



Okehampton Town Council



Okehampton Town Council
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Fore Street
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www.okehampton.gov.uk

NEWSLETTER – July 2026

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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. In conjunction with the Youth Council, a Life Skills day is being arranged for 28th July, further details later in the newsletter.



Town Council Grants Awarded



Cllr Julie Yelland, the committee Chairman states *'In June, the Policy & Resources Committee looked at 22 grant applications with the total value of requests exceeding £56,000. As the Committee has a budget of £29,000 which can't be exceeded, this proved to be particularly challenging for us. Every organisation that applies provides an extremely valuable service to the community of*

Okehampton and none of us enjoy awarding lower amounts when the applicants have worked so hard to put together strong applications. I remain truly grateful to all our voluntary organisations who provide such a diverse array of services, accessible to all and wish each one every success in all that they do.'

Organisation	Award	Organisation	Award
Dartmoor Railway Association	£200	ORIG	£229.59
Room 13	£200	Hospiscare	£1,000
Oke Community Market	£639.96	OCRA	£490
Oke Primary School PFTA	£800	Oke Rugby Football Club	£500
Oke Smallbore Club	£1,000	Oke WI	£300
Okey Music Day	£350	Stay & Play Café	£1,500
W.Devon CVS	£400	Citizens Advize	£3,920
Ockment Centre	£2,500	ODTG	£2,450
Oke Pride	£1,200	Museum of Dartmoor Life	£1,500
NDS&RT	£2,100	RBL Social Club	£2,500
Tor Support	£2,400	Wren Music	£2,500

Updates from the Council Meeting on 1st June

Internal Audit

The Council's Internal Auditor has completed the audit for the 2025/26 financial year and found no areas of non-compliance in how the council manages its finances and governing processes. Full details of the audit reports and the council finances are available from the office or the website. The budgeting process for 2027/28 will begin later this summer with a series of budget workshops for councillors.

Access to Banking Services

Efforts by the Council to secure a banking hub following the closure of the last bank in the town were unsuccessful. The Council is now being told of difficulties experienced by those using the remaining facilities, including lack of cash availability at machines.

The Town Clerk is collating evidence of these issues, with the aim of appealing the decision that left the town without adequate banking provision. Residents are encouraged to share their experiences by emailing townclerk@okehampton.gov.uk.

An Access to Banking Services Review: Call for Evidence has been published by the HM Treasury – the closing date for comments is 20th July.

[Details can be found here](#)

Community Emergency Plan

Community resilience was also discussed, following a presentation by Devon Communities Together at the Annual Town Assembly in April, which was attended by local groups, organisations and residents.

A councillor who has been advocating the development of a more robust Community Emergency Plan spoke about the benefits of a plan that is shaped and led by the community itself. His aspiration is to build a collaborative approach that brings together local knowledge, skills and support networks to help the town respond effectively in times of emergency. The Council, which already has a plan in place on its website, expressed support for this community-led approach and agreed that it would welcome updates as his work as an individual on this project progresses.

Boundary Change

Residents are reminded of the upcoming boundary change between the Town and Hamlets in May 2027. These changes will affect the eastern side of the town (the newer developments), which will transfer from the Hamlets into the Town. It does not include Brightley, Meldon or Southcott which will remain within the Hamlets. This change will also increase the number of Town Councillors from 14 to 15. More information is available at <https://www.okehampton.gov.uk/boundary-change.php>

Life Skills Day – 28th July

The Youth Council is organising a Life Skills Day in the Charter Hall on 28th July. The event will include a series of drop-in workshops, each lasting around an hour, designed to help young people build practical everyday skills. Topics are expected to include basic pet care, renting or buying a home, basic car mechanics, staying safe on a night out, and other useful life skills.

The Youth Council is grateful to the local businesses and organisations giving their time to support the workshops. A timetable of workshops will be published closer to the date.

The Parks Committee – what does it do?

Committee Membership – The following Councillors sit on this Committee:

Cllr Tolley (Chairman) (right)	Cllr Bird
Cllr Marsh (Vice-Chairman)	Cllr Colman
Cllr Holt	Cllr Leech
Cllr Ireland	Cllr Yelland
Cllr McNeill	Cllr Weekes
Cllr Ricketts	



Officer Support - The Assistant Town Clerk, Abi Horn, is generally present at these meetings, supported by the Park-Keeper, James McGahey, who is delegated responsibility for this area of council work. James is also line manager of the Parks Team which consists of the Groundspersons, Neil and Jacob, and the Apprentice, Sam.



Projects and Maintenance in Simmons Park

- A path to the bandstand adjacent to the Chalet has been created
- The path through the woodland area that was damaged by a tree during the winter storms is in the process of being reinstated
- Riverbank repairs are due to commence on 27th July
- Diesel spill concerns remain and it is unlikely that restrictions will be lifted anytime soon according to the Environment Agency

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 July

- **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

July

4th Royal British Legion Social Club Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)

7th Friendly Circle (Charter Hall)

13th Forever Gold Valuation Day (Charter Hall)

19th Okey Music Day (Charter Hall)

24th Abba Take a Chance on Us (Charter Hall)

26th Bandemonium Brass Band (Simmons Park)

28th Youth Skills Day (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.

July 2026

6th Policy & Resources Committee

13th Property Committee

20th Parks Committee

27th Full Council

August 2026

3rd Planning 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

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Tracey Bryant, Finance Officer

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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