

Chilton Polden Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting.

Wednesday 11th May 2016.

A brief review of last year (2015/16) in Sedgemoor.

Now more than ever, people are turning to their local authority for support and Sedgemoor District Council is working hard to ensure we continue to deliver value for money services for our residents.

There are further substantial reductions in our funding from Central Government, which has been challenging for us as a Council, but has given us the opportunity to refocus on the important issues for local people and businesses. It is anticipated that all funding from Central Government will cease by 2019/20.

The recent budget consultation results show that 86% of customers are satisfied with the overall service provided by the Council.

Sedgemoor's priority services are Customers and Efficiency; Growth and Infrastructure and Housing, Health and Wellbeing - which is where we direct our funding, efforts and resources.

We are proud to have the lowest council tax in the LGA's nearest neighbours group, whilst still delivering jobs and growth into Sedgemoor.

Just a few of our recent successes in the past year:

158 affordable homes delivered ✓

570 New homes delivered ✓

51% of all new homes were located on previously developed land – brownfield sites. ✓

261 empty properties bought back into use over three years ✓

The Number of empty homes in Sedgemoor is at an all-time low of 274

Prevented over 1,000 households becoming homeless

Last year we assisted over 10,000 people housing and Council Tax benefit claims.

10,500 calls answered per month by Sedgemoor Direct

46% of household waste recycled ✓

2 Green Flags for our parks and 2 Seaside Awards for our beaches

1,234 fly tips removed – removed within 2 days ✓

100% of graffiti removed within 5 days of being reported – 100% of offensive graffiti removed within 24 hours. ✓

600 food hygiene inspections carried out.

Sedgemoor ranks 4th in the Country for the speed with which it processes benefit claims (six days) ✓

100% of Lifeline callouts arrived at the property within 45 minutes

Sickness rates within the Council were 5.39 days, that compares well with the private sector and well below that in the public sector ✓

Planning performance ranks Sedgemoor within the top 25% of Councils ✓

In Sedgemoor we have seen a net birth rate for new enterprises of 115 – this increase is much higher than the national or regional averages

The past 8 years has seen the skill level at NVQ2 or equivalent in Sedgemoor rise significantly from 59.7% to 75.8% ✓

In the last year we saw a nett increase in new job creation (in new enterprises) of 250

Long term unemployment is at its lowest ever level in Sedgemoor; currently standing at 238. ✓

The Sedgemoor population continued to increase by (1.2%), 1500 people in the last year.

During the Summer months we have seen a resurgence of visitors to the area with approximately 620,000 staying visitors. ✓

Significant sums of money have been invested in our parks and play areas during the past year

£56,000 of grant funding was distributed to support the work of local community groups. ✓

The Clean Surroundings Service supported 20 'community clean-up' events by supplying litter pickers, bags, gloves, and arranging collection of the waste ✓

£80,000 was allocated to a number of small flood relief schemes across Sedgemoor, which will make a difference where there is localised flooding caused by heavy rain or high tides.

We continue to train all Staff to the highest levels of customer care – SDC was re-accredited to the Gold standard by 'Investors in People'

I hope you will agree that the 9p in the £ that SDC keeps from your council tax is well spent ✓

Sedgemoor District Council services cost you around **38p** per day ✓

And by the way

In Sedgemoor, there is a consortium of The Parrett and Axe/Brue Drainage Boards. They are long established bodies who maintain certain watercourses around Sedgemoor via a complex system for flood defence and land drainage. Drainage rates are collected from agricultural businesses, along with a levy from SDC. The total levy that Sedgemoor will have to pay in 2016/17 will be £1.3 million. This amounts to 23% of a band D householder's bill.

A few additional facts from the last year:

Helped **126,000** customers who called Sedgemoor Direct
Supported over **7,200** people by providing a 24/7 Careline
Processed **2,300** new Housing Benefit claims and **18,100** changes of circumstance

Own and maintain **37** play areas, parks and public open spaces within Sedgemoor including **2** Green Flag accredited parks, management of **3** Sedgemoor District Council skateparks and **2** beaches with Seaside Awards

Responded to **32** investment enquiries in the first nine months of 2015 and helped to facilitate **£20m** investment in the district

Planted **85,000** spring bedding plants and **72,000** summer bedding plants

Responded to **420** reports of stray dogs and maintained around **200** dog waste bins ✓
across the district.

Operated **157** CCTV cameras in Sedgemoor, Taunton and Yeovil.

Issued **1,242** licenses, including **398** temporary event licenses and **308** taxi/private hire ✓
vehicle licenses

Thank You
Cllr Stuart Kingham
West polden
Ward Member.