

Okehampton Town Council



Okehampton Town Council  
Town Hall  
Fore Street  
Okehampton EX20 1AA

01837 53179

[www.okehampton.gov.uk](http://www.okehampton.gov.uk)

## NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2025

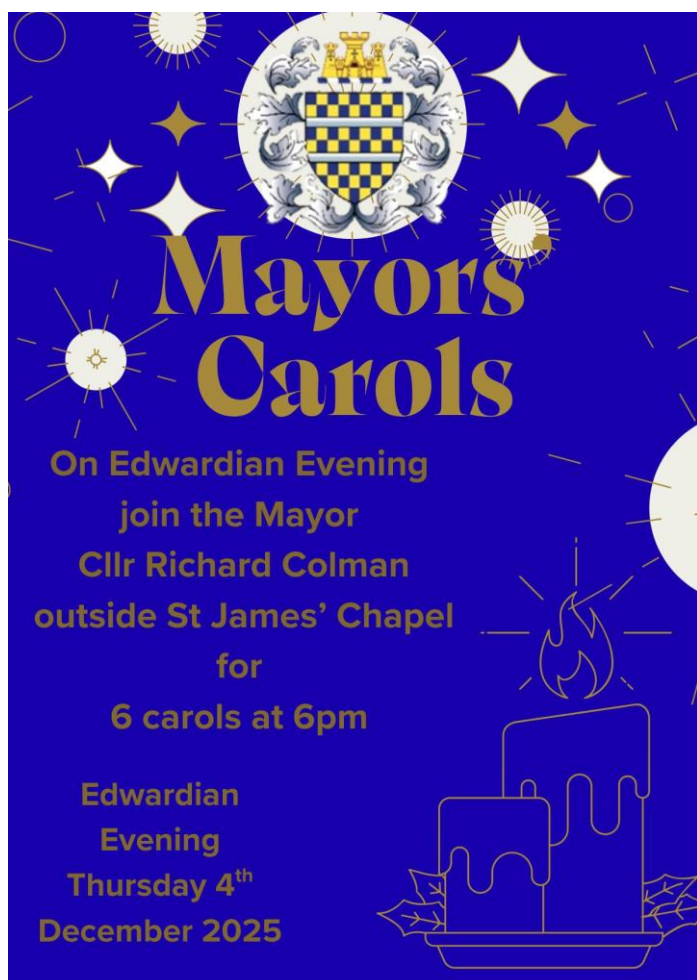
Sign up to receive the newsletters electronically by visiting the Council's [website](http://www.okehampton.gov.uk)



### Okehampton Youth Council

If you are interested in joining the Youth Council, please email

[youthcouncil@okehampton.gov.uk](mailto:youthcouncil@okehampton.gov.uk) or  
make contact through the council office.



### Mayor's Carols and Edwardian Evening 4<sup>th</sup> December

Edwardian Evening and the Christmas Lights, which were both previously the responsibility of Everything Okehampton, are being arranged by the Business Improvement District (BID)

As part of this event, at 6pm the Mayor will be hosting the singing of some festive carols outside of St James' Chapel. The Okehampton Excelsior Silver Band will be accompanying the singing of the carols. Do come along and join in.

### Christmas Car Parking

From Monday  
1<sup>st</sup> December until



Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026 (inclusive) Okehampton Town Council are offering free parking in [Simmons Park Car Park](#) Monday to Friday from 12noon, all day Saturdays and Bank Holidays.

WDBC are offering free parking after 3pm on Thursday and Fridays from 1<sup>st</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> December in [Mill Road Car Park](#).



## Free Simmons Park Christmas Trail

Starting on 1<sup>st</sup> December the council is offering a free Christmas Trail in Simmons Park. The trail sheets will be available from the Town Hall, the book swap in Simmons Park (the phone box), or downloadable from the website.



## Town Council Office Christmas Closure

The Office in the Town Hall will close to the public at 4pm on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December and will reopen on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January. In the interim period phone messages and emails will be monitored for any urgent matters.



## Okehampton Town Council Cemetery

Please note that Christmas wreaths and other related items will be removed by Town Council staff during the last week of January/early February.

## Lloyds Bank Closure - Okehampton

The Council is continuing to liaise with Lloyds Bank and other parties to try to ensure that a suitable service is provided following the branch closure.

## Remembrance Parade and Service

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who volunteered their time to help, from those who helped with the road closure, the participants, and the Mace Bearers.



**Town Council Grants** - Applications for a grant from not-for-profit groups and organisations were considered at the November Policy & Resources Committee meeting and the following awards were agreed:

All Saints Church Hall - £300

Citizens Advice - £5,000.

Okehampton College PTFA - £300

Okehampton Community Recreation Association (OCRA) - £455.60

Okehampton Memories - £500

Okehampton Rivers Improvement Group (ORIG) - £700

Okehampton Women's Institute (WI) - £500

Simmons Park Parkrun £420

Who Let the Dads Out - £500

**2026/27 Budget and Precept** - In August the Council commenced the budget and precept setting process starting with workshops for each committee when the spend for the year to date was reviewed and initial requirements for next year considered. Committees will be further considering their budgets at a meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> December with the final decision being made by Full Council on 19<sup>th</sup> January.

# OFFICE SPACE

For rent

£75pw

+ Utilities and rates

**Lower Market Street,  
Okehampton, EX20 1HN**

- 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR SPACE
- LIGHT, AIRY OFFICE OR THERAPY ROOM APPROX 5.5X4.5M
- RECEPTION/ANTE ROOM WITH KITCHENETTE APPROX 5X3M
- 12 MONTH MINIMUM LEASE



Okehampton Town Council

Expressions of Interest by 05/11/25

**01837 53179**

[facilities@okehampton.gov.uk](mailto:facilities@okehampton.gov.uk)





**Allotments** - On 29<sup>th</sup> September 2026 the Town Council will be taking over responsibility for the three allotment sites from Okehampton United Charities. The sites will remain in use as allotments.

**Hire Fees and Charges** for the Charter Hall and other facilities have been reviewed and are not increasing for 2026/27. The only change is to management of the Coffee Mornings which will be restricted to two events per year for each organisation, one of which can be in the Christmas period (November/December). This is because some organisations were booking a number of Coffee Mornings limiting availability for others, especially in the run up to Christmas.

## Coming up in December

- **Mondays and Wednesdays:** Clubbercise, 6pm-8pm Charter Hall
- **Tuesdays:** West Devon Folk Choir, Charter Hall
- **Saturdays:** Parkrun, 9am Simmons Park

### December

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Friendly Circle (Charter Hall)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Edwardian Evening College PTFA Event (Charter Hall)
- 6<sup>th</sup> Okehampton Community Christmas Fundraising Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)
- 13<sup>th</sup> Santa's Breakfast (Charter Hall)
- 14<sup>th</sup> Okehampton Excelsior Silver Band Concert (Charter Hall)
- 19<sup>th</sup> NHS Blood Donation Session (Charter Hall)
- 20<sup>th</sup> Carnival Committee 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.

### December

- 1<sup>st</sup> 6.30pm Committee Budget and Planning
- 8<sup>th</sup> Policy & Resources Committee
- 15<sup>th</sup> Full Council

### January 2026

- 12<sup>th</sup> Policy & Resources Committee
- 19<sup>th</sup> Full Council (Budget & Precept)
- 26<sup>th</sup> Planning 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.

### Contact Us – 01837 53179

**Emma James**, Town Clerk & RFO  
[townclerk@okehampton.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@okehampton.gov.uk)

**Abi Horn**, Assistant Clerk  
[admin@okehampton.gov.uk](mailto:admin@okehampton.gov.uk)

**Tracey Bryant**, Finance Officer  
[accounts@okehampton.gov.uk](mailto:accounts@okehampton.gov.uk)

**Rosi Wills**, Facilities Officer  
[facilities@okehampton.gov.uk](mailto:facilities@okehampton.gov.uk)

**James McGahey**, Park-Keeper  
[parks@okehampton.gov.uk](mailto:parks@okehampton.gov.uk)

### Your Councillors

Cllr Richard Colman (Town Mayor)  
Cllr Laura Bird (Deputy Mayor)

Cllr Terry Cummings	Cllr Christine Marsh
Cllr Allenton Fisher	Cllr David McNeill
Cllr Frankee Hart	Cllr Mark Richards
Cllr Carole Holt	Cllr Bob Tolley
Cllr Dr Michael Ireland	Cllr Simon Weekes
Cllr Tony Leech	Cllr Julie Yelland

Contact details available from the website  
or council office