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Issue 64 Spring 2006

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All change for bus passes

People aged 60 and above, together with some people with disabilities, can now travel for free on any public bus throughout Kent.

“Our new permits that allow free off-peak travel is a positive development for thousands of our residents.”

From 1 April, Sevenoaks District Council's bus permits allow free off-peak travel from 9am Monday to Friday and all day Saturday and Sunday on any bus that begins or ends its journey in the Kent or Medway area.

“Free bus passes for older residents is really good news. It means that people like me can get out more often to shop, socialise and see friends. For years, people who live just across the border in Greater London have had the luxury of free travel. For the first time we are on a par with our London neighbours.”

All councils have a duty to provide a bus permit for free bus travel in their local area. However, Sevenoaks District Council teamed up with Kent's other councils to provide an enhanced pass that allows travel throughout the whole of the county.

To find out more or to apply for a bus permit, call the Council on **01732 227000** or e-mail **information@sevenoaks.gov.uk**. Alternatively visit **www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/travelconcessions**

Nearly 5,000 residents are expected to take advantage of the new passes.

Cllr Gary Williamson, the Council's Cabinet member with responsibility for transportation issues, says: "Our new permits that allow free off-peak travel is a positive development for thousands of our residents. Travel mobility can be a problem for some older people, but they now have new options open to them to help improve their quality of life."

Westerham resident, Vivienne Parry, has greeted the news that the Council will be issuing passes for free bus travel enthusiastically. She adds:

Cllr Gary Williamson, the Council's Cabinet member with responsibility for transportation, with Westerham resident Vivienne Parry



Lord Lieutenant hits the right note

Swanley was host to a royal visitor when the Lord Lieutenant of Kent, Allan Willett CMG, saw first hand local projects and thanked representatives of voluntary groups for their work.

The Lord Lieutenant, the Queen's representative in Kent, visited Swanley last November. He spent time at a successful local fruit packing business, the '8 to 12's project' at Swanley Youth and Community Centre and the Kenward Trust Grey Zebra Youth Project Bus.

He later attended a reception at the Alexandra Suite where he met community workers, representatives from charity organisations, local schools and the local chamber of commerce.

The Lord Lieutenant says of his visit to Swanley: "I have been impressed not only by Swanley's community spirit but also by the brilliant work carried out by the local community, including residents, local councils and notably the voluntary sector, to improve their town. As I found out for myself, Swanley is a strong and healthy community and its success is due in large measure to the work of volunteers who give so much time and effort to improve the lives of so many."



Allan Willett, Lord Lieutenant of Kent at the Swanley 8 to 12's project

Making a safe haven

Help is at hand for people who suffer from domestic abuse thanks to an innovative scheme that can assist victims to remain safe in their homes.

Sevenoaks District Council's new 'Domestic Abuse Safe Haven Scheme' funds works to be carried out to make a room safe and secure in a victim's home.

The scheme is only suitable for people who want to stay in their homes, if appropriate, and not for serious cases of domestic abuse.

Research carried out by the Kent Women's Support Service in 2003 found that one in four women and one in six men will experience domestic abuse in their life time.

In addition, 9% of homelessness applications dealt with by the Council from April 2003 to April 2004 were linked to domestic abuse.

The Council will accept referrals for the scheme directly from the public as well as from the police, social services, the Probation Service, the Women's Refuge and local housing associations.

To make a referral for the scheme, please contact one of the above organisations or contact Sevenoaks District Council's Social Housing Team in confidence by calling **01732 227000** or e-mail housing@sevenoaks.gov.uk

Easter and May bank holiday office opening times

Over the Easter and May bank holiday periods, there will be some changes to the Council's opening times.

Sevenoaks Office

Open as usual on Thursday 13 April
Closed Good Friday 14 April and Easter Monday 17 April
Open as usual from Tuesday 18 April
Closed Monday 1 May and Monday 29 May bank holidays

Swanley Contact and Information Centre

Open as usual on Thursday 13 April
Closed Good Friday 14 April
Open as normal Saturday 15 April
Closed Easter Monday 17 April
Open as usual from Tuesday 18 April
Closed Monday 1 May and Monday 29 May bank holidays

Edenbridge Local Office

(Open Thursdays for planning and benefits advice)
Open on Thursday 13 April as usual

Details of the Easter refuse collection arrangements can be found on the back page of this edition of *In Shape*.

To contact the Council in the event of a serious emergency when the offices are closed, please call **01732 462222**.

Let us help you rent out your property

Landlords who are keen to let out their property without the expense of advertising for tenants can take advantage of a Council run initiative.

The Private Sector Lettings Scheme aims to provide accommodation for single people and families who have a connection with the Sevenoaks District by providing landlords with rent in advance, a deposit bond or both.

The benefits for landlords are that properties can be let quickly without the expense of advertising and one-off rent in advance payments and rent can be paid direct to landlord. The Council also has a list of people ready and waiting to rent accommodation.

In addition, from October 2006 all landlords will have a legal duty to hand over their tenants' deposits to a Government agency. At the end of a tenancy, if the landlord wishes to retain part or all of the deposit to pay for damage caused during a tenancy, they can only do so by going to arbitration.

As the Council's Private Sector Lettings Scheme does not offer a cash deposit, but instead a deposit bond to cover any potential damage, it is not affected by the changes in the law.

The scheme has been successfully running for many years and welcomes landlords from the Sevenoaks District and beyond.

For more information contact Jill Wagner at the Council on **01732 227000** or e-mail social.housing@sevenoaks.gov.uk

The new look Cabinet

Sevenoaks District Council's Cabinet has a new look following a December reshuffle.

The Cabinet takes most of the Council's day-to-day decisions and meets every four weeks on a Thursday at 7pm. Its meetings are open to the public.

It is made up of the Leader of the Council, Cllr Peter Fleming, together with six other Councillors. Each member has responsibility for one or more areas of the Council's work.

Significant decisions, such as approving policies and strategies and setting the budget, are considered not only by the Cabinet but by all the 54 District Councillors.

Front row

Cllr Jill Davison – Deputy Leader of the Council. Also responsible for continuous Improvement and Strategic Planning

Cllr Peter Fleming – Leader of the Council. Also responsible for Communications, Consultation and Future Direction

Cllr Carol Clark – Balanced Communities

Back row

Cllr Brian Ramsay – Value for Money

Cllr Felicity Broomby – Quality Services

Cllr Keith Loney – Safe Community

Cllr Gary Williamson – Built Environment



Good news for small businesses

Small businesses are benefiting from a new rate relief that was introduced last year.

Small Business Rate Relief is specifically targeted at businesses that occupy a property with a rateable value of less than £10,000.

A number of conditions apply but in general, eligible properties below a rateable value of £5,000 receive a 50% rate relief and this decreases on a sliding scale of 1% for every £100 up to a rateable value of £9,999.

In addition, the bill is calculated

using the small business non-domestic rating multiplier.

Properties with a rateable value between £10,000 to £14,999, subject to application, have the small business rating multiplier applied to the calculation of their bill.

If your rates bill is already subject to mandatory rate relief then you will not be eligible for Small Business Rate Relief.

For advice on how to apply, contact the Council's Local Tax section by calling **01732 227000** or e-mail revenues@sevenoaks.gov.uk

CARE homes for Edenbridge

Sevenoaks District Council's Chairman, Cllr Ian Bosley, attended the opening of a new state-of-the-art facility in Edenbridge for people with learning disabilities.

The £5 million Hever Road complex was opened by HRH Princess Alexandra on 7 February.



It was built and will be run by CARE, a charity that provides housing and day-to-day support

for people with learning disabilities, and will cater for 70 people on a residential and daily basis.

Landlords advised to get their house in order

From early April, a housing law comes into effect that requires landlords who own certain rented properties to have a new licence in place.

The new rules, that aim to offer greater protection to tenants, currently only concern properties made up of three or more storeys that are occupied by five people or more who make up two or more households.

Under the Housing Act 2004, affected properties now need a 'Houses in Multiple Occupation' licence, issued by the Council.

Landlords have to complete an application form and pay a fee to the Council. The Council then inspects the property and carries out checks into the background of the landlord.

Failure to have a licence in place can result in a fine of up to £20,000. What's more, a tenant living in a property that should have a licence, but does not, can claim back up to 12 months rent during the unlicensed period.

The Council can also reclaim any housing benefit that has been paid during the time the property was without a licence.

If any landlord would like further clarification, advice or would like to request a licence application pack, they can call the Council on 01732 227000 or e-mail private.sector.housing@sevenoaks.gov.uk

Go wild in the garden

Green fingered residents are being encouraged to put on their gardening gloves again following the launch of the Council's popular 'Gardening for Wildlife' award scheme on 21 March.

You don't have to be an expert or spend lots of money as the scheme provides free information and advice to help people make their gardens more tempting for native wildlife and rewards them for their efforts. It is open to everyone including individuals, community groups, schools and businesses.

Last year 40 nature loving residents received awards after Kent Wildlife Trust judged their wildlife friendly gardens.

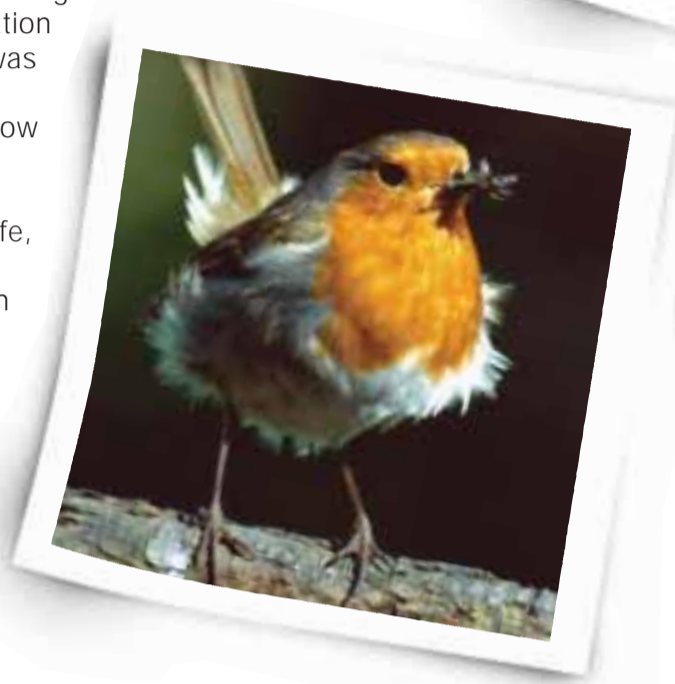
The scheme is run in partnership with Kent Wildlife Trust, North West Kent Countryside Partnership and sponsored by Mid Kent Water and Kent County Council.

Cllr Felicity Broomby, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Healthy Living, says: "We had an excellent response from all ages last year and sent out in excess of 200 information packs. It's reassuring to know that so many local people care about helping wildlife."

Gordon Fisher, a resident from Otford who won a Gold award last year and is looking forward to entering again this year, adds: "It was well worth entering and all the information that came with it was useful. It is really encouraging to know that we are on the right lines in encouraging wildlife, and will continue to find new ways in the future."

A free information pack full of ideas is available to get you started or make further improvements in your garden.

For a free pack and an entry form, call Hayley Brooks at the Council on **01732 227272** or e-mail **sus.dev@sevenoaks.gov.uk**



Photographs by entrants from last year's Gardening for Wildlife awards

Council secures energy saving grants

Sevenoaks District Council recently scooped £67,000 from the Government to help improve energy efficiency in a number of the District's rural areas.

Beginning in Otford during the spring, the Council will use the money to fund a two-year long project called 'Sevenoaks Rural Energy Focus'. The project aims to inform local people about how energy efficiency can benefit their pocket and the environment and to raise the profile of energy saving grants and discount schemes.

In 2004, the Council carried out a survey of 1,300 homes from across the Sevenoaks District. The survey found that rural homes were the least energy efficient of the entire District's housing stock.

Broadly speaking, many rural houses were found to have old, inefficient heating systems. In addition, most rural homes were built prior to the 1930s and cannot be easily insulated. Updating their

inefficient heating systems is the best way to improve the energy efficiency of these properties.

Over the next two years, the Council will work with local parish councils, schools and community groups to raise awareness of the issues in their communities and the help available.

Cllr Carol Clark, Cabinet member with responsibility for housing improvements, says: "Making our homes more energy efficient is good news for everyone. By using less energy, we use less fossil fuels that add to the problem of global warming. They also save money and, in a relatively short period, most energy saving improvements pay for themselves."

Discounted loft and wall insulation and other home energy saving products, such as energy efficient boilers and solar heating, are available to all Sevenoaks District residents. Call the Kent Energy Centre on **0800 358 6669** for a free, no obligation quote.

Alien invasion

One of the things that make Sevenoaks District's countryside so special is the vast array of local wildlife. However, the introduction of non-native species could endanger our native flora and fauna.

Planting or releasing animals that come from outside Britain can damage the surrounding countryside as plants and animals that have evolved in other parts of the world do not always have natural predators and competitors that limit their growth in the UK.

Without natural checks and balances they can multiply at a staggering rate.

Whilst there are several thousand species that have been introduced from abroad, some plants are particularly troublesome. Giant Hogweed was introduced by Victorian botanists and now dominates river banks in many areas.

There are a number of pond plants that can spread rapidly if introduced

to the wild and all are freely available at garden centres, usually without warnings about how much damage that they can cause. These include water fern, American parrots feather, floating pennywort and Australian swamp stonecrop.

It is not only competition that can cause problems. Planting bluebells has become popular in gardens as well. However, cultivated bluebells are often a Spanish variety and these can cross breed with the native plant.

So next time you are at the garden centre, please think carefully about what you plant and where.

If you need any advice or would like to get involved in conservation volunteering please ring Mike Phillips at the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers on **01233 812033**.

For more information about the control of the non-native wildlife visit the Environment Agency website **www.environment-agency.gov.uk**

Attention Garden Waste Collection permit holders!

As spring approaches and gardens begin to bloom, the Council has important news for Garden Waste Collection permit holders. The way in which your annual permit subscription will be renewed has changed.

From this year, the permit renewal process will be carried out on a monthly basis, rather than all at once. This is due to the success of the scheme that has grown from 400 users in 2004 to 2,400 users in 2006. With so many people now taking part, it is more practical to renew the permits throughout the year.

If you joined the scheme between 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006, you have a 12-month subscription and will be asked to renew close to your anniversary date.

Residents who joined the scheme more than a year ago should not be concerned if they do not receive a renewal notice in early spring, as before. Renewal notices will be sent out during the month corresponding with the anniversary of when you first joined the scheme. Some early participants may receive renewal notices as late as July 2006.

However, please be assured that your garden waste wheelie bin, with the 2005/2006 permit affixed, will still be valid and emptied fortnightly until you renew.

Please remember that it is up to us to remind you about your permit renewal, so kindly wait and you will hear from us soon.

For further information, call **01732 227000** or e-mail **recycling@sevenoaks.gov.uk**

Have your say on waste

Dealing with household waste will be a key challenge for Kent for the next 25 years.

Kent's annual household waste could fill enough refuse trucks to go right round the M25 and still have some spare. And the County's waste is growing at a rate of over 2% a year.

If this continues, Kent's councils will have to collect and find options for treating and disposing of a further 400,000 tonnes of waste, a staggering 45% increase, by 2020.

To help address this growing issue, Kent's councils have joined forces to develop a Waste Strategy for the next 20 years and beyond.

The strategy is being drawn up by the Kent Waste Forum, which is made up of Kent's district councils including Sevenoaks District Council, that are responsible for collecting the waste and Kent County Council that is responsible for disposing of it.

If you would like to find out more and have your say on what you think, please visit the Kent Waste Forum website at **www.kent.gov.uk/kwf**, e-mail **environment.economy@kent.gov.uk** or call **01622 221859**.

Garden waste collection service, April 2006 to March 2007



Cllr Felicity Bromby, the Council's Cabinet member with responsibility for the environment with a garden waste sack.

Our Garden Waste Collection Service helps residents dispose of cut grass and other compostable garden waste with little effort. Residents must purchase Council garden waste sacks or hold an annual permit to use this scheme.

Garden waste is collected from the kerbside, fortnightly, on the same day as your rubbish during Week 1, or Week 2, on the calendar found below.

Visit **www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/recycling**, call **01732 227000**, or e-mail **recycling@sevenoaks.gov.uk** to determine your garden waste collection week.

Sacks, or wheelie bins with permits affixed, must be at the kerbside by 7am on the day of collection, or the night before.

Key:

- Bank holidays
- Week 1
- Week 2

	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March
Monday		1								1		
Tuesday		2			1					2		
Wednesday		3			2			1		3		
Thursday		4	1		3			2		4	1	1
Friday		5	2		4	1		3	1	5	2	2
Saturday	1	6	3	1	5	2		4	2	6	3	3
Sunday	2	7	4	2	6	3	1	5	3	7	4	4
Monday	3	8	5	3	7	4	2	6	4	8	5	5
Tuesday	4	9	6	4	8	5	3	7	5	9	6	6
Wednesday	5	10	7	5	9	6	4	8	6	10	7	7
Thursday	6	11	8	6	10	7	5	9	7	11	8	8
Friday	7	12	9	7	11	8	6	10	8	12	9	9
Saturday	8	13	10	8	12	9	7	11	9	13	10	10
Sunday	9	14	11	9	13	10	8	12	10	14	11	11
Monday	10	15	12	10	14	11	9	13	11	15	12	12
Tuesday	11	16	13	11	15	12	10	14	12	16	13	13
Wednesday	12	17	14	12	16	13	11	15	13	17	14	14
Thursday	13	18	15	13	17	14	12	16	14	18	15	15
Friday	14	19	16	14	18	15	13	17	15	19	16	16
Saturday	15	20	17	15	19	16	14	18	16	20	17	17
Sunday	16	21	18	16	20	17	15	19	17	21	18	18
Monday	17	22	19	17	21	18	16	20	18	22	19	19
Tuesday	18	23	20	18	22	19	17	21	19	23	20	20
Wednesday	19	24	21	19	23	20	18	22	20	24	21	21
Thursday	20	25	22	20	24	21	19	23	21	25	22	22
Friday	21	26	23	21	25	22	20	24	22	26	23	23
Saturday	22	27	24	22	26	23	21	25	23	27	24	24
Sunday	23	28	25	23	27	24	22	26	24	28	25	25
Monday	24	29	26	24	28	25	23	27	25	29	26	26
Tuesday	25	30	27	25	29	26	24	28	26	30	27	27
Wednesday	26	31	28	26	30	27	25	29	27	31	28	28
Thursday	27		29	27	31	28	26	30	28			29
Friday	28		30	28		29	27		29			30
Saturday	29			29		30	28		30			31
Sunday	30			30			29		31			
Monday				31			30					
Tuesday							31					

Free Saturday refuse collection service

This free service is available at specific locations and times throughout the year.

We regret that we cannot accept large items such as fridges, freezers, cookers, cast iron boilers or baths, long metal poles, building materials, manure or large parts of engines or vehicles. The Council provides a paid for bulky waste collection service that can dispose of some of these items from outside your home. Call the Council for details and a quote.

The Saturday collection service is not suitable for hazardous waste including fluorescent tubes, television and computer monitors, batteries, oil tins and filters, paint and paint tins and chemical containers. These can be disposed of at your nearest household waste recycling centre.

Compostable garden waste cannot be accepted either. We operate a fortnightly Garden Waste Collection Service. See opposite page for details.

Residents are reminded that they should not leave their refuse at the collection points unattended as this can pose a serious danger to road users and pedestrians. This practice

is treated as fly tipping and those responsible may face a fine or prosecution.

For more information please call **01732 227000** or e-mail information@sevenoaks.gov.uk

Ash

■ Village Hall – 9.45am to 10.15am
27 May, 29 July, 14 October, 16 December and 17 March 07

Brasted

■ Station Road – 9.15am to 10.15am
29 April, 1 July, 16 September, 25 November and 17 February 07

Bough Beech

■ Wheatshaf car park – 8am to 9am
1 April, 10 June, 12 August, 28 October and 20 January 07

Chiddingstone Causeway

■ Richards Close – 8.45am to 9.30am
8 April, 24 June, 26 August, 11 November and 3 February 07

Chiddingstone Hoath

■ Rock car park – 10.15am to 10.45am
1 April, 10 June, 12 August, 28 October and 20 January 07

Chiddingstone Village

■ Near cemetery – 8am to 8.30am
8 April, 24 June, 26 August, 11 November and 3 February 07

Chipstead

■ By the lake – 9am to 9.45am
29 April, 1 July, 16 September, 25 November and 17 February 07

Cowden

■ Chantlers Mead near the hall – 9am to 10am
1 April, 10 June, 12 August, 28 October and 20 January 07

Crockenhill

■ Church Road – 11am to 11.45am
■ Village Hall – 12 noon to 12.45pm
13 May, 15 July, 30 September, 2 December and 3 March 07

Crockham Hill

■ Deanery Road – 1pm to 2pm
1 April, 10 June, 12 August, 28 October and 20 January 07

Dunton Green

■ Mill Road – 10am to 10.45am
■ Lusted Road – 11am to 11.45am
29 April, 1 July, 16 September, 25 November and 17 February 07

Edenbridge

■ Nomads Car Park – 10.30am to 11.30am
■ Farmstead Drive – 11.45am to 12.45pm
■ Skeynes Road – 10.30am to 11.30am
■ Park View Close – 11.45am to 12.45pm
■ Leisure Centre – 1pm to 2pm
1 April, 10 June, 12 August, 28 October and 20 January 07

Eynsford

■ Shoreham Road – 1.15pm to 2.15pm
29 April, 1 July, 16 September, 25 November and 17 February 07
■ Riverside – 8am to 8.45am
13 May, 15 July, 30 September, 2 December and 3 March 07

Farningham

■ Alban Crescent – 9am to 9.45am
■ High Street – 10am to 10.45am
13 May, 15 July, 30 September, 2 December and 3 March 07

Fawkham

■ Valley Road – 9am to 9.30am
27 May, 29 July, 14 October, 16 December and 17 March 07

Fordcombe

■ Layby in Chafford Lane – 11am to 11.45am
1 April, 10 June, 12 August, 28 October and 20 January 07

Four Elms

■ Village Hall – 9.15am to 10.15am
1 April, 10 June, 12 August, 28 October and 20 January 07

Hartley

■ Wellfield – 9am to 10am
■ St Johns Lane – 10.15am to 11am
27 May, 29 July, 14 October, 16 December and 17 March 07

Halstead

■ Southdene – 9.15am to 10am
■ Station Road – 10.15am to 11am
29 April, 1 July, 16 September, 25 November and 17 February 07

Hextable

■ Lower Road – 11am to 12 noon
13 May, 15 July, 30 September, 2 December and 3 March 07

Hever

■ Phone Box at junction on Rectory Lane – 9.15am to 10.15am
1 April, 10 June, 12 August, 28 October and 20 January 07

Horton Kirby

■ Forge Lane – 12.15pm to 1pm
■ Saxon Place – 1.15pm to 2pm
13 May, 15 July, 30 September, 2 December and 3 March 07

Ide Hill

■ Village Hall Car Park – 8am to 9am
1 April, 10 June, 12 August, 28 October and 20 January 07

Kemsing

■ Old Childsbridge Lane – 11.15am to 12 noon
■ Noahs Ark Road – 12.15pm to 1pm
8 April, 24 June, 26 August, 11 November and 3 February 07

Knockholt

■ The Pound – 8am to 9am
29 April, 1 July, 16 September, 25 November and 17 February 07

Leigh

■ Crandalls – 1.15pm to 2.15pm
1 April, 10 June, 12 August, 28 October and 20 January 07

Marsh Green

■ By the School – 8am to 8.45am
1 April, 10 June, 12 August, 28 October and 20 January 07

New Ash Green

■ Hodsoil Street – 8am to 8.30am
■ Church Road/Farm Holt – 11.15am to 12 noon
■ Punchcroft – 12.15pm to 1pm
■ Springcross – 1.15pm to 2pm
27 May, 29 July, 14 October, 16 December and 17 March 07

Otford

■ Hale Lane near pavillion – 12 noon to 12.45pm
■ The Charne – 1pm to 1.30pm
29 April, 1 July, 16 September, 25 November and 17 February 07
■ Tudor Drive – 1.15pm to 1.45pm
■ Bubblestone Road – 2pm to 2.30pm
8 April, 24 June, 26 August, 11 November and 3 February 07

Penshurst

■ Layby by Latymers – 12 noon to 1pm
1 April, 10 June, 12 August, 28 October and 20 January 07

Riverhead

■ Witches Lane by layby – 8am to 8.45am
29 April, 1 July, 16 September, 25 November and 17 February 07
■ Marlborough Crescent – 1.30pm to 2.30pm
8 April, 24 June, 26 August, 11 November and 3 February 07

Seal

■ Childsbridge Lane – 10am to 11am
8 April, 24 June, 26 August, 11 November and 3 February 07

Sevenoaks

■ Lea Road near Hurst Way – 11am to 12 noon
■ Julians Way by green – 12.15pm to 1.15pm
■ Gordon Road Car Park – 8am to 9.30am
■ Hillingdon Avenue – 9.45am to 10.45am
■ Hillingdon Rise by car park – 11am to 12 noon
■ Greatness Lane – 12.15pm to 1.15pm
■ Cramptons Road – 1.30pm to 2.30pm
8 April, 24 June, 26 August, 11 November and 3 February 07

Sevenoaks Weald

■ The Wickets – 9.45am to 10.45am
8 April, 24 June, 26 August, 11 November and 3 February 07

Shoreham

■ Forge Way – 1.45pm to 2.30pm
■ Badgers Mount – 11.15am to 12 noon
■ Well Hill – 12.15pm to 1pm
29 April, 1 July, 16 September, 25 November and 17 February 07

South Darenth

■ Paddock Close – 8am to 8.45am
27 May, 29 July, 14 October, 16 December and 17 March 07

Stone Street

■ By The Snail – 9am to 9.45am
8 April, 24 June, 26 August, 11 November and 3 February 07

Sundridge

■ Woodside Road – 8am to 9am
29 April, 1 July, 16 September, 25 November and 17 February 07

Swanley

■ Pinks Hill – 1pm to 2pm
■ Lynden – 8am to 8.45am
■ Brook Road – 9am to 9.45am
■ Kettlewell Court – 10am to 10.45am
■ Northview – 11am to 12 noon
■ Alder Way – 12.15pm to 1pm
■ Russett Way – 1.15pm to 2pm
■ Leechcroft – 8am to 8.45am
■ Edgar Close – 9am to 9.45am
■ Lullingstone Avenue – 10am to 10.45am
13 May, 15 July, 30 September, 2 December and 3 March 07

Uderriver

■ White Rock car park – 8am to 8.45am
8 April, 24 June, 26 August, 11 November and 3 February 07

Westerham

■ London Road recycling suite – 10.30am to 11.30am
■ Ash Road by car park – 11.45am to 12.30pm
■ Rystead Lane – 12.45pm to 1.30pm
■ Croft Road – 1.45pm to 2.30pm
29 April, 1 July, 16 September, 25 November and 17 February 07

West Kingsdown

■ Bennetts Avenue – 10.30am to 11am
■ Fawkham Road – 11.15am to 11.45am
■ Game Cock car park – 12 noon to 12.30pm
■ Hever Road – 12.45pm to 1.15pm
■ East Hill – 1.30pm to 2pm
27 May, 29 July, 14 October, 16 December and 17 March 07

West Kingsdown

■ Bennetts Avenue – 10.30am to 11am
■ Fawkham Road – 11.15am to 11.45am
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■ Hever Road – 12.45pm to 1.15pm
■ East Hill – 1.30pm to 2pm
27 May, 29 July, 14 October, 16 December and 17 March 07

How would you like your District to look?

Work is underway to produce a vision for local development for the next 25 years and the Council is keen to hear what residents have to say on the work carried out so far.

The Local Development Framework, or LDF, is the Council's new approach to local planning and development. It will set out the principles by which land can be developed over the next quarter of a century taking account of future housing, employment and service needs.

The LDF will place a strong emphasis on community involvement and will gradually replace the current Sevenoaks District Local Plan.

Since work began two years ago, the Council has been listening to the views from a wide range of residents. This included over 5,000 questionnaires that were sent to homes and exploring the issues through focus groups.

Please look at points you have raised so far and tell us what you think of our responses.

Housing

Your views

- 55% thought that house prices are within budgets
- Lack of affordable housing means people leave the District
- New housing is tailored to the high end of the market
- Local needs must be met including a range of quality housing

Our response

- Prepare a housing development document to address local needs
- Obtain contributions from developers to help address housing needs
- Maintain an up-to-date assessment of housing need
- Regular monitoring and review of policies



Local facilities

Your views

- There are good local facilities such as sports centres and village halls
- There are limited facilities for young people
- Many people have to travel for larger facilities such as cinemas and retail parks
- Many young people travel to schools outside the District
- There is need for multiple use of existing facilities

Our response

- Obtain contributions from developers to help address gaps in local services
- Encourage village facilities that contribute to the quality of community life to be kept

Heritage

Your views

- 90% said the historic character of towns and villages is important
- Local people want to protect local heritage and maintain the historic character of the built environment

Our response

- Retain policies that protect local heritage
- Recognise the importance of other documents in protecting our heritage

Getting around

Your views

- 77% considered access to London to be important, 80% said access to motorways is important and 38% thought public transport was good
- Access to the countryside must be maintained and improved

The Rock pub in Chiddingstone Hoath that doubles up as a polling station at election times.



- Many people are concerned about congestion, parking and poor bus services

Our response

- Promote development in locations that reduce the need to travel
- Ensure good links to County Council transport plans and strategies
- Make links to healthy lifestyle strategies including walking buses

Design

Your views

- Everyone said it is important to have a pleasant and safe residential environment
- You want to keep local character but provide for the needs of local people

Our response

- Promote good design through improved policies
- Encourage crime-resistant design, energy efficiency and the use of sustainable materials, supporting local character, landscape quality and accessibility
- Reduce adverse impacts on air quality
- Maintain links to the Community Safety Plan

Landscape

Your views

- 99% said that the countryside is important
- It is important to maintain and enhance the natural beauty of the District
- Open spaces should be protected

Our response

- Strengthen existing policies regarding natural beauty
- Link landscape with design
- Protect biodiversity
- Recognise links to High Weald and Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plans

Local economy

Your views

- 60% believe access to job opportunities is an important aspect of living in the District
- Many people can't afford to live where they work
- There is a shortage of local job opportunities
- Many of you want to encourage tourism

Our response

- Review potential land allocated for employment, housing and community facilities
- Maintain strong retail centres
- Generate policies that encourage and promote tourism locally
- Recognise the need for some appropriate rural diversification

What do you think?

To have your say on the research so far, email ldf.consultation@sevenoaks.gov.uk, call 01732 227306 or write to the LDF Team at the Council Offices, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1HG. Details of the LDF can also be found on the Council's website www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/ldf



Who to contact in the event of a crime

Reporting crime

To report a crime that is taking place, always call 999. If the incident has passed, please call: Gravesend Police Station on 01474 331055 or Tonbridge Police Station on 01732 771055

Crimestoppers

Crimestoppers is a free, confidential helpline where you can anonymously report information about crime. The number is 0800 555111

Contacting the Council

If you know of on-going instances of criminal damage or anti-social behaviour, call Cara Sillett on 01732 227000 or e-mail community.safety@sevenoaks.gov.uk

Reporting a racial incident

Racial harassment is a crime and if you have any information about an incident, you can leave a recorded message by calling 0800 138 1685

Reporting graffiti

To report graffiti call 01732 227000, complete the online form on the Council's website www.sevenoaks.gov.uk or text details to 07799 732732 starting with the word GRAF

New faces on the beat

Westerham and Swanley have two new faces who are working with their local communities to provide a reassuring presence and helping to tackle anti-social behaviour.

Providing a highly visible uniformed presence, Simon Humphreys, Westerham's new Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) started work in January. Simon has been promoting community safety and helping to reduce the fear of crime.

Karen Calbio started as a Kent County Council (KCC) Community Warden based in Swanley last October. Since then she has been building relationships with the local residents to establish community confidence including attending a breakfast club at Birchwood School. She hopes to open a surgery for residents in the town in the coming months.

Simon and Karen join the six existing KCC Community Wardens and nine PCSOs, taking the total to 17 working across Sevenoaks District.

To contact Simon Humphreys, (pictured right) or the PCSOs working across Sevenoaks District please call **01892 502037**.

To contact Karen Calbio (pictured below) or the Kent County Wardens working across Sevenoaks District please call **01732 885809**.



Safer shopping and socialising

An initiative that is making shopping and nights out in Sevenoaks, Swanley and Edenbridge safer has won a prestigious Government award and is set to expand into Westerham.

The 'Community Partnership Initiative', which links the Council's CCTV control room with the police, shops and pubs, won the Government sponsored Safer Socialising Award in November.

Prize money from the award will be used to improve and enhance safety in the night time economy throughout the Sevenoaks District.

Businesses that sign up to the initiative get a two-way radio connection to the Council's CCTV control room, intelligence about the activity of local criminals and membership of an Exclusion Notice and Warning Notice scheme.

During the spring, Westerham's businesses and shops will be able to take advantage of the 'Community Partnership Initiative' when the successful scheme is introduced into the town.



Bob Newdick, Sevenoaks Town Centre Partnership Co-ordinator, with Janette Copp from the Chinaman in Sevenoaks



Local people take a stand

Six residents who have taken action against anti-social behaviour in their communities have entered this year's prestigious 'Taking a Stand' awards and could be set to win £1,000 to help improve their neighbourhood.

Individuals from Swanley, Edenbridge, Westerham and Hartley put their names forward for the Home Office awards in January. They collected evidence on criminal damage, personal threats, vehicle crime, assault, drug dealing and abuse, excessive noise and graffiti and worked with the authorities to target the individuals who were responsible.

'Taking a Stand' awards are held annually and allow residents and agencies to nominate individuals or groups that have taken action against anti-social behaviour. A panel chaired by the Home Office will judge all the entries, and 500 winners will be invited to attend an award ceremony in one of five regions.

All winners will be presented with £1,000 to help them do more to tackle anti-social behaviour locally.

At the last 'Taking a Stand' awards, held in December 2004, all four nominations from the Sevenoaks District were successful in scooping the £1,000 prizes.



The E Z way to get healthy

An exciting R 'n' B and hip hop dance project is underway in Swanley to help residents bop their way to fitness.

The innovative E Z STEPZ project was launched in December and regular classes are held at White Oak Leisure Centre on Wednesday evenings and at Hextable Dance on Tuesday evenings.

Sessions cost just £1 for young people from Swanley aged 12 to 19 who hold a healthy lifestyle or dance card. The cards are free to Swanley residents or cost £4 for teenagers who live outside the town and can be applied for at the dance classes.

For more information call Rebecca Perkins, the Council's Healthy Lifestyles Co-ordinator on **01732 227000** or e-mail healthyswanley@sevenoaks.gov.uk

Generation X

Who says young people are not interested in Democracy? The Council's Generation X project proved otherwise after an enthusiastic group of 16 to 18 year olds took part in a scheme to promote democracy.

In April last year, a number of young people volunteered to take part in the innovative year-long project that was funded by a grant from the Electoral Commission.

The group interviewed local Councillors and the public to find out how local government works and why people do or do not vote. They ran a poster campaign to encourage young people to register to vote and delivered innovative workshops in local secondary schools that focused on interactive games, a mini election and discussions about everyday political issues.

The project featured at the 'Celebrating Young People' conference in March, where the group

delivered its workshop to around 80 people including young people, local Councillors and professionals from the public, voluntary and faith sectors.

In total, some 200 young people were involved in the Generation X project during the last year.

If you have a question about how your local council runs or want to get involved in a project that enables you to have your say, why not find out about the Sevenoaks Youth Forum or the Kent Youth County Council?

Visit Sevenoaks District Council's website www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/youngpeople for more information.



Part of the Generation X team with their posters encouraging youngsters to register to vote

SNAP returns for another year

Young clubbers aged 11 to 16 can look forward to four more dance nights over the coming year.

Now in its eighth year, SNAP nights are proving to be more popular than ever with 1,250 young clubbers attending events last year alone.

The next SNAP dance night will take place at Sevenoaks Community Centre on:

- Saturday 20 May 2006
- Saturday 30 September 2006
- Saturday 16 December 2006
- Saturday 17 February 2007

Full details will be posted on the Council's website www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/youngpeople and flyers and posters will be distributed before each event.

SNAP
Club Nights for
11-16 Year Olds.

Planning for the needs of young people

Following extensive consultations with young people, a plan that sets out how services will be provided for this important group was unveiled in March.

The Plan was developed after the Council carried out a major consultation with young people. Over 2,100 questionnaires were completed and the results directly shaped the plan.

The plan itself has three main sections – Involvement, Leisure and Support – and will be delivered in partnership with public, voluntary and faith organisations.

Cllr Felicity Broomby, the Council's Cabinet member with responsibility for Young People's issues, says: "The Young People's Action Plan has set out what is important to young people in the District by listening to what they have to say. The Plan will enable organisations to focus on the most relevant actions for young people in their area over the coming year."

The Plan is available on the Council's website www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/youngpeople, and from the Council Offices in Sevenoaks and local libraries.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SEVENOAKS CHRONICLE



Inspired by Hope

Mega – Sencio Community Leisure’s popular guide to school holiday activities in the Sevenoaks District – is being given a major makeover for 2006 thanks to an artistic nine year old from Edenbridge.

Hope Urbani, who attends Churchill School in Westerham, entered a competition held at the end of last year in which youngsters were invited to come up with a new name and identity for a programme that was established 10 years ago and which now provides an invaluable guide to holiday fun for parents and children.

As part of her winning entry, Hope came up with the name Funtastic and initial ideas for an identity with a drawing featuring the neck of a giraffe. Sencio Community Leisure’s marketing department and designers then took the youngster’s ideas and developed them, together with the introduction of a new strapline – “holiday activities to stretch the imagination” – appropriate to Hope’s concept.

The youngster collected her prize of a year’s free swimming at an event at Edenbridge Leisure Centre during which the new identity was launched in front of local press. Hope’s success is also being shared with her 33 classmates at Churchill School who all receive a free swim.

The first Funtastic programmes will be unveiled as part of the Easter holiday diaries at Sencio’s centres in Sevenoaks, Edenbridge and at White Oak in Swanley. The aim is to build on the decade-long success of Mega, while at the same time expanding programmes and activities to recognise the increasingly diverse interests of today’s youngsters and the need to provide fun and effective health and fitness to help to combat growing concerns over childhood obesity.

Lesley Foster of Sencio Community Leisure says: “It is fitting that one of our young customers should have played a key role in the renaming and relaunch of Mega. Hope came up with a great idea and concept that it was our pleasure to develop.”

“We congratulate her and wish all Sevenoaks District youngsters many Funtastic school holidays in the months and years ahead.”

For details of Funtastic school holiday activities contact your local Sencio leisure centre or visit www.sencio.org.uk

Body Pump has the fitness answers

One of the most successful group fitness programmes in history has come to Sencio Community Leisure centres.

Body Pump, which was developed in Australia by fitness guru Les Mills, has been proven as one of the fastest ways to get in shape with research confirming the 45 to 60 minute classes deliver higher than expected fat-burning alongside endurance, strength and wellness benefits.

The sessions use bar bells and adjustable weights as part of a programme that is changed every three months. As well as concentrating on working all of the body’s muscle groups, Body Pump raises the

metabolic rate – a physiological function essential to the process of burning fat.

Julie Foran, Wellness manager at Sevenoaks Leisure Centre, says: “Body Pump is a purely weights-based fitness class, however the individual selects their own weights and can work at their own pace. While the classes are certainly ideal for the more hardcore, serious fitness enthusiast wanting to build muscle or who may be in training for a particular sport or event, they also offer much for those keen to simply tone and shape up.”

For further information on Body Pump contact your nearest Sencio Community Leisure centre or visit www.sencio.org.uk



Award winning advice

Sevenoaks Citizens Advice Bureau can now claim to have a national award winner amongst its ranks after one of its advisers was named Volunteer of the Year.



Sixty-six year-old Arthur Rucker won the prestigious award for the wide range of advice he has given to some of the 8,000 people who visit the Bureau each year.

Arthur was presented with a certificate and a cheque for £500 to be spent by the Sevenoaks CAB at the Citizens Advice annual conference last November.

"Providing advice to the public is tremendously satisfying and it was a great privilege to be named as Volunteer of the Year", says Arthur. "When I retired I still wanted to make a contribution to the local

community, and working for the Bureau gives me the opportunity to do this. This award is not just for me, but for everybody here who gives up their time to make the CAB the success it is."

Sevenoaks CAB provides free, confidential and independent advice on a broad range of issues by trained volunteers. Last year Sevenoaks District Council provided a grant of nearly £50,000 to help fund the Bureau.

Sevenoaks CAB is open Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays between 9.30am and 3.30pm. To contact the CAB call **01732 454443** or e-mail **7oakscab@dial.pipex.com**

Easter and May holiday refuse collection times

During the Easter and May bank holidays, there will be some changes to your refuse collection times.

Good Friday 14 April
collected Saturday 15 April

Easter Monday, week beginning 17 April
all collections this week will be one day later than usual

Bank Holidays
Monday 1 and Monday 29 May
all collections during these weeks will be one day later than usual

For further information, call the Council's 'Refuse Hotline' on **01732 227103** or visit the Council's website **www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/holidayrefuse**

Benefit cheat behind bars

A Swanley resident is serving time after she was found guilty of claiming almost £55,000 in benefits and Income Support that she was not entitled to.

The resident was given a 15 month prison sentence at Maidstone Crown Court in January following a joint investigation by the Council and the Department for Work and Pensions.

Cllr Brian Ramsay, the Council's Cabinet member with responsibility for value for money, says: "This prosecution is our most successful to date and sends out a clear message to benefit cheats. The Council and the courts will not tolerate an abuse of the benefits system.

If the public has information relating to benefit fraud, they can call Sevenoaks District Council's confidential benefit fraud hotline 24 hours a day, seven days a week on **01732 227445**.

Sevenoaks District Council at your fingertips

Main office

Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1HG

Tel: **01732 227000**

Minicom: 01732 227496 (text telephones only)

Mon to Thurs 8.45am to 5pm
and Fri 8.45am to 4.45pm

Planning Reception Mon to Thurs 9am to 5pm,
Fri 9am to 4.45pm and every Tuesday until 7pm

Emergencies (outside office hours)

01732 462222

Complaints co-ordinator,
Christine Webb **01732 227000**

Swanley Contact & Information Centre

Swanley Library & Information Centre, London Road, Swanley BR8 7AE

Tel: **01322 614660**

Council Tax payment facility available

Mon to Thur 9.30am to 5.30pm,
Fri 9.30am to 6pm and Sat 9am to 4pm

Edenbridge Local Office

Adjoining Edenbridge Leisure Centre, Stangrove Park, Edenbridge, Kent TN8 5LU

Thursdays only

Planning surgery 10am to 12.30pm and
Benefits surgery 1.30pm to 4pm

Leisure centres

Ash Green Sports Centre*

01474 707164

Edenbridge Leisure Centre**

01732 865665

Lullingstone Park Golf Course**

01959 533793

Sevenoaks Indoor Bowls Centre***

01732 451889

Sevenoaks Leisure Centre**

01732 470700

White Oak Indoor Bowls Centre, Swanley***

01322 665571

White Oak Leisure Centre**

01322 662188

*Operated by Ash-cum-Ridley Parish Council

** Operated by Sencio Community Leisure,
Head Office **01732 746010**

***Operated by independent limited companies

Your Councillors

The policies of the District Council are decided by 54 Councillors elected by local people. These Councillors are not employed by the Council and you cannot normally contact them at the Council Offices. For up-to-date addresses and telephone numbers for any Councillor, please call the Council's main office at Sevenoaks on **01732 227000**.

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