



Okehampton Town Council



Okehampton Town Council
Town Hall
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01837 53179

www.okehampton.gov.uk

NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2022

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

Annual Town Assembly – Advance Notice

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, a meeting of the parish of Okehampton Town will be held at 7pm on 28th March 2022 in the Charter Hall.

This is a meeting for the residents of the town. It is an opportunity to find out what the Council has been doing and what its plans are for the forthcoming year, ask questions and to speak with your Councillors.

It is anticipated that there will be a presentation by Dartmoor Search and Rescue and an update from local Police Officers about the positive impact the installation of the CCTV system has had. Further details will be available in early March.

Tenders Invited for the Public Toilet Cleaning Contract



Okehampton Town Council is seeking tenders for the cleaning of the public toilets at Fairplace and in Market Street, Okehampton for the period 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2025.

Details can be obtained from the Council's website www.okehampton.gov.uk or by contacting the Office on 01837 53179. Closing date: 12 noon Friday 18th February 2022

February Councillor Surgery

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

17th February

17th March

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.

Okehampton Train Timetable

The online timetable can be download from GWR's website on

<https://www.gwr.com/plan-journey/train-times>

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Fairtrade Fortnight

21st February to 6th March

The Fairtrade Group are planning an online Coffee Evening on 22nd February at 7pm with a presentation about the response Fairtrade Farmers are making to Climate Change. Details will be on the Fairtrade Group's Facebook Page nearer the time.

It is planned that there will be a Fairtrade Schools' Conference hosted at St James Primary School and that a Fairtrade stall will join the Red Lion Yard Market on March 4th.

Mayor's Charity Events

"Since my election in May 2021, which started in lockdown and grew as things opened up, I have found it difficult to put the time I would have wished, in better supporting my chosen charity. Dream-a-way [Making Dreams Come True for People in Devon - Dream-A-Way](#)

Going from nought (lockdown), to full speed (everything and anything, including events carried over from 2020) to get involved in supporting as many local events, charities and organisations as possible, left little time to arrange my own fundraising events.

So, between now and new Mayor time (May) I have set myself a challenge. My challenge is for you, and the Okehampton residents to "**Challenge the Mayor**", me!

Being cognisant of the dignity of the role and its legalities, my age and health, and Council finances I am willing to take on selected challenges proposed by you or the community, with a view to raising funds for my charity.

Although, obviously, I wouldn't consider running around the Town Hall in my birthday suit (Dignity) sprinting up Yes Tor in a record time (Age/Health) or flying to Iceland to sit in a bath of beans (Finances), I am up for attempting selected challenges you may suggest. (Sticking rates bills where the sun doesn't shine, doesn't count). It seems we, the Mayors Charity, are able to create a "Just Giving" page to manage the process, so it won't impinge on our already busy staff's time.

So, if you like me to dye my hair in the Okehampton colours, abseil down St James' tower or, my personal favourite, have a large G&T in every Okehampton hostelry on a Saturday lunch time, (I've been practicing) then drop a note into the Office or to me. We will look at them and I will do my very best to accomplish 2/3 a month until May.

I would also seek support from local businesses / organisations to help realise some of these challenges and provide them with some free publicity.

I am already considering a Jail Break type challenge to see how far I can get, by rail, in 24hrs, on the first train of the day out of Okehampton. (Although, the Mayor trying to get as far away from Okehampton as he can doesn't seem to be sending quite the right message). Hey Ho...

Challenges so far...

To be a Dartmoor Search & Rescue 'Dogs Body', hiding on the moors pretending to be lost or injured.

To spend a morning working in Simmons Park helping to prune the many roses

Tours of the Council Chamber, including tea and biscuits, are being hosted every Thursday throughout February by the Mayor in return for a donation to Dream-A-Way.

To book please contact Abi on admin@okehampton.gov.uk or 01837 53179



Can I also point out other dates and events I am proposing to help boost my charities coffers over the next few months:

Saturday 12 February 2022

I shall be hosting a **Coffee Morning** in the Charter Hall on behalf of Dream-a-way. If you know of any local charities or organisations who would like to take advantage of the networking and publicity opportunity this may provide, to promote and fundraise their own interests, then let the Office or I know.

Friday 8 April 2022

I shall host a **General Knowledge Quiz** in the Charter Hall, again with any profits going to my chosen charity. 10 Rounds (5 x General Knowledge and 5 x Themed). Table quiz and Spot Prize. (Further details to be published)

Thank you all in anticipation, for your support."

Cllr Bob Tolley, Town Mayor

Town Council Grants

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 £17,443.85 have been awarded to local groups and organisations by the Town Council.

In January 2022 the following grants were awarded:

- 1st Okehampton Rainbows & Brownies - £500 towards the cost of a Guiding UK visit to Legoland
- Okement Rivers Improvement Group - £500 towards the cost of noticeboard repairs and seat maintenance
- Who Let the Dad's Out, Okehampton - £500 towards the cost of hall hire, refreshments, children's activities and equipment for the running of the sessions

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

Coming Up in February...

- 1st Friendly Circle (Charter Hall)
- 12th Town Mayor's Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)
- 17th NHS Blood Donation Session (Charter Hall)
Councillors Surgery (Town Hall or Virtual)
- 19th Choral Society Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)
- 26th 2443 RAF Cadets Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)

March

- 1st Friendly Circle (Charter Hall)
- 10th NHS Blood Donation Session (Charter Hall)
- 12th Lions Breakfast (Charter Hall)
- 17th NHS Blood Donation Session (Charter Hall)
- 19th Inner Wheel Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)
- 26th Community Transport Group Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)
The Countrymen (Charter Hall)

Town Council Meeting Dates

February

- 7th Parks and Planning (applications only) Committees
- 14th Property and Policy & Resources Committees
- 21st Full Planning Committee
- 28th Full Council

March

- 7th 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.

Regular Events:

Tuesdays - Dog Training (Charter Hall)

Commonwealth Day 14th March 2022

The Mayor extends an invitation to all to join him at 9.20am outside of St James' Chapel for a short Ceremony.

Raising of the flag on the Church tower will follow the reading of the Commonwealth Affirmation.

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

Your Councillors

Cllr Bob Tolley (Town Mayor)
Cllr Deborah Sanger (Deputy Mayor)
Cllr Terry Abbots
Cllr Jan Goffey
Cllr Dr Michael Ireland
Cllr Tony Leech
Cllr Brendan Matravers
Cllr Julie Yelland
Cllr Greta Button
Cllr Carole Holt
Cllr Paul Jessop
Cllr Christine Marsh
Cllr Debra Travers
Cllr Ann Wood

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