

Edenbridge Reports

Autumn 2014



Come and meet the Council Chairman - new timings for monthly surgeries

There are now more opportunities for Edenbridge residents to meet the Council Chairman and raise concerns and ask questions. As well as Friday mornings prior to monthly full council meetings (next being 7 November and 5 December) from 11am-12noon, there is also an evening surgery at 7.15pm prior to the Council meetings, the next on 10 November and 8 December. This will give an opportunity to those who are at work during the daytime. Each Council meeting also has time for public questions and statements.

New councillor co-opted

Following co-option in July a new face among the town councillors is Cllr Trevor Bryant. He is looking forward to serving the community, filling the vacancy left by the resignation of Terri Scanes for personal reasons. Cllr Bryant will be familiar from his plumbing business.

A Blooming great success

Through entering the first Edenbridge In Bloom competition, supported by the Town Council in partnership with Coolings Nursery, green-fingered local winners went on to scoop the top prizes in five of the categories in the Sevenoaks District-wide competition.

For **Edenbridge in Bloom**, congratulations to the following:

Best Front Garden—1, Carole Connor; 2, Anne Townsend; 3, Richard Wildy.

Best Allotment—1, Tony Munds; 2, Roy Kreamer; 3, Catherine Pendergast.

Most Original Hanging Basket or Trough—1, Carole Connor; 2, Sue Butcher; 3, Anne Townsend

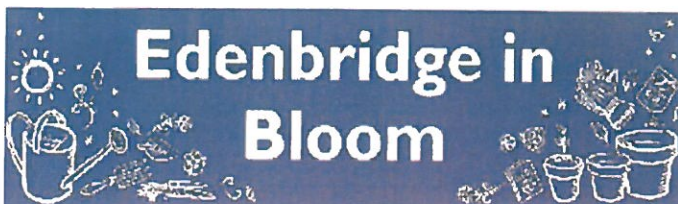
Winners in **Sevenoaks in Bloom**:

Best Front Garden—1, Carole Connor; Most Original Hanging Basket or Trough—1, Carole Connor; 2, Sue Butcher; 3, Anne Townsend.

Best Allotment—1, Tony Munds;

Best Pub/Restaurant Garden—1, The Old Eden; Best Community Ornamental Project — 1, Queen's Court.

Following this first success, watch out for entry forms next year and see if the town can win again.



Summer holiday fun in Stangrove Park

Edenbridge families again enjoyed free fun during the summer holidays in Stangrove Park, with four Thursday afternoons of activities led by a team from PlayPlace.

Funded by the Town Council, the events included inflatables, and extra fun provided by Magic Mel and also the popular African Drumming.



Children and parents got hands-on with clay and painting crafts, loom bands were popular, and there was the chance to try out circus skills along with traditional games such as hula-hoop and skipping. For parents it's a way to keep children amused that doesn't cost ££££s.

Thank you to litter-pickers...




Some of the volunteer litter-pickers at the "thank you" tea

Sterling work year-round by the volunteer litter-pickers team in Edenbridge was recognised with their annual "thank you" tea in Rickards Hall. The Town Council Chairman Cllr Bob Orridge said how much the work was appreciated by the community. Members of the team choose an area in which they clear litter, as extra to the routine street-cleaning by the District Council. The team is co-ordinated by the Community Warden—call 07920 099235 if you would like to help keep your town looking tidy.

... and a good start to new-Speedwatch monitoring

Edenbridge has a new volunteer Speedwatch team, trained to monitor traffic speeds on four key entry/exit roads for the town. In the first 12 weeks a total 105 drivers were recorded driving faster than 30mph. Eight letters of advice were sent by Kent Police, five of them were second detection of mid-range speeding, three for high-end (+50%). Call the Warden (see above) to join the scheme.

Neighbourhood Plan project under way: Edenbridge 2030

From responses to questionnaire leaflets, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group  has identified a Vision for Edenbridge 2030, and some Objectives aimed at achieving the vision. Community support for these was tested in two public consultation events this October—from the outcome of this, work begins to create local-level planning policies to shape the future development of the town.

Neighbourhood Plans are a way for communities to influence where and how development (housing, economic, infrastructure, environmental and social) takes place in their area. When finalised, the Plan will have legal standing alongside other levels of national and district policies.

What you said on the "Have Your Say" leaflets...

What kind of Edenbridge do local people want for the future? Replies showed that they would like the town to remain a friendly place, a social mix with community spirit, a thriving High St with a variety of quality shops, green spaces and countryside around. Among things for improvement were: the Leathermarket area, range of shops, train and bus services, maintain and enhance green spaces, improve "eyesore" areas, cycle routes, school and medical facilities, and parking.

Be prepared... for winter

Edenbridge hosted an Emergency Planning table-top exercise recently, thinking ahead to what the winter season may deliver with severe weather. Emergency services joined with Environment Agency, County and District Council staff, and volunteers from the Town's Emergency Planning Committee along with Town councillors. The activity was based on a flooding scenario, similar to events of last winter — working through from early hours to days after in the "recovery" phase. Residents can benefit from a handy booklet *What should I do in an emergency?* produced by Kent resilience Forum, available from the Town Council office or online at www.kentprepared.org.uk.

Kent Resilience Forum



Anyone who would like to join the local volunteers can call 01732 860391 to find out more.

What do we do...?

With its share of Council Tax funding Edenbridge Town Council maintains these facilities: four children's playgrounds and the skate ramps, plus Blossoms Park, Lingfield Road Recreation Ground and sports pavilion, Stan-grove Park, Mowshurst and Millennium Wood, two village greens (Marsh Green and Pound Green), also two allotment sites, the Cemetery, Doggetts Barn and Visitor Information, Rickards Hall, and Church House.