

Report to full Council and Town Clerk's Report January 2022

General info/updates

Appeal allowed for Kent and Surrey Golf Club: A letter expressing the Town Council's disappointment of the Appeal decision was sent to Tom Tugendhat MP in November, and published on the [website](#). He has responded acknowledging the concerns expressed by the Council with this decision, and has written to the Chief Executive Planning Inspectorate asking them to review the accuracy of the decision made to overturn the decision of Sevenoaks District Council on this site. The letter has also been copied to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing Communities' and SDC.

Buildings update - Rickards Hall: The Hall has completed its redecoration, with just the hallway flooring outstanding. The website can now be updated with new photographs. The Hall has a number of regular hirers including some new ones in the past year. Income for 2021/22 up to November was £4,320, this is more than budgeted (£3k); however, income pre the pandemic (2019/20) was £10,878

Business rates relief on public toilets: I have chased NALC for a response following the Town Council's letter disputing why Edenbridge public toilets are exempt from the business tax relief (Non-Domestic Rating (Public Lavatories) Act 2021) which gives 100% relief from business rates for stand-alone public toilets. This is not forgotten, and they are raising this with the Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities, and will be in touch once they have any update.

Edenbridge Magazine: The January edition which included the Council's newsletter has been delivered to Edenbridge homes. The other two editions for this year are May/June and September/October editions.

Games Club - Cards, Games and puzzles social club for 55+ residents partnership with Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) and Involve Kent: It had been hoped to start this Club on 10 January, but with the current number of Covid-19 cases, this has been put back to 7 March. The Club will run for 12-weeks. The Town Council will receive £1,500 funding towards the hall hire costs, equipment, refreshments, consumables and storage containers. The Community Warden has a couple of volunteers already keen to help with this new Group and some interested residents to join the Club. Data will be collected for SDC on behalf of Involve Kent who are providing the funding. Following a review it is hoped that the Club will continue throughout 2022.

Lease meetings: The annual meetings with the Rugby Club and Cricket Club have taken place; there were no issues. Some action points which are in-hand.

Market: The Thursday Market is doing well, and has 6-stalls/traders attending. The Christmas promotion brought in two new traders, who hope to attend the market again on a casual basis. There are two new traders: Pet food supplier, and a preservatives/jams and pickles (from February). We have a number of other trader enquiries ongoing.

The National Market Traders Federations (NMTF) has agreed to do an article on the Market in the spring edition of its magazine.

Planning Consultation: Locogen have booked Rickards Hall for its public consultation for Gaywood solar project. This has been published on the Council's [website](#) and [Facebook](#) to help with residents' communication.

Recreation Ground playground refurbishment: The Open Spaces Extraordinary Committee met on 20 December to approve the appointment for the preferred contractor, following the recent public tender for the Recreation Ground refurbishment project. This will be formally announced once the contract of works has been reviewed by the contractor and agreed by both parties. The proposed scheme provides a range of equipment for three age groups for 0-to-teenager/up to 18. It is hoped that works and installation will commence early spring 2022.

Housing Survey: This has now been completed by Rural England and the results will be reported to Council soon.

Sevenoaks District Council [Call For Sites 2021](#): At the last meeting the Council agreed to make a submission for the Leathermarket and its associated buildings. The application is in the process of being submitted, by 20 January.

Signage - Covid-19 compliance activities and awareness funding grant awarded: New signage for the town centre and open spaces has been put up around the high street, the town's open spaces and the Council's buildings.

SDC Voluntary and Community [Awards](#): The Council has made eight nominations for this year's Awards. Once SDC has made its shortlist, this will be circulated to Members. Hopefully, Edenbridge will have been acknowledged within the eleven categories.
