



Okehampton Town Council



Okehampton Town Council
Town Hall
Fore Street
Okehampton EX20 1AA

01837 53179

www.okehampton.gov.uk

NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2023

Sign up to receive the newsletters electronically by visiting the Council's [website](#)

Councillor Surgery on 16th March is the last before the elections in May. Why not pop along to the Town Hall between 10am and 12noon for an informal chat if you have any questions or queries, or perhaps would like to make a suggestion.



Can you help? Okehampton Town Council is looking for land for a Cemetery

Available space for burials in the Cemetery adjacent to All Saints Church is gradually running out. It is estimated that within 5 years the Cemetery will be full. Some landowners near the cemetery have been approached but are unwilling to sell.

Ideally a new cemetery would be in the vicinity of All Saints Church, but any offer would be gratefully considered by the Council. Cemetery locations are restricted and cannot be too close to a river, stream or other water source, it cannot be too steep, needs to be accessible by road and is subject to planning regulations.

If you can help, please contact the Town Clerk on 01837 53179 or townclerk@okehampton.gov.uk

Town and Parish Council Elections – 4 May 2023

Did you know that the term of office for the existing Town Councillors comes to an end in May? Are you interested in **your** town and feel that **you** could make a difference in some way, that **you** could represent the best interests of the other residents?

No qualifications are needed to become a Councillor although there are some requirements that you will need to meet; for example, you will need to be over 18 years of age. Training will be available to assist you to become familiar with how local councils work, what they can and cannot do. All you need is commitment, the ability and willingness to learn and get involved, and are prepared to put aside time to attend Council/Committee meetings, which are usually on Monday evenings, read relevant papers and represent the council where required. As well as being members of Full Council, Councillors are nominated to sit on 2 of the 4 Committees and to take part in working groups which meeting during the day.

Interested in finding out what being a Town Councillor involves? There are lots of ways:

- Okehampton Town Council [website](#)
- The internet including the [National Association of Local Councils](#) website
- Emailing or phoning the Town Clerk – townclerk@okehampton.gov.uk 01837 53179
- Calling into the Town Hall and talking to the members of staff
- Making an appointment to chat with the Town Clerk or one of the current Councillors
- Popping along to the Councillor Surgery on 16th March
- Coming to a meeting of the Council



Voters are now required to take photo ID to be able to vote. Details can be found on the [Electoral Commission website](#).

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. The total amount of grants awarded to date this financial year stands at £24,285.13, final applications received for consideration this financial year will be considered by the Policy & Resources Committee on 13th March.



DID YOU KNOW?

The Grant Application process is changing from 1st April 2023. This is primarily to ensure that all applicants are treated fairly and given the same opportunity without the risk of those who apply late in the financial year being affected by a diminished budget.

Applications will be considered twice yearly; in May/June and in November/ December by the Policy & Resources (P&R) Committee. Dates of the meetings at which applications will be considered will be published on the Council's website once confirmed. Emergency applications at other times of the year can be considered at the discretion of the P&R Committee.

Full details and the new forms can be found on the Council's website

Final date for receipt of applications for consideration in May/June this year is Friday 10th March and Friday 8th September for the second round. However, in this first year of the new process, applications received after 10th March but before 21st April may still be considered in the first round at the discretion of the P&R Committee.

3rd April, Annual Town Assembly - Cyber Security Presentation

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, a meeting of the parish of Okehampton Town will be held at 7pm on 3rd April 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.

Do you want to learn more about how to keep your details secure online? Look no further - there will be a Cyber Security presentation from Devon and Cornwall Police Cyber Protect Team and a member of Read Easy will be sharing information about the work of the group.

Commonwealth Day – 13th March

At 9.30am the Mayor will be reading the Commonwealth Day Affirmation statement outside of St James' Church. Do come along and support the Mayor at this short ceremony.

Charter Hall Roof Repair Update

The long-planned repair work to the Charter Hall has been approved by the Council. Discussions with the contractor in relation to timescales are in progress and planning permission is awaited.



Coronation of King Charles III, 6th May 2023

Working together Okehampton Town Council, Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council and Everything Okehampton are organising events to celebrate the Coronation.

On 6th May there will be a coffee morning in the Charter Hall when the Coronation will be live screened. This will be followed in the afternoon by a 'bring and share' street party in St James' Street with some entertainment. A cream tea will be on offer in Meldon Village Hall on Sunday 7th May.

Station Noticeboard

A new noticeboard and map (below) linking the railway station to Simmons Park and the town centre has been installed at the station by the Town Council as part of a project part funded by GWR.



Refurbished Granite Trough

Lead lettering on a granite trough in Simmons Park that commemorates the Coronation of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra in 1902 has been refurbished.



Call for photographs...

OKEHAMPTON TOWN COUNCIL IS GOING TO BE PRODUCING SOME POSTCARDS OF THE TOWN. DO YOU HAVE ANY PHOTOGRAPHS YOU HAVE TAKEN THAT MIGHT BE SUITABLE FOR FOR THIS PROJECT? IN PARTICULAR WE ARE LOOKING FOR THE FOLLOWING:



Is there any interest in a Community Led Speedwatch group in Okehampton?

A presentation from a local Speedwatch group co-ordinator was received by members of Okehampton Town Council and some surrounding parish councils in February. If you would be interested in volunteering and/or coordinating a local group please get in touch and if there is enough interest a meeting will be arranged, (01837 53179 or townclerk@okehampton.gov.uk).

Community Governance – Boundary Review

In February WDBC agreed the Terms of Reference for a review of the Town Council's boundary in accordance with the petition submitted last autumn.

Consultations will be undertaken by WDBC over the next few months with final recommendations due to be considered by WDBC in November. Details of the review can be found on [WDBC's website](#) where you can also submit your comments.

Coming up in March

- 1st Craft Market (Charter Hall)
- 4th Trek 26 Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)
Hockey Club Bingo (Charter Hall)
- 7th Friendly Circle (Charter Hall)
- 9th NHS Blood Donation Session (Charter Hall)
- 11th Air Cadets Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)
- 13th Commonwealth Day (outside St James' Chapel)
- 16th Councillor Surgery (Town Hall)
- 18th Community Voices Concert (Charter Hall)
Countrymen (Charter Hall)
- 25th Royal British Legion Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)

April

- 1st Friendly Circle Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)
- 3rd Annual Town Assembly (Charter Hall)
- 4th Friendly Circle (Charter Hall)
- 8th Rotary Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)
- 13th NHS Blood Donation Session (Charter Hall)
- 15th Community Transport Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)
- 29th Carnival Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)

Town Council Meeting Dates

March 2023

- 6th Property Committee
- 13th Policy & Resources Committee
- 27th Full Council

April 2023

- 17th Policy & Resources Committee
- 24th Full Council

May 2023

- 17th Annual Council Meeting and Mayor Choosing
- 22nd Full Council

Meeting dates for the 2022/23 Mayoral Year agreed at the Annual Council Meeting on 11th May 2022 and dates for 2023/24, which have just been approved, can be found on the [website](#). Some Planning Committee Meetings have been scheduled; others will be convened as needed.

Council meetings normally start at 7pm and 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.

Hireable Spaces

Don't forget the lovely Council Chamber is available to hire for civic ceremonies, meetings or other more formal events.



The Committee Room, Charter Hall and Simmons Park are also available to hire.

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 Caleb Botton

Cllr Jan Goffey

Cllr Dr Michael Ireland

Cllr Christine Marsh

Cllr Ann Wood

Cllr Allenton Fisher

Cllr Carole Holt

Cllr Tony Leech

Cllr Brendan Matravers

Cllr Julie Yelland

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