



Town Clerk's Update

Council news and information from Sevenoaks Town Clerk, Linda Larter MBE



10 October 2025

Vine Cricket Field

Sports pitches are suffering this year from the drought, and those that are also public open spaces have considerable traffic on the thin area of grass in the summer.

The Vine Cricket Field is no exception. In the coming months, there will be some wooden stakes and rope erected to keep the public off some areas where work is taking place to restore the grass.



Greatness Recreation Community Sports Pavilion



The contractors have moved on to site this week to prepare for the building works. Security fencing and ancillary provision is mainly installed. Information boards about the project are due to be erected next week. A Sod Cutting Ceremony is being arranged for 2 pm on Tuesday 28 October 2025.

The skateboard park will remain in use; however, the entrance gate will need to be moved.

Please vote for The Vine for the Green Flag People's Choice Award

The Vine, much loved and used by many, is an entry in the Green Flag People's Choice Award. Voting is open until 5 pm on 31 October. To vote for the Vine, visit www.greenflagaward.org/park-summary/?park=3008



Anti-social behaviour

We continue to experience anti-social behaviour at our venues. The St John's Car Park public toilets were damaged this weekend. Also, some hirers using the Bat & Ball Centre have been disrespectful of the facilities.



Sevenoaks Town Council team

We were all very sad to learn about the passing of Roger Carloni. Roger left the Town Council to go travelling and sadly he passed away in Zambia whilst doing this. He wasn't with us for long but was liked and respected by all who knew him. Our condolences to his family and friends.

Town Centre Masterplan

The public consultation has now closed. We received the following number of responses:

- St John's Hill Masterplan = 153 and Sevenoaks Society
- Town Centre Masterplan = 151 and Sevenoaks Society

The next step is for our planning consultant to review and summarise the responses.

A further consultation report will be prepared for each Masterplan that sets out comments. This will be considered by Town Councillors early November to agree any changes that might be needed in light of public comments.

Sevenoaks District Council have also included this in its draft Local Plan:

Policy SEV1
Sevenoaks Town Centre
1. The Sevenoaks Town Neighbourhood Plan was adopted in May 2023. It is structured around six key themes and focuses on enhancing gateway points to the town, creating new open spaces and community facilities, promoting active travel and developing a cultural quarter in the town. The Plan offers support and guidance for 13 key sites. Development proposals for Sevenoaks Town will need to demonstrate how they support the delivery of this Plan. 2. Over the plan period, proposals for Sevenoaks Town Centre should focus on: a. Raising the profile of its best assets - its historic town centre, array of independent shops and the impressive Knole; b. Expansion of its cultural scene and diversifying the town's offer to match other prominent towns, including more activities in the evening; and c. An inclusive town centre - widening the leisure offer and providing new homes that support different income levels and life stages. 3. The following potential projects and development opportunities have been identified to help realise the future vision for Sevenoaks Town Centre. For further details of each of these projects, including delivery considerations, please see the Town Centres Strategy, Neighbourhood Plan and development briefs for key sites. a. Strengthening connections to Knole Park; b. Eastern town centre revitalisation; c. High streets streetscape enhancement; d. Improving station arrival; (see chapter one) e. The Town Council is also in the process of developing further Town Centre and St John's Hill Area Masterplans which will help guide future development proposals and drive improvements to the experience and offering of these centres. 4. Some of these projects will be delivered over a medium/long term time-frame, but more immediate projects, including softer high street interventions, can be delivered through UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) programme, including supporting a Town Centre Officer role.



Local Government Reorganisation & Community Asset Transfers

Below is an update on where we are with the process of Community Asset Transfers:

Asset	STC Progress	SDC Feedback
Stag Community Arts Centre	Expression of Interest submitted Business Case and 2 x Market Value Reports submitted Concerns about removal of car parking / stage loading area omitted from agreement.	Progress to Business Case stage Taking advice in relation to Lease v Freehold
Land at High Street and Market Rights	Expression of Interest Submitted Business Case submitted.	Recommended not to proceed Awaiting feedback
Land at Bradbourne Vale Road (Horses Field)	Expression of Interest Submitted Business Case submitted.	Recommended not to proceed Awaiting feedback Noted – proposal within Local Plan development areas
Hollybush Recreation Ground	Expression of Interest Submitted Business Case submitted	Recommended not to proceed Awaiting feedback
St John's Hill Car Park (inc. public toilets)	Expression of Interest submitted Business Case to be prepared	Recommended not to proceed
St James Road Car Park	Expression of Interest submitted Business Case to be prepared	Recommended not to proceed
Shambles	Expression of Interest submitted	Awaiting feedback
Bradbourne Lakes	Expression of Interest submitted	Awaiting feedback

Buckhurst Lane Play Area

The new safety surface under the zip wire at Buckhurst Lane Play Area has now been installed. The remaining new equipment and parts are due to be delivered next month.



Knitted poppies for Remembrance Day



Poppy Knitting Pattern

Cast on 60 stitches. Work 8 rows in Knit 2, Purl 2.
Next row Knit 2 together, repeat until end.
Next row – slip 2 stitches, knit 1, Passover.
Past wool through remaining stitches, pull and fasten.
Sew a black button or embroider with black or green thread in the centre.

In previous years, Sevenoaks has displayed knitted red poppies (also purple poppies in remembrance of animals) around the exterior of the Vine, leading up to Remembrance Day. We welcome donations of these.

Sevenoaks Business Awards

It is good to see that so many businesses, new and well established, have been nominated for the 2025 Sevenoaks Business Awards. The Awards Evening takes place on 14 November at the Bat & Ball Centre. There is one award which is voted on by the public – Customer Choice.

You can vote via this short form:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/QZ3SR9E

Poll closes at midnight on 24 October.

2025
SEVENOAKS BUSINESS AWARDS
VOTE NOW
SUPPORT YOUR FAVOURITE BUSINESS

To Vote:

- scan the QR code
- or visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/QZ3SR9E
- poll closes midnight 24th October

THE AWARD SPONSORS

BERRY & LAMBERTS
SEVENOAKS TOWN COUNCIL
Knecher
Specsavers
Thackray Williams
SEVENOAKS DISTRICT
warners solicitors

Lilia's Kitchen at Bat & Ball Station Café

It has been a long term aim to move the station café to an independent concession who will be able to provide a far wider offer. Transfer of the café took place to Lilia's Kitchen on 1 October. There has already been lots of positive feedback.



Baby Loss Awareness Week

Baby Loss Awareness Week is from 9 -15 October, and Sevenoaks Town Council is hosting a display at the Vine to honour and remember babies cherished, and lost.

We are working together with Kent and Medway Partnership Trust's service, Thrive – perinatal trauma and loss support, who have been exploring meaningful ways to honour these precious lives.

We have a designated area at the Vine Gardens under the pergola where people can either attach their own ribbon or write their name on the blank ones.

This was inspired by another mum who suffered her own baby loss. Her story can be found here:

www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cx2062pdypvo



Free after-school peer mentoring

We are pleased that current Youth Councillors have offered to give up their own free time to assist other young people with homework. We hope this initiative is successful.

Free after-school peer mentoring

5.30pm - 6.30pm

Every Friday from 03/10 onwards

Ages 11-16

No booking or commitment necessary,
just come along

House in the Basement
London Rd, Sevenoaks TN13 1ZZ

HELP IN ALL SUBJECTS WITH
HOMEWORK AND EXAMS

My meetings this week were:

- Planning & Environment Committee*
- Chair & Vice Chair Meeting

All of Sevenoaks Town Council's Meetings* are open to the public and available to watch live on YouTube, see www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk for details.



Youth Council

Sevenoaks Youth Council members are 11-18 year old and have a two year term, which is currently up for renewal. The Youth Councillors:

- Represent the views of young people in Sevenoaks
- Attend regular Youth Council meetings
- Organise events and campaigns
- Collaborate on community projects
- Work alongside local leaders and councillors
- Develop confidence, leadership and teamwork skills.
- Assist with the development of the House in the Basement Youth café

In my previous report we thought we had a way forward with the amazing response of over 45 nominations from young people who want to join the Youth Council. However, the final number was 74 nominations.

We are still considering how to permit all of those who meet the criteria to be involved creating a larger Youth Council / Youth Forum. We are genuinely pleased that so many young people are showing an interest in their community and local government.

Save the date

Visit our events page for more information: www.tinyurl.com/STCNewsEvents

Date	Event	Venue
Friday 31 October	Britain in Bloom results	Brighton
Sunday 9 November	Remembrance Service	War Memorial
Tuesday 11 November	Remembrance War Graves	Cemetery
Friday 14 November	Sevenoaks Business Awards	Bat & Ball Centre
Saturday 29 November	Christmas Lights Switch-On	High Street
Friday 5 December	Holly Party	Bat & Ball Centre

Wishing you all a good weekend.
Linda

