



Town Clerk's Update

Council news and information from Sevenoaks Town Clerk, Linda Larter MBE

16 January 2026

STC Community Bus



Our new Sevenoaks Community Bus is nearly ready for voluntary organisations to use. It has been fully branded with our new colours and we think it looks very smart.

Once we receive the required permit, voluntary organisations will be able to hire the minibus.

For more information, please see www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk or email council@sevenoakstown.gov.uk.

Donation to Mayor's Charities

Local historian and author Bob Ogley presented a £1000 cheque for the Mayor's charities prior to the Sevenoaks Town Council meeting on 12 January. Bob has generously donated these funds from the proceeds of his latest book, 'The Story of Knole Park', a fascinating and detailed account of the history of one of Sevenoaks' most treasured landmarks.



Bob officially launched the book late last year at a special mayoral fundraising event held at Knole. The event took place in the stunning setting of the Great Hall, where Bob delivered a heartfelt and engaging talk, sharing highlights from the book.

Copies of the book are still available to purchase from the Sevenoaks Town Council Offices.



Dartford Road Pedestrian Crossing

Following public consultation and the Town Council's aim to make Sevenoaks a safer town for walking, it has agreed funding and been working with Kent County Council for the provision of a new Pedestrian Crossing in Dartford Road.

The detailed design, consultation, and construction package for the proposed improvements on Dartford Road has now been approved for construction.

Works Programme

Roadspace has been approved for works to begin during the school holidays from 16 February 2026, with a programmed duration of 6 days. To complete the scheme safely and efficiently, a maximum of two nighttime road closures will be required.

During daytime working hours, access to Dartford Road from Hitchen Hatch Lane, Vine Court Road, and St Botolphs Road will be restricted. Traffic will be managed under two-way temporary traffic signals to allow construction activities to be completed.

This long awaited road safety provision will be greatly welcomed once it is in place.

Bat & Ball Station Refurbishment

Whilst many train stations are struggling to meet passenger numbers since pre-covid and with changing working arrangements with many people working partly from home, Bat and Ball Station is a real exception.

We were informed this week that since pre-covid and the restoration and refurbishment of the station carried out by Sevenoaks Town Council, passenger numbers have increased by 50%. It is reassuring to know that the capital investments not only make a difference short-term but also an ongoing difference.





International Women's Day Event

We are delighted to host our annual International Women's Day networking event on Friday 6 March at Bat & Ball Centre. The event will bring together professional women and students to network, connect and celebrate.

Attendees can enjoy a delicious three-course lunch while hearing from a line-up of accomplished and inspiring speakers from a range of professional backgrounds.

Around 50 students will be invited to attend free of charge providing an excellent opportunity for young people to meet and network with businesswomen. For many of the pupils, the event offers a first experience of a networking environment, providing access to guidance, encouragement and inspiration at a key stage when they may be considering future career pathways, training opportunities or university applications.

The event will feature three speakers whose careers have taken distinct and inspiring paths:

- Linden Kemkaran, Leader of Kent County Council and the first woman to hold the role. Linden's diverse career includes work at BBC News, property development and communications.
- Two speakers from FM Conway, an infrastructure services provider delivering vital services across transportation, the built environment and open spaces. The speakers will share their experiences of working as women in the construction industry.
- Renée Imafidon, an award-winning creative entrepreneur, community builder and social impact leader. Renée is co-founder of To My Sisters, one of the fastest-growing women's development communities, and founder of Optimise Me, a personal growth newsletter. Her background includes impact investment, social entrepreneurship and community building.

Sevenoaks Town Council thanks the event's generous business sponsors: Specsavers, FM Conway and Berry & Lamberts.

The event will raise funds for the Mayor's chosen charities: Citizens Advice in North & West Kent and Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust. Tickets cost £35 per person, which includes a three-course sit-down lunch. The event runs from 11:45am to 2:40pm. Tickets are available via Eventbrite at IWD2026Sevenoaks.eventbrite.co.uk.

For further information, please contact Sevenoaks Town Council on 01732 459953



My meetings this week included:

- Town Council*
- Finance & Delivery Committee Meeting*
- SLCC Educational Trust, Chair re allocation of grants
- Sevenoaks Soroptimists – Speaker re Local Government Review
- Darent Valley Community Rail Partnership
- Greatness Recreation Ground Working Group
- Lawyer meeting re Football Foundation grant

*All of Sevenoaks Town Council's Meetings are open to the public and available to watch live on YouTube - see our website for details.

Sevenoaks Town Council Team

This month we are in the process of being evaluated for our Investor in People renewal. Confidential surveys take place of all staff and the report is expected next month.

Save the date

Visit our events page for more information: www.tinyurl.com/STCNewsEvents

Date	Event	Venue
Saturday 7 February	Mayor's Fundraising Quiz	Bat & Ball Centre
Friday 6 March	International Women's Day Event	Bat & Ball Centre
Thursday 19 March	<u>Mayor's Charity Concert - Swing into Spring</u>	Stag
Saturday 30 May	Health & Wellbeing Event	Vine

Best wishes,
Linda

