



Okehampton Town Council



Okehampton Town Council
Town Hall
Fore Street
Okehampton EX20 1AA

01837 53179
www.okehampton.gov.uk

NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2022

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

CCTV Update – Offenders Identified

Persons responsible for damage to planting at Fairplace and to a bin in Simmons Park earlier in the year have been identified, dealt with by Police and have financially contributed to the cost of repairs/replacement of those items.

More recently the book swap in the Simmons Park phone box was destroyed and newly purchased picnic benches upended. These offenders who were captured on the CCTV system and subsequently identified, have been dealt with by Police and will be reinstating the book swap. So, if you have any books that you would like to donate to this project, please pass them into the Town Hall.

Identification of the offenders is directly linked to the CCTV system installed last year by Okehampton Town Council.



Community Governance – Boundary Review Petition Update

Okehampton Town Council has collected more than the number of signatures required to request that West Devon Borough Council undertakes a review of the town boundary and thanks everyone who has taken the time to sign the petition. The Council asks that town residents who have yet to sign the petition consider doing so to demonstrate the high level of support the community has for the proposal.

The petition will be presented by the Mayor and/or Town Clerk to WDBC in September from when they have 12 months in which to undertake the review.

Okehampton Show

The Mayor, Cllr Tolley, and the Mayoress were invited to the Presidents Lunch. Town Council staff joined WDBC for the day during which some Councillors, including Cllrs Ireland and Wood, popped in for a while and Cllr Goffey assisted with the collection of petition signatures.



Simmons Park Car Park Closure

Anderton & Rowland Fair are coming to Okehampton in October and to accommodate them the majority of the car park will be closed from 8th to 16th October inclusive.



Okehampton Town Council's Annual Civic Parade - Sunday 18th September

The date for the Mayor's Civic Service and Parade is fast approaching.

As usual, the event starts with the Procession, forming up outside the Town Hall at 10.10am, with Okehampton Excelsior Silver Band in the lead. The Mayor, Councillor Bob Tolley, Town Clerk and Mace Bearers lead the Town Council, with invited Mayors and Parish Council Chairs and their Consorts following. An important part of any



Parade is the support given by younger people through participation of the Army Cadet Force, Air Training Corps and Scouting Movement, not forgetting the hours of commitment and preparation shown by the adults leading those groups. The Mayor's invitation goes out to many groups within the town and community and it is hoped there will again be a good response this year.



A rolling road closure will be in operation on the day, and the Lions have kindly agreed to assist with the necessary marshalling and operation of the closure.

The Parade route will start eastwards along Fore Street, turn right into Mill Road and follow around to Fairplace Church, where the procession will attend the Civic Service at 10:30am. Fairplace Church is usually full for this service, which will be led by the Rev'd Chris Jackson.

After the Service, the Parade forms up again at 11:20am and returns to Fore Street via George Street where the uniformed groups will perform a march past and salute before presenting themselves for inspection by the Mayor.

This is a traditional celebratory event forming a continuing link with Okehampton's rich past as an historic borough and the Mayor is keen to encourage town residents to support the Procession on its parade route.

Council Archives

Some artifacts have been transferred to the Museum of Dartmoor Life from the Town Council on a long-term loan basis so that they can be seen and enjoyed by those who visit the Museum. These items include a framed list of the Borough of Okehampton, Devon, Portreeves and Mayors from 1272, a painting of Private Sydney Simmons dated 1862, rental books dated 1840 to 1872 and a set of weights and scales in their original boxes.

Documents dated before the Town Council was formed in 1974 are about to be prepared for transfer on long term loan to the Devon Heritage Centre in Exeter for preserving and safekeeping. The Centre is open to the public and documents, once transferred can be viewed on request.



Mayor's Walkabout Quiz

To keep you entertained for an hour or two whilst visiting our lovely town Cllr Tolley has put together a walkabout quiz sheet. The quiz is available from the Town Hall and other locations in the town for the cost of £1 which will go to the Mayor's Charity, Dream-A-Way.

Okehampton Cemetery Memorial Inspections

Routine inspections of the memorial stones in the Council owned and run Cemetery adjacent to All Saints Church were undertaken in August. Following the inspection, notices were placed on two memorial stones requesting that anyone tending the grave contact the Town Council as they had been identified as needing maintenance work.

One of these persons has already been in contact and the other is the grave of Willian J Dyment. Are you able to help the Council make contact with the relatives of this person? For futher information please contact the office in the Town Hall, 01837 53179.

Okehampton Town Council

Notice of Co-option of Councillors

The Returning Officer at the office of West Devon Borough Council has confirmed that the Council can now fill the casual vacancy for the South Ward by co-option.

NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to Rule 8 of the Local Elections (Parishes and Communities) Rule 1986 the council will fill the casual vacancy by co-option.

The council may co-opt any person who is legally qualified to hold such office, and who is willing to serve provided they meet the criteria as set out in the Local Government Act 1972 and are not for any reason disqualified – please contact the Town Clerk for further details.

Provided the person also satisfies at least ONE of the following they may apply:

- They are registered as a local government elector for the parish
- They have during the whole of the preceding twelve months occupied as owner or tenant, any land or premises in the parish
- Their principal or only place of work during the preceding twelve months has been in the parish
- They have during the whole of the preceding twelve months resided in the parish or within 4.8 km of it

They must also be 18 years or older on the day they become nominated for election.

Applicants are to contact the Town Council, contact details below, for details and the application form.

The closing date for applications is 12noon on Friday 16th September 2022 following which the casual vacancy will be filled by co-option at a meeting of the Council at 7pm on Monday 26th September 2022.

Emma James
Town Clerk
25th August 2022

01837 53179

townclerk@okehampton.gov.uk

Drought

On announcement of a drought the Town Council stopped watering its hanging baskets and other bedding plants to help with the conservation of water. Another slightly unusual step taken was to place sheep's wool around some of the plants at Fairplace. This is a mulching solution that is environmentally friendly being a natural slug repellent which helps to retain moisture and can go some way to preventing weeds from sprouting!



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](#).

The grant application process is being reviewed is changing from April 2023. Details of the changes can be obtained from the Town Hall or the website.

Coming up in September

15th Councillor Surgery (Town Hall)

19th Civic Service

20th Alzheimer's Society Trek 26 Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)

October

13-15th Anderton & Rowland Fair

15th Carnival

20th Councillor Surgery (Town Hall)

November

13th Remembrance Parade and Service

17th Councillor Surgery (Town Hall)

Town Council Meeting Dates

September

4th Property Committee & Planning Committee

12th Policy & Resources Committee

19th Planning Committee

26th Full Council

October

3rd Parks Committee

17th Planning Committee (to be confirmed)

31st Full Council

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.

Parklands Leisure Centre are holding a 'Meet the Manager'

session on Monday
19th September at 5pm.

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.