

Okehampton Town Council



Okehampton Town Council
Town Hall
Fore Street
Okehampton EX20 1AA

01837 53179

www.okehampton.gov.uk

NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2026

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 or make contact through the council office.



The Youth Council gave presentations within Okehampton College assemblies in January and are taking part in a Climate Workshop arranged for them by a member of the community in February.

Okehampton Town Council Cemetery

Please note that Christmas wreaths and other related items will be removed by Town Council staff as soon as the weather permits! The Headstones will be reinspected during this visit.

Okehampton Town Council Grants 2026/27

The Grant Policy and process is changing for the 2026/27 financial year due to the high financial value and number of applications received in 2025/26. This will ensure the process is fair for all applicants. The main changes are:

Small Grants – Up to £400

Applications will be considered at scheduled meetings of the Committee as they are received throughout the year (June to March).

Large Grants – Between £400 and a maximum of £5,000

Applications will be considered annually, at a dedicated meeting of the Committee in June.

Applicants for grants of £3,000 and above will be required to attend the meeting to give a presentation of up to 10 minutes to provide additional information not contained with the application. Presentations will be held within an open meeting of the Committee.

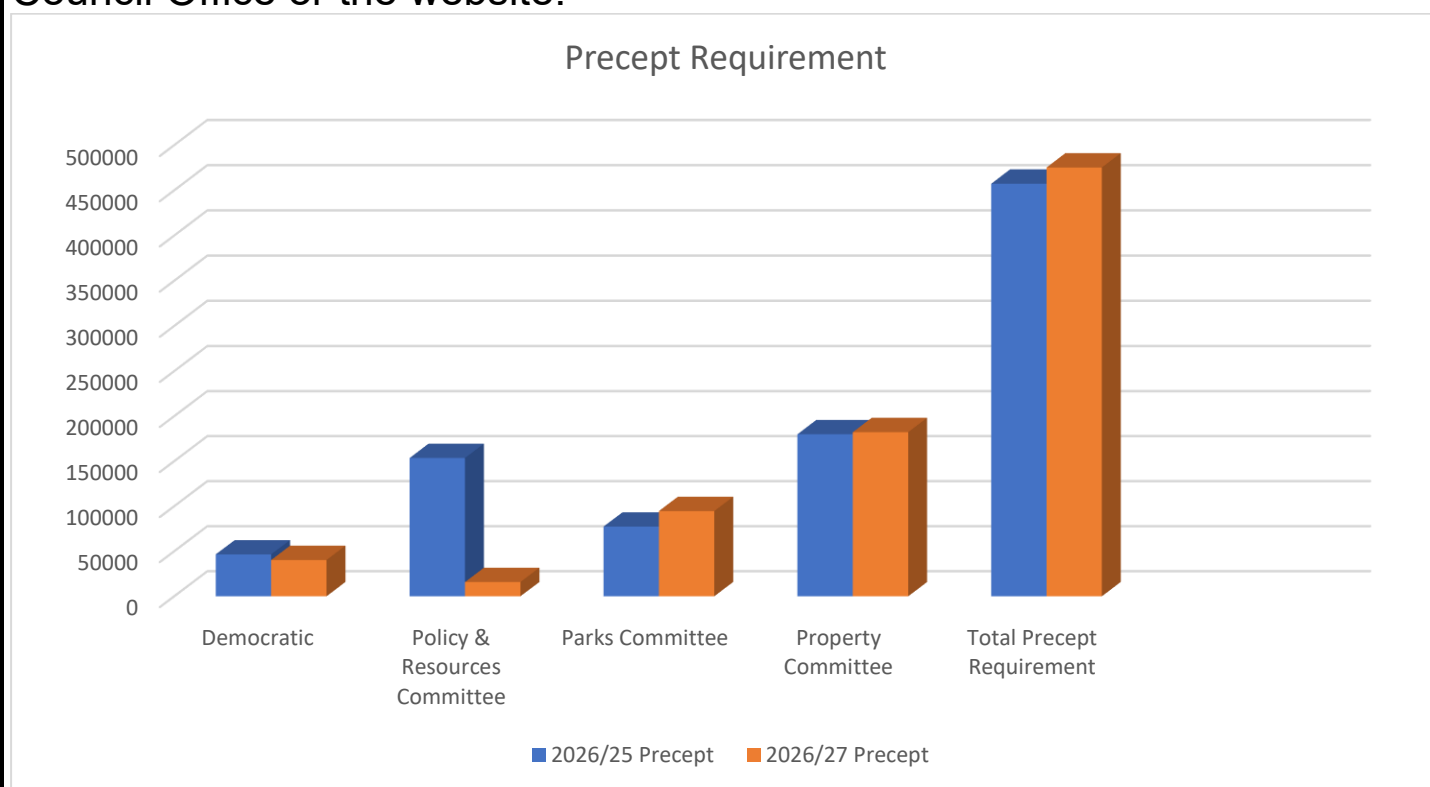
Applications for a large grant must be submitted to
accounts@okehampton.gov.uk by 1st May 2026

2026/27 Budget

The Town Council has been scrutinising its budget over the last few months to ensure your money is being spent appropriately, value for money achieved and to aid the budget and precept setting for 2026/27.

There are several projects that are either ongoing or planned including the purchase of land to extend the cemetery, potential acquisition of assets from WDBC, accepting responsibility for the three allotment sites and repairs to the riverbank that runs through Simmons Park, made significantly worse by recent storms.

At a meeting of the Council on 19th January, the budget for 2026/27 was agreed and the precept (the amount within your Council Tax bill that is paid to Okehampton Town Council) set at £475,273. This is an increase of 1.88% or £18,000 which will add £0.07 p/week (£3.77 for the year) to the precept for a Band D property. The budget can be obtained from the Council Office or the website.



Okehampton Community Emergency Plan

The Council is seeking input and assistance from local community groups to renew the Okehampton Community Emergency Plan.

To launch this initiative there will be a presentation from Devon Communities Together at the Annual Town Assembly on Monday 16th March at 7pm in the Charter Hall.

Congratulations

The Parks Team apprentice, Sam, is congratulated by the Council for achieving the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award.

Coffee Morning Availability - Charter Hall

There is availability for Coffee Mornings in the Charter Hall on 11th April.

The Saturday coffee morning discounted rate for local not-for-profit groups and organisations is just £36 for the morning, 8.30am to 12.30pm.

To book please visit the website

www.okehampton.gov.uk, contact the office

on 01837 53179 or email facilities@okehampton.gov.uk



Notice of Vacancy for a Town Councillor

Following the resignation of Councillor Frankee Hart in January a vacancy for a Town Councillor has arisen on the North Ward.



For information about how you can become a Town Councillor and what it entails, please contact the Town Clerk on 01837 53179 or townclerk@okehampton.gov.uk

A by-election to fill the vacancy will be held if within 14 days of the date of this Notice (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Day and Bank Holidays) ten electors from the Town give notice in writing to the Returning Officer requiring that such an election be held.

The address of the Returning Officer is West Devon Borough Council, Kilworthy Park, Drake Road, Tavistock, Devon PL19 0BZ. A request for an election can also be scanned and emailed to elections@westdevon.gov.uk, but the document must contain "wet ink" signatures.

If no such notice is given, the Town Council will fill the vacancy through co-option.

Dated: 26th January 2026

Signed: E James, Emma James, Town Clerk & RFO

Deadline for notices seeking an election – 13th February 2026

Coming up in February

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

February

- 3rd Friendly Circle (Charter Hall)
- 5th West Devon Employment Fair (Charter Hall)
- 13th Rotary Club Quiz Night (Charter Hall)
- 14th RAF Cadets 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. New equipment has been purchased to improve sound and picture quality.

February 2026

- 2nd Property Committee
- 16th Parks Committee
- 23rd Full Council

March 2026

- 2nd Policy & Resources Committee
- 16th Annual Town Assembly
- 23rd Full Council
- 30th 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.

OFFICE SPACE

For rent £75pw
+ Utilities and rates

Lower Market Street,
Okehampton, EX20 1HN

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

Expressions of Interest by 05/11/25
01837 53179
facilities@okehampton.gov.uk



Contact Us – 01837 53179

Emma James, Town Clerk & RFO
townclerk@okehampton.gov.uk

Abi Horn, Assistant Clerk

admin@okehampton.gov.uk

Tracey Bryant, Finance Officer
accounts@okehampton.gov.uk

Rosi Wills, Facilities Officer
facilities@okehampton.gov.uk

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

VACANCY

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