



Town Clerk's Update

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



13 June 2025

Welcome to my first newsletter

I'm delighted to share my first Town Clerk's Update. I've created this newsletter to help you receive regular news from Sevenoaks Town Council.

It's a great time to begin this newsletter, as 7-14 June marks Local Council Clerk Week, and across the country, councils are asking if you know what your Town Clerk does.

Sevenoaks Town Council Green Community Investment Plan

This week I was asked to provide a presentation to the Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) Strategic Partnership meeting relating to our Green Community Investment Plan. The title chosen by SDC was 'A Force for Change.'



Free skateboard events

I am delighted that we have secured funding to provide exciting free skateboard, scooter and BMX events for young people. We are just starting promotion; however, such is the popularity three training sessions are already full up.

Sessions can be booked at www.samsarasport.co.uk/greatness



Stag & potential long-term plans

At the beginning of the week, I had a meeting to look at the potential for long-term investment for the Stag. Plenty of inspirational ideas including refurbishment to enable the all-important additional theatre seating which will enable the attraction of touring performers, Fly Tower, a glass walled art gallery area for Performing Arts education and plenty more.

Of course, this would require considerable investment in the future, another reason why the Town Council would want to long-term own the freehold of the building.



Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) applications

Sevenoaks Town Council had submitted to Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) four applications for projects for CIL Funding. I am pleased to say the following two have gone through to the second stage where the SDC CIL Board will make a final decision on 2nd July:

Project	Estimated Total Cost	Application to CIL Board	Additional Potential Funding	Town Council contribution if successful
Greatness Recreation Ground Play Area	£250,000	£100,000	£0	£150,000
Dartford Road Pedestrian Crossing	£100,000	£20,000	£55,000 (KCC / CATS)	£25,000

The following projects were not successful and will not be put forward for further consideration. We will continue to seek alternative ways of funding these projects:

Project	Estimated Total Cost	Application to CIL Board	Additional Potential Funding	Town Council contribution if successful
Town Centre Wayfinding Signage	£311,225	£140,000	£0	£158,875
Bat & Ball Centre Solar Panel Batteries	£50,000	£20,000	£0	£30,000

Government approves remote access to council meetings with voting

Sevenoaks Town Council was one of the 5,000+ respondents who supported the ability to have remote attendance at meetings and to include voting rights.

The Government has this week issued the following statement:

“In-person debate, discussion, and the opportunity for residents to engage with their representatives are core aspects of local democracy. At the same time, we know that it is not always possible for elected members to attend local authority meetings in person. We want to support the local government sector to modernise their democratic practices and make elected roles more accessible for more people.”

Jim McMahon OBE MP
Minister for Local Government and English Devolution

We are hiring

We are seeking a part time caretaker for the weekends at Bat & Ball Centre.

For more information, visit www.tinyurl.com/STCvacancies



Vine Gardens new ground surface made from recycled straws

This week, the Finance & Delivery Committee signed off another new investment project. This time addressing the old and uneven paving slabs in the Vine Gardens which are a constant source for requiring maintenance and resources.

It was agreed to install Recycle Bound Resin, which is made up of the equivalent of 3000 recycled plastic straws in every square metre. This means in the Vine Gardens, around a million recycled plastic straws will be used to resurface the area. The new anti-slip surface will look attractive, reduce maintenance costs, and will also be environmentally sustainable. This is another example of Sevenoaks Town Council's green initiatives.



Greatness Recreation Ground Football & Community Pavilion

This week, representatives of the Sevenoaks Town Football Club and myself and the Town Council RFO met with the proposed QS and contractor to discuss the practical arrangements for moving to the construction phase of the new pavilion. Funding is now secured to commence this. Budget restrictions has required some 'value engineering' (reduction in specification). The project now covers the construction of the shell of the building. Further fundraising etc. will be ongoing for the fit out, car park and landscaping.

All going well we are trying to sort out legal and administrative and contract matters to commence September/October 2025.



STC sponsored events

Thank you to Mike Reid, the Town Team Facilitator, for once again arranging an excellent Sevenoaks Business Show enabling lots of business to business networking.



On Monday 16th June, Mayor Cllr Tony Clayton will be raising the Sevenoaks Town of Sanctuary Flag at the Vine Gardens at 10.00 AM to start Refugee Week.

Sevenoaks Town Council will once again be hosting in its car park the 'Desperate Journeys' immersive experience for school students. This powerful workshop is a collaboration between Empathy Action and Sevenoaks Welcomes Refugees, designed to mark both Refugee Week and to celebrate Sevenoaks' role as a Town of Sanctuary. It offers a deeply engaging, thought-provoking opportunity to explore the refugee experience and to reflect on the vital contributions refugees make to our Sevenoaks community.



Britain in Bloom judging and help needed

Following a recent public request for help with Britain in Bloom, we are really pleased to receive support from the following businesses – Barclays Bank, NFU Mutual and the Lions Club. We still need more help especially in weeding pavements.

As a reminder, Sevenoaks' theme for our entry is:

- Celebrating bugs
- Edible gardening
- Colours – purple & blue, with touches of white and yellow

There are two judging dates:

- Friday 11th July
- Tuesday 12th August

We specifically need help with the following:

- Weeding, watering and looking after plants in individual planting areas – (list can be provided).
- Help removing weeds from pavements along judging route (map can be provided) ideally the weekend prior to judging.

If you or you know of any organisation who can help in any way, we would be very pleased to hear from you.

BRITAIN IN BLOOM with the RHS

UK FINALIST 2025

Sevenoaks Town Council

Our theme is Celebrating Bugs!
Judging is July to August.

PLEASE GET INVOLVED

We're looking for volunteers to help with gardening & tidy-up days or to knit bumble bees & paint ladybird rocks.

WE ARE FINALISTS IN BRITAIN IN BLOOM!

To volunteer, please email osl@sevenoakstown.gov.uk or call 01732 459953.

Town Centre Masterplan – public consultation

We will launch the Town Centre Masterplan at the Sevenoaks Society Community Open Day on 28th June 2025. It was also on display at the Business Show on 13th June.

We will try to locate an empty shop premises with a window that we can display the Town Centre Masterplan posters.



Save the date

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

Day	Date	Event	Venue
Monday – Friday	16th – 20th June	Refugee Week SWR Desperate Journeys	STC Car Park
Saturday	21st June	Summer Festival Day	Blighs
Sunday	22nd June	Mayor's Civic Service	The Drive Methodist Church, 10 a.m.
Saturday	28th June	Sevenoaks Society Community Day – Launch of Town Centre Masterplan	Stag
Saturday	28th June	Armed Forces Day Concert	St Nicholas Church
Tuesday	8th July	Bloom Tidy Up Day	Town Centre
Friday	11th July	South & South East Bloom Judging Day	Town Centre
Friday	25th July	Skateness Event	Greatness Rec
Tuesday	5th August	Bloom Tidy Up Day	Town Centre
Tuesday	12th August	Britain in Bloom Judging	Town Centre

Hospice in the Weald Moonlight Walk

Good luck to all Town Councillors supporting Cllr Nick Varley by participating in the Hospice in the Weald Moonlight Walk, starting at the Rugby Club on Saturday 14th June.

Cllr Varley having been recently diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease is fundraising for this worthy cause. For anyone wishing to donate, the fundraising link is:

<https://hospiceintheweald.enthuse.com/pf/nick-varley>



Wishing you all a good weekend.

Linda

