



Town Clerk's Update

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

17 April 2026

Local Government Reorganisation & Community Asset Transfers

Community Asset Transfers continues to be an important topic and a current priority. Please see our FAQ document at <https://qrco.de/catfaq> for the Town Council's perspective on the current situation relating to:

- **Stag Community Arts Centre** – SDC Finance & Advisory Committee concluded: defer seeking additional Legal Advice.
- **Hollybush Recreation Ground** – SDC Finance & Advisory Committee concluded: refer to SDC Cabinet for further review.
- **Land in High Street (Market Rights)** – SDC Finance & Advisory Committee concluded: refer to SDC Cabinet for further review.
- **Land at Bradbourne Vale Road (Horses Field)** – SDC Finance & Advisory Committee concluded: recommend not to transfer to Town Council.
- **The Shambles** – SDC Finance & Advisory Committee Meeting concluded: recommend to transfer to the Town Council.

Sevenoaks District Council have a Cabinet Meeting on Tuesday 21st April 2026 and we hope for some more positive news. Although we note from the paperwork that any decision relating to the Stag has been deferred until the end of June.

An updated Stag Petition with 6,800 signatures was provided to the District Council yesterday, with signatures from:

Postcode Area	Number of Signatures
TN13	2196
TN14	519
TN15	625
TN16	107
Other TN Postcodes	735
London	504
ME	362
BR	288
DA	239
CR	122
Other UK	597
Outside UK	507
TOTAL	6801

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It is difficult to see how the two Sevenoaks local authorities will be able to align when they approach the transfer from different aims.

Sevenoaks District Council, under direction of its auditors, aims to maximise income and future development opportunities from community assets and charge Market Value to town and parish councils for these.

Sevenoaks Town Council's aim is to preserve and enhance current community assets for current and future communities. It is requesting that community assets be transferred at 'Best Value' which takes into account social, economic and environmental well-being. Community Assets can legally be transferred at a nominal or nil transfer value if valued under £2m.

All of these assets have been vested in SDC due to the previous Local Government Reorganisation. Custodianship of these community assets moved from one local authority to another at that time at no cost, surely this should happen again and not be an additional financial burden on the local community both in Sevenoaks town and in local parishes.

SIGN THE PETITION

Petition for Sevenoaks District Council to transfer the freehold of the Stag Community Arts Centre to Sevenoaks Town Council at no further cost



Please sign the petition here:
www.change.org/stagfreehold

STC Team

Last week we welcomed Stephen who has started as our new part-time Facility Manager, we definitely have lots going on to keep him busy.



My meetings

My meetings since the last update are:

- Planning & Environment Committee*
- STC Staff Meeting
- Liaison Meeting with Sevenoaks Rugby Football Club
- Darent Valley Community Rail Partnership
- Town Team – BID Project
- Sevenoaks District Clerks Forum
- Sevenoaks in Bloom
- Greatness Pavilion Project Management
- SDC Finance & Investment Advisory Committee
- Mayor's Thank You Reception for Volunteers
- STC Chair & Vice Chair Meeting

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

Greatness Recreation Ground, Pavilion, Landscaping, Children's Play Area and Outdoor Gym



The building project is progressing well and is considerably ahead of schedule.

The agreed contract price for the building project is £2,067,512.12. It was always known that this was the price for constructing the core of the building to get the project underway and further funding would be needed for finishes etc.

The additional costs for funding finishes etc. has been provided at £173,818.72. We have been working with the Football Club and the contractors to further Value Engineer the project with the Football Club undertaking some of the tasks e.g. painting of walls, and reached an agreed sum of reducing the £173,818.72 to an additional £16,900 – which the Football Club have agreed to fund.

It was also known that extensive landscaping would be needed once the building was completed, especially the car parking area and new paths. We are starting to put this into operation bearing in mind planning conditions.

Options for the new play area and outdoor gym will be consulted on in May with an installation date planned for September.



Sevenoaks springs into bloom with theatre, crafting and community gardening

Sevenoaks is proudly competing in RHS South & South East in Bloom 2026. The Sevenoaks in Bloom team is hoping to repeat the success they had in last year's Britain in Bloom competition, where the town achieved gold and won three volunteer awards, as well as the Judges' Highlight Award.

Sevenoaks in Bloom brings together volunteers, local businesses and partners led by Sevenoaks Town Council, to care for our environment, protect wildlife, and keep the town looking beautiful.

As this year marks David Attenborough's 100th birthday, Sevenoaks in Bloom will be celebrating his work. The campaign will also highlight the importance of bugs, with planting focused on pollinator-friendly flowers.

The community will play a central role in the preparations for the judging day. Creative volunteers are being asked to knit or crochet butterflies and caterpillars for displays around the town. Gardening volunteers are encouraged to help with weeding and tidying. Residents and businesses are also invited to 'Adopt a Planter' to maintain in town. Local schools are getting involved too, with pupils creating David Attenborough-themed sculptures and painting bug-themed rocks to decorate public spaces.

These community efforts are supported by local partners including Rockdale Housing Association, West Kent Housing, Sevenoaks Soroptimists and Southeastern Trains, all working together to keep Sevenoaks in full bloom.

FREE SHOW IN MARQUEE AT VINE GARDENS

Professor Slugs House of Bugs

SUN 3rd MAY 2026

**2pm Vine Gardens
Sevenoaks
TN13 3UH**

With **FREE** rock painting workshop from 12.30 pm for **Sevenoaks in Bloom**

PRAISE FOR PREVIOUS WORK (SUPER SCARY FILM CLUB FOR KIDS):
★★★★★
"Hilarious"
WITHIN HER WORDS
★★★★★
"Universally entertaining"
THE FAMILY STAGE

Sevenoaks town council | buglife

www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk | [SevenoaksTC](https://www.facebook.com/SevenoaksTC) | [sevenoakstowncouncil](https://www.instagram.com/sevenoakstowncouncil)



Liaison Meeting with Sevenoaks Rugby Football Club

The Town Council had a good liaison meeting with the Rugby Club this week.

Key points that were discussed were:

- The delays to pitch maintenance due to the possibility of a Play Off match, which we hope will not be needed, also hoping that the weather is on our side this year for improving the pitch ready for next season.
- Choosing preferred specifications for new permanent and portable floodlighting.
- Discussing the feasibility for installing solar panels and solar batteries to the club house.



Save the date

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

Date	Event	Venue
Saturday 2 May	Climate Fair	Vine
Saturday 30 May	Health & Wellness Fair	Vine
Friday 5 June	Sevenoaks Business Show	Bat & Ball Centre
Friday 12 and Saturday 13 June	Beer on the Vine	Vine
Tuesday 4 August	Family Fun Day	Greatness Recreation Ground
Friday 20 November	Sevenoaks Business Awards	Bat & Ball Centre

Wishing you a good weekend,
Linda

