



Okehampton Town Council



Okehampton Town Council
Town Hall
Fore Street
Okehampton EX20 1AA

01837 53179

www.okehampton.gov.uk

NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 2022

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

Community Governance – Boundary Review

Okehampton Town Council is seeking the democratic view of its residents to demonstrate the support of the community for a proposal to change the boundary that lies between the town and its surrounding hamlets.

A change to the boundary would bring the recent urban developments into the town increasing the population. This would give OTC greater opportunity to:

- continue to afford community projects
- continue to provide services for the benefit of all
- give OTC a greater democratic voice within the county and central government
- bring increased opportunities and access to a wider range of funding
- to provide future growth opportunities

Full details of the proposal can be found at the end of this newsletter, on the council's website and is available from the Town Hall.

Without clear support from YOU, West Devon Borough Council do not have to undertake a review and may decide not to do so.

Town Council Grant Policy and Application Process

The council has reviewed its grant policy and the process for applying for a grant from the Town Council is changing in the next financial year. The change is to ensure that all applications are treated fairly and that applicants are not at risk of losing out towards the end of the financial year because the allocated budget has run out of funds.

From the 1st April 2023 applications will only be considered twice yearly by the Policy & Resources Committee; in the spring (May or June), and again in autumn (November or December) in line with the meeting schedule. Applications for consideration in the spring must be received by the 2nd Friday in March and those for consideration in November/December by the 2nd Friday in September.

Further details, including the new policy and booking form can be found on the [website](http://www.okehampton.gov.uk) or obtained from the office.

2022 Hanging Basket Competition Winners

The excellent entries of the 2022 Hanging Basket Competition were judged by Cllr Mott, Mayor of WDBC and Cllr Tolley, Mayor of Okehampton Town Council, on 21st July. Thankfully the weather was nice and sunny but not quite as hot as it was earlier in the month.

Congratulations to all of the entries which were bloomtastic and made judging difficult once again.



Trudy's was awarded 1st place and in joint 2nd were Alberty and Redstone Funeral Directors and the White Hart Hotel.



The Town Council's Parks team weren't allowed to enter the but were awarded Highly Commended for their baskets that are hanging on the front of the Town Hall.



Simmons Park has been nominated as a UK Favourite Park 2022

Voting closes on 18th August 2022 following which the park with the most votes will be the overall winner of the UK's Favourite Park 2022 award. Parks that are placed within the top 20% will receive recognition of a local favourite.

Please take a few minutes to place your vote at
<https://www.fieldsintrust.org/favourite-parks/nominations>



Criminal Damage/Arson

On the evening of 16th July damage was caused to a newly purchased and installed recycled plastic disability access bench in the area behind Lidl when it was purposely set on fire.

If you have any information about this please can you let us know – 01837 53179 or townclerk@okehampton.gov.uk. Police have been informed and are investigating.



Roadworks – Fore Street, Upcott Hill and Hatherleigh Road

Notification has been received from DCC Highways of planned roadworks in Okehampton.

- **Fore Street - 15th to 24th August**
Resurfacing from the crossing in the centre of the town outside of the Town Hall to the Fore Street/North Street junction. This work will be taking place overnight and the road will be closed daily from 6.30pm to 6.30am. During the evenings of 15th and 16th August the old surface will be removed. Noise levels may be higher so the work will finish by 11pm on these two days.
- **Upcott Hill – 22nd to 26th August for patching.** Road closed from 7.30am to 5.30pm.
- **Hatherleigh Rd – 22nd to 25th August for resurfacing.** Road closed from 7.30am to 5.30pm

Okehampton Show



Come and meet Emma the Town Clerk and James the Park-Keeper at the Show on Thursday 11th August. They will be able to answer queries about Simmons Park or other services Okehampton Town Council offers.

You may also may catch Caroline, the Assistant Clerk, Abi the Admin Officer and Mayor's Assistant, and various Town Councillors who will be popping in and out during the day.



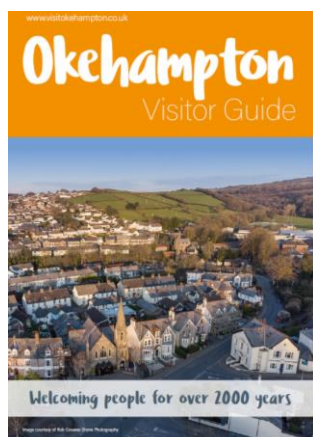
Jubilee water bottles and commemorative books will be available to purchase at £5 each.

Town Councillor Vacancy

Following the resignation of Greta Button NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a vacancy exists in the office of Town Councillor for the South Ward of Okehampton Town Council.

Unless ten or more electors of the south ward on or before a date to be confirmed by WDBC submit a request in writing for an election to be held, the Town Council will take steps to fill the vacancy by co-option. Requests must be sent to the Returning Officer, West Devon Borough Council, Kilworthy Park, Drake Road, Tavistock, PL19 0BZ

Please check the Council's website for further details or ask in the Office.



Okehampton Visitor Guide

Okehampton Town Council has been working with a publishing company to produce a Town Guide, which has been provided at no cost to the council. Hard copies are available from the Council office in the Town Hall and [an electronic version can be downloaded here](#).

Allotments

Allotments in Okehampton are owned and managed by Okehampton United Charity and queries should be directed to the Charity who can be contacted by phone on 07715 621480, email clerk@okehamptoncharities.org.uk or by writing to PO Box 109, Okehampton, Devon, EX20 9BF.

Town Council Grants

This year, 2022/23, the Council has a budget of £29,000 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](#).

In July the following grant was approved by the Policy & Resources Committee:

- Okehampton Links – £2,250 was awarded to the Okehampton Coffee Group towards the cost of the venue hire



Okehampton Town Council, Mayor, Cllr Bob Tolley presenting grant cheques to Okey Music Day (photo courtesy of The Moorlander) and to North Dartmoor Search & Rescue Team as well as their Jubilee Medals



Okehampton PADs CPR & Defibrillator Workshops

Free sessions are being offered by Okehampton PADs. Booking essential by contacting OkePads direct by email Okepads@gmail.com

10 September 2022 - 10am - 12noon Toast Wellness Centre
25 November 2022 - 6pm - 8pm Okehampton Rugby Club

Coming up in August

11th Okehampton Show
2nd Friendly Circle (Charter Hall)
20th Alzheimer's Society Trek 26 Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)

September

6th Friendly Circle (Charter Hall)
15th Councillor Surgery (Town Hall)
18th Civic Service (Fairplace Church)
24th Climate Action Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)

Town Council Meeting Dates

August

8th Planning Committee
22nd Full Council

September

4th Property Committee

Meeting dates for the 2022/23 Mayoral Year were agreed at the Annual Council Meeting on 11th May and can be found on the [website](#). Some Planning Committee Meetings have been scheduled; others will be convened as they are needed.

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

Charter Hall Roofing Work Update

The project is now not likely to start within the next few months, if at all this year.

There is plenty of availability in the Charter Hall for Saturday Coffee Mornings or other events, please contact the office for details.

Contact Us – 01837 53179

Emma James, Town Clerk & RFO
townclerk@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	Vacancy
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.

Petition for a Community Governance Review of Okehampton Town

We, the undersigned, call on West Devon Borough Council to conduct a community governance review of Okehampton Town as the parish area served by Okehampton Town Council plus the surrounding Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council area that will be impacted. Any changes the review approves to be implemented as soon as possible.

The petition requests that the governance review focuses on the following:

Okehampton Town Parish Boundary – It is requested that a parish boundary review considers the change to the parish boundary to incorporate the urban developments and future potential expansion sites into the town.

Parish Wards – It is requested that the wards that currently make up the Okehampton Town Council parish are removed and all elected members be elected to serve the whole Okehampton Town parish area.

Okehampton Town Councillor Numbers – It is requested that the number of Councillors remain at the existing number of 14 to serve in the single Okehampton Town Council parish area.

It is requested that if the governance review is concluded and a Community Governance Reorganisation Order is issued under the provision made in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 the changes are implemented to take effect within 18 months of submission of the petition to West Devon Borough Council.

Why is this important?

Okehampton is served by two grass roots local councils; Okehampton Town Council (OTC) and Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council (OHPC). Historically OHPC has consisted of the rural areas with OTC containing the urban housing and commercial businesses.

The greater Okehampton area has and continues to grow significantly with substantial housing and commercial development. This includes a new Primary School, a planned new Special School, a Business Centre and the reinstatement of a regular passenger rail service between Exeter and Okehampton Station, and proposed Parkway.

Recent urban development, both commercial and dwellings, is almost all outside of the Town boundary and encroaching heavily on the rural hamlets. Comments from social media and correspondence suggests many residents of the new developments believe they are part of the Town. They directly benefit from all of the services and facilities that are offered by OTC including, but not limited to:

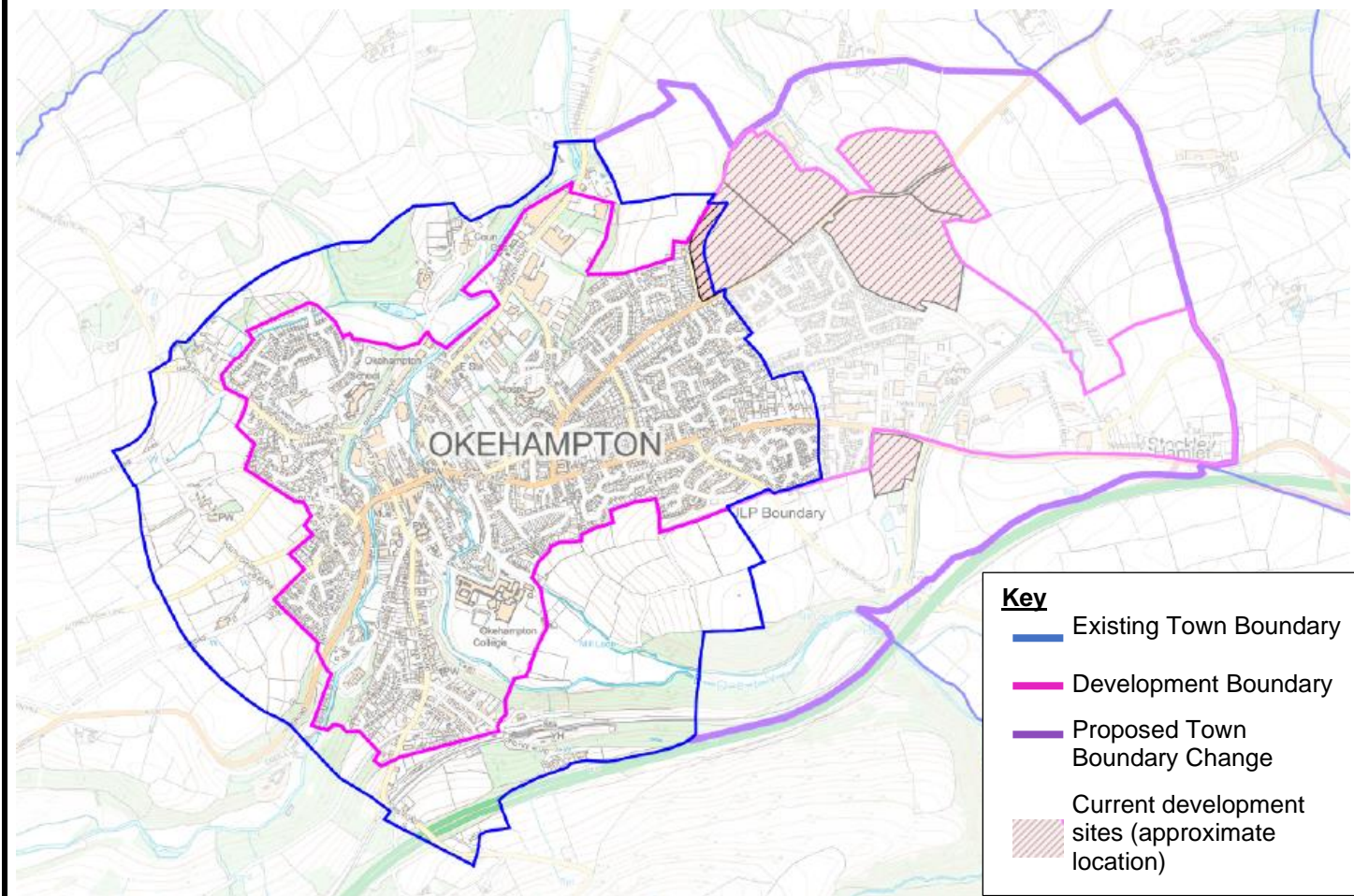
- Public toilets at Fairplace and in Market Street
- Simmons Park recreation facilities
- Skate Park/BMX track
- Cemetery
- CCTV in the town and Simmons Park

Residents of greater Okehampton should be able to feel part of the urban area and have a democratic voice in the community they believe they are part of, bringing a sense of community inclusion and identity.

A change to the boundary would bring the recent urban developments into the town increasing the population. This would give OTC greater opportunity to:

- continue to afford community projects
- continue to provide services for the benefit of all
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The proposed boundary will encompass current development as well as allowing a buffer for future growth that is likely to occur. All of this could lead to the obtaining of more investment in the town for infrastructure including transport and highways improvements.



Okehampton Town Council needs your signature to demonstrate the support of the town residents for the boundary change proposal.

Without this clear support from YOU, West Devon Borough Council do not have to undertake a boundary review and may decide not to do so.

The Town Council feels strongly that residents of greater Okehampton should be able to feel part of the urban area and have a democratic voice to the community they believe they are part of, bringing a sense of community inclusion and identity.

A change to the boundary would bring the recent urban developments into the town increasing the population. This would give OTC greater opportunity to:

- continue to afford community projects
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Sign the Petition to show your support for a review of the Okehampton town boundary:

Name:..... Signed:

Address:

Post Code:.....

I confirm that I am over 18 years of age, am an Okehampton town resident and registered to vote. ☐

The information that you provide will be held by Okehampton Town Council and used for the purpose of the administration of this request. We will keep the information for the period of time as set out in the Council's Documentation Retention Policy. The information will be held securely and not be disclosed to anyone or used for any other purpose without your permission. On expiration of the retention period the information will be destroyed in a secure manner. Policies about how the Council will protect your privacy are available at www.okehampton.gov.uk/documents or by contacting the Council on 01837 53179.