Town Cref





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From Sevenoaks Town Council for the community of Sevenoaks

Summer 2021

From the Mayor of Sevenoaks, Councillor Dr Merilyn Canet

In the last edition of the *Town Crier*, I outlined my background and reflected on life in Sevenoaks and the challenges we face in a changed post-pandemic world.

We have experienced numerous imposed changes that have impacted on our lives. All of us have been affected by those changes – some much more than others. We are recognising this and are starting to pay attention to improving our environment and looking out for those less fortunate than ourselves.

It is really positive the way in which those living in Sevenoaks, regardless of their age, have contributed their observations in highlighting the changes required during these difficult times.

Of great importance are our gardens and wildlife – not only our own gardens but allotments, communal gardens in the town and of course gardens established by children in schools in Sevenoaks.

In the town, we are emphasising edibles, both vegetables and appropriate flowers, which people are invited to pick and eat.

I have started a programme of visiting schools and speaking to children aged four upwards. Credit needs to go to teachers for facilitating the children's efforts to improve their environment and for preparing them for my visits, which prompted a number of perceptive questions.

It is fascinating to see the young children's interest in the wildlife areas in their schools. On one occasion a dragonfly hovered over a pond that had

been created by the children in a primary school. This caused some excitement and discussion.

The Mayor with the new bug hotel at St Nicholas's Church in Sevenoaks

A group of sixteen-year-olds is working on proposals for improving the provision of facilities in Sevenoaks for their age group. These young people are also keen to take responsibility for a more sustainable future by walking and cycling wherever possible.

Sustainable travel is high on the agenda of our local 'Go Coach' service. They have been trialing Kent's first hydrogen-fuelled bus and I was privileged to ride on this. In addition, the company has provided facilities for small groups to hire seven-seater vehicles which have the added advantage of a lift for wheelchairs. This will provide an opportunity for older and less mobile residents to enjoy outings with the opportunity of talking with other people.

As we try to recover our community activities, the Sevenoaks Indoor Bowls Club, situated at Hollybush Close in Sevenoaks, invites you to join them for a coffee and to find out what indoor bowls is all about. The Club is very welcoming, very suitable if you live alone, and a wonderful place to find friendship while 'having a go' at bowls. The Club currently offers four weeks' bowling for free, with equipment and advice provided. People of any age and ability are very welcome. For further details, please contact Sally Jolly, the Centre Manager.

I am pleased to say that through the brilliant efforts of the people living and working in Sevenoaks, we are on our way to making the town the best and kindest place it can be.

Mayor of Sevenoaks Awards 2020/21

At the Sevenoaks Town Annual Council meeting held on 4 May the outgoing Mayor, Cllr Nicholas Busvine OBE, announced that **Claire Ritchie** and **Jamie Alexander Wilson** had been awarded the Mayor's Awards for 2020/21 for their outstanding contributions to the community of Sevenoaks.

Claire set up Lockdown Larder to support those struggling to feed their families during the Pandemic. She secured a grant from the Town Council's emergency fund and raised funds from a GoFundMe page. Within weeks of starting the scheme, Claire and her team were helping 80 local families.

Jamie, who is a central figure in the Sevenoaks Arts scene since 2009, when he produced the first professional pantomime at The Stag Theatre, turned his skills to supporting the survival of The Stag Theatre and was the driving force behind the 'Live on the Vine' concerts which raised more than £10,000.

The Mayor also issued the KALC award 2020/21 to **Matthew Ball** for his creation of an invaluable historical resource for Sevenoaks on the impact of WW1.

Finally, the Mayor presented **Sgt Harvey Harris-Tanzer** of Sevenoaks Air Cadets with a glass plaque as a token of appreciation for his service as the Mayor's Cadet.



Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The Mayor of Sevenoaks, Cllr Dr Merilyn Canet, met with Sarah Nathaniel from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC), and local historian Matt Ball, at Greatness Park



Cemetery in Sevenoaks, to lay crosses at the war graves and to learn about the new app released by the CWGC.

The CWGC has launched a new campaign inviting the public to discover the individuals in their local area who died in the two World Wars.

For War Graves Week, which ran from 21-28 May, the

CWGC launched a special postcode search function for its online war-dead database at www.cwgc.org/wargravesweek presenting an opportunity for people of all ages to welcome the memory of these men and women back to the streets where they lived. War Graves Week is aimed at encouraging communities to come together and discover the World War heritage on their doorstep.

Entering a postcode reveals the nearest street in which a war casualty was from – displaying the records in Google Street View – and creating an immediate, and personal, local connection to the past. Users can click through to learn more about the individuals.

Sevenoaks Business Hub - a new facility for those looking for flexibility in business accommodation and networking with like-minded business people.

Sevenoaks is home to several entrepreneurs and recent months have shown many commuters that it is not necessary to travel every day. Recognising these factors, the Town Council has created a new facility from which business people can operate and encourage business to grow.

Sevenoaks Business Hub is located adjoining the Town Council Office in Bradbourne Vale Road. It provides five single private offices, thirteen hot desks, a meeting room, café/kitchen and an outdoor deck. Naturally, it has up-to-the-minute internet connectivity. The Hub will be open 7.00am – 9.00pm six days a week, and facilities can be booked from as little as half a day to a month.

Sevenoaks District Chamber of Commerce is now headquartered at the Hub, and while membership of the Chamber is not a pre-requisite to hiring space, the Chamber will be hosting a number of its networking events in the building.

First to sign up for space in the Hub is **Sideline Removals and Logistics**. Director Sam Gregory is excited to be moving his business and explains why. "Currently we work from home and the business has outgrown our dining rooms. We want to be and look more professional and to have a single base. Networking is also an important attraction. We want to be part of the business community and the Hub is going to be great for that."



Cllr Dr Merilyn Canet, Sevenoaks Mayor Opens Sevenoaks Business Hub on 8th June 2021

Background: Katrina Walker, Kathryn McKerlie, Glenn Ball, Richard Smiles, Roger Smiles and Andrew Doorey The Mayor Cllr Dr Merilyn Canet is very upbeat about the Hub. "The Council was considering creating a business hub before Covid because we knew that there are a good number of young businesses in the area, yet flexible, affordable accommodation has been in short supply. The Business Hub was part of the regeneration of the Northern Sevenoaks plan. Recent months have demonstrated that many people can work from home, yet for some it is difficult to combine home and business life and others miss the opportunity to socialise with people of a like mind. So, we are delighted to be providing a facility which will help both the local economy and work/life balance for business people".

Katrina Walker, Chair of the Sevenoaks District Chamber of Commerce is equally upbeat. "We've been looking for a new base for our operation for some time now, one where we can easily mix with our members, and provide a location for networking and business

meetings. The Chamber already runs regular events and we are now adding sector specific networking to our offering. We've also just rebranded, launched a new website, and will shortly be announcing our new Chief Executive. There's been a lot going on! "

Bat & Ball Centre in Constructing Excellence Awards Finals

The Bat & Ball Centre, designed by Theis + Khan Architects and remodelled and refurbished by BJF Group for Sevenoaks Town Council, made the finals of two Constructing Excellence SECBE Awards.

Following a successful written application and a presentation to the award's judging panel the new Centre was shortlisted for both Project of the Year Under £10m and the People's Choice Award which was voted for by the public.

The Constructing Excellence SECBE Awards recognise and celebrate the best projects from across London and the South East and usually culminate in a gala dinner and awards ceremony. This year however, due to Covid-19 restrictions, the awards ceremony took place virtually on the 1st July.

Although we didn't win, we are delighted to have made the final list and would like to thank everyone who voted for us.

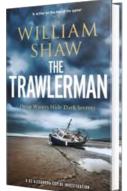




This year marks the 20th anniversary of the annual Sevenoaks Literary Festival. As always, we've sought out the brightest minds and most interesting voices and brought them together to create inspiring conversations for our community of Sevenoaks. An ensemble of brilliant literary features, spanning poetry, politics, lifestyle, and fiction in both live and online events.

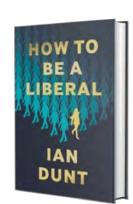
This year also marks the 15th year of Town Council support and sponsorship of our popular Primary Schools Event, featuring immersive workshops with children's writers Jan Dean and Jasbinder Bilan.

Our 2021 line-up includes conversations with non-other than *Great British Bake-Off* icon Mel Giedroyc (pictured) discussing her latest book *The Best Things*; Ian Dunt on his book *How to Be a Liberal*; and the inspiring British doctor and former current affairs journalist, Rachel Clarke.



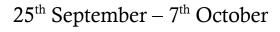
In response to requests from our mailing list for more crime-based fiction, William Shaw will be discussing his Kent-based crime novels, including his latest, *The Trawlerman*, which is set on Dungeness.

Check out our website [www.sevlitfest.com] and social media for further details of our exciting line-up and venues. Sign up for email updates and be the first to see when we reveal more amazing names and fascinating features.



As always **Sevenoaks Bookshop** – *Independent Bookshop of the Year* - will be making books available for purchase and signing.

Tickets are available for purchase online from 31st of July. This year's Festival runs from:



We can't wait to see you there!

The Sevenoaks Literary Festival Committee





ARMED FORCES DAY AT THE VINE

On Saturday 26 June, Westerham Sea Cadets raised the Armed Forces Day flag at The Vine in Sevenoaks.

Prayers were led by Brigadier Ian Dobbie and the Exhortation was read by Miller Lang of the Royal Naval Association.

Present were the Deputy Mayor of Sevenoaks, Councillor Mrs Rachel Parry, fellow Councillors, Members of the Armed Services and residents.

The Deputy Mayor said: "Today, as for so many years, the United Kingdom's Armed Forces personnel are deployed around the world, often in dangerous and difficult conditions. They are holding other nations' humanitarian and peacekeeping efforts as well as protecting the United Kingdom and our support for them and their families is vital.



Flag raising for the National Health Service

On Monday 5th July, the Deputy Mayor of Sevenoaks, Councillor Mrs Rachel Parry, attended the raising of the NHS flag at The Vine in Sevenoaks, celebrating the 73 years since the inauguration of the National Health Service.

Councillor. Mrs Parry said: "Today is a very special day when we are able to demonstrate our thanks and show our appreciation and gratitude to our NHS heroes and to thank each and every one of our exceptional NHS workers, at all levels, for their care and commitment during the Coronavirus pandemic.

"Never since its inception on 5th July 1948 has so much been owed to our doctors, nurses, paramedics, other front line workers and every other member of our NHS who works on our behalf.

"This 73rd Anniversary of the founding of the Health Service, has today become even more special as we can celebrate the recognition by Her Majesty the Queen, who has today awarded the George Cross to the NHS."



Businesses in Sevenoaks join the refill revolution to help people live with less plastic

Growing awareness about the disastrous environmental impacts of plastics has fuelled the rising popularity of reusable and refillable drinks containers, like coffee cups and water bottles, in part thanks to the award-winning Refill campaign and app, which connects people to places where you can eat, drink and shop without the pointless packaging.

Thanks to the work of Sevenoaks Town Team who have been pioneering the movement in Sevenoaks, there are now 24 Refill Stations listed in the town on the Refill app. This includes everything from free drinking water refills, to discounts on hot drinks in reusable cups and an increasing number of retailers.

A poll commissioned by City to Sea and Friends of the Earth for World Refill Day found that 81% of Brits want the UK government to prioritise making refillable products more widely available, as a main priority for reducing plastic pollution. So, on 16_{th} June World Refill Day was celebrated with plenty of publicity to show Governments and big business the strength of feeling to take action to reduce the impact of single use plastics.

Sevenoaks Town Mayor, Cllr Canet takes the view that "Everyone, everywhere is urged to take up the cause, to ditch single use plastic products and to switch to re-useable or sustainable packaging. We have made a good start in



Sevenoaks and want to build on that so that the scourge of discarded plastics in and around our beautiful town becomes a thing of the past".

For more information and to find the Refill app visit www.refill.org.uk

Sevenoaks Business Show is BACK!

We are delighted that Sevenoaks Business Show is coming back in 2021! It is taking place on Wednesday 22nd September.

The Sevenoaks Business Show is destined to be the biggest and best yet. It is an opportunity for the cream of Sevenoaks' businesses to showcase their products and services, not just to fellow businesses but the public as well. To set off the exhibitors in the best possible light the show is being held this year in the newly opened Bat & Ball Centre in Cramptons Road. The Centre provides over 3,300 sq ft of exhibition space, has state of the art lighting & facilities, and extensive free car parking.

The show is open to the public and will the first major event at the new Centre following its forthcoming opening on 25th July. Entry to the show is free of charge.

Past shows have featured a wide range of businesses including retailers, representatives of all the professions, The Stag, Go Coach, Sevenoaks District Chamber of Commerce and both Town & District Councils.

For businesses wishing to book exhibition space contact Mike Reid, Town Team Facilitator at townteam@sevenoakstown.gov.uk or 01732 459953 for a booking form.

Do so as soon as possible to gain the maximum pre-event publicity for your business.





EYESORE PHONE BOX IS BEING RESTORED

The derelict phone box in Sevenoaks High Street is about to be restored and then repurposed to house a life saving defibrillator. The box has been adopted by The Friends of Water Search and Rescue (fowsart.org.uk) and they are raising funds to install the equipment. First though the box has to be restored, not a simple task when closely examined. The dilapidated structure will need to be stripped of years of built-up and now peeling paintwork before it will grace the town centre once again.

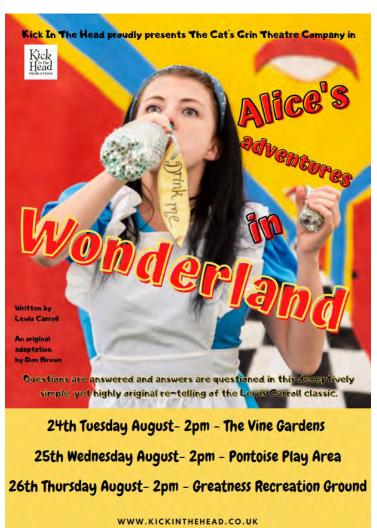
Pictured are some of the members of Sevenoaks Round Table who have risen to the challenge of undertaking the restoration and who will be working on the box in forthcoming weeks.



Table member Olly Wickham explains "Tabling is not just about meeting up with like minded friends and having a good time - or our famous firework displays! We also enjoy helping others and contributing to local projects where we can make a difference. In this case we are both helping to improve the High Street and also providing the opportunity to perhaps save lives."

Mayor of Sevenoaks, Cllr Dr Merilyn Canet, is delighted with the project. "As Olly suggests there are at least two benefits to this scheme and it also demonstrates the spirit of co-operation in the town when a charity is helped with its objectives by Round Table, one of the most energetic service clubs around. I am also pleased to say that the scheme has been facilitated by Sevenoaks Town Team who put the parties together, plus Sevenoaks Town Council, which is paying for the materials."

For further information please contact Mike Reid, Town Team Facilitator at townteam@sevenoakstown.gov.uk













Grant funding available for voluntary organisations, groups and charities in Sevenoaks

Do you need money for a good cause or project to benefit the community?

Applications can be made using the grant application forms via the website www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk or obtainable from the Sevenoaks Town Council Offices

For more information please contact Sevenoaks Town Council Offices, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 3QG. Tel: 01732 459953 or email council@sevenoakstown.gov.uk



Sevenoaks Youth Services Committee continues to demonstrate its partnership working to provide Youth Services within Sevenoaks and the local area during difficult times.

The Committee met in early July and the following partners talked through their ongoing provision of youth work during these difficult and restricting times of the pandemic and public health restrictions. It was agreed to distribute these details more widely to provide information relating to the youth services being delivered.

Kent County Council Youth Services

For Sevenoaks District the base for the KCC Youth Services is within the Swanley Hub. The Hub is not currently open to young people. KCC Youth Services provided targeted youth support for identified vulnerable young people and some school work. They have also created a district wide Youth Forum with representatives from schools. In a recent survey of schools young people identified the following as their current key concerns - Mental Health, Environment, impact of COVID 19.

Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust (SAYT)

SAYT is a church based voluntary organisation. They are currently recruiting for a youth worker. In the past they have provided a weekly Youth Bus at Greatness Recreation Ground on a Thursday, and provided a voluntary youth worker for the work and school work for vulnerable young people. WKYS House in the Basement Youth Café once a week, they are currently working in Kemsing.

Sevenoaks District Council – Community Safety Unit (CSU)

The CSU has a wide remit, working with the local police and this includes community safety for young people. A Summer Fun Days programme has been arranged in conjunction with partners. They are working with the police on a 'Summer Plan' to try and avoid the problems experienced last year with large numbers of young people visiting the area to use the water and open spaces. They are also working on addressing a current problem of young adults occupying the Sevenoaks Town Car Park and causing disruption to residents in the early hours of the morning.

West Kent Youth Services (WKYS)

WKYS has a commissioning contract from KCC for two youth workers to cover the district and provide targeted detached

(Continued on page 10)







also provides separate youth work including an 8 -12 Group for referred young people.

WKYS are currently holding detached youth work every Tuesday at Greatness Recreation Ground skatepark.

Sevenoaks Town Council / House in the Basement Youth Café

The Town Council provides facilities throughout the Sevenoaks town which are openly available and free to use for young people. This includes public open space and sports pitches including new Multi Use Games Area (basketball, tennis, five a side football, netball), events during school holidays, Skateboard Park at Greatness Recreation Ground, play areas, outdoor gym equipment and House in the Basement Youth Café (HitB).

In addition, it coordinates and supports Sevenoaks Youth Council. In the past the Youth Council has been very successful progressing campaigns including provision of the youth café, music events and Plastic Free Sevenoaks Pledge. The new Youth Council will be formed this autumn, see details on page 9. The House in the Basement Youth Café has only been able to be open on a restricted basis during the pandemic. It hopes that it will be able to relax restrictions later in July and is preparing a programme of activities for this and the summer holidays.

Cllr Waite, the Chairman of the Youth Services Committee, said: "It is more important now that we continue to provide youth services not only to the vulnerable but also all young people, to help them cope with their well-being and have some fun during these difficult times."

What is Sevenoaks In Bloom?

Sevenoaks in Bloom is about caring for our environment, protecting wildlife, and encouraging the community to come together in caring for our town.

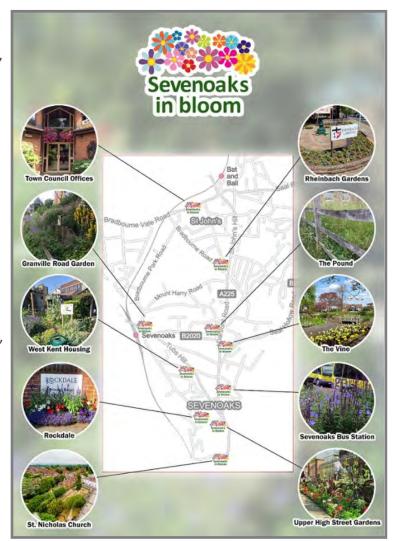
Through gardening we bring people together to create a positive and lasting improvement to our environment for the benefit of all. We address issues such as sustainability, recycling, minimising waste and energy conservation.

Sevenoaks in Bloom is about creating a stunning environment in which to live and work.

The competition is assessed by local judges on criteria developed by the RHS in consultation with the Regions. Marks are awarded and are related to standards of Gold, Silver Gilt, Silver and Bronze. The RHS encourages all communities to get involved to help create safer, cleaner and greener local environments.

South & South East in Bloom is part of Britain in Bloom and runs annual competitions across the counties of Kent, Surrey, East & West Sussex, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, East & North Dorset and East Wiltshire.

Sevenoaks in Bloom is a charity and is our regional body representing the Britain in Bloom campaign that is organised by the Royal Horticultural Society.



Awards received in 2020:

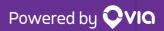
The Vine - GOLD

Sevenoaks Town Centre - GOLD

Upper High Street Gardens - SILVER GILT
Sevenoaks Common - SILVER
Friends of Bat & Ball Station - Thriving (4) Mid



go



One mobile app, three different ways to travel.

Use the **Go2 Sevenoaks** mobile app to choose between a variety of local transport options. Once you input your origin and destination addresses, the app will display all available modes of transport, as well as the journey time and price for each.

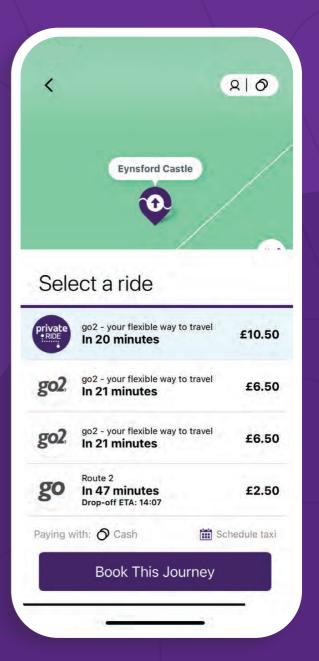
- 1. Check **Go** bus route timetables and buy tickets.
- **2.** Book **Go2** shared demand-responsive trips.
- 3. Book Go2 direct private taxi trips.

www.go2now.co.uk

Download the **Go2 Sevenoaks** app to get started.







Functions & Facilities provided by Sevenoaks Town Council

Precept

Sevenoaks Town Council's total revenue budget for the 2021/22 financial year is £1,858,154 per annum. The average Band D house would pay £128.50 per annum equating to £2.47 per week.

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

- MUGA (Multi Use Games Area)
- MIDDLINGS 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
- CAFÉ ON THE VINE <u>cafeonthevine.com</u>
- 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)

Cllr.eyre@sevenoakstown.gov.uk

- 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
- STAG COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE Defibrillator in foyer 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 <u>sevenoaksyouthcouncil.com</u> **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
EASTERN WARD		ST JOHNS WARD	
Clir 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
KIPPINGTON WARD		TOWN WARD	
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
NORTHERN WARD		WILDERNESSE WARD	
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	

Town Clerk/Chief Executive: Linda Larter MBE:

townclerk@sevenoakstown.gov.uk

Deputy Town Clerk:

Ann White:

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





Liberal Democrat

Cllr C Shea