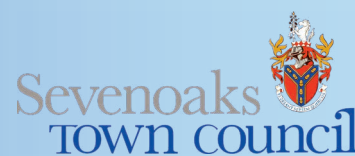


# Sevenoaks TownCrier



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tablet



From Sevenoaks Town Council for the community of Sevenoaks

Winter 2023

## From the Mayor of Sevenoaks, Councillor Claire Shea

Happy New Year from your Town Council!

I hope that you all were able to enjoy a happy and healthy break and are ready for whatever 2024 brings us.

December brought great news as we secured funding of £787,500 from the Community Infrastructure Board in partnership with **Sevenoaks Town Football Club**, for the long hoped-for new stadium and facilities for Greatness. The Town Council has committed a further £87,500 towards the prestigious facility. The scheme has been designed by the Club to allow them to play at higher levels as they continue to grow, and we are delighted that the project can progress to the next stage, which is to apply for Football Foundation funding and obtain tenders for the works. I am confident that this new, beautifully designed facility will be a great asset for the club and the town, making Greatness recreation ground a better destination for us all. It is part of a wider scheme for improvements there, including new play facilities in the planning stages. Further CIL funds were granted to Kent Wildlife Trust to refurbish the **nature reserve visitor centre**, which will be a great addition to the north of the town.

Also at Greatness are the newly **refurbished skateboard ramps**. I was delighted to open them, although I am not quite sure how I was persuaded to get onto a skateboard in full mayoral regalia! Fortunately for me, the large numbers of young people there were far more interested in the professional skateboard demonstrations happening on the hugely improved ramps.



The months before Christmas are busy for us all, and I would like to give you a flavour of some of the events which happen in our community. In addition to the Christmas lights switch on, I had the pleasure of attending concerts by **Sevenoaks Symphony Orchestra**, **Sevenoaks Philharmonic Choir** and quite a number of school and community carol concerts, all of them joyful. I judged

**Christmas windows** on the High Street with Dawn Blee of the Chamber of Commerce, and bumped into Father Christmas at several school fairs and even at the Bradbourne Lakes. Two particular events were new: firstly, a Christmas party for families and volunteers with **Sevenoaks Welcomes Refugees** was a lovely afternoon of children's entertainment, delicious food and good company. And in November, the **first ever Diwali event** was held at Bat and Ball Centre, with more great food, great company, and an even better children's talent show.



Looking ahead to 2024, Sevenoaks Town Council is building on the Sevenoaks Town Neighbourhood Plan to create a **masterplan** for Sevenoaks town centre, so that we can make sure that the aspirations of the plan can be delivered. This will link in to the District Council's Local Plan process and become part of the 'evidence base' for that work.

I will close with mention of the two charities which I am supporting. Thank you to everyone who supported **Sevenoaks Larder's food drive** before Christmas, I know how much it was appreciated. If you know anyone who might benefit from the food bank, it is a simple self-referral process with six months of unquestioning support. They are an amazing group of people, determined to help their neighbours with dignity and positivity.

And, finally, Sevenoaks Welcomes Refugees will be holding their **annual concert** this year at the **Stag Theatre** on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2024. They have a great line up of entertainment in the evening, and a children's show during the day. This is SWR's biggest fundraiser in the year, please do support them and enjoy the show!

Councillor Claire Shea  
Mayor of Sevenoaks





## Rheinbach – our twin town in Germany



The Friends of Rheinbach was formed in 1995 to develop a friendly twinning relationship with Rheinbach, a town of similar size in Germany



You do not need to speak German to become a member of the Friend of Rheinbach but by joining you will benefit from:

- Making new friends with a common interest in Germany
- Attending at least three social events each year
- The possibility every other year of visiting Rheinbach, establishing and renewing friendships there
- Enjoying in alternate years the visit from our friends in Rheinbach and participating in the organised events for the visit

Joining the Friends of Rheinbach could not be easier: just go to our website and click on 'Join' to access a very simple membership form or use 'Contact' to get in touch.

Learn more about us and the town of Rheinbach at:

<http://www.friends-of-rheinbach.org.uk>



## Volunteers Needed for Sevenoaks Summer Festival 2024

**Saturday 22 June to Sunday 7 July  
2024.**

The Festival needs more helpers to share the organisational, administrative and promotional tasks not only during the Festival, but also from now onwards to make it happen.

Please get in touch if you can help ...

Message Ray Russell

[chairman@sevenoaksfestival.org.uk](mailto:chairman@sevenoaksfestival.org.uk)

or '**Contact us**' on the website


[www.sevenoaksfestival.org.uk](http://www.sevenoaksfestival.org.uk)



# Sevenoaks Markets


Great products every week!  
Every Wednesday & Saturday  
9am - 4pm

Buckhurst Lane - Sevenoaks High St - Bligh's Walk  
(Wednesday) (Saturday) (Saturday)




## sevenoaks business hub

Rentable. Flexible. Simple. Office space



We've thought of every detail to support your productivity and well-being. So, why not give your business, old or new, what it needs? Enquire today!



sevenoaks  
business  
hub







# SEVENOAKS CLIMATE FAIR

**SATURDAY 4TH MAY**  
SEVENOAKS VINE GARDENS  
TN13 3SU

**EVERYONE WELCOME!**  
STALLS, ACTIVITIES, ENTERTAINMENT,  
FOOD & DRINK & MORE!

COME ALONG TO LEARN HOW TO  
"GREEN YOUR LIFE"

SAVE THE DATE  
(AND THE PLANET!)

**FREE ENTRY**





## 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 three surgeries will be at:

### SEVENOAKS TOWN COUNCILLORS PUBLIC SURGERIES

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

Town Councillors will be available for regular Public Surgeries at the Bat & Ball Community Centre Cramptons Road, TN14 5DN.  
At Cafe on the Vine Dartford Road TN13 3SU.  
At House in the Basement Youth Cafe at the Stag TN13 1ZZ.

Saturday 13th January 2024	10am - 12pm	Meeting Room, Bat & Ball Centre
Saturday 10th February 2024	10am - 12pm	Cafe On the Vine
Saturday 9th March 2024	10am - 12pm	Meeting Room, Bat & Ball Centre
Saturday 13th April 2024	10am - 12pm	House In the Basement at the Stag
Saturday 11th May 2024	10am - 12pm	Meeting Room, Bat & Ball Centre

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.



# Sevenoaks Quarry Delivering for Sevenoaks

In the summer Tarmac's exciting proposals to redevelop the Sevenoaks Quarry received a resolution by Sevenoaks District Council to grant outline planning permission.

This will not only deliver new and affordable homes, but also community facilities, environmental benefits and much-needed improvements to infrastructure.

## Our work with the community is only just beginning.

Tarmac is now working with the community to understand what the residents of Sevenoaks would like to see in the Reserved Matters applications.



Jo Brookbank from the Seal Scout Group with Michaela Kekerl, Development Manager from Tarmac on site after confirmation that the Seal Scout Group would have a permanent future on the site after Tarmac identified a barn for them to use.

## Find out more!

Visit our website by scanning the QR code or by going to [www.sevenoaks.tarmac.com](http://www.sevenoaks.tarmac.com)



Have a question? Please do get in touch:

Call 0203 3706 735 or email [georgekup@meeting-place.uk](mailto:georgekup@meeting-place.uk)



## BAT & BALL STATION PRESENTS *All Aboard!* Heritage Talks

*Delve into heritage and history with us, presented by a selection of historians, authors, and lecturers. All set within our Grade II listed Bat & Ball Station!*

*'Suffragettes of Kent'*  
by Local Kent Author Jennifer Godfrey

29th February 2024  
6pm-7:30pm  
Tickets FREE

Get your free ticket by registering through the QR code.  
Or pick up a free ticket at Bat and Ball Station cafe or Sevenoaks Town Council Offices

Location: Bat & Ball Station, Sevenoaks, TN14 5AP



Events at Bat & Ball Station

## Forget-me-not Cafes



*Companionship over a cuppa*



**Bat & Ball Station, TN14 5AP**

**10:30am - 12:30pm**

Please note we've changed our dates to run every **last** Wednesday of the month!

### Dates for 2024

- 31st January - History of Bat & Ball Station
- 28th February - Sevenoaks Reserve History by Kent Wildlife Trust
- 27th March - History of Chartwell by Chartwell National Trust
- 24th April - River Hill Gardens History by Jane Rogers
- 29th May - 'Doodle Bugs come to Sevenoaks' talk by Bob Ogley

There is free parking at Bat & Ball Community Centre or free Blue Badge parking in the Station carpark.

Any queries please contact Iona Green  
[iono@sevenoakstown.gov.uk](mailto:iono@sevenoakstown.gov.uk)  
01732 459953





**THE MAYOR OF SEVENOAKS, COUNCILLOR CLAIRE SHEA**

**INVITES YOU TO THE MAYOR'S...**

# **QUIZ Night!**

**SATURDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024**

**7:00PM FOR 7:30PM START**

**BAT & BALL CENTRE, OTFORD ROAD, SEVENOAKS, TN14 5DN**

To Book your seats please call or email:

01732 459953- [office@sevenoakstown.gov.uk](mailto:office@sevenoakstown.gov.uk)

Sevenoaks Town Council, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks TN13 3QG



All Proceeds of the evening go to:  
Sevenoaks Welcomes Refugees  
&  
Sevenoaks Larder



## **DOUBLE SPECTACULAR FUNDRAISER EVENT!**

**STAG THEATRE, SEVENOAKS**  
SATURDAY 27 APRIL 2024

**10:30 am - 12:00 noon**  
"Our Little House"

Children's event with **Captain Fantastic**  
Adults £10, children £5 (all children to be accompanied by an adult). For primary school age children.

**7:00 - 10:00 pm**  
"Our House"

Concert featuring **Squeeze A Crowd & Elektra Violins**

Adult £21, child u18 £10, refugees free.  
Adult + contribution for a refugee ticket £31

Tickets ON SALE NOW from the Stag.  
Stag Theatre made available to SWR by the Mayor of Sevenoaks, Cllr Claire Shea



## **First Meeting of the New Youth Council for 2023-2025**

On Wednesday the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2023 young people from across Sevenoaks Town gathered for the first Annual meeting of the Sevenoaks Youth Council since the elections that were held in September.

At the start of the meeting the Youth Councillors were welcomed by the Mayor of Sevenoaks Councillor Claire Shea. During the welcome she stated that she could not wait to see what the Youth Council would achieve in the next two years and looked forward to working with them on future projects.

During the meeting a vote was held to decide the Chair, Vice-Chair and Treasurer for the year. The outcome was Aanya was voted as the Chair with Niki as Vice-Chair and Simba as Treasurer.

Following this the Youth Council held a workshop to discuss ideas for activities in the Sevenoaks Town. it was noted from this workshop that Mental Health was one of the key themes. It was also suggested that more could be done for the promotion of local sports clubs and mentoring schemes.

For more details please contact: leuan Chandler-Wilson [Youthwork@sevenoakstown.gov.uk](mailto:Youthwork@sevenoakstown.gov.uk)



## **PRESS RELEASE: SEVENOAKS TOWN COUNCIL SUBMITS INTENTION TO BID ON ANCIENT WOODLAND IN EFFORT TO PROTECT A LOCAL ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE**

Following notification from the landowners of Longspring Woods, Oak Lane, of their intention to sell the large parcel of ancient woodland located in the Green Belt and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Sevenoaks Town Council has now submitted an Intention to Bid in order to protect the land as an Asset of Community Value. This was agreed at the Town Council meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023—the Minutes of which can be viewed on the Town Council's website under Committees.

### **What does this mean?**

Registering the Council's intention to bid does not constitute an obligation for the Town Council to submit a bid and buy the land, nor does it obligate the landowner from selling to the Town Council. Rather, it extends the period by which the landowner must delay sale on the open market, in order to allow community organisations time to prepare a bid and business plan for how it would purchase and maintain the land.



Further information will be made available in the New Year 2024.

Please direct any queries to Georgie Elliston via [planning@sevenoakstown.gov.uk](mailto:planning@sevenoakstown.gov.uk)



# STAG • SCREEN • COMMUNITY

THE STAG IS A NOT-FOR-PROFIT CHARITY

Box Office 01732 450175

[www.stagsevenoaks.co.uk](http://www.stagsevenoaks.co.uk)



## SEARCH STAG SEVENOAKS



**SEVENOAKS ENTERTAINERS  
PRESENT**

### FEBRUARY FUN THIS HALF TERM



**SILLY BILLY'S SUNDAY FUNDAY**

11<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

1:30pm & 3:30pm



**PANTO SCHOOL**

12<sup>TH</sup> - 16<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

10am - 5pm



**CHILDRENS MAGIC SPECTACULAR**

17<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

2pm



25<sup>TH</sup> - 28<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

**NATIONAL  
THEATRE  
LIVE:  
VANYA**



22<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY

**EXHIBITION  
ON SCREEN:  
PAINTING THE  
MODERN GARDEN**



27<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY  
3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH

### FREE HOT DRINK OR POPCORN

**STAG  
SEVENOAKS**

ENJOY A FREE HOT DRINK  
OR SMALL POPCORN ON  
PRODUCTION OF THIS VOUCHER  
AND A VALID THEATRE OR CINEMA TICKET.



BOA

VALID UNTIL 01/03/24

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



## 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
- BRITAINS COMMON
- BRITAINS 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)
- 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 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:

[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)

