

# Sevenoaks TOWN council



Annual Report

2020/2021

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## 1. Introduction

The Annual Report reflects on the extraordinary year due to the pandemic, and the impact it has had on the Town Council's functions and facilities and the wider community.

This time last year, as we went into the first lockdown, the Mayor, Cllr Nicholas Busvine OBE, provided the following statement:

*"We have been shocked by the speed with which the Coronavirus pandemic has disrupted our community. We are poised on the cusp of an intensification of this crisis. None of us knows how the situation will evolve – and that uncertainty makes matters more difficult for all of us. But, in dark days such as these, it is important to remember that ultimately things will get better and life will go on. For now, we as a Town Council, must buckle down and do our duty to the best of our ability. As your Mayor, I am proud to be part of such a wonderful team of Councillors and council officials and employees. I know that we will not be intimidated by the challenges that face us and that we will continue to do our utmost to support our local community in these testing times. Thank you to all."*

The Town Council has worked hard to maintain the provision of its functions and facilities as much as possible including those which were needed even more by the local community during the last year such as allotments, open spaces, play areas, cemetery, grants to voluntary organisations, supporting local businesses and providing a venue for an asymptomatic COVID test centre.

During this difficult year, in addition to maintaining community facilities, the Town Council has met some key achievements. We have:

- progressed our Climate Change initiatives;
- completed the Bat & Ball Centre refurbishment / new build;
- installed the new Multi Use Games Area (MUGA);
- financially supported the ongoing survival of the Stag; and
- almost completed construction on the Business Hub project.

This report provides detailed information relating to Sevenoaks Town Council's performance during the past financial year.

## 2. Sevenoaks Town Council's No 1 Priority – Climate Change / Carbon Neutral

In November 2019 Sevenoaks Town Council (STC) resolved to make the following its Number 1 Priority:

- To recognise the Government and KCC declarations for aiming for Zero Carbon.
- To integrate this within the vision and throughout the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) and within the Town Council's general operation.

	Priority	Update
1	Consideration of an Environment Committee (or add to Terms of Reference for Committee) to create an Action Plan to review the following points.	Due to resource requirements to address COVID-19 a new separate Committee has not been created and the Town Council has integrated Climate Change and Carbon Neutral initiatives and reviews within its day-to-day operation.
2	Reducing cars / traffic particularly in relation to school traffic.	The NDP is progressing to referendum and includes relevant proposals.  STC is committed to working with the Darent Valley Community Rail Partnership (DVCRP) to encourage more local sustainable travel.
3	STC's new buildings to be as sustainable and eco-friendly as possible. Existing buildings to be more sustainable with reduced carbon footprint where practicable.	The new Bat & Ball Centre is as eco-friendly as possible. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rebuild instead of new build.</li> <li>• Eco friendly and sustainable materials.</li> <li>• Solar panels.</li> <li>• Motion sensor lighting.</li> <li>• Additional insulation.</li> <li>• Improved heating and ventilation systems.</li> </ul>
4	Include planting of more trees, where possible fruit and nut trees.	In the last year STC has planted 790 trees.
5	Continue to promote Refill Scheme and Sevenoaks Plastic Free Pledge.	STC will continue to promote the Refill Scheme encouraging people to use refillable bottles rather than plastic; install as many drinking water facilities as possible and encourage businesses to provide free drinking water.  STC will commit to reducing the use of single use plastic across all its facilities.  STC will continue to campaign and support campaigns for reducing litter and encouraging more recycling.  STC will raise awareness of these matters to all users of its facilities.
6	Cycle racks / planters to be installed.	New facilities to park 30 bikes have been installed at the Bat & Ball Centre.  Discussions are in place with KCC for the installation of cycle racks, which double as planters, in the town centre.  Cycle planters will be installed at STC office / Business Hub site.

	Priority	Update
7	Install drinking fountains where possible at STC sites.	Drinking water refill facilities have been installed at the new Bat & Ball Centre and Bat & Ball Station Café.  External drinking water refill facilities will be installed at The Vine Gardens and Greatness Recreation Ground during 2021.
8	Increased safety for pedestrians and cycles.	The NDP is progressing to referendum and includes relevant proposals.
9	NDP Transport Strategy recommendations including 20mph, one-way system in town centre and shared space.	The NDP is progressing to referendum and includes relevant proposals.
10	Link STC open spaces together with 'green routes'.	The NDP is progressing to referendum and includes relevant proposals.
11	Encourage increased use of public transport – buses and trains – by having improved facilities including live running information.	The NDP is progressing to referendum and includes relevant proposals.
12	Install electric car charging points at STC sites.	The infrastructure for electric charging points has been installed at the Bat & Ball Centre and STC Office / Business Hub site and it is hoped that these will soon be operational.  STC has purchased its first electric vehicle for use by its Town Wardens.
13	Consider enabling community initiatives for sustainable living e.g. Toy Library, Zero Waste Shop, Community Orchards, Community Cycle Workshops, Repair Café, promotion of alternative resources e.g., nappies.	STC will – where possible – support and develop community initiatives for sustainable living.

### 3. The Mayoral Year & Civic Events

The Mayor, Cllr Nicholas Busvine OBE, was elected in May 2019. His civic term of office was extended owing to the pandemic and the Council not being able to hold an Annual Council meeting in May 2020. His charity for 2020 has been The Stag Community Arts Centre.

The Mayor represented the townspeople on certain civic occasions throughout the year.

#### Civic Events 2020/2021

##### VE Day 75, Friday 8th May 2020

On Friday 8th May 2020 at 11am, The Mayor laid a wreath at the Vine War Memorial, followed by a two-minute silence when the traffic spontaneously stopped and vehicle occupants also paid their respects, together with the small group of residents gathered near the Memorial.

**The Mayor said:** *“Thank you to the great generation who sacrificed so much to secure our freedom. We will never forget you.”*

In the nearby Vine Gardens, peace doves were displayed in the sensory bed tended by Soroptimist International Sevenoaks. These remained in place for the commemoration of VJ Day 75 on 15th August. One member made 26 doves as part of the 2.6 Challenge to raise funds for Blind Veterans UK.

During the afternoon, residents celebrated VE Day by decorating their homes with bunting and flags, having doorstep parties and raising a toast to the National Heroes of WWII.

### **Armed Forces Day at The Vine, Saturday 27th June 2020**

On Saturday 27th June, the Mayor attended the raising of the Armed Forces Day flag at The Vine in Sevenoaks.

Following a two-minute silence, the Mayor, witnessed by the Town Clerk, Linda Larter MBE, signed the Armed Forces Covenant on behalf of Sevenoaks Town Council.

**The Mayor said:** *“It is always a privilege to have the chance to take the opportunity on Armed Forces Day to offer thanks on behalf of our local community for the wonderful work these brave men and women undertake every day on our behalf. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the extraordinary work done during the COVID-19 pandemic, including: the creation of the Nightingale Hospitals; the establishment of military mobile Coronavirus testing units; direct support to the ambulance services, and delivery of PPE. Thank you for your brilliant contribution.”*



### **VJ Day 75, Saturday 15th August 2020**

In Sevenoaks, VJ Day 75, marking the end of the WWII conflict, was commemorated on Saturday 15th August 2020.

The Mayor laid a wreath at the Vine War Memorial at 11am, followed by a two-minute silence.



**The Mayor said:** *“I’m laying a wreath for VJ Day and recalling the remarkable feats of the ‘forgotten army’. We must always remember them.”*

The Town Council introduced a 'peace dove' theme to the commemoration and installed the following features:



A beautiful new bench opposite the war memorial, perfect for quiet contemplation; together with a bin depicting a peace dove.



A large peace dove painted on grass adjacent to the war memorial.

After the ceremony, the Mayor walked to Vine Gardens and thanked members of Sevenoaks Soroptimists for the doves of peace they had created for VE and VJ Day 75.



### Remembrance Day, Sunday 8th November 2020

On Sunday 8th November 2020, the Remembrance Day Service at the Vine War Memorial was conducted by the Revd Canon Angus MacLeay from St Nicholas Church. The Chairman of the Royal Naval Association, SM Fred Faircloth, read The Exhortation and Kohima Prayer, and a lone trumpeter played the Last Post.



Photograph courtesy of Parallax Visual Media

In sharp contrast to previous years, there was only a small Civic Party of six at the Service in line with the health guidelines in place. The community was asked to stay at home and watch the Service, which was live streamed for the first time.

## Armistice Day, Thursday 11th November 2020



On Armistice Day, the Mayor laid crosses on the War Graves at Greatness Park Cemetery. Prayers were read by the Vicar of St John the Baptist Church, Father Robin Jones.

### Events

There were no Mayoral events arranged during the year; however, the Mayor was amongst thousands who enjoyed the Live on the Vine concerts held during the summer to help raise funds for The Stag Community Arts Centre, and was honoured to hand over cheques totalling over £70,000 to the Stag in October 2020



## 4. Finance

In 2020-21, the Town Council approved a budget of £1,740,923. General reserves brought forward were £349,732 (2019-20 £318,758) and earmarked reserves (including Public Works Loan Board loan received to finance Bat & Ball Centre) were £3,604,004 (2019-20 £1,964,794).

The 2020-21 Town Council budget includes income of:

- £1,215,276 from the precept paid for by Sevenoaks domestic ratepayers (council tax).
- £519,647 from fees and charges on facilities and services such as hire of community halls, sports pitches, markets, cemetery, Café on the Vine, rents and leases and allotments.
- £6,000 from Council reserves to enable financial adjustments without increasing rates during the construction phase of the new Bat & Ball Centre.

The Council does not receive money from central government. As a result, it continues to be creative in the way that it funds and delivers services to the community. Capital projects for new and improved community facilities are funded from capital receipts, earmarked reserves and grants, where possible. Earmarked reserves brought forward included £956,114 capital receipts and £747,054 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) income received for specific activities and projects. This money goes towards the funding of approved capital projects including the new Bat & Ball Centre and the Business Hub.

Coronavirus lockdown and Tier 4 restrictions have impacted the Council's income streams, with only some of the market stalls and Café on the Vine takeaway currently allowed to open. The receipt of government support grants has meant the revenue impact has not been as bad as originally anticipated.

The Coronavirus pandemic has also required unbudgeted expenditure (currently approx. £26K) including adapting buildings and facilities to be COVID-19 safe, additional cleaning, and IT equipment to enable remote working and meetings. In addition, the Town Council has supported voluntary organisations with emergency funding, including the Stag to the value of £125K (in addition to the usual budgeted grant of £27K).

The Council has managed to absorb additional costs by making savings elsewhere including not giving any pay rise for the first half of the year and reducing full-time equivalent staffing by 1.

Together, this has helped mitigate the financial impact of COVID-19 to January 2021. Despite the impact of COVID-19, we do not anticipate the Council's finances to be in a deficit position at the end of the financial year.

At the Council meeting held on 18th January 2021, Council approved a budget of £1,858,155 for 2021-2022. This will be funded by fees and charges of £557,482 (30%), a precept levy of £1,239,898 (67%), and a reserves transfer of £60,774 (3%) (£39,700 to fund the No 8 Bus, and £41,075 to fund Bat & Ball Station Café during initial years of opening, offset by an increase of £20,000 revenue reserves). For an average Band D house in Sevenoaks, the precept equates to £128.50 per year or £2.47 per week (an increase of £3.09 per year or 6p per week on 2020-21).



## 5. Sevenoaks Town Council's Grants to Voluntary Organisations

Sevenoaks Town Council continues to provide grants to local groups, who are invited to submit applications in September and January for consideration. The Council is also a major sponsor of the Stag Community Arts Centre and Sevenoaks Summer Festival.

Groups which have benefited from the Town Council Grants during the year 2020/2021 include:

PS Breastfeeding CIC	£1,000	Friends of Pontoise	£250
Sevenoaks Counselling	£1,500	Sevenoaks Volunteer Transport Group	£500
Bradbourne Residents Association	£250	West Kent Mediation	£800
Sevenoaks Vine Cricket Club	£16,000	Sevenoaks Three Arts Festival	£600

In addition, in March 2020, the Town Council created a £30,000 **Community Resilience Fund** for those putting in place voluntary arrangements to help those in need during the pandemic. Grants from this fund have been awarded to:

Age UK Sevenoaks & Tonbridge	£2,000	Care for Our Community (Lockdown Larder)	£1,000
PS Breastfeeding CIC	£780	West Kent Mind	£900
Citizens Advice North & West Kent	£611	Sevenoaks Larder	£993
The Hygiene Bank	£1,500	Sevenoaks Volunteer Transport Group	£500

## 6. Council Meetings

Public health guidelines during the pandemic meant that face-to-face Council meetings could not take place from March 2020. Following a short period in which reports were submitted to Councillors (and available on the website for the public), virtual meetings began, hosted on Zoom and available to view on YouTube.

The number of views on YouTube were:

Date of Meeting	Committee	View Count
30/06/20	Town Council Meeting	748
20/07/20	Finance & General Purposes & Council	12
17/08/20	Community Infrastructure Committee	10
09/09/20	Youth Services	4
14/09/20	Finance & General Purposes & Council	7
28/09/20	Open Spaces & Leisure	9
05/10/20	Planning	11
19/10/20	Planning	4

Date of Meeting	Committee	View Count
14/12/20	Planning	122
21/12/20	Planning	54
11/01/21	Planning	78
12/01/21	NDP Steering Committee	30
18/01/21	Finance & General Purposes & Council	8
25/01/21	Planning	129
08/02/21	Planning	33
10/02/21	(Extra) Planning	6

Date of Meeting	Committee	View Count
02/11/20	Planning	18
16/11/20	Planning	18
30/11/20	Planning	51

Date of Meeting	Committee	View Count
22/02/21	Planning	33
01.03.21	Finance & General Purposes & Council	14

It is noted that figures relate to the number of views, not individuals.

Most Council and Committee meetings take place on Monday evenings, occasionally on other days, and are listed on the Town Council website: [www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk](http://www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk)

Agendas for meetings are available to view from the Wednesday prior to the meeting.

Members of the public wishing to address a Committee should notify the Town Council by 12 noon on the day of the meeting.

## 7. Community Investment Plan

### 2019 Community Investment Plan

In 2014, Sevenoaks Town Council set out its first ambitious £4m Community Investment Plan to restore and improve community facilities. The Plan was updated in 2019. Below is a summary of the projects achieved and those that are ongoing.

Ref	Project	Funds Invested	Funded by	Status
1	Replacement of Raleys Gym – investment into new facilities at Sencio Leisure Centre	£95,000	Sale of Raleys	Completed
2	Replacement of Indoor Cricket School – funds provided to Sevenoaks District Council in s.106 agreement	£150,000	Sale of Raleys	Ongoing
3	Café on the Vine – restored historic building and brought back into useful community use	£150,000	ICET grant and STC reserves	Completed
4	New Play Area near the Town Centre – Buckhurst Play Area	£100,000	Sale of Raleys CETB grant	Completed
5	Greatness Recreation Ground – new public toilet, fencing, additional benches and play equipment	£50,000	CIL ICET grant	Completed
6	Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) to replace tennis courts at Community Centre	£100,000	Sale of Raleys	Completed
7	‘Free’ recreational facilities – additional play equipment at Kippington Meadow	£4,000	Kent County Council Cllr Crabtree Member grant	Completed
8	Sports Strategy  The Sports Strategy involving 40 local sports clubs has been completed and is an appendix to the Neighbourhood Development Plan		Sale of Raleys  Sevenoaks Mayor’s Fund	

Ref	Project	Funds Invested	Funded by	Status
	3G Football Pitch installed at Greatness	£450,000		Completed
	3G Rugby Pitch at Knole Paddock	£500,000		Not granted planning permission
	3G Hockey Pitch at Hollybush (contribution)	£50,000		Completed
9	Neighbourhood Development Plan  Completed to draft stage awaiting Sevenoaks District Council's Local Plan development  Masterplan for Northern Sevenoaks developed and supported by Continued... approximate 70% of local community. Provides plan for regeneration and investment in the area. No 8 Bus – orbital bus route connecting residential areas to town centre. Winner of UK Community Bus 2018.	£100,000          £150,000	STC Budget          KCC s.106 (Sainsbury development) and community transport fund	Development Stage          Completed and ongoing
10	Stag Community Arts Centre (STC has a 25-year lease) Capital investment including air handling system	£150,000	Sale of Raleys	Completed
11	Bat & Ball Centre Rebuild and refurbish the former community Centre	£2,750,000* (core cost)	Sale of Raleys £1.2m CIL Public Works Loan Board	Completed
	<b>Total capital investment into community facilities</b>	<b>£4,799,000</b>		

\*Plus contingency of £303,597 = £3,078,805.

Note: ICET = Istock Cory Environmental Trust. CIL = Community Infrastructure Levy

### Projects not included in 2014 original Community Investment Plan

Ref	Project	Funds Invested	Funded by	Status
13	Bat & Ball Station building refurbishment (25 year peppercorn lease)	£1,452,000	Heritage Lottery Fund CIL Railway Heritage Trust STC Budget	Completed
	New Access Ramp to Platform 1	£60,000	CIL	Completed
	Cycle racks at station entrance	£29,000	CIL	Completed
		£45,000	CIL	Completed

	Cycle racks (including electrical charging) on community centre land adjacent to ramp  New pedestrian access to Otford Road	£35,000	CIL	Electric charging o/s  Seeking permission from KCC
14	Business Hub	£274,000	CIL and STC Reserves	Ongoing
	<b>Total additional capital investment into community facilities</b>	<b>£1,895,000</b>		

	2014 Capital Investment Plan into community facilities	£4,799,000		
	Additional Capital Investment into community facilities	£1,621,000		
	<b>Total Community Investment</b>	<b>£6,694,000</b>		

## 8. Bat & Ball Centre Project (previously known as Sevenoaks Community Centre)

### Background

The Sevenoaks Community Centre, although used extensively as a community hub, was more than 30 years old, and the fabric of the building required costly maintenance and was uneconomic to operate. Public feedback also indicated that it was no longer a venue where they would want to hold a special family occasion e.g. wedding. Also, a larger venue had been requested by businesses and the public for events with a sit-down capacity of 250. People requiring such a venue were having to go out of town.

Sevenoaks Town Council had already made a commitment to the regeneration of Bat and Ball area and believed that a new community centre was a key component to this.

Initially, the Town Council considered selling its office site and combining capital income to build a two-storey community centre, which would have its offices on the first floor. Unfortunately, there were planning problems relating to this idea on both sites. At the same time, the Red Cross relinquished its building (adjacent to STC's offices), and this provided an opportunity for its development.

Bearing all of this in mind, the Town Council reconsidered its original plan and decided to retain its office site, refurbish the old Red Cross building and keep the current community centre site for its original purposes, which had the benefit of the car parking not being so restrictive.

This proposal provided several advantages:

- Less pressure on car parking at the Bat & Ball Centre
- Less pressure on car parking at STC office site, also enabling nearby residents to use some car parking spaces during non-office hours
- Retains community assets
- Enables Sevenoaks Day Nursery to continue with its original plans (on community centre site)
- Enabled a new Business Hub to be created in the former Red Cross building

## Plan for new Centre

The driving vision for the new Bat & Ball Centre was to replace the tired and no longer fit-for-purpose 30-year-old community centre with a facility that would be characterised by being a high-quality contemporary building, within accessible and vibrant public realm, enabling a lively and eclectic mix of daytime and evening activities. It was intended to complement and be interactive with the refurbished adjoining Bat & Ball Station building, being far more economical to operate with improved aesthetics and extended community space.

It was important to STC that once the new building was constructed the external areas should be landscaped to enable the exterior to also be a valuable community space. It was also vital that the Centre be part of STC's Number 1 Priority strategy to recognise the Government and Kent County Council's declarations for aiming for Zero Carbon. This meant:

- rebuild instead of new build is more sustainable;
- materials used for the building had to be eco-friendly and as sustainable as possible;
- additional sustainable features include solar panels, motion sensor lighting, increased insulation, improved boilers and air conditioning;
- users should be encouraged to use public transport – train station adjacent to Centre;
- installation of electric car charging points;
- more trees, including fruit and nut trees, should be planted;
- provision of cycle racks.

## Rebuild Project

**The new Bat & Ball Centre is one of Sevenoaks Town Council's Community Investment Projects and part of its Northern Sevenoaks Masterplan.**

Work began in September 2019 and got underway swiftly and efficiently. In the spring of 2020, the project became more challenging due to the implications of COVID-19 and national lockdowns. Although construction projects were permitted to continue there were problems with supply chains, closure of manufacturers, shortage of staff due to shielding etc. and restrictions within public health guidelines. It is a credit to all involved that the new Centre was handed over to the Town Council, on time and on budget, on the original scheduled date of 4th December 2020.

Sevenoaks Town Council was honoured that the first use of the Centre was as a COVID-19 Symptom-Free Testing Centre.

We hope that we will soon be able to welcome residents and local community groups into this fantastic new local facility.



### What was the budget and how was it funded?

- Project Budget:
  - £2,775,208
  - + £303,597 contingency
  - **£3,078,805 total**
- Funded by:
  - £1,200,000 CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) Grant
  - £57,815 CIL Reserve
  - £420,990 Capital Reserves

£1,400,000 Public Works Loan Board (25 years fixed rate, annual repayment £74,202)

### What does the new Centre provide?

- Large main hall - extended in size, with sliding doors to enable link to smaller hall
- Smaller hall for multi-use including play schools (meeting Ofsted requirements)
- Catering kitchen
- Meeting room
- Landscaped garden
- Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)
- Ample parking, including 2 electric charging points (to be installed)
- Cycle racks

- Wi-Fi available throughout the building and modern audio-visual equipment available to use.

The Centre has level access with push button automatic double doors into the main entrance. An acoustic loop system is fitted in all rooms for those with hearing impairment.

The Centre is open all year round and is a perfect venue for:

- weddings
- private parties and functions
- meetings
- conferences
- low impact exercise classes
- community groups
- a wide range of other activities

For a 3D Virtual Tour of the Bat & Ball Centre please visit:

<https://my.matterport.com/show/?m=qpfvaa9i8cJ&brand=0>

or watch the following video:

<https://vimeo.com/497240958>

**Main entrance** with ramp and steps leads into a welcoming **foyer**: an adaptable space, which includes moveable furniture, a large screen and a hatch through to the kitchen.



The **Harry Garrett Hall** (Large Hall) with a wall of windows onto a landscaped garden, includes a small moveable stage, piano, hatch through to the kitchen, large screen, full technical equipment and lighting for presentations.

Sliding doors lead through into the ...

... **John London Hall (Small Hall)**: a smaller room with kitchenette, children's toilets, screen and secure outside space.



The **Meeting Room** has a window aspect and screen.

For all enquiries please contact: [hallhire@sevenoakstown.gov.uk](mailto:hallhire@sevenoakstown.gov.uk)

## 9. Sevenoaks Business Hub Project

Business hubs are generally large office spaces with desks arranged in a communal setting to allow for co-working. The desks are then rented on a flexible basis, providing a professional, affordable space to work as an alternative to working from home, or renting out serviced office space. Similar businesses exist in Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells, and Canterbury.

The building previously occupied by the Red Cross had been empty for a considerable amount of time and was in poor condition. Builders needed to attend a couple of times to provide additional emergency support to the fabric of the building.

The car park on the site also has problems. Drains need to be renewed and the car park area reinstated to the rear of the building. The entrance to the site and car park also needs to be addressed. This work is included in the contract.

The proposal for using the Business Hub has been within the Sevenoaks Town Council's plans for some time, supported by the members of the Town Team.



It is understood that need for such a provision has increased due to COVID-19. Whilst people do not want to travel into London for work, some find it difficult to work from home with young children, and/or for younger people living at home who need to work from their bedrooms.

Feedback received is that if the facility can be hired part- or full-time, and is less than a train season ticket, this would be very attractive to use.

The building contract value £274,268 commenced in November 2020 and is due for completion in March 2021. It will be a much-improved community asset addressing a current identified need.

For further information contact: [council@sevenoakstown.gov.uk](mailto:council@sevenoakstown.gov.uk)

# SEVENOAKS BUSINESS HUB

## A BUSINESS PROPOSAL BY SEVENOAKS TOWN COUNCIL

### 10. Open Spaces and Leisure



#### Allotments

The Town Council continues with its successful management of both allotment sites in Sevenoaks: Bradbourne Vale Road and Quaker's Hall Lane.

This year has been like no other as allotments suddenly became places of refuge, fresh air and permitted exercise during COVID-19 lockdowns, when our movements were otherwise restricted. In March 2020, when it became apparent that people had more time

on their hands, and that food supply chains may struggle with the situation, the Council was inundated with requests for plots.

There were more than 40 plots available at the start of the first lockdown. These were quickly rented out and new tenants got started on their little patch of land. The standard of cultivation on both allotments sites remains extremely high and crops vary enormously from fruit and veg to herbs and flowers. There are even some beekeepers. As people become more aware of the importance of nature, organic methods of cultivation have blossomed, and chemicals are no longer used so liberally. The sites are literally buzzing with insects.

There is a shift from the clichéd ‘old man leaning on a shovel’ image of allotments to young people with families. It is interesting to note that 44% of tenants across both sites are female.

The old adage ‘be careful what you wish for’ applies. In 2019/20, we were placing adverts and editorial in various publications and on websites in an effort to get more plots rented out. Now there is a waiting list of more than 40 people, and it continues to grow week-on-week. Anyone interested in joining the waiting list should contact: [allotments@sevenoakstown.gov.uk](mailto:allotments@sevenoakstown.gov.uk)

**Quaker’s Hall Lane Allotments** comprises 161 10-rod plots, but many are split in half, so there are currently 253 managed plots.



The project to measure all the plots at Quaker’s Hall Allotments was completed on schedule during the 2019/20 winter and the new charging structure, in square metres instead of rods, will commence on 1st October 2021.

**Bradbourne Vale Road Allotments** comprises 31 plots of mixed sizes and there are no vacancies. All plots will also be measured and converted from rods into square metres during the spring of 2020/21, and the new charging structure will commence on 1st October 2021.

### Meet Zero, our Electric Van

In November 2019, Sevenoaks Town Council made Climate Change and Carbon Neutral initiatives a No 1 Priority. The priority will be included in consideration of all Town Council activities.



One of the Town Council vehicles was long overdue for renewal and it was agreed that an electric charge van be purchased. The van was purchased in June 2020 and has been branded to enable members of the public to see it more easily around the town.

The new van is fully electric and covers 174 miles on a full charge.

The van is being used by the Town Wardens who inspect play areas and carry out day-to-day tasks on the Town Council’s public open spaces.

**Cllr Dr Marilyn Canet, Deputy Mayor and Chairman of the Open Spaces & Leisure Committee said:**

*“Sevenoaks Town Council is leading the way forward in improving the environment with its new vehicle.*

*“We now have an electric powered van for use around the town’s lovely parks, gardens and cemeteries. Especially during these difficult times residents have enjoyed using the well-maintained green spaces in Sevenoaks.”*



The Town Council has also arranged for public accessible vehicle charging points to be installed at its Council Offices site in Bradbourne Vale Road and at the new Bat & Ball Centre. Unfortunately, the installation of these facilities has been delayed due to COVID-19.

### **Vine Green Flag Award**

In 2020, The Vine was re-accredited its Green Flag status. The Vine is among a record-breaking 1,797 UK parks and green spaces that have received a prestigious Green Flag Award, the mark of a quality park or green space.

### **Sevenoaks in Bloom 2020**

The year started on a high as Sevenoaks Town Council had been selected as a finalist in the Britain in Bloom competition along with nine other towns and cities.



The In Bloom Committee were looking forward to the immense challenge of impressing the RHS judges but sadly the competition had to be cancelled owing to Coronavirus.

South & South East in Bloom went ahead on a desktop judging basis and, once again, the Town Centre and The Vine were awarded Gold.

The Bat & Ball Station garden was entered in the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' category and was awarded with the second highest award in its first year thanks to the Friends of Bat & Ball Station: a tremendous accolade.

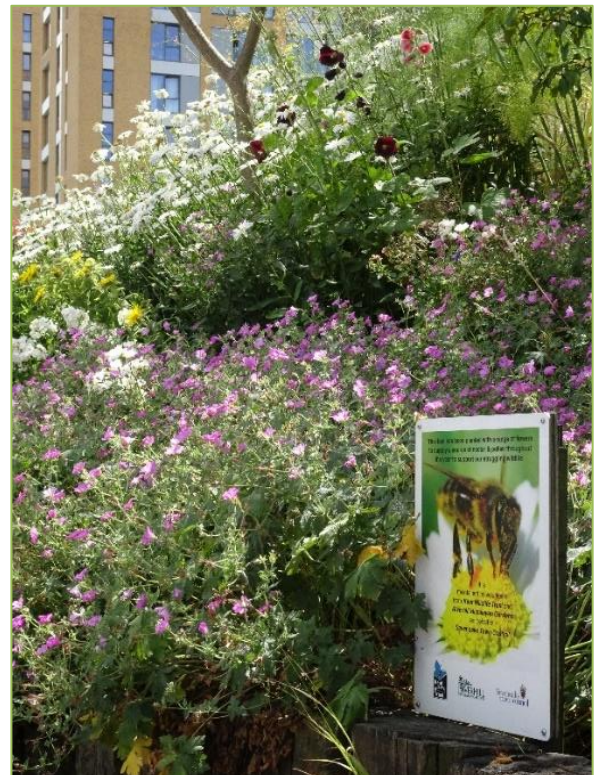


### **Bees' Needs Awards**

We were also delighted to receive a Bees' Needs Award, a competition run by DEFRA under Green Flag parks and gardens. The Town Council, with the dedication and support of Adrian Cheeseman of the Sevenoaks Living Landscape project, Kent Wildlife and Sevenoaks Soroptimists, has enabled the establishment of 'green corridors for bees and pollinators' through the town.

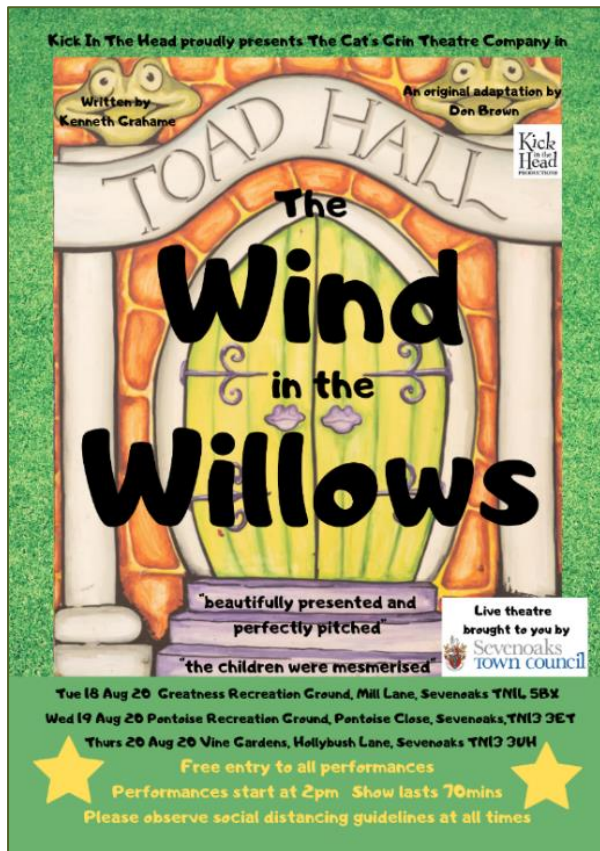
The number of bees seen in the various gardens has increased enormously on all three sites: the bus station, land adjacent to the main railway station and the sensory gardens at The Vine.

It is hoped through this creativity to encourage further planting next year for food and habitat for bees in Sevenoaks and to encourage bigger, joined-up, diverse and high-quality flower-rich habitats.



## Summer Play Provision

Normally each year, Sevenoaks Town Council hosts free Summer Play Dates at a variety of locations around the town during the August school holidays.



In 2020 this was not possible; however, the Council managed to engage an Open-Air Theatre company to put on 'Wind in the Willows'. There were performances at Greatness Recreation Ground, Pontoise (in the pouring rain) and The Vine. The show was immensely popular, and was received with great hilarity by socially distanced families enjoying a welcome distraction during difficult times.



## Greatness Cemetery

Greatness Cemetery continues to provide a popular and peaceful refuge for the bereaved of all faiths and denominations. Between 1st April 2020 and February 2021, 51 burials and interments of ashes took place. Great care was taken to ensure compliance with COVID-19 restrictions, whilst also meeting the needs of the bereaved. This included the provision of mobile Wi Fi to allow live streaming of services.



The site has a fine collection of mature trees from the old parkland estate and the Grade II listed Kraftmeier Mausoleum.

As in previous years, on Armistice Day, the 11th of November, the Town Mayor – in a private event – planted crosses on all graves of those known to have died in active service since 1914.

There is still interest in a Friends of Greatness Cemetery group, and this will be launched once the COVID-19 pandemic is over.

### **Mount Close Play Area Refurbishment and New Equipment Project**



In 2020, Sevenoaks Town Council was awarded a grant of £20,236 by Enovert Community Trust, which has been used to replace the boundary railings and install an additional piece of all-inclusive play equipment at Mount Close play area – a train with ticket office.

Work for the project took place in the summer of 2020 and was completed in early August.

The Deputy Mayor, Cllr Dr Marilyn Canet, has reported very good use of the new equipment.

### **Brittains Common**

In November/December 2020, we received a grant of 420 tree saplings and tree shelters from the Woodland Trust. These were planted along the garden fences at the rear of Brittains Common, with the purpose of thickening and replacing a dwindling hedge of privet, which provides some physical barrier from noise and pollution to the houses in Braeside Avenue.

### **Tree Planting**

Along with the saplings mentioned above we have planted 360 yew plants as hedging at the Bat & Ball Centre, along with ten trees including Lilac, Mulberry, Flowering Cherry and Crab Apple. Although the yew will not grow to be fully mature trees, they still contribute to CO<sup>2</sup> absorption, as well as pollution screening.

All this planting was registered on the BBC Countryfile / Woodland Trust Virtual Map of Tree Planting and forms a sizeable contribution to their target of 750, 000 trees this year.

### **Vine Gardens**

During a year of so many restrictions, the town's green and open spaces became of paramount importance for people to take exercise and, when permitted, meet friends in the outdoors. Our Open Spaces Team worked hard, adhering to public health guidelines,

throughout the varying levels of restriction, to maintain the spaces and ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for visitors.

The Vine Gardens experienced a significantly increased level of activity and we extended the opening hours of the Café on the Vine to meet the demand.



*“My husband and I would like to say a big thank you for having the Cafe on the Vine open so much at present. It makes a very useful place to aim for on a walk or to meet friends outside in a socially distanced way. Having a number of park benches nearby makes it a perfect venue (weather permitting!).”*

### **The Vine Cricket Ground Restoration**

At the end of the summer, the condition of the Vine Cricket Ground outfield had become a considerable problem due to several factors coming together: drought, build-up of thatch, PH balances and intense public use during COVID-19. The use of disposable BBQs, football studs, the riding of bikes and beer tops embedded in the grass had collectively made the outfield classified as unsuitable for premier league cricket.

The Town Council agreed a grant of up to £16,000 towards the work needed to enable high level cricket to be played again, and protection of the heritage landscape important to the local community. The total project cost £25,000 with the balance being provided by Sevenoaks Cricket Club.

The work involved fencing off the area until spring 2021, applying treatment, rotavating to a depth of 150mm, reseeding, applying fertilizer and further treatments, regular watering and a secondary level of seeding. In March there will be another application of fertilizer and then, when the weather warms, another overseed just to boost the sward density further still.

The restoration work is progressing well, and the intention is to re-open to the public on Wednesday 31st March 2021. Please see photographs below relating to the progress of the project.



**The Mayor commented:** *“During the pandemic The Vine became ever more important to Sevenoaks residents as the green heart of the town. 'Live on The Vine' events to support the Stag, the chance to watch gentle games of cricket or just to sit and be – these are all memories I have of the past year. The heavy public use of the cricket outfield took its toll, but that was a sign of how much we treasure it. And now, I am so glad that your Town Council has been able to help to restore the cricket pitch to its former glory.”*

### **Roadside Advertising and Highway Banners**

The Town Council agreed to take over the responsibility for regulating road-side advertising within the town, which was previously a Kent County Council function. It also informally regulates the installation of posters at seven sites enabling advertising of local community events. Local interest groups pay a small fee to help cover the cost of administration of the scheme.

The Town Council enables local organisations to advertise via a highway banner, subject to terms and conditions, for a maximum period of two weeks. This restriction enables more local community members to advertise their events during the year. For more information contact: [council@sevenoakstown.gov.uk](mailto:council@sevenoakstown.gov.uk)

## **11. Community Events**

Sevenoaks Town Council works in conjunction with Sevenoaks Town Team (formerly Town Partnership) and other organisations to provide an annual calendar of events. These events help to create community interaction, address loneliness and derive economic benefits for the area.

This year, due to the pandemic, our ability to put on community events was severely curtailed. However, working safely in accordance with public health guidelines, we were able to provide a few key events.



## Live on The Vine Festival 2020

2020 brought an unprecedented challenge to the arts industry, and kept music, theatre and comedy fans away from venues around the country.



However, for eight weeks during the summer, Sennockians were able to enjoy live entertainment every Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 'Live on The Vine', a fair-weather festival featuring an array of acts performing on the bandstand in The Vine Gardens, right in the middle of the town.

People were invited to bring a blanket / chair and picnic, sit on the grass in a socially distant bubble and enjoy the broad spectrum of music and comedy acts.



The event was hosted by the Town Council and organised by Jamie Alexander Wilson, with the support of the Town Council team and many dedicated local volunteers. The festival of performances featured stars of the West End, and some of the UK's finest jazz bands, as well as music, comedy and variety acts from Britain's Got Talent. Local residents were asked to donate funds instead of buying tickets.

More than 3,500 people attended events over the eight-week festival, donating £21,000. The funds were split equally between the Save Our Stag fund, raising money to secure the future of the much-loved theatre and cinema, and the artists who performed at each event.

**The Mayor said:**

*“Live on The Vine has been a brilliant success. It has been a wonderful show of community resilience and teamwork in the face of COVID in support of our Stag Theatre. A big thank you to all the volunteers, the Town Council team, and the creative dynamism of Jamie Alexander Wilson for making it happen.”*



**Christmas Lights**

Although we were unable to hold our traditional event to switch on the Christmas lights this year, we felt it was important to install the lights and bring festive cheer to the town. As The Vine Gardens have been so important to people during lockdown, we also enhanced the lights in that area, lighting up the Café and the Bandstand.



The Mayor took great pleasure in switching the lights on, despite social distancing and the lack of an audience!

## 12. No 8 Bus

Passenger numbers have steadily increased for the No 8 bus which operates on an hourly basis six days per week. Kent County Council now provides 100% funding of the bus service and manages its operation with the Town Council as consultees.

## 13. Town Twinning

Sevenoaks is twinned with Pontoise in France and Rheinbach in Germany. Both twinning associations continue to be supported by Sevenoaks Town Council. The Friends of Pontoise and the Friends of Rheinbach promote cultural understanding and exchanges, although sadly no exchanges could take place during this year.

## 14. Youth Provision

### Sevenoaks Youth Council

Youth Council meetings are held approximately every six weeks in the Town Council Chamber. Since its inception in 2009, the Youth Council has become increasingly involved in initiating and developing events for young people. All young people are welcome to attend.

The term of office for the Youth Council 2018-2020 ended in October 2020. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, the Youth Councillors were unable to meet for their last few meetings. Given the continuing uncertainty about the ability to meet and the tremendous challenges facing young people with their education during 2020, it was agreed to postpone the elections for a new Youth Council until 2021.

We would like to thank our Youth Councillors 2018-2020 for their hard work and commitment to providing a voice for young people in Sevenoaks, and for the many projects and activities that have made such a contribution to the Town.

Some of their achievements are:

- Identifying issues to address and developing a Two-Year Plan
- Raising environmental concerns and
  - launching Plastic Free Sevenoaks Pledge and Water Bottle Refill Scheme with local businesses
  - promoting electric charging points
  - participating in the Town Council's Anti-Litter Campaign
- Advising on a revamp of the House in the Basement Youth Café (HitB)
- Establishing a Chess Club and monthly pool competitions at HitB
- Fundraising for nominated charity, Stem4, which supports positive mental health in teenagers
- Helping to organise and promote a Skateboard Park event and Live on The Vine end of term celebration

- Achieving ‘Highly Commended’ Award for Youth Group of the Year from Sevenoaks District Council
- Visiting the Houses of Parliament, including a private meeting with Sir Michael Fallon, M.P. for Sevenoaks at that time, who commented that *“The youth councillors posed some good but tough questions.”*

Being a Youth Councillor is an opportunity to gain an insight into local democracy, to provide a voice for young people in our town, to work together and make a real contribution to your local community. We hope to hold elections for a new Youth Council later this year.

For further information, please visit: <https://www.sevenoaksyouthcouncil.com/>  
 Contact: [council@sevenoakstown.gov.uk](mailto:council@sevenoakstown.gov.uk)

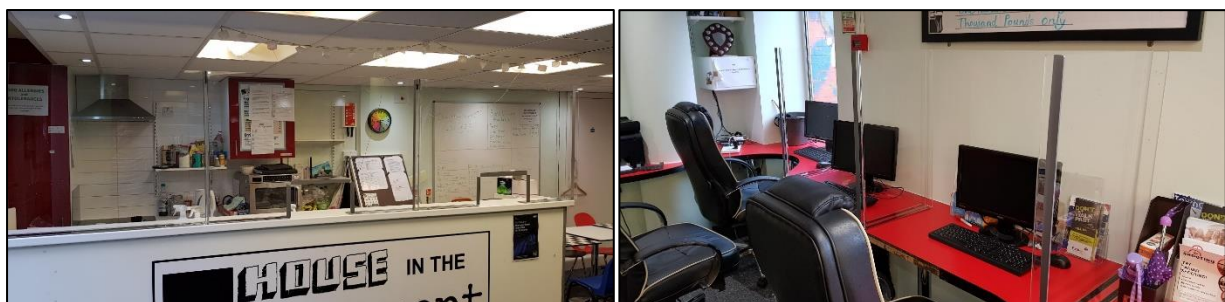
### House in the Basement Youth Café



The Youth Services Committee, chaired by Cllr Rachel Parry, oversees the management and development of the House in the Basement Youth Café (known as HitB), now in its eighth year. It is a safe space for young people to relax, meet with their friends, make new friends, get information and advice, support with homework, and take part in a range of activities including music, art projects, chess, pool, board games and video games. Low-cost hot meals are available. HitB is managed by Chris Essex and supported by casual staff and volunteers from Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust.

The Neighbourhood Scheme has continued with food being donated by local supermarkets. The availability of hot meals continues to be an important offer from the Youth Café.

Due to the pandemic, it was only possible to operate the Youth Café during September to December 2020. The operation of the venue was adapted to meet government regulations, limiting staff attendance and restricting the number of young people attending. An enhanced cleaning regime was introduced, and Perspex screens installed.



The Youth Café is available for hire, for further information contact:  
[hallhire@sevenoakstown.gov.uk](mailto:hallhire@sevenoakstown.gov.uk)

## 15. Planning

### Planning Committee

The Planning Committee meets every two weeks to discuss planning applications submitted within the Sevenoaks town area, and a wide array of associated planning matters.

The committee actively seeks to maintain and enhance the positive features of Sevenoaks town, while promoting sustainable growth to help maintain the long-term economic and social stability of the town.

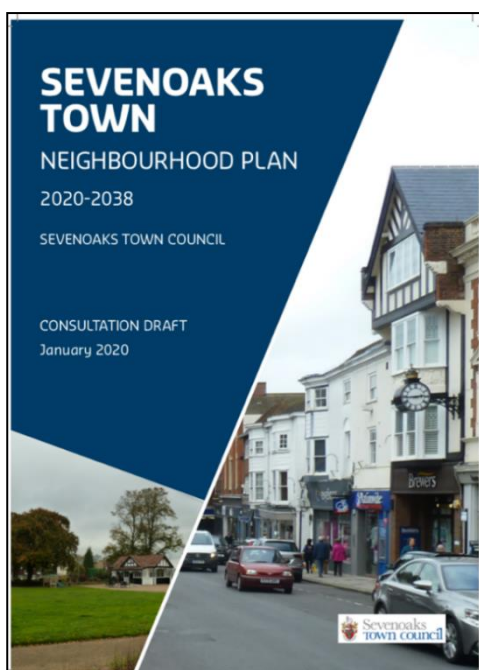
Between April 2020 and October 2020, face-to-face planning meetings were suspended and decisions and planning recommendations were delegated to ward members, committee and chairs and the Chief Executive. Applications were still allocated to Councillors and details of planning applications considered were published in the normal manner and timescale. Members of the public were able to submit written representation regarding applications via email, which would then be circulated to the Committee. From October 2020 onwards, planning meetings resumed virtually over Zoom. Members of the public can register to speak on an application at the virtual meeting or watch the livestream on YouTube.

### Planning Applications

During 2020/2021 the Town Council will have commented on circa 400 planning applications submitted within the Sevenoaks Town Council area and has supported Sevenoaks District Council in its refusal of applications via a number of written appeals.

The Town Council continues to monitor tree work applications in the area despite not being a consultee and will make representation when applications of concern are submitted.

### Sevenoaks Town Neighbourhood Development Plan



Following the conclusion of the public consultation on the 31st March 2020, the progress of the Sevenoaks Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) experienced delays due to COVID-19 and awaiting a decision on the Sevenoaks District Local Plan.

However, the NDP Steering Committee met in January 2021 to discuss the feedback received during the consultation in order to agree on how the draft document could be altered to best reflect the needs of the public.

The Steering Committee and Planning Committee intend to sign off the final NDP draft during March / April 2021, it will then be submitted for a statutory programme conducted by SDC concluding in a referendum for the residents of Sevenoaks.

For more information, please visit [Sevenoaks Town Neighbourhood Development Plan](#) or email [planning@sevenoakstown.gov.uk](mailto:planning@sevenoakstown.gov.uk) to be added to the distribution list, which sends out periodic updates and invitations to meetings.

## 16. Sevenoaks Markets

Sevenoaks Town Council continues to manage the following Sevenoaks Markets:

- Wednesday Market next to the Bus Station 8am till 2pm
- Saturday Bligh's Market 9am till 4pm
- Saturday High Street Market 9am till 4pm
- Bligh's Christmas Market 9am till 4pm (each day in the week prior to Christmas)



As for all retailers, this has been a challenging year for our market traders dealing with changing regulations throughout the year, often at short notice, and implementing measures to ensure the safety of themselves and their customers. Some market traders were not able to trade during lockdown periods.

We are very grateful for the dedication of our Sevenoaks traders and their adaptability during these testing times.

The Saturday markets are well attended by members of the public.

The Wednesday market has always had the challenge of encouraging footfall to its recessed position beside the bus station. Attendance by public and stall holders reliant on each other has decreased sharply. For this reason, Sevenoaks Town Council is seeking permission to move the Wednesday market to the High Street as per the Saturday 'Charter' Market.

## 17. Sevenoaks Town Team

Established in 2011, Sevenoaks Town Team is a Sevenoaks Town Council initiative bringing together a wide range of people from the local community to establish Sevenoaks as a prosperous and vibrant place to visit, shop and do business. Cllr Andrew Eyre, Chief Executive of the Stag, is Chairman of the Sevenoaks Town Team.

Contact: [admin.tp@sevenoakstown.gov.uk](mailto:admin.tp@sevenoakstown.gov.uk) for further information and details of events.

## Sevenoaks Recovery Plan

In April 2020, Town Team representatives held an online meeting with 30+ local business representatives to consider a Recovery Plan for Sevenoaks. The Recovery Plan was based on recommendations from the Association of Town and City Management of which the Town Team is a member.

The Recovery Plan was considered favourably by many both locally and nationally.

Unfortunately, it was not possible for all the proposals to be put into action as many were beyond the remit of the Town Council and Town Team. In November 2020, the Town Team revisited the Recovery Plan and agreed the following:

It was important to concentrate on Stage 2 of the Sevenoaks Recovery Plan working together on good ideas and plans to encourage people back to our High Streets and use the following to do this:

- A consistent and strong campaign to promote Sevenoaks as a safe place to shop and do business – Love Sevenoaks, support local businesses
- Increased signage about COVID-19 and being safe
- All businesses to be encouraged to promote the same message
- Promote positive messages in and beyond Sevenoaks e.g. free car parking available on Saturdays, extended bookshop, new businesses opening



## Sevenoaks Promotional Video

Restrictions at the end of the year meant that restaurants, cafés, the theatre and cinema were unable to open. The Town Team, however, wanted to demonstrate that much of Sevenoaks was still open for business! A promotional video was launched on 1st December showcasing the town and the businesses that were still operating, encouraging residents to shop local and support their town.

## Events

Unfortunately, key events in the Town Team's calendar were unable to take place this year; however, we look forward to seeing the return of the Sevenoaks Business Show, the Wellbeing Show and Sevenoaks Business Awards in the future.

## Saving the Spirit of Christmas Trail in Sevenoaks



The Sevenoaks Town Team was keenly aware of the COVID restrictions on Christmas activities in 2020 and teamed up with QR code trail experts High Street Safari to create an interactive story-trail in Sevenoaks, designed to encourage children to walk, have fun, get engaged and – most importantly – take their minds off the pandemic.

The trail was positioned around Sevenoaks with ten 'Christmas Spirit' characters to find, free of charge for families and groups to take part, with the prize of a heart-warming Christmas e-book at the end.

## Sevenoaks Window Wanderland

The Town Team also launched Sevenoaks Window Wanderland. This is a national, family-friendly event, where residents, businesses, groups and schools can create a display for their window, door or garden. We invited residents to decorate a window / door to transform our streets into a festive gallery throughout December, and encouraged people to wander and admire the displays. We had a fantastic response from window makers and received a lot of positive feedback. Our page on the Window Wanderland website received 6,476 views!





## 18. Summary

The Town Council is committed to continue delivering, protecting and enhancing community facilities, and providing good quality facilities and a vibrant environment to ensure it is a town where residents want to live, businesses prosper and which attracts visitors.

**There are many opportunities for residents to be involved in Town Council activities and help to make Sevenoaks a more sustainable and thriving community. All you need to do is to get in touch with us – please see the front page for contact details.**

# Functions & Facilities provided by Sevenoaks Town Council

## OPEN SPACES & LEISURE

- ALLOTMENTS:  
*Bradbourne Vale Road*  
*Quaker's Hall Lane*
- BETHEL ROAD BURIAL GROUND
- BRITTAINS COMMON
- BRITTAINS LANE WOOD
- THE GREEN, HILLINGDON RISE
- HANGING BASKETS
- HORSE TROUGHS (*Old Police Station, Rheinbach Gardens, St Botolph's Road*)
- JUDD'S PIECE
- LAND AT:  
*Letterbox Lane*  
*Littlewood*  
*Tonbridge Road*
- MIDLINGS WOOD
- MILLPOND WOOD
- PLANTERS (*The Shambles, Dorset Street, Pembroke Road, London Road, Buckhurst Lane*)
- THE POUND, POUND LANE
- RALEY'S FIELD & KNOLE PADDOCK
- RHEINBACH GARDENS
- SEVENOAKS COMMON
- SPORTS PITCHES
- UPPER HIGH STREET GARDENS
- VINE CRICKET GROUND & PAVILION
- VINE GARDENS  
*Public toilet, telephone kiosk with defibrillator*
- WAR MEMORIAL
- WHITE HART BEECHES

- WOODSIDE ROAD OPEN SPACE

## CAR PARKS

- RALEYS CAR PARK

## PLAY AREAS

- BUCKHURST LANE PLAY AREA
- GREATNESS RECREATION GROUND & PLAYGROUND
- HILLINGDON RISE PLAY AREA
- JULIANS MEADOW & PLAYGROUND
- KIPPINGTON MEADOW
- MOUNT CLOSE OPEN SPACE & PLAYGROUND
- PONTOISE CLOSE OPEN SPACE & PLAYGROUND

## SERVICES

- BAT & BALL CENTRE  
(formerly Sevenoaks Community Centre)  
*Available for hire: meetings, conferences etc.*
- BAT & BALL STATION BUILDING (*including Café and rooms available to hire*)  
[batandballstation.com](http://batandballstation.com)
- CAFÉ ON THE VINE [cafeonthevine.com](http://cafeonthevine.com)
- CONSULTEES (*Planning, Highways, etc.*)
- GRANTS TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS
- GREATNESS PARK CEMETERY
- HOUSE IN THE BASEMENT (HITB) YOUTH CAFÉ (*available for hire*)
- INFO-PODS & DIGITAL DISPLAY SCREENS
- LITTER BINS AND GRIT BINS
- MARKETS (*Wednesday and Saturday*)
- MASTERPLAN FOR NORTHERN SEVENOAKS

- NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN
- ORBITAL NO 8 BUS
- PUBLIC SEATS IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS
- PUBLIC TOILETS (*The Stag, The Vine, Lower St Johns, Greatness Recreation Ground*)
- SEVENOAKS TOWN PARTNERSHIP  
[sevenoakstownpartnership.wordpress.com](http://sevenoakstownpartnership.wordpress.com)
- STAG COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE  
*Defibrillator in foyer*  
[stagsevenoaks.co.uk](http://stagsevenoaks.co.uk)
- STREET LIGHTS IN SOME UNADOPTED ROADS
- TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES/CHAMBER  
*Available for hire: meetings, conferences etc.*
- TWINNING WITH PONTOISE AND RHEINBACH
- VINTAGE BUS
- YOUTH COUNCIL [sevenoaksyouthcouncil.com](http://sevenoaksyouthcouncil.com)

## EVENTS

- ARMED FORCES DAY TOWN SUPPORTERS
- CHRISTMAS ILLUMINATIONS IN TOWN
- CIVIC FUNCTIONS
- VINE BANDSTAND/FREE SUMMER CONCERTS

## PROPERTY

- BUSINESS HUB (*former Red Cross Building*)
- BUS SHELTERS (*Dartford Road x2, St John's Hill x3, Bradbourne Vale Road x1, London Road x4, Seal Road x1, Tonbridge Road x1*)
- JUBILEE CLOCK (*Old Market House*)
- WARREN CLOCK (*above Brewers*)

## Town Councillors 2019-2023

NAME	PARTY	NAME	PARTY
<b>EASTERN WARD</b>		<b>ST JOHNS WARD</b>	
Cllr A S Clayton	Liberal Democrat	Cllr S Camp	Liberal Democrat
Cllr T Morris Brown	Liberal Democrat	Cllr R M C Hogarth	Conservative
Cllr E T Waite	Liberal Democrat	Cllr S G Raikes	Conservative
<b>KIPPINGTON WARD</b>		<b>TOWN WARD</b>	
Cllr A Eyre	Conservative	Cllr K Bonin	Conservative
Cllr R J Parry	Conservative	Cllr N J L Busvine OBE	Conservative
Cllr R L Piper	Conservative	Cllr Lise Michaelides	Liberal Democrat
<b>NORTHERN WARD</b>		<b>WILDERNESSE WARD</b>	
Cllr M Canet	Liberal Democrat	Cllr Mrs R E Parry	Conservative
Cllr V Granville-Baxter	Liberal Democrat	To contact a Sevenoaks Town Councillor, please use the following email format: Cllr.surname@sevenoakstown.gov.uk eg. to contact Councillor Piper, the email address would be: Cllr.piper@sevenoakstown.gov.uk	
Cllr C Shea	Liberal Democrat		

Town Clerk/Chief Executive:

Linda Larter MBE:

[townclerk@sevenoakstown.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@sevenoakstown.gov.uk)

Deputy Town Clerk:

Ann White:

[dtc@sevenoakstown.gov.uk](mailto:dtc@sevenoakstown.gov.uk)

The Town Council or its Committees meet on most Monday evenings at 7pm and members of the public are welcome to attend. For further details of the meetings please contact the Town Council Offices on 01732 459953.

[council@sevenoakstown.gov.uk](mailto:council@sevenoakstown.gov.uk)

Sevenoaks  
TOWN COUNCIL