



Okehampton Town Council



Okehampton Town Council
Town Hall
Fore Street
Okehampton EX20 1AA

01837 53179
www.okehampton.gov.uk

NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2022

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

Welcome to 2022!

On behalf of the Town Council members of staff I wish you all a safe, healthy and happy 2022.

With the seemingly never-ending disruption caused by the covid pandemic it may well be that it becomes necessary to close the office in the Town Hall once again. The situation is constantly under review and if the office does close, we will still be contactable by phone and email, and in person by prior appointment.

Emma James
Town Clerk & RFO

Budget and Precept for 2022/23

Full Council reviewed and approved the budget and precept for the 2022/23 financial year on 20th December. Normally these are set in January but was brought forward because of the likelihood of further pandemic restrictions and the possibility that the Council will not be able to meet legally in the New Year. The budget can be found on the Council [website](http://www.okehampton.gov.uk) or obtained from the office.

Rising costs mean that Council expenses also go up. Funding is needed to undertake major work to the Charter Hall roof and to build a fund for the future replacement of the Town Hall windows, the Town Hall being Grade II listed. To minimise a rise in the Town Council's part of the Council Tax, some unspent funding is being rolled forward instead of being added to the general reserves. A growth in the Council Tax Base (the amount of properties that the precept is split between) to near pre-pandemic levels has helped to keep the increase down. Funding for the Queens Jubilee celebrations in June and replanting of the trees in Clapps Wood has been included.

The precept is increasing by £17,378 to £313,086 which equates to an additional £0.51 p/month on a Band D property - less than a pint of milk.

Edwardian Evening was a huge success thanks to the efforts of Everything Okehampton who undertook a large amount of the event organisation. The Christmas Lights purchased by the Town Council were switched on for the first time - we hope you like them.

Clapps Wood – Ash Dieback Update

Felling of the trees affected by Ash dieback was delayed because of the need to obtain a felling licence from the Forestry Commission.

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



Town Council Grants Available

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 of how to apply or find them on the [website](#). So far this year grants amounting to £15,943.85 have been awarded to local groups and organisations by the Town Council.

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

Councillor Surgeries are Recommencing in January

Bookable appointments are being trialled and these can either be face to face in the Town Hall or virtual.

To book a slot between 10am and 12noon on one of the following dates please call the office on 01837 53179 or email admin@okehampton.gov.uk.

20th January – hosted by Cllrs Goffey and Sanger

17th February

17th March

Coming Up in January...

4th Dog Training (Charter Hall)

11th Dog Training (Charter Hall)

18th Dog Training (Charter Hall)

20th Councillors Surgery (Town Hall or Virtual)

25th Dog Training (Charter Hall)

February

1st Friendly Circle (Charter Hall)

Town Council Meeting Dates

January

10th Planning Committee

17th Policy & Resources Committee

24th Property and Planning Committees

31st Full Council

February

7th Parks Committee

14th Policy & Resources and Planning Committees

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

Contact Us – 01837 53179

Emma James, Town Clerk & RFO

clerk@okehampton.gov.uk

Caroline Ellis, Assistant Town Clerk (Accounts)

accounts@okehampton.gov.uk

Abi Horn, Admin Officer and Mayor's Assistant
(Bookings and Invitations for the Mayor)

admin@okehampton.gov.uk

James McGahey, Park-Keeper

parks@okehampton.gov.uk

Town Benches

If you notice that some are missing – don't worry they have just been temporarily removed for repair and maintenance.

Whilst many benches belong to the Town Council, some are owned by WDBC, DCC or other groups and organisations.

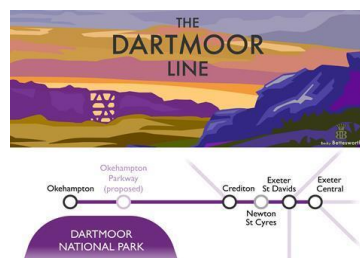


The Town Council will be repairing the seating area in West Street which belongs to DCC and planting some insect friendly shrubs or colourful bulbs in the raised bed to improve this area of the town.

Travelling on the Dartmoor Line?

Find the latest timetable on this link

<https://www.gwr.com/travel-information/train-times>



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

Individual Councillors contact details can be obtained from the Office or website.