

Edenbridge Reports

Winter 2016-17



Health service proposals—your chance to have your say

Edenbridge residents are being consulted on proposals for future health services in the town. After seeking local views last year, the NHS organisations are now consulting the community on four options for a new combined hospital/GP surgery. This would be either on the existing hospital site, or a new site off Four Elms Road (the NHS preferred option).

Four meetings have been arranged for people to discuss the plans—at Rickards Hall Tuesday 7th February 6.30-8.30pm, at the Eden Centre Monday 13th March 4-5pm, at the WI Hall Saturday 25th March 11.30am-1pm (hosted by Tom Tugendhat MP), and at Rickards Hall Tuesday 25th April 6.30-8.30pm.

People can also respond on the website westkentccg.nhs.uk/edenbridgefuture where the full consultation document is available, or Tweet @NHSWestKentCCG, e-mail to engagement.secsu@nhs.net, or phone 03000 424348.

The printed paper copy is also available from Edenbridge Medical Practice, Edenbridge Hospital, the Eden Centre, and the Town Council office. Local people have until 26th April to give their views on the proposals.

Seating gifts for the town

Visitors to Doggetts Barn Courtyard can take a seat on new benches, thanks to donations from the Great Stone Bridge Trust and Edenbridge and Westerham Rotary Club. The official handover took place just before Christmas (see below).



The previous extra-long wooden benches were donated to the Museum when the former bowls club closed, but they became unrepairable. The seating is much enjoyed by users of Rickards Hall, local people attending events, visitors to the Museum, or those just seeking a sunny spot for lunch. "The new benches in the courtyard should provide us with seats for years to come," says Open Spaces committee chairman Cllr Alan Layland.

Marsh Green gets a litter-blitz to start the New Year

Village residents joined the volunteer litter-pickers team on a "blitz" along the Marsh Green road in January, and gathered 18 black sacks of rubbish along the way. Organised by the Community Warden Rose Briggs, who co-ordinates the litter-pickers, this was the latest in a series of occasional events to tidy up different locations across the parish (*see below*).



If you would like to join in the next "blitz" for the Great British Spring Clean March 3-5, call the Warden: 07920 099235 to get involved.

Grow your own this year

If you like the idea of eating fresh fruit and veg you've grown yourself, **and** you're not afraid of a bit of hard work, there are allotment plots available at the site off Forge Croft. Call Edenbridge Allotment Gardens plot officer Michael Wort on 01732 865007 to get going this spring - rents cost around 50p a week.

Join the spring clean in March

Edenbridge is supporting the Great British Spring Clean, being organised nationwide by Keep Britain Tidy for March 3-5. Is there a spot near your home that could do with a clean-up, or some old "trapped" litter stuck under a hedge or in bushes which you could remove? In the High Street the Town Council will be cleaning winter dirt off the street fixtures repainted last summer, adding some more colourful plants to the planters, and is working with the Chamber of Commerce to encourage shop owners to spruce-up their building frontages.

See left for news of the most recent local "litter-blitz".

Come and have your say at the Annual Town Meeting

Local residents have the chance on March 27 to hear latest updates and to ask questions of the organisations which provide services in the community. The Annual Town Meeting at the W I Hall brings together three levels of council (County, District and Town), and the police, to review the past year and look ahead to the next. District Council Leader Cllr Peter Fleming will be one of the key speakers.

There will be displays on the developing Neighbourhood Plan, and comments from local MP Tom Tugendhat. Doors open at 7.30pm, with refreshments served before the meeting which starts at 8pm.

Council Tax set for 2017/18

The Town Council's part of the Council Tax bill has been set with a 1.96% increase on the average Band D rate, a rise of £2.57 to £136.07 for the year. This money is used to run the local council services and includes maintaining Stangrove and Blossoms Parks, the Cemetery, Lingfield Road Recreation Ground, two allotment sites and four children's playgrounds. The Council works with local sports clubs at Lingfield Road, Blossoms Park and Mowshurst. Church House and Rickards Hall are maintained as community buildings. Doggetts Barn houses the Information Centre and Town Council Offices. The Council generates income from its assets, which helps offset the amount needed from residents to provide services in Edenbridge and Marsh Green.

Register for power-cut help

Do you, or someone you know, need extra help if there is a power cut?

UK Power Networks, which provides the electricity network, has a Priority Services Register for people who may need extra support if the power fails. These could be older people, families with very young children, or those with specific medical conditions, who may be eligible to register for free help. To find out more call 0800 169 9970, or register online at ukpower-networks.co.uk/prioritiesupport

We're Tweeting...

Follow us on @EdenbridgeTC and also @EdenValleyKent.

...and check out our website

www.edenbridgetowncouncil.gov.uk

Pond works to start in spring

Work will get under way this spring in Stangrove Park, to improve the wildlife habitat around the pond for a wide range of creatures. This will include a new slope with water plants, some large pieces of dead-wood placed partly in the water, and wider unmown grass strips in some places.

People are being asked to help by not feeding the ducks, as left-over food attracts rats, and can foul the pond water as it decomposes.

Easter holiday fun with IMAGO

Keeping children amused in school holidays can be costly, but the Town Council is hosting a day of free fun at Rickards Hall on Tuesday 4th April. Funded by SDC, the session will run from 10am-2pm, with a wide range of games and activities, including out in the courtyard if it is a fine day.



There is no need to book, but children will need to have an adult with them — refreshments available.

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