



Scan the QR
code to read this
edition on your
smartphone or
tablet



From Sevenoaks Town Council for the community of Sevenoaks

Spring 2023

From the Mayor of Sevenoaks, Councillor Mrs Rachel Parry

After celebrating Christmas, the Town Council has been continuing its vital work for the residents of Sevenoaks; including providing a "warm space" on Monday mornings at the Bat & Ball station, distributing the many, many donated warm coats and continuing to make Sevenoaks a formally recognised Town of Sanctuary.

Since the beginning of the New Year my consort and I have visited various places, including the Chinese School which hires rooms at Walthamstow School at weekends, teaching local people Mandarin. The occasion was to celebrate the Chinese New Year, the year of the Rabbit.



We also went to the Stag theatre to watch the annual Chance to Dance event, with pupils from 3 years old to 16. A really joyous occasion which filled every seat in the Stag theatre.

Recently we went to St. Thomas's School, to talk to the year 5 class about how the Town Council worked and what a Mayor did. There were some searching questions about how local democracy worked and how the pupils could become involve in the Town's Youth Town Council. The class also wanted to know what was the best thing about being Mayor and I told them it was meeting so many different people in many places and especially promoting Sevenoaks as one of the very best places in which to live, work and visit and also to go to school. I was also asked where was I born and what was my favourite food.



That afternoon we went to a care home to join in the celebrations of a resident's 100th birthday, with her friends, and a delicious cake!

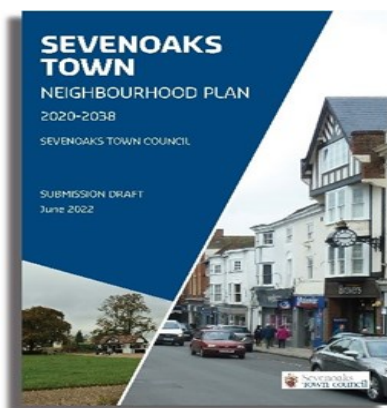
So from 9 and 10 year olds to 90 and 100 year olds all in one day. Such variety.



In these strained economic times your Town Council has been required to prepare a budget for the coming municipal year which starts in April, this includes setting a precept, ie the Council Tax. Your Town Council has worked hard to continue to provide facilities and services while also continuing to serve the citizens of Sevenoaks. Despite inflation being in double figures and the cost of essential equipment, power and other commodities etc soaring, the Council has applied the lowest possible increase to the Council Tax. For next year a Band D household's tax will be £139.17 an increase of £ 6.50 which is 13 pence per week.

The additional good news is that the most recent forecast states that the UK is likely to avoid a recession and thus we may, with hope, look forward to the best possible year ahead.

Cllr Rachel Parry,
Mayor.



SEVENOAKS TOWN **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

After many years of consultation and voluntary work there is now the chance for Sevenoaks residents to have a vote on the future of their town.

The Referendum Date for the 1st Sevenoaks Neighbourhood Plan will be 4th May 2023 (alongside local elections)

Sevenoaks Town Council has worked with the local community for several years in creating a Sevenoaks Town Neighbourhood Plan (STNP) and we are grateful to the many residents who have given their time voluntarily to progress the Plan. The benefits of which have been outlined in [this document](#).

The Mayor of Sevenoaks, Cllr Rachel Parry said: *“Last Thursday Sevenoaks District Council unanimously agreed that the Sevenoaks Town Council’s STNP will provide a great deal of protection for our town’s buildings and new developments. When speaking of the Plan Cllr Peter Fleming spoke warmly of the excellent co-operation between the District and Town Council. The District Council unanimously voted for the arrangements for the Sevenoaks Town Neighbourhood Plan (STNP) to be the subject of a public referendum on 4th May this year. The STNP has been the subject of extensive consultation throughout the town, led by our Town Council, and in its final form received strong support and praise from His Majesty’s Planning Inspector.*

The Independent Examiner’s Report on the Sevenoaks Town Neighbourhood Development Plan was received in December 2022 and was one of the final stages of the Plan’s progression towards Referendum. The Inspector required some minor modifications which related to emphasis and clarity on matters within the document which have been adopted alongside any of the minor amendment suggestions received during public consultation that have been agreed to be relevant.

The Independent Planning Examiner provides the following overview of the STNP and positive comments including below:

Overview: “It is evident that significant effort has been invested in the preparation of the STNP and the resultant document is well presented and clear. The identification of potential and allocated development sites and the identification of constraints and opportunities for those sites, will undoubtedly help in future decision making process. It is clear to me that the implementation of the policies in the STNP (as modified) will secure the realisation of the Town Council’s Vision and that Sevenoaks will retain its attractive characteristics while at the same time ensuring that a sustainable future is achieved.

- “All proposals [...] will **enhance the sustainability credentials** of the town” (4.33)
- “Improvements **would enhance the pedestrian experience in the town centre**” and “ensure that the **character of Sevenoaks is retained and improved**” (4.34)

- The implementation of Policies E1, E3 and E4, which concern the local economy, “will be of **benefit to local businesses and the wider community**” (4.37)
- Policy D5, relating to development, “clearly sets out the broad approach to providing **energy efficient homes which minimise environmental impact**”, and all “policies (as modified) relating to Development and Housing contribute to the achievement of **sustainable development**” (4.53 and 4.55)

If successful at Referendum the community of Sevenoaks will have created a Sevenoaks Town Neighbourhood Plan (STNP) which once formally adopted will be used to determine local planning applications and will carry the same weight as Local Plan policies.

Sevenoaks Town Council would like to acknowledge and thank members of the Steering Committee who contributed towards the completion of the Sevenoaks Town Neighbourhood Plan resulting in positive feedback from the Planning Inspector and ultimately a Plan for the benefit of the town.

Full copy of the Independent Examiner’s Report is available via [this link](#), and the full Submission.

Draft of the NDP including schedule of its amendments as well as its supporting documents are available via [this link](#).



Sevenoaks Town Council’s portable Speed Indicator Device:

Sevenoaks Town Council has invested in a portable Speed Indicator Device to be installed and periodically moved between three locations within Sevenoaks Town, with Bradbourne Vale Road to first host the Speed Indicator Device between 15th February 2023 until 7th June 2023. The purpose of this device is to reinforce the 30mph speed limit in roads near schools which have been identified by the Town Councillors as being especially prone to speeding.

The three locations, which were publicly consulted on between 9th March 2022-20th April 2022, are as follows:

- **Bradbourne Vale Road near the entrance to the riding school**
- **St Johns Hill near Holly Bush Lane**
- **Brittains Lane near Beaconfields**

The device will be circulated between the three sites every 16 weeks, with the direction in which it faces to be changed every 8 weeks. This is in order to comply with traffic sign regulations, and also has the added benefit of limiting the effects of “sign blindness”. Also known as “inattentive blindness”, this can occur when a driver sees the same traffic signs every day, and therefore stops being as aware of and adhering to them.

Delivering, protecting and enhancing community facilities

within a Green Community Investment Plan

Sevenoaks Town Council has made investing in the local environment and making Sevenoaks greener its number one priority. The Town Council's overall aim is to put in place affordable and practical initiatives with long term green benefits for the local community and to support and encourage residents to pursue individually. For more details, please review the Green Community Investment Plan at www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk

Sevenoaks Town Council operates and looks after a wide range of community facilities including allotments, bus shelters, cemetery, community halls, public open spaces and play areas for a full list see www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk

Sevenoaks Town Council also remains committed to assisting local voluntary groups who do so much for the town. This is achieved by offering grants and practical support where possible.

For any organisation to operate effectively it needs a sound budget. The past couple of financial years have been difficult for most and with the current concerns over the 'cost of living' including utility costs, there are expected to be continued financial pressures in the forthcoming year. Please see overleaf for figures relating to Sevenoaks Town Council Budget for 2023 - 2024.

Average Band D home contributes

£139.17

per annum/
£2.68 per week

Some of the functions and facilities the Town Council provides

(For full details see www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk)

7 Play areas



£53k

Grants to local
organisations



Climate change
initiatives



Youth cafe
& Youth Council

17 public
open spaces

2 Allotment
sites



Litter bins
& litter collecting
Public toilets
Cemetery
Bus shelters

11 Sports pitches



Floral displays
& Christmas lights

Community events
Markets
Public seats

6 Community
buildings

Where does the £1,954,749 Sevenoaks Town Council budget come from?

ANNUAL PRECEPT

£1,370,074

70% of the budget comes from the domestic ratepayer's precept (council tax). The Town Council does not receive any portion of business rates or government grants.

INCOME FROM SERVICES

£510,433

26% of the budget comes from fees and services such as community halls, sports pitches, markets, cemetery, and cafes

RESERVES

£74,242

4% of the budget will be from Town Council's reserves. £94,242 will be taken from HLF dedicated reserves to support Bat & Ball Station project during initial years of opening. This is offset by £20,000 budget put into revenue reserves.

Wherever possible the Town Council aims to provide community facilities at the lowest cost possible to reduce the burden on the taxpayer. At the same time providing the facilities that the community wants and needs. This is often achieved by volunteers assisting in this for which the Town Council continues to remain grateful.

There are some facilities which are not commercially viable including maintenance of public open spaces and play areas and youth facilities, these do not generate income as they are free for public use.

What will it cost per average household (Band D)?

COMMUNITY SERVICES	ADMINISTRATION & FACILITATION	COMMUNITY INVESTMENT	LOCAL REPRESENTATION
Public Open Space – £431k (net cost £371k)	Council Administration £485k (net cost £456k)	Public Works Loan – £72k	Planning Consultation – £28k
Community Events – £67k (net cost £49k)	Council Offices – £76k (net cost £64k)	Contingency – £66k	Democracy costs (including elections) – £20k
Cemetery – £136k (net cost £61k)	IT – £33k	Local Grants to voluntary organisations – £53k	Total £48k (2%)
Community Venues – £364k (net cost £102k)	Insurance – £19k	Total £191k (10%)	
Markets – £44k (net income £6k)	Professional Fees – £16k		
Youth Provision – £45k (net cost £40k)	Total £629k Net Cost £588k (32%)		
Total £1,087k Net Cost £617k (56%)			



Total Annual Revenue Budget £1,954,749

Annual Cost per Household (Band D) £139.17 per year / £2.68 per week

An increase of £6.50 per year / 13 pence per week = 4.9% compared to 2022-2023

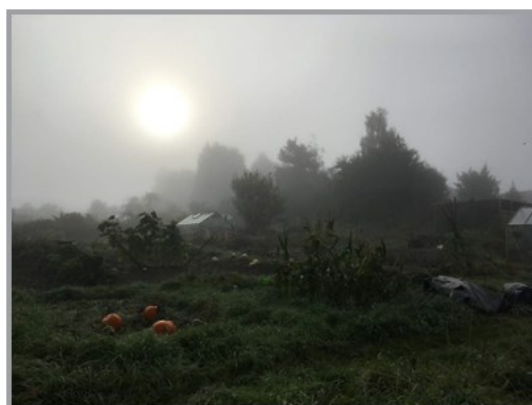
Allotments available in Sevenoaks!

Imagine picking your own sun-kissed strawberries. How about sweet corn picked fresh and cooked just minutes later? Salad? You can have lettuce in June – and in January. Do you make your own jam? It tastes a lot better than store-bought and better still when made with fruit from bushes you have lovingly tended yourself. As do freshly dug potatoes and fresh brassicas, which could provide part of your five-a-day throughout the winter.



If this appeals to you, have you thought about having your own allotment? We currently have vacancies at the Quaker's Hall Allotments in Sevenoaks.

Of course, having your own allotment requires time and effort and, like any farmer, you will sometimes battle with elements, be it the 'beast from the east' or the scorching summer of 2022. But the rewards of hard work and patience can be considerable, and you will have the pleasure of working with nature in a beautiful environment where many of the plots offer stunning views of the North Downs.



For families, the allotments provide the ideal opportunity for little ones to engage with the natural environment and discover where some their food comes from; and that hard work in the fresh air also brings health benefits for young and old alike.

With many experienced growers on site, you will also find that help and advice are never far away. Supplies are available at very reasonable prices from the allotment Trading Centre every Sunday, which is where volunteers from Sevenoaks Allotment Holders' Association (SAHA), are on-hand to answer your questions.

Whether you are an experienced gardener or a novice, you can soon become part of the allotment community. Get to know your neighbours at SAHA's monthly Mug & Muffin mornings (throughout the main growing season), at the Solstice Tea or at the annual Apple Day. What's not to love about that?

Interested? Contact Ruth at allotments@sevenoakstown.gov.uk and experience the rewards of allotment gardening.

Sevenoaks in Bloom 2023

Would you like to make Sevenoaks a greener place? We welcome volunteers with and without gardening experience. We would love to hear from you. Please email dtc@sevenoakstown.gov.uk



NEW!

Forget-me-not Cafés



Companionship over a cuppa



Come and join us on the
following Wednesdays in 2022/23

**14th Dec, 11th Jan, 8th Feb,
8th Mar, 12th Apr, 10th May, 14th June
10am – 12pm**

The café is free to attend, you will enjoy refreshments, activities
and a friendly welcome!

If you require personal assistance please come accompanied by
your carer.

If you have serious food allergies please contact us before
attending.

**Bat & Ball Station
Bat & Ball Road
Sevenoaks
TN14 5AP**



Follow us on

@batandballstation
 @BatandBallTrain

Find out more about
Forget-me-not cafes

www.forgetmenotcafe.org.uk

HOUSE IN THE Basement

YOUTH CAFE FOR AGES 11-18

GAMES

FREE WIFI

INTERNET CAFE

POOL

CHESS

FOOD & DRINK

CHILL OUT

INFO & SUPPORT

OPENING HOURS:

Tuesday: 5pm - 8pm [SEN CLUB]

Wednesday & Friday: 4pm - 8pm

Saturday: 2pm - 8pm

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

AVAILABLE
FOR HIRE

In the Basement of the

STAG COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE
London Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1ZZ

01732 466 593

info@houseinthebasement.co.uk

@houseinbasement
 houseinthebasement



Coronation of King Charles III Celebrations

Plans for community events to celebrate the Coronation of the new King and Queen Consort in May 2023 are underway. The Coronation will take place on Saturday 6 May at Westminster Abbey.

- **Sunday 7 May The Big Lunch Celebrations**
- **Monday 8 May The Big Help Out**

If you are a local organisation or group who are putting on a community event or have a specific project in mind to mark this special occasion in our history, we would love to hear from you.

We will be happy to help spread the word about your project/event and ideas to commemorate the occasion. Please email council@sevenoakstown.gov.uk to share your plans with us as soon as possible so we can spread the word. We would also love to hear from businesses and volunteers if you would like to volunteer to help with The Big Lunch Celebration in Sevenoaks High Street.



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
- 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
- CAFÉ ON THE VINE 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
 - 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 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 x1, Bradbourne Vale Road x2, London Road x2, 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	
Cllr A S Clayton	Liberal Democrat	Cllr S Camp	Liberal Democrat
Cllr T Morris Brown	Liberal Democrat	Cllr R M C Hogarth	Conservative
Cllr L Ancrum	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 Dr 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 Eyre, the email address would be: Cllr.eyre@sevenoakstown.gov.uk	
Cllr C Shea	Liberal Democrat		

Town Clerk/Chief Executive:

Linda Larter MBE:

townclerk@sevenoakstown.gov.uk

Deputy Town Clerk:

Ann White:

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

