



# Town Clerk's Update

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

8 May 2026

## Love Your Local Market event

Sevenoaks Town Council has traditionally supported the national annual 'Love Your Local Market' campaign.

On Saturday 23 May, we will be celebrating Love Your Local Market with live music and rock painting for kids at Bligh's Clocktower.



## New Playground and Outdoor Gym Equipment for Greatness Recreation Ground

We are pleased to report that we are on target for the installation of the new playground and outdoor gym equipment at Greatness Recreation Ground in the autumn following the completion of the pavilion building project.

This month we are holding public consultation both in person at events and online. Additional arrangements have also been made with local school children.

We have already had lots of interesting feedback from young people who will be using the equipment. If you want to let us know your view, please see links below:

Please complete our surveys:

- Plans for New Playground:  
[www.surveymonkey.com/r/J3TP8XV](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/J3TP8XV)
- Plans for New Outdoor Gym:  
[www.surveymonkey.com/r/32J8BSK](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/32J8BSK)

Help choose the design of the **playground** & **outdoor gym** at Greatness Recreation Ground!

Tell us your favourite design for our new **Greatness Recreation Ground Playground**

Pick your favourite from nine options!



Please complete our playground survey with your kids.



[surveymonkey.com/r/J3TP8XV](http://surveymonkey.com/r/J3TP8XV)

Please complete our gym survey.



[surveymonkey.com/r/32J8BSK](http://surveymonkey.com/r/32J8BSK)

Tell us your favourite design for our new **Outdoor Gym** at Greatness Recreation Ground

Pick your favourite from nine options!



## My meetings

My meetings since the last update were:

- BID Project
- Community Asset Committee\*
- Chair & Vice Chair Meeting
- Stag CEO Retirement reception

\*All of Sevenoaks Town Council's main 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.

## Health & Wellness Fair

Join us on the Vine on 30th May, where over 30 local organisations will be there demonstrating opportunities for people to improve their health and wellbeing. Free entry!

Find out more on our website at: [www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk/Health\\_and\\_Wellness\\_52319.aspx](http://www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk/Health_and_Wellness_52319.aspx)



**SEVENOAKS HEALTH & WELLNESS FAIR**

📍 VINE GARDENS, SEVENOAKS TN13 3UH

📅 Saturday 30th May | 🕒 9.30am - 4.00pm

**FREE ENTRY**

**38 exhibitors**  
from a vast range of backgrounds will be there:

- HEALTH PROVIDERS
- SPORTS & ACTIVITIES CLUBS
- SUPPORT SERVICES

- 🏃 Watch Sports & Activities demonstrations and perhaps take a free health check.
- 👨👩👧 A fun-filled event designed to help the whole family live healthier, happier lives!
- 🛍️ View services, activities and products for everyone – from adventurous toddlers to seniors looking for more in life.

**SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE OF ALL AGES!**

An event supported and funded by:

- Sevenoaks Medical Centre (Part of KIMS Hospital)
- Kent County Council
- BETTER BODY GROUP
- especially health STORE
- Sevenoaks town council



## Bat & Ball Station – Ticket Machines

We were disappointed to learn that the ticket machines at Bat & Ball Station are due to be removed. Please see below communication from Southeastern regarding this matter:

“We fully recognise the importance of inclusive access to ticket retailing, particularly at unstaffed stations such as Bat & Ball, and we understand the removal of the TVM from platform one will be of concern. The decision to reduce the number of TVMs at this station, and others across our network, hasn’t been taken lightly.

“We’re in the process of procuring a new generation of TVMs for deployment across our network. However, the overall number of machines being purchased reflects current and forecast customer demand for these devices. This approach follows a mandate from the DfT to procure a reduced number of machines and to ensure that public subsidy is minimised wherever possible, helping to maintain the overall affordability of running the railway.

“In reaching decisions on individual stations, a number of factors are considered, including customer usage data, the cost of operating and maintaining machines, levels of vandalism, and the accessibility of remaining retail facilities.

“At Bat & Ball station, customer usage of the TVMs has been low, while the station has experienced a high level of vandalism. Over the past three years, the two TVMs at Bat & Ball have required repair on at least 10 occasions. Although the machine on platform one currently has a cracked screen, it remains operational. That said, it’s anticipated this machine will be permanently removed within the next couple of months as part of the wider replacement programme.

“Since the installation of the second TVM in around 2021, the range of alternative ticket purchasing options available to customers has expanded significantly. These include improvements to the SE App, the widespread availability of eTickets, the Southeastern Key smartcard, and, most recently, contactless payments.

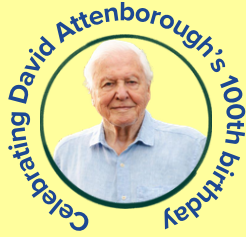
“Bat & Ball station is enabled for contactless travel. Contactless offers several benefits for customers, including cheaper fares, no requirement for paper tickets, and the convenience of using an existing bank card without the need to top up. Customers using the same card benefit from daily and ‘Monday to Sunday’ price capping, providing flexibility to those making multiple journeys.

“For customers who require railcard discounts, tickets can be purchased in advance via our website, or via our app as eTickets and on the Key Smartcard. Although One Day Travelcards cannot be purchased as eTickets, they can be purchased and loaded onto our Key Smartcard prior to travel, and railcard discount can also be included.

“We’re mindful of the specific accessibility constraints at Bat & Ball station, including the lack of lifts between platforms, and we’ll continue to keep retail provision under review.”



## Can you help us with Sevenoaks in Bloom 2026?



### Gardening and tidying



We'll be seeking extra support with weeding and tidying before judging this summer. You can also help the town to look its best by 'adopting' a planter in Sevenoaks, caring for the flowers in it and making sure it's free of weeds.

We're also looking for support from businesses who can give staff time to volunteer.

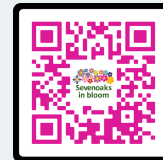


### Knitted/crocheted bugs



Knitted caterpillar

We welcome any knitted/crocheted butterflies or caterpillars for our displays around town, but here are some example patterns:



Crochet butterfly



### Painted rocks and sculptures



We're asking young people to help by creating their own David Attenborough-themed sculptures to display in the Vine Gardens.

We're also seeking painted rocks with animals and bugs from little ones!

For more information, email [communityeng@sevenoakstown.gov.uk](mailto:communityeng@sevenoakstown.gov.uk), call 01732 459953 or visit [www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk](http://www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk)

## Letter from Buckingham Palace

I had a nice letter from Buckingham Palace about my appointment as Vice President of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. See precis below:

“The King has asked me to thank you for your very kind letter, in connection with your appointment as Vice President of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks, which is to celebrate its eightieth anniversary in May.

“The King greatly appreciates that you should have shared with him the news of the special occasion and would have me convey his warmest good wishes to you for your future endeavours.”



## Save the date

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

Date	Event	Venue
Saturday 23 May	Love Your Local Market Event	Bligh's Clocktower
Wednesday 27 May	Forget-me-not Café: free dementia- friendly event	Bat & Ball Station
Saturday 30 May	Health & Wellness Fair	Vine
Saturday 30 May	Forrester Fundraiser	Greatness Rec
Sunday 31 May	Open Air Service - St Nicholas Church	Vine
Friday 5 June	Sevenoaks Business Show	Bat & Ball Centre
Friday 12 and Saturday 13 June	Beer on the Vine	Vine
Wednesday 24 June	Forget-me-not Café: free dementia- friendly event	Bat & Ball Station
Saturday 27 June	Art on the Vine Exhibition from Sevenoaks Art Club	Vine railings
Saturday 27 June	Hospice in the Weald - Moonlight Walk	Raleys Field
Wednesday 29 July	Forget-me-not Café: free dementia- friendly event	Bat & Ball Station
Tuesday 4 August	Family Fun Day	Greatness Rec
Wednesday 5 August	Skateness	Greatness Rec
Tuesday 18 August	Alice in Wonderland - free theatre show	Bat & Ball Centre
Wednesday 19 August	Alice in Wonderland - free theatre show	Pontoise Play Area
Thursday 20 August	Alice in Wonderland - free theatre show	Greatness Rec
Friday 21 August	Alice in Wonderland - free theatre show	Vine

Wishing you a good weekend,  
Linda

