

**Welcome to the second issue of the Sedgemoor Local Development Framework Newsletter, complete with new LDF logo! As well as some general news, this issue lets you know about the consultation coming up which will be your chance to comment on the Preferred Options of the Core Strategy.**

## The Core Strategy Preferred Options Report

The Core Strategy is the key document of the Local Development Framework and will set out an overall vision for Sedgemoor as well as detailed planning policies and broad locations for development.

You may remember the Core Strategy Issues and Options consultation in 2007. This was the first stage in the production of the Core Strategy and asked you to comment on some of the planning issues facing Sedgemoor and the best options for dealing with them.

Since then, much additional work has been undertaken, particularly on the evidence needed to underpin the Core Strategy (see Issue 1 of the newsletter), and on assessing options using the Council's Sustainability Appraisal framework. Work on regional policy has also been ongoing: the Regional Spatial Strategy has now been examined by inspectors and the Secretary of State's proposed changes published. This means that, although publication of the final document has been delayed, we now have a clearer direction for local policy.

The Preferred Options Report sets out what we believe to be the best options for development based on what you told us at the Issues and Options stage, the updated requirements of regional and national policy, what we have learnt from the evidence base studies and the findings of our Sustainability Assessment. Options for Bridgwater incorporate the Bridgwater Challenge work (see opposite). Your comments on this document will inform the draft Core Strategy which we hope to be consulting on next year.

The Core Strategy will be key in shaping the future of Sedgemoor over the next two decades. We hope therefore that you'll engage with this very important stage in its production – now is the time to say what you want or don't want!

*The Preferred Options Report will be published on the 30<sup>th</sup> September.*

## HOT NEWS

**PREFERRED OPTIONS REPORT APPROVED!** The POR was considered by the Council's Executive committee on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September, and has today (16<sup>th</sup> September) been approved by a special Full Council meeting for public consultation, starting on the 30<sup>th</sup> September.

**STRATEGIC FLOOD DEFENCE SPD ADOPTED!** The Flood Defence SPD was also considered by the Executive on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September after a consultation period over the summer, and was today adopted by Full Council. This will enable contributions towards the Parrett Barrier to be raised from new development in Bridgwater. For more info click on the link at [www.sedgemoor.gov.uk/ldf](http://www.sedgemoor.gov.uk/ldf)

**THE BRIDGWATER VISION** has now been published (see below). This work has been used to inform the Bridgwater section of the Preferred Options Report.

**THE STRATEGIC HOUSING LAND AVAILABILITY ASSESSMENT AND THE RETAIL CAPACITY STUDY** are now available on our website at [www.sedgemoor.gov.uk/ldf](http://www.sedgemoor.gov.uk/ldf)



**The Bridgwater Challenge Partnership** is proud to announce the launch of Bridgwater Vision – a 50 year plan to transform Bridgwater into one of the most exciting, innovative and distinctive towns in the South West. The Vision is the product of 9 months of research, consultation and analysis by the Challenge partners – the result is a new spatial plan for the town setting out design guidelines for residential and business areas and seven key transformation projects for central Bridgwater that will deliver a step change to the quality of living, working and shopping in the town.

Anthony Gibson, Chair of the Challenge, said at the launch, "Bridgwater has a huge amount going for it – a prime strategic location, a proud history, many beautiful buildings, a strong trading and manufacturing position and a great community spirit"

To find out more about the Vision and how it will be delivered visit [www.bridgwaterchallenge.org.uk](http://www.bridgwaterchallenge.org.uk).

## Preferred Options Consultation

The formal consultation period for the Preferred Options Report will run from the 30<sup>th</sup> September until the 24<sup>th</sup> November.

### How can I see it?

The complete document will be available on our website and in libraries. Issue no. 3 of this newsletter will present a summary of the document. This will also be available on the website, in libraries and at drop-in sessions across the District (see opposite).

### How can I make comments?

The online version of the document includes opportunities to add your comments directly. The summary newsletter will include a comments sheet which you can fill in by hand. You'll also be able to leave comments at any of our consultation events.

### Who can I ask if I have any questions?

We are planning a series of exhibitions across the District (see opposite). These will be an ideal opportunity for you to come along, get more information and have a chat with us. If you can't make any of these, do check the website to see if your questions are answered there, or contact us on the number or at the address below.

## Consultation diary

### September

**30<sup>th</sup>** Publication of Preferred Options Report and start of consultation

### October

**1<sup>st</sup>** Bridgwater Town Council meeting, 7.30pm

**5<sup>th</sup>** Burnham on Sea and Highbridge Town Council Meeting, 7pm

**12<sup>th</sup>** Nether Stowey Village Hall Exhibition and Drop-in, 2.30-6.30pm

Nether Stowey Parish Council meeting, 7pm

Westonzoyland Community Centre, Exhibition and Drop-in, 2.30-7pm

Westonzoyland Parish Council meeting, 7.30pm

**13<sup>th</sup>** Cannington Village Hall, Exhibition and Drop-in, 2.30-6.30pm

Cannington Parish Council meeting, 7pm

North Petherton Community Centre, Exhibition and Drop-in, 2.30-7pm

North Petherton Town Council Meeting, 7.30pm

**19<sup>th</sup>** Axbridge Town Hall, Exhibition and Drop-in, 2.30-7pm

Axbridge Town Council meeting, 7.30pm

**21<sup>st</sup>** Wedmore Council Room, Exhibition and Drop-in, 2.30-7pm

Wedmore Parish Council meeting 7.30pm

**23<sup>rd</sup>** Burnham, Morrisons foyer, Exhibition and Drop-in, 10-4pm

**24<sup>th</sup>** Burnham, Morrisons foyer, Exhibition and Drop-in, 10-4pm

**27<sup>th</sup>** Cheddar Parish Hall, Exhibition and Drop-in, 2.30-7pm

Cheddar Parish Council meeting, 7pm

Woolavington Village Hall, Exhibition and Drop-in, 2.30-7pm

Woolavington Parish Council meeting, 7.30pm

**30<sup>th</sup>** Bridgwater Angel Place, Exhibition and Drop-in, 10-4pm

**31<sup>st</sup>** Bridgwater Angel Place, Exhibition and Drop-in, 10-4pm

### November

**6<sup>th</sup>** Highbridge Asda, Exhibition and Drop-in, 10-4pm

**7<sup>th</sup>** Highbridge Asda, Exhibition and Drop-in, 10-4pm

**9<sup>th</sup>** Pawlett Village Hall, Exhibition and Drop-in, 2.30-6.30pm TBC

Pawlett Parish Council meeting 7pm TBC

**10<sup>th</sup>** Puriton St Michael's Church Hall, Exhibition and Drop-in, 2.30-7pm

Puriton Parish Council meeting, 7.45pm

**16<sup>th</sup>** Ashcott Village Hall, Exhibition and Drop-in, 2.30-7pm TBC

Ashcott Parish Council meeting, 7pm

## Finding out more

Please use our re-invigorated website to keep in touch with what is happening.

**[www.sedgemoor.gov.uk/ldf](http://www.sedgemoor.gov.uk/ldf)**

South West Planning Aid provides free, independent advice on planning matters to community groups and individuals who cannot afford professional fees. To find out more go to [www.planningaid.rtpi.org.uk](http://www.planningaid.rtpi.org.uk)  
Or to find out more about planning generally, go to [www.planningportal.gov.uk](http://www.planningportal.gov.uk)

## Not on our List?

Would you like to receive this newsletter and other information about the LDF regularly? Please let us know if you would like to be on our consultation database – our contact details are opposite.

## Prefer email?

It is more efficient and environmentally friendly to send this newsletter out by email if we can. So please let us have your email address if we don't already.

## Change of address?

Don't forget to let us know if your address or email address changes so that we can keep our database up-to-date.

## Contact us

For any queries not answered on the website, please contact us:

**By phone:** 01278 436436

**By email:** [ldf@sedgemoor.gov.uk](mailto:ldf@sedgemoor.gov.uk)

**By post:** LDF Team  
Strategy and Business Services  
Sedgemoor District Council  
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TA6 3AR

*For general planning enquiries please call  
0845 408 2540*