletin

February 2017



parishbulletin@mendip.gov.uk

Mendip Parish Forum for all towns and villages

February 8th

More information on page 7



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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

Planning Matters

Reporting Suspected Breaches of Planning Control

The enforcement team is always pleased to receive reports of suspected breaches of planning control but sometimes they are not able to launch an immediate investigation due to a lack of detail in the initial report. This is especially true of reports received from members of the public.

When reporting suspected breaches of planning control please would you include as much detail as possible. This will enable the team to identify the site more quickly and where necessary take early action.

Ideally the information should include an address or if referring to open countryside the relationship of the land to an identifiable address.

If the suspected breach relates to the implementation of a planning approval the planning reference and, if possible, a drawing number would assist greatly.

David B Woodridge
Senior Planning Enforcement Officer

Benefit Claims

Home Visits

Claiming benefits that you are entitled to is your right. However, we are aware that some elderly members of the community feel embarrassed asking for help, or have difficulty filling in forms. Home visits can often help in these situations.

The visiting officer will help you fill in a new form/change in circumstances and collect the information/evidence needed to verify your claim.

An officer will advise the claimant before the visit what information is required. The visiting officer may take some documents back to the office which will either be returned by hand or by post.

The visiting officer does not decide how much money the claimant will qualify for. This decision is made by a benefits officer who will inform the claimant of the decision.

To apply for a home visit complete the 'visit request' form on the website below. Once the form has been received an officer will be in contact to make an appointment. Alternatively, Stuart Turner (Visiting Officer) can be emailed directly at stuart.turner@mendip.gov.uk or 0300 303 8588

<https://www.mendip.gov.uk/homevisits>



SHAPE
MENDIP

Shape Mendip Lottery

The Shape Mendip Lottery is now open to all Good Causes operating within Mendip district.

If you're looking for an easier way to raise funds, why not join us! There are no fees or admin. All you need to do is shout about your Shape Mendip Lottery page. We'll provide you with your own page on the Shape Mendip Lottery website and the marketing materials to help you promote your cause. The public can buy tickets at £1 each and can choose which Good Cause to support. You keep 50% of all tickets sold with no restrictions on how you spend it, plus a further 10% goes into a central pot which will offer one-off grants to community and voluntary groups in active in Mendip.

Please note that under the terms of our gambling licence, all Good Causes need will need to meet certain criteria (see the [Terms & Conditions](#)).

To find out more visit www.shapemendiplottery.co.uk

The Shape Mendip Lottery launch event will be on Monday 20 February 2017 and tickets then go on sale to the public at £1 each.

Draws will take place every Saturday at 8pm, the first prize draw will be on 25 March 2017. Each ticket has a 1 in 50 chance of winning a prize and the jackpot is £25,000.

Please feel free to pass this information onto other organisations you think may be interested.

Jane Sharp

Shape Mendip Project and Improvement Officer

Avon and Somerset Police

Rural Crime Initiative

New text number to combat rural crime - 81819

The Police are launching a new text service to help prevent and detect rural crime.

They are asking rural communities and businesses to help by providing information and intelligence about suspected crime in their area.

The new number will allow the public to text information directly to the Rural Crime Team, who will be able to assess and action the intelligence quickly and efficiently.

Messages are currently sent out via text message and email to members of the Neighbourhood, Farm and Horse Watch schemes to alert them to crimes and



incidents in their area. This new number will allow people to text back information quickly and easily.

Anyone can use it if they have information about rural or agricultural crime in their area, and isn't just for Watch members.

The number won't be monitored 24/7 but the team will be looking at it when they are on duty, it therefore shouldn't be used for reporting crimes, or anything which requires an immediate police attendance. In those circumstances please dial 999.

The new number is 81819, please text us any information you believe could either help prevent or detect a crime in your area.

You can still pass on information via the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. They never ask your name or trace your call.

SPARK Mendip

low-cost training

HOW TO PREPARE YOUR ANNUAL REPORTS - WITH THE CHARITY FINANCE GROUP. This training will to equip those who work with the finances of small charities or small groups with an understanding of good reporting practises, what reserves are and how to develop a reserves policy.

Tuesday 7th February, 9am - 1pm, Frome.

BUDGETS, MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS & CASH-FLOW FORECASTING - with the CHARITY FINANCE GROUP. This half day training course will give a sound basic foundation to equip those who work with finances of small groups and small charities.

Tuesday 14th March, 9am - 12:30pm Yeovil.

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO BOOK YOUR PLACE

WWW.SPARKSOMERSET.ORG.UK/TRAINING

SPARK Mendip can also provide bespoke training for your organisation on a range of topics including business planning, funding and volunteer management.

Please contact us for further details:

TRAINING@SPARKSOMERSET.ORG.UK.



Age UK Somerset

Age UK Somerset promotes the well-being of all older people in Somerset and North Somerset to make later life an enjoyable and fulfilling experience.

If you have any queries please ring Di Ramsay 01823 345626 or email ageingwell@ageuksomerset.org.uk or visit the website www.ageuksomerset.org.uk.

Frome

Mature Movers	Frome Medical Practice Enos Way, BA11 2FH	Mondays, 12noon-1pm Fridays, 10am-11am	£3.50 p/session
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Mature Movers	Christchurch Hall Park Road, BA11 1EU	Thursdays, 2pm-3pm	£3.50 p/session
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Swimming	Princess Anne Road, BA11 2SA	Starts February - dates to be confirmed. Transport available - call for details.	
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Lydford

Extend, Movement to Music	Lydford Parish Hall West Lydford, TA11 7DH	Mondays, 12.30pm-1.30pm	£3.50 p/session
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Shepton Mallet

Mature Movers	Shepton Mallet Leisure Centre Charlton Road, BA4 5PG	Wednesdays, 11am-12noon	£3.50 p/session
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Street

Extend, Movement to Music	Crispin Community Centre Leigh Road, BA16 1HA	Tuesdays, 12noon-1pm	£3.50 p/session
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Swimming	Strode Road, BA16 0AS	Fridays, 2pm-3pm	£2 p/session
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Wells

Extend, Movement to Music	Town Hall Market Place, BA5 2RB	Tuesdays, 10am-11am	£3.50 p/session
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SHAPE
MENDIP

Mendip Parish Forums and Surgeries

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 surgeries are an opportunity for clerks, elected members and community representatives to discuss issues face to face with a relevant council officer or agency representative.

Date of next Forums

Wednesday 8 February 2017

Agenda

6pm Information Surgery

Officers available: Somerset & Avon Police (Heather Anderton, Beat Manager) MDC Planning (Lorna Elstob) , Home Visiting Officer - Benefits (Stuart Turner), SALC (Justin Robertson), Community Council for Somerset (Matt Day), Private Sector Housing; including relevant grants, standards & empty homes (Private Sector Housing Officer, TBC), Leisure services: FUSION (Officer TBC)

6:30pm Forum Topics

1. Apologies
2. Highways; Information and Discussion
Andrew Turner, Service Manager – Highways, Somerset County Council
3. Tips for Sound Financial Governance
Justin Robinson , Somerset Association of Local Councils
4. How CCS can help your Community; Community & Neighbourhood Plans, Housing Needs Surveys and Project Development
Matt Day, Community Council for Somerset
5. Date of next meeting – June 2017

Date of next Forums

Thursday 8 June 2017

Tuesday 26 September 2017

Your Forum – your ideas

Please send suggestions to Sally Gubb e mail address sally.gubb@mendip.gov.uk or call 01749 341411.



Community Funding

Mick Aston Archaeology Fund

Grants for voluntary and community groups to carry out innovative projects that reveal something new about the history and archaeology of local surroundings, and thus inform their future care.

The Mick Aston Archaeology Funding Scheme (previously known as the Challenge Funding) is provided by the [Council for British Archaeology](#) (CBA), with support from [English Heritage](#) and [Cadw](#).

The Fund is intended to encourage independent, voluntary effort in making original contributions to the study and care of the historic environment.

Funding is available for original research. Grants can be to support new work, or to support the completion of research already in progress, for example, by paying for a specific piece of analysis or equipment.

Projects which work with young people or encourage their participation are especially encouraged.

In principle, almost anything that is directly related to the actual undertaking of a project is eligible for support.

Examples of what could be applied for include:

- o Equipment, drawing and photographic materials;
- o Scientific dating;
- o Travel for historical research; or
- o Environmental analysis.

There is also the potential to support innovative ideas for disseminating project results. Grants **up to £1,000** are available.

There is no requirement for match funding.

The following are not funded:

- o Salary costs;
- o Publication production costs;
- o Projects taking place outside of England and Wales;
- o Work arising from courses in higher education, such as dissertations and thesis; or
- o Retrospective awards for work already carried out.

Application forms can be downloaded from the [CBA website](#).

Applications may be made at any time.

Tel: 01904 671417

Email: info@archaeologyUK.org



SHAPE
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Comic Relief Levelling the Field Grants

Grants up to £250,000 over 3 years for sports projects that enable women and girls to reach their full potential

[Levelling the Field](#) is a £1 million initiative funded by Comic Relief and the Treasury offering funding to organisations working in partnership in the UK, which use the power of sport to empower women and girls to reach their full potential.

Applications that include work with men and boys are also welcomed. However, the main focus of the work must be change for women and girls. Comic Relief is more likely to prioritise applications which are targeting the most vulnerable and marginalised groups, rather than women and girls as a general cohort.

Applications are welcome for a **minimum of £30,000 and a maximum of £250,000, over a period of between 12 and 36 months**. There is no minimum / maximum turnover for applicant organisations.

Proposals must work towards the overall outcome of inspiring women and girls to reach their full potential. In addition, proposals must work towards a minimum of one of the following outcomes:

- o **Reduce gender stereotypes** that have a negative impact on women and girls – the use of realistic role models may be appropriate;
- o **Increase social inclusion** of women and girls – please note that proposals must focus on more than just bringing women and girls together;
- o **Increase opportunities** for women and girls to access education, employment and training – these may, or may not be within the sport industry;
- o **Improve the leadership skills** of women and girls – equipping women and girls with the skills to become leaders, in the setting appropriate to them;
- o **Tackling violence** against women and girls – enabling women and girls to live free from harm, and with access to crucial support.

More information about Comic Relief's approach to **Sport for Change** can be found [HERE](#).

PLEASE NOTE: applications will only be accepted from organisations working in partnership. The partnership must include a track record of working with women and girls, and using sport as a tool for change.

The deadline for applications is **12 noon on Thursday 16th March 2017** with successful applicants proceeding to a shortlist.

For further information about the Levelling the Field grant programme, go to the [Comic Relief website](#).



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>

Gifts and Hospitality

Don't forget to declare any gifts or hospitality you may receive in your role as a councillor. You need to declare brief details of the gift, date received, donor and approximate value (the council only needs to know about gifts in excess of £25).

If you have received a gift please arrange to update your declaration of interest form which can be found on the link above.

A date for your diary

Cabinet, Monday, 13 February 2017

Starting on 13 Feb 17 at 18:30 for 3 hours until 21:30

[Monday, 13 February 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.

Full Council, Monday, 20 February 2017

Starting on 20 Feb 17 at 18:30 for 3 hours until 21:30

[Monday, 20 February 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, 22 February 2017

Starting on 22 Feb 17 at 18:00 for 3 hours until 21:00

[Wednesday, 22 February 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.

Scrutiny Board, Monday, 27 February 2017

Starting on 27 Feb 17 at 18:30 for 3 hours until 21:30

[Monday 27 February 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.

Licensing Board, Wednesday, 1 March 2017

Starting on 01 Mar 17 at 18:30 for 3 hours until 21:30

[Wednesday, 1 March 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.

Standards Committee, Tuesday, 7 March 2017

Starting on 07 Mar 17 at 14:00 for 3 hours until 17:00

[Tuesday, 7 March 2017](#)

This meeting will be held in the Council Chamber, Mendip District Council, Shepton Mallet at 2 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

