



Okehampton Town Council



Okehampton Town Council
Town Hall
Fore Street
Okehampton EX20 1AA

01837 53179

www.okehampton.gov.uk

NEWSLETTER – MAY 2026

Sign up to receive the newsletters electronically by visiting the Council's [website](#)
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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 are hoping to host a life skills day in July and are looking for local organisations and businesses who may be able to help by running an interactive session. For example; basic sewing skills, financial management including budgeting and how credit cards work, advice in relation to leasing and buying properties. If you can help please contact us at the email address above.



Annual Council Meeting and Mayor Choosing

The Council year starts in May on the day of the Annual Council Meeting and Mayor Choosing Event which is on Wednesday 13th May.

At this meeting the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for 2026/27 will be appointed. Will we have a new Mayor for 2026/27, or will Cllr Colman be re-elected for a second year?

Councillors will also be appointed to sit on two of the four Committees (Policy & Resources, Parks, Planning and Property) and other appointments such as representatives to other organisations will be made.

Simmons Park Green Flag Award

Judging is taking place in early May when the council is hoping to achieve its third Green Flag.

Please help us by keeping the park clean and tidy

Wildlife Events in Simmons Park dates



Friday May 1st 7.30pm onwards-Nocturnal bat walk

Saturday May 2nd 10.30 onwards- Moth and insect catching event in meadow

Sunday June 28th 10.30 onwards- Hedges and bird event (with BTO Expert)

Wednesday August 12th 1.00pm-3.00pm- Pond Dipping Dartmoor National Park hosting

Tuesday August 18th 11-1pm-Insect catching meadow

Friday August 28th 7.30pm Bat and nocturnal event

All starting in the main car park.

Simmons Park Update

Essential maintenance is due to be completed in Simmons Park over the next few months. This includes reinstatement of a footpath through the woodland area on the formal side of the park caused by a falling tree during winter storms and repairs to the riverbank. Unfortunately, the riverbank repairs due to be undertaken last summer were postponed because of delays receiving permission from the Environment Agency has resulted in additional cost for this work.

River contamination – Following a rail incident on 21st April diesel has spilled into drains, a stream, the East Ockment River and ultimately through Simmons Park. We are waiting for the all clear from the Environment Agency, until then please continue to stay out of the river.

2026/27 Town Council Grant Scheme – Open for Applications

Applications for grants 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, from the Policy & Resources Committee meeting, 8th June 2026.

Applications for a large grant, over £400, must be submitted by
1st May 2026 to accounts@okehampton.gov.uk

Spring/Summer Annual Fair

Simmons Park Car Park will be closed from 8am Sunday 31st May until 8am Tuesday 9th June 2025 for the Anderton & Rowland Fair.

Lloyds Bank Closure

The Council would like your feedback about your experiences since the branch closure on 25th March, both positive and negative, so that these can be passed back to LINK/Cash Assess. Please send your feedback to the Town Clerk at townclerk@okehampton.gov.uk

The Policy & Resources (P&R) Committee – what does it do?

This Committee has a wide range of responsibilities delegated to it by the Full Council:

- **Budget** - Monitoring the budget, however Full Council retains responsibility for the setting of the annual budget and precept
- **Finances** – Overseeing the councils finances
- **IT** – Responsibility for the councils IT and data protection
- **Land Transactions** – Determining any land transactions, within its delegated financial constraints
- **Personnel** – Management of personnel, including consideration of recommendations from the personnel Sub-Committee
- **Risk Management** – Responsibility for implementation of financial risk management
- **Support Services** – Oversight of the services that the council provides
- **Community Safety, Civil Defence and Emergency Planning** – Responsible for the council's functions within the remit of these areas of the council's work
- **CCTV** – Responsible for the maintenance and management of the scheme
- **Youth Council** – Responsible for the management
- **Events** – Responsible for arrangements for Civic and other events the council is involved in
- **Grants** – Management of the council grant scheme and determination of grant awards

Committee Membership – Committee membership for 2026/27 will be confirmed at the Annual Council Meeting on 13th May.

Officer Support - The Town Clerk, Emma James, is present at these meetings. She has overall responsibility for all other members of staff, the management of all facilities and services that the council provides.

The Personnel Sub-Committee

The Sub-Committee reports to the P&R Committee. Its membership consists of five Councillors – the Mayor and the Chairmen of the four Committees.

Its responsibilities relate to personnel matters including recruitment and disciplinary matters. The Town Clerk, Emma, attends these meetings.

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.

To book please visit the website www.okehampton.gov.uk, contact the office on 01837 53179 or email facilities@okehampton.gov.uk

Coming up in May

- **Mondays and Wednesdays:** Clubbercise, Charter Hall
- **Tuesdays:** West Devon Folk Choir, Charter Hall
- **Wednesdays:** Simmons Park Volunteer Group, 11am main gates
- **Saturdays:** Parkrun, 9am Simmons Park

May

- 2nd Friendly Circle Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)
- 5th Friendly Circle Meeting (Charter Hall)
- 9th RBL Social Club Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)
- 14th NHS Blood Donation Session (Charter Hall)
- 16th Trek 26 Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)

Ten Tors
8th - 10th May

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.

May 2026

- 13th Annual Council Meeting and Mayor Choosing
- 18th Parks Committee

Meeting dates for 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

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 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