



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 – APRIL 2026

Sign up to receive the newsletters electronically by visiting the Council's [website](#)  
Follow the Council on [Facebook](#), Instagram and [YouTube](#)

### 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.

At the most recent meeting Youth Councillors met with a representative of OkeRail who wanted to ask their opinion about transport issues within the town. Do you have any thoughts about this matter? If you do, please speak to one of the Youth Councillors or email them at [youthcouncil@okehampton.gov.uk](mailto:youthcouncil@okehampton.gov.uk)

Youth Councillors are contacting local businesses to see if they would be willing to offer some life skills coaching sessions; for example about household expenses, property rental, preparing for job interviews. If there are any businesses that would be willing to assist, please make contact through the Youth Council email address.



### 2026/27 Town Council Grant Scheme – Open for Applications

Applications for a grant are invited from local not-for-profit groups and organisations who can demonstrate a clear, direct benefit to the residents of Okehampton.

- Applications for grants of between £400 and up to a maximum of £5,000 will be considered by the Policy & Resources Committee on 8th June 2026.
- Applications for smaller amounts at meetings throughout the year.

Those applying for a grant of £3,000 or above are required to attend the meeting to give a presentation of up to 10 minutes to provide additional information and to answer any questions posed by the Committee.

Details of how to apply, the policy and criteria can be found on the [website](#) or obtained from the office in the Town Hall.

Applications for a large grant, over £400, must be submitted by  
1<sup>st</sup> May 2026 to [accounts@okehampton.gov.uk](mailto:accounts@okehampton.gov.uk)

## Councillor Co-Option

Applications for co-option to the North Ward were considered by the Council at a meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2025.

The Council is pleased to welcome Cllr Mike Ricketts as a North Ward Councillor.



## Lloyds Okehampton Branch Closure

Attempts to secure a banking hub by various parties, including the Town Council and Sir Mel Stride, MP, have been unsuccessful and the council was advised in early March that an assisted counter service is available from the Post Office in George Street.

This meant that the Lloyds Okehampton branch closed on 25<sup>th</sup> March as they had planned.

**ST GEORGE'S DAY  
CELEBRATIONS  
IN THE PARK**

Sunday 26th April  
Simmons Park,  
Okehampton  
10:00 – 16:00

- ✚ Live music
- ✚ Gift stalls
- ✚ Morris dancing
- ✚ Archery & sword school
- ✚ OCRA activities
- ✚ Street food & bar
- ✚ Workshops & demos
- ✚ Children's entertainment

More details on [www.visitokehampton.co.uk](http://www.visitokehampton.co.uk)

## Parks Volunteer Group - Do you like gardening and socialising?

The Simmons Park volunteer group is starting up again on 1<sup>st</sup> April at 11am. Why not come along, chat with likeminded others whilst helping to keep the beautiful Simmons Park weed free, clean and tidy.

## Community Emergency Plan – Could you help?

The Council is reviewing the Community Emergency Plan and needs your help to expand it so that it can be more effective. If you think you could help, please contact the Town Clerk.



Okehampton  
Business  
Improvement  
District

## Approved Contractor Scheme

We are compiling a register of Contractor's and Skilled People from the local area who are interested in working with OTC assisting with regular upkeep and/or getting involved with our upcoming projects.



Please request an application form from the Town Hall or by email to [facilities@okehampton.gov.uk](mailto:facilities@okehampton.gov.uk)

## How can I contact and engage with Okehampton Town Council?

- Meetings of the Council are open to the public to attend in person or by viewing the livestream on [Facebook](#). Details of the meetings can be found on the [website](#) or obtained from the office.
- The Council has recently joined the [YouTube](#) community, and the livestream videos of the meetings are uploaded in the days following the meeting
- Items of interest and notices are posted on [Facebook](#)
- Monthly [Newsletter](#) - [sign up](#) through the website to have them delivered directly to your email inbox
- Council website – [www.okehampton.gov.uk](http://www.okehampton.gov.uk)
- The Office in the Town Hall is open to the public Monday to Thursday 9.30am to 4pm, and at other times by appointment.
- Phone calls during office hours are answered by a member of staff – 01837 53179
- Town Clerk and other staff email addresses can be found on the [website](#) and at the end of this newsletter
- Councillors contact details can be found on the [website](#) or obtained from the office
- Occasional Councillor Surgeries are held in various locations
- Town Annual Assembly – usually in March

## Coffee Morning Availability - Charter Hall

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.

There are Coffee Morning sessions available in July and August. To book please visit the website [www.okehampton.gov.uk](http://www.okehampton.gov.uk), contact the office on 01837 53179 or email [facilities@okehampton.gov.uk](mailto:facilities@okehampton.gov.uk)

## Coming up in April

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

### April

- 3<sup>rd</sup> NHS Blood Donation Session (Charter Hall)  
4<sup>th</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Okehampton Scout Group Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)  
7<sup>th</sup> Friendly Circle (Charter Hall)  
8-9<sup>th</sup> Inflatables Theme Park (Simmons Park)  
11<sup>th</sup> Papyrus Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)  
18<sup>th</sup> Rotary Club Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)  
25<sup>th</sup> Inner Wheel Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)  
26<sup>th</sup> St Georges Day Event and Scouts Parade (Simmons Park)

## 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.

### April 2026

- 13<sup>th</sup> Policy & Resources Committee  
27<sup>th</sup> Full Council

### May 2026

- 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Council Meeting and Mayor Choosing  
18<sup>th</sup> Parks Committee

Meeting dates for 2025/26 and 2026/27 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 David McNeill

Cllr Allenton Fisher

Cllr Mark Richards

Cllr Carole Holt

Cllr Mike Ricketts

Cllr Dr Michael Ireland

Cllr Bob Tolley

Cllr Tony Leech

Cllr Simon Weekes

Cllr Christine Marsh

Cllr Julie Yelland

Contact details available from the website  
or council office