



Town Clerk's Update

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



28 November 2025

Youth Council



Every two years we invite nominations from 16 young people to become Sevenoaks Youth Councillors. This year we had 80 apply, so we decided to let them all join. It is going to be an interesting couple of years which started Wednesday evening with workshopping their ideas.



The Chair of the new Youth Council is Aryana Mahdavi Ardestani, who has been a Youth Councillor previously.

Sevenoaks Christmas Lights Switch-On

Thank you to our star level sponsors:

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The poster is for the Sevenoaks Christmas Lights Switch-On event. It features a green background with white snowflakes. At the top, it says 'Sevenoaks TOWN COUNCIL' with a crest. Below that, 'CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON' is written in large, bold letters. The date and time are 'Saturday 29 November 3:00 pm to 5:30 pm'. It also mentions 'Lights switch-on at 4:30 pm' and 'Road closure from 1:30 pm to 7:00 pm'. At the bottom, there are three circular ornaments: one with 'With the cast of... ALADDIN', one with 'Santa's Grotto' and a picture of Santa, and one with 'Elsa, Anna & Olaf' and a picture of the Frozen characters. The bottom text says 'Enjoy live music, stage entertainment, fairground rides, Santa's Grotto, gift and food stalls, and much more!'.

Nearly all members of STC staff are involved in the arrangements for Saturday's Christmas Lights Switch-On, where we can expect attendance of 6,000 – 10,000 members of the public normally, dependent on weather.

All of the arrangements are mainly coordinated by Alison who we are very grateful to and all other members of staff who undertake being involved in addition to their normal job description.

We are grateful to Town Councillors and volunteers who will be attending on the day. We are also grateful to the business sponsors who have been very generous this year. Viewing all the arrangements it looks as if it will be a great event as normal.

My recent meetings

- Planning & Environment Committee*
- Rail Safety Project Management Meeting
- SDC Liaison Meeting
- Youth Council AGM

*All of Sevenoaks Town Council's Meetings are open to the public and available to watch live on YouTube see our website for details.



Holly Party



Last call to buy Holly Party tickets and start the festive spirit on 5th December at Bat & Ball Centre. There will be with live music from Jonah's Wail and a fantastic food buffet!

Get tickets at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sevenoaks-holly-party-tickets-1510565946409>

Sevenoaks Town Council assets

The Town Council operates a wide variety of assets which need maintenance and improvements from time to time. We are currently managing:

- Vine Pavilion – installation of new skylights: unfortunately this project has been further delayed as the wood under the flat roof covering has been found to be rotten which prevents fixing of the new skylights
- Bat & Ball Centre – installation of solar batteries: now completed
- Buckhurst Play Area – continuing with improving play equipment
- Raleys Car Park – works to address overgrown tree roots
- Rugby Pitches – arranging demonstration to purchase new portable floodlights and seeking tenders for replacement of permanent floodlights
- St John's Hill Car Park public toilets – unfortunately somebody set light to the changing mat in the public toilet which has caused extensive damage and will take some time to repair.



Kent Advice Hub at Bat & Ball

The Kent Advice Hub is a free and confidential video advice service by Citizens Advice, and part-funded by Kent County Council. This is a drop-in service and is another way to get advice (alongside telephone and online services).

Advisers can advise and support people on lots of issues, including benefits, money & debt, energy, housing, consumer rights, family & relationships, and more.



The poster for the Kent Advice Hub features the Citizens Advice logo and the Kent County Council logo. It includes the text 'Kent Advice Hub' and 'Life can be tough We are here to help'. Below this, it states 'Free, confidential advice at your community centre'. A blue banner reads 'Whatever your challenge, don't struggle alone'. Below the banner are four icons representing different areas of support: Benefits (a book), Housing (a key), Energy (a light bulb), and Debts, and more (a credit card). The poster also mentions 'Your local video kiosk' at the 'Bat & Ball Community Centre' on 'Crampton's Road, Sevenoaks, TN14 5DN' from 'Monday to Friday from 10am - 3pm'. It encourages people to 'Need help using our video kiosk?' and to 'Pop in and see our friendly Meet & Greet Assistant for support' every Wednesday from 9:30am - 1pm. At the bottom, it says 'Find out more at: www.kentadvicehub.com'.

Kent Advice Hub

Life can be tough
We are here to help

Free, confidential advice at your community centre

Whatever your challenge, don't struggle alone

Benefits **Housing** **Energy** **Debts, and more**

Your local video kiosk
Bat & Ball Community Centre
Crampton's Road, Sevenoaks, TN14 5DN
Monday to Friday from 10am - 3pm

Need help using our video kiosk?
Pop in and see our friendly
Meet & Greet Assistant for support
Every Wednesday from 9:30am - 1pm

Find out more at: www.kentadvicehub.com

People can drop-in at Bat & Ball Centre between Monday to Friday from 10am to 3pm to access the video kiosk (tablet). During the video call, you will be able to speak with a Citizens Advice adviser.

On Wednesdays between 9:30am and 1pm, there is a Meet & Greet service, where a member of the team will be available to help people make a video call. This service is funded by Sevenoaks Town Council.



Mayor's fundraising activities

Christmas raffles

Each year there is a fundraising raffle of food and drink hampers at the Christmas Council meeting to raise money for the Mayor's chosen charities - Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust and Citizens Advice. Staff also do this separately for their Christmas event, again raising funds for the Mayor's charities.

The Story of Knole Park

Also to fundraise for the Mayor's charities, STC are helping to promote sales of Bob Ogley's new book – The Story of Knole Park – a recommended Christmas Gift! We are holding a Book Launch event at Knole which sold out quickly. Books are also available to purchase at STC offices at £20.

The Story of Knole Park

Bob Ogley



*'I was never frightened of Knole. I loved it and took it for granted that
Knole loved me' - Vita Sackville-West*

Save the date

Visit our events page for more information: www.tinyurl.com/STCNewsEvents

Date	Event	Venue
Saturday 29 November	Christmas Lights Switch-On	High Street
Friday 5 December	Holly Party	Bat & Ball Centre
Wednesday 24 December	Carols at the Bandstand - Vine Baptist Church	Vine Gardens
Saturday 7 February	Mayor's Fundraising Quiz	Bat & Ball Centre

Wishing you a good weekend.
Linda

