



Okehampton Town Council



Okehampton Town Council
Town Hall
Fore Street
Okehampton EX20 1AA

01837 53179

www.okehampton.gov.uk

NEWSLETTER – JULY 2021

Sign up to receive the newsletters electronically by visiting the Council's website.

Horticultural Apprenticeship Vacancy

George Bryant is congratulated on the achievement of the Level 2 Horticultural Apprenticeship qualification. He is continuing to work with the Parks Team over the summer following which he will be heading off to pastures new.

The Council is pleased to offer a further Horticultural Apprenticeship Vacancy to commence in September 2021. For details, please visit the following website or contact the Council for details. The closing date for applications, which should be made through the apprenticeship scheme, is 16th July 2021.

<https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeship/-609428>

Councillor Deborah Sanger, Deputy Mayor



Deputy Mayor Councillor Deborah Sanger has been a member of the council since 2019 and describes her arrival in Okehampton as a happy accident, having come from Yorkshire, via Bude, with her husband's job move almost ten years ago.

Always keen to contribute to her local community she has been a volunteer, sung with local choirs, played with ukulele groups, and even started Okehampton's regular folk club, the Okey Folky.

Councillor Sanger agreed to reveal two unusual facts about herself. She recently discovered percussive dancing, which is done in ordinary hard soled shoes, and she can often be found stepping along at local folk sessions.

In a new venture, last year she bought two Kunekune pigs and all three grandchildren are keen to greet the first piglets this summer although she is expecting it all to be a very steep learning curve.

Although Councillor Sanger lives outside of the immediate town in the growing area of Okehampton Hamlets, she thinks all residents both old and new should feel proud of, and connected to, the ancient town of Okehampton. She says, "as well as our wonderful moorland setting, we also have the remnants of the most south-westerly Roman settlement in Britain so it's been a place people have chosen to live for a very long time indeed".

CCTV Update

Installation of a system covering the town centre and Simmons Park is expected take place over the summer.



Mayor's Coffee Morning

Come along and meet the Mayor, Cllr Bob Tolley, who is hosting a coffee morning in the Charter Hall on 31st July in support of his chosen charity Dream-A-Way. An Exeter based charity helping to make dreams come true for Devon's children and adults with disabilities or life affecting health conditions.

A limited number of stalls are available in return for a donation to Dream-A-Way. To book your table contact Abi on 01837 53179 or admin@okehampton.gov.uk

'Oakehampton' Clock



In 2019 a clock, minus any casing, was donated to the Council. Mr Vachon, a former Town Councillor, has kindly donated materials, his time and skills, and fitted the clock into casing. The clock is now operational and located in the Council Chamber.

Mr Vachon says, 'It was a typical long-case clock with brass dial with etched 'Oakehampton' and the maker's name – John Nottle.' It is believed that the clock was made sometime in the mid 1700's.

Council Grants Awarded

The Council has a budget for the award of grants supporting community organisations and groups to the benefit of the residents of Okehampton. The criteria and details of how to apply can be found at www.okehampton.gov.uk/grants.php.

The grant budget for the 2021/22 financial year is £37,358, unspent funds from the previous year having been added.

In May, a grant of £3,500 was presented to the Museum of Dartmoor Life by Cllr Tolley when he cut the ribbon for its seasonal opening.



Additionally, in May a grant of £1,500 was awarded to the Tourist Information Facility.

June saw the approval of two applications:

- £220 - Okehampton Fairtrade Group towards a leaflet celebrating 10 years of the Fairtrade status of the town
- £73.85 - South Western Ambulance Charity, equipment for the Okehampton Community First Responder volunteer.

Fairplace Sensory Garden



In 2019 the Council took ownership and responsibility for the public toilets and garden area at this location and have been working to create a sensory garden.

WDBC have contributed £1,565 from s.106 funding towards the project which will provide an area full of plants and flowers that are bee, butterfly and insect friendly. A splash of colour in the centre of the town which will be full of different sounds and smells.

The tree for the centre of the garden, a flowering Chinese Dogwood, also known as a China Girl tree, which was donated during last summer is flourishing and flowering well.



Just a few more plants are needed to finish the garden which will mature over the coming years.

Local Groups and Organisations

Are you a local not-for-profit charity, group or organisation?

Add your details to the community section of our website so that people can find out about what you are offering. You could also include any events on the calendar.

Fields in Trust Celebration of Greenspaces and Parks is being held on 3rd July in Simmons Park. A variety of free events are being offered by OCRA and the Council, including free putting on the recently refurbished Council owned green by Parklands.

You may find some members of Council staff or Councillors giving putting a go and demonstrating how it should be done (or not!!).

West Bridge Wildflower Verge

The verge, which is owned by the Town Council and maintained by its Parks Team, is starting to bloom with a variety of wildflowers. A donation towards the cost of the seeds was received last year from Okement Rivers Improvement Group.



Zip Wire



The zip wire in Simmons Park, which is one of the most popular items of play equipment, has been out of action for several weeks having been deemed unsafe.

Its replacement is due to be considered by Parks Committee when they meet in early July.

Clapps Wood

Unfortunately, this area of woodland has been hit by ash-tree dieback with all the ash trees therein being infected, totalling approximately 60% of its trees. It is with sadness that the Council will be considering quotations for their felling in line with specialist recommendation.

Remaining trees, who will suddenly find themselves without the shelter they previously had, will be regularly checked for stability meaning that some may need to be pruned or felled for safety purposes.

It is the intention of the Council to replant the woodland and a scheme is being drawn up for implementation, hopefully, in 2022.

UK Government Emergency Alerts

<h2>Emergency Alerts</h2>	<h4>About Emergency Alerts</h4>
<p>How it works</p> <p>Emergency alerts are broadcast from mobile phone masts. Every compatible mobile phone or tablet in range will receive an alert.</p> <p>The government does not need your phone number to send you an alert.</p> <p>How emergency alerts</p>	<p>Emergency Alerts is a new service from the UK government. It's expected to launch in summer 2021.</p> <p>Emergency alerts will warn you if there's a danger to life nearby.</p> <p>In an emergency, your phone or tablet will receive an alert with advice about how to stay safe.</p> <p>What happens when you get an alert</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Reasons you might get an alert</p> <p>The government and mobile phone networks are testing emergency alerts.</p> <p>You may get an alert if you live in, or travel through, a test area.</p> <p>Other reasons you might get an alert</p>

Emergency Alerts is a new service from the UK government which is expected to launch in summer 2021.

Further information can be found at www.gov.uk/alerts

Okey Music Day
Sunday 25th July
okeymusicday.co.uk

Charter Hall, Okehampton

Bookings for events are once again being taken and with any luck the scheduled events will be able to take place:

22 nd July	BHS Blood Donation Session
31 st July	Mayor's Coffee Morning
7 th August	Hospiscare Coffee Morning
14 th August	Trek 26 Dementia Coffee Morning
4 th September	Friendly Circle Coffee Morning



Face to Face Councillor Surgeries Make a Return

15th July brings the return of face-to-face Councillor Surgeries in the Town Hall. These are held monthly on the third Thursday from 10am to 12noon, with the exception of August and December.

Do you have any questions or suggestions, want to know how the Council works or what Councillors do? This is your opportunity to find out.

Councillors will be available from 10am until 12noon in the Town Hall, no need to book. Not able to make it? - contact the office to make an appointment at a convenient time.

Free Putting

There will be a further opportunity for a free go at putting on the recently refurbished green by Parklands on Sunday 25th July as part of OCRA's Super Sunday.

Summer Scavenger Hunt

Test your knowledge of Okehampton and Simmons Park with our two free summer activity sheets. One is based in the town and the other in the park. Sheets can be downloaded from our website or paper copies can be collected from the Town Hall.

Town Council Meeting Dates

Council meetings normally start at 7pm and are currently being held in the Charter Hall, although this is subject to change in line with pandemic regulations. Numbers permitted are restricted to a maximum of 25 persons including Town Councillors and staff members.

Meetings dates may occasionally change, and the website or noticeboard in the Victorian Arcade should be checked for up-to-date information.

July

- 5th Parks Committee
- 12th Policy & Resources Committee followed by a Planning Committee applications only meeting
- 26th Full Council

August

- 2nd Property Committee, followed by a Planning Committee applications only meeting
- 23rd Full Council followed by a Planning Committee applications only meeting

September

- 6th Full Planning Committee

Contact Us

Emma James, Town Clerk
clerk@okehampton.gov.uk

Caroline Ellis, Assistant Town Clerk (Accounts)
accounts@okehampton.gov.uk

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

James McGahey, Park-Keeper
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.