District Councillors Reports 2019

**NOVEMBER 2019**

**SEDGEMOOR DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Mark and Wedmore Ward**

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**VIEW FROM SEDGEMOOR**

Polly and Will attended the Licensing and General Purposes Committee this month. At this meeting, some polling stations were re allocated away from schools so that they no longer have to close on polling day. Revisions were also made to Licensing requirements for Taxi drivers – an amendment to the knowledge test, tightening the DBS checking system and an amendment to policy concerning drug related convictions. They also heard an interesting summary of other licensing areas of responsibility such as the licensing of dangerous or protected species of animals.

Full council had a very full agenda which included a resolution to declare Sedgemoor a ‘Frack Free Zone’. This was passed unanimously having been brought forward by the Scrutiny Committee.

Will attended the Axe Brue Drainage Board Finance Committee. A proposal to use the Flagstone Banking platform was passed and will be submitted to the Full Drainage Board at its next meeting.  This platform allows access to (currently) 38 different banking accounts in one place with only one application form at the outset.  It is designed to make it easier to invest in the best interest rates possible and will significantly increase the returns on the Boards reserve cash funds.  It also means the funds are safer as they can be allocated to reflect the FSCA compensation schemes £85,000 limit.

December

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**VIEW FROM SEDGEMOOR**

This month Will attended the Audit and Standards Committee which oversees the running of the District Council remains risk free or minimises risk and also monitors the budget of the Council.

Polly has chaired two Licensing Panels. These are held to examine and then decide upon Licensing applications that are too sensitive for the officers to make unilaterally.  She has also been holding meetings with Highways in Wedmore to try and arrange signage around Hugh Sexeys Middle School to increase safety.  She is also very pleased to report that a lot of patching of the roads has been done around the school where it was becoming increasingly dangerous.

Both Polly and Will attended the Axe Brue Drainage Board meeting where a new chairman was elected on the retirement of current chairman, Jeff Fear.  Jeff had to stand down under new Drainage Board rules allowing only two terms of office. Andrew Gilling was reselected as Vice Chairman.

The meeting also agreed to pursue the Flagstone Investment idea that will increase interest from the Boards reserves considerably.