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From Sevenoaks Town Council for the community of Sevenoaks

Autumn 2023

## From the Mayor of Sevenoaks, Councillor Claire Shea

As I write in the middle of the school holidays, I find it hard to believe looking out of the window that it is the summer holiday rather than the spring break.

It is a source of huge pride to us all at Sevenoaks Town Council to have been accredited as a **Town of Sanctuary**, and we are the first town level council to be recognised. You may have seen the flag which we flew at the Vine to celebrate it when it was announced, very aptly, at the beginning of Refugee Week.

The City of Sanctuary scheme describes itself as a 'movement of welcome', building a network of places, people and organisations who greet refugees with compassion and open arms. Our application for Town of Sanctuary status was made in close collaboration with **Sevenoaks Welcomes Refugees**, whose selfless dedication to supporting people arriving in our area in dire circumstances is truly inspiring, and this recognition is testament to the work of their members, landlords, schools, clubs and others who make the town open and welcoming. Thank you.

You may have spotted another flag recently at the Vine - for the first time, a **Pride flag** marking Pride Month flew there in June. Indeed, the Vine has been a busy place all summer, with the welcome return of the **Sevenoaks Lions' Beer Festival**, a personal favourite, as well as Music nights on the bandstand, which I hope you have had a chance to enjoy.

At Town Council, we have a number of initiatives underway to benefit the town. First of all, ten years after the last one was prepared for the Neighbourhood Development Plan process, we are reviewing the **Sports Strategy** for the town. Much has changed in ten years, with three new secondary schools, several enlarged primary schools, and football, rugby and hockey clubs achieving great things, to name but a few. Our strategy will review all the existing facilities,

consider the strengths, weaknesses and gaps and look at ways to support sport in Sevenoaks.

We are also working closely with Sevenoaks Town FC on their facilities at **Greatness Park**. The club has permission for a new stadium, making it the right time to look at the whole park. Town Council has recently committed funds to refurbishing the skate park, and the playground is due for refurbishment. We have put together a consultation on the proposals and would love to hear your views.

Kent County Council has a tool for Parish and Town Councils to work with them on roads known as **Highways Improvement Plans**. We have re-written our plan to reflect needs of pedestrians, cyclists and motorists across the wards of the town, and we will be working with KCC officers on costing and designing solutions for the council to consider.

In July, residents of Northern Ward returned to the polls for a by-election for an unfilled Town Council seat, and we are pleased to **welcome Cllr Lionel O'Hara** as a result.

Councillor Claire Shea  
Mayor of Sevenoaks





## SEVENOAKS TOWN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Since its successful Referendum and subsequent adoption by the Local Planning Authority in May 2023, the Sevenoaks Town Neighbourhood Plan (STNP) has achieved the following notable successes:

- ♦ Helped the Planning Inspector of Land South of Little Brittain, Brittain Lane in her decision to DISMISS the Appeal to build 70 new homes in the Green Belt and Conservation Area.
- ♦ Requires a Biodiversity Net Gain of 10% by developers—including at the proposed demolition and redevelopment site of Pinehurst House Nursing Home, Pinehurst, which is currently being re-appealed. This requirement is not yet required by government planning policy and without it, the development would have resulted in a **-20.64%** net LOSS in biodiversity. This will now need to be offset either by additional measures, or a financial contribution to provide the net gain offsite.
- ♦ Supported the District Council in its refusal of 5 planning applications, primarily on grounds of harm to the character area and Conservation Area and protection of heritage assets. Also supported ~41 grants of planning permission by the District Council.
- ♦ Secured the provision of various community benefits at 13 potential sites identified as likely to come forwards for development, including a Watersports lake at Sevenoaks Quarry (Tarmac site).
- ♦ Resulted in £1.2m invested into sports provision in Sevenoaks Town since the first Sports Strategy was completed in 2015.



### **DO YOU WANT TO GET INVOLVED WITH DELIVERING THE STNP'S OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONING FURTHER PROJECTS?**

Sevenoaks Town Council will be holding its first Monitoring and Action Steering Committee at 6:30pm on **27th September 2023** at Council Chambers, Town Council Offices, Bradbourne Vale Road, TN13 3QG. Representatives of local organisations/businesses are invited to join the Steering Committee, the meetings of which will also be open to the public.



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# Greatness Recreation Ground Survey - Current Use and Future Improvements

Sevenoaks Town Council are working to improve amenities for local residents to ensure that they continue to reflect the needs of the community, and are currently looking at Greatness Recreation Ground.

During the past few weeks and to enable this to be done effectively, we have been seeking views of local people to ascertain how people use the facilities and what they would like to see improved in the future.

A key partner in this work is Sevenoaks Town Football Club (STFC). STFC provide competitive and recreational football sessions for over 1000 local residents and also run specific Women, Girls, Inclusive and Walking Football Sessions at the Bourne Stadium, which is located on Mill Lane.

STFC are working with Sevenoaks Town Council to build a new and improved community pavilion (as image shown) as the Stadium which will support football and community provision whilst also freeing up the existing pavilion for alternative community use.



The image (left) shows the Proposed new and improved community pavilion, as approved via planning application referenced 20/03804/FUL.

**We would be grateful for your opinion as to the future improvements proposed and being considered for the Greatness Recreation Ground facilities.**

**To allow residents receiving notification via the Town Crier enough time to respond, the end date for the consultation has been EXTENDED by one week, to 22nd September 2023.**



The survey can be completed online by scanning the QR code, or by filling out a paper copy - available to download and print via the below link, or by picking up a copy from the Town Council Offices on Bradbourne Vale Road.

Survey download link: <https://qrco.de/beDMfc>

If posting the printed survey, please post your answers to C/O Georgie Elliston, Town Council Offices, Bradbourne Vale Road, TN13 3QG, or email a copy to [planning@sevenoakstown.gov.uk](mailto:planning@sevenoakstown.gov.uk).

## OPEN DOOR SESSIONS

**YOUR VOICE MATTERS!**

Members of the public will be welcome to meet their Town Councillors, and raise any local concerns. The first four surgeries will be at:

## SEVENOAKS TOWN COUNCILLOR PUBLIC SURGERIES

In addition to the right of every resident to come and ask questions at Town Council and Committee meetings, Sevenoaks Town Councillors would like to make themselves available to talk about issues affecting individuals and neighbourhoods across the town.

Town Councillors - newly elected and those re-elected - will be available for regular Public Surgeries in the Bat & Ball Area at the Bat & Ball Community Centre Cramptons Road, and in the Town Centre at House in the Basement Youth Café, in the walkway next to Stag, leading from the Post Office to South Park car park



Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> September 2023	10 pm – 12 pm	Meeting Room, Bat & Ball Centre
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> October 2023	10 pm – 12 pm	HitB Youth Café at Stag
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> November 2023	10 pm – 12 pm	Meeting Room, Bat & Ball Centre
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	10 pm – 12 pm	HitB Youth Café at Stag

You can also contact your local councillors between surgeries using the details shown on the back page. If you have suggestions to make the arrangements more accessible please let us know.

# THE SEVENOAKS LITERARY FESTIVAL 2023

DATE & TIME	AUTHOR	BOOK	VENUE
<b>Friday 22nd Sept 7.30pm</b>	<b>Otto English</b> The journalist and author of <i>Fake History</i> now takes a shocking yet hilarious look at ten of the greatest liars from our past, exposing what they were trying to hide		The Assembly Hall, Walthamstow Hall
<b>Saturday 23rd Sept 7.30pm</b>	<b>Jane Glover</b> Acclaimed conductor and author explores Mozart's three childhood trips to Italy		Bat & Ball Centre
<b>Sunday 24th Sept 2.30pm</b>	<b>Kate Morgan and Simon Toyne</b> discuss the world of true and fictional crime		Wilderness House
<b>Tuesday 26th Sept 7.30pm</b>	<b>Tracy Borman</b> discusses one of the most extraordinary mother-and-daughter stories of all time		The Ship Theatre, Walthamstow Hall
<b>Wednesday 27th Sept 7.30pm</b>	<b>Blake Morrison</b> explores the loss of his two sisters and sibling relationships in literature		The Ship Theatre, Walthamstow Hall
<b>Friday 29th Sept 7.30pm</b>	<b>Anna Murphy</b> Fashion Director of <i>The Times</i> discusses her ground-breaking book on making the most of life as a grown-up woman		The Ship Theatre, Walthamstow Hall

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SEVENOAKS

[www.sevlitfest.com](http://www.sevlitfest.com)

sevenoaks\_literary\_festival



DATE & TIME	AUTHOR	BOOK	VENUE
<b>Saturday 30th Sept 3pm</b>	<b>Justine Picardie</b> Published to coincide with the V&A blockbuster Chanel exhibition, Justine discusses her definitive biography of a fashion icon		The Assembly Hall, Walthamstow Hall
<b>Saturday 30th Sept 3pm</b>	<b>Mike Brearley</b> One of England's greatest cricket captains discusses his long-awaited memoir		The Ship Theatre, Walthamstow Hall
<b>Saturday 30th Sept 5pm</b>	<b>Daniel Rachel</b> Daniel pulls together unfinished demos, forgotten B-sides and hit solo songs, arguing that together they form the basis of a lost Beatles masterpiece		The Ship Theatre, Walthamstow Hall
<b>Sunday 1st Oct 11.30pm</b>	<b>Madeleine Bunting</b> Exploring more than 40 seaside resorts – including many in Kent – Madeleine tells the story of their rise, heyday and current struggle to reinvent themselves		The Ship Theatre, Walthamstow Hall
<b>Sunday 1st Oct 2.30pm</b>	<b>Linda Grant &amp; Lennie Goodings</b> Award-winning novelist Linda Grant and celebrated publisher Lennie Goodings mark the 50th anniversary of the ground-breaking imprint, Virago		Wilderness House
<b>Monday 2nd Oct 7.30pm</b>	<b>Clive Myrie</b> Journalist, news anchor and presenter Clive Myrie talks about his moving, engaging and revealing memoir		Pamoja Hall, The Space Performing Arts Centre, Sevenoaks School







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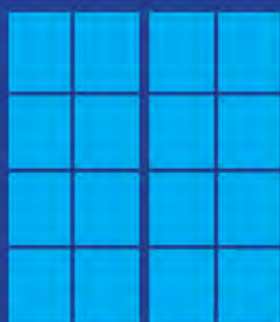
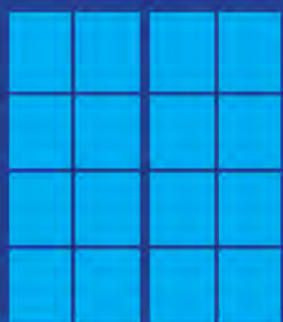
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## SEARCH **STAG SEVENOAKS**



### WHAT'S ON STAGE

**LA BOHÈME**

**NORTHERN SOUL LIVE**

**DECADES OF BOND**

**SPANDAU TOO - SPANDAU BALLET TRIBUTE**

**AN EVENING WITH ADRIAN EDMONDSON**

**OUTSIDE THE BOX COMEDY CLUB - NICK HELM**

**THE CATERPILLAR AND THE BLACKBIRD**

**LAMENT FOR LORCA**

### WHAT'S ON SCREEN

**ALL THE LATEST NEW RELEASES INCLUDING:**

**THE EXPENDABLES 4**

**DUNE II**

**NAPOLEON**

**STAG SELECTED:**

**NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE: A LITTLE LIFE**

**EXHIBITION ON SCREEN: KLIMT AND THE KISS**

**WITH NEW EVENTS ADDED REGULARLY AND THE CINEMA SCHEDULE UPDATED EVERY WEEK**

**THE STAG SEVENOAKS, LONDON ROAD, SEVENOAKS, TN13 1ZZ**



B06

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VALID UNTIL 01/11/23

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SEVENOAKS



# Functions & Facilities provided by Sevenoaks Town Council

## Precept

Sevenoaks Town Council's total revenue budget for the 2023/24 financial year is £1,954,749 per annum. The average Band D house would pay £139.17 per annum equating to £2.68 per week.

## OPEN SPACES & LEISURE

- ALLOTMENTS:  
*Bradbourne Vale Road*  
*Quaker's Hall Lane*
- BETHEL ROAD BURIAL GROUND
- BRITTAINS COMMON
- BRITTAINS LANE WOOD
- GREATNESS RECREATION GROUND
- 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)
- MIDDLEINGS 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)
- BUSINESS HUB
- BUS SHELTERS (*Dartford Road x1, Bradbourne Vale Road x2, London Road x2, Tonbridge Road x1*)
- 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 CLOCKS (*Jubilee Clock Old Market House and Warren Clock above Brewers*)
  - PUBLIC SEATS IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS
  - PUBLIC TOILETS (*The Stag, The Vine, Lower St Johns, Greatness Recreation Ground*)
  - SEVENOAKS TOWN TEAM  
[sevenoakspartnership.org](http://sevenoakspartnership.org)
  - 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
  - YOUTH COUNCIL [sevenoaksyouthcouncil.com](http://sevenoaksyouthcouncil.com)
- ## COMMUNITY EVENTS
- CHRISTMAS ILLUMINATIONS IN TOWN
  - CIVIC FUNCTIONS
  - VINE BANDSTAND/FREE SUMMER CONCERTS

## Town Councillors 2023-2027

NAME	PARTY	NAME	PARTY
EASTERN WARD		ST JOHNS WARD	
Cllr L Ancrum	Liberal Democrat	Cllr S Camp	Liberal Democrat
Cllr A S Clayton	Liberal Democrat	Cllr P Dixon	Liberal Democrat
Cllr S Layne	Liberal Democrat	Cllr D Skinner OBE	Liberal Democrat
KIPPINGTON WARD		TOWN WARD	
Cllr C Daniell	Liberal Democrat	Cllr V Granville	Liberal Democrat
Cllr C Gustard	Liberal Democrat	Cllr L Michaelides	Liberal Democrat
Cllr N Varley	Liberal Democrat	Cllr G Willis	Liberal Democrat
NORTHERN WARD		WILDERNESSE WARD	
Cllr Dr M Canet	Liberal Democrat	Cllr N Wightman	Liberal Democrat
Cllr L O'Hara	Liberal Democrat	To contact a Sevenoaks Town Councillor, please use the following email format: Cllr.surname@sevenoakstown.gov.uk eg. to contact Councillor Ancrum, the email address would be: Cllr.Ancrum@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:

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

