

Tuesday, 03 March 2026

**ARTS & CULTURE WORKING GROUP**

To be held the John London Room, Bat & Ball Centre, Crampton's Road, Sevenoaks, TN14 5DN on Thursday 12 March 2025, which commences at 14:00 pm.

Town Councillors are reminded that they have a duty to state a Declaration of Interest prior to the appropriate agenda item and to consider the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 s.17 when reaching a decision.

**Town Clerk**

To assist in the speedy and efficient despatch of business, members wishing to obtain factual information on items included on the agenda are asked to enquire of the Town Clerk prior to the day of the meeting.

**Committee Members – Quorum minimum of 2 members**

Cllr Victoria Granville ( <b>Chair</b> )	Cllr Lise Michaelides ( <b>Vice-Chair</b> )
Cllr Dr Merylyn Canet	Cllr Tony Clayton ( <b>Mayor</b> )
Cllr Sally Layne	Cllr Claire Shea

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

To enable any questions previously submitted by members of the public on any matter to be drawn to the attention of the Town Council.

**AGENDA**

<b>1</b>	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> To receive and note apologies for absence.
<b>2</b>	<b>REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS</b> To consider written requests from Members which have previously been submitted to the Town Clerk to enable participation in discussion and voting on items for which the Member has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest. (s.31 & s.33 of the Localism Act 2011).
<b>3</b>	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b> To receive any declarations of interest from members in respect of any items of business included in this report.
<b>4</b>	<b>MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 12TH OF NOVEMBER 2025</b> To receive and adopt the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 12th of November 2025 as a true record.
<b>5</b>	<b>SEVENOAKS CULTURAL QUARTER STRATEGY</b> To receive and note the updated Sevenoaks Cultural Quarter Strategy document.

<b>6</b>	<b>GOVERNMENT SEEKING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR TOWN OF CULTURE COMPETITION</b> To consider a response to the Government's Town of Culture competition.
<b>7</b>	<b>SEVENOAKS SUMMER FESTIVAL</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>UPDATES FROM ATTENDEES</b> To receive updates from those who attended the meeting.

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5 - SEVENOAKS CULTURAL QUARTER STRATEGY 14-38

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6 - GOVERNMENT SEEKING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR TOWN OF CULTURE COMPETITION- Note: more information to follow. 39-40

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7 - SEVENOAKS SUMMER FESTIVAL

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8 - UPDATES FROM ATTENDEES

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## Sevenoaks Town Council

**Minutes of the meeting of the Arts & Culture Working Group  
Held on Wednesday 12 November 2025 in the Bat & Ball Centre, Crampton's Road,  
TN14 5DN.**

Meeting commenced: 14:00

Meeting Concluded: 15:57

**Present:**

Cllr Victoria Granville ( <b>Chair</b> )	Present	Cllr Lise Michaelides ( <b>Vice-Chair</b> )	Present
Cllr Tony Clayton ( <b>Mayor</b> )	Apologies	Cllr Dr Marilyn Canet	Present
Cllr Sally Layne	Apologies	Cllr Claire Shea	Present

**Also present:**

Linda Larter- Town Clerk and CEO of Sevenoaks Town Council,  
Mathew Wood- Owner of Second Floor Art Studios,  
John Levette- Sevenoaks Summer Festival, Kent Youth Jazz Orchestra, The Listening Room,  
Lee Kings- CEO of Sevenoaks Arts Club  
Roger Lee- SADC & Sevenoaks Camera Club  
Andrew Eyre- CEO of the Stag Theatre  
Ian Hooper- The Beatles in Sevenoaks  
Andrew Mason- The Beatles in Sevenoaks  
Barbara Ropek- representative for Knole Arts Society and the Young Arts Representative for the Arts Society Kent Area  
Liz Botterill- Curator of Sevenoaks Museum  
Ray Russel- Sevenoaks Summer Festival  
Audrey Frank- Sevenoaks Summer Festival  
John Levett- Sevenoaks Summer Festival, Kent Youth Jazz Orchestra, The Listening Room,  
Ieuan Chandler-Wilson- Youth Committee Clerk,

### **48 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

It was noted that the following had sent their apologies for this meeting:

Mandy Turnbull-Sevenoaks Library,  
Kim Silver- Sevenoaks Literary Festival,  
Amy Sabine- National Trust,  
Susanne Beard.  
John Larner- Sevenoaks Philharmonic Soc  
Ros Baker- Sevenoaks Kaleidoscope Gallery  
Sue Evans- Sevenoaks Kaleidoscope Gallery  
Cathy Bourne- Sevenoaks Shakespeare Society

**49 - REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS:** There were no requests for dispensations.

**50 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** There were no declarations of interest.

**51 - TERMS OF REFERENCE- ARTS & CULTURE WORKING GROUP**

It was noted that there had been some confusion around the purpose of the Arts and Culture Working Group. The working group was set up to help inform the Cultural Quarter Strategy Document that was outlined in objective 13 of the Sevenoaks Town Neighbourhood Development Plan. This is to help improve the current infrastructure of the town to enhance the Cultural Quarter. It is also set up to give the Local arts/ historical Groups, organisations and charities and voice to consider how to promote the arts in the town.

**RESOLVED:** To receive and accept the Terms of Reference for the Arts and Culture Working Group.

**52 - MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 23 OF APRIL 2025**

It was noted that the agenda provided two copies of the Cultural Quarter Strategy document, one related to past minutes of the last meeting, and the amended document showing any changes for the agenda.

**RESOLVED:** To receive and adopt the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 23rd of April as a true record.

**53 - SEVENOAKS CULTURAL QUARTER STRATEGY**

The Working Group received an updated version of the Sevenoaks Cultural Strategy document outlining possible future improvements within the town's cultural quarter. There were several updates recommended to be made. These are reflected in Appendix 1 on pages 45-68.

**1.2 Bus Station-** The Working Group noted that the Kaleidoscope has been registered by STC as an Asset of Community Value. Assets of Community Value are local pieces of land or buildings that have been nominated by voluntary or community groups, as well as town/parish councils, on the grounds that their main use now, or in the recent past, contributes to the social well-being or cultural, recreational or sporting interests of the local community, and that this use is likely to continue.

The purpose of its listing is to give local community groups the opportunity to try and purchase the asset before it may be put on the open market, in order to protect it and ensure that its community use is not lost. Should the owner decide to put it up for sale, a "moratorium period" is triggered, which gives six weeks for local groups to

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submit an “Intention to Bid” before it may be listed on the open market. If this is received, its sale must be paused for a further six months to allow the community group to put together a business plan and source the funding to purchase it.

While this does not oblige the owner to sell to the community group, the moratorium period does help to make this possible.

**1.31 Connecting routes, Wayfinding-** It was noted that STC had put in an application for funding to progress wayfinding signage in the town.

**1.5 Young people & Skills-** It was noted that the Stag Community Arts Centre had the Stag Youth Theatre group, which ran weekly workshops. It was also noted that Kaleidoscope run a series of courses and workshops for young people. The Working Group also heard that Knole and Sevenoaks Arts Society have funding opportunities for grants to help fund youth arts projects.

**1.6 Street Greening-** The Working Group heard that Sevenoaks had been successful in receiving Gold Awards for both South and Southeast in Bloom and Britain in Bloom. It was also noted that out of the three young people's awards, Sevenoaks received two of these.

**2.1 Creative workspace-** It was noted that the Second Floor Arts Studio had been contacted to give input to the second stage of the tender of the procurement process for Land East of the High Street by Sevenoaks District Council.

**2.3 Architecture & Heritage-** It was noted that many were interested in the idea of the blue plaques set up by Deal Historical Society. It was noted that if a project like this were to be pursued in Sevenoaks, Sevenoaks Museum would like to assist with the research for this.

### 54 - FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE FUTURE OF THE STAG

The working group received a presentation on a feasibility study produced for the Stag theatre, exploring the different options in which the space can be used and utilised. It was noted that the Study could only progress if Sevenoaks Town Council was able to obtain the freehold of the Stag from Sevenoaks District Council.

It was noted that beneath the current flooring, there is a mosaic flooring from the 1990s, some of which has been excavated and is still visible just behind the popcorn stand in the foyer.

The Working Group heard the ideas that were put forward in the Feasibility study. These were as follows:

- Moving the stage back to allow for more seating would allow for 150 seats, taking the seating to around 600.
- Addition of more toilets to be able to accommodate the increase in seating.

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- Extending the ceiling to create a circle seating area, which could create another 150 Seats.
- The creation of a fly tower above the stage.
- Potential for extension to enable tertiary education for performing arts.
- Link from front to back of the building to create an “Art Gallery”.

It was noted that the current seating for the Theatre section of the stag is 450, one of the reasons the addition of more seating was being considered linked to the districts masterplan proposal for land east of high street with the recommendation for more housing, the other being a number of complaints to the Stag from residents that West End shows are not shown in the theatre in comparison to other places, which is due to it not being economically viable for these types of shows with the number of seating currently available. If all of the changes in the document were carried out, the seating would increase up to 750 people.

### 55 - SEVENOAKS SUMMER FESTIVAL

The Working Group heard from the Chair of the Sevenoaks Summer Festival that it was getting difficult to arrange and organise the Summer Festivals, and they were currently actively trying to drum up people who may wish to take on the organisation of the festival in order to preserve the history of the Summer Festival from its creation by Sevenoaks school in 1970.

Ray welcomed anyone who has any ideas to attend the AGM of the Sevenoaks Summer Festival on Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2025, at 7.30 pm, via the Zoom link below. The agenda for this has been attached as Appendix 2 on Pages 69-78.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82308388220?pwd=ABRbtNAbAtoWtQ0SRhDTa6HXI0tD>  
[P1.1](#)

### 56 - UPDATES FROM ATTENDEES

It was noted by Ian Hooper that the end of January to the start of February 2027 will mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beatles coming to Sevenoaks and filming both the videos for Penny Lane and Strawberry Fields. It was also noted that they had arranged with the Stag to hold a Beatles tribute band on Sunday, the 6<sup>th</sup> of February 2027 and were thinking of other activities that can be done within the town to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the piece of the Town's history. Ian also handed around a booklet on the history of the filming as well as a trail map for the locations in Knole where the filming took place. This has been attached as Appendix 3 on Pages 79-80.

The Working Group heard that the Camera Club have been working with the Darent Valley rail line and has used many of the stations' waiting rooms as exhibition spaces to showcase some of the work. The following was also reported:

**Sevenoaks Town Council**

1) This season's Sevenoaks Camera Club annual team-based panel competition is based on 'A Beatles Song'. There will, therefore, be around 10 sets of 6 photographs illustrating a song of the Beatles and, as well as forming an exhibition in their own right, these could be used as part of the Beatles celebrations in 2027. As well as presenting a range of interesting prints, these panels could be the basis of a competition to guess the title of the song inspiring each panel. The panels could be on display during the celebrations based in The Stag.

2) Amongst other external activities, members of Sevenoaks Camera Club are working on a photographic record of the refurbishment of Bradbourne Lakes; have produced a photographic archive of Rockdale Gardens prior to the Britain in Bloom competition; and worked with Active Hearts and Minds on a photographic book project portraying Knole House.

Lee King reported that the Arts club has been successful in getting more young people involved in joining them. It was noted that they want to hold an end-of-year celebration in Kaleidoscope at some point.

Mathew Wood reported the Studios were doing well and are continuing to look at long lease opportunities within the Town as well as the integration of Arts Studios into the Local Plan.

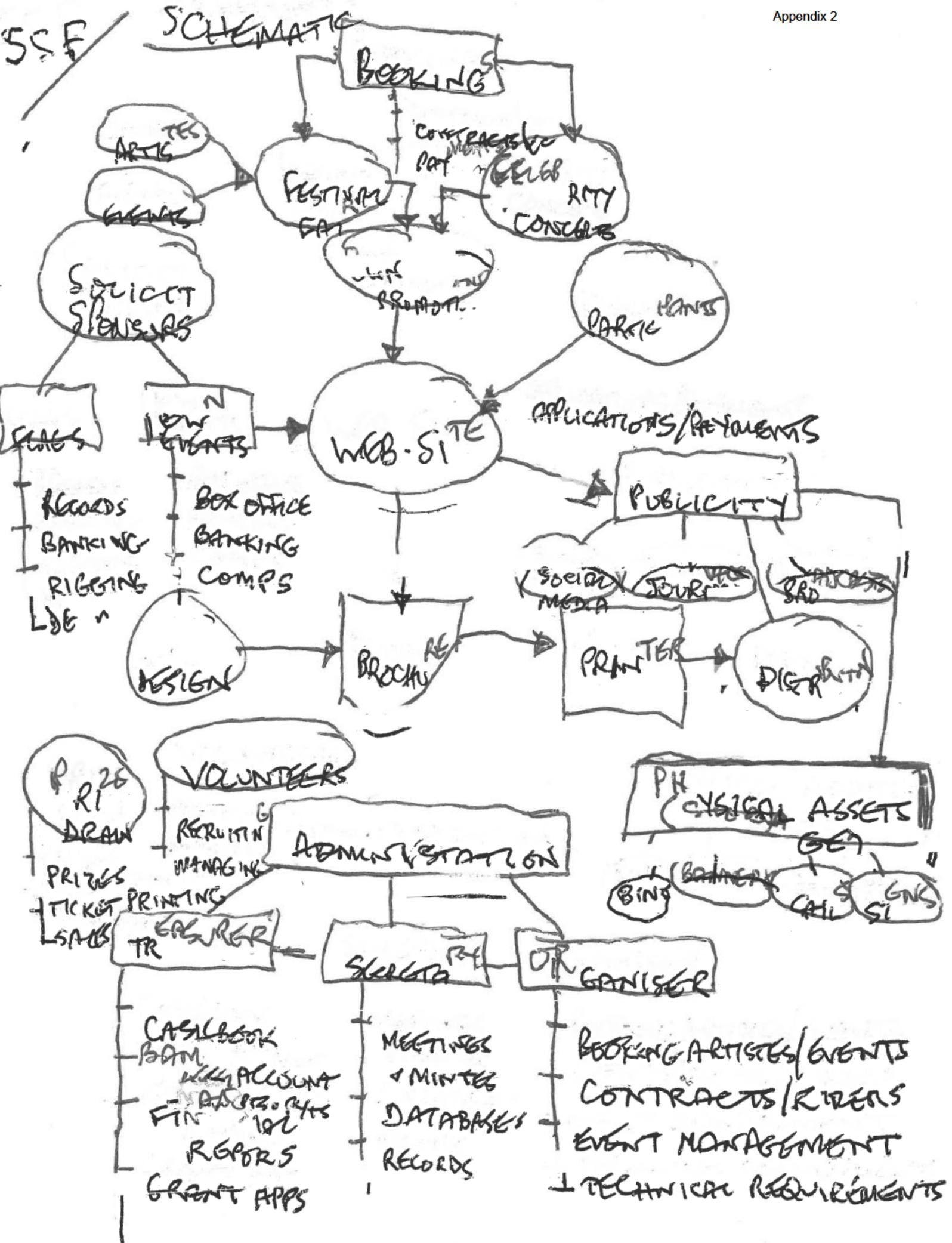
Liz Botterill reported that the Sevenoaks Museum would be hosting a talk on the history of Christmas. For more details of this, please see appendix item 4 on page 81.

There being no further business, the Chair closed the Meeting.

Signed .....

Dated .....

Chair



## PENNY LANE

Penny Lane is credited to Lennon–McCartney but was written primarily by Paul McCartney. The lyrics refer to a street and bus terminus in Liverpool, between Paul and John's childhood homes. The Knole Park scenes for the promotional film were shot on 7<sup>th</sup> February 1967. To view the film scan or click the QR Code.



This film includes scenes from Liverpool, such as the number 46 bus to Penny Lane, the bus shelter on the roundabout, and a fireman riding a white horse, with further street scenes shot in Stratford in East London and King's Road in Chelsea. There are several scenes of The Beatles riding horses in Knole Park, where you can see the stone arch with The Bird House in the background.

Towards the end of the film, the band are seen sitting at a large table in front of a pond, which is the furthest of the two ponds close to The Bird House and stone arch.



The Bird House and stone arch in 2021

The Beatles riding horses through the stone arch in 1967



The ponds near The Bird House in 2021

The Beatles in front of the pond in 1967



## BEING FOR THE BENEFIT OF MR. KITE

On the way to the Top O' the Hill restaurant in Sevenoaks, during their lunch break, John Lennon visited an antique shop a few doors along from the restaurant. This was Andrew Mair's antique shop at 44a High Street, which until recently was occupied by Leverets, a firm of barristers and solicitors. It was here that John purchased a Victorian circus poster for Pablo Fanque's Circus Royal appearance in Rochdale.

The poster was the source for most of the lyrics in his song "Being for the Benefit of Mr. Kite", although the horse's name is Zanthus on the poster rather than Henry. The song appeared on the album Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band, released in May 1967.



Sevenoaks High Street in 2021

Top O' the Hill restaurant and antique shop at 44a (far right)

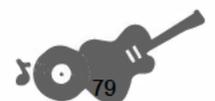
## BLIGH'S HOTEL

While filming Strawberry Fields Forever in Knole Park on 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> January 1967, The Beatles used Bligh's Hotel at 135 High Street as a dressing room. This is now The Oak Tavern & Tap House.



The Oak Tavern & Tap House in 2021

Bligh's Hotel

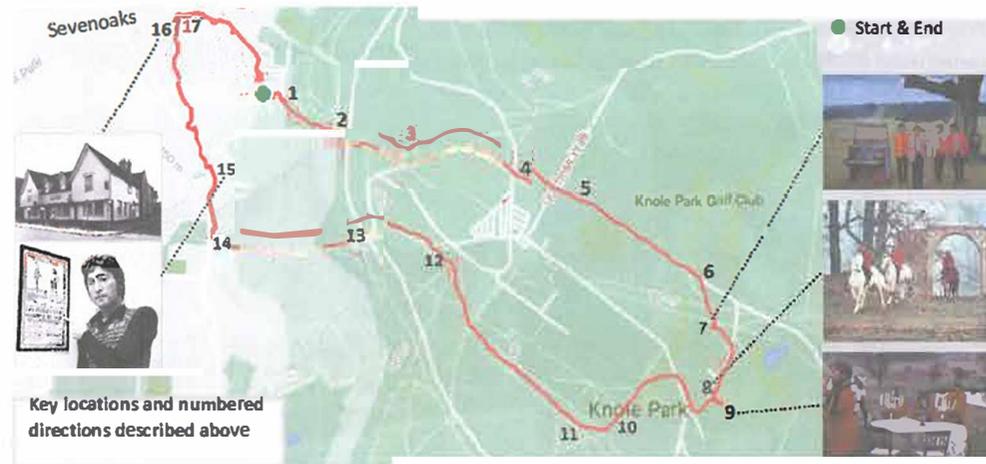


## THE LONG AND WINDING ROAD

Following is a walking route that visits the key locations described on the previous pages. The walk is approximately 3 miles (5 Km), with a few moderate inclines and will require approximately 90 minutes to complete, depending on how much time is spent on photographs and contemplation.

It is recommended that you start at the path on the far side of Sevenoaks Town multi-storey car park (the path can be accessed directly on Level 2). From here, follow the directions below. For those parking in the Knole House National Trust Car Park (booking required), start at point 4.

1. Walk downhill along the path and through the kissing gate into Knole Park.
2. Follow the path straight ahead to cross the clearing and walk up the hill (watch out for the deer!).
3. At the main drive turn left and follow the road (watch out for cars!).
4. At the first crossroads carry straight on (this road is marked as no entry for cars).
5. Keep on this road across the next crossroads and up the hill.
6. Walk past the golf green on the left (watch out for golf balls!) and take the next track on the right.
7. The tree stump is in open ground up ahead on the right of this track.
8. Keep following this track to reach the Stone Arch and Birdhouse on the right.
9. The furthest of the two ponds on the left of the track near a golf green (watch out for golf balls again!).
10. Continue along the track, bear right and then turn left to walk along the back wall of Knole House garden.
11. Turn right to follow the side wall of Knole House garden.
12. At the end of the wall carry straight on and follow the path through the woods to the main drive.
13. Turn left and walk up the main drive through the exit and up to the High St.
14. Turn right onto the High St.
15. The site of the antique shop (number 44A) and Top O' the Hill restaurant is along the road on the right.
16. Follow the High St to the site of Bligh's Hotel (number 135), now The Oak Tavern and Tap House.
17. Turn right down the passage opposite The Oak Tavern and Tap House to return to the car park.



Website: [beatlesinkent.com](http://beatlesinkent.com)



## THE BEATLES SEVENOAKS GUIDE

Appendix 3

By IAN HOOPER

The Beatles visited Knole Park in Sevenoaks between 30<sup>th</sup> January and 7<sup>th</sup> February 1967 to make promotional films for their double A-side single Strawberry Fields Forever and Penny Lane. The films were shown on The Ed Sullivan Show in the US and Top of the Pops in the UK later in February 1967. John Lennon also purchased a Victorian circus poster from an antique shop in Sevenoaks, which became the source of the lyrics for the song "Being for the Benefit of Mr Kite".

The Sackville-West family live in Knole House, a historic country house set in Knole Park, now owned by the National Trust. To hear extracts of recorded interviews about The Beatles' visit to Knole Park with Sarah and Bridget Sackville-West, plus Margaret Simmons, who lived on the estate in the Bird House at the time, visit the Knole Stories website by scanning the QR Code.



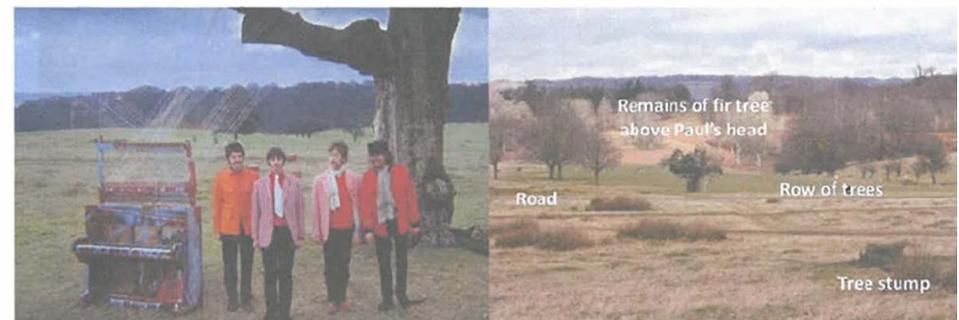
This guide provides further information about The Beatles' visit to Sevenoaks and directions for a walk which visits each of the key locations relating to their stay.

## STRAWBERRY FIELDS FOREVER

Strawberry Fields Forever is credited to Lennon-McCartney but was written primarily by John Lennon. The song reflects his childhood memories playing in the garden of Strawberry Field, a Salvation Army children's home in Liverpool. The promotional film was shot in Knole Park on 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> January 1967. To view the film scan or click the QR Code.



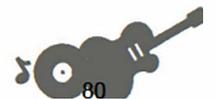
Probably inspired by the line in the song "No one I think is in my tree", the film shows The Beatles in front of a dead oak tree. The tree is no longer standing, but at the location marked on the map there is a stump which must be what remains of the original tree as it lines up perfectly with the background landscape, the evergreen above Paul's head, the row of trees in the field to the right of this and the road where a Mini drives past in the film.



Scene from Strawberry Fields Forever in 1967

The same scene today

Website: [beatlesinkent.com](http://beatlesinkent.com)



**'God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen'****A talk by Professor Mark Connelly on the development of the English Christmas, 1820-1930****When: 2pm Wednesday 17 December****Where: Sevenoaks Kaleidoscope, floor 2****Cost: £5 (includes a mulled wine)**

During the nineteenth century, the nature of the Christmas we know today emerged, a focal point in the year for a society dealing with the effects of industrialisation, urbanisation and the development of mass consumerism. From Dickens's seminal *A Christmas Carol*, the collection and distribution of folk carols, through to the emergence of the shop window display as an art form in its own right, Christmas is a legacy the Victorians have handed down to us, and it continues to play a crucial role in our lives.

Mark Connelly is Emeritus Professor of Modern British History at the University of Kent, who specialises in the way Britain and the Commonwealth commemorate the two world wars and the history of popular culture in Britain. His publications include *Christmas: A Social History* and *Postcards from the Western Front: pilgrims, veterans and tourists after the Great War*.

**Booking is essential. Email [sevenoaksmuseum@kent.gov.uk](mailto:sevenoaksmuseum@kent.gov.uk) or visit the Sevenoaks Library help desk to book.**



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# Sevenoaks

The background image shows a building facade with several murals. On the left, there is a mural of a rooster. In the center, there is a sign with text. On the right, there is a mural of a person's face. The building is painted in a reddish-brown color. The text 'Sevenoaks' is overlaid in large white letters at the top.

**T**hese murals and panels represent some of the trades present here during the medieval period.  
Juliet Simpson, Tom Cousins, 1999  
Sponsored by Sevenoaks District Council

## A Thriving Cultural Town

Updated: 25/02/2026

Sevenoaks – Review of Vision for a Thriving Cultural Town (STNP)  
Appendix 1

**Background to the Vision for a Thriving Cultural Town** (see STNP document for full details)

The Sevenoaks Town Neighbourhood Plan (STNP) covers many important topics. During the creation of the STNP it was believed that a cultural strategy was needed within the STNP to create a Vision for a thriving cultural town for the future. The STNP and its appendices including the Cultural Vision was successful at a public referendum in May 2023 and is now a statutory planning document providing recommendations and guidelines for the development of Sevenoaks.

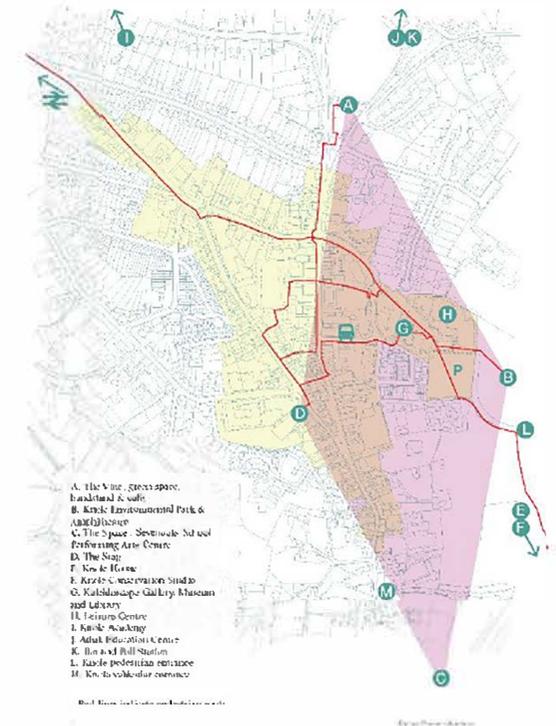
Arts, culture and creativity can help a town to feel welcoming, enhance the public realm and support the growth of a creative community. In Sevenoaks Town we are prioritising the following focus areas:

<b>Distinctiveness</b>
<b>Animation</b>
<b>Growth</b>
<b>Community</b>

The Cultural Quarter Vision focuses on a diamond shape geographical area and incorporates the current cultural facilities – The Vine event space and bandstand, Environmental Park and Amphitheatre, The Space at Sevenoaks School Performing Arts Centre, The Stag, Knole House, Knole Conservation Studio, Kaleidoscope Gallery – Museum, Library and Art Space, Leisure Centre, Knole Academy School, Adult Education Centre, Bat & Ball Station (restored heritage building and event space).

The Cultural Quarter Vision was created in consultation with various cultural groups within the town.

**Policy Principles**



## Sevenoaks – Review of Vision for a Thriving Cultural Town (STNP) Appendix 1

The ambition to strengthen culture focused around a cultural quarter hub in Sevenoaks Town is consistent with local policy within the (SDC) Sevenoaks Local Plan, (STC) STNP and (KCC) The Kent Cultural Strategy Inspirational Creativity Transforming Lives Everyday 2017 - 2027.

### **STNP Themes**

There is exciting potential for culture to support delivery of all seven themes in the STNP, with a particular focus on promoting the following objectives within a Cultural Quarter:

- Welcoming Gateways
- Sustainability & Green Environment
- Creative Enterprise
- Character, Heritage & Identity
- Improved Public Realm
- Health & Wellbeing
- Creative Skills
- Enhanced Community Assets

### **Review**

This review follows the themes and headings provided within the Vision for a Thriving Cultural Town for a Cultural Quarter within the STNP.

Sevenoaks – Review of Vision for a Thriving Cultural Town (STNP)  
Appendix 1

Development Aspiration				
	Location	Aspirations	Updates	Working Group Comments
1.1	South Park Area	<p>Development of Post Office site to sit alongside the Stag to include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creative workspace with public facing exhibition space</li> <li>• Creative retail on ground floor facing onto the street</li> <li>• Modest outdoor space</li> <li>• Expand on rear and side of Stag to create walkway (potential art gallery)</li> </ul>		<p>Noted site had been submitted for consideration as part of SDC’s Local Plan process.</p> <p>Noted that Stag had been registered as an Asset of Community Value.</p>
1.11	South Park Area- Post Office		<p>The Post Office site has not come forward for development to date, although owners are aware of STC’s aspirations.</p>	<p>Suggested improvements to footpath from London Road to Stag Car Park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• mural on wall</li> <li>• additional lighting</li> <li>• use noticeboard at entrance from car park, to mark entry point to town &amp; Sevenoaks Cultural Quarter</li> </ul> <p><u>Action</u> Investigate ownership of the footpath and buildings backing</p>

Sevenoaks – Review of Vision for a Thriving Cultural Town (STNP)  
Appendix 1

Development Aspiration				
1.11-Continued	South Park Area- Post Office			<p>onto it (Post Office &amp; Telecommunications site).</p> <p><u>Action</u> To communicate with the Post Office and see if they will permit the painting of a Mural or a simple white colouration to the wall to the back of the building between the Post Office and the Stag Theatre to help brighten up the walkway from the car park to the Highstreet.</p>
1.12	South Park Area- Busking			<p>It was felt that the area in front of the Post Office was looking tired. Whilst it had a modern planter and a new bench – they were visually different styles. It was felt the area needed to be looked at as a whole.</p> <p><u>Action</u> Investigate with SDC whether open space in front of the Post Office could include designated space for buskers.</p> <p>This area is within STC’s premises licence and has been used for entertainers in the past.</p> <p>Sevenoaks District Council have confirmed they do not have a Busking Policy.</p>

Sevenoaks – Review of Vision for a Thriving Cultural Town (STNP)  
Appendix 1

Development Aspiration				
1.12-Continued	South Park Area-Busking			STC has prepared a draft policy, circulated separately, however this might be helpful to progress if and when a BID is put in place.
1.2	Bus Station	Location scope for regeneration – incorporating culture. Open up access routes to improve permeability and improve access around the town centre.	This development is within SDC’s proposals for ‘Land East of High Street’.	Noted SDC had approved £435k to progress the project.  Subject to redevelopment as put forward by SDC on the 17 <sup>th</sup> of February 2025.  Protect access and connectivity to Kaleidoscope.
1.3	Connecting Routes	Improved signposting to help people navigate the town and locate cultural facilities and a welcoming environment.  Key routes to be identified and promoted.	‘Tesco’ walkway to be enhanced in size in new development and enable cross highway art installations (see attachment).	
1.31	Connecting Routes-Wayfinding		Wayfinding project has identified walking routes to be promoted, awaiting funding opportunity.  Town Trails assist visitors and vibrancy of the town.	<u>Action</u> Requested numbers of people that had engaged with town trails.  See separate STC report ( <a href="#">184695-2024 10 09 Agenda A and CWG-Draft.pdf</a> Pages 18-19).  14/11/25-It was noted that STC had put in an application for

Sevenoaks – Review of Vision for a Thriving Cultural Town (STNP)  
Appendix 1

Development Aspiration				
				funding to progress wayfinding signage in the town.
1.4.	<b>Animating the Public Realm</b>	<p>Improve public spaces to help animate the town centre, could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Street Arts</li> <li>• Outdoor Arts</li> <li>• Dance &amp; music</li> <li>• Public Art</li> <li>• Share creativity</li> </ul>	<p>STC has a Premises Licence for Town Centre (except Blighs) which enables public entertainment to take place – the Summer Festival Fair Day is a good example of this. It would be good subject to funding and resources to extend the opportunities for this.</p> <p>Many towns have introduced Public Art, sometimes using outside enablers. Subject to permissions and finances initial walls for public art in keeping with Sevenoaks could be 1) side wall of Stag, 2) side wall of Up &amp; Running, Pembroke Road, 3) new buildings to be developed by SDC 'Land East of High Street'.</p> <p>Town Trails assist visitors and vibrancy of the town.</p> <p>In addition to Wayfinding Signs, use of different colours, public realm e.g. coloured bollards, flags can be introduced to indicate key walking routes between cultural facilities.</p> <p>Sharing creativity – it is hoped that the new STC Arts &amp; Culture Working</p>	

Sevenoaks – Review of Vision for a Thriving Cultural Town (STNP)  
Appendix 1

Development Aspiration				
1.4.- Continued	Animating the Public Realm		Group will assist with this. It would also be helpful if other authorities and organisations considering cultural elements in the town could liaise with STC and or Town Team.	<p><u>11<sup>th</sup> of December 2024 Minute-251:</u> To encourage partnership between landlords and artists for STC aspiration of unused buildings.</p>
1.41	Animating the Public Realm- Tesco's Site (Chandlers Walk)		'Tesco' walkway to be enhanced in size in new development and enable cross highway art installations (see attachment).	<p>Noted that developers, had submitted public realm details to SDC for approval.</p> <p>Noted that Section 106 attached to Purelake planning permission included a Public Art Contribution of £10,000 for the provision of public art within the development to be installed prior to the first occupation.</p> <p><u>Action</u> Officers to investigate whether this was something SDC would be progressing.</p> <p>It was noted that Councillors hoped that some of the funding could be put towards the creation of a form of Public Art depicting the social history of prominent Sevenoaks women.</p>

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Development Aspiration				
1.42	Animating the Public Realm- Post Office			See section 1.1 South Park Area- Post Office.
1.5	Young People & Skills	Seek ways to identifying involving young people and their skills.		<p>Suggested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Youth Council and House in the Basement be consulted on ideas and creative projects</li> <li>● Working with youth workers to get young people more engaged with projects</li> </ul> <p>Recent workshops include Photography, Street Dance, Skate Sessions, Open Mic nights with professional support taking place on the 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2024.</p> <p>It was noted that Open mic nights at House in the Basement are continuing with two further dates confirmed for 2025- Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March and Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May.</p> <p>It was also noted that on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> of February House in the Basement will be hosting a Photography session from 1:30 pm to 4 pm. The Stag Theatre offered space for the young people who took part to display their photography.</p>

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Development Aspiration				
				<p>It was noted that the Lewis Project also use the House in the Basement site to hold sessions and lessons. Over the Summer holidays House in the Basement hosted more Open Mic nights with one being held on the Vine Bandstand as part of the Music on the Vine. They also held a photography session visiting the Kent Wildlife Park on Bradbourne Vale Road.</p> <p>14/11/25- It was noted that the Stag Community Arts Centre had the Stag Youth Theatre group, which ran weekly workshops. It was also noted that Kaleidoscope run a series of courses and workshops for young people. The Working Group also heard that Knole and Sevenoaks Arts Society have funding opportunities for grants to help fund youth arts projects.</p>
1.6.	Street Greening	Integrate planting schemes  Support pocket parks	Some relevant proposals will be included in the STC Town Centre Masterplan.	<p><u>Action</u> Suggested discussions take place with shop owners in The Shambles area regarding ways to improve the appearance of refuse storage within the area. Noted that seating, similar to Bligh's and outside the Stag, together with more planting,</p>

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Development Aspiration				
				<p>would help make the space more inviting.</p> <p>To note the Shambles is SDC responsibility.</p> <p>14/11/25-The Working Group heard that Sevenoaks had been successful in receiving Gold Awards for both South and Southeast in Bloom and Britain in Bloom. It was also noted that out of the three young people's awards, Sevenoaks received two of these.</p> <p>25/02/26- STC has requested a Community Asset Transfer of the Shambles from SDC.</p>

Inspiration				
2.1	<b>Creative Workspace</b>	<p>Affordable artist and maker studios in the heart of the town centre</p> <p>Studios open to the public couple of times per year.</p> <p>Flexible event space</p>	<p>See. 1.1.</p> <p>Continue to promote High Street Studios facilities.</p>	<p>Noted that art studios currently available above Hospice in the Weald shop in town centre.</p> <p>It was noted that Future proofing the provision of creative workspaces as there is currently a limited availability. It was noted that this is mentioned in the Sevenoaks District Community Hub Proposal.</p>

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Inspiration				
				14/11/25- It was noted that the Second Floor Arts Studio had been contacted to give input to the second stage of the tender of the procurement process for Land East of the High Street by Sevenoaks District Council.
2.2	Festivals	Combine local arts and professional culture providers	Encourage collaboration.	<p>It was noted that a range of festivals and events are held each year, supported by the Town Council, including this year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sevenoaks Summer Festival (21<sup>st</sup> of June – 29<sup>th</sup> of June 2025)</li> <li>• Sevenoaks Literary Festival (26<sup>th</sup> September- 5<sup>th</sup> October 2025)</li> <li>• Sevenoaks Street Food Festival (6<sup>th</sup> September 2025)</li> <li>• Sevenoaks Bike Festival (20<sup>th</sup> September 2025)</li> <li>• Vegan Markets (5<sup>th</sup> of April and 4<sup>th</sup> October)</li> <li>• Band Stand events (every Thursday and Sunday from Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> of July- Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025)</li> <li>• Children's Theatre Shows (4<sup>th</sup> May 2025 on the Vine Gardens and Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> of August – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> of August 2025, finishing on the Vine Gardens)</li> </ul> <p>For a calendar list of events, please see Pages 19 onwards.</p> <p>Noted also that National Trust -Knole hosts events such as an open-air cinema event.</p> <p>14/11/25- it was noted that late Jan, early Feb 2027 marks 60 years since the Beatles filmed <i>Penny Lane</i> and <i>Strawberry Fields</i> in Sevenoaks. A tribute band is booked for 6 Feb 2027 at the Stag, and further town activities are</p>
2.2 - Continued	Festivals	Spaces in town centre to enable performances.	STC has Premises Licence for all of town centre except Blighs.	

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Inspiration				
				<p>being planned. He also shared a history booklet and a trail map of filming locations in Knole.</p> <p>25/02/26- Update – Noted 2026 Summer Festival not taking place</p> <p>Proposed BID could achieve more.</p>
2.21	Trails	To “audit” current trails, create new trails, and Encourage involvement of commercial trails.		
2.3	Architecture & Heritage	<p>Telling local stories about places to help solidify unique locations for example via</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Digital trails</li> <li>• Text on public realm e.g. plaques</li> <li>• Public art</li> <li>• Live walking tours</li> <li>• Performances</li> </ul>	All in place however with more funding and resources could be expanded.	<p>Noted that Town Crier’s historical tour is being developed and that a self-guided tour and a Millennium Trail are available.</p> <p>It was noted that Bob Ogley had contacted Sevenoaks Town Council with a request to create and place Plaques at specific sites/buildings that were bombed during the Blitz. It was noted that these were being Installed for VE day (8<sup>th</sup> May 2025). Three out of four of the plaques have been installed in the following locations: Vine Gardens, Walthamstow Hall and the Bus Station.</p> 

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Inspiration				
				<div data-bbox="1478 231 1881 422" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>It was also noted that in Deal the Deal Historical Society have created a trail of blue Plaques on shops detailing the history of that shop as well as other buildings in the town. Deal Historical Society criteria for the Plaques is shown below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. They must have been dead for at least 20 years, or were born more than 100 years ago.</li> <li>2. They must have contributed substantially to the Area and/or the Nation.</li> <li>3. They must be persons of good repute, and eminent in their profession or calling.</li> <li>4. They should preferably have been born in our Area, or</li> <li>5. They should have been resident during the time of their endeavours for which they achieved prominence.</li> <li>6. Those of Foreign birth must have had an International reputation or significant standing in their own country, and their time here must have been important to their life and work.</li> </ol>

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Inspiration				
				<p>It was noted a similar installation could be done for shops in Sevenoaks as well as the School buildings.</p> <p>It was noted that Councillors hoped that some of the 106 funding for street art in Chandlers Walk could be put towards the creation of a form of Public Art depicting the social history of prominent women in Sevenoaks.</p> <p>14/11/25- It was noted that many were interested in the idea of the blue plaques set up by Deal Historical Society. It was noted that if a project like this were to be pursued in Sevenoaks, Sevenoaks Museum would like to assist with the research for this.</p>
2.4.	<b>Creative Promotion</b>	<p>Creative approaches to promoting local cultural and creative activity via</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bespoke signage</li> <li>• Maps</li> <li>• Websites</li> </ul> <p>Joint marketing increases footfall.</p>	<p>Events programme for activities on the Vine produced for summer 2024.</p> <p>Wayfinding proposals in place subject to funding and planning permission.</p>	<p>See 2.5 below.</p> <p>It was noted that Councillors would like another Programme for activities on the Vine similar to the one produced in 2024 for this year. <b>-Completed.</b></p>
2.5	<b>Culture Online</b>	<p>Local website and app linked to cultural events and local businesses.</p>	<p>To be pursued when BID created</p>	<p>It was agreed that an online Town Calendar drawing together information on all events provided within the town would be invaluable. QR code linking to calendar could be placed around town. It was felt that this was something that could be undertaken by the BID.</p> <p>Note that SDC has recently produced a website for this initiative. Better Together: <a href="http://www.bettertogethercommunity.org.uk">www.bettertogethercommunity.org.uk</a></p>

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Inspiration				
				<p>Visit Kent: <a href="http://www.visitkent.co.uk">www.visitkent.co.uk</a></p> <p>Visit Sevenoaks: <a href="http://www.visitsevenoaks.co.uk">www.visitsevenoaks.co.uk</a></p>
2.6	Future of Arts & Culture in Sevenoaks	Sharing resources and projects		<p>Councillors would like to invite Kaleidoscope Gallery/Sevenoaks Visual Arts Forum, Sevenoaks District Arts Council, Sevenoaks Bookshop, Sevenoaks Summer Festival and Sevenoaks Literary Festival to future meetings to talk about their projects/plans.</p> <p>It was noted there will be an impact from local government reorganisation.</p>

Recommended Actions				
3.1	Planning	Engage with planners and developers to secure long term sustainable opportunities to enhance the cultural offer.	Former Tesco site is a small example of collaboration includes wide open green link to Suffolk Way cultural facilities and opportunity for overhead art.	<p>Noted that stakeholder consultation events being held for Town Centre &amp; St John's Masterplans in November 2024. It was hoped that representatives from arts and cultural organisations could participate.</p> <p>St. John's Masterplan public consultation concluded on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2025. Town Centre Masterplan public consultation commences 28<sup>th</sup> June 2025 for 6 weeks.</p> <p>St Johns Masterplan consultation ran for 6 weeks from 17th March to 21<sup>st</sup> April 2025</p> <p>Town Centre Masterplan consultation ran from 28<sup>th</sup> June to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025, with an extension to allow for more focused promotion of Local Government Reorganisation and SDC-owned assets survey</p> <p>Following conclusion of both consultation periods, the Town Council's Masterplan consultants are now reviewing their contents in line with feedback received. The final and</p>

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Recommended Actions				
				<p>revised Masterplans will then be considered by the Town Council for adoption.</p> <p>In the meantime, Sevenoaks District Council has agreed to use the draft Town Centre Masterplan as an evidence base for its second phase of the procurement process for a development partner for its Land East of High Street project. It has been issued to tenderers shortlisted for the detailed Invitation to Tender and inform subsequent proposals for the area's redevelopment.</p> <p>The District Council's Planning Policy team has also agreed to consider in future potentially adopting the final Masterplans either as an evidence base to its Emerging Local Plan, or as a Supplementary Planning Document – both options of which would give it material planning weight and inform decisions on future planning applications.</p>
3.11	<b>Land East of High Street</b>	SDC consulting on new plans.		
3.12	<b>96 High Street</b>	SDC consulting on new plans reference "Cultural Hub".		Research and development.
3.2	<b>Community &amp; Stakeholder Engagement</b>	<p>Facilitate community and stakeholder engagement including with young people</p> <p>Creation of a Cultural Forum engaging key stakeholders for progressing cultural plans.</p>	New STC Arts & Culture Working Group will assist with this.	Once Working Group had clearly defined its goals and set an agenda, it would be beneficial to draw together a forum of local arts and cultural organisations and groups.
3.3	<b>Public Art</b>	Commission public art and procure and programme cultural activity	Subject to funding and resources	Councillors noted this could perhaps be pursued through the BID.

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Recommended Actions				
		Development of Public Art Commissioning Guide	Subject to funding and resources	
3.4	<b>Marketing and promotion</b>	Oversee marketing and promotion  Development of process for joint marketing of the town’s cultural offer.  Coordinate communications to maximise engagement	To be pursued when BID created	To consider producing a “What’s Happening in Sevenoaks” leaflet, available for people to pick up in town centre areas.  See also 2.5 above.
3.5	<b>Wayfinding</b>	Good quality wayfinding signage is needed to encourage public to use cultural facilities.		STC has prepared a feasibility study and applied for funding.
3.6	<b>Premises Licence</b>	STC currently has a Premises Licence for most of the public spaces within the town centre. This may need to be extended.		
3.7	<b>Schools</b>	To include school provision when considering the cultural strategy.		
3.8	<b>Cultural Project &amp; Philanthropy</b>	Consider a key project for the Town.		
3.9	<b>Kaleidoscope Building</b>			Assist with planning and progressing the installation of exterior signage for Kaleidoscope Gallery.  14/11/25- The Working Group noted that the Kaleidoscope has been registered by STC as an Asset of Community Value.

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Recommended Actions				
				14/11/25- It was noted that they were looking into how to place a mural on the side of the building but noted plans for this had been put on hold due to the proposal of the development of land East of High Street.
3.10	Knole			Discuss the ability to within Knole promote the Town and Facilities including Wayfinding, Trails and Leaflets.
3.11	Stag Community Arts Centre			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Registered as an asset of Community value</li> <li>● Long-term plans- feasibility Stage-               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Moving the stage back to allow for more seating would allow for 150 seats, taking the seating to around 600.</li> <li>● Addition of more toilets to be able to accommodate the increase in seating.</li> <li>● Extending the ceiling to create a circle seating area, which could create another 150 Seats.</li> <li>● The creation of a fly tower above the stage.</li> <li>● Potential for extension to enable tertiary education for performing arts.</li> <li>● Link from front to back of the building to create an “Art Gallery”.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Mural on the side of the wall</li> <li>● STC has requested a Community Asset Transfer of the Stag on freehold from SDC.</li> </ul>

<b>STC – Background to involvement in Arts &amp; Culture in Sevenoaks</b>
STC does not normally initiate its own and arts and culture projects unless it is connected to its current project and initiatives.
STC aims to act as an enabler where resources are available to enable those experienced in the arts and culture to provide these community activities.

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This can be via

- Events
- Grant Funding
- Bands on the Vine – Thursday evenings & Sunday afternoons during summer
- Promotion of cultural events via road banners, leaflets, Town Crier
- Stag – continued investment
- Literary Festival – sponsor, free double page coverage in Town Crier
- Summer Festival – sponsor, free double page coverage in Town Crier
- Public Art – murals, Infinity project
- Exhibitions – various, sponsored and enabled.
- Children’s art competitions
- Providing venues and licensing e.g. Premises Licence for Vine and Bandstand, Premises Licence for Town Centre for Summer Festival.
- Cultural Strategy – planning for the future.
- Input in planning e.g. walkway in new (Tesco) development to enable provision for similar to attached.

**Cross highway art installations and illuminated trees seating examples**



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**Sevenoaks Events 2025**

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
Sat	3	May	10 – 4 pm	Climate Fair	Vine Gardens	Sevenoaks Climate Action Network (SCAN)
Sun	4	May	12.30 – 2 pm  2-3 pm	Children’s rock painting for Sevenoaks In Bloom – Ladybirds & Bees & Children’s Theatre Event – Professor Slug’s House of Bugs	Vine Gardens	Sevenoaks Town Council
Thurs	8	May	6 – 8 pm 6.30 – 8 pm  8.30 – 9 pm	VE Day Anniversary Volunteer Showcase Music on the Bandstand Fish & Chip and Ice Cream Van Beacon Lighting	Vine Gardens	Sevenoaks Town Council

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<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
22 <sup>nd</sup> May- 25 August			10-5 pm	The World of Peter Rabbit™ Storytime Trail	Knole Park	National Trust-Knole
Thurs	5	June	All day	Set Up for Beer Festival	Vine Gardens	Sevenoaks Lions Club
Fri & Sat	6 & 7	June	Friday 5 – 11 pm Saturday, 12 noon to 11 pm	Beer on the Vine	Vine Gardens	Sevenoaks Lions Club
Sun/Mon	8 & 9	June	All day	Clear Up from the Beer Festival	Vine Gardens	Sevenoaks Lions Club
Sun	8	June	6 – 7 pm	St Nicholas' Church - Open Air Service for Pentecost	Bandstand	St. Nicholas' Church
Fri	13	June	10-2 pm	Business Show	Bat & Ball Centre	Sevenoaks Town Team
Fri-Sat	13-21	June	TBC	Refugee Week	STC Office Car Park	<b>Sevenoaks Welcomes Refugees</b>
Sun	22	June	All Day	Sevenoaks Summer Festival Music on the Bandstand	Vine Gardens Bandstand	Sevenoaks Summer Festival
Sat	28	June	9 – 3 pm	Art on the Vine Sevenoaks Art Society – Exhibition on the Vine railings	Vine Garden Railings	Sevenoaks Art Society
Sat	28	June	All Day	Sevenoaks Summer Festival Colour scape & children's art activities	Vine Gardens, including the Bandstand	Sevenoaks Summer Festival
Sun	29	June	All Day	Sevenoaks Summer Festival Music on the Bandstand	Vine Gardens Bandstand	Sevenoaks Summer Festival
Sun	6	July	All Day	Sevenoaks Summer Festival Music on the Bandstand	Vine Gardens Bandstand	Sevenoaks Summer Festival
Wed- Sat	16-26th	July		Sevenoaks Camera Club's Exhibition		Sevenoaks Camera Club

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<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
Sun	20	July	3-5 pm	Music on the Bandstand	Vine Gardens Bandstand	Sevenoaks Town Council
Thurs	24	July	6-8 pm	Music on the Bandstand	Vine Gardens Bandstand	Sevenoaks Town Council
Fri	25	July	11 – 4 pm	Skatepark Event	Greatness Skatepark	Sevenoaks Town Council
Sun	27	July	9 am - 9 pm	Seniors Smash Cricket Tournament	The Vine	Sevenoaks Smash Cricket
Thurs	31	July	6-8 pm	Music on the Bandstand	Vine Gardens Bandstand	Sevenoaks Town Council
Sat	02	August	6- 8:45pm	Outdoor Theatre: The Tale of Jemima Puddle Duck with Quantum Theatre	Green Court- Knole House	National Trust- Knole
Sun	03	August	3-5 pm	Music on the Bandstand	Vine Gardens Bandstand	Sevenoaks Town Council
Mon	04	August	10.30 – 1.30 pm	Family Fun Day	Greatness Recreation Ground	Sevenoaks District Council- facilitated by Sevenoaks Town Council
Thurs	07	August	6-8 pm	Music on the Bandstand	Vine Gardens Bandstand	Sevenoaks Town Council
Sun	10	August	3-5 pm	Music on the Bandstand	Vine Gardens Bandstand	Sevenoaks Town Council
Thurs	14	August	6-8 pm	Music on the Bandstand	Vine Gardens Bandstand	Sevenoaks Town Council
Sun	17	August	3-5 pm	Music on the Bandstand	Vine Gardens Bandstand	Sevenoaks Town Council
Tues	19	August	2-3 pm	Children’s Theatre Show Fungi Frida & the Myco Heroes	Bat and Ball Centre	Sevenoaks Town Council
Wed	20	August	2-3 pm	Children’s Theatre Show Fungi Frida & the Myco Heroes	Pontoise Play Area	Sevenoaks Town Council

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<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
Thurs	21	August	2-3 pm	Children's Theatre Show Fungi Frida & the Myco Heroes	Greatness Recreational Ground	Sevenoaks Town Council
Thurs	21	August	6-8 pm	Music on the Bandstand	Vine Gardens Bandstand	Sevenoaks Town Council
Fri	22	August	2-3 pm	Children's Theatre Show Fungi Frida & the Myco Heroes	Vine Gardens	Sevenoaks Town Council
Sun	24	August	3-5 pm	Music on the Bandstand	Vine Gardens Bandstand	Sevenoaks Town Council
Thurs	28	August	6-8 pm	Music on the Bandstand	Vine Gardens Bandstand	Sevenoaks Town Council
Sun	31	August	9am – 9 pm	Smash Cricket Tournament	The Vine	Sevenoaks Smash Cricket
Sat	6	September	12-7 pm	Street Food Festival	Vine Gardens	Heart of Sevenoaks
Sun	7	September	3-5 pm	Music on the Bandstand Almost the Last Night of the Proms Oxted Band	Vine Gardens Bandstand	Sevenoaks Town Council
Sat	13	September	6:30-9 pm	Outdoor Cinema: Peter Rabbit (2018)	Green Court- Knole House	National Trust- Knole
Sat	20	September	10-4 pm	Sevenoaks Bike Festival- Cancelled	Vine Gardens	Sevenoaks Bike Festival
Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> Sept- Sun 5 <sup>th</sup> Oct				Sevenoaks Literary Festival	Various Locations around sevenoaks	Sevenoaks Literary Festival
Sat	5	October	10-4 pm	Vegan Market	Vine Gardens	Sevenoaks Town Team
Sun	9	November	10.45	Remembrance Sunday	Vine Memorial	Sevenoaks Town Council
Sat	29	November	3-5 pm	Christmas Lights Switch On	Town Centre	Sevenoaks Town Council
Tue	2	December	4-5.30 pm	Bob Ogleby book talk	Knole House	Sevenoaks Town Council

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## Government First UK Town of Culture Competition

- Application deadline for EOI 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026
- Three categories
  - Small town under 20,000 people
  - Medium town 20,000 – 75,000 people
  - Large town – 75,000+
- From three categories one overall winner receiving £3m.
- Two finalists, runners up to receive £250k
- Accountable Body required = STC ✓
- Needs to complement Government initiative *to support culture to thrive, ensure that everyone has the opportunity to experience great culture and access to high quality institutions in places they call home.*
- Shortlisted applicants provided with £60,000 development fund for continuing application.

## Sevenoaks – Town of Culture?

- Currently has a Cultural Strategy endorsed at NDP Referendum
- Has an Arts & Culture Working Group with representatives from community

Sevenoaks priority needs to develop its cultural offer include:

1. **Wayfinding infrastructure.** Key cultural facilities have lack of signage and identification within the town. A strategy has been developed however due to shortage of capital funds unable to proceed.
2. **Cultural Workspaces** Affordable, flexible workspaces with long term tenure are required.
3. **Stag Theatre** a feasibility study has been undertaken and indicates that additional seating, facilities, Fly Tower, provision for tertiary education, and an Art Gallery could be installed subject to capital funding to ensure the long term sustainability of the theatre and the economics of the town.
4. **Performing Arts Tertiary Education** currently there is no tertiary education in the town meaning that young people are all leaving the town during the day. The provision of the tertiary education at the Stag would not only make the venue more sustainable but also the economics of the town.

**5. Summer Festival and Key Cultural Events** reinvigorate and create sustainable operational solutions

Sevenoaks Neighbourhood Development Plan (approved at public referendum)



Above is the current outline of infrastructure. Funding would assist with a dedicated person to develop the Action Plan, capital and event proposals.

If successful key proposals to develop would be

- Dedicated member of personnel to develop the Action Plan, capital and event proposals and act as a liaison with cultural community
- Progressing Wayfinding project to installation.
- Progressing Stag additional facilities starting with Phase 1, additional seating, facilities and Art Gallery
- Developing proposals for affordable working spaces for artists.
- Continuing and developing a programme of events throughout the calendar year.
- Summer Festival – Having operated successfully for 50 years in 2026 was cancelled due to shortage of volunteers and financial sustainability concerns
- Building on the high profile of UK Town of Culture to progress all of the above.

More Information to follow