

Report for the Parish Assembly from District Councillor Richard Streatfeild

Sevenoaks District Council is limping towards local government reform. We will know what the new unitary council will be in July. Elections to that council will take place in May 2027 and vesting day for the new Unitary Council will be in May 2028. It remains likely that we will be in a West Kent Unitary with Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells as well as some or all of Maidstone. Decisions made in other counties on the fast track have tended to favour slightly smaller geographical areas than was previously anticipated.

The District Council has two major pieces of work on going, the local plan and the reorganisation of waste collection.

The local plan is being opposed almost everywhere the council has decided it should build houses. There are no houses planned in the ward but there are 350 allocated in the current plan to Chiddingstone Causeway and almost 3000 to Edenbridge.

The changes in bin collection will see general waste collection move to once every two weeks but will have a kerbside glass collection. Details can be found in the new In Shape magazine.

The Council's accounts were disclaimed by the auditors for the second year in a row.

The political disruption that has dogged the council has continued with a third leader elected in three years Councillor Kevin Maskell. The council is being run by a minority Conservative administration. Conservatives won the by elections in Hextable and Knockholt that were caused by the death of two councillors. But there have been two defections to Reform and nine to the West Kent Independents.