

# Town Clerk's Update

Council news and information from Sevenoaks Town Clerk, Linda Larter MBE



26 September 2025

## Town Centre Masterplan – public consultation

**Deadline for responses is 30 September!**

### Give your views on the Draft Town Centre Masterplan

The key purpose of the Masterplan is to set out a clear vision - informed and endorsed by local people - of what future development should look like within the Town. This includes:

-  **1** Design guidance - how can it be attractive and user friendly?
-  **2** It will look at enhancements to cultural attractions &
-  **3** Improvements to the pedestrian environment for those walking around the town streets & different areas
-  **4** It will look at options for changing traffic management in the town centre
- 5** And greener infrastructure (like trees and planting) to enhance the biodiversity of the area.

Go to the Consultation page of our website: [www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk](http://www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk) or use QR code to go to survey




We continue to consult on the Town Centre Masterplan up to the end of September.

This is an important consultation wide ranging from how the town centre looks in the future to options to consider for changing traffic routes whether one way or potentially pedestrian areas.

Complete our survey to give your feedback on the plan on [our website](http://www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk).

## Knitted poppies for remembrance day



In previous years, Sevenoaks has displayed knitted red poppies (also purple poppies in remembrance of animals) around the exterior of the Vine, leading up to Remembrance Day. We welcome donations of these. The knitting pattern is below:

### Poppy Knitting Pattern

Cast on 60 stitches. Work 8 rows in Knit 2, Purl 2.

Next row Knit 2 together, repeat until end.

Next row – slip 2 stitches, knit 1, Passover. Past wool through remaining stitches, pull and fasten.

Sew a black button or embroider with black or green thread in the centre.

# Have your say on the transfer of community assets



The government's plans for Local Government Reorganisation are moving forward as the government says, 'At Pace'. Sevenoaks Town Council are not involved in the future of Kent County Council or Sevenoaks District Council, this is for them to agree plans with the government. However, the Town Council is very concerned about the future of local community assets which makes living, working and visiting Sevenoaks the town it is.



The Town Council already operates many community facilities but there are some which belong to Sevenoaks District Council and the concern is that when the District Council ceases to exist, these assets will automatically move to a new Unitary Authority who will be a considerable distance away and is likely to be overwhelmed with social care responsibilities and unable to have the capacity to worry about local parks or markets etc in Sevenoaks.

The Town Council is seeking feedback in a survey from local residents on this matter. The survey can be found at [https://www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk/\\_VirDir/CoreContents/News/Display.aspx?id=76535](https://www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk/_VirDir/CoreContents/News/Display.aspx?id=76535) or paper copies can be collected from the Town Council's office.



The top requested assets for transfer are currently:

1. Stag
2. Hollybush Recreation Ground
3. Land at High Street – Market Rights
4. Bradbourne Lakes
5. Land at Bradbourne Vale Road (Horses Field)
6. The Shambles

## Sevenoaks Town Council team

This week we say goodbye to two members of staff. Adele, who has been working for us part time on inputting digital data for the Cemetery. We wish her every happiness as she makes more time for herself. Helen kindly stayed on for six months to enable the smooth transition of our new Community Engagement Manager, Lily, and for extensive community engagement relating to Britain in Bloom – again we wish her the very best for the future.





# Sevenoaks Literary Festival

Sevenoaks Town Council is delighted to be the main sponsor of the Sevenoaks Literary Festival.

There are many exciting events taking place which can be viewed at:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/sevenoaks-literary-festival-2025>



## Sevenoaks Business Awards

It is good to see that so many businesses, new and well established, have been nominated for the 2025 Sevenoaks Business Awards.

There is one Award which is voted on by the public – Customer Choice and this will commence soon.

The Awards Evening takes place on 14 November at the Bat & Ball Centre, these evenings are always a joyful occasion celebrating these businesses successes and hard work.

The guest speaker this year will be Jenny Ryan who is an English quizzer, singer, and television personality, best known as one of the six chasers (The Vixen) on the ITV game show The Chase.



## Lilia's Kitchen at Bat & Ball Station Café

Lilia's Kitchen will start at the Bat & Ball Station Café on 1 October. There will be exciting offers available in the near future for local residents.



## Youth Council

Sevenoaks Youth Council members are 11-18 year old and have a two year term, which is currently up for renewal. The Youth Councillors:

- Represent the views of young people in Sevenoaks
- Attend regular Youth Council meetings
- Organise events and campaigns
- Collaborate on community projects
- Work alongside local leaders and councillors
- Develop confidence, leadership and teamwork skills.
- Assist with the development of the House in the Basement Youth café

We have had an amazing response, over 70 to date this year, from young people who want to join the Youth Council. We are going to permit all of those who meet the criteria to be involved creating a larger Youth Council / Youth Forum. We are genuinely pleased that so many young people are showing an interest in their community and local government.

For more information visit: [sevenoaksyouthcouncil.weebly.com](http://sevenoaksyouthcouncil.weebly.com)

## Free after-school peer mentoring

We are pleased that current Youth Councillors have offered to give up their own free time to assist other young people with homework. We hope this initiative is successful.

## Free after-school peer mentoring

5.30pm - 6.30pm

Every Friday from 03/10 onwards

Ages 11-16

No booking or commitment necessary,  
just come along

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House in the Basement  
London Rd, Sevenoaks TN13 1ZZ

HELP IN ALL SUBJECTS WITH  
HOMEWORK AND EXAMS



## My meetings this week were:

- Planning & Environment Committee\*
- Greatness Pavilion Project Team Meeting
- Bradbourne Rebound Project Meeting
- NALC – Beyond the Precept Webinar
- STC Internal meeting re Christmas Lights Switch On
- BID Development Steering Group
- International Institute of Municipal Clerks
- SDC Officers – Community Asset Transfers

All of Sevenoaks Town Council's Meetings\* are open to the public and available to watch live on YouTube, see [www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk](http://www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk) for details.

I was also a speaker at a NALC event, [Beyond the Precept: Exploring alternative income sources](#) on 24 September, which 356 people attended.

## Save the date

Visit our events page for more information: [www.tinyurl.com/STCNewsEvents](http://www.tinyurl.com/STCNewsEvents)

Date	Event	Venue
Friday 26th September	Sevenoaks Literary Festival begins	Various
Saturday 4th October	Vegan Food Festival	Vine
Sunday 9th November	Remembrance Service	War Memorial
Saturday 29th November	Christmas Lights Switch-On	High Street

I am in the final year of my voluntary role as a Board Director of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. As part of this I will be attending the VVG (Dutch Clerks) Conference next week – so please note no update will be produced.

Wishing you all a good weekend.  
Linda

