

# Edenbridge Reports

Summer 2015



LOCAL COUNCIL  
AWARD SCHEME  
FOUNDATION

## New Council Term is under way



Two new faces were among the 15 members elected on 7 May for the next four-year Town Council term. At the Annual Council Meeting four days later Cllr Bob Todd and Cllr James Barnett took their seats at the table for the first time, and Cllr Stuart McGregor was elected Chairman, with Cllr Richard Davison Vice-chairman. Check out the Council's useful new website at [www.edenbridgetowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.edenbridgetowncouncil.gov.uk) for information about each of the members and their interests. Early issues for councillors to discuss have included the Airports Commission decision on extra runway capacity (Heathrow selected, not Gatwick), Sainsbury's cancelled plans to build a store in Edenbridge, and Cooper Estates' application for up to 300 more homes west of St John's Way. The Council is finalising a 10-year plan for maintaining its Open Spaces, is progressing a programme of works on its share of local street lighting, and after

*Pictured (above) are the 15 elected Town Councillors*

consulting parents and children with the help of West Kent Extra, is planning to upgrade the playground at Farmstead Drive.

The Council continues to have members appointed to a wide variety of local groups, providing a two-way channel of information, and is a key partner in the group of organisations funding the Community Warden role.

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### **Meet the Chairman continues**

Local people can meet the Chairman Cllr Stuart McGregor on the Friday morning prior to each monthly council meeting. The next dates for these surgeries are 4th September, 9th October, 6th November, and 11th December. They are held in Doggetts Barn 11am-12noon, and give people the chance to discuss ideas and raise any community concerns.

## Fun in the sun with Family Fun days in the park

For the fifth year in a row there are free Family Fun sessions in Stangrove Park on Thursday afternoons in August, funded by the Town Council and staffed by a team from play providers PlayPlace. The bouncy castle continues to be a popular feature this year, alongside the sports, games, and craft activities. On the first date there was also a Magic Fun show, and on the third there is a chance to try out Circus Skills, thanks to a grant from the local charity Great Stone Bridge Trust. The sessions are much valued by families seeking to keep down the cost of the school holidays.



### More fun— at Blossoms Park

The District Council's summer scheme of family fun days is again coming to Edenbridge on Wednesday 19th August to Blossoms Park on Mill Hill 10am-2pm. Staffed by the IMAGO team, previously known as VAWK, the cricket club will be providing refreshments and also a chance to try out the sport.

### 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.

**Edenbridge Town Council**  
**FAMILY FUN DAYS**  
**Stangrove Park THURSDAYS**  
**6, 13, 20 & 27 August**  
**2.30 – 5.30pm**  
**Free sessions**  
**COME AND JOIN THE FUN**



*The ever-popular bouncy castle was kept busy at the first session in the Park*

### Help shape the local services

People in Edenbridge are being asked to state their priorities for local services over the next three years. The current Sevenoaks Community Action Plan ends in March 2016, and the District Council is consulting residents to help prepare the new one. Officers will be visiting local events, or you can complete the survey on-line at [www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/communityplan](http://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/communityplan) There is a chance to win £50 in shopping vouchers when you take part so let SDC know what you think. **The closing date for responses is 30th September.**



## Busy time for Neighbourhood Plan

Results are being collated from two key surveys which will help shape local planning policies in the Neighbourhood Plan.



Local residents were asked to help the Neighbourhood Plan project team by sharing what their housing needs would be over the next few years. Would they need to move home, to down-size or upsize, do they want to change from renting to home ownership, leave parents' home to set up their own, or move in to share with a relative – depending on the stage of their lives.

The survey was delivered in July, and nearly a quarter of local households responded, and the report commissioned from ACRK (Action with Communities in Rural Kent) is expected in September.

## Community spirit recognised

Edenbridge's team of volunteer litter pickers was rewarded for its work in the District's *Making It Happen* awards recently. The team of 19 co-ordinated by Community Warden Rose Briggs were judged Best Community Club of the Year. Since its launch in 2012 the group has taken more than 1,000 bags of rubbish off the town's streets, making a difference to the local environment. A "thank you" tea was given by the Town Council to the team, along with volunteers in the local Speedwatch scheme.

(Below) Some of the award-winning team



Replies are also being assessed from local businesses who responded to the Business Survey which was recently hand-delivered to their premises.

Creating a Neighbourhood Plan containing local-level planning policies is a way communities can shape the way they develop in future. Five different Task Groups are working on aspects of the Neighbourhood Plan – housing, economy, environment, infrastructure, and health/learning/ well-being. These are meeting monthly to progress the sections of the Plan – next is 3rd September, 7.30-9.00pm at Rickards Hall, off Edenbridge High Street behind the Museum.

Local people are invited to join in and help shape the future of the town, and can keep up to date with the news on Facebook or contact 01732 865368.

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## Help launched for Brain Injury

Brain injury group Headway in West Kent has launched a new drop-in service at the Eden Centre in Four Elms Road, meeting every Wednesday 1.30-3.30pm. It offers social space for adults who have a brain injury, with a chance to chat over a cuppa. Family, friends and carers are also welcome, with staff and volunteers giving advice and signposting to Headway services and other organisations. Call Kate on 01892 619001 or [dropin@headwaywkent.org](mailto:dropin@headwaywkent.org)

## Save £££s - Switch and Save

Summer may be here, but autumn 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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