



Okehampton Town Council



Okehampton Town Council  
Town Hall  
Fore Street  
Okehampton EX20 1AA

01837 53179

[www.okehampton.gov.uk](http://www.okehampton.gov.uk)

## NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2023

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

### Annual Civic Service

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September saw a soggy annual Town Council Civic Parade and Service take place in Okehampton. The Parade set off from Fore Street at 10am and made its way via East Street and Mill Road to Fairplace Church for the Service.

Following the Service, the Parade made its way back to Fore Street when a Salute was received by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant N Powe and the Mayor of Okehampton and dismissed by the Parade Commander.

Accompanying the Deputy Lord Lieutenant and Mayor were their respective Cadets and the Mace Bearers, Mr David Piper and Mr David Ellis.

Particular thanks go to the Lions and Town Council staff who arranged and helped with the road closure and serving of refreshments, Okehampton Excelsior Silver Band who once again did an excellent job leading the Parade, the Army and RAF Cadets and all of the other groups who took part. A short video of the start of the Parade can be seen on the [Council Facebook page](#)



### Speedwatch and 20 is Plenty Campaign

A meeting to recruit volunteers was held in the Charter Hall on the evening of Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September. A small number of people attended from which a potential 4 volunteers have signed up to a group that Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council have already setup. The aim being that a larger group of volunteers working together can cover a greater area and undertake more frequent checks.

Okehampton Town Council has signed up to the '20 is plenty' campaign and would appreciate your feedback. If you are interested in joining the Speedwatch group or have any comments about the 20 is plenty campaign, please contact Emma James, Town Clerk, 01837 53179 or [townclerk@okehampton.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@okehampton.gov.uk)

### Devon County Council On-Street Parking Charges Proposal

Devon County Council (DCC) are proposing to introduce a payment system for on-street parking in areas of Okehampton town centre. DCC's view is that this will increase parking turnover, reduce congestion and ensure on-street parking enforcement, for which they are responsible, is efficient and sustainable. Any surplus income, DCC say, will be used to help fund management transport and traffic related services, including bus subsidies.

**Okehampton Town Council would like to hear your views about this proposal and ask that you complete a brief survey** which can be

completed either online through this link <https://forms.office.com/e/hpuhJ4arjm>, the QR code, or a form can be collected from the Town Hall. Forms should be returned to Okehampton Town Council at the following address by 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2023.





## Offenders Identified

With the aid of the Town Council installed CCTV system Police have identified and are dealing with the persons who damaged the China Girl Tree in Fairplace Sensory Garden over the weekend of 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> August.

## Remembrance Parade and Service

At 11am on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November a Service of Remembrance is being held at All Saints Church.

There will be a Procession from Fore Street to the Church for the Service, followed by a return march to the town centre. In order to facilitate this, there will be a rolling road closure in place for a short period of time.

## Clapps Wood Footpath Closure

The footpath through Clapps Wood will be closed from 0800 on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October until 0800 Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October.

## Edwardian Evening – 30<sup>th</sup> November

The organisers have this year brought the event forward by a week to Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November. This is to allow traders more Christmas shopping time in December, the first Thursday in December being 7<sup>th</sup> so nearly a week of trading time would be lost if the event was held on this date.

## Volunteer Group

The Council's Apprentice, Jacob, is leading the Simmons Park Volunteer Group under the watchful eye of James, the Park-Keeper, as part of the leadership element of his apprenticeship. Jacob reports:



"The first volunteer session went really well with no issues, we met the 6 volunteers that could make the session on the day by the front gate of the park at 11am. I introduced myself and gave the group the chance to introduce themselves to each other. I then explained the tasks planned for the session which included weeding the front flowerbeds along the main path. I explained to the group the weeds that needed removing, Stinging nettles, dandelions and docks, making sure that if anyone was unsure they asked me before removing it.

Once this was all explained I left them to make a start on the areas specified and then spent time with each member of the group helping them and explaining some of the weeds and plants that are in this area. During the session I took multiple questions and had to point out some weeds that had been missed. One of the volunteers wanted to dead head some of the roses so I showed him the correct method in how to carry that out. Each volunteer had a bucket which they emptied in a pile for us to add to the compost heap we have on site which will then be spread on the flowerbeds in the spring.

Overall this has had a massive impact on my learning, improving my knowledge of supervising a group and helping to understand and learn how to manage a group of people. It also tested me on my own knowledge of weeds and plants we have in the park. It was a very beneficial session and I look forward to the next session on October 3<sup>rd</sup> 11-12.30."

### OKEHAMPTON TOWN COUNCIL

#### NOTICE OF VACANCY

There is one vacancy on the South Ward of Okehampton Town Council.

A by-election to fill the vacancies will be held if within 14 days of the date of this Notice (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Day and Bank Holidays) ten electors from the Town give notice in writing to the Returning Officer requiring that such an election be held.

The address of the Returning Officer is West Devon Borough Council, Kilworthy Park, Drake Road, Tavistock, Devon PL19 0BZ. A request for an election can also be scanned and emailed to [elections@westdevon.gov.uk](mailto:elections@westdevon.gov.uk), but the document must contain "wet ink" signatures.

If no such notice is given, the Town Council will fill the vacancies through co-option.

For further information please contact the Clerk to the Town Council on 01837 53179 or [townclerk@okehampton.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@okehampton.gov.uk)

**Dated: 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

**Signed: *E James***  
Emma James, Town Clerk



West Devon  
Borough  
Council

# Public Notice

Okehampton Town Council and Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council have submitted their proposal to West Devon Borough Council for the Okehampton Town and Hamlets Neighbourhood Plan, in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended). West Devon Borough Council is consulting residents and other interested stakeholders on the proposal for the Okehampton Town and Hamlets Neighbourhood Plan.

Consultation will run for a 6 week period:

From Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023 to midnight on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023

To view the full proposal or make a comment please visit:

<https://www.neighbourhoodplanning.swdevon.gov.uk/okehampton>

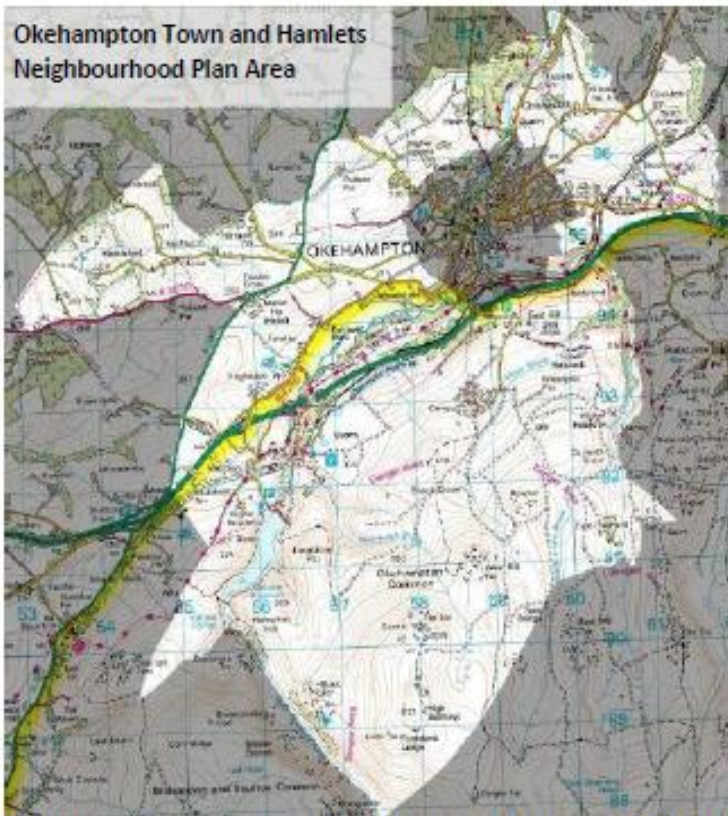
A paper copy of the Neighbourhood Plan and its supporting documents can be made available locally. For details contact:

Okehampton Town Council Clerk – Emma James: [townclerk@okehampton.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@okehampton.gov.uk) Tel. 01837 53179;

Or Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council Clerk: [mail@okehamptonhamlets-pc.gov.uk](mailto:mail@okehamptonhamlets-pc.gov.uk)

The plan and background to it can also be viewed on the Okehampton Town and Hamlets Neighbourhood Plan website: <https://okehamptonneighbourhoodplan.com/>

Okehampton Town and Hamlets  
Neighbourhood Plan Area



If you are unable to comment online, you can send your response via email to [neighbourhood.planning@swdevon.gov.uk](mailto:neighbourhood.planning@swdevon.gov.uk)

or in writing to:

Neighbourhood Planning  
Follaton House  
Plymouth Road  
Totnes  
TQ9 5NE

If you wish to be notified of the local planning authority's decision under Regulation 19 (the outcome of the independent examination of the plan), please clearly request this when you make comment.

*Please note: Any comments made about the proposed plan cannot be treated as confidential and may be made publicly available at the Council's offices and on the website. Your personal information will be held securely by West Devon Borough Council for the above purpose.*

*The Council will retain personal data for the minimum period necessary. This will be three years after adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan to ensure any legal challenge periods have expired. All information will be held securely and destroyed under confidential conditions. For further information please see our privacy notice on our website (<https://westdevon.gov.uk/article/8956/Neighbourhood-Planning>)*

## **Congratulations Okehampton Train Station – Small Station of the Year Winner at the National Rail Awards**

Well done to everyone who has worked hard to get the service back to Okehampton and on the achievement of this award.

## **Okehampton Carnival and Fair**

The annual Carnival is taking place on 21<sup>st</sup> October and Anderton and Rowland Amusements will operate as usual in Simmons Park from Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October. Simmons Park carpark will be closed from Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October to Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October to accommodate the fair.

## **Coming up in October**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Clubbercise (Charter Hall, 7pm)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Friendly Circle (Charter Hall)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Clubbercise (Charter Hall, 7pm)
- 5<sup>th</sup> Clubbercise (Charter Hall, 7pm)
- 7<sup>th</sup> Community Transport Coffee Morning (Charter Hall 9am)
- 8<sup>th</sup> DAAT Mending Session (Charter Hall, 2pm)
- 9<sup>th</sup> Clubbercise (Charter Hall, 7pm)
- 11<sup>th</sup> Clubbercise (Charter Hall, 7pm)
- 12<sup>th</sup> Clubbercise (Charter Hall, 7pm)
- 14<sup>th</sup> RBL Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)
- 16<sup>th</sup> Clubbercise (Charter Hall, 7pm)
- 17<sup>th</sup> Clubbercise (Charter Hall, 7pm)
- 18<sup>th</sup> Clubbercise (Charter Hall, 7pm)
- 19<sup>th</sup> Councillor Surgery (Town Hall, **2pm to 4pm**)  
NHS Blood Donation Session (Charter Hall)
- 21<sup>st</sup> Carnival Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)  
Okehampton Carnival
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Clubbercise (Charter Hall, 7pm)
- 25<sup>th</sup> Clubbercise (Charter Hall, 7pm)
- 26<sup>th</sup> Clubbercise (Charter Hall, 7pm)
- 28<sup>th</sup> Everything Okehampton Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)
- 30<sup>th</sup> Clubbercise (Charter Hall, 7pm)

## **Town Council Meeting Dates - October**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Planning Committee
- 16<sup>th</sup> Property Committee
- 30<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Contact Us – 01837 53179**

Emma James, Town Clerk & RFO  
[townclerk@okehampton.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@okehampton.gov.uk)

Caroline Ellis, Assistant Town Clerk (Accounts)  
[accounts@okehampton.gov.uk](mailto:accounts@okehampton.gov.uk)

Abi Horn, Admin Officer and Mayor's Assistant  
(Bookings and Invitations for the Mayor)  
[admin@okehampton.gov.uk](mailto:admin@okehampton.gov.uk)

James McGahey, Park-Keeper  
[parks@okehampton.gov.uk](mailto:parks@okehampton.gov.uk)

### **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	VACANCY

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

## **TOWN COUNCIL GRANTS**

The last, round of applications for a grant in the 2023/24 financial year will be considered by the Policy & Resources Committee on 13th November.

Applications should be sent to the Town Clerk by 20th October 2023

Details of how to apply can be found on the website or from the office in the Town Hall

[www.okehampton.gov.uk](http://www.okehampton.gov.uk)



**Councillor Surgery  
2pm to 4pm Thursday  
19<sup>th</sup> October 2023  
Town Hall**