

Edenbridge Reports

Spring 2017



LOCAL COUNCIL
AWARD SCHEME
FOUNDATION

New Chairman elected

Cllr Margot McArthur was elected as Chairman at the Annual Council meeting in May.

Since joining the Council in 2013 she has played a full role representing the town on a number of Committees. She has been key in developing the Town's Emergency Plan. New radio equipment was purchased and installed last year, which has created an integrated communications systems throughout the area.



"I am looking forward to the changing and challenging times ahead, and ensuring the best possible outcomes for the town," says Margot.

Cllr Alan Layland was elected as Vice Chairman at the meeting.



Calling all local gardeners...

The Town Council is backing the Edenbridge In Bloom competition for the fourth year with Coolings nursery. See p. 2 for details

Civic Medallion for 20 years of wildlife recording

Detailed records of wildlife spanning 20 years have earned local resident David Eade recognition with a Civic Medallion award from the Town Council.



Pic shows (l to r): Cllr Clive Pearman, David Eade, and Cllr Stuart McGregor

David has followed a routine of daily walks of a specific area, noting birds, mammals, butterflies, damselflies and dragonflies. His annual reports are forwarded to national and county organisations concerned with wildlife, which puts Edenbridge on the map.

David had an interest in "nature" from childhood, nurtured while his father was head gardener at Hever Castle, and continued in his own career as a teacher specialising in biology until retirement in 1995.

Parking provision review

With growing community concerns about the amount of public parking available in Edenbridge, and the recent introduction of charges at Edenbridge Town station, the Town Council is carrying out a review of the provision and pattern of usage of car parks. At this early investigation stage there are no plans to introduce charges, and councillors are awaiting the results of the review.

Edenbridge in Bloom: entry details

Categories for the 2017 competition are as follows: *For residents*—Best front garden; Best back garden; Most original hanging basket, planted pot, or trough; Best allotment;

for commercial—Best commercial garden; Most attractive shop or business front; Best commercial hanging basket, planted pot, or trough;

for community—Best community environmentally friendly project; Best community ornamental project.

Watch out for entry forms around the town, or collect from the Town Council office. Closing date is 30th June, £5 voucher per entry (one per household) Judging will be in the first two weeks of July.

Sign up for Flood Warnings

It might seem a strange subject as summer approaches but flooding can happen in any season, from different causes.



The Environment Agency has changed its Flood Warning service with a different way to register to receive warnings. Residents can do this via the website www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings or call Floodline on 0345 988 11 88.

There are new QuickDial codes for the area: our Flood Alert Area is called *The Rivers Eden and Eden Brook Area*, and when you call Floodline and select option 1 the code you need is *217070* to access the messages.

Our Flood Warning Area is called *Rivers Eden and Eden Brook*, and when you call Floodline and select option 1 the code you need is *317037* for the messages.

People previously registered for Warnings were transferred automatically to the new system.

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.

Policies drafted for Neighbourhood Plan

Town Councillors have approved drafts of local planning policies for future housing, design, environment, economy, infrastructure, and health/learning/well-being for the Neighbourhood Plan. These were displayed at Edenbridge Town Station in March, and the Annual Town Meeting in April—they are on the Neighbourhood Plan's Facebook page, and the Town Council's website. Community comments so far have been supportive, and the project Steering Group is now working on supporting text sections for the overall Plan document.

The project has involved groups of volunteers and local organisations, as well as councillors gathering information and evidence to support the policies, and it is hoped it will soon be submitted to the District Council for further consultation.

Brightening up for Spring

Edenbridge joined in the Great British Spring Clean, with a team of volunteers litter-picking through the town between the Leisure Centre and Waitrose car park, gathering 22 bags of rubbish in the process.

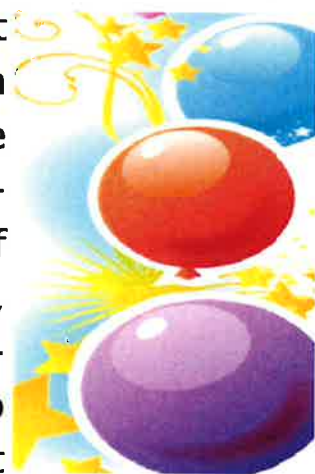
Also councillors and staff cleaned winter grime off street furniture in the High Street (*pictured below*).



With the autumn daffodil-planting project in full bloom along the main roadsides for Easter, the town was looking smart for the new season.

Ready for Summer fun

Free sessions of fun activities for families will be on the schedule in Stangrove Park again this summer, as the Town Council is providing four Thursday afternoons in August (3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th) as part of the parishes scheme delivered by PlayPlace. Additional activity will be a Magic Show on the first date, and African Drumming the third week, alongside a variety of games and crafts, and an inflatable—no need to book a place, just come along and join in.



MEMBERS OF EDENBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL – Elected 2015 Wards: **NE** North and east, **SW** South and west)

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