



Okehampton Town Council



Okehampton Town Council
Town Hall
Fore Street
Okehampton EX20 1AA

01837 53179

www.okehampton.gov.uk

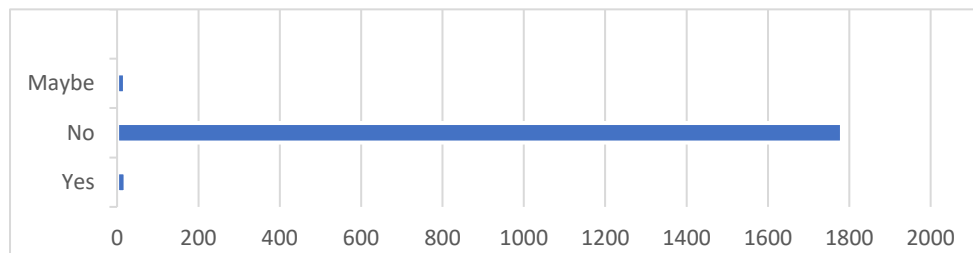
NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2023

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

Devon County Council On-Street Parking Charges Proposal Update

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 the management of transport and traffic related services, including bus subsidies.

Okehampton Town Council asked for your views about the proposal and received 1,826 responses. Thank you for getting involved and telling us your views and thanks also go to the Cubby Hole for handing out surveys. Results of the survey were considered by the Town Council on 30th October and will be forwarded to DCC Highways.



Question 1 asked if you were in support of DCC's proposal – the overwhelming response, 97.6%, was 'no'.

Yes	21
No	1782
Maybe	19

A copy of the survey results will be sent to DCC who, if they progress with their proposal, will be invited to a public meeting to present their plans and answer questions from residents. Press, including Spotlight will also be invited to the meeting.

Community Governance Boundary Review

WDBC have now opened the next stage of the consultation which closes on 1st December. All households within the Town and Hamlets should have received a letter from WDBC setting out the options which are:

1. Amend the boundary between the Okehampton Town Council (OTC) and Okehampton Hamlets Parish (OHPC) Council, in accordance with OTC's request through petition to WDBC, or
2. Retain the status quo.

Okehampton Town Residents

If you want to see a change, your action is imperative. Complete the consultation by 1st December!

What would Option 1, an amended boundary mean for town residents?

Costs for managing the services and facilities provided by OTC would be shared amongst more households.

The OTC's precept (the councils' part of your council tax) for 2023/24 is £421,893 or £186.42 p/annum for a Band D property. Whereas Band D households in the Hamlets pay just £42.54 towards a precept of £27,850. A difference of £143.88 – with some of these properties being adjacent to each other and the same facilities available to all!

- Spread the costs between more households.
- More funds to maintain / improve Okehampton's infrastructure, utilities and services.
- Larger population may attach/allow access to greater national funding.
- Give ALL Okehampton residents a democratic voice as to how their town is run.

Remembrance Parade and Service

At 11am on Sunday 12th November a Service of Remembrance is being held at All Saints Church alongside the Memorial.

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. The image to the right is of the 2022 Parade Inspection.



Edwardian Evening – 30th November

The organisers have this year brought the event forward by a week to Thursday 30th November. This is to allow traders more Christmas shopping time in December.

Mayors Carols are being held at the earlier time of 6pm, immediately following the light switch on alongside St James' Church.

Image of last year's Mayor, Cllr Tolley, hosting the Mayors Carols.

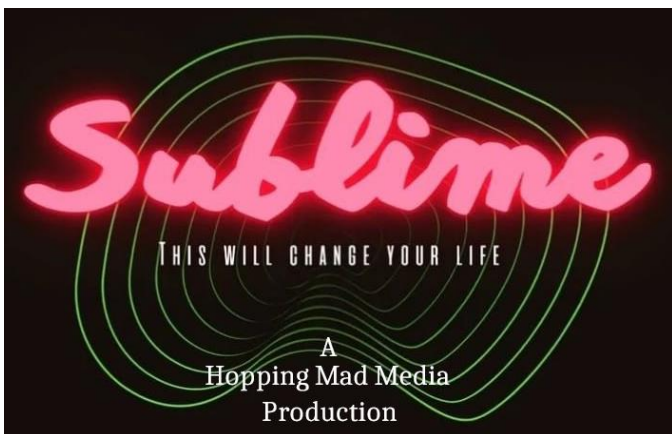


Okehampton Fairtrade Status Renewal

The Town's Fairtrade status was renewed on 27th August for a further three years with the support of the Town Council.

Business Improvement District - Progress Update

Feedback to date has generally been positive and the next stage of the consultation process is underway. It is anticipated the ballot which will inform the outcome will take place in June or July 2024, if successful a BID could be in place by the end of 2024.



Filming in Simmons Park

A production company will be producing part of a film, 'Sublime', in Simmons Park between 17th and 20th November. Disruption will be kept to a minimum, but please be aware that there will be occasions when members of the public are requested to wait whilst filming takes place. Thank you in advance for your patience.

Dog Control Orders

WDBC are asking for your thoughts about the control of dogs within West Devon.

This affects all open spaces, including Simmons Park and other Town Council owned/maintained areas. Information about the current restrictions in Simmons Park can be found on the [council website](#).

Let's Talk about Dogs

Have your say on the control of dogs within the Borough

The survey is open until **Tuesday 14 November 2023**
Link to survey is here: wdbc-dogcontrol.commonplace.is

Okehampton Town Council

Notice of Co-option of Councillor

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, details below, for information and the application form which can be downloaded from the website.

The casual vacancy will be filled by co-option at a meeting of the Council at 7pm on Monday 27th November 2023.

Closing date for applications is 12noon Friday 24th November 2023.

Emma James
Town Clerk
13th October 2023

01837 53179

townclerk@okehampton.gov.uk

Charter Hall Roofing Work and Appeal

The Mayor, Cllr Fisher, was presented with a cheque by Sheila Box, President of Inner Wheel, with a generous donation of £125 to the Town Council towards this project.

Save the Date – D-Day 80th Anniversary

Okehampton Town and Hamlets Parish Councils are working together on plans for an event marking this occasion on Thursday 6th June 2024.

Coming up in November

- 1st Clubbercise (Charter Hall, 6.30pm)
- 2nd Clubbercise (Charter Hall, 6.30pm)
- 3rd Ballroom Dancing (Charter Hall)
- 4th Inner Wheel Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)
- 6th Clubbercise (Charter Hall, 6.30pm)
- 7th Friendly Circle (Charter Hall 2pm)
- 8th Clubbercise (Charter Hall, 6.30pm)
- 9th Clubbercise (Charter Hall, 6.30pm)
- 10th Ballroom Dancing (Charter Hall)
- 11th Courtenay Players Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)
- 12th Remembrance Parade and Service
- 13th Clubbercise (Charter Hall, 6.30pm)
- 15th Clubbercise (Charter Hall, 6.30pm)
- 16th Councillor Surgery (Town Hall, 10am)
Clubbercise (Charter Hall, 6.30pm)
- 17th Everything Okehampton Gala Dinner (Charter Hall)
- 18th Carnival Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)
- 20th Clubbercise (Charter Hall, 6.30pm)
- 21st Community Wellbeing Fair (Charter Hall)
- 22nd Clubbercise (Charter Hall, 6.30pm)
- 23rd Clubbercise (Charter Hall, 6.30pm)
- 24th Town Mayor's Fundraising Quiz Night (Charter Hall)
- 28th Rotary Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)
- 27th Clubbercise (Charter Hall, 6.30pm)
- 29th Clubbercise (Charter Hall, 6.30pm)
- 30th Edwardian Evening

Town Council Meeting Dates - November

- 6th Planning Committee
- 13th Policy & Resources Committee
- 20th Parks Committee and Committee Budget Meetings
- 27th 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.



Okehampton Town Council is disposing of an old safe.

Dimensions:

External - 2' wide x 22" deep x 3' high

Internal - (excluding drawers and locking space) 18" wide x 17" deep x 25" high

Collection only and purchaser is required to arrange removal from the offices in the Town Hall.

Offers over £200 to be made to the Town Clerk, 01837 53179 or townclerk@okehampton.gov.uk.



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 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.