



The Official Newsletter of Bovey Tracey Town Council

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South West in Bloom Judging

Wednesday 15th July 2026



Following the South West in Bloom judging, we would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who played a part in making the day such a success.

From all those working behind the scenes to everyone who helped present our town at its very best, your time, effort and enthusiasm were really appreciated.

It was a fantastic day that showcased the pride and community spirit we share. Thank you once again to everyone involved, and now we look forward to hearing the results in October.

The Great Big Green Week



Bovey Tracey's Great Big Green Week featured a seven-day programme of environmental family activities including workshops, bike rides, film nights and exhibitions. The main draw was the free Family Fun Day in Mill Marsh Park, where 30 organisations came together to entertain visitors and share ideas about making a positive difference to the environment. More than 100 children and adults joined free life-saving training, including CPR, defibrillator use, water safety awareness and safe rescue techniques. Town Mayor Cllr Sheila Brooke said: "This year the free Family Fun Day was bigger than ever. The sun shone and visitors were entertained by talented local young people."

A Message from our Mayor

As we await further details on the proposed Local Government Reorganisation, you may be wondering what it could mean for town councils. While the full implications are not yet known, we want to reassure our community that Bovey Tracey Town Council is prepared, capable, and ready to take on additional services where this best serves our residents. Whatever the future brings, our priority remains delivering reliable local support and ensuring any future changes strengthen the services you rely on. If you would like to become more involved, please consider standing for election to the Town Council in May 2027.

Sheila Brooke, Town Mayor



Roadside verges in Bovey Tracey to get eco boost



ROADSIDE verges in Bovey Tracey are set to get even more eco-friendly after the Town Council agreed to replace annual wildflower planting with year-round perennials.

The move could help with the authority's carbon reduction aims and will also save taxpayers' money by reducing maintenance.

Anyone passing through town in recent years will have noticed signs indicating that some verges are seeded each year with flowers to attract pollinators such as bees and butterflies. Although the scheme has been deemed a great success, the new regime aims to achieve even more.

Out will go the annual planting and seed harvesting, to be replaced with plants that provide permanent ground cover supporting insects, birds and small mammals all year round. Members agreed perennial planting offers enduring ecological, economic and aesthetic advantages, creating a resilient, low-maintenance, biodiversity-rich habitat that addresses climate challenges.

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£200,000 sports improvements in Bovey Tracey



A £200,000 improvements package to sports facilities at The Recreation Ground has been officially opened by Central Devon MP and Shadow Chancellor Sir Mel Stride. The Cricket and Tennis Clubs, with support from the Town Council, have worked on the scheme for almost five years.

The project has delivered two fully enclosed cricket practice nets, a fourth tennis court with netball markings, open to non-members on a pay and play basis, and a much-improved car park. The improvements were supported by funding from several organisations and club funds.

Sir Mel Stride said the facilities were “the result of years of hard work by volunteers, supporters and local organisations working together” and “a great example of community at its best”. Town Mayor Cllr Sheila Brooke thanked the volunteers whose dedication made the project possible.

The new cricket nets are dedicated to the memory of Kelly Luscombe, the Cricket Club’s women’s captain who died last year. Cricket Club Chair Tina England said her inclusive spirit and dedication helped shape and grow the club’s women’s and girls’ cricket section.



COURT 4 CLUB/PAY & PLAY USE

How to book the new tennis court:

Court 4 is available for Tennis, Pickleball and Netball use by members of Bovey Tracey Lawn Tennis Club **and the public**. All sessions must be booked in advance via the Clubspark system. (Download the Clubspark App or scan the above QR code.)

Bovey Tracey Town Council sets aside cash for improved Heathfield play park

Bovey Tracey Town Council has confirmed its determination to improve community facilities in Heathfield by setting aside sufficient funds to deliver a much improved children’s play park. The Town Council is continuing to hold talks with Teignbridge District Council about taking ownership of the existing park in Prince Rupert Way, where the better equipment would be installed. Although the site has yet to be acquired, contractors have already produced two schemes, but members unanimously backed the more ambitious proposal. Ward Member Cllr Lisa Robillard Webb said a good quality play park would offer local children “a well thought out, safe, fun and welcoming space.” Town Mayor Cllr Sheila Brooke said: “It’s vital that we improve the quality of services in Heathfield as a matter of urgency and I’m all in favour of the better scheme.” Section 106 cash from developers will contribute more than £26,000 towards the project.



£1,200 bike maintenance point available free to cyclists in Bovey Tracey



Cyclists passing through Bovey Tracey can now make use of a new £1,200 bike repair point donated by members of the South Devon Cyclists Touring Club (SDCTC).

Located next to the existing bike storage units ‘**Bike Pods**’ in Station Road car park, the facility is free to use, available 24 hours a day, and includes a bike stand, high-pressure pump and all the tools needed for basic repairs.

The club chose Bovey Tracey because of its excellent cycling links to the Wray Valley Trail, Stover Trail and Teign Valley, as well as its position between the coast and Dartmoor.

SDCTC Promotions Officer Graham Brodie said the town “gets a lot of cyclists” and is “one of the few towns in Teignbridge which is well served for cycling.”

To hire a **Bike Pod**, Email: helen.tate@boveytracey.gov.uk



A new monthly Deaf Cafe at Bovey Tracey Riverside Community Centre is offering a social setting for people with hearing loss and the opportunity for others to learn British Sign Language. The project is the brainchild of Bradley Oliver, who, along with his mum, Katrina, hopes to encourage inclusion and bring the deaf community together. The cafe takes place from 1.30pm to 3.30pm on the first Friday of each month from September. Visitors can learn finger spelling and signing basics, with a £2 donation requested to help cover costs.

A NEW PLAQUE GIVES HISTORIC CORNER OF BOVEY TRACEY EVEN MORE APPEAL

A much-loved and historic corner of Bovey Tracey has been given even more appeal with the installation of a smart new name plaque at St Mary's Well.

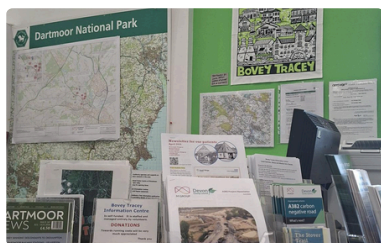
The slate was donated by Kenmart, the frame was created by volunteers at the Bovey Community Workshop, and Julia Mooney covered any costs herself as a gift to the community.



Town Mayor Cllr Sheila Brooke said: "It's a real community effort, so typical of Bovey Tracey, all these volunteers looking after the town. Without them we'd have none of these lovely things."

BOVEY TRACEY TOWN COUNCIL REINVESTS TAXPAYER'S CASH INTO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Bovey Tracey Town Council has awarded grants of almost £16,000, reinvesting taxpayers' money into the local community. Beneficiaries include Bovey Tracey Youth Action, receiving £7,000 to help with costs at the Youth Cafe, where the number of youngsters attending is rising. Teignbridge Citizens Advice received £5,363, with further grants awarded to Moorland Community Caring, Bovey Tracey Information Centre and Better Places CIC. The payments were approved by the Finance, Resources and General Purposes Committee.



Demand for the Youth Cafe is increasing, with as many as 40 youngsters attending each session. The group has extended its offer to 18-year-olds and hopes to increase opening from two to three evenings a week. Cllr Corin Burton said the awards were "an essential investment in our community" and thanked local groups "acting on all our behalves."



Spaces Available to Hire at the Riverside Community Centre

Main Hall - from £10 per hour:

- Includes use of the new kitchen
- Ideal for classes, parties, community groups and one-off events

Office Spaces - from £2.50 per hour:

We have three offices available for hire, each set up for a different purpose:

- **Office 1:** Large desk and office chair – perfect for focused work
- **Office 2:** Set up as a counselling room with two comfortable chairs
- **Office 4:** Round table suitable for meetings of 3-4 people

All offices have access to a shared foyer for waiting clients, as well as the extended kitchen.

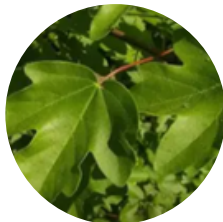
If you're interested in booking a one-off session or arranging a regular class or activity, please get in touch: helen.tate@boveytracey.gov.uk.

AROUND TOWN

The Community Awards presented at Bovey Tracey and Heathfield Annual Town Meeting went to a ten year old pupil at St Catherine's C of E Primary School for always putting her community first. Linda Pewsey was presented with the adult award for her valued contribution of supporting a number of initiatives including the Community Fridge and Social Supermarket.



A young tree facing an uncertain future has been given a new home in Bovey Tracey's Mill Marsh Park. The Field Maple, a native British species, was growing precariously close to an overgrown leat in the town's Churchfields Drive and could have been lost to hedge trimming or swamped by the undergrowth. But instead, it has been lifted and replanted in the hugely popular play park area where it can be enjoyed by families and generations to come.



No Smoking or Vaping in our Play Areas

Council Members of the Recreation, Parks and Property Committee resolved that our existing no smoking areas (the play park & skate park in Mill Marsh Park and the play area at the Recreational Ground) will now include no vaping or e-cigarettes. Look out for the new signage.

It's Official - there's a new mini library in Bovey Tracey!

The redundant phone box in Cromwell Way has been given some serious TLC and is now home to a free book exchange. Deputy Town Mayor Cllr Ulli Arnold officially opened the box, volunteer Mick Broome painted the box, Bovey Shed made the shelving and Growing Spaces created the border around the box. Thank you to Leslie Leggett of First Draft Books for the idea for this community managed asset for the town.



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Deputy Town Clerk

Sonia McCauley 01626834217 sonia.mccauley@boveytracey.gov.uk

Forthcoming Town Council Meetings

You are welcome to join any of the council's meetings.

Tuesday 1st September 2026

Planning and Environment Committee
6.00pm

Heathfield Community Centre

Tuesday 1st September 2026

Finance, Resources & General Purposes Committee

7.00pm

Heathfield Community Centre

Friday 11th September 2026

Personnel Committee

10.00am

Bovey Tracey Riverside Community Centre

Monday 14th September 2026

Full Council

7.00pm

Heathfield Community Centre

Monday 28th September 2026

Planning & Environment Committee

6.00pm

Bovey Tracey Riverside Community Centre

Monday 12th October 2026

Planning & Environment Committee

6.00pm

Bovey Tracey Riverside Community Centre

Accessibility statement:

If you require this information in an alternative format, please contact the Town Council Offices.



South West in Bloom



LOCAL COUNCIL
AWARD SCHEME
SILVER



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