



Okehampton Town Council

Okehampton Town Council  
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Fore Street  
Okehampton EX20 1AA

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[www.okehampton.gov.uk](http://www.okehampton.gov.uk)

## NEWSLETTER – MAY 2021

Welcome to the first Okehampton Town Council newsletter that has been published for many years.

How often do you think the Council should publish a newsletter and what would you like to see in it?

Please do send your thoughts to us at [admin@okehampton.gov.uk](mailto:admin@okehampton.gov.uk), by post to the Town Hall or by phone.

It is not feasible financially for a copy to be posted to each and every household, but it will be available in publicly accessible places as covid permits.

The newsletter will be on the Council's website and Facebook page, and you will be able to sign up to receive it by email.

Emma James  
Town Clerk

## 2021/22 Mayor – Councillor Bob Tolley

The Town Council Annual Meeting in May incorporates the Mayor Choosing Ceremony. This is an event to which other Mayors, members of the community and award recipients are invited, but like everything in recent months was impacted by the pandemic and held virtually on 5<sup>th</sup> May. Councillor Bob Tolley was voted in as Mayor for the 2021/22 Civic Year.

*“As newly elected Mayor I am honoured to contribute to the first issue of the Okehampton Town Council newsletter. I hope the publication, both virtual and hard copy, will provide an insight into the Council's work, the answer to that often-asked question, “what are the Council doing about it?”*

*I am looking forward to meeting new people and adding my twopence worth to the newsletter over the next municipal year.”*

Cllr Bob Tolley  
Town Mayor

### **A few words from Councillor Julie Yelland, outgoing Town Mayor for 2019/20 and 2020/21:**

*“Welcome to the first edition of our brand-new newsletter which I hope you will enjoy reading. As we begin to emerge from the social restrictions that have constrained us for the last 12 months, let's look forward with a sense of excitement and anticipation to what 2021 and beyond has to offer. If you are involved with a not-for-profit organisation or registered charity with beneficiaries that live in Okehampton, then please do check out our grants page on the website to see if you are eligible to apply for some funding. You can also advertise your event free of charge on the Town Council website.”*



**2020/21 Mayors Awards** go to the Council's two long-standing Mace Bearers, David Hollinshead and Basil Jones who between them celebrate 60 years of voluntary service, 40 and 20 years respectively.

Okehampton Covid19 Support Group were presented with an award for their support to the community during the pandemic and Matthew Barnes of GWR for his role in bringing back a regular passenger rail service to the town.

Sergeant Lily Howes, of the 2443 (Okehampton) Squadron, Royal Air Force Cadets received a certificate for her contribution as Mayor's Cadet for 2019/20 and 2020/21.



Photo of the Mace Bearers, Basil (on the left) and David (on the right) with the 2019/20 and 2020/21 Mayor, Cllr Julie Yelland, and Deputy Mayor, Cllr Dr Michael Ireland.

### Golden Easter Bunny Winner

Easter Trails were run by the Town Council and Everything Okehampton with all participants who completed them winning a small chocolate bunny.



The overall winner, Aliya, was drawn from the hat by Cllr Yelland and was presented with the large chocolate bunny.

### Crime and Antisocial Behaviour

You might not think that reporting a crime or anti-social behaviour does any good, but it does.

The Police work on figures, so the more reports they get, the more they can concentrate their efforts on an area of concern.

So please, if you see anything untoward report it by calling 101 or using the online reporting facility <https://services.devon-cornwall.police.uk/crimereporting/>.

Every report counts and will help to focus Police attention to identified issues and areas.

### Okehampton Cemetery

In 2004 the Town Council purchased land adjacent to All Saints Church to be used for burials as the graveyard was filling up.

Being the landowner of the new area, the Council is the official Burial Authority and decided to bring management of burials in-house from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021, burials having been the responsibility of the Northmoor Ministry.

More information about the change and the new rules and regulations can be found on the website [www.okehampton.gov.uk](http://www.okehampton.gov.uk) or by emailing [cemetery@okehampton.gov.uk](mailto:cemetery@okehampton.gov.uk), or ringing the Council office.

### Putting Green

The parks team have been busy making improvements to the putting green located by the Leisure Centre. It now contains clearly cut out fairways and some bunkers to catch you out!



Why not have a go when you visit our lovely Simmons Park – equipment is available to hire from the Leisure Centre.

## CCTV is coming ....

A system covering the town centre and Simmons Park has been approved by the Council. There has been a slight delay with the installation, but it is on its way.

A big thanks to those who have contributed to the cost of the system and its link to a dedicated monitoring hub:



- The Police & Crime Commissioner,
- Okehampton United Charities,
- DCC Locality Grant – Cllr Ball,
- WDBC Locality Grant – Cllr's Ball, Davies, Leech, Vachon and Yelland,
- Community Safety Partnership Team.

## Community Roadside Action Party

The initiative is supported by the Council who thanks those volunteers who regularly give up their time to pick up litter which makes a great difference to the community and sets an example to others.

The Council encourages all local businesses and residents to keep the areas surrounding their premises clean and tidy to make the own welcoming and help to encourage visitors.

## Reinstatement of the Passenger Rail Service

The dedicated new website is regularly updated with progress of repairs and improvements needed before the link reopens later this year.

A new logo for the Dartmoor Line is being sought – entries close on 23<sup>rd</sup> May.  
<https://dartmoorline.com/news/>

## Charter Hall and Simmons Park Events

Sadly, there have been no events recently with the exception of a few Weddings, when permitted, in the Council Chamber.

Bookings are now being taken for Coffee Mornings and other events. The Committee Room and Council Chamber are also available for hire. Are the rooms suitable for use by your group or organisation? If not, tell us why so that we can look at making improvements.

Potential hirers of the Charter Hall should be aware that roofing work is planned which will mean that the Hall will have to be closed again at a date to be confirmed.

## Council Meetings

Legislation permitting local councils to meet remotely due to the pandemic ended on 6<sup>th</sup> May.

Face to face meetings will resume in the Charter Hall on 17<sup>th</sup> May, number restrictions will be in place. Meeting dates can be found on the website.

### Contact Us

Emma James, Town Clerk  
[clerk@okehampton.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@okehampton.gov.uk)

Caroline Ellis, Assistant Town Clerk (Accounts)  
[accounts@okehampton.gov.uk](mailto:accounts@okehampton.gov.uk)

Abi Horn, Admin Officer Mayor's Assistant  
(Bookings)  
[admin@okehampton.gov.uk](mailto:admin@okehampton.gov.uk)

James McGahey, Park-Keeper  
[parks@okehampton.gov.uk](mailto:parks@okehampton.gov.uk)

### Your Councillors

Cllr Bob Tolley (Town Mayor)  
Cllr Deborah Sanger (Deputy Mayor)

Cllr Terry Abbots	Cllr Greta Button
Cllr Jan Goffey	Cllr Carole Holt
Cllr Dr Michael Ireland	Cllr Paul Jessop
Cllr Tony Leech	Cllr Christine Marsh
Cllr Brendan Matravers	Cllr Debra Travers
Cllr Julie Yelland	Cllr Ann Wood

Details of how to contact individual Councillors can be obtained from the Office or the website.



## Okehampton Town Council

### ***Hanging Basket Competition 2021***

Okehampton Town Council is pleased to launch a new initiative in 2021: an annual hanging basket competition for businesses and dwellings located in the Town Centre (Fore Street, Market Street, West Street, George Street, St James Street, East Street, Victorian Arcade, and Red Lion Yard).



Entry to the competition is free and judging of the hanging baskets will take place in mid-July 2021. Prizes will be awarded to the winners. The closing date for entries is 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021.

Further information and applications forms will be available from the Town Council in due course.



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**Go on..... sign up and help  
make the town look lovely and welcoming.**