



Okehampton Town Council

Okehampton Police Station is now open



We look forward to seeing you!

Okehampton Town Council
Town Hall
Fore Street
Okehampton EX20 1AA

01837 53179

www.okehampton.gov.uk

NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2024

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

DCC's Pay and Display Consultation for the Implementation of Charging for On-Street Parking

The Town Council continues to object to DCC's proposals to implement pay and display parking fees and meters in our streets. DCC will be making the decision at a Cabinet meeting in March.

2024/25 Budget and Precept

Okehampton Town Council's budget is mainly met through the precept – this is an amount that is collected for the council by WDBC as part of the town residents Council Tax bill. This pays for local services provided by the town council including the upkeep of Simmons Park, Clapps Wood, the skatepark, Town Hall and Charter Hall, public toilets, CCTV, some of the bins and benches, and the cemetery amongst other things. In 2023/24 for a Band D property the precept was £186.42, or £3.86 p/week.

The budgeting process started in early autumn when budget workshops were held to review expenditure to date and to start looking at what funding might be needed for the next year. Each budget line was scrutinised during the workshops. Suggestions, including budget cuts made during the workshops were considered by the relevant Committees who then made recommendations to Full Council.

Full Council considered recommendations from the Committees at a meeting on 18th December 2023 and again on 22nd January 2024, this being the final stage of the 2024/25 budget and precept setting process.

Two large costs are looming for the Town Council; major repairs and improvements to the Charter Hall Roof, the contract cost for which is in excess of £450,000, and in the not too distant future repair or replacement of the Grade II listed Town Hall windows.



There has been a decrease of 2.5 properties in the Council Tax Base for the town (the amount of properties that the precept is split between) meaning that there are less town residents to share the cost between. The majority of the new development is outside of the town boundary and within the surrounding Hamlets - these people do not contribute towards the cost of the services in the town that are offered and paid for by the Town Council, but unsurprisingly the Council Tax Base within Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council has increased by 97.37 properties!

Just to maintain the services that are currently offered the precept will have to increase. Add into that the Charter Hall roofing project and the future replacement of the Town Hall windows, the council have agreed a precept of £444,996 which equates to £196.85 for a Band D property, an increase of £0.20 p/week.

Okehampton Town Council hopes that West Devon Borough Council will approve its request for the boundary between the town and hamlets councils be amended. This will allow incorporation of the new developments and help spread the cost of the facilities and services offered by the town council and used by all. For comparison purposes in 2023/24 Band D properties in the Town paid £186.42 by way of precept, whilst those in the Hamlets paid just £42.54.



Charter Hall Roofing Work and Closure

Major repair work to the roof of the Charter Hall is commencing on 19th February, with anticipated completion being on 19th July. The work includes the re-slating of the entire roof of the hall, reroofing of the adjoining flat roof of the chair and table storeroom and replacement of the ventilation system unit and ducting.

Following completion of the roofing work the Council intends to undertake some internal maintenance work to the hall and is planning to reopen the facility in September 2024.

2024/25 Town Council Grant Applications

The first-round of 2024/25 grant applications is now open – the closing date for receipt of completed applications is 15th March 2024. Applications will be reviewed and considered by the Policy & Resources Committee in June.

Eligibility information and the application form can be found on the council [website](#) or obtained from the office in the Town Hall.

Okehampton Police Station Okehampton Town Council is pleased that the Devon and Cornwall Police public enquiry office in Barton Road, Okehampton has reopened to the public.

Opening Hours are Monday to Thursday 10am to 3pm.

Coming up in February

- 2nd Ballroom and Latin American Dance (Charter Hall)
- 3rd Community Links Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)
- 4th Train Play Devon (Charter Hall)
- 5th Seated Yoga (Town Hall, 10am)
- 6th Friendly Circle (2pm, Charter Hall)
- 8th NHS Blood Donation Session (Charter Hall)
- 9th Ballroom and Latin American Dance (Charter Hall, evening)
- 10th Okehampton Memories Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)
- Hockey Club Bingo (Charter Hall, evening)
- 16th Ballroom and Latin American Dance (Charter Hall, evening)
- 17th Hedgehog Hospital Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)
- 19th Seated Yoga (Town Hall, 10am)
- 24th Okehampton Lanterns Parade (Simmons Park)
- 26th Seated Yoga (Town Hall, 10am)



Town Council Meeting Dates - February

- 5th Planning Committee (Applications Only)
- 19th Parks Committee
- 26th Full Council

Meeting dates for 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

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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 Mark Richards |
| Cllr Terry Cummings | Cllr Lynne Rogers |
| Cllr Mike Harding | Cllr Bob Tolley |
| Cllr Carole Holt | Cllr Simon Weekes |
| Cllr Dr Michael Ireland | Cllr Julie Yelland |