

Sevenoaks Town Team Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting

6:30pm: Wednesday 13th May 2026

Held at
The Council Chamber, Sevenoaks Town Council, Bradbourne Vale Road TN13 3QG

Meeting started 6.30 p.m.

Meeting concluded: 7.45pm

Executive Board

Cllr Nigel Wightman	Sevenoaks Town Council	Present
Cllr Victoria Granville	Sevenoaks Town Council	Present
Cllr Libby Ancrum	Sevenoaks Town Council	Apologies
Linda Larter MBE	Sevenoaks Town Council	Apologies
Mike Reid	Town Team Facilitator	Present
Cllr Graham Clack	Sevenoaks District Council	Apologies
Cllr Richard Streatfeild MBE	Kent County Council	Present
Cllr Tony Clayton Chair	Sevenoaks Rail Travellers Association	Present
Austin Blackburn	Go Coach	Present
South Eastern	Jack Heidry	Absent
Andrew Eyre	Stag	Present
Rebecca Ibbotson	Knole	Apologies
Dawn Blee	Chamber of Commerce	Present
Rob Dummett	Estama (Blighs)	Absent
Richard Baxter	Sevenoaks Society	Present
Shane Smith	Leisure Centre	Absent
Maxine Morgans, V Chair	Specsavers	Present
Elizabeth Dolding	Warners Solicitors	Present
Roberta Ware	Francis Jones Jewellers	Present
Avril Hunter	Redlands RA	Present
Elizabeth Purves	Hollybush RA	Present
Byron Brown	Bradbourne RA	Present
Andrew Pring	Knole Paddock RA	Present
PC Nick Hubbard/ PC Tom Costin	Police	Absent
Cllr Dr Merilyn Canet	Sevenoaks District Seniors Action Forum	Present
Dennis Glasspool	Safer Sevenoaks and District BCRP	Present

In attendance: Tony McEwan (Stag), Kim Hitch and Jim Hughes

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Ancrum, Linda Larter, Graham Clack, Rebecca Ibbotson.

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Minutes

The minutes of the Executive Board Meeting held on 25th March 2026 were approved unanimously.

4. Board appointment

Having been invited to join Andrew Pring of Knole Paddock RA, was welcomed unanimously as a member of the Board

5. Andrew Eyre

The Chair advised the meeting that Andrew had just retired from The Stag, and now the Town Team. As well as being both a Town Councillor where he is a Past Mayor and a District Councillor, Andrew is a Past Chair of Town Team and a founding member of the Executive Board, with a long track record of working for the benefit of the town. The meeting expressed its thanks.

Representing The Stag, the new CEO, Tony McEwan has now joined the Board and also volunteered to sit of the BID Steering Group.

6. Business Improvement District (BID).

The Steering Group has decided that the levy rate will be 1% of rateable value for qualifying hereditaments. The new Valuation List has seen the rateable values largely increase for the town centre businesses while those further out had mostly seen reductions.

Work continues on refining the budget and business plan. Once all is set up the ballot process takes about 3 months.

7. Health & Wellness Initiative

The exhibitor space had been sold out and the layout was being reconfigured to determine whether any more could be accommodated.

Continuing development of website: [Health & Wellness - Sevenoaks Town Council](#)

8. Vegan Market

This took place on 4th April when 27 stalls were present. The weather was overcast and windy, but this did not prevent probably the greatest footfall seen at one of these events.

9. Sevenoaks Business Show 2026

Returning on Friday 5th June. Bookings were coming in but slowly.

10. Sevenoaks Street Food Festival

This will take place on Bank Holiday, Saturday 29th August 2026. In 2025 the event was almost a victim of its own success with a huge number of people attending. The booking terms for 2026 have been tightened in a bid to stop incursion onto the cricket outfield and to deal with the amount of waste that was generated in 2025.

11. Sevenoaks Business Awards 2026

Booked for Friday 20th November

12. Holly Party 2026

To be held on Friday 11th December. Jonahs Wail have been booked to return.

13. Members Organisations*Go Coach*

The Iran war and resulting rise in fuel costs has increased the cost of diesel to the company by 80% - a major problem. While the large operators hedge their fuel purchasing and hence price, this is not possible for the smaller companies.

Go Coach would like to extend its service to Pembury Hospital. Board members agreed to write to KCC supporting this proposal.

A change in the VAT rules mean that the company now has to increase the size of the Go2 vehicles.

Specsavers

Very busy

Stag

Following Andrew's retirement a management reshuffle is taking place. The cinema is being redecorated. A change in the ticketing discounts has been welcomed such that a "family" ticket for four people has been renamed as being simply a "Group of 4" ticket.

The petition for the freehold to be transferred to STC now has over 7500 signatures. The negotiations with SDC are ongoing with a decision expected in June or July.

Bradbourne RA

Bradbourne Lakes Summer Festival

This is to be organised by the NLHF and the SDC with support being provided by the BRA. The festival is to be held on the 11th July 2026 at the Bradbourne Lakes Site with the objectives to provide a fun, engaging day out for families. To promote community spirit and local heritage. To offer a mix of entertainment, food and learning opportunities And to provide a venue for local organisations to be represented.

South East River Trust River fly Monitoring

The Southeast River Trust has organised 2 free educational sessions concerning invertebrate's to be found in local rivers/waters. This is part of the Bradbourne Re-bourne project. Such findings give an indication of the health of our waterway systems

Bradbourne Lakes Vandalism

Recently during the night, a group young vandals destroyed the 'Bradbourne Re-bourne information boards and anything else available as well as harming/attacking any wildfowl they could find.

Knole Paddock RA

The new 20mph speed limits, especially in Plymouth Drive are being ignored by many drivers - who is monitoring them? KCC will be doing so over the course of their first 12 months.

There is ongoing concern about the SDC plans for "the Land East of the High Street". Apparently there have been revisions which see the new library being taken out of the scheme, the new leisure centre becoming smaller and the number of dwellings rising from 260 to 320 homes. SDC were to discuss on 26th March.

Members voiced the view that there needs to be a new and far wider public consultation which should include details of how parking in the town would be handled and for an explanation of how buses would operate without there no longer being a bus station.

KCC

As part of the LGR process the County is looking to sell seven protected windmills.

Assessments of the KCCs performance of social care show marked improvements.

Road resurfacing by Ringway was put on hold for six months, but all the local roads remain in the scheme.

STC – Nigel Wightman

The Council's books for 2025 are closing. The Pavilion scheme is on budget and on schedule. Tarmac are contributing £100,000 to help finish the project.

STC – Linda Larter

Changes at the Top

New Mayor – Cllr Victoria Granville – Charity is Hospice in the Weald
New Deputy Mayor – Cllr Lionel O'Hara

Local Govt Reorganisation & Community Asset Transfers

- Stag - awaiting SDC agenda papers
- Hollybush Recreation Ground -SDC resolved not to transfer
- Horses Field – SDC resolved not to transfer
- Market Rights – SDC resolved not to transfer
- Shambles – SDC resolved to transfer, date unknown.

Next Steps

- STC has requested Liaison Meeting with SDC
- Await SDC Agenda Papers on Stag

Greatness Recreation Ground

- Pavilion building project on target for opening 1st September
- Starting works on landscaping e.g. paths, trees, and hedging
- Good business sponsorship / goods in kind – Warners Solicitors, Premier Alarms, Tarmac and tree supplier

Longspring Wood

Another parcel of land up for sale – STC reviewing options

Sevenoaks in Bloom

Entering competition again for 2026

Rugby Pitches

Investing in Pitch Maintenance, Portable Floodlights, new Permanent Floodlights (subject to Planning)

War Memorial

Progressing refurbishment project

Events

Full programme of events throughout the summer.

Warners

Very busy

Francis Jones

Retailers are very concerned that the SDC plans for the land to the east of the High Street will see 310 car spaces being lost. It was agreed that the Town Team would write to SDC on this aspect and asking that an SDC presentation be made to the Board.

Business Crime Reduction Partnership

A meeting hosted by the police has recently been held. The invitation is below:

This week is **BCRP Awareness Week**, shining a spotlight on the important work Business Crime Reduction Partnerships deliver across our towns and high streets.

A **BCRP** is a collaboration between local businesses, police, and community safety partners that aims to reduce crime, antisocial behaviour and repeat offending within the business community. By sharing information, improving communication, and coordinating responses, BCRPs help create a safer environment for retailers, staff and members of the public.

In Sevenoaks, local Neighbourhood Task Force Town Officer **PC Hubbard** will be working closely with **Dennis Glasspool**, the lead for **Safer Sevenoaks**, to strengthen partnership working and support businesses across the district.

On **Thursday 19 March 2026**, Police will be hosting the **Quarterly Retail Crime Business Forum**, where we will be discussing the benefits of the BCRP, including:

- **Shop Safe radios** – enabling real time communication between stores and town centre security/police.
- **DISC** – the secure information-sharing platform used by Sevenoaks businesses. DISC allows retailers to report incidents, log deterrents, share intelligence and images lawfully, and keep up to date with alerts, crime trends, and exclusion notices. It helps businesses work together and stay informed, making the town a safer place for everyone.

Redlands RA

The Croudace plans are still the main topic within the RA. Do people realise the effect that 2000 new homes would have on Sevenoaks Railway Station?

Sevenoaks District Senior Action Forum

Members are looking for more public transport services and useage as with the new tougher driving licence health requirements for elderly people many will be giving up their cars.

We could do with more developments like Rockdale Village.

Rail Travellers Association

Among other smaller rail stations Bat & Ball will soon lose its ticket machines. While the machines are owned by South Eastern, none of their trains use the station so why should they maintain them?

Meeting closed at 19.45

Date of next meeting

22nd July 2026

DRAFT