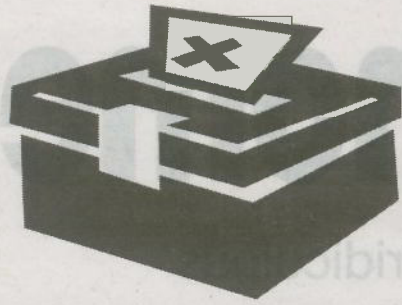


Sedgemoor News

Sedgemoor
IN SOMERSET

A MONTHLY FEATURE FROM SEDGEMOOR DISTRICT COUNCIL. CONTACT US ON 0845 4082540



Make your mark on election day, June 4

THURSDAY, June 4, is the day when voters in Sedgemoor will have their say on who represents them in Somerset County Council and also at the European Parliament.

What happens in the European Parliament affects our lives in Sedgemoor more than we often realise, so it's worth making your voice heard.

Why bother to vote? It gives you a say on important issues that affect you – everything from roads and recycling in your area to education and climate change.

One of the candidates will be selected to represent you whether you vote or not, so by voting you have the chance to have a say on who represents you.

Some people are quick to complain when they disagree with politicians, but if you don't vote you'll never change anything!

It's also important for Sedgemoor and Somerset that our councillors represent the population as a whole and are drawn from as wide a group of people as possible.

It gives you a say on who runs the country, who sits on your local council and who represents you in Europe.

Everyone who is registered to vote should have received or will shortly receive a polling card giving details of the polling station where they can cast their vote.

You don't need to bring this on the day, but if you've not received one please call 01278-435334 to find out where your polling station is – it may not be the same one as the last time you voted.

You can vote via a postal vote. You will need to apply for this by May 19 by phoning 01278-435334 and you will receive your pack by May 22.

So, what should you do on June 4? Most people vote in person at polling stations, which are open from 7am to 10pm on Thursday, June 4.

When you arrive you'll be asked to confirm your name and address, and will be given your ballot papers.

To make your choice, simply place an 'X' next to the name of the party or individual candidate you want to represent you.

If you have any questions or you need assistance there will be staff available to help you.

That's all there is to it! So don't let anything stop you from having your say on June 4.

Thanks for dropping by

OVER 400 people visited the recent Bridgwater Challenge 'drop-in' session held at the beginning of April, leaving the Bridgwater Challenge partners delighted with the response.

The atmosphere in the drop-in centre in High Street was positive and buzzing with many visitors arriving and saying they had only a few minutes to spare, and then ended up staying for over half an hour.

The displays mainly consisted of preliminary ideas for the regeneration of the town, on which visitors were asked to comment.

One very clear theme which emerged was the desire to see Bridgwater's river transformed into the recreational and environmental asset it has the potential to become.

Elsewhere, there was a great deal of support in the written comments visitors were encouraged to provide for almost all the issues and aims of the Challenge.

These include tackling

deprivation, raising education standards, creating more and better jobs, improving public transport, transforming the image of the town and celebrating Bridgwater's remarkable heritage.

There was also clear support for some of the preliminary ideas on display, which is helping the Bridgwater Challenge partners choose and prioritise among the many options.

People want to see more use made of the river and canal throughout the town, revitalisation of the town centre on every aspect (mix of shops, environmental quality, safety etc), a shift in Eastover to become more of a residential and leisure quarter, more cycle routes, an eco park, more leisure facilities generally and new housing kept on sites within the town if at all possible.

The next consultation event will be in mid-June, so keep an eye on the local press for more news.



PICTURED during the Bridgwater Challenge open day are, from left, Georgina, 11, district councillor Anne Fraser, Mark, ten, Charlie, 11, and Josh, ten.

PHOTO: Jeff Searle

It's a springtime floral frenzy!



AS the days get longer and spring has finally sprung, Sedgemoor District Council's Clean Surroundings team have been extra busy, planting 85,000 spring bedding plants, 35,000 bulbs, 72,000 summer bedding plants, 90 hanging baskets, 19 flower towers and 30 troughs full of colourful flowers. Over the summer season they also cut 1.15million sq m of grass on verges and roundabouts, and in parks and open spaces. The blooms pictured here are in Blake Gardens, Bridgwater.