



Okehampton Town Council



Okehampton Town Council
Town Hall
Fore Street
Okehampton EX20 1AA

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www.okehampton.gov.uk

NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2021

Sign up to receive the newsletters electronically by visiting the Council's [website](http://www.okehampton.gov.uk).

Christmas in Okehampton



Edwardian Evening Programme

- 5.00pm Entertainingly Different at St James Chapel
- 6.00pm Town Lights Switch On
- 6.20pm Town Band in Museum Courtyard
- 6.30pm Footsteps Dancers at St James Chapel
- 6.45pm Okehampton Christmas Choir at St James Chapel
- 7.00pm Mayor's Carols at St James Chapel
- 7.20pm Christmas Choir in Museum Yard
- 7.45pm Red Lion Yard's Tree of Lights and the Hummingbirds

'Free after 3pm' parking in
Simmons Park on
weekdays and all-day
Saturdays throughout
December

Mayor's Christmas message

"As another challenging year draws to a close, I am pleased to say the Town Council together with voluntary groups have been busy with post lock-down upgrades and refurbishments.

A general sprucing up, as it were, as we get Okehampton safe and normality ready. CCTV has been installed and switched on and street furniture and bridge railings have had a refurb and splash of paint.

Also, by the time you read this some of you will have already used the Dartmoor Line railway service, campaigned for, over many years, by a determined few, and for which the Town will be forever grateful.

The Okehampton and Hamlets Neighbourhood Plan has been constantly worked on by a team of councillors and volunteers for the good of the town, the Hamlets and all our residents.

In terms of my role as Town Mayor I have had the pleasure of visiting some of Okehampton's community groups and voluntary organisations, many of which the Town Council has awarded grants to in order to be able to introduce new or improved facilities, activities or projects for the benefit of the town.

As Mayor I will continue to visit and support as many places and people as possible during the remainder of my term, to raise the profile of local charities and voluntary organisations, all of whom work tirelessly to help members of this community.

Last but not least, we know Christmas is a joyous, festive and family occasion, which sadly only goes to amplify the negative feelings of those who are alone, vulnerable or without close family ties.

I trust you will pause briefly in your own celebrations to remember those less fortunate than yourselves, and maybe call on people who may be lonely or those in need of comfort.

On behalf of all the members and staff at Okehampton Town Council may I wish all Okehampton residents "a Merry Christmas and a happy, peaceful and healthy New Year."

Cllr Bob Tolley

A big thank you to the Roundtable

for the Christmas tree donated to the Council which is proudly on display in the Charter Hall Foyer and for the rose plants for Simmons Park which will be planted when the weather conditions are more favourable.

Christmas Trails

'The Holly and the Ivy' and 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' trail sheets are available from the Town Hall and [website](#).

Small prize for those completed and returned to the Town Hall by 20th December.

Recycling & Waste Collections

| Collection day | New collection day |
|----------------|--------------------|
| Mon 27 Dec | Wed 29 Dec |
| Tues 28 Dec | Thur 30 Dec |
| Wed 29 Dec | Fri 31 Dec |
| Thur 30 Dec | Tues 4 Jan |
| Fri 31 Dec | Wed 5 Jan |
| Mon 3 Jan | Thur 6 Jan |
| Tues 4 Jan | Fri 7 Jan |
| Wed 5 Jan | Sat 8 Jan |
| Thur 6 Jan | Mon 10 Jan |
| Fri 7 Jan | Tues 11 Jan |
| 10 - 13 Jan | Two days late |
| Fri 14 Jan | Mon 17 Jan |
| 17 - 21 Jan | One day late |
| 24 Jan onwards | No change |

West Devon recycles this Christmas
www.westdevon.gov.uk

[westdevonboroughcouncil](#)

[@WestDevon_DC](#)





Opening of the Dartmoor Line Rail Service

The Mayor, Cllr Bob Tolley, Town Councillors and the Town Clerk were all invited to the opening event on Wednesday 17th November 2021 and had the opportunity to take a short return journey to Bow.



Cllr Dr Michael Ireland, Chairman of OkeRail, who has been working with Network Rail and GWR to get the service restarted for many years, was delighted to have been one of the first to be welcomed aboard the Dartmoor Line.

Budget and Precept for 2022/23

The budget and precept setting process for the 2022/23 financial year which starts on 1st April is well underway, the Committees having reviewed an initial budget proposal.

Full Council will be reviewing the whole budget proposal on 20th December and making a final decision towards the end of January. Copies of the budget proposals made so far can found within the meeting reports on the Council [website](#) or obtained from the office.

Has your plastic waste been brought back into use in the town?

Additional picnic benches are being provided by the Council in Simmons Park near the play area one of which will be suitable for wheelchair users. A new bench is also being provided by the public toilets in Market Street, replacing one removed earlier in the year which was rotten and beyond repair.

Devon Contract Waste, who collect the Town Council's waste, are recycling their plastic waste and made it into other products including the benches purchased by the Council.

So, it is possible that your plastic waste has gone full circle and returned to the town for long term use of residents and visitors.

Zip Wire Update

Grants towards the replacement of the zip wire have been awarded to the Council by WDBC £5,000 and Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council £1,000. The remaining balance of approximately £10,000 being funded by the Town Council.

An installation date is awaited.

Clapps Wood – Ash Dieback Update

Felling of the trees in the woodland area that are affected by ash dieback has been delayed because of the need to obtain a felling licence from the Forestry Commission.

The felling is now planned to commence on 10th January, and it is anticipated that it will take between two to three weeks to complete work during which time the footpath will be closed for health and safety purposes.



(Autumn in Simmons Park)

Council Grants Awarded

The Council has a budget of £37,358 this year for the award of grants supporting community organisations and groups for the benefit of the residents of Okehampton.

Contact the office for details or find them on the [website](#):

The following grants were awarded in November:

- Okehampton Carnival - £1,000 towards the cost of the running of the event
- Everything Okehampton - £1,000 towards the costs of the provision of Christmas lights
- Meldon Viaduct - £500 towards the repairs and maintenance fund

Time to apply for a grant in this financial year is running out and applications must be received by 21st February 2021.

Coming Up in December

- 1st Valuation Day (Town Hall)
- 2nd Edwardian Evening
PTFA Edwardian Evening event (Charter Hall)
- 4th Okehampton Primary School PTFA Santa's Breakfast (Charter Hall)
- 5th Excelsior Silver Band Concert (Charter Hall)
- 7th Friendly Circle (Charter Hall)
Dog Training (Charter Hall)
- 11th Carnival Committee Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)
- 12th Coop Funeral Care Christmas Memorial Service (Charter Hall)
- 14th Dog Training (Charter Hall)
- 15-17th Courtenay Players (Charter Hall)
- 18th Lions Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)
Tribute Band (Charter Hall)

Town Council Meeting Dates

December

- 6th Policy & Resources and Property Committees
- 13th Parks and Planning (applications only) Committees
- 20th Full Council

Council meetings normally start at 7pm are currently being held in the Charter Hall and are occasionally subject to change. The [website](#) or noticeboard in the Victorian Arcade should be checked for up-to-date information.

**The office in the Town Hall
will be closed from 4pm
Thursday 23rd December
until 9.30am Tuesday
4th January 2022.**

Messages, post and emails will be checked on working days over the holiday period.

Contact Us

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

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

Abi Horn, Admin Officer and 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 website.