



Okehampton Town Council



Okehampton Town Council
Town Hall
Fore Street
Okehampton EX20 1AA

01837 53179
www.okehampton.gov.uk

NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2023

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

Christmas Message from the Mayor, Cllr Allenton Fisher

"What a fantastic year the town has had. We have now had two great years of our train running over 30 times a day back and forward to both Exeter Stations. We have enjoyed wonderful celebrations for the coronation of King Charles the Third earlier in the year.

We had a massive Celebration in the Park milestone for our Town Council, the Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council and Okehampton United Charity, and our Christmas Lights are as bright and spectacular as always.

Thank you for all you do to make our town the best in Devon.

Jean, the Mayoress, and I and your whole council, both councillors and staff, would like to wish you all a most wonderful, relaxing, and enjoyable Christmastide."



Remembrance Parade and Service

Despite the miserable weather a large number of people took part in, attended or supported the parade and service at All Saints Church. Once again, a big thank you to Okehampton Excelsior Silver Band who led the Parade.

Okehampton United Charity

A big thank you to the OUC for their very generous offer of a donation in the region of £19,000 for the provision of a new play tractor for Simmons Park.

Public Meeting - DCC's On-Street Parking Charging Proposal and Consultation

DCC are moving ahead despite the very clear evidence obtained through a survey by Okehampton Town Council that 97% of residents, traders and visitors to Okehampton who took part do not support of the proposal.

DCC were asked collectively by a number of these town/parishes to delay any public consultation until after Christmas for purposes of transparency, to allow the town/parish councils time to arrange meetings and so that it is not within the busy festive period but have refused to do so.

Okehampton Town Council is holding a public meeting about the proposals, which DCC have been invited to attend, but have so far declined, on Thursday 14th December at 7pm in the Ockment Centre.

Christmas Trails

Free Simmons Park trail sheets will be available from Edwardian Evening from the Town Hall and the council website.

Return the sheets to the Town Hall for a Chocolate prize.

Parking in Simmons Park Car Park will be 'free after 12noon' on Edwardian Evening and from 12noon daily throughout December.

Free parking in Simmons Park has been extended this year to support traders and encourage local shopping in Okehampton.

Christmas and New Year Council Office Opening Hours

The Council Office in the Town Hall will close to the public at 4pm Thursday 21st December and reopen on Tuesday 2nd January 2023. During this period on normal working days staff will be checking post, messages and emails.



Okehampton Town Council Cemetery

Please note that Christmas wreaths in the Cemetery will be removed by Town Council staff during the last week of January.

Town Council Grants were awarded to the following not-for-profit groups and organisations at the November Policy & Resources Committee meeting:

- Meldon Viaduct Trust - £500 towards the essential repairs and maintenance fund.
- Everything Okehampton – £3,400; £1,400 as a third contribution towards the Celebrations in the Park in July 2023 and £2,000 towards the cost of the Christmas light erection and dismantling.
- Simmons Bowling Club - £382.20 towards the cost of a countertop glasswasher.
- Okehampton District Community Transport Group - £1,000 towards continuation of the service.
- Citizens Advice - £5,000 towards the continued work in Okehampton.

Details of how to apply for a grant can be obtained from the office or website.

Coming up in December

- 1st Ballroom and Latin American Dance (evening)
- 2nd Friendly Circle Coffee Morning
- 3rd PTFA Breakfast with Santa (Charter Hall)
- 4th Clubbercise (Charter Hall, 6.30pm)
- 5th Friendly Circle (Charter Hall 2pm)
- 6th Clubbercise (Charter Hall, 6.30pm)
- 7th Clubbercise (Charter Hall, 6.30pm)
- 8th NHS Blood Donation Session (Charter Hall)
- 9th Lions Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)
Wren Winter Concert (Evening)
- 10th PTFA Santa Run (Simmons Park, morning)
- 16th Mayors Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)
- 17th Okehampton Excelsior Silver Band Concert (Charter Hall, 3-5pm)
- 18th Clubbercise (Charter Hall, 6.30pm)
- 20th Clubbercise (Charter Hall, 6.30pm)
- 21st Clubbercise (Charter Hall, 6.30pm)
- 22nd Ballroom and Latin American Dance (evening)



Celebrating the 2nd Anniversary of the successful reinstatement of the rail link between Okehampton and Exeter



Charter Hall Roofing Work

At long last the contract for major roofing work to the Charter Hall has been agreed and signed. The Hall will be closed for the duration of the work - from 19th February until August 2024. Hirers affected will be contacted.

Town Council Meeting Dates - December

- 4th Planning and Property Committee
- 11th 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 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Fore Street. Occasionally meetings are subject to change, details can be found the [website](#) or noticeboard in the Victorian Arcade.

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 Richard Colman

Cllr Terry Cummings

Cllr Mike Harding

Cllr Carole Holt

Cllr Dr Michael Ireland

Cllr Tony Leech

Cllr Mark Richards

Cllr Lynne Rogers

Cllr Bob Tolley

Cllr Simon Weekes

Cllr Julie Yelland