



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 – June 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.



### Annual Council Meeting and Mayor Choosing

Councillor Richard Colman was appointed Town Mayor for a second year at the Annual meeting of the Council on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2026.

Also reappointed for a second year as Deputy Mayor was Councillor Laura Bird.

The Council Committee Membership for 2026/27 was confirmed and the Committee Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen are:

- Property Cllr Bird and Cllr Fisher
- Parks Cllr Tolley and Cllr Marsh
- P&R Cllr Yelland and Cllr Bird
- Planning Cllr Leech and Cllr Ireland



### Caretaker Required at Okehampton Town Council

**General Repairs** and maintenance of buildings and facilities

**14 hours/week** to include evenings and weekends on a flexible rota basis

**£12.85 per hour** pay increase pending, rising to **£13.05** after 6-month probation

**Based at Town Hall and Charter Hall** with occasional work in Simmons Park or other Council areas

**Basic DBS check** will be required to fulfil OTC's safeguarding responsibilities

**Call** 01837 53179 and ask for Emma James, Town Clerk or Rosi Wills, Facilities Officer

**Email** [townclerk@okehampton.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@okehampton.gov.uk) OR [facilities@okehampton.gov.uk](mailto:facilities@okehampton.gov.uk)

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

**Pop-in** to the Town Hall

## **Digital Switchover - Moving landlines to digital technology**

Landline services, known as the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN), including traditional phone lines are being moved to new upgraded services using digital technology by the end of January 2027.



This means services that rely on the old landline system such as home phones and healthcare devices will be switched over.

### **How will it affect me/what do I need to do?**

The good news is – your landline isn't going anywhere and for most consumers and businesses, this change will be straightforward. In fact, many customers are already making the switch when they upgrade to full fibre broadband.

Your telecoms provider such as Virgin Media, O2 or BT should contact you before the switchover to discuss what you need to do to make sure your service isn't affected.

If you have an internet connection, the change may be as simple as plugging your phone into your broadband router rather than the socket on the wall.

If you have other devices connected to your phone line, such as alarm systems, your alarm service provider might need to upgrade your device to make sure it is compatible. If you are unsure about how a device in your home or business might be affected, it is recommended you contact the equipment supplier or device manufacturer to find out whether it will still work on a digital phone line.

Do you or someone you know depend on their landline and/or use a telecare device connected to a phone line such as a fall monitor, lifeline or personal alarm? If yes, then please notify the communications provider now (the provider of this service) so that they can advise on how the switch might affect the service of the devices or home phone.

### **In an emergency**

Digital landlines cannot carry a power connection, so in the event of a power cut they will not work. If you have a mobile phone this can still be used, but if you've no other means of calling the emergency services your telecoms provider will offer a solution to allow calls to be made to emergency services. You should tell your telecoms provider now if you have no other way of making emergency calls.

## Spring/Summer Annual Fair

The main parking area in Simmons Park Car Park will be closed from 8am Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May to 8am Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2026 for the Anderton & Rowland Fair. The fair will be operational Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June.

## The Property Committee – What does it do?

The Committee is responsible for the maintenance and management of the council's buildings, those it owns and leases from others:

- Town Hall
- Charter Hall
- Market Hall (external fabric only)
- Lower Market Hall
- Public Toilets at Fairplace, and Market Street
- Jim the Walker Statue (Park Row/St James Street Junction)
- Roofed structures within Simmons Park and other locations that are the responsibility of the council

**Fees** – Review of fees and hire charges for the premises, including the Charter Hall

**Budget** - To have authority for spending within its allocated budget.

**Sale of Alcohol in the Charter Hall** – The Committee is the Charter Hall Management Committee in relation to the sale of alcohol in the premises during events.

## Committee Membership

Cllr L Bird (Chairman)	Cllr R Colman (Mayor)
Cllr A Fisher (Vice-Chairman)	Cllr B Tolley (Chairman, Parks)
Cllr T Cummings	Cllr J Yelland (Chairman, Policy & Resources)
Cllr C Holt	Cllr D McNeill
Cllr T Leech	Cllr C Marsh

**Officer Support** - The Town Clerk, Emma James, is generally present at these meetings, supported by the Facilities Officer, Rosi Wills, who is delegated responsibility for this area of council work.

Rosi is also line manager of the Caretakers, Jonathan and Paul.

**Current Projects** – The main projects for 2026/27 are the replacement of windows in various buildings including the Town Hall which is Grade II\* listed, fire improvement work and reinstatement of the Charter Hall kitchen to allow the cooking of food.

## 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](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 June

- **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

### June

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Friendly Circle (Charter Hall)  
4-7<sup>th</sup> Anderton & Rowland Amusement Fair open days(Simmons Park)  
6<sup>th</sup> Okehampton Primary School PTA Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)  
13<sup>th</sup> Town Mayor's Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)  
14<sup>th</sup> Okeford Charity Dog Show (Simmons Park)  
18<sup>th</sup> NHS Blood Donation Session (Charter Hall)  
24<sup>th</sup> CGE Gold Roadshow (Charter Hall)  
27<sup>th</sup> Hospiscare 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, and also are available to view on YouTube once uploaded to that platform.

### June 2026

- 1<sup>st</sup> Full Council  
8<sup>th</sup> Policy & Resources Committee  
15<sup>th</sup> Planning Committee  
29<sup>th</sup> Full Council

**No Mow May** – The Council is embracing No Mow May in areas of Simmons Park, the BMX/Skatepark and the verge at West Bridge will be left to nature.

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](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