

IN BUSINESS



Check our website for information www.sevenoakschamber.com E-mail: info@sevenoakschamber.com Tel: 01732 455188

New Parking Arrangements for Sevenoaks High Street

Following completion of building work at 73A High Street, Sevenoaks, on-street parking charges are being introduced in the lay-by on the western side of the High Street outside the Chequers public house.

The introduction of parking charges at this location was approved as part of the package of on-street pay and display charges introduced into the town centre some time ago, but were put on hold whilst the adjacent building developments were carried out. This was due to the lay-by being utilised as a site delivery area for the scheme.

The charges will be the same as the existing charges in the town: 10p for up to 30 minutes parking, 40p for up to one hour and 90p for two hours. Charges will apply from 8.30am until 9.30pm Monday to Saturday but not on Bank Holidays. The new charges took effect from Thursday 30th August, 2007.

Cllr Gary Williamson, the Council's Cabinet member with responsibility for parking says: "The availability of on-street parking spaces is important to our town centre businesses. These new charges on the High Street will help ensure there is a good turnover of parking spaces so they can be used to their full potential."

With regard to parking and the High Street, it has been noticed that travelling up and down the High Street for the past few weeks, especially during the lunch hour, has been a nightmare. There seem to be even more large vans delivering goods in the peak hour causing endless traffic jams. It is very frustrating and this issue needs to be addressed with great urgency.

At the end of August people were astounded to see a huge digger on two lorries being escorted by two policemen down the High Street! To say it caused chaos is an understatement!

Sevenoaks Chamber of Commerce re-opens it's doors

After months of upheaval and refurbishment, the Sevenoaks Chamber of Commerce is back in it's beautiful, new offices on the ground floor of The Quadrant, 5 Victoria Road.

Sevenoaks Summer Festival

The annual very popular Summer Festival opened on Saturday 16th June and ended on Sunday 1st July. Contrary to the awful weather that we experienced during the Festival, it was a great success and attended by many people! We hope this very popular local event continues from strength to strength.

Polling Districts & Stations

Sevenoaks District Council is asking local people for their views on the location and accessibility of local polling areas and polling stations. The Sevenoaks District is divided into small areas, known as polling districts, for voting purposes. Each polling district has one or more designated polling stations where electors can cast their votes in person. The aim is to provide polling stations that are easily accessible to all electors, including those who are disabled.

Polling stations are used for Parliamentary, county, district, town and parish and European elections as well as any referendums that are called. The District Council would also welcome any person or body with expertise in access for those with any disability to make their views, comments known. Person or bodies making representations should give alternative places that may be used as polling stations.

For more information either email

elreg@sevenoaks.gov.uk or write to:

Ian Bigwood, Electoral Services Manager, Council Offices, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, TN131HG.

Get on the Register. Voter registration forms will be sent out from Monday 3rd September. If you do not receive the forms by late September, please email: elreg@sevenoaks.gov.uk or phone the help lines on 01732 227188 or 01732 227243.

Pedestrian Crossings

West Kent Highways has been approached with regard to the traffic lights at the corner of the High Street and Suffolk Way. There are no pedestrian crossings at all on the intersection and it poses a potentially dangerous situation. If you are an out-of-town visitor to the town it can be very confusing. We are awaiting the West Kent Highways response.

Residents and town councillors have also been united in calls for a crossing on the busy intersection of roads by the Vine. They are appealing for Kent Country Council to install a pelican crossing in Dartford Road, just below the junction with Vine Court Road, outside the Vine Restaurant.

Cllr Margaret Crabtree said "It is a very, very dangerous part of the road where the Vine meets all these different roads and really pedestrians take their lives in their hands to cross that road. A crossing would help enormously."

Sevenoaks the safest area in Kent

Action taken over the last year to tackle crime and the fear of crime has helped to make Sevenoaks District the safest area in Kent, so heard Sevenoaks District Council's Cabinet at the meeting held on Thursday 2nd August, 2007. Over the course of the last year (from 1st April, 2006 to 31st March, 2007) 75 partnership projects have been taking place to make Sevenoaks a safer District as part of the second year of the Sevenoaks District Community Safety Partnership Strategy and Action Plan. During this time Sevenoaks was named as the safest district in Kent with overall crime dropping by 8%. Crime across Kent dropped by 0.5% during the same period. Robin Hales, Chairman of the Community Safety Partnership said: "Making sure Sevenoaks District us a safe place to live is a priority for may of our residents and hence it is a priority for the Community Safety Partnership."

On a lighter note, congratulations to Pc John Boyden on his marriage to Paula, a local care assistant on Saturday 1st September. John Boyden is an integral part of our town and we wish them a happy and long marriage.

The Sevenoaks Playhouse

It was with some concern that we read the article, in our local newspaper on Thursday 13th September, about the troubles at the Playhouse and hope that Kino Holdings will sign the contracts to run the venue for 25 years. It would be a tragedy if after all that passed this much loved theatre would experience another period of uncertainty.

Conservation Council

Conservation maps are now on the SDC website: www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/conservationareas and minutes of Conservation Council meetings are available at the Chamber Office.

Wildlife Initiative

An environmental initiative that has blossomed into the most successful scheme of its kind in Kent has been short-listed for a prestigious international award. Over the last three years SDC's 'Gardening for Wildlife' award scheme has more than doubled in size to over 100 entrants, and has now been nominated for a Green Apple Environment Award. The Green Apple awards are run by the Green Organisation, an independent, non-political, non-activist, non-profit environmental group and recognise, reward and promote environmental best practice around the world. The 'Gardening for Wildlife' award scheme launched on 1st June and a Wildlife Gardening Celebration Evening will be held in September. Quarterly newsletters go out to constantly update residents on changes they can make to their garden to benefit wildlife. The 'Gardening for Wildlife' award scheme is run in partnership with Kent Wildlife Trust, North West Kent Countryside Partnership and sponsored by Mid Kent Water, Kent County Council and CARE Kent. The Council will be presented with the award at the House of Commons in November.

Sevenoaks District Council has won a Green Apple award on three previous occasions – in 2002 for its Sustainable Communities Project, in 2005 for its Community Action Project and in 2006 for its 'Grimebuster' graffiti cleaning project.

For further information visit the website:

www.thegreenorganisation.info.

Borough Green Bypass

As you are all aware the Borough Green Bypass enquiry collapsed. KCC have announced a date for the Borough Green bypass public meeting, which could give residents the information they have been demanding since the project collapsed. The provisional date for the meeting is 27th September, starting at 7pm and a location has yet to be decided. It will be interesting to see what now transpires as this has been a long ongoing issue. There have been many suggestions made by the public and one suggestion in the local newspaper was that "it is time to resurrect the east-facing slip roads onto the M25. This would benefit all those who live or travel along the A25 between Sevenoaks and Borough Green."

Rogue Traders

For any complaints on Rogue Traders, Contact Trading Standards Rogue Hotline: 0845 450210.

Sevenoaks Smokefree District

On 1st July, the smoke free legislation came into force and has been accepted for the main part, by everyone in the Sevenoaks area. Restaurants, coffee shops etc. do not seem to have been affected by the ban and some have increased their business. Most of the people eating out have welcomed the non-smoking ban.

New Fire Safety Legislation

Safety regulations from October 2006 - Employers, Occupiers & Building Owners become responsible for fire safety. For further information please log on to: www.kent.fire-uk.org

News and Events around Sevenoaks

Looking for the latest news and what's on around the Sevenoaks town and district? Wanting to publicise your business event or announce a press release? Click on www.7oaks.info for its interactive community calendar and add your event/news item online. Do watch this space for news of further planned developments on the web-site.

Have you looked at the Chamber web site recently?

See the Links – on line business information “ONE SOURCE”

BUSINESS TO BUSINESS BROCHURE

It's not too late to let us have your A5 flyer. We are constantly sending out the brochure to new businesses and new Members. Promote your business and include your information in the “Business to Business” pack. If you need further information, contact the office.

Fairtrade in Sevenoaks

For more information, please contact: www.fairtradeatwork.org.uk.

Post Office Closures Threat needs full debate

We do not know yet whether the proposed closure of some 2,500 post offices across the country will affect Sevenoaks but if we are faced with these closures, a full, local, open debate and a proper consultation needs to be organised. Over the next few months, village and towns across the country will face difficult decisions. Cllr Nick Chard will be fighting in our corner because “once lost, this vital community asset will be gone forever.”

Open Evenings & Network Lunches

Our last Open Evening was hosted by Doug Parry, of Lawrence Insurance Group on Thursday 21st June, 2007. It was a beautiful evening, one of the only ones during our summer! The event was held in Lawrences' beautiful garden at the back of the premises and was attended by many Chamber Members plus BNI members.

After a break during the summer holidays, the first Open Evening at the start of Autumn, will be held by The Sevenoaks Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with the Sevenoaks Town Council, at the Chamber at the Council Offices in Bradbourne Vale Road, on Thursday 20th September, 2007. All Members and friends are welcome.

Our last Network lunch on 25th July, was held at Gregg's Restaurant with a beautiful meal provided by Gavin Gregg and was attended by 20 members. Our next lunch will be after the AGM at the Wildernesse Club on Wednesday 17th October, 2007. Invitations have been sent out to all Chamber Members.

**WHY NOT BRING A COLLEAGUE ALONG AND
INTRODUCE A NEW MEMBER : EARN £10.00
DISCOUNT**

Thai Square in the old Dorset Arms site

A new Thai Restaurant, Thai Square, opened in the old Dorset Arms site and seems to have been well supported by the local community. We wish them well in their venture in Sevenoaks.



**TO JOIN THE CHAMBER IT COSTS
£7.10P PER MONTH!**

Discounts for Chamber Members

Did you know, some of our Chamber Member offer discounts to fellow Members??? Please mention that you are a Chamber Member when using any of our Member's many and varied services or look at our 'Benefits' section on our home page www.sevenoakschamber.com.

Information on our Web Page

Perhaps you are not aware that on our Web Page under 'Links' there are many informative sites to log onto from CAB to Eurostar to Inside No. 10! The other local Chambers of Commerce are also listed.

For Members details don't forget to check our Directory on the Website.

EUROPAGES is a working tool for businesses with an international vocation, helping them to buy better and sell more in Europe. www.europages.com gives access to the full EUROPAGES database: 600,000 businesses in 36 European countries.

Humour Corner

Sign outside a new town hall which was to be opened by the Prince of Wales: THE TOWN HALL IS CLOSED UNTIL OPENING. IT WILL REMAIN CLOSED AFTER BEING OPENED. OPEN TOMORROW!!!

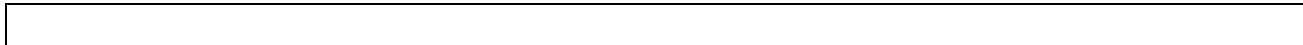
Seen at the side of a Sussex Road: SLOW CATTLE CROSSING. NO OVERTAKING FOR THE NEXT 100 YEARS!

Great Storm of 1987.

Can you believe it is 20 years, next month, since the Great Storm of 1987 tore through the Sevenoaks area?

Christmas Lights and Late Night Shopping

The late night shopping and the Christmas Lights turn-on will take place on Friday 30th November, 2007. The lights will be turned on by the Mayor, Cllr Richard Parry. The Chamber of Commerce will judge the best shop window with the Mayor after the event.



NEW MEMBERS FOR 2007 - WELCOME

Natwest/Royal Bank of Scotland – Robyn Goodman – for all your banking needs.
Telephone: 01892 790693 or e ail: robyn.goodman@rbs.co.uk.

Citius – Michael Turner – for all your business growth & training & development.
Telephone: 01732 460003 or email: michael@cbtbusiness.co.uk.

Green Line Private Hire Cars – James Taylor Munro – for all your private car hire requirements. Telephone: 01732 834885 or email: marqueman@btconnect.com.

Elgee Pinks Solicitors – Nicholas Pinks/John Elgee – for all your legal requirements.
Telephone: 01959 568100 or email: info@elgeepinks.com

Vanbar Multimedia Limited – Stuart Kennaugh – for all your web design, development & consultancy requirements. Telephone: 01732 741761 or email: enquiries@vanbar.co.uk

Specsavers Opticians Sevenoaks – Bhavesh Hansjee – for all your optical requirements. Telephone: 07795147624 or email: bhavesh_hansjee@hotmail.com

London House Services – Graham Chandler – for all your banking, legal, insurance consultancy & investigations. Telephone: 01732 884290 or email: tonbridge@lh-services.co.uk

Otford.net Limited – John Hubbard – for all your internet services. Telephone: 0871 7115427 or email: info@otford.net

Acorn Communications – Caroine Aitken – for all your publishing & marketing services. Telephone: 01732 465666 or email: caroline@acorncommunications.co.uk