Okehampton Town Council



Okehampton Town Council
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www.okehampton.gov.uk

NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 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.

OKEHAMPTON YOUTH COUNCIL

Remembrance Parade and Service

There will be a rolling road closure on Sunday 8th November to enable the Parade from Fore Street to All Saints Church, where there will be a Service, and the return to Fore Street.





Edwardian Evening 3rd December 2026

6.30pm Christmas lights switch-on followed by **Mayor's Carols** outside of St James' Chapel accompanied by Okehampton Primary School, Okehampton Community Choir and the Excelsior Silver Band.

Christmas Car Parking

1st December - 3rd January 2027 (inclusive) Okehampton Town Council are offering free parking in Simmons Park Car Park Monday to Friday from 12noon, all day Saturdays and Bank Holidays

Firework and Bonfire Safety

With Guy Fawkes Night rapidly coming up on Thursday 5th November, residents are reminded to be respectful and mindful of others, and act safely. Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue strongly suggest that it is safer to attend a professionally run display instead of one at somebody's home.

The law about fireworks can be found on the Gov.uk website and information about bonfires from the Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue website.

Please do not use sky lanterns (Chinese lanterns) due to the fire hazard and risk they pose to property, crops, animals and the environment.



Council Parks Team

A recent newsletter contained some information about the Council's Facilities Team and this month I'd like to introduce you to the Parks Team.

James, the Park-Keeper, Neil and Jacob, the Groundsmen and Sam the Apprentice make up the team (right to left). Between them they look after Simmons Park and numerous other areas that are either owned by or are the responsibility of the council.

These areas include the skatepark and BMX/pump track, the grassed area behind Lidl, the heather verge opposide Waitrose, Clapps Wood, the cemetery, the wildflower verge at West Bridge, Jim the Walker and Fairplace Garden. As you can imagine this keeps them pretty busy, especially in the summer months when the weeds don't stop growing!

Allotments

On 29th September the Town Council took over management responsibility for the three allotment sites in Okehampton from Okehampton United Charity. These sites are at Fatherford Road, North Street and Castle Road.

Information about the allotments including how to apply for one can be found on the website, obtained from the office or by emailing allotments@okehampton.gov.uk

To be eligible for an allotment you must be:

- 18 years of age or over, and
- Live within the Okehampton Town Council boundary

May 2027 Elections

Elections for West Devon Borough Council and the Town and Parish Councils, including the Town Council will take place on 6th May 2027. Since May 2023 people voting in person at elections and referendums have been required to take with them a form of photographic ID, this could be one of the following:

- Passport issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, a British Overseas Territory, an EEA state or a Commonwealth country
- Photographic driving licence issued by the UK, Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, or an EEA state (including provisional)
- European Economic Area (EEA) photographic ID Card
- UK Biometric Residence Permit
- An identity card bearing the Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram (PASS card)
- A Blue Badge
- A concessionary travel pass funded by HM Government or local authority

If you do not have one of the above, or as listed on the Gov.uk website, you can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate from the Gov.uk website. Anyone having problems completing the online forms can ring WDBC on 01822 813604 for assistance.

Charter Hall Coffee Morning Availability

There are a few coffee morning sessions in the Charter Hall available in early 2027. These can be booked in addition to the usual two coffee morning limit for regular hirers. The available dates are 7th November, 16th, 23rd and 30th January and 6th February. To book please ring the office on 01837 53179, facilities@okehampton.gov.uk or book through the website

Council Meeting – 26th October

Okehampton Town Council discussed a wide range of local issues at the meeting. Councillors continued to support better rail connectivity, highlighting growing passenger numbers, overcrowding concerns and the need for improved facilities at Okehampton Interchange.

The Annual Council Meeting and Mayor Choosing event in May will begin at noon and involve local schools and businesses. Other decisions included reviewing internal audit recommendations and to replace ‘Chairman’ with the gender-neutral term ‘Chair’ in future Council documents. In principle, a refreshed Council tie, with further quotations to be obtained alongside options for a Council scarf was agreed.

The Mayor reported on recent community engagements, including Okehampton Carnival and a charity coffee morning that raised over £180.

Coming up in November

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

November

3rd Friendly Circle (Charter Hall)
8th Remembrance Parade and Service at All Saints Church
13th Pride Country Music Event (Charter Hall)
14th Trek 26 Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)
15th Footsteps Tapathon for Children in Need (Charter Hall)
21st Inner Wheel Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)
28th Hedgehogs 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.

November 2026

2nd Policy & Resources Committee
16th Property Committee
23rd Parks Committee
30th Full Council

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, agendas can be found on the website and noticeboard in the Victorian Arcade.
Did you know that meetings are Livestreamed through the Council Facebook Page and are then transferred to YouTube

Contact Us – 01837 53179

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Your Councillors

Cllr Richard Colman (Town Mayor)
Cllr Laura Bird (Deputy Mayor)

Cllr Terry Cummings	Cllr David McNeill
Cllr Allenton Fisher	Cllr Carole Holt
Cllr Mike Ricketts	VACANCY
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