

Cllr Lindsay MacDougall – October report

I have this month attended an MDC Budget training session and a Planning White Paper briefing, Planning Board, plus Full Council and October Cabinet meetings (all virtual).

Mendip District Council (MDC) have published an account of actions to date to address the Climate Emergency which may be viewed here:

[https://www.mendip.gov.uk/media/26188/Climate-and-Ecological-Emergency-Group-CEEG-The-Story-So-Far-Feb-2019-to-Sept-2020/pdf/Climate_and_Ecological_Emergency_Group_\(CEEG\)_The_Story_So_Far_FEB_2019_to_SEPT_2020.pdf?m=637376564425500000](https://www.mendip.gov.uk/media/26188/Climate-and-Ecological-Emergency-Group-CEEG-The-Story-So-Far-Feb-2019-to-Sept-2020/pdf/Climate_and_Ecological_Emergency_Group_(CEEG)_The_Story_So_Far_FEB_2019_to_SEPT_2020.pdf?m=637376564425500000)

This is included on the dedicated MDC Climate Emergency page: <https://www.mendip.gov.uk/article/8646/Climate-Change->

MDC have announced a Communities Climate and Ecological Emergency fund of £50,000 for local community groups who have small projects of up to £2,000 to address climate change. Suitable areas for projects include transport (greater use of active or public transport, lessening need for cars), renewable energy, energy efficiency of buildings, low carbon economy, reduced waste (eg. repair and share), food and land use (sustainable food production, tree planting), education and information. Contact Tracy Aarons to apply/ for more details: aaronst@mendip.gov.uk

The Council drew attention to Clean Air Day last Thursday (8th Oct) with a press release re. vehicle idling; further information on the pollution this causes and how it can be avoided, eg. outside schools, may be found here: <https://www.mendip.gov.uk/idling>

Somerset County Council (SCC) has published their draft Climate Emergency Strategy, a jointly produced document by district and county council representatives, a summary of which may be found here: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/waste-planning-and-land/climate-emergency/>.

Recycle More, which will add collection of plastic tubs and pots, begins on 26 Oct, blue bags to be issued from 12 Oct.

The controversial planning application at 24 Roman Way (ref.2020/0723/ful) has been refused under officer delegation. The reasons for refusal may be found in the officer's report which has been published on the MDC planning website here: <https://publicaccess.mendip.gov.uk/online-applications/>

MDC published their response to the Planning White Paper "Planning for the Future", which proposes some wide-ranging changes to the planning system. This may be found in the Cabinet Agenda for October (Item 7): <https://www.mendip.gov.uk/article/8727/Cabinet-Monday-12-October-2020>

Finally, MDC has published their Tourism Strategy in order to provide additional support to Tourism businesses within the district, the detail of which may be found in the October Cabinet Agenda (Item 12).

ENDS