

Town and Parish Newsletter from Mid Devon District Council

March 2017



Introduction from the Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee



Welcome to the April edition of the Newsletter. I hope you are enjoying the new format which replaces Parish Matters. This initiative stemmed from a complaint that Town and Parishes were being excluded from information – in this particular case about Broadband – that had been made available in other Districts but not in Mid Devon.

This sparked a review undertaken by the Scrutiny Committee into communication between MDDC and its Town and Parish Councils in the hope of promoting a more mature relationship. The new format of the

Town and Parish Newsletter – Mid Devon District Council – Contact Julia Stuckey
Jstuckey@middevon.gov.uk

newsletter is therefore more comprehensive and active in setting out where more in-depth information can be tracked. Admittedly this involves interrogating website addresses which may potentially seem as overload but the choice is there for the interested reader.

The above process is illustrative of the role of Scrutiny in Local Government. One of the guiding principles of Scrutiny is to reflect the voice of the public (as well as holding the Cabinet to account). A Task and Finish Group is exploring how the public view Mid Devon.

Members of the Scrutiny Committee may also call on external agencies to account for their responsibility to the Mid Devon Community and we have been able to challenge our local MP's and the Clinical Commissioning Group (New Devon) and this month the Police and Crime Commissioner is due to appear. A number of parishes have raised issues seeking information or action which we endeavour to address, recognising of course the constant problem of limited resources.

Because of the importance of Scrutiny the Select Committee for Communities and Local Government has launched a national enquiry into the effectiveness of Scrutiny. That consultation has finished but your thoughts on Scrutiny at MDDC would, of course, be welcome.

Keeping up to Date

Press Releases Issued

<https://www.middevonnewscentre.info/>

Dates for Mid Devon District Council Meetings

<https://democracy.middevon.gov.uk/mgCalendarMonthView.aspx?GL=1&bcr=1>

Devon County Council Meetings

<http://democracy.devon.gov.uk/mgCalendarMonthView.aspx>

Items of interest from last month's District Council meetings

Audit

<https://democracy.middevon.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=130&Year=0>

Cabinet

<https://democracy.middevon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=133&MId=630&Ver=4>

Community Engagement Action Plan

Treasury Management Statement and Annual Investment Strategy

Communication Strategy Action Plan

Roofing Contract Award

Exe Valley Leisure Centre Tender for Works

Design Competition for the Rear of the Town Hall

Economy Policy Development Group

<https://democracy.middevon.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=234&Year=0>

Tiverton Pannier Market

Tiverton Market Schedule of Tolls

The Economic Profile of the District

An update on Car parking

Environment Policy Development Group

<https://democracy.middevon.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=135&Year=0>

Update on the Waste and Recycling Service

Street Cleansing Review

Street Scene Enforcement Policy

Homes Policy Development Group

<https://democracy.middevon.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=138&Year=0>

Rechargeable Service

Vulnerability Policy

Telecare Policy

Private Sector Housing Fees and Charges

Houses in Multiple Occupation

Homelessness Reduction Bill

Licensing and Regulatory Committees

<https://democracy.middevon.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=139&Year=0>

Pre Application Advice and Charging for Licensing Application

Enforcement Update

Immigration Act Update

Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Fees

Animal Licensing Update

Scrutiny

<https://democracy.middevon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=131&MId=658&Ver=4>

Update from Environmental Health

Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration

Culm Garden Village

Planning Productivity report

Tiverton Town Centre Masterplan

Car Parking Update

An Update from our County Councillors

There will be no update from our County Councillors for the next couple of issues due to County Council elections.

New Director of Operations starts at Mid Devon

Andrew Pritchard has recently joined the Authority as its new Director of Operations, heading up all operational activity, including some of the Council's most significant services such as waste, leisure and housing. Andrew's background is in environmental health and he has a wealth of experience with Local and Central Government, the NHS and the MOD.

Town and Parish Newsletter – Mid Devon District Council – Contact Julia Stuckey
Jstuckey@middevon.gov.uk



Andrew said, 'I am really excited about joining the team at Mid Devon District Council in this new and diverse role. Over time I hope to be able to implement some significant changes within the services I will be responsible for, whilst maintaining the excellent service provision I know the Council currently provides'.

Chief Executive, Stephen Walford, said, 'I am very pleased to welcome Andrew to the team. He was a standout candidate from a very strong field and I am confident Mid Devon will benefit from the significant talent, capability and enthusiasm that he is bringing to the Authority'.

E-Mail Subscription Service

Clerks and Councillors may be interested to know that this authority has partnered with GovDelivery to connect customers to important information about the services it provides.

GovDelivery is an e-mail subscription management service that provides access to information by proactively delivering content through a variety of channels. Visitors to the Council's website will now notice an option to subscribe to receive information and updates from the services that matter to them; such as news about planning issues or notifications for areas where waste collections have been missed.

Using the GovDelivery communications platform, the Council will be able to greatly extend its communication reach, foster engagement and encourage residents, businesses and visitors to engage more actively with Council services.

GovDelivery has been successfully delivering channel shift, fast-tracking avoidable contact savings and generating revenue to UK Local Authorities since 2004.

A unique benefit will be access to the network of existing clients; meaning subscribers can also choose to receive news and information from associated public organisations such as the Met Office, Highways Agency, HMRC, DVLA, HSE, and GOV.UK. Networking this way enables a cross-over of subscribers to maximise public reach.

Other benefits will include:

- Reduction in communication costs through paperless delivery – saving on postage and employee costs
- Reduction in customer contact costs – by pro-actively alerting residents to changes in service, customers are able to self-serve using the lowest cost channels as opposed to making telephone calls, in-person visits or print/postal communications
- Achieving a greater reach to residents, visitors and businesses than previously
- Ensuring transparency and efficient dissemination of information to the public
- Customisation – allowing customers to choose to receive information by email, personalised RSS feeds, Facebook or Twitter

Customers can subscribe to a choice of topics and newsfeeds by visiting <https://www.middevon.gov.uk/> and entering their email address into the overlay pop-up or by clicking the 'Stay Connected' icon in the footer. Additional topics will be added in due course.

For more information and to watch an informative video about GovDelivery, see Vimeo – The GovDelivery Network or contact communications@middevon.gov.uk

South West Youth Games – Sunday 9 July, Simmons Park, Okehampton

Once again, Mid Devon District Council and Mid Devon Leisure are supporting the South West Youth Games (formerly the Devon Youth Games, but now including Cornwall). This prestigious sporting event for children between the ages of 8 and 18 is a fantastic opportunity for our local children to get involved. Mid Devon will be entering teams in a wide range of sports including Badminton, Girls' football, Triathlon, Netball, High Fives, Street Sports (BMX, Scootering and Skateboarding), Tennis, Hockey,

Town and Parish Newsletter – Mid Devon District Council – Contact Julia Stuckey
Jstuckey@middevon.gov.uk

Gymnastics and Indoor Athletics. Trials are being held throughout April, May and June and full details can be found on the Games' central website at www.southwestyouthgames.co.uk

Or visit Mid Devon Leisure's dedicated page on the Youth Games at www.middevonleisure.com

Any publicity you can give will be gratefully appreciated.



Charter between Mid Devon District Council and the Town and Parish Councils in Mid Devon

Partnership working between town and parish councils and the district council will only be successfully achieved if both partners recognise, understand and respect the role that the other plays and work to promote those roles. The Charter was agreed

Town and Parish Newsletter – Mid Devon District Council – Contact Julia Stuckey
Jstuckey@middevon.gov.uk

following consultation between Mid Devon District Council and the local councils and set out a framework to enable this to happen.

The revised Charter has been sent to clerks with a closing date for comments of 5 May 2017, asking that you review and comment. Following this consultation the Charter will be reviewed by the Community PDG before going before Cabinet for approval.

Any comments from your Town or Parish Council will be gratefully received.

Sally Gabriel
Member Services Manager

News from the Parishes

We hope that you will provide information for this section in future months. Perhaps to promote an event that is happening in your Parish or to share good practice. If you have anything that you would like published here please forward it to jstuckey@middevon.gov.uk.