



Okehampton Town Council



Okehampton Town Council
Town Hall
Fore Street
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www.okehampton.gov.uk

NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2024

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

DCC's Pay and Display On-Street Parking Consultation

DCC will be making a decision about whether or not to implement the proposed schemes at a Cabinet Meeting in County Hall, Exeter at 10.30am on Wednesday 13th March. Okehampton Town Council are planning for one or two Councillors to attend the meeting to represent the town and to listen to proceedings.

An Okehampton action group are joining with other such groups to organise a peaceful protest against the proposals outside of County Hall on 13th March and are asking support from residents, traders and others.

Last Call for Grant Applications to the Town Council for consideration in June 2024

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](http://www.okehampton.gov.uk) or obtained from the office in the Town Hall.

Save The Date



Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council

&

Okehampton Town Council
commemorates

80th Anniversary of D Day

**Thursday 6th June
at Okehampton Show Field**

Live music

Food

Beacon Lighting



Advance Notice

Annual Town Meeting - 8th April, 7pm in the Ockment Centre

Speakers and presentations are being arranged; so far the following have been confirmed:

Network Rail

Presentation about the new Railway Station at the east side of Okehampton.

Dartmoor National Park Authority

Dartmoor's Dynamic Landscapes Project

Okehampton Town Youth Council

Launch of a new initiative by the Town Council.

Elections for Youth Councillors are planned to take place in May 2024.

A Councillor Vacancy has arisen following the resignation of Mike Harding due to work pressures. Information can be found on the council website.

Community Governance Boundary Review

The review to amend the boundary between the Town and Hamlets Parish Councils was undertaken following a petition instigated by the Town Council on behalf of its residents. The aim was to change the boundary to incorporate the urban developments into the town, enabling those residents to feel included in the community many already believe they are part of. This will bring a sense of community cohesion and identity and give them a democratic voice in the town.

We are however conscious that the decision was not the outcome hoped for by Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council. Okehampton Town council will be delighted to continue working with the Hamlets Parish Council in holding joint events and projects for the benefit of all residents and, if approved, working collaboratively towards a smooth boundary transition, going forward.

The outcome of WDBC's decision is as follows:

1. That the existing parish boundaries of Okehampton Town Council and Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council be amended in line with the petition submitted by the Town Council
2. That the Council strongly encourages the Town and Parish Council to work more closely together for the benefit of their local communities.

The review will be formally completed when WDBC publishes the Reorganisation of Community Governance Order and requests that the Electoral Commission approve any changes.

The main dates, as known to us at this time are as follows, but what this means exactly has yet to be ascertained:

- 1 April 2025 administrative and financial processes will start to change
- May 2027 it is understood that in line with the next local council elections in 2027, the Town Council will increase in size from 14 Town Councillors to 15

Full details of the process for the change have yet to be received and worked out, as has the transition process. The Town Council will endeavour to keep both its existing and new residents as fully informed as possible throughout the period of change.

Coming up in March and April

March

- 11th Commonwealth Day (outside St James' Church, 9.30am)
- 21st Councillor Surgery (Town Hall, 10am to 12noon)

April

- 8th Annual Town Assembly (Ockment Centre, 7pm)
- 18th Councillor Surgery (Town Hall, time TBC)

Town Council Meeting Dates - March

- 4th Planning Committee
- 11th Policy & Resources Committee
- 18th Property Committee
- 25th 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 on the [website](#) or noticeboard in the Victorian Arcade.

Simmons Park Volunteer Group

The group will be reconvening on 27th March and then meeting weekly on Wednesday mornings.

For information about joining the group please contact the Council Office.

It is anticipated that the group will take part in Great Big Green Week on Wednesday 12th June.

Contact Us – 01837 53179

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