

# Sevenoaks Town Crier



From Sevenoaks Town Council for the community of Sevenoaks

Winter 2020

## Happy new year from Councillor Nick Busvine OBE, Mayor of Sevenoaks

Since I last wrote in late October, we have had a somewhat eventful time on a national level, including a General Election and the passage of the Brexit Bill. Indeed, by the time this has been published, Brexit will have happened. I am proud to say that, whatever the individual views of councillors on these great issues of state, your Town Council has remained relentlessly focused on serving our local residents on local issues as well as we possibly can.

November kicked off with the firework night parade and spectacular display on Duke's Meadow. A big 'thank you' to the Round Table and Lions Club for organising and staging the event. November also saw a well-attended and moving Service of Remembrance on the



Vine. We were blessed with a beautiful, sunny, autumnal day. The Town Council team did a great job organising everything, and it was wonderful to see so many people participating and supporting the event. I followed up by hosting an inaugural veterans' breakfast at the Bat and Ball Station venue. The veterans' charity, SSAFA, very kindly helped make this a success.

Speaking of Bat and Ball: I am absolutely delighted to say that the restoration project has now been recognised at a national level, winning – against stiff competition – the Arch Company Award for Urban Heritage. This is a genuinely extraordinary achievement and another feather in the cap for our Town Clerk, Linda Larter MBE, and her amazing team.

December also saw the Christmas lights switch-on celebration. It was a great success, and enjoyed by all who attended. Again, a brilliant organising job from the

Town Council team, and very welcome support from our sponsors: Manak Solicitors, Specsavers, Thackray Williams and Wettons Cleaning Services. It was very exciting – and slightly nerve-wracking – to be



joined on stage by the cast of Aladdin for the actual switch-on moment. But, I am relieved to report that my daughters did not find their father's fleeting moment in the limelight embarrassing. In fact, the whole thing was 'cool'. So that's alright then. The Panto itself was superb, with many fellow audience members telling me it was the best ever. The technical wizardry that the Stag Theatre is able to offer really is something to behold.

Looking to the future, I am pleased to report that work on the new Bat & Ball Centre [formerly the Community Centre] is progressing according to schedule. A group of councillors also visited the Greatness Tarmac site in mid-December. As many of you will know, this massive lakeside development will be the centre-piece of the proposed Neighbourhood Development Plan. It is really important that as many local residents as possible look at and comment on the plan. There is a six week consultation period that is set to run from Friday 31st January until Friday 13th March (details at:

<https://sevenoaksndp.wordpress.com>). Please do participate. We want to hear and factor-in your views!

As a council, we are now actively undertaking long-term planning to address the challenges associated with climate change. For example, we are looking at tree-planting, cycle policy and issues around the use of electric vehicles. As ever, we remain open to suggestions from local residents on how best to marshal our local response to this existential issue.

Best wishes for a happy, safe and prosperous 2020!

## Café AT THE STATION

BAT & BALL

phone: 01732 920150

Cafe at the Station

Bat & Ball Train Station

Bat & Ball Road, Sevenoaks

Kent, TN13 5AP



## Inaugural veterans' breakfast



On Friday 22nd November the Mayor of Sevenoaks, Councillor Nick Busvine OBE, held an inaugural breakfast for Armed Forces veterans at the recently refurbished Bat & Ball Café in Sevenoaks. 20 veterans enjoyed bacon rolls and a chance to chat and meet with other service personnel in an informal setting.

The Mayor, who chose SSAFA as one of his charities, being an organisation close to his heart as a former diplomat who regularly served alongside the Armed Forces, said: 'It was an honour to meet so many former service personnel and humbling to hear their stories. I feel by enabling them to get together and share their experiences is a small but valuable contribution, particularly as representatives of SSAFA, who as the leading Armed Forces Charity, were present and able to provide advice and support if needed.'

## Sevenoaks Town Council makes Climate Change and Carbon Neutral initiatives its No 1 Priority

The Town Council has recently resolved to formally recognise the Government and KCC declarations for aiming for Zero Carbon and to integrate this within the vision and throughout the emerging Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) and within the Town Council's general operation.

The Town Council will start work on creation of an Action Plan to review:

- Reducing cars / traffic particularly in relation to school traffic.
- STC new buildings to be as sustainable and eco-friendly as possible. Existing buildings to be improved to be more sustainable with reduced carbon footprint where practicable.
- Include planting of more trees, where possible fruit and nut trees.
- Continue to promote Refill Scheme and Sevenoaks Plastic Free Pledge.
- Cycle racks / planters to be installed.
- Install drinking fountains where possible at STC sites.
- Increased safety for pedestrians and cyclists.
- NDP Transport Strategy recommendations including 20 mph, one-way system in town centre and shared space.
- Link STC open spaces together with 'green routes'.
- Encourage increased use of public transport – buses and trains by having improved facilities including live running information.
- Install electric car charging points at STC sites.
- Consider enabling community initiatives for sustainable living eg. Toy Library, Zero Waste Shop, Community Orchards, Community Cycle Workshops, Repair Café, promotion of alternative resources eg. nappies.

If members of the public are interested in participating in discussions to develop the local Action Plan to address Climate Change and Carbon Neutral initiatives they are asked to contact the council via [council@sevenoakstown.gov.uk](mailto:council@sevenoakstown.gov.uk)

The Mayor of Sevenoaks, Councillor Nick Busvine OBE, planted an oak tree (*Quercus petraea*) on Sevenoaks Common on Thursday 28th November, during National Tree Week. This is the fourth of seven trees, one of which is planted annually by the mayor.

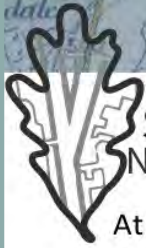
Previous mayors have planted oak trees on Brittain's Common as a legacy for the town, after purchasing this land for the town in 2008, one each year for seven years, and they are growing well.

The mayor is pictured with Open Spaces Manager, Nicholas Cave.



# Sevenoaks Neighbourhood Development Plan Public Consultation

planning@sevenoakstown.gov.uk  
01732 459953



Sevenoaks Town  
Neighbourhood Plan

Sevenoaks  
TOWN COUNCIL

At the Sevenoaks Town Council Annual Public Town Meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> March 2013 residents signalled their support for the Town Council to produce a Neighbourhood Plan. The Plan is a once in a generation chance for local people to shape and guide the future of the town and to ensure that future development is sensitive to the town's character and identity and to provide for the needs of future generations.

Since 2013 the Town Council and the Neighbourhood Plan Committee have undertaken extensive public consultation and engagement activities, including a Masterplan for Northern Sevenoaks to ensure that the content of the plan reflects what local people want. They have used this information to develop background work for the Plan and commission strategies and studies to support the emerging plan policies.

A six-week public consultation is set to run from Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020 until Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020. The public consultation will be launched in the Sevenoaks Kaleidoscope Gallery on Buckhurst Lane on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January and Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2020. An exhibition will be available to view at the launch and at locations across the town through the six-week period (see below for details). Further information about the Neighbourhood Plan and how to comment on it are available on the Neighbourhood Plan website at <https://sevenoaksndp.wordpress.com>.

Feedback from this initial consultation will be included where appropriate into the plan which will then be progressed through a statutory programme carried out by Sevenoaks District Council concluding in a referendum for the residents of Sevenoaks.

Dates	Times	Location
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2020	10.00 a.m. – 3.00 p.m.	Sevenoaks Kaleidoscope Library
Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> February 2020	10.00 a.m. – 3.00 p.m.	Sevenoaks Kaleidoscope Library
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	10.00 a.m. – 3.00 p.m.	Sevenoaks Town Council Chambers
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	10.00 a.m. – 3.00 p.m.	Sevenoaks Town Council Chambers
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February – 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2020 (excluding 18 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb)	10.00 a.m. – 4.45 p.m. Monday - Saturday	Stag Theatre Café
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February – 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2020	Station Opening Times	Sevenoaks Mainline Railway Station Foyer

Enquiries to: Sevenoaks Town Council, Council Offices, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 3QG. [planning@sevenoakstown.gov.uk](mailto:planning@sevenoakstown.gov.uk)



## NRHA Award for Bat & Ball Station

Sevenoaks Town Council are pleased to announce Bat and Ball Station restoration has won the Urban Heritage Award, sponsored by the Arch Company, at The National Railway Heritage Awards, 2019. The project was acknowledged for the dramatic restoration work and for bringing the building back into community use as part of the Northern Sevenoaks Masterplan to regenerate the area.

The award was presented by HRH The Princess Royal at the National Railway Heritage Awards special ceremony to mark the competition's 40th anniversary on Wednesday 4th December at Merchant Taylors' Hall, London EC2.



The National Railway Heritage Awards aim is: "To recognise, acknowledge and reward, for the public benefit, the very best in restoration, conservation and re-use of our historic railway infrastructure."

To find out more about the Bat & Ball Station Restoration go to <http://www.batandballstation.com/>

## Sevenoaks Youth Councillor Gabrielle Tan awarded Diana Legacy Award

Sevenoaks Youth Councillor Gabby Tan has been presented with two prestigious awards, set up in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales, and her belief that young people can change the world.

Following her receipt of a Diana Award in July, a panel of judges selected 20 young people from across the world to receive a 2019 Diana Legacy Award, which takes place every two years and celebrates the achievements of 20 outstanding young leaders, visionaries and role models from across the world.

Gabby received the Diana Legacy Award for her

dedication to advocating for a healthier planet and educational equality. She is part of the UK Student Climate

## Happy to chat?



Network and an advocate for the Global Schools Program. She represented the UK and Malaysia on the World Oceans Day Youth Council and has led a range of campaigns and events on eliminating single use plastic, including a pledging scheme with the Sevenoaks Youth Council. In addition, Gabby has impacted the lives of thousands through her work supporting refugee education with her youth-led organisation, Horizon of Hope.

On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January Councillor Nick Busvine OBE, Mayor of Sevenoaks, and Sophie Woods-Scawen launched the **Happy to Chat Bench**. Sophie contacted us at the end of last year to suggest we get involved in this nationwide scheme and the Town Council were more than happy to play their part in this initiative to combat loneliness.



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Gabby was presented with her Legacy Award by Earl Spencer, brother of Princess Diana, at a ceremony in London on 26th November 2019.



**Sevenoaks  
Annual Town Public Meeting**

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

Stag Plaza  
The Stag Theatre  
Sevenoaks  
TN13 1ZZ

**Your opportunity to have your say on  
matters relating to Sevenoaks**

**Meeting starts at 7:00<sup>PM</sup>**

**Free Refreshments from 6:00<sup>PM</sup>**

**6:30<sup>PM</sup> – 7:00<sup>PM</sup>**

Opportunity to talk to the Mayor, Cllr Nicholas Busvine OBE,  
and your local Councillors before the meeting starts.

Presentation and update on The Stag which  
recently celebrated the 10th anniversary of  
Sevenoaks Town Council management.



Sevenoaks Town Council to present its  
**Annual Report 2019/20**

**'Sevenoaks and Climate Change'  
Presentation and Open Discussion**

Presentation of Grant Cheques to Voluntary Organisations

For more details of the Annual Town Public Meeting please contact  
Sevenoaks Town Council:

By telephone: 01732 459953

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

To view Agenda go to: [www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk](http://www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk)

# PANCAKE RACE

**TUESDAY 25TH FEBRUARY**  
AT THE

**VINE GARDENS**  
THE VINE TN13 3UH

**10:30AM - 12:00AM**



**£1 ENTRY**

**WINNER WILL RECEIVE A FAMILY  
TICKET FOR THE STAG CINEMA**



Proceeds to go towards the Mayors Charity SSAFA  
Contact us Sevenoaks Town Council on  
01732 459953 for more information

Café  
on the  
Vine

# EASTER EGG HUNT

**SATURDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**  
AT THE

**VINE GARDENS**  
TN13 3UH

**10:45 REGISTER**  
**11:00 START**

**£1 ENTRY**  
IN AID OF MAYOR'S CHARITIES



Café  
on the  
Vine

# ICE CHAMBER CHALLENGE

**SATURDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY - 5:30<sup>PM</sup>**  
Cryojuvenate, 54 High Street, Sevenoaks, TN13 1JG

Last year it was **FIRE**... this year it will be **ICE**  
Will you join the mayor and take on the sub-zero  
temperatures to raise money for SSAFA?

CONTACT SEVENOAKS TOWN COUNCIL FOR MORE INFORMATION:

E-MAIL: [admin.tp@sevenoakstown.gov.uk](mailto:admin.tp@sevenoakstown.gov.uk)

PHONE: 01732459953



## There are advertising opportunities available in Town Crier!

We distribute about 23,000 hard copies across  
Sevenoaks Town

If you are interested in placing in an  
advert and reaching the whole of  
Sevenoaks Town, please contact us on  
[towncrier@sevenoakstown.gov.uk](mailto:towncrier@sevenoakstown.gov.uk)  
or call Ruth on 01732 459953

**Full A4 page - £150 +VAT**

**Half A4 page - £100 +VAT**

**Quarter A4 page - £50 +VAT**



# DARENT VALLEY

COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP

- Bringing together 6 separate stations; Swanley, Eynsford, Shoreham, Otford, Bat & Ball & Sevenoaks
- Sharing promotion to encourage passengers to use the stations to visit local tourism attractions
- Increasing footfall to local tourism attractions at each station
- Creating a distinctive 'brand' for the line
- Linking the use of the train to other non-car forms of transport e.g. walking and cycling
- Raising awareness of local heritage and culture including the artist Samuel Palmer

Photo: John Miller



# HOUSE IN THE Basement

YOUTH CAFE FOR AGES 11-18



### OPENING HOURS

(School Terms)

Wednesday & Friday

4pm - 8pm

Saturday

2:30pm - 8pm

(School Holidays) Opens at 2pm instead of 4pm

AVAILABLE TO HIRE for Birthday Parties

In the Basement of the

STAG COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE

London Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1ZZ

**01732 466 593**

info@houseinthebasement.co.uk

@houseinbasement

houseinthebasement



## Sevenoaks Town – A Britain in Bloom Finalist

After winning Gold in last year's South & South East in Bloom, Sevenoaks has been selected as one of 70 finalists vying to win the UK's largest community gardening competition, Britain in Bloom.



Sevenoaks will be going all-out to showcase its horticultural skills, community and environmental efforts to make it the best.

Sevenoaks Town Council is looking for businesses, community groups and volunteers to help whether it be with sponsorship, clean up days, or good old-fashioned gardening. For more information, please contact Ann White at Sevenoaks Town Council [dtc@sevenoakstown.gov.uk](mailto:dtc@sevenoakstown.gov.uk)

## Tree Planting at Greatness Recreation Ground

On Friday 17th January, the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Dr Marilyn Canet, planted three apple trees alongside the children's play area at Greatness.

She was joined by fellow councillors Roddy Hogarth, Robert Piper, and Tony Clayton, Open Spaces Manager Nicholas Cave and local resident Alistair Boobyer (pictured below, L-R).

The trees represent the past - **Bramley's Seedling**; the present - **Cox's Orange Pippin**; and the future - **Fiesta**.

Perhaps you'd like to plant a tree of your own in our town? The Town Council will assist with supply and planting at no additional cost, so if you can think of a loved one who would be best remembered with a tree, please feel free to contact us on [council@sevenoakstown.gov.uk](mailto:council@sevenoakstown.gov.uk) or 01732 459953.



# Functions & Facilities provided by Sevenoaks Town Council

## Precept

The Town Council's portion of the Council Tax for the financial year 2019/2020 is £1,882,554 per year, which is equivalent to £118.43 per average Band D household. This is an increase of £3.48 per year, or 7p per week, compared with 2018/2019.

## 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 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 COMMUNITY CENTRE  
*Available for hire: meetings, conferences etc.*
  - 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	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

