



Okehampton Town Council



Simmons Park Bat Walk – 1st August

Okehampton Town Council
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www.okehampton.gov.uk

facebook.com/okehamptontowncouncil

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NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2025

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

Okehampton Youth Council



The Youth Council joined the Town Council and WDBC at Okehampton Show and were busy helping members of the public make Wildlife Seed Bombs and Birdseed feeders.

If you are interested in joining the Youth Council, please email youthcouncil@okehampton.gov.uk or make contact through the council office.



BMX/Pump Track Completion and Opening

The newly refurbished track was opened on 8th August by the Town Mayor, Cllr Colman.

Thanks go to WDBC who awarded £38,907.59 of S106 funding to the project. The Mayor and Mayoress of WDBC, Cllr and Mrs Vachon, were also in attendance along with several Town Councillors, council staff and members of the public.



2024/25 Annual Governance Accountability Return (AGAR)

The Internal Auditor, [IAC Audit and Consultancy Ltd](http://www.iacauditandconsultancy.co.uk), undertakes twice yearly audits of the council's accounts and processes. Then, following year end, 31st March, the AGAR is reviewed by the Council and sent to the External Auditor, PKF Littlejohn.

The Internal Auditor is appointed by the Council whilst the [Small Authorities Audit](http://www.smallauthoritiesaudit.co.uk)

[Appointments](http://www.smallauthoritiesaudit.co.uk) (SAAA) is responsible for appointing the External Auditor.

The 2024/25 AGAR has been audited and returned with no observations or recommendations made indicating that the council is effectively managing its finances and processes. Documentation can be found on the [council website](http://www.okehampton.gov.uk) or obtained from the office.

Okehampton Town and Hamlets Parish Councils Boundary Change Letter to the Editor of the Okehampton Times, August 2025

Further to the article in the 12th June 2025 edition of the Okehampton Times entitled 'Okehampton town boundaries to change' we write jointly to clarify the position about the boundary change between Okehampton Town and Hamlets Parish Councils.

A change to the boundary between Okehampton Town and Hamlets Parish Councils has been approved by WDBC and will take effect in 2027. A map and details about the new boundary can be found on both websites and information will be added as it becomes available.

- Okehampton Town Council - www.okehampton.gov.uk/boundary-change.php
- Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council - www.okehamptonhamlets-pc.gov.uk/

We don't yet know how this will affect residents' council tax payments to the Town and Hamlets Councils and will provide updated information as plans progress.

Emma James, Town Clerk, Okehampton Town Council

Emily Young, Parish Clerk, Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council

Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation

WDBC are holding public engagement events over the coming weeks about the future of council services in Devon. The Okehampton event is in the Ockment Centre on 2nd September at 6.15pm.



“Let's Talk”

Shaping Devon's Future

**You're invited to our
public event to talk about
the future of council
services in West Devon**

Ockment Centre, Okehampton
2 September 2025
6:15 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Doors open at 6:00 p.m.



Scan to book

Help shape the future of Devon

Event information
www.westdevon.gov.uk/lgr-events



**West Devon
Borough Council**

Local Government Reorganisation

This is a government initiative to replace the current two-tier system of county and district councils with new unitary authorities that serve larger populations.

In Devon this means that WDBC, other District/Borough Councils and DCC will no longer exist. They will be replaced with a single Unitary Council – how this will look has yet to be determined.

*Town and Parish Councils will
remain in place.*

Devolution

The transfer of powers and funding from central government to local areas.

New regional Strategic Authorities will be created, each led by an elected Mayor. These authorities will cover areas with populations over 1.5 million in regions of England that do not already have them.

Council leaders across Devon have joined forces to call for the creation of a South West Peninsula Mayoral Strategic Authority.

Lighting in Simmons Park

The Council is aware of lighting issues in Simmons Park. Emergency repair work, expected to take two weeks to complete, is scheduled to commence on 1st September.

Simmons Park Bat Walk

The weather was perfect for the event on 1st August which was well attended with over 50 people taking part. Daubenton's, Soprano Pippestrelles, Common Pippestrelles, Noctule and Barbestelle Bats were identified. (Barbestelle being very rare, only believed to be 5000 in the uk.)

Coming up in September

- **Mondays and Wednesdays:**
Clubbercise, 6pm-8pm Charter Hall
 - **Tuesdays:** West Devon Folk Choir, Charter Hall (recommencing 16th September)
 - **Wednesdays:** Simmons Park Volunteer Group, 11am-12.30pm
 - **Saturdays:** Parkrun, 9am Simmons Park
- 2nd Friendly Circle (Charter Hall)
6th Okehampton Friends of Hospiscare Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)
13th RBL Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)
14th Girl Guiding event (Simmons Park)
19th NHS Blood Donation Session (Charter Hall)
20th Trek 26 Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)
Fundraising event (Charter Hall)
26th RBL Dinner (Charter Hall)
27th Okehampton & District Lions Club Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)

Town Council Meeting Dates

Members of the public are welcome to attend council meetings and have the opportunity to address the council. Alternatively, meetings are livestreamed through the council Facebook page where they are available to view.

September

- 8th Planning Committee (applications only) and Policy & Resources Committee
15th Full Council
29th Parks Committee

Meeting dates for 2025/26 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 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Fore Street.

Occasionally meetings are added or subject to change, details can be found on the [website](#) or noticeboard in the Victorian Arcade.



The poster features a red background with white concentric circles emanating from a smartphone. The phone screen displays a white alert box with a red triangle and exclamation mark icon, and the text 'Emergency Alerts'. Above the phone, the text reads: 'We are testing Emergency Alerts on mobile phones across the UK on Sunday 7 September at 3pm.' Below the phone, it says: 'Find out more at gov.uk/alerts'. The top left corner has the UK Government crest and logo.

Advance Notice

Anderton and Rowland Fair are coming to Okehampton for the Carnival. Simmons Park carpark will be closed from 12th to 20th October.

Contact Us – 01837 53179

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James McGahey, Park-Keeper

parks@okehampton.gov.uk

Your Councillors

Cllr Richard Colman (Town Mayor)

Cllr Laura Bird (Deputy Mayor)

Cllr Terry Cummings

Cllr Allenton Fisher

Cllr Frankee Hart

Cllr Carole Holt

Cllr Dr Michael Ireland

Cllr Tony Leech

Cllr Christine Marsh

Cllr David McNeill

Cllr Mark Richards

Cllr Bob Tolley

Cllr Simon Weekes

Cllr Julie Yelland

Contact details available from the website or council office