

IN BUSINESS



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

Parking

The new parking charges come into effect from Tuesday 1st April, 2008. The proposed charges will affect Sevenoaks Town Centre, Sevenoaks Station, Sevenoaks St. John's Hill, Swanley – Bevan Place, Park Road and Station Road, Westerham Darenth and Quebec Avenue. Details of the charges will be advertised in all the affected car parks, on the Council's website and in public notices section of some local newspapers. The new charges were agreed at SDC's Cabinet meeting on 20th December, 2007.

Sevenoaks tops efficiency league table

Sevenoaks District Council is officially the most efficient district authority in the country, according to the central government agency the Audit Commission. Compared with last year, when it was jointly the most efficient district authority in England, Sevenoaks improved in terms of internal control, value for money and financial reporting. Out of a possible 20 points, SDC scored 19, the highest of any district council nationally.

Residents asked to help keep the District safe

Local residents are being asked for their views on how crime can be tackled in the District by commenting on a new action plan which aims to make the District an even safer place to live. The Sevenoaks District Community Safety Partnership is currently consulting on its draft Strategy and Action Plan for 2008 to 2011 which is based on consultation with local people, statistical crime data and data from partner agencies. The document can be viewed at www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/communitysafety, and comments can be made online.

Rogue Traders

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

Fairtrade in Sevenoaks

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

Food Businesses : What are the scores on the doors?

There have been many angry responses to this scheme by restaurants in the area mainly due to the way the system is judged. One of the comparisons was between a garage and a restaurant which is baffling as to how you can rate a restaurant who serves fresh meals and a garage which supplies a completely different service. On the other hand it is correct to check up on the businesses in Sevenoaks to keep standards on a high level, but perhaps the way that businesses are judged should be on a more representative basis. Scores on the doors results are published on the website: www.scoresonthedoors.org.uk

Post Office News

A report in the Chronicle said that key parts of Sevenoaks Post Office could be relocated to the Vestry Estate under new plans being considered by the Royal Mail which also gives pause for thought as to whether the counter service could also be under review. After all the post office closures in the district, this is very worrying, especially as the demand in Sevenoaks for this service is invaluable. At peak hours the queues in the post office are already reaching out of the door and to have a smaller branch would be totally unacceptable.

Open Evenings & Network Lunches

The first Open Evening/Networking event for 2008 was held on 21st February at The Donnington Manor Hotel and was well attended. The hotel provided excellent canapés and wine. The second Open Evening on 20th March, was held at The Royal Oak Hotel who also provided the Chamber with excellent canapés and wine. The event was also very well attended considering that it was the night before the Easter weekend.

The first networking lunch was held at The House on the Hill on 5th March and was attended by 20 members. The lunch was enjoyed by all.

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

Recycling

Did you know you can 'recycle' your old bicycles at: www.freecycle.org.

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

Sevenoaks Stag Theatre

The Chamber Of Commerce sent a letter to be included in the Letters page to the Chronicle on 6th March, 2008, expressing the concerns of many of its members and saying that it proves difficult to book events at the Stag and the possibility of the site being redeveloped at a future date. There was quite a lively debate with many replies from the public, Kino and Councillors. We truly hope that all the rumours and problems that have been experienced previously will be a thing of the past and we can all enjoy our wonderful theatre. On a positive note you can hold an event or performance and use the Art Deco bar, the versatile studio or the main auditorium for this event. Contact: www.kinocinemas.co.uk or call 01732 450175.

Tesco Planning Appeal

Tesco was finally given the right to increase the size of its Riverhead store which was a bitter blow to residents opposed to the expansion. The issue has split the community right down the middle with those against the expansion saying that it will increase the pollution in the area and also affect the livelihoods of small traders. Those for the expansion say it will decrease the pollution as you will be able to buy everything you need under one roof and stop the need to travel to the larger centres in the county. This is a highly sensitive issue and the Chamber of Commerce can see both sides of the debate.

Film Locations boost tourism

With our local tourist locations such as Knole, Penshurst Place and even Dover Castle being used more and more for film locations, hopefully it will boost the tourism in our community and also our local economy. We have so much history to offer in this part of Kent and what a marvellous opportunity to advertise our many and varied locations and also bring more income to our local businesses.

Free Employment Law & Health & Safety Seminar

A free Employment Law & Health & Safety Seminar is being held by Peninsula and in conjunction with the Sevenoaks Chamber of Commerce at the Royal Oak Hotel on 9th April, 2008. For more details: events@peninsula-uk.com, phone 0161 8342771.

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. The Chamber has been overwhelmed with the response to our request for new flyers and the membership pack is now more fully representative of all the members and the services they can offer.

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.

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.

We have a diverse number of members ranging from Solicitors to Nordic Walking activities, from a walk-in private casualty centre to a florist, from a hardware centre to several jewellers, from insurance to catering, and many, many more. Please support all our local businesses and help Sevenoaks to continue as a viable town.

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 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 and minutes of Conservation Council meetings are available at the Chamber Office.



Humour Corner

Teacher: Now Simon, tell me frankly, do you say your prayers before eating?

Simon: No, sir, I don't have to, my Mum is a good cook!

A young man bought an expensive piece of jewellery as a present for his girlfriend. "Don't you want her name engraved on it?" asked the clerk. The young man thought for a moment, and then, ever the realist, steadfastly replied, "No just engrave it: To My one and Only Love. That way if we break up and she throws it back to me in anger, I can use it again!"

Please do not forget that the Chamber of Commerce has the main function of being here for our Members and the business community. If you have any queries or issues, please feel free to pop in to discuss this or contact the office via email or telephone and we will do everything in our power to help and offer advice wherever possible.

Chamber of Commerce on the move

Unfortunately, the Quadrant, 5 Victoria Road, where the Chamber of Commerce has been located for a great many years, has been sold and the Chamber is in the process of searching for new premises. We are hopeful that we will be able to find a new office in the Sevenoaks Town and several possibilities are in the pipeline.

NEW MEMBERS FOR 2008 - WELCOME

Demelza Hospice Care for Children – Laura Carey – hospice care for children. Telephone: 01580 714028.
Email: laura.carey@demelza.org.uk

The Crown Point Inn – Angus McLelland – Pub/Restaurant. Telephone: 01732 810669. Email:
info@thecrownpoint.co.uk

Casualty Plus – Priyesh Sura – walk in casualty treatment. Telephone: 01732 741195. Email:
priyesh.sura@casualtyplus.co.uk.

Bloss Legal Services – Marie Bloss – On-line dictation services. Telephone: 01732 746656. Email:
marie.bloss@btconnect.com