

With best wishes for 2024 from all at Edenbridge Town Council

What your Council Tax will pay for in 2024

Setting the annual budget and Precept (the town's part of the Council Tax), is always a difficult task. Chairman Cllr Bob Todd said: "Our budget reflects the quality services we plan to provide while being mindful of the increase in costs we are all facing." Work started back in October looking at the Council's expenditure and its maintenance plans for the nine buildings, eight open space sites, five playgrounds, Millennium Wood, four cemeteries, 247 owned streetlights, two allotment sites, public toilets, car parks, over 550 trees, street furniture provided, as well as the Council office services. The Finance Committee, at its November meeting, considered a draft budget and the Council reserves,

which Council had steadily been reducing to ensure healthier reserves.

If the Council keeps to the principle of maintaining a balanced budget, the total Precept income needs to increase by 6.11% (in line with October RPI 6.1%, and less than September rate at 8.9%).

The full Council received the recommendations at its December meeting. Council supported a budget for 2024-25 of £858,575, other income of £113,390 and a Precept of £745,185. A detailed copy of the budget and statement is published on our website including an update on the Council Tax Band D (used to calculate the Precept). Search 'Budget' at www.edenbridgetowncouncil.gov.uk

Have your say on Local Plan by 11 January

Sevenoaks District Council has drafted a new Local Plan to cover the period up to 2040 – an important document that sets out what can be built and where over the next 15 years.

The Plan lists the Green Belt sites in Edenbridge that are proposed for potential development. The Council is disappointed with the proposals for Edenbridge and has engaged a consultant to help consider the Plan and make the best representation for Edenbridge. We would encourage all residents to find out more about the Plan and submit comments before the deadline at **midnight on 11 January 2024**.

Bulky waste service

The Council is delighted to be supporting the bulky waste freighter again this year. There will be three dates across winter, spring and summer which will be published on our website, Facebook and Council noticeboards closer to each date, together with details of the four locations and what you can and cannot take.

Please turn up on the date, at the allotted time and stay with your waste until it has been loaded on to the freighter. Sadly, last year one site was abused with considerable, unacceptable fly-tipping. Should this happen again this could jeopardise that location.

Apply for rural grant

Rural businesses and groups in Edenbridge can once again apply to the West Kent Rural Grants scheme to support jobs, communities & economic growth. Grants of £2k to £25k are available to eligible businesses. The deadline to submit an application for the next panel meeting is Wednesday 10 January. The scheme closes when all the funding has been allocated, so apply soon! Find out more at: www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/westkentruralgrants

Rickards Hall available for hire
Ideal for parties and events
Contact us to find out more!



In Bloom awards for Edenbridge

We were thrilled to have picked up two prestigious Silver-Gilt awards at the 2023 South and South East in Bloom awards ceremony. The judges said: "A local Town Park of very good quality where maintenance levels are high." (Stangrove Park.) "Particularly good first-time entry. Excellent site, professionally managed by the Town Council and the maintenance team." (Edenbridge Cemetery.)

Councillor Angela Baker, Chair of the Council's Open Spaces Committee, said: "This is another fantastic achievement for Edenbridge and comes just only a few months after receiving recognition from FA Kent for the quality of our football pitches at the Recreation Ground. Well done to our Groundsteam and thank you to the whole community for your efforts in helping us to keep our open spaces clean and respected."



Awards for Stangrove Park & Edenbridge Cemetery

As Edenbridge Hospital has closed there are changes to Metrobus routes 231 and 233. New timetables are available from the Council office (Doggetts Barn, 72a High Street)



Games Club
 Mondays at Rickards Hall
 10 am to 12 noon

SAVE THE DATE

Members of the public are invited to attend Council and Committee meetings. Meetings take place at **Rickards Hall, 7.30pm**. Agendas and Minutes can be found on our website.

- 8 January Planning
- 15 January Council
- 29 January Finance & Governance
- 5 February Planning & Transportation
- 12 February Open Spaces
- 19 February CIL Board
- 26 February Planning
- 11 March Annual Town Meeting**

CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION POINTS 2024

Crockham Hill Deanery Road, TN8 6RE	Thursdays 11 and 18 January 8am to 8.45am
Edenbridge Leisure Centre Car Park, Wellingtonia Way, TN8 5RE	Thursdays 11 and 18 January 9am to 9.45am
Four Elms Layby by St Paul's Church, Bough Beech Road, TN8 6NE	Thursdays 11 and 18 January 10am to 10.45am
Marsh Green Marsh Green Road Layby TN8 5QR	Thursdays 11 and 18 January 11am to 11.45am
Cowden Memorial Hall, Chantlers Mead, TN8 7HU	Thursdays 11 and 18 January 12.30pm to 1.15pm
Hever Recycling site, Hever Castle Car Park, Hever Road, TN8 7NH	Fridays 12 and 19 January 7.30am to 8.15am

www.edenbridgemarket.co.uk

Support your local High Street shops and the town's weekly market by shopping local. Every Thursday from 8am at Market Yard Car Park.