



Town Clerk's Update

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



8 August 2025

Family Fun Day

Greatness Fun Day, held in association with Sevenoaks District Council, took place on Monday and although the weather was a bit dreary, hundreds turned out and enjoyed the entertainment including dinosaurs and rock painting.



Further green investment into Bat & Ball Centre

I am pleased to report that we have been successful in obtaining a £20,000 grant from the West Kent Rural Grant Scheme* for installing solar batteries at the Bat & Ball Centre.

This is a total £40,000 project, the remaining £20,000 will come from the Town Council's Community Infrastructure Levy income.

Solar panels were installed at the point of construction of the new Bat & Ball Centre, however at the time there was not sufficient budget to also install solar batteries.

The solar batteries will store solar energy produced from the solar panels when not being used and store electricity from cheaper overnight tariffs and therefore assist in making the Centre more sustainable.

Sevenoaks Town Council team

Congratulations to Anna, our Open Spaces Committee Clerk, who has just completed her BSc in Maths & Statistics – we always knew she was very smart.

This is another project which forms part of Sevenoaks Town Council's Green Community Investment Plan.

* Rural England Prosperity Fund.



Funded by
UK Government



Complete our survey about the transfer of local assets

The government's plans for Local Government Reorganisation are moving forward as the government says, 'At Pace'. Sevenoaks Town Council are not involved in the future of Kent County Council or Sevenoaks District Council, this is for them to agree plans with the government. However, the Town Council is very concerned about the future of local community assets which makes living, working and visiting Sevenoaks the town it is.

The Town Council already operates many community facilities but there are some which belong to Sevenoaks District Council and the concern is that when the District Council ceases to exist, these assets will automatically move to a new Unitary Authority who will be a considerable distance away and is likely to be overwhelmed with social care responsibilities and unable to have the capacity to worry about local parks or markets etc in Sevenoaks.

The Town Council is seeking feedback in a survey from local residents on this matter. The survey can be found at https://www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk/_VirDir/CoreContents/News/Display.aspx?id=76535 or paper copies can be collected from the Town Council's office on Bradbourne Vale Road.

Britain in Bloom judging

We really are on the final countdown to Judging Day on 12th August.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Tidy Up event on Tuesday, especially Stuart and Gina from NFU Mutual.

Rockdale Village are opening their Bloom Gardens on Wednesday 13th August. Specific times will depend on numbers, but they are planning on running tours at around 10.30am and 2.30pm. People do need to book in advance (stating whether they'd like a morning or afternoon slot), and they can do so via enquiries@rockdale.org.uk or by calling 07466 184 341



Town Centre Masterplan – public consultation

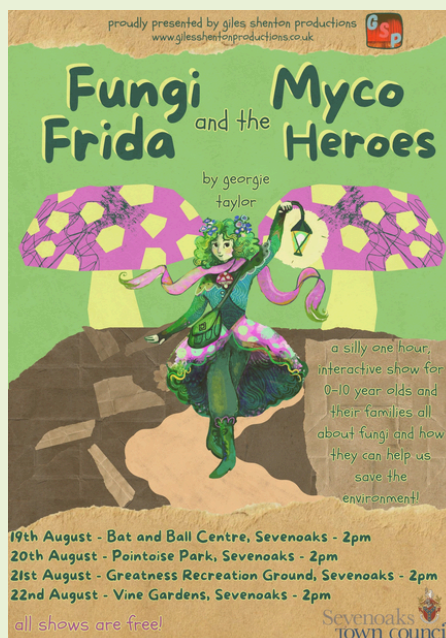
We continue to consult on the Town Centre Masterplan. This is an important consultation wide ranging from how the town centre looks in the future to options to consider for changing traffic routes whether one way or potentially pedestrian areas. See our website for more details:

https://www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk/_Virtual/Dir/CoreContents/News/Display.aspx?id=76880



More free entertainment for children during the holidays:

- 27th August – a free photo workshop: book at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/free-photo-workshop-hitb-for-young-people-aged-11-17-tickets-1512150626229?aff=oddtcreator>
- 19th to 22nd August – Free children's theatre: Fungi Frida and Myco Heroes



Meetings

My meetings this week were:

- Community Assets (Open Spaces) Committee*
- Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) Leader & Officers re Community Asset Transfers
- SDC Officers & fellow Clerks re Community Asset Transfers

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.



Free summer band concerts at the Vine

Continuing this week and every Thursday and Sunday from 20th July to 7th September.

Following feedback from previous years, we have introduced a more family-friendly atmosphere for our Thursday night performances. To support this, we are providing a bouncy castle (subject to weather) as a child-friendly attraction.

Thursdays 6 pm to 8 pm

Sundays 3 pm to 5 pm

Next concerts:

- Sunday 10th August: Miss D & The Loop
- Thursday 14th August: Open Mic on the Bandstand – please support these brave youngsters.



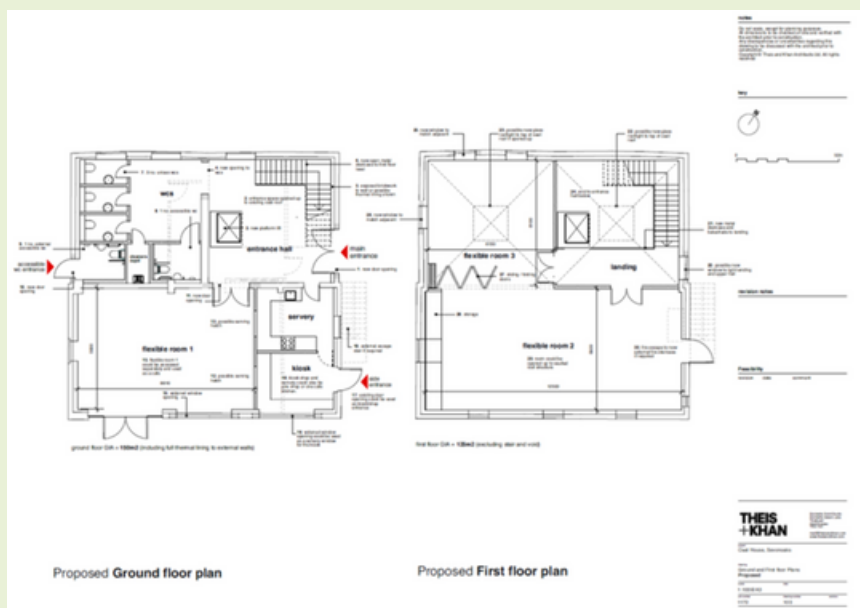
Oast House, Tarmac Site

We have now completed the high level Feasibility Study for the future of the Oast House.

It has always been the intention of the Town Council that this building is refurbished to become a Community Hub for the new community and to integrate with the rest of the town.

The initial plans (see example below) will provide 3 community rooms, a kiosk / café enabling purchase of local provisions e.g. bread and milk, internal toilets and an external toilet for the use of walkers and cyclists when the building is not open.

The complete Feasibility Study will be submitted to Tarmac as the formal request for the transfer of the Freehold of the building to Sevenoaks Town Council.



Vine Bridge

The bridge over the pond in the Vine Gardens links the two areas of the Gardens. It is within a Conservation Area and therefore is required to be considered in this light when any repairs or refurbishment is undertaken.

Within the SDC Vine Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan it says, "The pleasure gardens have a rustic feel with a timber bridge and pergola that supports a magnificent wisteria..."

The wooden bridge by its nature requires constant maintenance and this is done as and when required. It was last fully refurbished in 2016.

There are some current planks on the walkway and underpinnings which will be repaired ASAP as H&S issues.

It is recommended that a full refurbishment is carried out, hopefully in 2026. Town Councillors wish to see the bridge replaced with a more modern design and research will begin on this bearing in mind the need to meet planning and conservation requirements.



Play Area Refurbishment Programme

Sevenoaks Town Council owns and maintains several play areas within the town. The Town Council pays for repairs, general maintenance and H&S checks from its annual revenue budget. Capital investment for new and upgraded equipment is normally subject to being successful with external grants, capital income and in recent years CIL income. The lifespan of a play area is recommended to be normally 7-10 years.

The refurbishment programme for the play areas is being reviewed. Immediate work will take place on refurbishment of existing play areas at Buckhurst Lane (£25,000) and Kippington Meadow (£5,000). A new relocated play area at Greatness Recreation Ground (£250,000) is planned for 2026 alongside the new pavilion. The proposals for the designs will be subject to public consultation and will include more accessible play equipment.



Woodland Management Plan

Sevenoaks Town Council manages 16 areas of woodland and follows the Forestry Commission requirement to have a 5 Year Management Plan in place. The reports for the next 5 years have recently been received. There are no big issues, only normal maintenance for woodlands. The only recommendations include managed coppicing, planting of more Oak Trees within chestnut coppiced area, and rhododendron control.

Save the date

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

Date	Event	Event
10th August	Bandstand: Miss D & The Loop	Vine
12th August	Britain in Bloom Judging	Town Centre
14th August	Bandstand: Youth Open Mic Night	Vine
15th August	VJ Day 11 a.m. Flag Raising 6 p.m. Bandstand Concert	Vine
17th August	Bandstand: Ian Fox	Vine
21st August	Bandstand: Sevenoaks & Tonbridge Concert Band	Vine
22nd August	Children's Theatre: Fungi Frida & Myco Heroes	Vine
24th August	Bandstand: Kent Police Band	Vine
28th August	Bandstand: West Kent Concert Band	Vine
31st August	Smash Cricket	Vine
6th September	Street Food Festival	Vine
7th September	Bandstand: Almost the Last Night of the Proms with Oxted Band	Vine
20th September	Sevenoaks Bike Festival	Vine
4th October	Vegan Food Festival	Vine

