



Happy New Year, Edenbridge!

As we welcome 2025, Edenbridge Town Council is thrilled to celebrate not just the start of a new year but also a milestone in our town's history - our **130th anniversary!** We will be marking this momentous occasion throughout the year, so keep an eye out for updates and ways to join in helping us celebrate.

This year is set to be an exciting one, with plenty of opportunities for community involvement and events to bring us all together. Be sure to save the date for the **Annual Town Meeting on Monday, 31 March**, where we'll reflect on the past year and discuss future plans, and also our special **VE Day 80th Anniversary Commemoration** beacon lighting at Stangrove Park on **Thursday, 8 May**.

As always, the Council remains focused on improving our town, from supporting local groups to enhancing public spaces and driving new initiatives. Your engagement plays a vital role in these efforts, so please keep an eye out for updates, consultations, and ways to get involved. You can also follow us on social media.

Here's to a fantastic 2025 - a year of progress, community spirit, and celebration!

Warm regards,

Edenbridge Town Council

News in brief...

>> **Christmas tree recycling** - visit our website or Facebook page to find out where you can drop your real Christmas tree off for recycling. You can also contact us or Sevenoaks District Council for info.

>> **Policing** - Thanks to ongoing efforts, in the past few months the Police have made several arrests, dealt with drug offences and helped combat nuisance vehicles. Thank you for your vigilance - your reports make a real difference. please continue to report any issues to 101 or online with Kent Police at www.kent.police.uk/report You can also sign up to My Community Voice for updates.

>> **Local Plan** - Following Sevenoaks District Council's Regulation 18 consultation last January, the new Government has pledged to increase development numbers. In light of this, and other changes to the National Planning Policy Framework, Sevenoaks District Council is challenged to raise its housing numbers in what was the Reg 18, and will now be looking to go back out to consultation in 2025. The Town Council will await the further Reg 18, which councillors will consider and make representation on for Edenbridge.

RICKARDS HALL
Available
for hire



Perfect for children's parties, meetings and group classes. Contact us for enquiries!

GAMES CLUB - every Monday, Rickards Hall, 10 am to 12 noon. A welcoming and cosy space for a cuppa and chat while enjoying some games. Over 55s welcome.

Draft budget prioritises maintaining services

Each year the Council sets its annual budget and Precept (the town's part of the Council Tax), with preparations starting in October and Council confirming at its January meeting. It is always a challenging task to balance the budget whilst ensuring we continue to provide excellent open spaces, playgrounds and car parks across the town, maintain nine buildings, the cemeteries, service 247 streetlights, provide services for our community and make representations to the larger authorities. This past year and the coming year, we are having to address some unplanned buildings maintenance issues, adding to the buildings maintenance costs. Council has also needed to replace the Kubota used by the groundstaff to cut the grass, which was an unbudgeted cost of £25,000 in the 2024-25 budget.

Please help keep our pavements clear



We would like to remind residents and businesses to be considerate when parking, and to maintain your properties to ensure pavements remain safe and accessible for everyone in our town.

Parking on pavements can create serious obstructions and pose dangers, especially for blind or visually impaired people, wheelchair users, and those with pushchairs. Being forced into the road to navigate around a vehicle puts lives at risk. Please think carefully before parking and leave pavements completely clear for pedestrians.

Similarly, overgrown hedges and trees that encroach onto pavements can create hazards and limit accessibility. As a homeowner, it is your responsibility to ensure that hedges and trees are trimmed back to your property boundary. Thank you for your cooperation!

At the time of print, the draft budget and the council reserves were yet to be confirmed by full Council, but the recommendation from the Finance Committee was to keep to the principle of maintaining a balanced budget, and increase the total Precept income by 6.75% to £790,301.50.

The draft budgeted expenditure for 2025-26 is £905,252 with other income of £123,951. Once approved, a detailed copy of the final budget and statement will be 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

CIL funds boost town

In 2024 the Council approved £23,690 of CIL funding to support infrastructure projects in Edenbridge. This included Hever School (outdoor classroom and wellbeing space - £10,000); St Paulinus Centre (kitchen floor, replace floor and support structure - £6,000); and WI Hall (flooring repairs - £7,960). If you have a similar infrastructure project, you could be eligible to apply. The deadline for applications is **Monday, 20 January 2025**. Contact us or visit our website for details.

Council meetings

Members of the public are invited to attend Council and Committee meetings. Meetings usually take place at **Rickards Hall, 7.30 pm**, but times can vary so please check our website. Agendas and Minutes can also be found on our website.

13 January	Planning
20 January	Council
27 January	Finance
3 February	Open Spaces
10 February	CIL
17 February	Planning & Transportation
24 February	Emergency Planning