

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

Report for council:

General info/updates

Buildings update - Depot: The new security door has now been fitted; this was necessary following the break-in, in March.

Business rates relief on public toilets: Business tax relief (Non-Domestic Rating (Public Lavatories) Act 2021) which should give 100% relief from business rates for stand-alone public toilets - response from NALC remains outstanding. It is unlikely the Council will receive this.

CCTV visit to SDC: Cllrs Aldridge, Lloyd and the Community Warden visited the CCTV team at Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) recently. This had been requested pre Covid. The Council is currently enquiring about the viability of it investing in additional SDC CCTV for Edenbridge (under the Open Spaces Committee).

Chairman's Reception: This year's Chairman's Reception is confirmed for Wednesday 20 July, and will be recognising work in our community, including services for older people and those living with Alzheimers and Dementia.

Chairman's visits: In May, Cllr Todd attended a First Spade Ceremony for the new Edenbridge Memorial Health Centre. In June, he was invited to the opening of Hennessy Farm Shop to cut the ribbon, together with Cllr Layland as the Vice Chairman of SDC. Cllrs Todd, Layland and the Community Warden were also invited to Edenbridge Manor Care Home to meet staff and residents.

Edenbridge Magazine: Copy for the September issue will be submitted in August.

Council's IT File Storage System And To Move To Cloud Based Storage Solutions and dedicated Broadband Line: Council's January meeting approved the move to a dedicated broadband line and new Cloud storage solution. The new dedicated Broadband line has now been installed. The IT solutions project requires all staff to review and clear document files and a full IT reorganisation which will be done over the coming months. This is a significant project and amount of work.

Games Club - Cards, Games and puzzles social club for 55+ residents' partnership with Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) and Involve Kent: *See update agenda item 10.10*

Highways: Main Road Marlpit Hill (Hilders Lane/Hillcrest Road junction): *update reported under agenda item 10.7.*

Monkeypox: The Council has received a useful Monkeypox communications toolkit (which has been circulated to Members). Public advice is currently for anyone who has concerns to speak to local healthcare provider, or NHS 111 if you need urgent advice. Details are on the .gov.uk website [here](#). The Council Office is continuing with some of the Covid safety measures, and also mindful of this latest disease.

Policing update: At the end of May, Police Officers Kevin Savill (PCSO Supervisor) and Claire Harrison (Community Safety Unit) met with Cllrs Baker, McArthur, Todd, the Deputy Clerk (Kathy), Community Warden (Rose), and myself, to discuss current anti-social behaviour issues. They advised that reports for Edenbridge had increased (reflecting seasonal patterns): in March, there had been '0' reports; April

two nuisance calls; May seven calls relating to vehicles and one relating to drugs. Where there had been sufficient evidence, Section 59 notices for using a vehicle in an anti-social manner had been issued. If they are then caught again within a 12-month period, the vehicle can be impounded. Where there is not sufficient evidence, anti-social behaviour letters are being issued.

The Town Council is increasing its anti-social behaviour signage and the Police will also provide a Section 59 warning sign. The Council is also going to put posters in its noticeboards and on Facebook encouraging residents to report anti-social behaviour on 101 or 101-online.

We were also advised that the PCSO team had diminished, there was no plan currently to increase them. However, assurances were given that the SDC Community Safety Unit daily meetings do look at the 101 reports and actions taken accordingly (i.e., the recent issuing of section 59 notices).

Recreation Ground playground refurbishment: The new playground was officially opened on 16 June with Cllr Todd cutting the ribbon. About 70 kids attended. Everyone was full of positive praise for the new play area. HAGs have created a short video using drone footage which can be used for promoting the play area and will be uploaded on the VisitEdenbridge. The playground has passed its inspection with a few minor bits outstanding - the zipwire cable and the toddle twirler, plus some signage. The groundstaff are installing benches (but were delayed due to vandalism of the plates) and making good the remaining grass areas.

Risk assessment annual review: This is a review of the Council's risk, governance, and financial risk. Cllrs Lloyd and Sumner have already been nominated to work with the Town Clerk and RFO. It is hoped this will be carried out August/September and reported back to Council.

Sevenoaks District Council [Call For Sites 2021](#): SDC is undertaking the site assessment process; as yet it is not known which sites in Edenbridge are being considered.

Sports Pavilion Windows: Two quotes have been requested with quotes expected soon for the replacement windows and shutters. Previous estimates were in excess of £70k. The public tender document can then be prepared. A CIL funding application will be made once the tender window has closed; Council may need to consider a contribution. (Council November 2021 confirmed to proceed with replacement aluminium windows and doors with shutters). *Also see agenda item 11.6 below.*

Staff: We have two new staff join the team recently. Davina Miller, Communications and Administration Assistant (15 hours p/w); and Guy Holder, Market Officer (10 hours p/w). The staff structure has been updated [here](#). Due to the summer months being the peak annual leave period, the staffing levels across the office and groundstaff will be thinner than usual.