



Okehampton Town Council



Okehampton Town Council
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www.okehampton.gov.uk

NEWSLETTER - JULY 2023

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

Co-option of Councillors

The Council decided at a meeting on 22nd May, to delay the co-option of Councillors to fill the three remaining seats until the June Full Council meeting so that they could properly review the applications and allow time for any other interested persons to apply. A total of seven applications received were considered by the Council on 26th June resulting in the co-option of:

Councillors Terry Cummings, Mike Harding and Lynne Rogers

Okehampton Celebrates the 400th Anniversary of the Town Charter – 9th July

Come and join us in Simmons Park for a day of celebration. The Town Council working in partnership with The Museum of Dartmoor Life, Okehampton United Charities (OUC) and Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council (OHPC), have commissioned a timeline of some of the events that have happened in Okehampton over the last 400 years.

Come and visit the marquee and see the historical timeline, where there will be free refreshments provided by OCRA and some activities on offer hosted by OUC, OHPC and the Town Council. At 2pm in the marquee the anniversary cakes marking 400 years of the Charter, 150 years of Okehampton United Charities and 125 years of Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council will be cut.



**CELEBRATING
400 YEARS OF
OKEHAMPTON'S
ROYAL CHARTER
1623-2023**

The marquee will be open from 10am to 4.30pm where you will find:

- The 400-year timeline of historical Okehampton events
- History Q&A
- Okehampton Town Council - community needlework project
- Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council – Guessing the locations
- Okehampton United Charity – Wildlife in the Ball Hill area

The marquee and timeline are only a small part of the whole event being arranged by Everything Okehampton. The full itinerary of the day can be found at the end of the newsletter.

Gravestone Inspections, Okehampton Cemetery

Annual safety memorial stone inspections in the Cemetery area adjacent to All Saints Church, the area that is the responsibility of the Town Council, will take place during August and will be conducted by trained Okehampton Town Council Staff. The proposed date is 15th August 2023, but is weather dependant.



Councillor Surgeries – Your Views?



Councillors are keen to hear your views about the continuation of monthly Councillor Surgeries – should they be held at a different time of day to the usual 10am on the third Thursday of the month, or perhaps in a location other than the Town Hall?

Please complete this short [online survey](#) or pop into the Town Hall for a paper copy, also accessible through the QR code.

Young Persons Council – What do you think?

I am investigating the feasibility of the creation of a Young Persons Council in Okehampton as part of a Community Governance Foundation Degree and for consideration by Okehampton Town Council.



Could I please ask that you take a few minutes to [complete the short survey](#) which will help to provide information that will be considered by Okehampton Town Council later in the year and used as part of my degree. The survey is designed to be completed by individuals, or on behalf of a class or group. Further information can be found on the website. Paper copies are available for collection from the Town Hall and should be returned to that location once completed. The survey closes on 13th August 2023.

Emma James, Town Clerk

Devon County Council: Free activities and meals available to eligible children over the school summer holiday

For many families, the school summer holiday can be difficult and stressful time, particularly with the cost of food and childcare, which can quickly mount up.

That's why [we're inviting children aged five to 16 years old, who receive benefit-related free school meals, to take part in a range of exciting activities over the school summer holidays.](#)

Once again, we have teamed up with over 60 different activity providers across Devon to offer a great range of indoor and outdoor activities as part of the Government-funded Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme, which offers free activities and healthy meals during the school holidays.

Activities range from sports such as football and kayaking to other activities like gardening, outdoor treasure hunts, and craft sessions. Some providers are offering special visits from storytellers, magicians, animals, and trips to local attractions. And this year, there are more places available for secondary school aged children and young people, with activities including go-karting, climbing, trampolining, high ropes and surfing.

[A full list of the activities and how to apply are on our website.](#)

Abbeyford Woods

Whilst Abbeyford Woods is located outside of the town boundary, please see information received from a Forestry England Community Ranger:

I am writing to let you know that forestry operations are due to start at Abbeyford woods in late August. It is expected the operation will last 8-10 weeks.

For safety reasons we will have to stop public access Monday-Friday for the duration of the operation on the Springetts side of forest. The forest will be open over the weekends.

A Statutory Plant Health Notice was issued due to the presence of [Phytophthora Ramorum](#), it causes extensive damage and death to more than 150 plant species. Larch trees are particularly susceptible and are very good at transmitting the pathogen. Therefore all the Larch (infected or not) has to be felled and removed from the site. Please see the attached pdf for the areas where Larch will be removed.

The felled areas will look stark but they will quickly green up, allowing different habitats to form and then when the ground has rested the area will be replanted in line with the forest plan. Replanting will focus on native and broadleaf species in the Planted on Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS) areas with an emphasis to improve Dormouse habitats and corridors. The smaller non-PAWS area will be replanted with a mix of species that may be better suited to the changing climate but in keeping with the rest of the forest.

To view the forest plan for the area please click on the link –[Abbeyford forest plan](#)

Further information can be found on the Forestry England website

<https://www.forestryengland.uk/article/forestry-operations-abbeyford-woods>

Town Council Grants

The Policy & Resources Committee considered the first round of applications at a meeting on 19th June and the following were awarded. The next round of applications will be considered on 13th November. Details of how to apply can be found on the website or obtained from the office:

Okey Music Day - £500 towards the costs of the event on 16th July 2023.

Museum of Dartmoor Life and Tourist Information Facility - £3,500 towards the maintenance of the museum and £1,500 to assist with the running of the tourist information facility.

Okehampton Carnival - £1,000 towards the cost of the event.

Tor Support - £3,000 to fund 60 counselling sessions.

Wren Music - £500 towards events celebrating Wren Music's 40th Anniversary.

Okehampton Excelsior Silver Band - £490 for Carol books and music folders.

Okehampton United Ecclesiastical Charity - £500 towards the Town Clock.

Okehampton Friendship Group - £300 towards the cost of room hire and light refreshments.

Friends of Okehampton Library - £320 towards a Book Festival.



Coming up in July

- 1st Community Links Coffee Morning (Charter Hall, 9am-12noon)
- 2nd Footsteps Dance Performance (Charter Hall)
- 4th Friendly Circle (Charter Hall, 2,30pm)
- 5th Clubercise (Charter Hall, 7pm)
- 6th NHS Blood Donation Session (Charter Hall)
- 9th Okehampton Celebrates 400th Anniversary of a Town Charter (Simmons Park 10am-8.30pm)
- 12th Clubercise (Charter Hall, 7pm)
- 13th Clubercise (Charter Hall, 7pm)
- 16th Picnic and games afternoon (Simmons Park)
- 19th Clubercise (Charter Hall, 7pm)
- 20th Councillor Surgery (Town Hall, 10am -12noon)
Clubercise (Charter Hall, 7pm)
- 26th Clubercise (Charter Hall, 7pm)
- 27th Clubercise (Charter Hall, 7pm)
- 29th Lego Show (Charter Hall, 10am)

Town Council Meeting Dates - July

- 3rd Planning followed by Parks Committee
- 10th Property Committee
- 17th Policy & Resources Committee
- 31st Full Council

Meeting dates for the 2023/24 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.

Livestreaming of Council Meetings

Are you aware that all meetings of the Town Council are now livestreamed and available to watch at any time? The livestreams can be found on the council Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/okehamptontowncouncil>

Contact Us – 01837 53179

Emma James, Town Clerk & RFO
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Caroline Ellis, Assistant Town Clerk (Accounts)
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Abi Horn, Admin Officer and Mayor's Assistant
(Bookings and Invitations for the Mayor)
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James McGahey, Park-Keeper
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Your Councillors

Cllr Allenton Fisher (Town Mayor)
Cllr Christine Marsh (Deputy Mayor)

Cllr Laura Bird	Cllr Tony Leech
Cllr Richard Colman	Cllr Lynne Rogers
Cllr Terry Cummings	Cllr Bob Tolley
Cllr Mike Harding	Cllr Julie Yelland
Cllr Carole Holt	Cllr Simon Weekes
Cllr Dr Michael Ireland	Cllr Ann Wood

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



CELEBRATIONS IN THE PARK

Sunday 9th July • 10:00 – 20:30 • Schedule

- 11:00 – 11:45 Jazz music with Eddy Kingdom Quartet
11:45 – 12:15 Toe tapping tunes with Alison Moyna
12:15 – 13:00 2nd performance with Eddy Kingdom Quartet
13:00 – 13:30 Toe tapping tunes with Alison Moyna
13:30 – 14:00 Okehampton Community Dance Performance
14:00 Anniversary cake cutting (marquee)
14:00 – 14:30 Last performance with Alison Moyna
14:30 – 15:15 Okehampton College Big Band performance
15:15 – 15:45 Okehampton Silver Band performance
16:00 – 16:30 Miss Mandy Footsteps Dance performance
16:30 – 17:00 Instrumental performance with Wren Music

EVENING

- 17:15 – 17:45 Fancy trying Clubbercise®? Now is your chance - a fusion of dance, toning and combat moves with high/low impact options for all fitness levels
18:00 – 19:00 Code Red perform 70's covers
19:15 – 20:00 Code Red are back for their last performance

Children's performances

- 11:30 – 12:15 Rob Pudner from Entertainingly Different joins us to entertain young and old with his interactive entertainment. His antics promise to leave you with a spring in your step, a smile on your face and a tune in your head!
14:00 – 14:45 Rob Pudner is back for his last performance of the day

Activities

- 10:00 – 16:00 Axe throwing (small charge applies)
10:00 – 16:00 Sword school
10:00 – 16:00 Hair braiding & face painting (small charge applies)
10:00 – 16:00 Traditional games with OCRA plus football, tennis, soft archery, table tennis and cricket.
Free putting on the Green courtesy of Okehampton Town Council

*Schedule is subject to change

Anniversaries of 400 years of Town Charter, 150 years OUC & 125 years of OHPC

