



WESTERHAM TOWN COUNCIL

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 www.facebook.com/WesterhamTownCouncil

Chairman: Alan Wesley

Town Clerk: Angela Howells

Deputy Clerk: Debbie Marshall

Assistant Clerk: Deborah Rogers

***Come along and meet your Town Councillors and Angela Howells the Town Clerk
at the Rotary Fair on the Green, on Saturday 2nd June 2018***

Westerham's Annual Town Meeting

18th April saw some 150 Westerham residents gathered in Westerham Hall to hear what their elected representatives had done during the year. And there was good news. Chairman Cllr Alan Wesley was able to report that in addition to providing day to day services to the town: street lighting, allotments, work with the young and the more mature of the town, the care of King George's Field and Crockham Hill's playing field, it had received a substantial CIL payment (Community Infrastructure Levy – the charge levied on developers to fund improvements in the community). This would help to pay for much needed facilities in the town: the replacement of the Fullers Hill toilets, a new bridge from the Darent car park to King George's Field, and the purchase of mobile CCTV equipment, sadly needed to combat vandalism in the town.

But the main focus of the meeting, and the one on which those attending wanted more information, was the Which Way Westerham proposal for the development of the town. When asked for their views on the emerging plans last autumn, 86% of those who responded to the Town Council's poll voted against it, and a similar proportion responded in the same way to Sevenoaks District Council's survey at the same time.

Residents asked speakers County Cllr Nick Chard, District Councillors Kevin Maskell and Diana Esler and Town Council Chairman Alan Wesley about the detailed information they felt was missing from the WWW plans revealed thus far. Anxiety was expressed about the reliability of the data provided – which Councillors agreed needed to be independently validated. Questions were asked on how proposals which were not yet complete could be adequately assessed by Sevenoaks District Council planners in time to meet their planned release date of June for the draft Local Plan which will determine where development will take place over the next 15-20 years. Opposition to the size of the development within the Green Belt and especially in the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty which enfolds Westerham was clear as was the concern that a relief road and 600 houses could only increase air pollution in the north of the town and on the boundaries of Churchill Primary School. Councillors admitted to frustration at the lack of detail currently available and confirmed that they had raised their concerns formally with SDC planners.

Westerham would soon be asked for its views on 'Westerham Design Statement'. Created by the people who live and work in the Parish, it sets out guidelines for future development. Now approved by Sevenoaks District Council it will form part of the statutory planning

system once the community has expressed its views on the final version. Cllr Wesley urged all residents to take advantage of this opportunity to say how they would like to see the future of their town. The Town Council would be holding further public meetings and discussions as the process continues.

Fuller details of the meeting – including the presentation – are on the Town Council's website: www.westerhamtowncouncil.gov.uk/westerhams-annual-town-meeting

A copy of this article has been sent to the County Border News and Sevenoaks Chronicle.



VOLUNTERS NEEDED – COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

WE NEED YOUR HELP - The Town Council continues to receive complaints about speeding in the Parish, and as a result purchased a Speed Indication Device (SID). We now need your help to create a pool of community speed watch volunteers. Online and practical training will be provided, and hours are flexible. Speedwatch sessions are usually only for one hour and any time volunteers can spare is greatly appreciated.

Speedwatch is about educating drivers on their speed and helping to make our roads safer for the community. During a speedwatch session held on 3rd May, 8 drivers were recorded for breaking the speed limit along London Road.

If you are interested in joining the group and can spare a few hours each month please contact the Town Council Offices for further information by emailing office@westerhamtowncouncil.gov.uk, calling 01959 562147 or go to <http://www.communityspeedwatch.co.uk/>

DESIGN STATEMENT

Westerham Design Statement Consultation Have your Say!

The consultation will last for 6 weeks, closing **5pm on Friday 1st June**.

All Design Statements can be viewed via the Sevenoaks District Council consultation portal. To view them, please use the following the link:
<http://planningconsult.sevenoaks.gov.uk/consult.ti/system/home>.

Comments should be passed to the Planning Policy team, either:

- By email: planning.policy@sevenoaks.gov.uk
- By post: Sevenoaks District Council, Council Offices, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1HG
- By our online consultation portal
(<http://planningconsult.sevenoaks.gov.uk/consult.ti/system/home>)



Community Safety Partnership (CSP)
are hosting a Community Market
Place, come and walk round stalls and
talk to SDC, Wardens, Police and
Crime Prevention Panel about local
concerns

Wednesday 23 May
Westerham Hall, Quebec Hall
7.30-9pm

All welcome



FORTHCOMING TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

June

4th Allotments, Playing Fields and Open Spaces

7th Planning and Development

11th Youth and Community

18th Highways and Lighting

21st Planning and Development

25th Finance and General Purposes

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 for a schedule of 2018 meetings. You can also follow us on facebook www.facebook.com/WesterhamTownCouncil