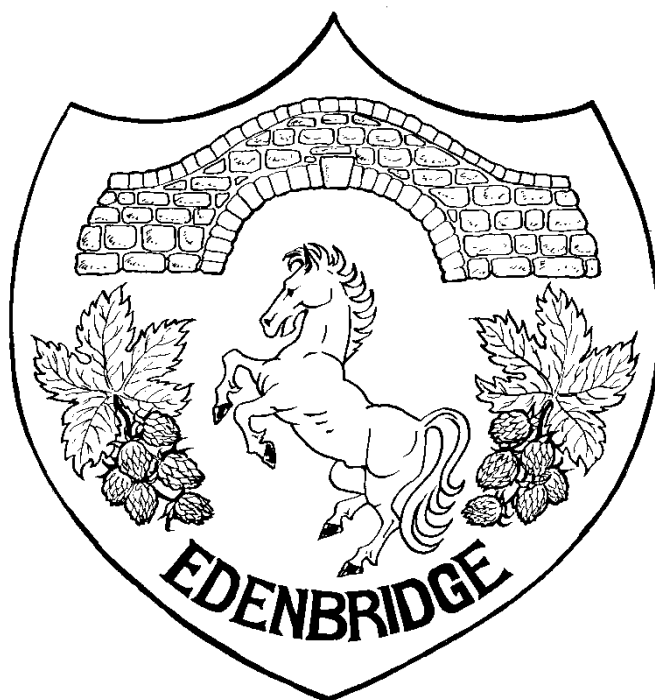
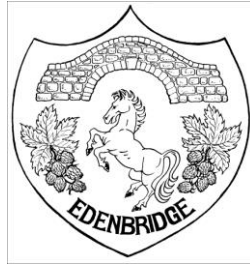


EDENBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Annual Report 2018-19





Edenbridge Town Council

All parishioners are welcome to the
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING being held in **EDENBRIDGE W.I. HALL**
on **MONDAY 4th March 2019** at 8pm.

AGENDA

Prior to the start of the meeting there will be an opportunity for residents to comment on parking concerns on Spital's Cross Estate, information on becoming a Councillor, a display on the Health and Wellbeing Centre, and chance to sign up as a volunteer for the Edenbridge Community Christmas Association. During this time coffee & tea will be served.

1. The Chairman will welcome guests and parishioners
2. The minutes of the 2018 meeting will be signed as a correct record
3. A Sevenoaks District representative from Kent Police and PCSO Joe Cain will update on police and crime issues
4. Comments from Station Manager/On-Call Group Lead, Lee Abel, Edenbridge & Westerham Fire and Rescue Service
5. Dr Simon Morrison from Edenbridge Medical Practice will give an update on the developing plans
6. Chairman's comments and Annual Report for 2018/2019

Special resolution presented by local resident for consideration:

a. Should Edenbridge Neighbourhood Planning aim to recommence by 1st May 2019?

b. If necessary, should some CIL funding be used to assist?

7. Report by Cllr Peter Lake, on behalf of Kent County Council
8. Sevenoaks District Council Chairman, Cllr Pat Bosley, to introduce the Leader Cllr Peter Fleming, who will update on District Council business

Special resolution presented by local resident for consideration:

a. It is most unfair that, as SDC are aware of the limited spaces available to residents, parking tickets are issued before 7am on weekends.

Do those present, who have the right to vote, agree that the ticket warden should not be permitted to visit the Spitals Cross Estate until 9am?

b. As SDC have not been able to take forward suggestions for parking permits or lined parking spaces due to land ownership issues, do those present, who have the right to vote, support the residents of Spitals Cross in a request to SDC to initiate conversations with KCC and West Kent Housing to improve the parking on the estate?

9. Edenbridge Youth Forum will talk about their trip to France for the 100 year centenary of WW1
10. The Chairman will invite any other business which electors wish to raise.



Town Clerk
19 February 2019

Chairman's Report

This year has seen some of our hopes and plans for Edenbridge moving closer to realisation. We are pleased that the new medical centre, together with some other important community improvements, has taken a step closer. Funding is being put in place and a central location for the development in Four Elms Road has been recommended and agreed. A new supermarket in the north of the town is now under construction, as is a new care home on Mont St Aignan Way.

High Street improvements included the introduction of a 20mph limit with resurfacing and freshening of road markings. Soon, further improvements will take place to deter dangerous parking. The Council was also successful in persuading Network Rail to remove parking charges along Station Approach at weekends.



The Council is not yet in a position to establish any definite plans for local secondary school provision but remains in talks with providers.

Much needed restoration work was completed at Doggetts Barn to ensure this wonderful medieval building, which currently houses the Council offices, is looked after well.

Summer saw the town's cheerful hanging baskets and planters brightening the High Street, and Councillors joined staff and volunteers litter picking to keep our parks and communities free of rubbish. We welcomed major events to the town – a food festival and the motor show, while the admirable efforts of the Edenbridge Community Christmas Association and the Chamber of Commerce's French Market lifted everyone's spirits in the depths of winter.

Repeated incursions onto Council land by trespassers again proved costly to resolve. We prioritised the protection of Council green space during the year by the installation of physical barriers at Marsh Green, Blossoms Park, Stangrove Park, Mowshurst and our recreation ground. We will continue to take swift action so residents can enjoy these spaces uninterrupted.

You can read more about our activities in the various committee reports in this document.

We must again thank all the highly-valued volunteer groups in the town who help to make our community such a lively and caring place to live

Cllr. Margot McArthur

Chairman, Edenbridge Town Council

About us



The Town Council, based in Doggett's Barn, looks after the cemetery, parks, open spaces and many of the local sporting facilities in the parish. It provides allotments, car parks and some street lights, and is a collection point for refuse bags. The 15 elected members lobby on behalf of the residents and respond to consultations, to ensure the Town's voice is heard. It is currently inputting to, and monitoring, the developing Local Plan, which will shape the future of the Town over the next 20 years. Help and advice

on local tourist attractions, walks, and travel timetables are available here.

Follow us on Facebook: Edenbridge Town Council/ Instagram: edenbridgetowncouncil or visit www.edenbridgetowncouncil.gov.uk

Community Infrastructure Board



This year a new working group - the Community Infrastructure Board - was set up to consider requests from local groups for a grant of money from the Town Council portion of the Community Infrastructure Levy. This is a charge which local authorities put on new development in order to raise funds to help with any infrastructure improvements which may be needed. The Board recommended awarding funds to four projects: The Matthew Cox Community Pavilion at Blossoms Park; strengthening access defences at the Town's open spaces; towards the new medical centre and for the provision of new public toilets in the town centre, and these have now been agreed.

Cllr. Margot McArthur

Chairman of Community Infrastructure Board

Forward Planning Committee

This Committee meets twice a year to consider and plan for the development of the town. It reviews the priorities for future projects already agreed, determines new projects and activity going forward, ensuring sufficient resources - money, expertise and time - are allocated to achieve these goals. The committee is always keen to hear from residents who have ideas for the future improvement of the town.

Cllr. Margot McArthur

Chairman of Forward Planning Committee

Footpaths Forum

Since last year, the Eden Valley Footpaths Group has mapped more walks between local pubs, along with the route between Hurst Green and Edenbridge Town railway stations. Whilst the walk has been fully documented from Hurst Green to Edenbridge, the instructions for the opposite direction will be attempted on 8 March 2019. It's still hoped to develop a series of walk cards/posters/maps to publicise the routes, and a leaflet, which could be made available at both the train stations, however it is subject to securing funding.

Monthly way marking walks are held on the third Sunday of the month. If any residents are interested in being involved, please contact the Tourism Officer at ETC.



Clare Vickers

Chair of the Eden Valley Footpaths Group

Planning Committee

The first phase of building the Oakley Park development on St John's Way has begun and several houses are completed.



The Lidl supermarket, Home Bargains and Gregg's development in Fircroft Way is due for completion later this year. A new care home development on Mont St Aignan Way, which will have 84 room integrated support facilities, is in an advanced state of construction (Not sure when the red light in the sky goes!).

The development for 36

affordable units in Fircroft Way is well on the way.

Edenbridge Town Council held an extra council meeting on 28 January where the response to the local plan consultation was agreed. These comments were sent to the District Council for consideration by the Planning Inspector who determines the final plan.

Cllr. Alan Layland
Chairman of the Planning Committee

Transportation Committee

Edenbridge Town Council and our Kent County Councillor intend to push hard for a taxi/bus service for the Go-coach 404, 18.00 service from Sevenoaks to Edenbridge. Loss of this service has potential implications for students undertaking extra-curricular activities, those who rely on this service returning home from work and other members of the public using it.

Gatwick airport is proposing for the "emergency runway" to be taken into regular use in the absence of central Government awarding a second runway. Edenbridge Town Council will continue to actively oppose any second runway and the use of the emergency runway for regular use, and have responded supporting measures to reduce aircraft noise.



Cllr. Alan Layland
Chairman of the Transportation Committee

Finance Committee



I am happy to report that Town Council finances are in good order and spending has been well controlled. Our audit reports have been very satisfactory.

The council tax increase for 2019/20 has been kept to an inflationary level. The largest expenditure goes to maintain our parks and other open spaces. The Council is benefiting from a large amount of new money for infrastructure (known as the Community Infrastructure Levy) due to the new houses being built in the town, full details of which are in the Chairman's report. In addition, the

Council has continued to provide grants to a number of local organisations that work to support our community.

Cllr. Stuart McGregor
Chairman of the Finance Committee

Emergency Planning Committee

The Emergency Planning Committee continues to meet three times a year with local emergency partners, constantly reviewing and improving its ability to respond to all kinds of emergency events.

There was no flooding during the year with only a small number of flood alerts.

The Council's Community Emergency Plan, alongside our radio communication system, is seen as leading good practice by all the agencies involved. In October 2018 the Chairman and Robert McKillop attended a Community Resilience workshop in Tonbridge, organised by the Environment Agency and the Kent



Resilience Forum. They gave a joint presentation on our Emergency Plan with particular reference to maintaining resilient communications.

On the 30th November 2018 a live multi-site exercise organised by Kent Resilience Forum and Sevenoaks District Council took place in Edenbridge. The exercise was based around two scenarios involving a fire at a high-rise block of flats and flooding in the vicinity of the river Eden. This event was co-ordinated by Sevenoaks District Council's Emergency Centre with the Leisure Centre being used as a welfare area for evacuated persons. The improved



radio link highlighted in last year's report between Edenbridge and Sevenoaks was seen to good effect, with positive feedback from the radio operators in the Sevenoaks Control Room. The Chair and Vice Chairman of our Committee were used as observers, with other members used as evacuees for the event, we are currently awaiting a full debrief of the event.

We are always looking for volunteers to assist us, if you think you might be able to help out, please contact the Deputy Town Clerk on 01732 865368, or call in at the Council offices to discuss further.

Cllr Bob Todd
Vice Chairman Emergency Planning Committee

Business Forum

The Edenbridge Business Forum has been working with local businesses to improve the economic prospects of the town given the current economic uncertainties.

We know that many residents are keen to see a vibrant High Street, a view that the Town Council shares. The Council, with the financial help of Sevenoaks District Council, commissioned a report into how to achieve these aspirations, which was delivered in 2018. This report is available on the Council's website. The Council, through the Business Forum, has been taking these ideas forward and will continue to do so over the next few years.

Cllr. Margot McArthur
Chairman of Business Forum

Open Spaces

Another year has passed and the open spaces around the town continue to be extremely important to the Council, the residents of Edenbridge and visitors.

Our Committee engages with all groups and individuals and listens to all suggestions and criticism, and yes, we also have praise for our work as well.

Committee members meet every quarter for visits to all our sites, reporting back on items such as lighting, dog fouling, graffiti, trees, and playgrounds, to name a few.

This past year has seen the town commemorate the end of World War 1. The Council is proud of its war graves in the cemetery and of the memorial at the hospital, where a WW1 commemorative bench has been placed.



The open spaces around the town again experienced unwanted incursions. After several on Marsh Green, and then Stangrove Park, the Council had to take strong action. The measures taken at Marsh Green and Stangrove Park should prevent further incursions.

The grounds team again delivered a clean and tidy environment of which the Council is very proud. The experienced and well-trained grounds team works hard all year, and with many sites, it is doing a fantastic job.

The Council is a supporter of the National Tree Charter. We have an abundance of trees and varieties, which are well maintained and managed with the help of professional tree surgeons. The Charter's main aims are: to protect irreplaceable trees and woods, sustain landscapes and wildlife, and combat threats to habitats.

The Recreation Ground again hosted UK Ultimate Frisbee championships, and this year promises to be a bigger event, so please go and support the teams. The facilities and pitches are second to none in the area, which is why Edenbridge was chosen.

The Rugby Club is blossoming, especially the minis and juniors, and their training facilities make the local club the envy of any town.

Nomads Football Club is long established in Edenbridge, with its own club house and two pitches, and has two successful teams with dedicated coaches and committee members.



Blossoms Park

The Edenbridge Cricket Club has led the way in funding for its new pavilion, exciting times are ahead for the club, and I'm sure everyone involved will be bowled over, with the first game due for the end of May. Its redevelopment will only enhance the park's environment.

The skate park is still a well-used piece of equipment enjoyed by all ages.

Stangrove Park

The park is extremely well used, and maintained, with a range of trees and habitat enhancing the area. The wildlife display board near the pond has been refurbished, and is a fun way of identifying the creatures living in and around the pond.

The children's play area continues to be well used, and maintained.

Spitals Cross playground

Good news! The process is now underway to refurbish this playground. We have consulted with the residents and now the tender process is just about to begin. Watch this space for further developments.

Allotments

The two allotments sites continue to flourish. All age groups can share the love of growing fruit and veg. Get involved, sign up for a plot.

High Street

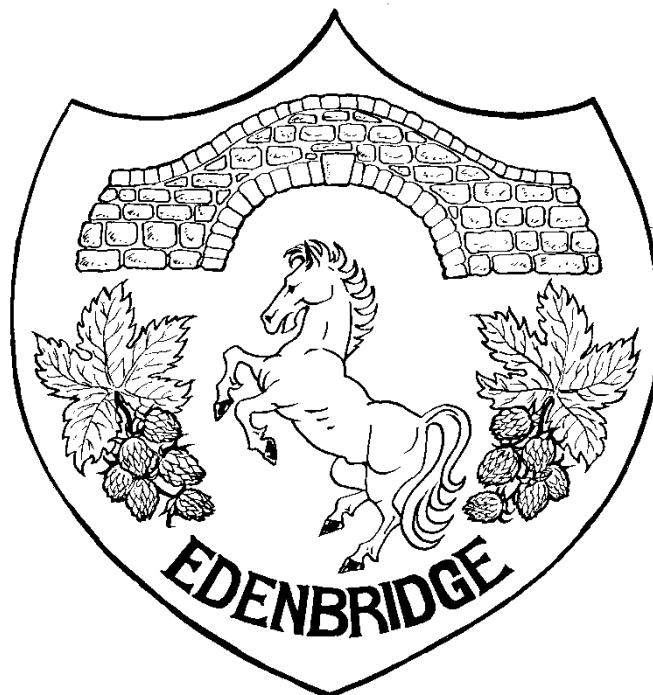
Blooming marvellous were the hanging baskets this year, even with the hot summer, the flowers brightened up the High Street.

Teaming up with Cooling's Garden centre again, 2018 saw many Edenbridge residents participate in the Edenbridge in Bloom competition, where many were highly commended for their horticultural standards.



Cllr Trevor Bryant

Chairman Open Spaces Committee



Annual Update Tom Tugendhat MP



It's certainly been a busy time in Parliament with lots to do and, at the time of writing, we still don't know how we will be leaving the European Union. However, despite having to spend a lot of time at Westminster, I'm also continuing to work on a number of projects locally, some of which are very exciting.

Top of the list is the new Combined Medical Facility, which our local NHS is currently planning. Some of you might have been at a packed meeting in the WI Hall just before Christmas to hear progress or have visited the drop-in sessions at the Eden Centre. Plans are developing nicely with a preferred site chosen, and I hope things will remain on track over the next 12 months.

Of course, the big challenge for me now is making sure that the funds raised by the sale of the land where the currently War Memorial Hospital sits are reinvested directly in the Project. Just a couple of weeks ago I raised this in the House of Commons, and have a meeting planned in the next few days. I'll keep everyone informed about this campaign as it would go a long way towards preserving the new facility for generations to come.

But having better medical facilities is only good if you can get there, and my concerns about performance from the top station by GTR increase. We've had some days, particularly over Christmas, where there were mass delays and cancellations at short notice. Indeed, a bit of further research shows that GTR had no intention of running these trains at all. I've met them, and the Rail Minister, to find out what is going on. They were left in no doubt that the line needs greater attention, and this must improve over the next year. Otherwise it would be better off in the Southeastern franchise.

GTR should listen as they have done at the Town station over parking charges. Thanks to support from the Town Council we have been able to persuade them to do away with the weekend charges, making it more attractive for people to park there and use the High Street. This will benefit all businesses in the area and I'm glad they chose to support our local businesses in this way.

Though the immediate future is uncertain, the guarantee I can make to you is that I will always be here to help. My e-mail address is tom.tugendhat.mp@parliament.uk and phone number is 01732 441563. Please let me know if you have anything you would like to raise and, as ever, I would be delighted to help.

Best wishes

Tom

Could you be a Councillor?

There are roughly 20,000 local councillors in England. Councillors are elected to the local council to represent their own local community, so they must either live or work in the area.

Each councillor has their own reasons for running but the role offers the chance to make a huge difference to the quality of life for people in your local area. Being an effective councillor requires both commitment and hard work. Councillors have to balance the needs and interests of residents, the political party they represent (if any) and the council.



The councillor's role centres around community leadership and engagement, responsibilities include:

- representing the ward for which they are elected
- decision-making - developing and reviewing council policy
- scrutinising decisions taken by the councillors on the executive or cabinet
- regulatory, quasi-judicial and statutory duties

Once you've decided to get involved and stand as a councillor there are 2 main routes; you can decide to stand for one of the political parties/groups or as an independent.

If you want to represent a political party then get involved with your party locally as soon as possible. They will advise on what is involved and ultimately select a candidate.

If you're thinking of standing as an independent candidate you can contact your council's electoral services department. You will need to start becoming aware of issues in your local area; what your local council is doing about these issues; and how your own opinion differs from the political parties.

Whether you've been selected by a party or are standing as an independent candidate, you must make sure that you are officially nominated as the election date draws nearer. This means getting 10 people to sign your nomination papers (signatories must be registered electors in the ward where you wish to stand) available from your local council's democratic services department.

You must also give your consent in writing to your nomination. All the necessary documents must be submitted 19 working days before the day of the election.

Important dates

- Publication of Notice of Election - Wednesday 20 March 2019
- Nominations open - Thursday 21 March 2019 – 10am
- Nominations close - Wednesday 3 April 2019 – 4pm
- Deadline for a candidate to withdraw - Wednesday 3 April 2019 – 4pm
- Deadline to appoint Election Agents - Wednesday 3 April 2019 – 4pm
- Publication of Statement of Persons Nominated - Thursday 4 April 2019
- Appointment of Poll and Count Agents deadline - Thursday 25 April 2019
- Election Day – Thursday 2 May 2019 - 7am to 10pm

Feel free to contact Edenbridge Town Council for more information on becoming a Councillor

Consolidated Balance Sheet

31/03/17 £			31/03/18 £
	Long Term assets		
0.00	Investments		0.00
0.00	Long Term Debts		0.00
0.00	TOTAL LONG TERM ASSETS		0.00
	Current assets		
517,529.55	Investments	529,355.55	
0.00	Loans Made	0.00	
0.00	Investments	0.00	
0.00	Stocks	0.00	
10,196.27	VAT Recoverable	14,892.05	
1,967.82	Debtors	17,672.45	
0.00	Payment in Advance	0.00	
64,792.67	Cash in Hand & at Bank	75,723.65	
594,486.31	TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		637,643.70
594,486.31	TOTAL ASSETS		637,643.70
	Current liabilities		
0.00	Loans Received	0.00	
0.00	Temporary Borrowing	0.00	
0.00	VAT Payable	0.00	
15,173.00	Creditors	79,922.24	
147.20	Receipts in Advance	202.40	
15,320.20	TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		80,124.64
579,166.11	TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		557,519.06
0.00	Long Term Borrowing	0.00	
0.00	Deferred Liabilities	0.00	
0.00	Deferred Credits	0.00	
0.00			0.00
579,166.11	NET ASSETS		557,519.06
	Represented by		
109,962.86	General Fund		9,460.10
61,801.64	Contingency & Unallocated Resv		350,514.84
1,000.00	Cemetery		1,000.00
756.25	Lighting XXX		0.00
7,504.14	Election		7,504.14
33,950.02	Neighbourhood Plan		33,358.71
127,025.29	Property Fund XXX		0.00
130,831.30	Depreciation Equipment & tools		13,000.00
5,631.06	30 Year Building Plan		31,425.00
8,679.50	10 year Building Plan		6,100.00
49,945.00	Open Spaces 30 Year Plan		105,000.00
33,846.19	Open Spaces 10 Year Plan		-4,930.00
8,232.85	Community Warden		5,086.26
579,166.10			557,519.05