

Edenbridge Reports

Spring 2018



Come and see High Street improvement proposals

Local people are invited to come and see a display on proposals for improvements to the High Street. Town Councillors will be on hand at the event to answer questions on Saturday 12th May. It will run from 10am until 2pm in Doggetts Barn, the Town Council office.

The proposals include a possible 20mph zone in the High Street, re-opening a one-way entrance into the Market Yard car park, and a series of new "wayfinder" signs to link the different sections of the town centre and encourage visitors to walk between them.

A feasibility study has been carried out, with a grant from Kent County Councillor Peter Lake's members' funding. Now the Town Council is keen to hear what local people think of the ideas.

Bye-election brings new councillors to join the team

Two new councillors have joined the Edenbridge team as a result of bye-elections on 5 April.

Cllr Guy Middleton has taken a seat for the North and East ward, having lived in the town for 7 years. He is a chartered surveyor and is particularly interested in planning issues and the environment.



Cllr Zoe Roberts Smith was elected for South and West ward. She moved to Edenbridge 5 years ago and is an IT Manager. The vacancies on the council resulted from the resignation of Joseph Woollorton, and the death of Richard Davison in January.



Calling all local gardeners...

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

Gold coins back in the Valley

They are shiny as the day they were made, 10 little coins over 2000 years old. Known as the Chiddingstone Hoard, they have drawn international interest, and are the latest addition to the collections at Eden Valley Museum in the High Street. Read more p.3

More *Speedwatchers* wanted

Volunteers are still needed for the *Speedwatch* scheme, keeping an eye out for drivers who still ignore the speed limit on local roads.

After training, the small teams go out with the speedboard and log the passing traffic. Results are input to a central database for action. Call the Community Warden to volunteer: 01732 865368

Edenbridge in Bloom: entry details

Categories for 2018 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.

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.

Planting project adds colour

Adding more bulbs in more places round the town last autumn brought bright splashes of spring colour along Station Road, the Relief Road, and in Blossoms Park. Volunteers helped with the project, and more sites will be added to the project this year. To join in, call 01732 865368.

Bags of rubbish from Spring Cleaning events



(above) Results of a morning's work

Two volunteer groups tackled a big Spring Clean litter-pick over two mornings, and between them collected 60 bags of rubbish. Led by the Community Warden Rose Briggs, the teams cleared a route through the town, and then the area around the green in Marsh Green—undeterred by the bad weather at the end of March.

Neighbourhood Plan on hold

Work on the Edenbridge Neighbourhood Plan is currently "on hold", while Sevenoaks District Council is preparing a new version of its own district-wide Local Plan. Edenbridge had sent SDC the first draft of its own policies for future housing, design, environment, economy, infrastructure, and health/learning/well-being for the Neighbourhood Plan — but these have to fit in with District policies (and the National Planning Policy Framework, which the Government is also reviewing now).



It is likely to be the Autumn before the higher level Plans are set, and the Edenbridge Neighbourhood Plan can then be reviewed against them, and its policies possibly then amended.

The Neighbourhood project has involved groups of volunteers and local organisations, as well as councillors gathering evidence to support the policies.

Iron Age Treasure unveiled

Discovered in a Kentish field, a rare hoard of 10 small gold coins found by a detectorist are now on display in the Eden Valley Museum. They were minted by the Ambiani tribe in Gaul (Northern France and Belgium) around 60-50 BC and are "staters" which were used to forge alliances, and as gifts to mercenaries—at a time

Easter holiday fun with IMAGO

Making bugs, badges, and biscuits were among the activities on offer at the Easter family fun session run by IMAGO at Rickards Hall.



Almost 60 children, plus their family and carers enjoyed the activities in a busy four hours.

when Gauls were fighting Roman invasion. How they may have come to be in the Eden Valley is explained in the Museum display. Under the 1996 Treasure Act, the coins went to the British Museum for assessment, and the local museum was given the chance to buy and display the coins—see www.evmt.org.uk for more details

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