

District Councillor Report to Glastonbury Town Council – June 2020

Cllr. Jon Cousins, Mendip District Councillor for Glastonbury St. John's Ward.
Member of the Standards Committee, Audit Committee, and Assets of Community Value Panel.

Mendip business impacting on Glastonbury:

Extra council tax relief to vulnerable residents:

On 13th May, I helped to promote the news that Mendip District Council is to provide additional council tax reductions worth an extra £750,000 to hundreds of the most vulnerable people and households; easing the financial burden on those Mendip residents who are already in most need and unable to go to work, due to restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 outbreak.

The measures mean eligible residents of working age, in receipt of [council tax support](#), will get an immediate, one-off discount of £150 extra – which will further reduce their 2020/21 council tax bill.

The support, financed centrally through the Government's £500 million Hardship Fund for Local Authorities, was agreed unanimously at the Mendip Cabinet meeting on Monday, 11th May.

Local Authority Discretionary Grant:

At the beginning of June, I helped to promote Mendip's Local Authority Discretionary Grant to Glastonbury businesses. The grant – which is worth up to £10k – needed to be promoted before the offer ended: 5 pm on 9th June.

Glastonbury's Virtual Summer Solstice:

Since the beginning of June, I have also been working with Mendip's consultant Sara Snelling and the Glastonbury Information Centre's Morgana West on the development of [Glastonbury's Virtual Summer Solstice](#) – an on-line event which has already reached over 354K people via Facebook alone...

Ward business and caseloads:

Following a very quiet couple of months, during May and early June, I have dealt with a number of enquiries from the residents of St. John's – these have been sign posted to the relevant Mendip officers or to other authorities, as appropriate.

Standards Committee: has not met this month

Audit Committee: has not met this month

Assets of Community Value Panel:

On Wednesday, 27th May 2020 I attended the Asset of Community Value (ACV) Panel meeting held via Livestream.

The panel was convened to consider the nomination by The Eagle Preservation Group to include The Eagle Inn Public House, Coleford on the Register of Assets of Community Value. Following evidence given for and against the application, the panel discussed the nomination and decided that the Eagle Inn, Coleford was deemed to be an Asset of Community Value and will be entered on the register.