

InShape

The newsletter of Sevenoaks District Council



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Our popular and FREE Family Fun Days return for four weeks of action-packed activities over the school summer holidays

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www.edenbridge-show.co.uk

With years of heritage, the 'E&O' Show is a key date in the South East farming calendar, providing a great value day out that the whole family will enjoy.

Cattle, sheep, pigs, goats and horses all compete in their sections for the coveted Supreme Champion rosettes. You'll find everything from rural craft demonstrations to gundogs, archery, blacksmiths, farriers, flowers, vegetables and one of the very finest gatherings of vintage agricultural vehicles and cars.

Just for 2024 - marvel at the fearless folk of the BOLDDOG LINGS FREESTYLE MOTOCROSS team who'll be flying high each day in a death-defying display of skill and daring!

Local food and drink takes centre stage along with quality trade stands with country clothing and items for homes and gardens.

Ride the gallopers at the funfair, watch the terriers racing or just take time out with friends at this summer's unmissable event.



Family Fun Days are back!

Our ever popular and **FREE** Family Fun Days return for four weeks of action-packed activities over the school summer holidays.

As ever, they will include crafts, games, sports and more in a friendly and safe environment.

There's no need to book, simply turn up and have fun. However, children must be supervised by a parent or guardian at all times. Activities are provided for children under the age of 12, but they may not be suitable for very young children.

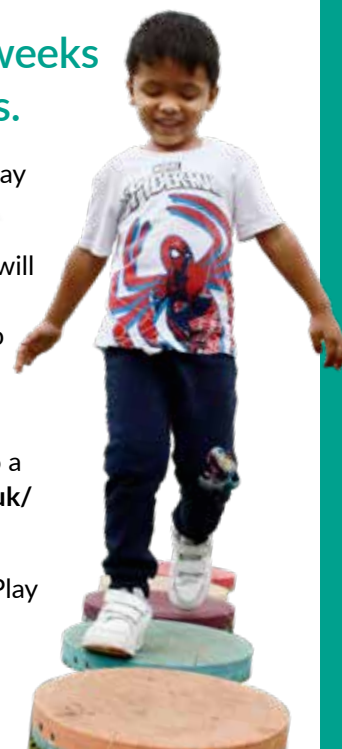
Please bring waterproof clothing, sunscreen and your own refreshments. We recommend that you check our website or our social

media accounts before setting off as the schedule may change at short notice if there's wet weather.

This year, Millwall Community Trust and Kelloggs will be running free football camps for girls and boys aged five to 12 at certain Fun Days. Football camp places are limited to 40 children per session and must be booked in advance.

For more information, including how to book onto a Millwall football camp, visit www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/familyfundays.

The days are funded and organised by us, run by Play Place and supported by town and parish councils.



Family Fun Day dates and locations:

FREE

Monday 29 July

10.30am to 1.30pm

Fordcombe Cricket Ground,
The Green, TN3 0RT

Tuesday 30 July

10.30am to 1.30pm

⚽ includes Millwall football camp
Seal Recreation Ground, High
Street, TN15 0AF

Wednesday 31 July

10.30am to 1.30pm

⚽ includes Millwall football camp
Dunton Green Recreation Ground,
London Road, TN13 2UR

Thursday 1 August

10.30am to 1.30pm

Sevenoaks, Greatness Recreation
Ground, Mill Lane, TN14 5BX

Friday 2 August

10.30am to 1.30pm

South Darenth, Heathside
Recreation Ground, DA4 9AZ

Monday 5 August

10.30am to 1.30pm

⚽ includes Millwall football camp
West Kingsdown, Gamecock
Meadow, London Road, TN15 6BZ

Tuesday 6 August

10.30am to 1.30pm

⚽ includes Millwall football camp
Hextable Heritage Centre, College
Road, BR8 7LT

Wednesday 7 August

10.30am to 1.30pm

Eynsford, Anthony Roper School,
High Street, DA4 0AA

Thursday 8 August

10am to 1pm

Edenbridge, Stangrove Park, TN8 5LU

Friday 9 August

10.30am to 1.30pm

Leigh, The Green, TN11 8QP

Monday 12 August

10.30am to 1.30pm

⚽ includes Millwall football camp
Halstead Recreation Ground, Station
Road, TN14 7HG

Tuesday 13 August

10.30am to 1.30pm

Hartley, Woodland Avenue
Recreation Ground,
Woodland Avenue, DA3 7DB

Wednesday 14 August

10.30am to 1.30pm

⚽ includes Millwall football camp
Swanley Park, New Barn Road,
BR8 7PW

Thursday 15 August

2pm to 5pm

Westerham, King George's Playing
Field, Brasted Road, TN16 1BN

Friday 16 August

10.30am to 1.30pm

Chiddingstone Causeway Sports
Field, Tonbridge Road, TN11 8JS

Monday 19 August

10.30am to 1.30pm

⚽ includes Millwall football camp
Four Elms Field, (behind Four Elms
School), Bough Beech Road, TN8 6NE

Tuesday 20 August

10.30am to 1.30pm

⚽ includes Millwall football camp
New Ash Green, The Minnis, Centre
Road, DA3 8HH

Wednesday 21 August

10.30am to 1.30pm

Farningham, Market Meadow, High
Street, DA4 0DH

Thursday 22 August

10.30am to 1.30pm

Crockenhill, Village Hall,
Stones Cross Road, BR8 8LT

Friday 23 August

10.30am to 1.30pm

Chipstead Recreation Ground,
Chevening Road, TN13 2SA



Green light for Bradbourne Lakes overhaul

We have secured £1.6 million from the National Lottery to help fund major improvements at Bradbourne Lakes.

The funding, together with £502,000 secured by us from house builders, will fund the 'Bradbourne Re-bourne' project, the biggest overhaul of the Lakes since they were built 300 years ago.

The five ornamental lakes date back to 1740 and formed part of the Bradbourne Estate. Water from the lakes feeds the River Darent, one of a handful of ecologically important chalk streams in the country.

Over the years we, along with the community, have maintained the much-loved park, including investing in new fencing, gates and benches. But, it is now in need of major investment to restore the interconnected lakes, paths and facilities making it fit for the 21st century.

The project will start in 2025 when the Lakes will be drained and restored using reclaimed and locally sourced materials. Sluices and leaks will also be fixed.

Green spaces will be planted with wildflowers. Silt will be removed and reused to form new reedbeds and areas for vegetation, improving biodiversity. This work will improve water quality, supporting wildlife downstream in the River Darent.

Paths will be improved and a new natural play area with benches, eco-friendly toilets and homes for bats and birds will be installed.

The Kent Wildlife Trust, South East Rivers Trust, Mind and Historic England will run activities to promote conservation, protect the heritage and improve residents' mental health.

Cllr Irene Roy, our Cabinet Member for Cleaner and Greener, says: "Bradbourne Lakes are a jewel in the heart of the community, so I am very excited about this project. The National Lottery grant means we can really push on with our ambitious £2.1 million Bradbourne Re-bourne plans.

"We have been aware for some time that the Lakes could be so much better. A build-up of silt has impacted wildlife and water quality and limits some activities, such as model boating. Paths are uneven making the site difficult for some.

"The project will make this site more accessible to everyone. Other changes will support nature, including new trees and hedges, helping to do our bit to tackle climate change.

"I look forward to working with our partners to deliver exciting activities, promoting the Lake's rich history and running sessions that encourage people of all ages and backgrounds to support nature and the historic environment."

"We want to say a big 'thank you' to the Bradbourne Lakes Residents' Association who have given up much of their time to contribute to our plans. We look forward to working with them to deliver this exciting project."



Some of our Countryside Team at Bradbourne Lakes

The Council's new Leader and Cabinet

Council Leader Cllr Roddy Hogarth (centre) with his new Cabinet

Cllr Roddy Hogarth was elected as Sevenoaks District Council's new Leader at the Annual Council meeting on Tuesday 14 May 2024.

Cllr Hogarth, who represents Seal and Weald, was first elected to the Council in May 2011. He brings a wealth of leadership experience having previously been the Council's Cabinet Member for Economic and Community Development for three years then the Commissioner for the Public Realm for a further four years.

Outside of the Council, Cllr Hogarth is the Head of Regional Development at International Management Systems Marketing, an ISO specialist.

Cllr Hogarth says: "I am delighted to have been elected as Leader of

Sevenoaks District Council. It is an honour and a privilege.

"My new Cabinet will be focused on delivering the Council's ambitions around regeneration and economic development across the District, protecting our weekly waste collection service and delivering a new Local Plan to ensure planning decisions are retained locally, rather than handed over to national Planning Inspectors."

"I would like to pay tribute to my predecessor Cllr Julia Thornton who worked hard to set a balanced council budget for the coming year,

despite the immense pressures of inflation on the Council's finances. Cllr Thornton is an immense talent who will continue to be a key part of my new Cabinet Team.

"Cllr Perry Cole remains our Deputy Leader and our Cabinet Member for Housing and Health, Cllr Kevin Maskell the Cabinet Member for Finance and Cllr Lesley Dyball for People and Places.

"Joining the new Cabinet are Cllr Michael Horwood, who takes on the Improvement and Innovation role, and Cllr Irene Roy, our Cabinet Member for Cleaner and Greener."

Local plan update

Later this year, you'll have a chance to comment on the final version of 'Plan 2040', our new local plan.

The local plan sets out in broad terms what can be built and where between 2025 and 2040.

An updated, final version of the plan, taking into account the community's comments from our consultations last winter, will be published later this year for comments.

This version of the local plan will include the sites earmarked for new developments, including new housing. It also includes planning policies to promote resident's health and wellbeing and the protection of the environment and the overwhelming majority of the Green Belt.

The exact dates of our final consultation, and our 'Pop-up' sessions where our planning team will be on hand to answer your questions, will be published nearer the time.

After the consultation has closed, the comments will be

collated and shared with the Government appointed Planning Inspector, who will carry out an independent examination of the local plan.

The examination will take place in public next year and will consider the community's comments and if the plan was produced in accordance with the legislation.

Stay in touch



For the latest 'Plan 2040' news, including the start date of the final consultation, sign up to our mailing list at www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/plan2040 or scan the QR code.



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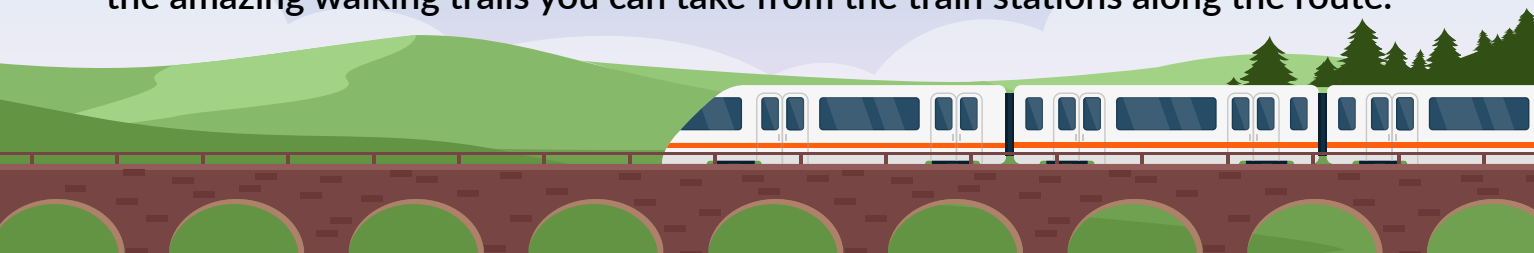


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Explore our beautiful countryside by rail!

The Darent Valley Community Rail Partnership has launched a new app to showcase the amazing walking trails you can take from the train stations along the route.



The picturesque rail line runs from Swanley to Sevenoaks with stops at Eynsford, Shoreham, Otford and Bat & Ball.

The trails can be downloaded and used offline and they offer a whole range of options, from short circular walks to long panoramic trails along the hills surrounding the valley. They include beautiful views, historical places of interest and places to stop along the way.

The routes have been put together by the Darent Valley Landscape

Partnership Scheme, the Darent Valley Community Rail Partnership, which includes Sevenoaks District Council and walking enthusiasts who live in the area.

Our Cabinet Member for People and Places, Cllr Lesley Dyball, says: "The Rail Trails are a wonderful opportunity to get outside and explore the local area whilst leaving the car at home.

"Each of the walks starts and ends at one of the stations on the Darent Valley rail line which is served by

Southeastern and Thameslink trains.

"Along the route you'll find a medieval deer park, a chalk stream, a Victorian viaduct, Roman villas and riverside villages. There's usually a good pub or tearoom within close proximity too!"

The trails can be downloaded on the App Store or Google Play by searching 'Darent Valley Trails'. Paper copies can be found at some of the railway stations along the line.

More information can be found at www.darentvalleycrp.org.

New affordable homes fund Edenbridge Stangrove Estate improvements

The new sale of 13 Council-constructed homes are funding community improvements on the Stangrove Estate in Edenbridge.

The new high-quality properties, each with their own parking spaces, meet high environmental standards and come with energy-efficient air source heat pumps, helping to reduce carbon emissions.

Five of the homes were sold on the open market and the remaining eight were sold to Quercus Housing, our affordable housing company, and are already providing affordable housing for people with a local housing need.

Funding generated by the sale of the homes is paying for the first major improvements on the Stangrove Estate since it was

built in the 1950s and 1960s. These include 72 off-road communal parking spaces, some with electric vehicle charging points, a new, larger community shop and landscaping.

Cllr Michael Horwood, our Cabinet Member for Improvement & Innovation, says: "This project has provided 13 much-needed new dwellings with the majority providing new affordable homes. The combined project is also funding a raft of improvements that local residents have told us are much needed, such as additional parking and improvement to the estate's open spaces.

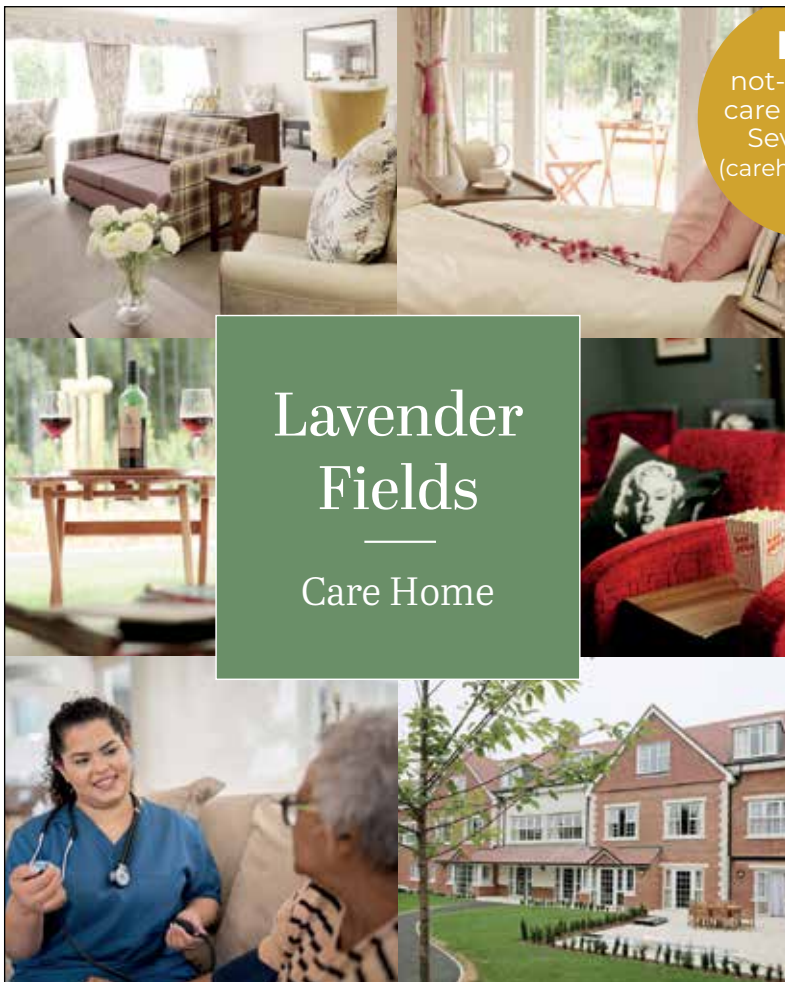
"This development is another part of the Council's plan to deliver more affordable homes

for Sevenoaks District residents, as well as using the proceeds to improve the local area.

"While the works have brought much-needed improvements to the Stangrove Estate, any project of this size will inevitably cause some disruption, so I want to thank local people for their patience and understanding during construction."



Cllr Laurence Ball, our Chairman, cuts the ribbon on the new homes.



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Joel picks up an award!

A local man who collects litter in his community has picked up an award in recognition of his voluntary efforts.



Twenty-eight year old Joel Kentish has been helping to keep his community clean for more than a year. After he volunteered for last year's Great British Spring Clean in March 2023, Joel has been litter picking almost daily in his home village of South Darenth.

Joel collects several bags of rubbish each week, which are collected every Monday by our refuse crews.

Joel's Mum, Lindsey, says: "Joel always wanted to be a waste collector since the age of three. He even had a toy refuse freighter as a very young child. But he has a condition that prevents this from happening.

"However, his passion for waste collection has never left him. He really enjoys keeping his community tidy and pleasant for all who live and visit here.

"The highlight of his week is when the Council picks up the waste he's diligently collected. He's sparked up a great friendship with the crews who always stop for a chat."

On 18 March 2024, as part of the Great British Spring Clean and as a 'thank you' for all his hard work, we presented Joel with a Certificate of Appreciation, together with a shopping voucher. Joel also got to sit in one of the Council's waste trucks.

Lindsey adds: "Everyone in the area knows Joel and he's always being thanked for his efforts. We're delighted his work has been recognised by the Council too."

Cllr Irene Roy, our Cabinet Member for Cleaner and Greener says: "I want to say a massive thank you to Joel for all his efforts over the past year. He has improved his local community for people and wildlife.

"Joel is part of a growing army of volunteers who go out of their way to help keep the District clean and tidy. We're appreciative and grateful for all their hard work."

Free training for local businesses



All local businesses, and their staff, can sign up for free online learning courses.

We've teamed up with SEEDL to provide the training programme as part of our work to support local businesses and our economy.

More than 200 courses are available covering a wide range of topics to help employees learn new skills and help improve their employer's performance.

Each course lasts one hour and is delivered in real time giving participants the chance to interact and ask

questions. Recordings of each course can be viewed afterwards and there is no limit on the number of courses a business or employee can take.

To view all the courses on offer, and to sign up, visit www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/seedl.

The courses are being delivered by SEEDL, a UK based live learning service and funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

The courses will remain available until 7 May 2025.

SUPPORTING your business



If you run a business, or you're looking to start one up, our friendly Economic Development Team is here to help!

We're a single point of contact offering advice, guidance, links to our other services and signposting to funding and assistance.

To view all the business support we offer, visit www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/business or email business@sevenoaks.gov.uk.



Grant funding

We run various grant schemes throughout the year, helping businesses to expand and grow.

Our current West Kent Rural Grants scheme provides funding worth up to £24,999 for capital projects. Businesses and community organisations in rural areas can apply and match funding is required.

For all the latest business funding opportunities, visit www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/businessgrants.



Business support

West Kent Business – we're part of this initiative, which provides free mentoring, support and events to help businesses develop and grow. Find out more and register at www.westkentbusiness.com.

Meeting Point – is our modern business centre in Swanley offering private offices, meeting space for events or hot desks, along with excellent on-site business support. Contact the Meeting Point team at www.meetingpoint.org.uk or call 01732 443041.

Free business directory – any Sevenoaks District-based business can add their details to our free 'Sevenoaks So Much More' resource to connect to new customers. To add your business visit www.moresevenoaks.co.uk/business-directory.

Achievements over the past year



Over £80,000 in grants awarded to businesses and community organisations via our West Kent Rural Grants scheme



Around 400 people attended Invest West Kent's 'West Kent Expo' business show, where 50 local exhibitors showcased their services



West Kent Business **provided £7,000 in grants** and free mentoring to 26 small businesses



Supporting the District

Supporting town centres – our dedicated Town Centre Project Officer supports businesses in our towns and villages, helping with events, activities and more. We've also provided capital funding to every town and parish council to improve public spaces.

Promoting our District – our 'Visit Sevenoaks' website showcases everything that's great about our District to the UK and the rest of the world. It includes places to visit and explore, including attractions, accommodation, activities and events. Visit www.visitsevenoaks.co.uk.

Invest West Kent – our initiative, with two neighbouring councils, to encourage businesses to locate here while supporting our existing businesses to develop and grow. For more information go to www.investwestkent.com.



Skills and employment

Our Swanley-centred 'Growth Gurus' project works with people aged 18 to 24 to help them into employment. We're also investing in 'green retrofit' training to equip residents with the knowledge and skills to make buildings more energy efficient.

In the coming months, we will launch more schemes to support people into work along with events and online support to help businesses improve their digital skills.

Email business@sevenoaks.gov.uk for details of our latest employment and skills programmes.



£58,000 of grants awarded to town and parish councils to improve public spaces



£6,500 of grants paid to businesses to reduce their carbon footprint through our Green Business Grants Support scheme



£9,000 in grants to support arts and cultural activities from our Cultural Sector Development Grants Fund

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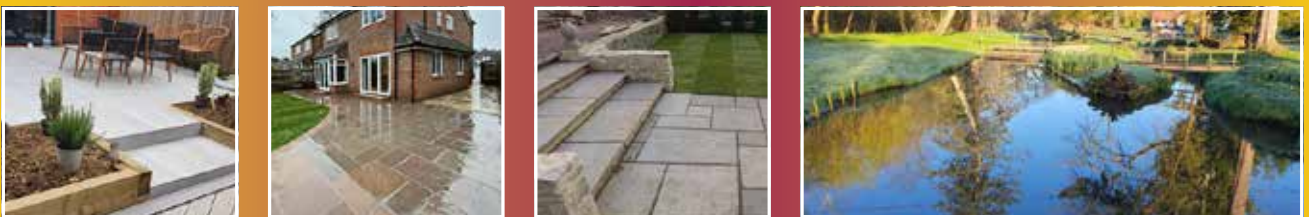
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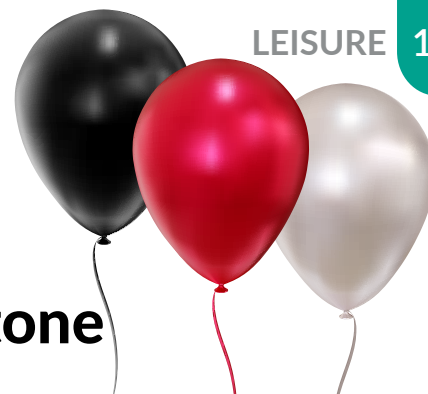
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Everyone Active

celebrates one year of operations at Edenbridge, Sevenoaks and Lullingstone



It has been a year of success for Everyone Active as it marks its first anniversary of managing Edenbridge and Sevenoaks Leisure Centres and Lullingstone Park Golf Course.



Fitness on the rise

Since taking the helm in April 2023, an increasing number of residents are actively pursuing fitness through gym memberships.

Edenbridge Leisure Centre has experienced a remarkable 60 per cent increase in gym memberships over the past year, attracting a diverse range of individuals keen on maintaining an active lifestyle. Meanwhile, Sevenoaks Leisure Centre has seen a 21 per cent increase in gym members during the same period.

More than 30 per cent of members at both Edenbridge and Sevenoaks Leisure Centres are under the age of 25, with many taking advantage of the student membership option and turning to their local centres to fulfil their fitness needs.

Group exercise classes continue to thrive, with Pilates emerging as a favourite at Edenbridge Leisure Centre, while Body Pump remains the top choice at Sevenoaks Leisure Centre.

Diving into water safety

In addition to fitness, Everyone Active is passionate about water safety and proficiency. Swimming lessons at both Edenbridge and Sevenoaks Leisure Centres have surged by 35 per cent



over the past year, underscoring the importance of equipping children with this vital life skill.

Alongside swimming lessons, Sevenoaks Leisure Centre has continued to be home to Sevenoaks Swimming Club, which has over 300 members.

Empowering health through exercise

The addition of an Active Wellbeing Suite, named the Feel Good Suite, at Edenbridge has been a welcome addition. Home to power-assisted exercise equipment, the suite is ideal for people living with limited mobility, the elderly and for those managing long-term conditions.

Teeing off to success

Last summer, record numbers of casual players graced the 18-hole Castle Course and the nine-hole Valley Course at Lullingstone Park Golf Course, signalling a booming

season for golf enthusiasts. Building on this momentum, Everyone Active has recently introduced its new brand, 'Everyone Golf'.

Golf enthusiasts can expect a fresh online experience and a revamped brand. As the UK's second-largest multi-site golf operator, Everyone Active aims to elevate the golfing experience for enthusiasts of all skill levels.

Nurturing sporting talent

Everyone Active's Sporting Champions scheme is helping 19 aspiring athletes in the Sevenoaks District in their sporting careers. Athletes on the scheme benefit from free access to all Everyone Active leisure centres in the country, plus mentoring support from Olympians and Paralympians covering topics such as nutrition, fitness, event preparation, mental health and social media.

Find out more about Sporting Champions at www.easportingchampions.com.



New Chairman plans his next move!

Cllr Laurence Ball, our new chess playing Chairman, is confident he can make all the right moves in the coming year.

Laurence spent most of his working life in insurance and more recently for a company in Swanley. But chess has always been his passion.

"I have played chess since I was seven and have been lucky enough to qualify and play twice in both the South African and British Championships," says Laurence. "I've been involved in the administrative side of the game too, as President of Chess South Africa and on the Ethics Committee of FIDE (the International Chess Federation). These days I play for Kent and help out with coaching at local schools."

"I also enjoy hockey. I began playing at the age of 14 and I'm still involved as an umpire."

Laurence has been a Sevenoaks District Councillor for the past 13 years. "It's humbling to be the Council's new Chairman," says Laurence. "I can't wait to meet our residents and community groups and promote the Sevenoaks District at every opportunity."

"I'm also keen to use my year to promote the SUMS charity in Swanley. They offer oxygen therapy to people living with MS and other neurological conditions and injuries. I had a health scare 20 years ago. Since then I've seen first-hand how SUMS helps people so I'm keen to raise money and awareness for this very worthy cause."

Laurence has lived in the Sevenoaks District for the past 17 years. Previously, he lived in South Africa after his parents emigrated there when he was 14 years old. Laurence has two married sons who live in Hong Kong and Cape Town and a granddaughter who is nine months old.

To invite Laurence to a community event, visit www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/chairman or call **01732 227247**.

You can also follow Laurence on Twitter at [@sdc_chairman](https://twitter.com/sdc_chairman).

Laurence, who represents Farningham, Horton Kirby & South Darenth, became our new Chairman on 14 May 2024.

Residents have their say on Sevenoaks town proposals

Hundreds of people had a say on our early ideas to regenerate the land around Buckhurst Lane close to Sevenoaks High Street.

Sevenoaks District Council and Kent County Council own property in this area. Together, we have come up with broad regeneration ideas to make the town a more exciting place to live, work and spend time.

Our ideas include a new energy efficient leisure centre, a combined library, art gallery, museum and adult education centre, improved pedestrian links to Knole Park and a new market hall and a hotel. The proposal includes new homes, which would help to pay towards the project.

More than 500 people attended our in-person and online events and nearly 400 people took part in our survey during April and May.

We're now drawing up a revised brief, taking into account residents' views, which will be considered by our Councillors in July 2024.

For the latest new on our proposals, visit www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/haveyoursay.



Sevenoaks town walking, wheeling and riding route gets moving

After listening to our communities' views on a two mile sustainable travel route linking East to West Sevenoaks, we are making some changes to our proposals.

The Sevenoaks Town East to West route will provide walkers, wheelers (people on scooters, parents with prams and wheelchair users) and riders with safe routes in the town.

Our proposals would link Trinity, Weald of Kent and Tunbridge Wells Boys Grammar schools in the east with Amherst and Riverhead schools in the west. The route passes via Knole Academy, Sevenoaks Primary and Walthamstow Junior schools and close to the rail station and other facilities.

Last summer, 490 people took part in a survey to share their views on our initial plans. The majority, 61%, were supportive with 25% not supporting the proposal and the remaining 14% not sure.

Residents also raised issues and concerns about some parts of the route and the loss of parking spaces.

In response, we are proposing to take the route through Cavendish Avenue, Oakdene Road and Bradbourne Vale Road instead of Clockhouse Lane, Bradbourne Park Road and James's Road.

Seven on-street car parking spaces at the junction of Bradbourne Road and Bradbourne Vale Road will be relocated to Bradbourne Vale Road along with an additional six new parking spaces.

The route will be delivered in partnership with Kent County Council with a £1.2 million Government grant. Work is expected to begin in the autumn.

£600k to help White Oak go greener

We recently secured £612,950 to fund new solar panels at White Oak Leisure Centre in Swanley, helping to cut the centre's carbon footprint.

White Oak opened in early 2022 and is one of the most environmentally-friendly, energy efficient centres around. The solar panels will further reduce energy use and running costs. Work on the installation should start later this year.

Cllr Lesley Dyball, our Cabinet Member for People and Places, says:

"We are thrilled to have successfully bid for funding to help White Oak Leisure Centre go even greener.

"Swimming is great for residents' health and wellbeing, as well as teaching children to stay safe around water. But running a swimming pool

can be expensive due to high energy costs. Not only will the solar panels reduce the centre's running costs for years to come, they will cut its carbon emissions, helping us to tackle the challenges of climate change."

The funding came from Phase 2 of the Government's Swimming Pool Support Fund.

Alfresco dining in the District

As the weather warms and our thoughts turn to exploring the outdoors, it's always a bonus to have a wonderful pub garden or café to head to.

We've been out and about to produce a tasty menu of local venues, some off the beaten track and others in the heart of our town.

With all the green hills in the District, it's no surprise we have

plenty of pubs with spectacular views. Among the best are:

- **The Chafford Arms in Fordcombe**, a pretty Arts & Crafts style building with a generous garden with extensive views to Tonbridge and beyond

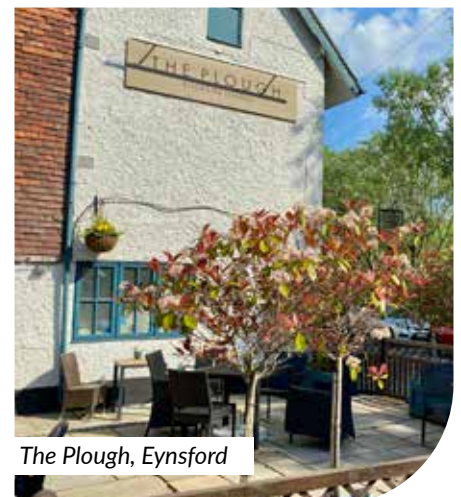
- **The Spotted Dog in Penshurst**, perched on hills south of the village with terraces with picnic tables
- **The Bottle House Inn, also in Penshurst**, a lovely location overlooking the surrounding countryside
- **The Bull in Horton Kirby** has views across the lower Darent Valley

For pubs with great children's play areas try:

- **The Pheasant Plucker**, between Sevenoaks and Ide Hill, a rambling venue with all sorts of options inside and out, including cabins and play areas
- **The Bullfinch in Riverhead** has fairy lights strung out over the garden and plenty of cosy cabins to choose from



The Lion, Farningham



The Plough, Eynsford

- **The Little Brown Jug** by Penshurst train station has a large garden, a play area and plenty of pavilions to enjoy (and the occasional beer festival too)
- **The Royal Oak near New Ash Green** is a gastropub with a garden and a children's play area

If being close to a river is appealing, or you have been out on a long walk with the dogs, try:

- **The Lion, Farningham.** This pub and restaurant has been welcoming day-trippers for hundreds of years. It was even a favourite location for Charles Dickens when fishing for trout in the River Darent, which flows by the pub garden
- **The Plough in Eynsford** faces the River Darent and has plenty of outdoor tables.

For rural beer gardens in serene locations, try:

- **The Wheatsheaf in Bough Beech,** a historic pub with cosy medieval interiors but state-of-the-art tepees in the beer garden, among plenty of blossoming flowers
- **The Leicester Arms in Penshurst** has a series of terraces descending from the stunning pub and occasional outdoor music events
- **The Greyhound, Charcott** has a peaceful garden and plenty of delicious food options, including pizza nights

If you're more inclined to wander around one of our lively towns, then a café with a courtyard or a terrace in the sun might be more your taste:

- **Brunch in Westerham,** tucked away in a secluded courtyard seconds from the High Street, offers not only the chance to check out a small deli shop but also have tasty treats outdoors
- **The George and Dragon in Westerham** has a large terrace overlooking the North Downs
- **Café on the Vine in Sevenoaks,** Sopranos, Nonna Cappuccino,

The George and Dragon, Westerham



Gail's and Malabar in the centre of town all have outside seating areas to watch the world go by

- **Hidden Jen in Sevenoaks** has a pretty courtyard dining area for warm nights, with the occasional music event too
- **The Cotton Mill Micropub in Swanley** has outdoor tables. With so many cask ales and real ciders to test, it's a spot to head to for warm summer evenings
- **Ye Olde Crown in Edenbridge** goes from strength to strength, with music, quizzes, special chef nights, home-baked cakes and a large courtyard with plenty of tables

The District is blessed with plenty of tea rooms and cafés with attractive outdoor areas, like the **Fir Tree House Tea Rooms in Penshurst**, the **Tulip Tea Room in Chiddingstone** or the **Porcupine Pantry Café** just outside the entrance to Penshurst Place. For the cyclists among you, don't forget to check out the new extension at the **Velo Barn above Westerham** – and get your bike serviced at the same time!

Many of our garden centres offer upmarket fare, with a favourite being **Arthur's at Coolings Garden Centre in Knockholt** or the elegant **Twig and Spoon Café at Woodlands Garden Centre in West Kingsdown**. And that's before we get to all the National Trust properties with stand-out cafés, perhaps one of the best being at **The Brewhouse Café in Knole**, with views across the deer park from the rooftop terrace.

Finally, we're so fortunate to have two award-winning vineyards - **Squerryes near Westerham** and **The Mount Vineyard in Shoreham**. Each have extensive outdoor seating areas with sunset views, and with The Mount a five-minute walk from Shoreham station, it couldn't be easier to get to.

So what are you waiting for? Get on your bike, put on your trainers, don the hiking boots, hop on the train or ease yourself into a car and explore all these wonderful outdoor spaces!

For more information, check out www.visitsevenoaks.co.uk.

Always be sure to check individual venues for opening hours.

Edenbridge health centre officially opens

Local residents, patients, Sevenoaks District Councillors and other dignitaries attended the official opening of the new, £14 million Edenbridge Memorial Health Centre in April 2024.



After more than seven years of planning, engagement and construction, the centre, which combines a GP surgery, children's services, diagnostic services, a wellbeing centre and a wide range of outpatient clinics, welcomed its first patients last November.

Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust (KCHFT) and Edenbridge Medial Practice run the majority of services, along with other partners, including our One You team.

Alongside specialist clinical care, there is also a wellbeing day centre

on-site to support people living with dementia or social isolation.

We played an important role in bringing the centre to the District by contributing £1.2 million of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), funding we secured from developers.

Cllr Julia Thornton, our Cabinet Member for Development and Conservation, says: "I am especially proud that the Council has been able to support this centre. From the very early days, our planners worked closely with the NHS to get the project off the ground, through

to making a substantial contribution toward the build.

"Not only does it bring many health services together under one roof, the new centre is one of the most environmentally friendly and energy efficient buildings there is, helping us all to do our bit to tackle climate change.

"I'm certain this major investment by the Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust and others will improve the quality of life for so many of our residents for generations to come."

One You comes to Edenbridge

You can now access our free and popular One You service in the brand new Edenbridge Memorial Health Centre.



One You has helped hundreds of people to take the first steps towards a healthier lifestyle, be it losing weight, improving diet, increasing physical activity, improving mental wellbeing, reducing alcohol or vape consumption, quitting smoking and much more.

Our friendly One You advisors, now operate out of the centre Monday to Friday.

One You is a completely free, 12-week programme involving weekly

meetings with confidential, one-to-one sessions. The practical and personal support available will help you feel motivated to change your behaviour for good.

As well as in person appointments, the team offer online support too.

If you're overweight, losing just 5% of your weight can reduce the risk of several diseases such as heart disease, colon and breast cancer and type 2 diabetes. It can also lower

your cholesterol and blood pressure, reduce stress on your joints, improve your breathing, reduce fatigue and help you sleep better.

Sign up to One You today by emailing healthy.living@sevenoaks.gov.uk, calling 01732 227000 or visiting www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/oneyou.



Can you contribute to public confidence in the Council?



We're looking for a new Independent Member to join our Audit Committee.

This Committee reviews the effectiveness of our governance and risk management arrangements.

As an Independent member on the Committee, you will serve an important purpose bringing independent scrutiny to the Committee's work.

You'll need to have the skills and experience in one or more of the following areas: local government,

governance, audit, finance risk management and internal control. You should also have a connection with the Sevenoaks District, for example living or working here. You'll need to attend around four evening committee meetings each year.

The post is not open to anyone who is, or has within the last five years, been a Sevenoaks District Councillor or employee or has close relatives or friends at the Council.

This post pays an annual allowance of £800 plus expenses. The appointment will be for up to four-years.

For an informal discussion about the post, please contact Adrian Rowbotham, Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer for Finance and Trading, on **01732 227153**. To apply, visit www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/jobs.

The closing date is midnight on Sunday 11 August 2024.

Tuck into our lunch club

Older residents can come along to our free lunch club in Hextable for hot food and drinks and a chat with others.



The monthly club offers a delicious two-course meal, complete with a hot main and dessert, as well as tea, coffee and a chance to socialise.

The club is taking place at St Peter's Church in Hextable from 12pm to 2pm on the third Monday of every month from 15 July and will run until the end of the year.



To find out more and book a place, please call us on **01732 227000** or email communities@sevenoaks.gov.uk.

Further information is available at www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/lunchclub.

The lunch club is being funded by the Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley Healthcare Partnership.

Just the thicket

Garden season is in full swing and if you're spending more time outside, you may want some help disposing of your cuttings, leaves and other garden debris.

We pick up your garden waste every two weeks, saving you the hassle of going to the tip.

Choose from our two options:

- An annual permit for a 240-litre bin for £55 or a 140-litre bin for £40
- 25 garden waste sacks for £25

If we've sown the seed in your mind, sign up for a permit or find out more at www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/gardenwaste.



Police and Crime Commissioner election result

Thank you to everyone who voted in the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner elections on 2 May 2024.

After all the votes were counted across Kent, Matthew Scott was re-elected to the role. He won with 120,491 votes, a 44% share of the overall vote. Mr Scott has held the position since 2016.

Your Councillors

Sevenoaks District Council's priorities and policies are decided by 54 Councillors who were elected by local people. The Sevenoaks District is divided into 26 smaller areas, known as wards and each ward is represented by one or more District Councillors. You are very welcome to contact the District Councillors to express your views and to ask for their help on local issues.

Conservative (C)  Liberal Democrats (LD)  Green Party (G)  Sevenoaks Independent (SI)  Independent (I) 



Mark Lindop (G)
Ash and New Ash Green
cllr.lindop@sevenoaks.gov.uk
07568 067200



Shani Manamperi (G)
Ash and New Ash Green
cllr.manamperi@sevenoaks.gov.uk
07975 650177



Laura Manston (G)
Ash and New Ash Green
cllr.manston@sevenoaks.gov.uk
07958 709904



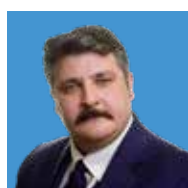
Michelle Alger (LD)
Brasted, Chevening
and Sundridge
cllr.alger@sevenoaks.gov.uk
01732 227000



Sandra Robinson (LD)
Brasted, Chevening
and Sundridge
cllr.robinson@sevenoaks.gov.uk
07557 506191



Nigel Williams (C)
Brasted, Chevening
and Sundridge
cllr.williams@sevenoaks.gov.uk
01732 227000



James Barnett (C)
Cowden and Hever
cllr.barnett@sevenoaks.gov.uk
01732 227000



Rachel Waterton (I)
Crockenhill and Well Hill
cllr.waterton@sevenoaks.gov.uk
01732 227000



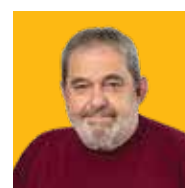
Kim Bayley (C)
Dunton Green
and Riverhead
cllr.bayley@sevenoaks.gov.uk
01732 227000



Graham Clack (C)
Dunton Green
and Riverhead
cllr.clack@sevenoaks.gov.uk
07769 644576



Angela Baker (C)
Edenbridge North
and East
cllr.baker@sevenoaks.gov.uk
01732 227000



James Morgan (LD)
Edenbridge North
and East
cllr.j.morgan@sevenoaks.gov.uk
01732 227000



Alan Layland (C)
Edenbridge South
and West
cllr.layland@sevenoaks.gov.uk
07971 154254



Margot McArthur (C)
Edenbridge South
and West
cllr.mcarthur@sevenoaks.gov.uk
01732 227000



Michael Barker (G)
Eynsford
cllr.barker@sevenoaks.gov.uk
01732 227000



Laurence Ball (C)
Farningham, Horton
Kirby and South Darent
cllr.ball@sevenoaks.gov.uk
07515 770220



Alan White (C)
Farningham, Horton
Kirby and South Darent
cllr.white@sevenoaks.gov.uk
07841 410147



Emily Bulford (C)
Fawkham and West
Kingsdown
cllr.bulford@sevenoaks.gov.uk
01732 227000



Lynda Harrison (C)
Fawkham and West
Kingsdown
cllr.harrison@sevenoaks.gov.uk
01732 22000



Sean Malone (C)
Fawkham and West
Kingsdown
cllr.malone@sevenoaks.gov.uk
01732 227000



John Grint (C)
Halstead, Knockholt
and Badgers Mount
cllr.grint@sevenoaks.gov.uk
07752 848346



Gary Williamson (C)
Halstead, Knockholt
and Badgers Mount
cllr.williamson@sevenoaks.gov.uk
01959 532370



Larry Abraham (C)
Hartley and Hodsoll
Street
cllr.abraham@sevenoaks.gov.uk
01474 706690



Penny Cole (C)
Hartley and Hodsoll
Street
cllr.penny.cole@sevenoaks.gov.uk
07540 668751



Perry Cole (C)
Hartley and Hodsoll
Street
cldr.perry.cole@sevenoaks.gov.uk
07834 768315



Christine Hudson (SI)
Hextable
cldr.hudson@sevenoaks.gov.uk
01322 662271



Darren Kitchener (SI)
Hextable
cldr.kitchener@sevenoaks.gov.uk
07496 818558



Chris Haslam (C)
Kemsing
cldr.haslam@sevenoaks.gov.uk
01732 227000



Simon Reay (C)
Kemsing
cldr.reay@sevenoaks.gov.uk
01732 227000



Malcolm Silander (LD)
Leigh and Chiddingstone
Causeway
cldr.silander@sevenoaks.gov.uk
01732 227000



John Edwards-Winsor (C)
Otford and Shoreham
cldr.edwards-winsor@
sevenoaks.gov.uk
01959 522503



Irene Roy (C)
Otford and Shoreham
cldr.roy@sevenoaks.gov.uk
01732 227000



Richard Streatfeild (LD)
Penshurst, Fordcombe
and Chiddingstone
cldr.streatfeild@sevenoaks.gov.uk
01732 227000



Roddy Hogarth (C)
Seal and Weald
cldr.hogarth@sevenoaks.gov.uk
01732 227240



Julia Thornton (C)
Seal and Weald
cldr.thornton@sevenoaks.gov.uk
01732 227000



Tony Clayton (LD)
Sevenoaks Eastern
cldr.clayton@sevenoaks.gov.uk
01732 451087



Elizabeth Purves (LD)
Sevenoaks Eastern
cldr.purves@sevenoaks.gov.uk
01732 227000



Chloe Gustard (LD)
Sevenoaks Kippington
cldr.gustard@sevenoaks.gov.uk
01732 227000



Nicholas Varley (LD)
Sevenoaks Kippington
cldr.varley@sevenoaks.gov.uk
07973 345377



Alan Leaman (LD)
Sevenoaks Northern
cldr.leaman@sevenoaks.gov.uk
07957 482330



Claire Shea (LD)
Sevenoaks Northern
cldr.shea@sevenoaks.gov.uk
07866 677760



Susan Camp (LD)
Sevenoaks Town and
St John's
cldr.camp@sevenoaks.gov.uk
01732 227000



Victoria Granville (LD)
Sevenoaks Town and
St John's
cldr.granville@sevenoaks.gov.uk
01732 227000



David Skinner (LD)
Sevenoaks Town and
St John's
cldr.skinner@sevenoaks.gov.uk
01732 227000



Clare Barnes (C)
Swanley Christchurch
and Swanley Village
cldr.c.barnes@sevenoaks.gov.uk
01322 613595



Michael Horwood (C)
Swanley Christchurch
and Swanley Village
cldr.horwood@sevenoaks.gov.uk
07815 483891



Nina Scott (C)
Swanley Christchurch
and Swanley Village
cldr.scott@sevenoaks.gov.uk
01732 227000



Lesley Dyball (C)
Swanley St. Mary's
cldr.dyball@sevenoaks.gov.uk
01732 227000



Cathy Morgan (C)
Swanley St. Mary's
cldr.morgan@sevenoaks.gov.uk
07983 555893



Glynnis Darrington (C)
Swanley White Oak
cllrg.darrington@
sevenoaks.gov.uk
01732 227000



Paul Darrington (C)
Swanley White Oak
cldr.p.darrington@
sevenoaks.gov.uk
01732 227000



Jasmine Ferrari (C)
Swanley White Oak
cldr.ferrari@sevenoaks.gov.uk
01732 227000



Diana Esler (C)
Westerham and
Crockham Hill
cldr.esler@sevenoaks.gov.uk
01732 465089



Kevin Maskell (C)
Westerham and
Crockham Hill
cldr.maskell@sevenoaks.gov.uk
07966 171398

How to contact your District Councillors

We have provided your District Councillors' phone numbers and e-mail addresses. If you would like to write to them, their postal addresses are available on our website www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/councillors or by calling us on **01732 227000**. If you are unsure which ward you live in, please call us on **01732 227000**.



Sevenoaks District Community Safety Unit

To report or receive advice on: anti-social behaviour, fly-tipping, graffiti, licensed premises, abandoned vehicles, environmental and noise nuisance, crime reduction, neighbourhood watch and other community safety issues, call **01732 227000** or e-mail community.safety@sevenoaks.gov.uk

Reporting crime

To report a crime that is taking place, always call 999. If the incident has passed, call Kent Police on 101 or Crimestoppers on **0800 555111**

Social media

For the latest community safety news follow us on X visit [@sdc_csp](https://twitter.com/sdc_csp)

Tackling domestic abuse

For support and advice for victims of Domestic Abuse, call the Domestic Abuse Volunteer Support Service on **01892 570538** or visit www.davss.org.uk
For the Community Domestic Abuse Programme for men call **07933 359210** or visit www.kentcdap.org

Putting the brakes on car meets and racing

Earlier this year, the Community Safety Partnership placed a Public Space Protection Order in Badgers Mount and Halstead to tackle anti-social behavior associated with car meets, racing and general motor nuisance.

In partnership with Kent Police, the Metropolitan Police and Bromley Council, we consulted with residents after a number of complaints affecting the London Road, part of the Orpington By-Pass and the M25 Junction 4 spur road.

A Public Space Protection Order gives the Police and councils the power to issue on-the-spot warnings, or a fixed penalty notice for anti-social behaviour.

It also prohibits behaviour that may cause harassment, alarm, and distress. This means those causing trouble cannot return to the area within 24 hours.

The Public Space Protection Order began on 1 May 2024 and can last for up to three years.

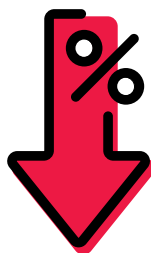
Big drop in anti-social behaviour

The Community Safety Partnership is delighted to report a 14% reduction in anti-social behaviour over the last year.

The figures, up to the end of March 2024, show a reduction of 140 reports across the District.

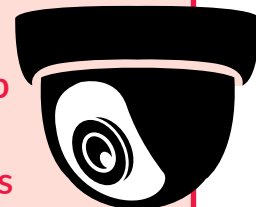
Over the last year, the Partnership has carried out many initiatives to help residents report and reduce anti-social behaviour and has gone into schools, attended community events, visited youth clubs and more.

For information on anti-social behaviour and how to report it, visit www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/asb.



Protect your business from shoplifters

The Community Safety Partnership is going all out to protect businesses from crimes, including shoplifting.



Although we have seen a small decrease in shoplifting over the last year, the Partnership has been working hard with local businesses to reduce it further.

Kent Police has lots of advice on its website about how to secure your shop from shoplifters and how to spot a shoplifter.

There is a monthly Business Group, run by Kent Police and chaired by Chief Inspector Elizabeth Jones, where traders can discuss their concerns.

Local Shops can also get involved in the Sevenoaks Safer Towns Partnership, which works with shops, Police and our CCTV Control Room to prevent and deter shoplifting and other business crime. For more information on this scheme, email community.safety@sevenoaks.gov.uk.

For more information about reducing business crime, visit www.kent.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention.

Can we help with your waste?

Summer is here, a time to enjoy all the wonderful fairs, markets and family events!

If you're running a public event, don't forget, you have a duty to provide waste facilities. But fear not, we can help!

Our Commercial Waste team can organise your waste facilities from start to finish, any day of the week, at competitive prices.

For more information and a quote, call us **01732 220000** or email commercial.waste@sevenoaks.gov.uk.

Are you a maker?

If you enjoy making things, you are invited to show off your work in a new photography exhibition at the Kaleidoscope Gallery, Sevenoaks.

The MAKERS exhibition will run from 28 August to 14 September 2024. It's a celebration of makers showing that everyone has a maker within them!

You can submit a photograph of literally anything you love to make! Examples submitted so far include furniture, cheese, hats, scientific and musical instruments, printing, painting, sculpture, pottery, knitting, embroidery, textiles, lace and more!

To submit a photograph of your work, send one high resolution jpg of what you've made, along with your name and the title of your photo (up to five words) to makersofsevenoaks@outlook.com by 1 August 2024.

The exhibition has been financed in part by our Cultural Sector Development Fund.



Sevenoaks District Council at your fingertips

Main Office

Argyle Road, Sevenoaks,
Kent TN13 1HG

01732 227000

Open Monday to Thursday 8.45am to 5pm and Friday 8.45am to 4.45pm.

Emergencies (outside our usual hours)

01732 227000

then listen to the options.

Leisure centres

Ash Green Sports Centre*
01474 707164

Edenbridge Leisure Centre**
01732 442364

Lullingstone Park Golf Course**
01959 583019

The Olympic, Swanley*
01322 669201

Sevenoaks Indoor Bowls Club***
01732 451889

Sevenoaks Leisure Centre**
01732 442365

White Oak Indoor Bowls Club, Swanley***
01322 665571

White Oak Leisure Centre, Swanley**
01322 662188

* Operated by the local town or parish Council *** Operated by independent limited companies
** Operated by Everyone Active



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Editor Daniel Whitmarsh

Editorial Assistant Amy McGauley

e-mail communications@sevenoaks.gov.uk

Tel 01732 227000

Sevenoaks District Council, Council Offices, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1HG

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Sevenoaks District Council accepts paid-for advertising in In Shape to pay towards the magazine's production costs.

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In Shape is available in other formats and can be explained in other languages by calling 01732 227000.

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