

# Chilton Polden Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting.

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2017

## **A brief review of the year (2016/2017) in Sedgemoor.**

### **Peer Review.**

Sedgemoor will be undergoing a Peer Review in October. Sedgemoor District Council has a clear sense of what is needed for the district and for the council to be successful in the future.

The main purpose of Peer challenge will be to help provide a corporate overview. The council welcomes a robust external challenge by 'critical friends' and we want the peer challenge to give the authority further confidence by validating the approach it is taking, and help to test, stretch and further evolve thinking for the future.

**Skills and Training: Apprentices**-We have invested £500,000 over the past two years in growing our own workforce and investing in a Sedgemoor Council apprenticeship scheme. Last year we appointed five Business Administration Apprentices, two trainee town planners and one IT Graduate. This year we added another four BAA two trainee town planners one apprentice surveyor and one mechanic.

According to recent study work by Local Enterprise Partnership, Sedgemoor is the fastest growing local authority in the Local Partnership area, with the economy growing at 17%.

### **Isle port Business Park.**

Significant activity underway on site, with 12-15 acres of additional space currently being brought forward. Activities include a new Aldi Superstore, Hotel (currently in contractual negotiations, new distribution business and 14 small business units, Collectively, projects secured will equate to around £14m of investment.

**Hotel Planning Applications.**-four hotels consented over the past two years, encapsulating a total investment of around £50-60m .Three further hotels sites at pre – app stage. Best Western will be starting work on the old hospital site in late 2017.

**New Build;**-18 new homes constructed by Sedgemoor in 2016, our first in –house development and building of new council homes in 30 years. The first scheme completed is at Rosewood Close Burnham on Sea where four one bed roomed flats were handed over just before Christmas A further 14 new family homes are currently