

# Edenbridge Reports

Autumn 2015



## 10-year Plan to care for town Open Spaces

Future care of the open spaces maintained by the Town Council has been mapped out in a 10-year plan to keep the areas looking good. It will help councillors budget annually for work on sites ranging from Marsh Green in the south to Mowshurst and the Millennium Wood in the north. The areas include sports pitches, parks, playgrounds, allotments and the cemetery, including items ranging from trees, fences, and outdoor furniture, to walls, surfaces, paths, and play equipment.



External consultants have advised a programme of works averaging £42,000 a year over the decade, to keep the areas well maintained.



### Local gardeners win again

The Town Council has backed the Edenbridge In Bloom competition for the second year with Coolings nursery, and local winners again went on to District level success.

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

Best Front Garden—1, Carole Connor; 2, Carole Giffard; Commended, Terry Turner, Joyce Wort

Best Allotment—1, Tony Munds; 2, Ian Tonks; 3, Bertie Grant.

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

Best Community Ornamental Project — 1, Queen's Court.

### For **Sevenoaks in Bloom**:

Best Front Garden—3, Carole Connor; Most Original Hanging Basket or Trough—1, Sue Butcher; 2, Terry Turner; 3, Carole Connor Best Allotment—3, Tony Munds. Best Community Ornamental Project—1, Queen's Court.

*Watch out for entry forms from Coolings next year — with more categories added, including for schools.*

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## Speedwatch scheme grows with more volunteers

Edenbridge Speedwatch scheme is growing, with five more volunteers trained recently. Co-ordinated by the Community Warden Rose Briggs, the small teams set up road-side with the monitoring board, and log drivers' speeds.

Recent checks have recorded some cars at more than 45mph in a 30mph limit. The logs are sent to a central database for Kent, for the police to analyse and check for repeat incidents to follow-up. Rose



says: "More volunteers are welcome — call me on 07920 099235 to join this worthwhile scheme."

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## Edenbridge Trees Commended

High quality of the trees around the town has earned Edenbridge a Highly Commended certificate in the 2015 Trees In The Village Competition. The judge who toured the Council sites was impressed by the standard of care.



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## We're Tweeting...

Edenbridge Town Council is using social media to keep local people up to date with community activity. Follow us on @EdenbridgeTC and also @EdenValleyKent.

## Be Prepared—for Winter

Wet and windy weather arriving in November was a reminder to be prepared for winter. Those who live in a flood-risk area need to think ahead, and Edenbridge has hosted training for Flood Wardens, who will gather and share information about water levels, improving communication and knowledge to help those responding to an emergency.

A small stock of sandbags is held locally, provided by Sevenoaks District Council for residents to collect if needed, and they will deliver more to town as required. The Town Council has topped up its salt bins, in case of ice and snow, and is ready to help Kent Highways keep the town centre pavements gritted if needed.

## Festive Season arrangements

The Town Council office will close at 5pm on 23 December (Weds) and re-open on 30 and 31 (Weds and Thurs) 9am-12noon. Normal hours resume on Monday 4 January 9am-5pm.

Refuse collection days will change for the two weeks after Christmas—do check with Sevenoaks DC [www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/collectionsdays](http://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/collectionsdays) your day for black and clear sacks, and garden waste, or call 01732 227000.

## Policies take shape for Neighbourhood Plan

Results from two key surveys are helping shape local planning policies in the Neighbourhood Plan.



Local residents were asked to help the project team by sharing what their housing needs would be over the next few years. Nearly 1,000 households replied, and showed 25 households need affordable housing, 28 households need open market housing. And 100 more said they or someone living with them was thinking of moving to alternative accommodation within Edenbridge in five or more years. There was support for a development of affordable local needs housing, if there was a proven need for people with a genuine local connection to Edenbridge.

Replies to the local Business Survey showed key concerns were lack of suitable premises and the quality of broadband services holding back business expansion, also the appearance and function of the High Street, particularly the Leathermarket area.

Creating a Neighbourhood Plan containing local-level planning policies can help communities shape the way they develop in future. Local people are invited to join in and help create the future of the town, and can keep up to date with the news on Facebook or contact 01732 865368.

## Green Space projects funding from 5p carrier bags charge

Funds raised by the 5p carrier bags charge at Tesco stores are available nationally through the Green Space Grant programme. The first application round closes on 27th November, for awards from February, but there will be more rounds next year as it is a three-year programme. Anyone with a possible project can find more information online at the [www.groundwork.org.uk](http://www.groundwork.org.uk) website, or contact Carole Rawlinson on 07736 132688 or via e-mail [carole.rawlinson@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:carole.rawlinson@groundwork.org.uk)

## Save £££s - Switch and Save

Autumn may have been unusually warm, but winter is on the horizon, along with thoughts of fuel bills. Call the District Council's comparison scheme 0800 410 1147, or visit [sevenoaksswitchandsave.co.uk](http://sevenoaksswitchandsave.co.uk) and enter your postcode to compare gas and electricity prices from all UK suppliers. It is a totally impartial service and home-owners could save £££s by switching suppliers.

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## Change to Meeting Times

Meetings of Council and its committees will begin at 7.30pm starting from January. Local people can still meet the Chairman Cllr Stuart McGregor in Doggetts Barn 11am Friday morning prior to each monthly council meeting. The next dates for these surgeries are 11 December and 8 January.

**MEMBERS OF EDENBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL – Elected 2015****WARD**

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**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT TONBRIDGE & MALLING**

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