

# IN BUSINESS



Check our website for information: [www.sevenoakschamber.com](http://www.sevenoakschamber.com) E-mail: [info@sevenoakschamber.com](mailto:info@sevenoakschamber.com) Tel: 01732 455188

## Parking

The parking debate goes on! Many businesses have expressed their concerns over parking spaces available for their employees. A petition is also being organised by a Sevenoaks resident after a proposal to put yellow lines in front of driveways in Eardley Road. *“Visitors and tradesmen find it most helpful to have the option to park outside certain houses and if there were yellow lines they would be forced to add further to congested parking elsewhere in the road.”*

The chaos continues in the High Street and London Road with delivery vans blocking the road and parking on pavements endangering pedestrians who have to step out into the road to get around the parked vehicles. Lunch time continues to be the worst time for this practice.

## Cash Machine Scam

Police are warning cash machine users to be on their guard against a scam. The scheme is known as the Lebanese Loop and usually works with a small plastic device being put into the card slot. The thieves either offer to help the victim or stand close by so they can see the pin number. When the victim tries to use the cash point, their card is retained. Once the victim leaves the thieves remove the loop, containing the card.

## Vandalism & anti-social behaviour worse than ever

Vandalism is at unprecedented levels in Dunton Green, says one community leader which is highly disturbing. Thieves stole lead from Dunton Green Village Hall roof on three occasions. The pavilion has been targeted; a bus shelter in London Road damaged and capping stones have been torn from a bridge near Tesco. Lead was also ripped off the roof of Dunton Green Primary School twice in the space of a week in September. Dunton Green & Riverhead quote an increase of 25 percent in crime levels for the same period last year. The parish council are considering withdrawing funding for the provision of the PCSO.

## Rogue Traders

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

## Food Businesses : What are the scores on the doors?

As part of a national initiative called ‘Scores on the Doors’ food businesses inspected by SDC’s Environmental Health Team will be give a star rating based on the assessment of their food hygiene standards.

From 14th January, 2008 these results will be accessible through the Council’s website allowing residents and visitors to the District to make more informed choices about where they eat. It will also be possible to access the results on the ‘Scores on the Doors’ website [www.scoresonthedoors.org.uk](http://www.scoresonthedoors.org.uk)

## Remembrance Sunday

Over 500 people attended the Remembrance Day memorial at the Vine in Sevenoaks and the Chamber of Commerce was represented by one of our Board Members, Doug Parry of Lawrence Insurance Group. It was heartening to see that a number of young people from the Cubs, Guides and Brownies were at the ceremony which bodes well for the future, when young people growing into adulthood; continue supporting this very worthwhile event.

## Post Office Closures

Sevenoaks District Council has expressed its disappointment at the recent decision to close six post office branches in Sevenoaks District. The announcement was made by Post Office Limited on 6<sup>th</sup> December following a six week public consultation period. Cllr Jill Davison, SDC Cabinet member says *“The public came out in their droves to support the threatened post offices.”* The six branches in Sevenoaks which will close in January 2008 are: Edenbridge, South End, 115 High Street, TN8 5AX Eynsford, The Old Forge Tea Rooms, 2 Riverside, DA4 0EA Farningham, 3 High Street, Farningham, DA4 0DG, 23-25 High Street, Seal, TN15 0AW, Sevenoaks, High Street, 13 High Street, TN13 1HZ, Sevenoaks & St Botolphs, 2 Station Parade, TN13 1DL Sevenoaks.

## Waitrose

Waitrose has decided not to move to a new site on the corner of Bligh’s Meadow. The firm will now redevelop its existing High Street store. In a statement in our local newspaper, they stated, *“Waitrose are firmly committed to Sevenoaks and want to ensure we keep delivering our high level of service to the town beyond the 25 years we have already traded here. We believe developing our existing shop and its car park offers us the best opportunity to enable us to do this and are currently exploring our options on how this can be achieved.”*

## Smoke Free District

According to research undertaken during the first three months of the new laws, the introduction of the smoke free legislation has been a great success. Within the Sevenoaks District the new legislation has been well received, with no complaints being received of individuals smoking in smoke free areas and no fixed penalty notices or warning letters being issued. There was some opposition for the smoke free legislation before the ban but as usual the people of Sevenoaks have shown how we can all pull together and show support of a cause of benefit to us all.

## 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](http://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](http://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.

## 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](http://www.sevenoakschamber.com).

## Recycling

Did you know?

You can 'recycle' your old bicycles at:  
[www.freecycle.org](http://www.freecycle.org).

Sevenoaks District has increased its recycling levels from 10% to 33% in the last 10 years.

## Open Evenings & Network Lunches

Our last Open Evening was held at the Chamber at the Sevenoaks Town Council offices on 20th September and was well attended by Chamber Members and the Mayor, Richard Parry. Several Councillors also attended.

The Chamber of Commerce held its AGM on the 17th October, 2007 at the Wildernesse Club. The Christmas lunch in conjunction with Sevenoaks Business Ladies, was held at the Sun Do Restaurant on Wednesday 5th December, 2007 and was well attended by 60 people. Raffles were held, the lunch was excellent and enjoyed by all who attended.

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

## Fairtrade in Sevenoaks

For more information, please contact:  
[www.fairtradeatwork.org.uk](http://www.fairtradeatwork.org.uk).

## Sevenoaks Playhouse

There have been many opinions voiced on the way the Sevenoaks Playhouse / Kino Holdings are running their theatre programmes. In support district council leader Cllr Peter Fleming said “*Kino are going to have to run it a different way to make that building profitable and that will mean that groups will have to, over a period of time, change the way they are going to operate with the building.*” Several groups cancelled their theatre productions earlier in the year because of disagreements. Cabinet minister Cllr Felicity Broomby has been acting as mediator between hirers and Kino bosses over new terms such as the increased booking cost, etc. and said “*The hirers have got to accept that how they hired it before is not how they are going to hire it now. There has to be give and take on both sides.*”

## Tesco Planning Appeal

After taking expert legal advice, the SDC has reluctantly decided not to defend its decision to reject the proposed expansion of Tesco in Riverhead. An application to extend the Tesco store in Riverhead was refused by the Council's Development Control Committee on 15th February, 07 but after three special meetings, and following expert advice from consultants and legal advice from Counsel, the Council decided that it could not provide evidence to the Planning Inspectorate in defence of the reasons for refusal. Cllr Gary Williamson, the Council's Cabinet Member was bitterly disappointed but said: “*Sadly it is another example of national planning policy overriding the wishes of local people.*”

TO JOIN THE CHAMBER IT COSTS £8.33p PER MONTH!

### 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

EUROPAGES is a working tool for businesses with an international vocation, helping them to buy better and sell more in Europe.

[www.europages.com](http://www.europages.com) gives access to the full EUROPAGES database: 600,000 businesses in 36 European countries.

### Conservation Council

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

### Christmas Lights and Late Night Shopping

The late night shopping and the Christmas Lights turn-on took place on Friday 30th November, 2007 in torrential rain and strong winds but the event was attended by many local people nevertheless. The lights were turned on by the Mayor, Cllr Richard Parry. The event was supported by the Sevenoaks Lions Club, Churches Together in Sevenoaks, St Lawrence School Concert Band and many more. The best shop window was judged by the Chamber of Commerce and the Mayor, Cllr Richard Parry and first prize was won by the Sevenoaks Book Shop. The runners up were Sashani Jewellers and The Chocolate Shop, both of London Road. Highly commended were The Chinaman, The Curtain Scene, The Find, Great Haul of China and Alan Streek. The Chamber shield was presented to The Sevenoaks Bookshop and certificates will be presented to all the runners-up by the Sevenoaks Town Council.

**THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
WISHES ALL ITS MEMBERS & FRIENDS  
A HAPPY CHRISTMAS & A  
PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR**



### Humour Corner

What did the tooth brush want to become when he grew older?

*A Broom*

My dog's a blacksmith.

*Every time we open the front door he makes a bolt for it!*

What do you give a sick budgie?

*Tweetment*

I went to a bookstore and asked the saleswoman: "Where's the self-help section?"

*She said that if she told me, it would defeat the purpose!*

## NEW MEMBERS FOR 2007 - WELCOME

**St. James's Place Partnership – Alastair Hay** - for all your financial services.

Telephone: 07776 313430. Email: [alastair.hay@sjpp.co.uk](mailto:alastair.hay@sjpp.co.uk). Web: [www.sjpp.co.uk/alastairhay](http://www.sjpp.co.uk/alastairhay).

**Stephanie's – Stephanie Chapman** – for all your catering requirements.

Telephone: 01892 539044. Email: [catering@stephanies.f9.co.uk](mailto:catering@stephanies.f9.co.uk).

**Walkto Walk Limited** – Kirsty Meynell – walking activity/events specialists.

Telephone: 01959 565555. Web: [www.walktowalk.com](http://www.walktowalk.com).

**The Best of Sevenoaks – Jo Brett** – thebest of champions the finest companies, venues & products in the area.

Telephone: 0800 458 7872. Email: [sevenoaks@thebestof.co.uk](mailto:sevenoaks@thebestof.co.uk).

**Natwest / Royal Bank of Scotland – Robyn Goodman** – for all your banking needs.

Telephone: 01892 790693. Email: [robyn.goodman@rbs.co.uk](mailto:robyn.goodman@rbs.co.uk).

**Citius – Michael Turner** – for all your business growth & training & development.

Telephone: 01732 460003. Email: [michael@cibtbusiness.co.uk](mailto:michael@cibtbusiness.co.uk).

**Green Line Private Hire Cars – James Taylor Munro** – for all your private car hire requirements.

Telephone: 01732 834885. Email: [marqueman@btconnect.com](mailto:marqueman@btconnect.com).

**Elgee Pinks Solicitors – Nicholas Pinks / John Elgee** – for all your legal requirements.

Telephone: 01959 568100. Email: [info@elgeepinks.com](mailto:info@elgeepinks.com).

**Vanbar Multimedia Limited – Stuart Kennaugh** – for all your web design, development & consultancy requirements.

Telephone: 01732 741761. Email: [enquiries@vanbar.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@vanbar.co.uk).

**Specsavers Opticians Sevenoaks – Bhavesh Hansjee** – for all your optical requirements.

Telephone: 07795147624. Email: [bhavesh\\_hansjee@hotmail.com](mailto:bhavesh_hansjee@hotmail.com).

**London House Services – Graham Chandler** – for all your banking, legal, insurance consultancy & investigations.

Telephone: 01732 884290. Email: [tonbridge@lh-services.co.uk](mailto:tonbridge@lh-services.co.uk).

**Oxford.Net Limited – John Hubbard** – for all your internet services.

Telephone: 01959 522 822. Email: [info@otford.net](mailto:info@otford.net).

**Acorn Communications – Caroine Aitken** – for all your publishing & marketing services.

Telephone: 01732 465666. Email: [caroline@acorncommunications.co.uk](mailto:caroline@acorncommunications.co.uk)