



EXTRA SEDFIELD

PUBLISHED BY SEDGFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

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Contacting your town council

The town council is always interested in your views, comments and suggestions, (particularly the positive ones!). There are several ways in which this can be achieved. The following table indicates the quickest way to get your voice heard or problem sorted.

PROBLEM	WHO TO CONTACT	ACTION WE WILL TAKE
Street lights not working Litter dropped Footpath problems Dogs fouling	Telephone council offices 01740 621273 (if no-one available leave a message on the answerphone). Send information via e-mail to Jane / Julia as shown or via the town council web-site at www.sedgefield.net	We will sort out the problem or if necessary contact Durham County Council and contact you with the outcome.
Booking the Parish Hall	Telephone the council offices as above.	We will send you a booking form and information.
Wanting an allotment	Telephone / write to the council.	We will add you to the waiting lists and contact you when an allotment becomes available.
Seeking a donation for your group /organisation	Write to the town council.	The request will be placed before the next appropriate council meeting.
Concerned about a planning application or action the town council is undertaking	Write to the town council and / or come along to a council meeting. The monthly meetings are held at 7pm on the second Monday of each month (except August). You can speak at 'Public Participation'. Agendas for meetings are placed on the notice board outside the library.	Members will listen to your views and take into account when making their decision.
Want information re planning, crime warnings etc	Register with our Sedgefield information circulation e-mail system by e-mail to jane@sedgefield.net	We will add you to the database.
Want to volunteer to paint a seat, help with projects etc.	Contact the council offices or e-mail angela.simpson@sedgefield.net	We will be in touch!
You want to talk to an individual councillor	Contact details for all councillors are included in every Sedgefield Extra and / or available from the offices.	Alternatively a meeting can be arranged with the councillor. In addition councillors sometimes arrange a surgery - details are circulated.
You want to know what the town council is doing and how it is representing you	Come along to the monthly meeting of the Annual Town Meeting in May.	Members will listen to your views and comments.

WINTERTON ORCHARD

Following damage to apple trees by rabbits, the town council will be replanting more plum and pear trees in January 2016, with secure and robust rabbit guards in place.

Funding has been received from Durham County Council's Tree grant project for this work to be carried out.

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL FUNDING

We can report another successful funding application by Sedgefield Town Council for £12,100 from Durham County Council "delivering differently fund".

This will allow the town council to purchase robust self-watering tubs to replace all of the damaged tubs around the village, a bonus for our gardeners who work many hours throughout the spring/summer season watering to produce the many award winning displays of blooms.

Gritting facilities and equipment will also be purchased using this grant.

TOWN COUNCIL EVENTS

Strictly Come Dancing

Date & Time: Saturday 13th February
Venue: Parish Hall
Price: Tickets £10 (includes light supper)

Mayors Civic Ball

Date & Time: Friday 4th March
Venue: Hardwick Hall
Price: Tickets £28.50
Entertainment by Jeff Wright
Music for Dancing by Celebration Entertainment
Reception 7.15pm • Dinner at 7.30pm
Carriages at Midnight
In aid of local groups & organizations in Sedgefield and Alzheimer's Society

Sedgefield Showcase

Date & Time: Saturday 9th April
Venue: Parish Hall
Price: Tickets £6

Tickets available from council offices between 9 -12am

SNOW PARTY 10th Anniversary



In 10 years the Sedgefield Snow Party has grown from the initial light switch on with carols in St. Edmund's to a very popular community event.

Adults and children can now enjoy a visit from Santa Claus in his grotto in the Parish Hall, have fun on the bouncy castle then have their faces painted among the balloons and bubbles.

A big thank you to the numerous volunteers in reindeer costume from our community who willingly assist and also to the many community groups on the village green who provide tremendous support for this popular event.

Thanks also to Sedgefield Community Association for providing a second venue for our popular Christmas craft fair and refreshments.

Ceddesfeld Hall Lease

The town council has a number of assets across Sedgefield and one of those is Ceddesfeld Hall.

The council has a duty to ensure that all its assets are managed correctly to protect the interests of residents. For some time now the town council has been in discussions with the Sedgefield Community Association (SCA) regarding the review of the existing Ceddesfeld Hall lease to ensure that the interests of all parties are protected. We are pleased to

say that for the majority of issues both parties are in full agreement. A few remain which require agreement and the town council has suggested to the SCA that the services of a free-of-charge, experienced local independent mediator are used to conclude this matter and ensure that Ceddesfeld Hall remains a vibrant, much used facility within Sedgefield.

VILLAGE GREENS - A COURTEOUS REQUEST

Over recent weeks the town council has been made aware of a number of instances whereby vehicles are being driven over areas of village green.

The town council would like to remind everyone that vehicles should not be driven over the village greens or parked on this land. Due to the recent prolonged rain the grass on these areas can be damaged very easily. Please let us know the full details if you become aware of any instances when vehicles are being driven over or parked on any of the village greens.

COUNCIL TAX PRECEPT 2016/17

Over recent years there have been significant changes in local government funding and it is anticipated that further change will also be seen in the coming years.

Every year, each town and parish council sets a precept which is a charge that is determined locally and is added to, and collected along with, Council Tax. This precept money is then used to deliver services and amenities within that town or parish. In addition to this precept, many principal local authorities also provide town and parish councils with further funding. Over recent years the level of funding from central government distributed via Durham County Council has reduced and this reduction is forecasted to continue over the coming years. For Sedgefield Town Council to not only continue to deliver its services but also make improvements at the Parish Hall and Sedgefield Cemetery as well as introduce the living wage to all staff, it has been necessary to increase the precept for 2016/17 by 3%. This equates to an increase of £2.83 per household per annum.

SEDGEFIELD CEMETERY: Headstone Safety Testing

Sedgefield Town Council is legally required to undertake headstone safety testing annually to ensure that headstones are stable and safe.

Testing in Sedgefield Cemetery has now been completed. Unfortunately, a number of headstones have been found to require urgent attention to make them safe and have been marked with red/white warning tape. Where next of kin details are known, the council has written letters detailing the work that needs to be undertaken to make the headstones safe. In addition, an advisory notice has also been displayed in the Sedgefield Cemetery noticeboard. If you are visiting the cemetery and find a headstone marked with warning tape please contact the council offices as quickly as possible so that we can provide you with the necessary advice on what to do next. If repair work is not undertaken by Friday 12th March 2016, the council will oversee a programme of work to lay down these unstable headstones.

Village Green improvements

Previously there has been a problem with accessing power on the village green.

The town council has now installed improved power facilities. If you require access to this facility please contact the town council for further details.

Butterwick Cemetery

Improvements to facilities for gardening staff working at Butterwick Cemetery are taking place in spring 2016.

A new porta cabin with toilet and washing facilities will raise the existing standards to an acceptable level of convenience for staff, also providing an area for storage and shelter.

Estates Working Group Update



This is a new information section which will take a look at a town council working group's activities and plans for the year ahead.

The Parish Hall is one of the areas that we are currently giving more attention to. It is a well used building which requires maintaining to a satisfactory standard.

A questionnaire has been sent to all regular users of the building, and the replies and comments are currently being considered and evaluated.

If there are some points you wish us to consider regarding the Parish Hall, please contact the town council.

We have responded to some of the comments received, by providing new signage and storage. We will be considering further suggestions from a practical and financial aspect that could also be implemented. While a lot of the suggested improvements would certainly improve the building, they are not realistic within the space or budget provided. The chart on the right demonstrates the many activities that take place in the hall.

Parish Hall	Usage
Meetings	27%
Craft Fayres	3%
Plays	2%
Personal social events	2%
Polling Station	-
Business Use	5%
Coffee Mornings	15%
Concerts	10%
Fund-Raising Events	7%
Dances	7%
Commercial Use	2%
Other	8%

Rehearsals, Presentations, Club Dinners, Training, General, Annual Meetings and Charity non-profit events

Citizen of the Year Award

Do you know someone who has made an exceptional contribution to Sedgefield? If so, why not enter them for the annual Citizen of the Year Award.

Award entry forms are included in this

month's edition of Sedgefield News. The closing date for nominations is Thursday 24th March 2016.

The award will be presented at the Sedgefield Town Council Annual Town Meeting in May 2015.

THE SEDGEFIELD PLAN - Latest Update

Since the last edition of the Extra there has been a considerable amount of work undertaken in relation to The Sedgefield Plan, the town's Neighbourhood Plan.

The Sedgefield Plan was formally submitted to Durham County Council in August 2015, but, following consideration by the county and its legal team, they requested that additional statutory consultation work was required to supplement the submission. The additional consultation work required related specifically to developers and land agents. Accordingly, a further statutory consultation exercise was held with these groups running from Wednesday 18th November 2015 to 5pm on Wednesday 6th January 2016.

There were several responses to this consultation and the town council is now analysing this feedback and amending the plan as required in order that it can be resubmitted as a matter of urgency to Durham County Council. The plan can then progress through the county's statutory consultation process after which it will go for independent examination and a referendum. We will continue to keep you updated through the next edition of the Extra.

NEW TOWN COUNCIL website/residents' database

The town council website has long been overdue a major facelift and that work is now well underway!

At the moment, the site sitting at www.sedgefield.net is fairly 'dormant' and the only content that has been added recently is approved minutes from meetings, which can be accessed on the homepage.

The new site will sit at www.sedgefield.gov.uk (www.sedgefield.net will redirect automatically to this address too) and will have a much more contemporary look.

The town council will use it to share more information and news more often and the

site will be optimised so it is easy to view and navigate around on all computers and mobile devices. The updated website should be available to view by March, but hopefully sooner.

As well as using the website to better effect, the town council intends to improve communications with residents in other ways. The residents' email database will continue to be used to share time critical updates and other important information, while the town council's Twitter account (@SedgefieldTC) will also be employed to reach those who like to keep up with developments via social media.

CELEBRATING SEDGEFIELD DAY IN 2016

Saturday 11th June will be the date for this year's Sedgefield Day. Once again, a large programme of activities is being planned for this always popular event.

Many groups have already agreed to be a part of the day and funding has been secured through Durham County Councillor John Robinson's neighbourhood budget, allowing for the purchase of promotional material and new sports equipment. Watch this space, and the new town council website, for more information.

A core purpose of Sedgefield Day is to help showcase the huge variety of community activities and groups that are active in the town. If you are part of a group that is interested in either getting involved in the event, or would like to use it to promote what you do, please get in touch with Angela at angela.simpson@sedgefield.net or 01740 621273.



CEDDSFELD GARDEN IMPROVEMENTS

Sedgefield in Bloom has received funding of £3,700 from County Durham Community Foundation, following a successful application submitted by Sedgefield Town Council to improve gardens around the car park entrance leading to Ceddesfeld Hall.

Work on the "stepping through time" project will begin in early 2016. Initially, large amounts of ivy will be removed from the area before landscaping, and a carved horticultural timeline will then be commissioned for this space.