



Okehampton Town Council

**COFFEE MORNING
IN AID OF
UKRAINE CRISIS**
SATURDAY 5TH MARCH
9:30AM-12:30PM
CHARTER HALL

Okehampton Town Council
Town Hall
Fore Street
Okehampton EX20 1AA

01837 53179

www.okehampton.gov.uk

NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2022

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

Annual Town Assembly – Monday 28th March

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.

There will be presentations from Dartmoor Search and Rescue, and Tor Support Services, and if a local Police Officer is available, an update about the positive impact that the installation of the CCTV system has had.

March Councillor Surgery

Do you have questions about Simmons Park or our other green areas? Our Park Keeper, James, will be joining Councillors at the March Surgery.



The February Surgery was a successful fully booked session. Bookable appointments are being trialled and these can either be face to face in the Town Hall or virtual.

17th March

21st April

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.

CCTV System Update

Phase 1 of the system was completed in the autumn of 2021 and is working well. Local Officers have advised that fewer reports of issues have been received and Town Council Parks Staff have noted a decrease in anti-social behaviour in Simmons Park.

Footage of recent incidents, including in Simmons Park is being reviewed by the Police which will hopefully lead to the identification of those responsible for causing damage.

Book Exchange and Information Point

The phone box in Simmons Park is a book exchange and will become an information point. If you have a spare book or two, please pop them in or drop them off at the Town Hall.

No Mow May

Areas of Simmons Park will be left uncut as part of the initiative – this includes the bank behind the first shelter, and area in front of the second shelter and Platts Meadow.



Public Space Protection Orders for Dog Control - Simmons Park, Okehampton

In 2020 West Devon Borough Council (WDBC) held a public consultation about its Public Space Protection Orders for Dog Control. As part of this process Okehampton Town Council requested the thoughts of its residents about the overall proposals and how they would affect dogs in Simmons Park.

Numerous responses were received and noted by the Town Council and were fed back to WDBC for consideration. A new Order for the Control of Dogs under the Public Spaces Protection Order was confirmed by WDBC in 2021.

Okehampton Town Council has reviewed the Order and the implications for the control of dogs within its outdoor spaces.

In line with the Order made by WDBC, from 1st April 2022 dogs will be required to be on a lead in the formal garden area of Simmons Park. This is the area on the Chalet/pond side of the river as outlined in red on the plan.



Your dog should be under control when off the lead and not be a nuisance to other people, animals (farm and wild) children and dogs (Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005/Control of Dogs Order 1992/Dangerous Dog Act 1991).

The following rules are unchanged and will continue to apply in the other areas of Simmons Park:

- Fenced in Play Area – No Dogs
- Unfenced Play Areas – Dogs Under Control
- Recreation Area – Dogs Under Control
- Cricket Field – No Dogs (area open to public use outside of school hours only)
- Playing Field – No Dogs during school hours or whilst the area is in use. Dogs Under Control at all other times

WDBC Officers and the Police are able to issue fixed penalty notices of up to £100 to those who do not comply with the Order.

Dog Fouling

It is very pleasing that the majority of dog walkers are responsible and pick-up after their charges. However, they are asked to be vigilant so that Simmons Park and other areas in and around the town, and of course further afield, can remain enjoyable for all.



Charter Hall Roof Repairs

Major roofing work to the Charter Hall is due to be carried out this year. The work includes repairs to the ventilation system and its relocation above the suspended ceiling so that the flat roof it currently sits on, which is leaking, can be replaced. Both elevations of the hall roof will be re-slatted and potentially other work, although the extent is dependent upon costs.

Unfortunately, the nature of the work and health and safety implications will necessitate the closure of the Hall for the duration, likely to be around four months. It is currently anticipated that work will commence in early May, and the completion date is unknown.



Those who have made bookings from the beginning of May until the end of September have been advised that their booking may have to be cancelled. On behalf of the Council, I apologise for any inconvenience that the upcoming work and closure will have and will endeavour to keep you updated as more information is known.

Mayor's Charity Events and Challenge Update

The Coffee Morning held on 12th February raised a massive £300 towards Cllr Tolley's chosen Charity, Dream-A-Way.

Cllr Tolley has accepted a number of Challenges including:

- Being a 'Dogs Body' for Dartmoor Search & Rescue
- Being Okehampton Times' Paper Boy for the day
- Dying his hair
- Pruning the roses in Simmons Park



Why not put your general knowledge to the test and enter the Mayor's Quiz in the Charter Hall on 8th April, or book a tour of the Council Chamber, including tea and biscuits, hosted by Cllr Tolley. For further details or to book contact Abi on admin@okehampton.gov.uk or 01835 53179

Queen's Platinum Jubilee – June 2022

For the long bank holiday weekend Okehampton Town Council is joining with Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The town will be decked in bunting and the entrants to the hanging basket competition will have joined in the theme of the Jubilee. Arrangements, subject to confirmation, are as follows:

Thursday 2nd June a Beacon will be lit on Black Down near Okehampton Camp. The Beacon will be lit at 9:45pm to the accompaniment of a piper playing bagpipes.

Friday 3rd June the Pavilion in the Park will be showing the Service of Thanksgiving from St Paul's Cathedral.

Saturday 4th June the Jubilee celebrations take place in Simmons Park. OCRA will be running sporting activities throughout the day. A service of thanksgiving with Christians Together will take place at 2:30pm followed by the dedication of an Oak tree. In the marquee local groups will be performing, the Courtney players putting on a show celebrating the 70 years of the Queen's Reign, Footsteps, Wren and others will entertain while cream teas are being served.

Sunday 5th June entertainment will be provided by the Rotary Fair in Simmons Park. The Rotary club will have their usual assortment of stalls and food, local groups are welcome to have a presence- all arrangements for this day are through the Rotary club.

Hanging Basket Competition
2022

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Theme

2nd 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 early July. Entry forms can be downloaded from www.okehampton.gov.uk or collected from the Town Hall. Closing date for entries is 31st May 2022

All plants must be real- any baskets with plastic/silk flowers will not be eligible for a prize.

Okehampton Town Council Town Hall, Fore Street, Okehampton EX20 1AA

Town Council Grants

The Council has a budget of £37,358 this year for the award of grants supporting not-for-profit 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 £26,457.51 have been awarded to local groups and organisations by the Town Council.

In February 2022 the following grants were awarded:

- **All Together Okehampton** for a grant of £475 to assist with the cost of wellbeing activities, venue hire and refreshments
- **Tor Support Services** for a grant of £500 to assist with the cost of the provision of counselling services for children and young people.
- **Ockment Centre** for a grant of £5,000 towards the cost of staffing provision for the reception
- **Okehampton United Charity** for a grant of £1,638.66 towards the cost the running of the allotments
- **Wren Music** for a grant of £500 towards the cost of the 2022 Lantern Procession
- **Okehampton Friendly Circle** for a grant of £400 towards the cost of monthly speakers and the annual Christmas lunch
- **Okehampton Community Garden** for a grant of £500 towards the cost of insurance, the provision of fencing and fire extinguishers to improve health and safety

Coming Up in March...

- 1st Friendly Circle (Charter Hall)
- 4th Ukrainian Crisis Coffee Morning (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)
- 20th Footsteps Dance Performance (Charter Hall)
- 26th Community Transport Group Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)
The Countrymen (Charter Hall)
- 28th Annual Town Assembly (Charter Hall)

April

- 2nd Friendly Circle Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)
- 5th Friendly Circle (Charter Hall)
- 8th Mayor's Quiz Night (Charter Hall)
- 9th Rotary Club Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)
- 16th Carnival Committee Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)

Town Council Meeting Dates

March

- 7th Policy & Resources and Planning Committees
- 14th Property Committee
- 21st Full Council and potentially the Planning Committee

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 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.