

People and Places Advisory Committee

Responsibilities and Challenges June 2019

Communities & Business Team

Chief Officer - Lesley Bowles



Service Manager: Hayley Brooks, Head of Housing and Health

Areas of Responsibility

- Community Plan
- Partnership co-ordination and engagement
- Community engagement and consultations
- Community Grants
- Leisure activities

Issues and Future Challenges

- Delivering the new three year Community Plan (2019-2022)
- Building of a new leisure centre in Swanley
- Updating existing leisure facilities
- Sustaining community grant funding to meet needs
- Support for voluntary sector organisations

Communities and Business Team

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Sevenoaks District Community Plan 2019-22

- Creates a long-term vision for the Sevenoaks District
- Based on widespread consultation with local people and partners
- Sets priorities for the three years
- Links to key Council Strategies and Plan
- Delivered by the Sevenoaks District Local Strategic Partnership (LSP)
- Co-ordinated by SDC - key agencies, voluntary, community and faith sector representatives
- LSP Sub-Groups: Community Safety Partnership and Supporting People into Employment Group
- 94% of actions in the Community Plan were delivered in the 2018/19 action plan
- Target of 85% set for new Plan



Communities and Business

Chief Officer - Lesley Bowles

Community Plan - 15 year vision (2013-2028)



We want Sevenoaks to have a safer place to live, work and travel



We want Sevenoaks District to be a place where people can enjoy clean and high quality urban and rural environments



We want Sevenoaks District to be a place with a thriving local economy, where businesses flourish and people have skills for employment



We want Sevenoaks to be a place where people can be supported to lead independent, fulfilling lives and where children and young people have the best start



We want Sevenoaks District to be a place where people have healthy lifestyles and where health inequalities are reduced



We want Sevenoaks District to be a place where people can live, work and travel more easily and are empowered to shape their communities

Communities and Business Team

Chief Officer - Lesley Bowles



Engagement and Consultation

- Design and co-ordinate community consultations and engagement activities
 - Stangrove Community Estate improvements
 - Community Plan consultations - 659 people, 154 young people
 - Information event on new Swanley Leisure Centre
 - Development options of small SDC land sites
 - Supporting Reg. 18 and 19 Local Plan consultations
- Support partners to search for funding for projects
- Local Services Directory for local partners:
www.Sevenoaks.gov.uk/yourlocalservices



Your Local Services
Sevenoaks District

A collage of three images. The top image shows a woman in a blue shirt walking on a dirt path through a green field. The bottom left image shows two children sitting in a blue inflatable. The bottom right image shows a group of people, including a man in a blue shirt, gathered around a table with various items on it.

Version 22
May 2019

The logo for Sevenoaks District Council, featuring a stylized green tree icon above the text "Sevenoaks" in a bold, sans-serif font, with "DISTRICT COUNCIL" in a smaller font below it.

Communities and Business Team

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Community Grants

- Annual grants to local voluntary sector organisations and charities - £153,340
- Funds to support Community Plan priorities
- Launched Sept/Oct to commence 1st April
- Appraised by trained Officer and Member Panels
- 2019/20: 25 grants - 2018/19: 24 grants
- Three year SLA for Citizens Advice funding
- Quarterly monitoring of agreed performance targets



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Leisure activities

- Three leisure centres (Sevenoaks, Edenbridge & White Oak)
- Lullingstone Golf Course
 - All managed by Sencio Community Leisure on long term lease until 2029 (25 years)
- Council pays an annual management fee to Sencio
- Loan to Sencio for Sevenoaks gym improvements
- Proposal for new Leisure Centre in Swanley
- Future plans to update facilities at Edenbridge
- Advantage Card - SDC subsidises a concession scheme (people on some benefits, students and over 65's)
- SDC - Delivery of targeted community sports activities (archery, walks, rides)



Communities & Business

Chief Officer - Lesley Bowles

Service Manager: Kelly Webb, Community Safety Manager

Areas of Responsibility

- Community Safety Partnership
- Community Safety Unit
- Young People
- Safeguarding
- Town and Parishes
- Community Events
- Dunton Green Community Development Work
- Sports Development & Clubs support

Issues and Future Challenges

- Continued funding from PCC and other funding opportunities
- Reduction in Youth Services
- Cross Border Crime
- Community Development work Dunton Green finishes March 2020

Communities & Business Team

Chief Officer - Lesley Bowles



Service Manager: Kelly Webb, Community Safety Manager

Community Safety. Our 8 priorities are:-

- Domestic Abuse
- Serious & Tactical Crime incl OCG, Crime Trends and County Lines
- ASB incl Environmental
- Acquisitive Crime
- Substance Misuse
- Safeguarding incl Prevent, Mental Health, Young People, Vulnerable Adults, Child Sexual Exploitation, Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking
- Doorstep Crime & Scams incl Cyber Crime
- Road Safety



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Community Safety Unit:

- SDC CS Officer + Police co-location - Council offices
- CSU Daily tasking - over 600 taskings
- Partnership approach to tackle local issues
- Environmental Visual Audits (EVA)
- Tackling serious and tactical crime include OCG's
- Community MARAC - 20 individuals/families
- Dealing with ASB and Acceptable Beh. Agreements (36 p.a)
- PACT meetings with communities - action plan with residents
- CCTV, West Kent Housing, Community Wardens, PCSO's
- Leads of Safeguarding referrals and support
- Support for vulnerable residents at risk of Scams
- Launched new Mental Health Crisis Drop in Service



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Youth, Parishes:

- Co-ordinate Family Fun Days
- Working with Youth Justice System
- Joint working with KCC Youth Team and West Kent Extra (Commissioned Service)
- Substance Misuse Youth Worker (mainly run by CSU)
- Town and Parish Council Clerk Forum

A promotional poster for Family Fun Days. The top half features a photograph of a young girl with a flower crown, wearing a pink jacket and denim overalls, holding a hula hoop. The background shows a colorful striped mat on a grassy area. Text overlays include "Easter 2018" in a green box, a blue starburst with "FREE", and the title "Family Fun Days" in large white letters on a green background. Below the title, the dates and locations for four days are listed: Tuesday 3 April (10am to 2pm, The Green, Leigh TN11 8QL), Wednesday 4 April (10am to 2pm, Rickards Hall, rear of 72 High Street, Edenbridge TN8 5AR), Thursday 5 April (10am to 2pm, The Village Hall and Heathside, Horton Road, South Darenth DA4 9AZ), and Friday 6 April (10am to 2pm, West Kingsdown Primary School, Fawkham Road TN15 6JP). At the bottom, it states "No booking required but children must be supervised by a parent or carer at all times." and provides contact information: "For more information, please call 01732 227000 or email communities@sevenoaks.gov.uk".

Funded by Sevenoaks District Council,
run by Imago and supported by
town and parish councils



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Service Manager: Kelly Webb, Community Safety Manager

Sports and Community Projects

- Dunton Green Community Development Work
- Sports Development & Clubs support
- Community events -
- Community & Voluntary 'Making it Happen' Awards
- Big Sing Event



Communities and Business Team



Chief Officer - Lesley Bowles

Service Manager: Andrew Stirling, Head of Economic Development and Property

Area of responsibility - Town Centres

The District has four main town centres: Sevenoaks, Swanley, Edenbridge and Westerham.

Issues and Future Challenges:

- Changing patterns of retail and leisure demand
- Reduction in office stock through permitted development rights

Communities and Business Team



Chief Officer - Lesley Bowles

Service Manager: Andrew Stirling, Head of Economic Development and Property

Challenges:

- How to maintain the attractiveness of town centres as a destination and a place to live
- How to encourage a diversity of retail and leisure uses

Achievements:

- The letting of the upper part of 96 High Street, Sevenoaks to Second Floor Studios CIC as a 'meanwhile use'
- Working with the Sevenoaks Chamber of Commerce and their retailer forum and the Edenbridge Business Forum
- Promotion of small retailers through the national Small Business Saturday event

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Area of responsibility - Tourism

The Council Plan recognises the importance of the Visitor Economy. 'Build on the District's thriving economy through the regeneration of our market towns, and by enhancing both the visitor and rural economies'.

Issues and Future Challenges:

- Continuing growth in visitor numbers and associated spend in the District
- Capacity of transport and individual attraction infrastructure
- Limited accommodation offer

Communities and Business Team



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Challenges:

- How to increase visitor numbers to the District without overwhelming existing attractions
- How to extend the 'dwell time' and associated spend from existing visitor numbers
- How to provide sufficient transport links to rural tourist attractions

Achievements:

- The establishment of a Visitor Economy Forum
- Working with partners in Sussex, Surrey and London Gatwick to promote West Kent
- The development of a Community Rail Partnership (CRP) for the railway line between Sevenoaks and Swanley.

Communities and Business Team

Chief Officer - Lesley Bowles

West Kent Partnership Manager - Wendy Wood



Area of responsibility - West Kent Partnership

Our vision for West Kent is to sustain a dynamic and well-connected local economy, to ensure that West Kent remains a key location for business success and growth and that our local population has access to quality jobs and skills development.

Issues and Future Challenges

- High land values and property prices creates a shortage of available development land
- Lack of investment in infrastructure and congestion on transport networks
- Full employment and the 'push/pull' of London

Communities and Business Team

Chief Officer - Lesley Bowles

West Kent Partnership Manager - Wendy Wood

Challenges

- Remaining engaged with local business needs
- Consolidating the Partnership's role and broadening the sphere of influence to progress priorities and secure funding
- Increasing the productivity in West Kent

Achievements

- Successfully bid for LEADER programme
- Secured West Kent Enterprise Adviser Network linking businesses with schools to inspire future workforce
- Delivering business support programme supporting starts ups and growth businesses across West Kent

Communities and Business Team

Chief Officer - Lesley Bowles

West Kent LEADER Manager - Caroline Lingham



Area of responsibility

The West Kent LEADER grant funding programme (2014-2020), was established to award £1.8 million funding for projects in West Kent which create jobs, help businesses and develop the rural economy.

Issues and Future Challenges

- Dependent on qualifying projects being put forward by rural businesses
- The programme is due to end in 2020 and the final cut off for projects to be assessed and appraised is September 2019.

Communities and Business Team

Chief Officer - Lesley Bowles

West Kent LEADER Manager - Caroline Lingham



Future Challenges

- Identification of post Brexit funding streams for farmers, growers, foresters and rural businesses to help secure a sustainable future for rural West Kent

Achievements

- Payment of £828,698.02 to 27 rural businesses across West Kent. Further project claims to be paid of around £900,000 to a further 14 rural businesses across West Kent
- Completed projects funded in Sevenoaks, £439,716.52, include: St Clere and Montreal - forestry equipment; Westerham Brewery - visitor facilities and shop ; Chart Farm - food processing equipment; Chiddingstone Castle - Café, signage