



**Weekly News & Information:** 

15/06/21

**SEVENOAKS TOWN TEAM** 

Executive board meeting: 16-06-21

- visit https://www.sevenoakspartnership.org/Sevenoaks Town Partnership 25203.aspx for meeting info & Agenda -

#### Sevenoaks Business Hub

a new facility for those looking for flexibility in business accommodation and networking with like-minded business people.

Sevenoaks is home to several entrepreneurs and recent months have shown many commuters that it is not necessary to travel every day. Recognising these factors, the Town Council has created a new facility from which business people can operate and encourage businesses growth.

Sevenoaks Business Hub is located adjoining the Town Council Office in Bradbourne Vale Road. It provides five single private offices, thirteen hot desks, a meeting room, café/kitchen, and an outdoor deck. Naturally, it will have up to the minute internet connectivity. The Hub will be open 7.00am – 9.00pm six days a week and facilities can be booked from as little as a half day to a monthly basis.

Sevenoaks District Chamber of Commerce is now headquartered at the Hub, and while membership of the Chamber is not a pre-requisite to hiring space, the Chamber will be hosting a number of its networking events in the building.

First to sign up for space in the Hub is Sideline Removals and Logistics. Director Sam Gregory is excited to be moving his business and explains why. "Currently we work from home and the business has outgrown our dining rooms. We want to be and look more professional and to have a single base. Networking is also an important attraction. We want to be part of the business community and the Hub is going to be great for that."

The Mayor Cllr Dr Merilyn Canet is very upbeat about the Hub. "The Council was considering creating a business hub before Covid because we knew that there are a good number of young businesses in the area, yet flexible, affordable accommodation has been in short supply. The Business Hub was part of the regeneration of the Northern Sevenoaks plan. Recent months have demonstrated that many people can work from home, yet for some it is difficult to combine home and business life and others miss the opportunity to socialise with people of a like mind. So, we are delighted to be providing a facility which will help both the local economy and work/life balance for business people".

Katrina Walker, Chair of the Sevenoaks & District Chamber of Commerce is equally upbeat. "We've been looking for a new base for our operation for some time now, one where we can easily mix with our members, and provide a location for networking and business meetings. The Chamber already runs regular events and we are now adding sector specific networking to our offering. We've also just rebranded, launched a new website, and will shortly be announcing our a new Chief Executive. There's been a lot going on! "

The new Sevenoaks Business Hub will be fully open for Business from 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021 (subject to public health guidelines). It is able to accommodate some businesses now.







#### Welcome to Art in June 4th - 20th June 2021

This year 50 artists warmly invite you to their 18 studios spread across the Sevenoaks & Eden Valley areas. There is no obligation to buy from the artists, they are there to welcome you to their space and share their enthusiasm. Entry is free. The joy is to visit the artists where their art is made. Many will be demonstrating during Open Studio days.

Open Studios is just right for the naturally curious person who loves to look at art and inquire. There are lots of people who love to visit artists studios and the artists love you to visit them. So go ahead, do it. We are waiting for you.

Debra Barr-Smith, Art in June Co-Ordinator

Lots more information on our website: www.artinjune.org

Facebook: **ArtinJuneKent** Instagram: **ArtinJunekent**.

## ART INJUNE OPEN STUDIOS 4th-20th June

51 artists in Sevenoaks & Eden Valley
For more information on individual artists and studio opening times

www.artinjune.org



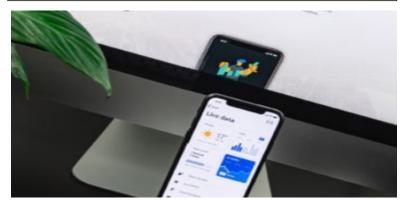






# **NAVIGATING THE** 'NEW NORMAL' AND THE IMPACT ON YOUR **WORKING PRACTICES**

With the disruption associated with COVID-19, business owners have had no other choice but to embrace the need for new technology solutions to facilitate processes such as increased network flexibility and effective internal and external information exchange via virtual platforms. However, attention is beginning to turn to the prospect of the "new normal" and what this potentially looks like for businesses; whether that be regarding work premises, cyber security or long-term technology.



#### SUFFICIENT DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

**Strengthened digital infrastructure** is arguably the most important aspect to think about; if you downsize your office space (or even move out of it altogether).

How can you prevent your IT systems from downsizing as your workforce continues to spread out and rely on digital solutions more than ever? It's therefore vital that your business has sufficient infrastructure to sustain the increased **digital load**, specifically, your server will need to have the necessary capacity and space to cope with this surge in online use.

Utilising **Cloud applications** to store and access data is another avenue that should be explored, and one which increases digital resilience and helps to enhance agile working.

#### REMOTE WORK STATIONS

During this remote-working revolution, **mobile-orientated work stations** enable employees to flexibly adapt to new situations, and this aspect would only become more necessary if your business were to operate remotely in the long term.

By replacing desktop PCs with **powerful laptops**, staff members can easily transition from one place to another with just a single cord to contend with as opposed to multiple trailing cables. With built-in cameras, microphones, speakers and more, laptops help to increase productivity by making it easier for employees to carry out their tasks.

**Additional monitors** for dual screening can then be added to your mobile set-up. Having numerous tabs and windows open can often make a computer desktop feel extremely cramped and difficult to navigate under time pressures. A second monitor can eliminate this problem by spreading out work onto two screens, therefore enabling workers to stay organised and on top of their workload.



The need to defend your business and staff against new cyber threats has been a topical issue since the onset of Covid-19 and if a long-term remote strategy were to be adopted, the need for greater protective mechanisms would undoubtedly remain.

Cloud security solutions should be implemented, particularly if your business is new to this environment, to check for vulnerabilities and ensure a safe migration to this virtual space.

Firewalls which protect all of your staff's devices, as well as your entire computer network, will also need to be updated when necessary and potentially replaced in order to keep up with the latest technological advancements. Take a look at our 'Top Tips to protect your staff and your business against cyber crime' to find out more about the cyber security implications of flexible working becoming the 'new norm.'





### Hot weather water tips and have your say on our dry weather plan

As the temperatures increase, so does our water use.

We're expecting to be pumping around 100 million litres more water than usual over the weekend.

This year, like last, is a bit different with everyone holidaying in the UK so we will be sharing messages all summer about how to make small changes to help us save water.

Keep an eye on our website for the latest on how we are doing and if we need to ask people to do more. Your help sharing our water efficiency messaging this weekend via your social media channels and websites will help make sure there is enough water for all, at all times.

You can find plenty of water saving tips on our website in the link below.

Save water this summer

#### **Hot weather preparations**

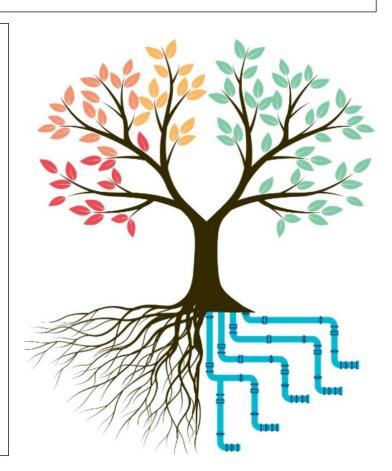
#### Have your say on our dry weather plan.

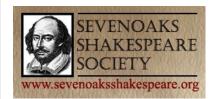
Every five years we prepare a drought plan that sets out what we do to manage droughts.

We know that working together with you is vital to the success of our plans as it is only through collaboration that we can make the best plan possible. We have worked with customers, stakeholders and our colleagues to prepare this draft plan. For a start you'll notice we've changes the name from a drought plan to our 'dry weather plan'.

We published our draft plan on Monday 7 June 2021 and we are now seeking your views.

Follow the link below to have your say and read all about our dry weather plan.





The dates are:

We are delighted to announce that we are back performing in the open air at The White Rock Inn at Underriver (TN15 0SB) this summer, with

#### THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED)

A hilarious comedy by Adam Long, Daniel Singer and Jess Winfield

Our director Jessica-Ann Jenner writes: "Last year we weren't able to share a Shakespeare play with you, so this year we thought we'd do them all! That's right, all 37 plays performed by three very talented and possibly quite insane actors, in less than two hours. We might even throw in a few of the sonnets for good measure! With guaranteed comedy, romance, tragedy and an inflatable dinosaur, this is the Bard as you've never seen him before.

July 8th, 9th and 10th at 7.45pm, July 11th at 3.30pm July 15th, 16th and 17th at 7.45pm, July 18th at 3.30pm

Ticket prices £13.50 in advance, £15 on the door. Children 16 and under, full-time students £5.

Book online here (no booking fee) or by telephone 0333 6663366 (NB booking fee £1.80)

It's an open air show and the evenings can be chilly, so please bring warm clothing, and rugs or low-backed folding chairs to sit on.

Pre-show drinks and meals at the White Rock Inn can be booked on 01732 833112 or www.thewhiterockinn.co.uk.

Please note that only food and drink purchased on the premises may be consumed in the pub garden.



Business Events
Domestic Support
Fund launched







We have launched a new Domestic Support Fund to kick-start the return of business events in the UK.

The fund is available for not-for-profit organisations and charities hosting meetings, conferences and events in the UK from 21 June to 17 December 2021. Events from 100 to 500 delegates taking place in the UK are eligible to apply.

The financial support available is based on the number of delegates attending with up to £15,000 available for each event.

Find out more



24th Tuesday August - 2pm - The Vine Gardens
25th Wednesday August - 2pm - Pontoise Play Area
26th Thursday August - 2pm - Greatness Recreation Ground