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From Sevenoaks Town Council for the community of Sevenoaks

Spring 2022

From the Mayor of Sevenoaks, Councillor Mrs Rachel Parry

It is an honour to become the Mayor of Sevenoaks and in this Platinum Jubilee Year it will be even more special and so I am very conscious of the privilege and especially the responsibilities of becoming our Town's Mayor.

Our family has lived in Sevenoaks for many years and, for those of you who don't know me, I'm married with two sons who went to school locally; we now have four grand-daughters and I retired early, having taught in several of Sevenoaks's primary schools.

Sevenoaks has an exciting time ahead, with all the special events planned to celebrate the forthcoming Platinum Jubilee Celebrations of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. The Queen is our country's longest reigning monarch; Queen Victoria reigned for nearly 65 years but this year we in Sevenoaks, with the rest of our country, will celebrate that Queen Elizabeth the Second will have served our country and the Commonwealth for 70 years.

During her reign Her Majesty, like so many of us, has overcome many difficulties, most recently catching Covid-19 and the death of her husband Prince Philip, but has also been able to enjoy many happy moments, when she has led us through much happier times.

Throughout our town there will be a variety of events, something for everyone and for families and groups, in different parts of Sevenoaks, so be prepared to get involved. Perhaps there's going to be a street party in your road, when neighbours will get together and enjoy themselves.

There will be also official events on particular days and times including lighting the town's beacon which will link us in Sevenoaks with events in London and many other parts of the country. The Town Council's Website will list all our local celebrations and also many as possible of the national events.

A hint – If you're out and about in Sevenoaks during June's Jubilee Long Weekend: look out for the CROWNS – small, medium sized and very LARGE!

To continue the celebrations and promote our green agenda and enhance our environment the Town Council will continue with its tree planting programme for the Queen's Green Canopy.

In July Sevenoaks Town will be judged as one of the seven finalists



in the National In Bloom competition, the first year that our town has been in the national final! With the help of our partners we will try to make Sevenoaks full of flowers, clean and tidy, trying hard to be the best possible town; so giving pleasure and care to our residents and our visitors. We will be competing nationally, against six other towns across the country, trying to win Gold medals as we have in the past.

The Town Team will be asking our residents and businesses to help tidy their part of the town dealing with weeds, removing litter etc. and making our town look great.

As Mayor my fundraising events will concentrate on helping, in various ways, the whole of Sevenoaks Town's community with a special focus on the needs of our younger residents. There are many groups who could do with a little extra help. and local charities that need a boost

In April this year a national survey found that Sevenoaks was the Southeast's "Best Town to Live in". I think that we can all agree that this is a super reflection of the beauty of our town, the involvement of our residents and our businesses and also the hard work and commitment of our Town Council.

As Sevenoaks's Mayor I will work hard to make sure that Sevenoaks remains a great place, in which to live, work, play and also to visit.

Greening Sevenoaks Survey

Sevenoaks residents are being asked to help with research into the town's progress to reduce its carbon footprint.

Following the adoption of its Green Community Investment Plan on 28th February 2022, the Town Council is now communicating more to the public about the practical local initiatives it is already undertaking and its plans for the future, so that STC takes a local leadership role, providing information about simple measures that can be taken to help the local community Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

Full details and a copy of the plan can be seen on the Sevenoaks Town Council website:

[www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk/Green Community Investment Plan](http://www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk/Green%20Community%20Investment%20Plan)

To enable a check on progress of the town to a greener future, a survey is being undertaken. Respondents are asked a series of questions relating to their current position on things like transport, meat-free days, home grown food etc and their own estimation on how green their household is now. Then, next year and in subsequent years the same survey will be run again to determine what progress has been made towards the goal.

Former Mayor Cllr Dr Merylyn Canet is very keen that Sevenoaks becomes a beacon town in 'going green' and asks that everyone takes part in the survey "I am delighted that the town is taking this path to a more sustainable future."

The survey is available via the following link or QR code:

[Sevenoaks Green Survey](#)



Discovering Sevenoaks's History

Sevenoaks is blessed with a long and interesting history, yet to many people that is not known and so the Town Team has created a trail which both visitors and residents alike will find interesting and informative to follow.

The trail is 'self-guided' which means that users follow it using their smartphone. The guide features a map of the 3-mile circular route and for each point of interest there is at least one photo and a potted history. The route takes about 2-3 hours to complete, and it can be done in shorter stages if preferred. The trail is hosted by TrailTale and is accessed by downloading their app from the App Store or Google Play.

Former Mayor Cllr Dr Merylyn Canet launched the trail saying: "This is a wonderful way to introduce people to the history and stories of Sevenoaks. The Town is 900 years old this year and it is fitting that we should have a simple way of telling the world much about how and why this lovely town has developed."



Sevenoaks is in the Final of the Britain in Bloom UK 2022!

Sevenoaks Town Council is delighted that Sevenoaks Town Centre has been selected to represent our region in the 2022 RHS Britain in Bloom UK Finals in the BIDs, Town Centres & City Centres Town category.

Sevenoaks is competing against the following finalists and is excited about the challenges ahead.

- Bury in Bloom, Suffolk
- Ulverston BID, Cumbria
- Orpington 1st BID, London
- Blackburn Town Centre, Lancashire
- Shaftesbury in Bloom, Dorset
- St Austell BID, Cornwall

The judging period will run from 25 July - 12 August and then we will have to wait until Monday 10 October to know if all our efforts have gained us the Winner's award.

The Britain in Bloom award is much more than about flowers and

aesthetics, it is a key influence on environmental improvements in horticulture, increasing biodiversity and helping to make the United Kingdom a greener place.

Sevenoaks has adopted the following themes for its entry:

- Purple and Gold colour theme
- Edible Gardening
- Crowns

The colour scheme and Crowns theme is to coordinate with HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Commemorations which are also happening this year.

Please help to make Sevenoaks a 2022 winner!

We need businesses, residents, and volunteers to work with the In Bloom group bringing their collective resources, knowledge, expertise, and time. There is a role for everyone, and everybody's contribution will be important to our town's success.

If you are able to help, please contact us via osl@sevenoakstown.gov.uk or 01732 459953.



Much-needed funding granted to local voluntary organisations

Sevenoaks Town Council recently approved community grants worth a total of £12,470 to support community groups and projects in Sevenoaks this year.

The largest single award of £5,000 goes to the Sevenoaks Summer Festival which aims to put on its first full show since 2019, after two years when it was seriously cut back by the pandemic. This year it should be back at full strength, and the Festival organisers aim to extend its publicity to support the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, so there should be a longer summer of events.

Two new organisations appear in the Council's community grant list this year:

- the new Repair Cafe which has just set up in St Luke's church hall to underwrite its expected costs for the first year; this supports a key objective in the Town Council's Green Investment Plan where a group of volunteers has stepped up to the challenge.

- a training grant to the new Samaritans operation in

Sevenoaks, so that volunteers can be trained to help people needing support in Sevenoaks Town and beyond; this reflects widespread concern - and a priority from Sevenoaks Youth Council - that mental health support needs strengthening.

The other activities supported include Sevenoaks Society's exhibition to celebrate 900 years of Sevenoaks history, Volunteer Transport, West Kent Mediation, support for mothers and babies, town twinning, the Three Arts and Youth Jazz Festivals, displays by local artists in June, and the Sevenoaks Literary Festival.

Finance Committee Chair Cllr Tony Clayton said: "The range of volunteer activity which these grants help to make happen are a real illustration of what Sevenoaks is about. In these organisations hundreds of people give their time for free to make life better for people in need, and more interesting and more fun for everyone. From music and the arts, history and literature, families and young people, transport and recycling - this is just a taste of what goes on."

Another round of grant funding will take place in the autumn. To find out if your voluntary organisation or charity could qualify please check out if it's eligible at www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk

| Organisation | Purpose | Amount |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| Sevenoaks Summer Festival | 2022 Summer Festival | £5,000 |
| Sevenoaks Society | Funding towards exhibition | £500 |
| Sevenoaks Samaritans | Training for volunteers | £1,000 |
| Sevenoaks Volunteer Transport Group | Volunteer Transport | £750 |
| West Kent Mediation | Volunteer costs | £750 |
| Baby Umbrella | Develop & Deliver volunteer sessions | £500 |
| Friends of Rheinbach | Twinning activities | £250 |
| Friends of Pontoise | Twinning activities | £250 |
| Sevenoaks Repair Café | Launch and set up of new project | £1,620 |
| Sevenoaks Three Arts Festival | Hire of piano and performance space | £600 |
| Kent Youth Jazz Orchestra | Youth Jazz Workshop | £500 |
| Art in June | Publication of guides | £250 |
| Sevenoaks Literary Festival | Schools Literary Event | £500 |
| Total | | £12,470 |



Delivering, protecting and enhancing community facilities within a Green Community Investment Plan



ANNUAL TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET 2022-23

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 two financial years have been difficult for most and there are expected to be continued financial pressures in the forthcoming year. Please see overleaf for figures relating to Sevenoaks Town Council Budget for 2022 - 2023.

Some of the functions and facilities the Town Council provides

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

Climate change initiatives



Floral displays & Christmas lights

8

Play areas

Litter bins & litter collecting
Public toilets
Cemetery
Bus shelters



Youth cafe & Youth Council

Community events
Markets
Public seats

2

Allotment sites



11
Sports pitches

23

Public open spaces



10
Community buildings

£58k
Grants to local organisations

Skateboard Park,
Outdoor Gyms
MUGA

Average Band D home contributes

£132.67 per annum/
£2.55 per week

Where does the £1,864,485 Sevenoaks Town Council budget come from?

ANNUAL PRECEPT £1,295,675

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 £528,922

28% of the budget comes from fees and services such as community halls, sports pitches, markets, cemetery, and cafes

RESERVES £39,888

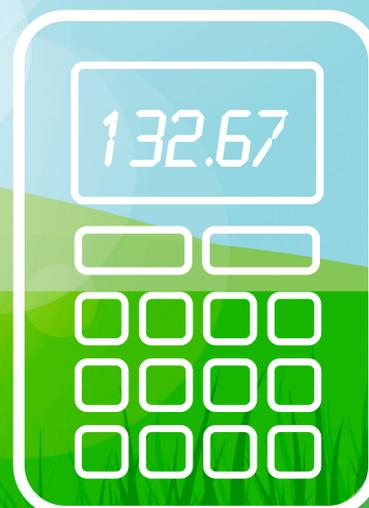
2% of the budget will be from Town Council's reserves. £59,888 supports Bat & Ball Café during initial years of opening, offset by an increase of (£20,000) revenue reserves.

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 - £408k (net cost £344k) | Council Administration £488k (net cost £462k) | Public Works Loan - £71k | Planning Consultation - £29k |
| Community Events - £58k (net cost £36k) | Council Offices - £67k (net cost £58k) | Contingency - £44k | Democracy costs (including elections) - £23k |
| Cemetery - £145k (net cost £58k) | IT - £31k | Local Grants to voluntary organisations - £58k | Total £52k (3%) |
| Community Venues - £315k (net cost £46k) | Insurance - £19k | Total £173k (9%) | |
| Markets - £56k (net cost £6k) | Professional Fees - £15k | | |
| Youth Provision - £38k (net cost £36k) | Total £620k Net Cost £585k (33%) | | |
| Total £1,020k Net Cost £526k (55%) | | | |



Total Annual Revenue Budget £1,864,485

Annual Cost per Household (Band D) £132.67 per year / £2.55 per week

An increase of 3.2%, £4.17 per year/ 8 pence per week compared to 2021-2022

This leaflet provides a precis of the budget. Complete budget information is available to view on request or via Sevenoaks Town Council's website. Please forward any queries or comments you have regarding the budget by email to Linda Larter, Town Clerk. Sevenoaks Town Council, Council Offices, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 3QG. Email: townclerk@sevenoakstown.gov.uk. www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk



Anti-social behaviour

Anti-social behaviour can have a lasting impact on neighbourhoods and communities. It can lead to an increase in crime, particularly violence and criminal damage.

Kent Police and Sevenoaks District Council are working with residents to address concerns around nuisance behaviour in this area.

You can report anti-social behaviour to Sevenoaks District Council Community Safety Team:

- Telephone: **01732 227000**
- Email: **community.safety@sevenoaks.gov.uk**

For more information visit www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/info/20040/community_safety

You can report a non-urgent crime online at www.kent.police.uk/report

Talk to us on LiveChat – available 24/7 www.kent.police.uk/contact

In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger call 999.

If you have a hearing or speech impairment, use our textphone service 18000. Or text us on 999 if you've pre-registered with the emergency SMS service.

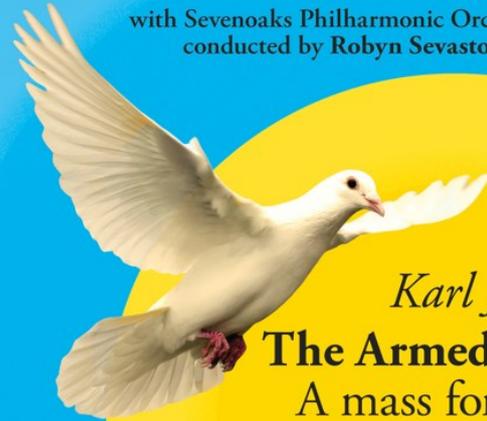


**Kent
Police**



Sevenoaks Philharmonic Choir

with Sevenoaks Philharmonic Orchestra
conducted by Robyn Sevastos



Karl Jenkins

The Armed Man: A mass for peace

7:30pm Sunday 19 June
The Stag, Sevenoaks

Dedicated to the people of Ukraine

Tickets £17; £16 over 60s; £6 students and U21
(prices include a mandatory £1 Stag development levy)
Available from The Stag Box Office

www.stagevenoaks.co.uk | 01732 450175
or on the door (subject to availability)



Registered Charity No 263530



900 YEARS OF SEVENOAKS TOWN Exhibition 22 June - 16 July 2022 Kaleidoscope Gallery Sevenoaks

Do not miss this one-time opportunity to view the incredible '900 Years of Sevenoaks Town' exhibition by the Sevenoaks Society to mark their Platinum Anniversary. Featured themes include Knole, Historic Town Centre, old Landed Estates, Farms, Coaching Inns & Public Houses, Industry, Schools, Churches, Social Housing, Community & Civic buildings, High Street & London Road changes, Recreation & Leisure and much more.

A rare display relating to the 900 year old *Textus Roffensis*, which contains the first mention of Sevenoaks, will be on view during the exhibition



TALKS AT THE KALEIDOSCOPE GALLERY DURING THE EXHIBITION

WEDNESDAY 29TH JUNE AT 3PM

Professor David Killingray

"People, politics, and progress: a new history of Sevenoaks, 1790-1914"

WEDNESDAY 6TH JULY AT 2.30PM

Bob Ogley

"Highlights in 900 years of Sevenoaks"

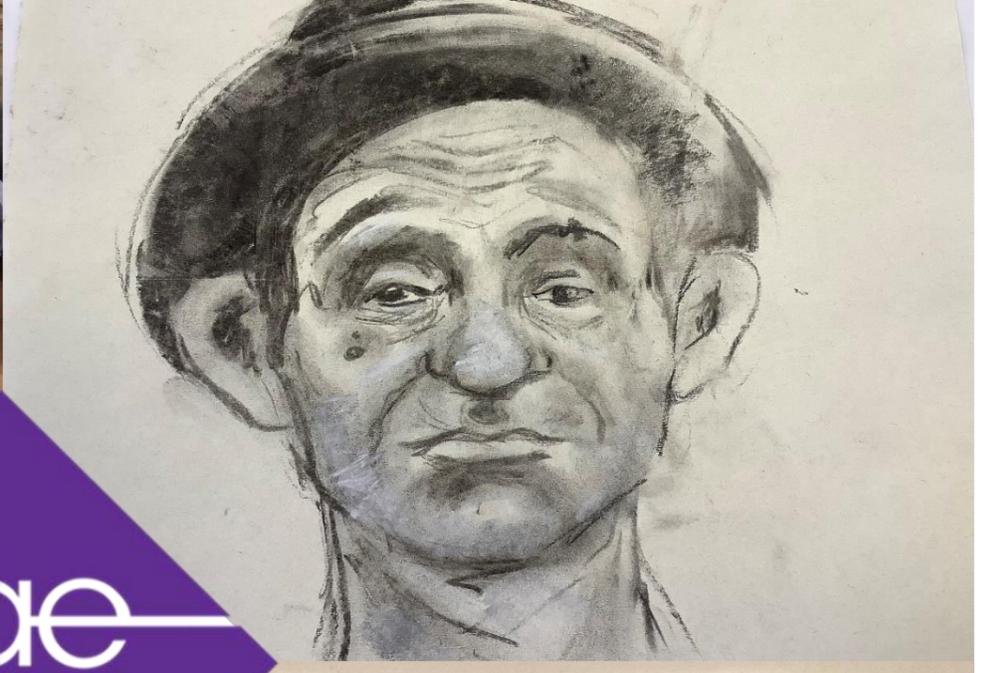
FRIDAY 8TH JULY AT 2PM

Jacob Scott from Rochester Cathedral

"Textus Roffensis: Kent's earliest documentary heritage."

Sign up for talks, and see more about the exhibition on:
WWW.SEVENOAKSSOCIETY.CO.UK





KAE
kent adult
education



GET CREATIVE

at Sevenoaks Adult Education Centre

Enrol on a new course with KAE

With a variety of creative and educational courses from Monday to Saturday, throughout the day and evening, the opportunities are endless.

Whether you want to gain a new skill, advance your career, find a new hobby or want some much needed me time, there is a course for everyone!



For more information please visit:
kentadulthoodeducation.co.uk
pop in to your local centre
or call 03000 41 22 22

**Come and visit us:
Hatton House
Bradbourne Road
TN13 3QN**



Kent Adult Education is part of Community Learning and Skills

Bringing learning to life

Functions & Facilities provided by Sevenoaks Town Council

Precept

Sevenoaks Town Council's total revenue budget for the 2022/23 financial year is £1,864,485 per annum. The average Band D house would pay £132.67 per annum equating to £2.55 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)
- 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
- 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

Sevenoaks
TOWN COUNCIL

