



#### WESTERHAM TOWN COUNCIL

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Chairman: Alan Wesley

Town Clerk: Angela Howells

Deputy Clerk: Debbie Marshall

Assistant Clerk: Deborah Rogers

## Keeping you informed

Along with other members of our community, many of Westerham's Town Councillors viewed the 'Which Way Westerham – the emerging masterplan' exhibition on 26 – 27 January.

The exhibition provided a little more detail on that published last year but the evidence on which many of the statements were based was not clear. In particular, the financing of the plan, its dependence on the restoration of Covers Farm and the involvement apparently needed from other organisations were not clear. The Council will be seeking much greater clarity on the plan.

While it continues to investigate these issues, **Westerham residents can be assured that its Council will continue to represent their views**, expressed in last October's survey, when 86% of the 700+ households who responded, opposed the WWWW concept, a response rate and result which was echoed in the wider survey conducted by SDC.

The Council encourages all those in Westerham to find out as much as they can about Squerryes' proposal, so that when they are asked again for their views – as they will be when the detailed masterplan is submitted to SDC and/or when the draft local plan is issued by SDC they are confident in expressing their opinion.

For its part, the Council plans to hold further public meetings when it has answers to some of the questions raised above. Certainly this will be a key topic at the **Annual Town Meeting to be held on 18 April at 7.30pm in Westerham Hall** when our District and County Councillors will be attending.

Your Council is pledged to Keep You Informed.

## Westerham Town Council CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy)

Westerham Town Council has now received from Sevenoaks District Council the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money arising from the developments on Canville Rise, off London Road, and in Croft Road. This payment amounts to £157,411.56.

There are very strict legal restrictions on the types of projects on which CIL money can be spent. However the Council is pleased to say that several of the projects identified by residents in the major consultation held in 2016 can be paid for with the help of CIL money.



**Mobile CCTV:** with the current – and sadly recurring – episodes of vandalism, your Council has bought a mobile CCTV unit. Able to be moved to different locations in the town, we hope that this will deter those intent on causing damage, or if they persist, we will be able to identify them.

**Fullers Hill public toilets:** on two occasions residents have been asked whether these are essential facilities for the town and on both occasions the answer has been a resounding 'yes'. So work will soon be going ahead to replace the current toilets.

**Parking: Costells Meadow car park and additional spaces in Madan and Hartley roads.** The Council is funding the design work for this project. The construction work needed to provide the extra spaces should be funded through CIL.

Once we have full costings of these projects – we'll be able to see what else our CIL money might fund.

As ever we will Keep You Informed.

### **Sevenoaks District Council survey**

#### **How does the cost of housing affect employees and local businesses?**

We are keen to hear from people who live and work locally about their views on the cost of housing.

Sevenoaks District is the most expensive place to live in the whole of Kent. The cost of buying a local home is now 13 times the average income and the District's house prices are comparable with many parts of London. This means buying or renting a home is unaffordable for many younger people setting out on a career and those on modest incomes.

High house prices could impact on essential services such as teaching and the emergency services, as well as many other services we take for granted such as retail, high street services and even care homes.

We are running a Local Employees Survey to help us understand how the cost of housing affects where people are able to live and work and how this affects businesses in recruiting and retaining staff now and in the future. The data from the survey will help us draw up new housing policies. If evidence points toward a problem, we could include a policy to provide more affordable homes specifically for local workers.

To take part in our survey visit [www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/localemployeesurvey](http://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/localemployeesurvey) or call us on 01732 270000 to request a paper copy of the questionnaire.



## Westerham Memory Walk

Westerham Town Council is organizing a Memory Walk on The Green on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May at 11am.

The Walk will not only be in memory of Margaret Payne but also in memory of the regular attendees of the Forget-me-not Café who passed away in 2017, Wendy Willson, George Wells, June Webb and Marie Freeman, together with loved ones of those taking part. Dementia is a growing problem in society and it is important to raise awareness of this condition within our community.

We will be giving the option of either a short walk around the Green for our less able residents or a walk of approximately 1k around King Georges Playing Field. In addition, we plan to have a tree or similar on The Green where participants can hang personal messages.

This will not be a sponsored event but we will have collection buckets available. The proceeds will be split between the Forget-me-not Café in Westerham and Sevenoaks Area Dementia Friendly Community Forum.

In order to fund the event, we are looking for sponsorship from businesses in the town to cover the costs of a start/finish arch, medals for the walkers and t-shirts for those helping. We are ideally looking for a sum between £25 and £100 although donations of any size will be very gratefully received. James Millard Estate Agents have already confirmed they will be one of the sponsors.

I hope that the Walk is something your Company would consider sponsoring (or even participating in) and I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you

Please email the Town Clerk on - [office@westerhamtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:office@westerhamtowncouncil.gov.uk)

## Hearing Aid Maintenance clinics run by Hi Kent

Hi Kent runs free hearing aid aftercare clinics in towns, villages and communities throughout Kent. Clinic times vary and can be found by searching via your town, village or postcode via [www.hikent.org.uk](http://www.hikent.org.uk) and clicking on your nearest clinic. Clinics are run by Hi Kent trained volunteers and they will be able to change batteries, clean and re-tube hearing aids free of charge, while you wait. If you are housebound and cannot get to your local clinic, please request Hi Kent to visit you in your home. Tel: 01622 691151





## **Westerham Clinic Dates for 2018**

Venue: Westerham Town Council Office, Russell House, Market Square, Westerham TN16 1RB

Wednesdays from 10.00 – 11.30am. No appointment necessary.  
No clinic in August.

21 February	18 July
21 March	19 September
18 April	17 October
16 May	21 November
20 June	19 December

Hi Kent also runs Lipreading classes free of charge, anybody is welcome to attend if there is a place available and you can join at any time during the year. Priority is given to people with a hearing loss, although hearing students are very welcome if there is room. The classes are provided in partnership with Kent Adult Education. All are run by qualified Lipreading tutors. If you wish to find out more about how learning to Lipread can help you, please telephone 01622 691151 or e-mail [D.Jones@hikent.org.uk](mailto:D.Jones@hikent.org.uk)

## **FORTHCOMING TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS**

### **March**

1st	Planning and Development
5th	Finance & General Purposes
12th	Allotment, Playing Fields and Open Spaces
15th	Planning and Development
19th	Full Council
29th	Planning and Development

Members of the public are very welcome to attend these meetings. The first ten minutes of every meeting are available for members of the public to raise any issues with Councillors. All meetings start at 7.30 p.m. - except Planning which is held at 9.30 am - in the Town Council Chamber in Russell House.

**Visit our website [westerhamtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://westerhamtowncouncil.gov.uk) for more information.**