

# **WESTERHAM TOWN COUNCIL**

## **Annual Report 2015/16**

# WESTERHAM TOWN COUNCIL

## COUNCIL MEMBERS 2015 - 2016

<b>Alan Wesley</b>	Chairman of the Council and Chairman of Finance & General Purposes Committee
<b>Helen Ogden</b>	Vice-Chairman of the Council and Chairman of Allotments, Playing Fields and Open Spaces and member of Finance & General Purpose Committee
<b>Philip Ashley</b>	Chairman of Planning and member of Finance
<b>Nick Moore</b>	Chairman - Youth and Community Committee and member of Allotments, Playing Fields and Open Spaces
<b>Linda Rodgers</b>	Chairman of Highways and Lighting Committee and member of Planning Committee
<b>Alex Bates</b>	Member of APFOS and Y&C
<b>Loretta Bird</b>	Member of Planning and Y&C
<b>Eddie Boyle</b>	Member of Finance and Y&C
<b>Anthony Holman</b>	Member of APFOS and H&L
<b>David Le Breton</b>	Member of Planning and H&L
<b>Hannah Marsh</b>	Member of Planning and Y&C
<b>Neil Proudfoot</b>	Member of APFOS and H&L
<b>Stuart Wilkie</b>	Member of Finance and H&L

Town Clerk: **Angela Howells**  
Deputy Town Clerk: **Debbie Marshall**  
Assistant Clerk: **Deborah Rogers**

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# **WESTERHAM TOWN COUNCIL (including Crockham Hill Ward)**

Russell House, Market Square, Westerham, Kent TN16 1RB

## **Annual Town Meeting**

**Wednesday 13th April 2016  
at 7.30 pm at Westerham Hall,  
Quebec Avenue Westerham**

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### **A G E N D A**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2015
3. **Chairman's Report — Councillor Alan Wesley**
4. Results of Consultation with Residents on Council Strategy
5. Information Stalls
6. Any questions?

Westerham Town Council  
 Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held  
 on Tuesday 14th April 2015 at 7.30pm  
 at Council offices, Russell House, Westerham

Present: Councillors: Alan Wesley (Chairman) Helen Ogden (Vice-Chairman), Philip Ashley, Eddie Boyle, Reg Buckley, Chris Hanson, David Le Breton, Andy McCormick, Hannah Marsh, Nick Moore, Neil Proudfoot, Linda Rodgers, and Stuart Wilkie.

In Attendance: Town Clerk: Angela Howells  
 Deputy Clerk: Debbie Marshall  
 Assistant Clerk: Deborah Rogers  
 Steve Grange: KCC Community Warden  
 PCSO Simon Humphreys  
 Mr R Parry: Kent County Councillor  
 Mrs J Davidson: Chairman Sevenoaks District Council  
 Mr B Harvey: Chairman Limpsfield Parish Council  
 18 members of the public

1.	<p><b><u>Apologies for Absence</u></b>          Mr M Fallon MP, SDC Cllr K Maskell, Mr and Mrs Edwards</p>	
2.	<p><b><u>Minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2014</u></b>          These were signed as a true record.</p>	
3.	<p><b><u>PCSO Simon Humphreys report</u></b>          PCSO Humphreys reported that he had been a PCSO for ten years and had remained in the same ward.          Crime statistics were available on the Kent Police website however there has been reduction on the number of crimes in the last twelve months.          PCDO Humphreys had:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• started a street briefing in the summer months and it had proved very valuable, 30 people were spoken to in London Road.</li> <li>• Followed up shed break ins by leafleting nearby residents.</li> <li>• attended safer plate crime reduction initiatives held at the Wolfe Garage providing anti tamper screws for number plates.</li> <li>• held weekly surgeries in the Wolfe Garage.</li> <li>• Worked closely with the KCC Community Warden Steve Grange and they had a good working relationship</li> <li>• Carried out property marking at Primary Schools</li> <li>• Marked bikes at Churchill School</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spoken to parents and pupils at Crockham Hill School on e-safety</li> <li>• Worked with Age UK</li> <li>• Worked closely with the SDC Community Safety Unit (CSU)</li> <li>• Worked closely with Housing Officers</li> </ul> <p>PCSO Humphreys was asked if PCSO's can ticket people parking illegally on junctions. He responded that he hoped to leaflet residents and would follow this up.</p>	
4.	<p><b><u>“improving NHS Services in Westerham and Crockham Hill”</u></b>  <b><u>Dr Nick Cheales and Mr Ian Ayres from the NHS West Kent Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)</u></b></p> <p>Mr Ayres stated that he was the Chief Accountable Officer and was employed by the CCG.</p> <p>Every year Parliament puts aside £110B for NHS England, £80B is passed down to the 200 CCG's. The CCG's do not look after people directly they hold all the contracts.</p> <p>There are 62 practices in the West Kent area; it is a big area with 460-470,000 residents and 25p GP's.</p> <p>The average age of the population was rising; there were now more older people and fewer younger people.</p> <p>Therefore the need for health care increases, 60% of what we spend is spent on people with long term conditions.</p> <p>Q - Why is not more work done in the community?  A – There is focus on preventative measures but it has to be a combination.</p> <p>Q – Is there an issue with confidentiality when trying to improve communication?  A – Yes, there were laws and regulations that protect people.</p> <p>Q – There should be more access to minor injury clinics i.e. Edenbridge, they should be promoted in a better way.  A – They do try to, he will consider this further.</p> <p>Q – Are the staff at minor injuries clinics monitored?  A – We indirectly monitor them as we hold the contracts.</p> <p>Comments are welcomed from the public and he will monitor Edenbridge.</p> <p>Q – How far down the road are the CCG on integrating systems?  A – It was early days and was quite fragmented, changes were needed but it would be difficult.</p> <p>Q – Will the CCG's be better than the PCT's?  A – We were all doing the same job, re-organisations were deeply disruptive.</p> <p>Mr Wesley thanked Dr Cheales and Mr Ayres for a very interesting and informative talk.</p>	

<p>5.</p>	<p><b><u>Chairman's report – Cllr Alan Wesley</u></b></p> <p>Cllr Wesley reported that in the year 2012/13 WTC had received a Council Tax Support Grant of £11,000. In the year 2013/14 SDC had not passed this grant on, WTC had challenged this through a Judicial Review process; however the outcome remained the same. In 2015/16 no grant will be passed on from SDC.</p> <p>You will find reports from Committees in your pack and they were available on the WTC website.</p> <p>There had been a massive increase in consultations and WTC endeavoured to reply in good detail to each one, WTC received on average one a week. This year consultations had been received regarding the Children's Centres, Libraries, Community Wardens and KCC budgets to name a few. We were sceptical of the value of all these consultations.</p> <p>Westerham relied on a shift rostered PCSO, however diligent he was it was a poor offering. WTC were not asking for a police patrol but the police rates were in excess of £300,000 so Westerham was not getting value for money. WTC would try and improve this position with the new District Commander. Visible community policing policy remains a priority.</p> <p>Dog mess was an increasing problem particularly on KGF and there had been mindless vandalism to the dog waste bins. The bins have been replaced and WTC were running an awareness initiative.</p> <p>A contract had been awarded to clean the Churchill memorial and the surrounding path.</p> <p>WTC were in a good financial state, the precept will rise by 1.98% from 1<sup>st</sup> April. WTC will operate within its budgets and remains good value for money.</p> <p>The allotments were 20% empty and WTC needed to improve occupation.</p> <p>Cllr Wesley commended the Annual report to the meeting.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p><b><u>Open Session</u></b></p> <p>Mr P Talbot wished the meeting to thank Mr John Bryant for all his hard work as a Councillor; he had stood down in October 2014. Cllr Wesley stated that John had worked very hard on behalf of Westerham residents.</p> <p>Q – Mr Planche asked what were WTC's other sources of income.</p> <p>A – Rent from Russell House and grants.</p> <p>Q – KCC Cllr Parry stated that consultations were very important and this was evidenced by KCC listening regarding the Warden consultation and reversing their decision.</p>	

	<p>Q – Ms Day from Delagarde Road handed over a petition regarding the proposed double yellow lines in the road, there were 19 signatories.</p> <p>A- Cllr Rodgers reported that she had attended the Joint Transport Board where the parking proposals had been discussed however in Delagarde and Bartlett Road five people had responded and four of those had been in favour of the proposals. Cllr Rodgers would talk to SDC Cllr Maskell and report back.</p> <p>KCC Cllr Parry reported that the JTB would look at parking in Westerham holistically.</p> <p>Q – Ms T Issac reported that people were parking illegally in Farley Nursery.</p> <p>A – This would be discussed with the PCSO.</p>	
	<p><b><u>Close</u></b></p> <p>The Chairman brought the meeting to a close by thanking all those who had attended the meeting and inviting them to join the Councillors for refreshments.</p>	

The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

Signed as a correct record .....

Chairman

# **Chairman's Report including Financial Summary 2015 – 2016**

## **Council Elections 2015**

Last year's elections returned ten existing Councillors and provided three newcomers, Alex Bates, Loretta Bird and Anthony Holman. Photographs of all Councillors are shown on the Elected Representatives leaflet available at the 2016 Town Meeting.

This leaflet also includes a summary of services available from each of the three Councils supporting our community.

## **Council strategy for the term of office to 2019**

The agenda for this meeting has a separate item dealing with how we are establishing our four year strategy in order to prioritise the concerns of the community expressed in a recently completed consultation. The revised format for this Town Meeting is also part of that strategy moving more towards a Community Information Event and away from formulaic reporting.

Government continues to reduce its financing levels to County and District Councils which inevitably impacts upon their services to the community and in turn affects our strategic priorities.

What we deliver has to be the cost effective use of taxpayers money.

## **Issues of concern**

### **1. Youth antisocial behaviour and vandalism**

This is commented upon in detail in the Committee report and is a problem we and the relevant agencies are finding hard to resolve.

At the same time our spend on the Youth Club over the year has not been value for money and is the subject of close scrutiny and competitive tendering.

### **2. Moorhouse Tile Works.**

Whilst the planning application to develop the site as a parcel distribution warehouse was rejected by Tandridge District Council it is inevitable that further attempts will follow given the commercial opportunities that 21 acres of concreted brownfield site represent.

We take credit for a heavyweight formal planning objection as well as reversing KCC and SDC's initial acceptance of the application. Also galvanizing our Surrey neighbours at community and Parish Council level into full awareness of the issues.

Credit is also given to our Town Partnership, Residents' Association and Westerham Society for their substantial input.

We expect there will be the need to repeat these actions in the near future.

### 3. Bypass and Housebuilding

I want to repeat my statement at the Town Meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2016 regarding Council's position on these ideas.

"we cannot give a recommendation because we have serious conflicts of interest as we are both a Planning Consultee (and therefore must not prejudge applications that might come before us) and secondly we own land that could form part of the fundraising to pay for the bypass and land which might be part of any bypass related development.

If we become conflicted we have to give up our consultee status in line with the Local Government Code of Conduct and cannot then represent the views of the community which is what we have been elected to do and want to do."

Any land that has been proposed for housebuilding as part of SDC's recent "call for sites" will appear, if deemed to be suitable, in a public consultation in December 2016 at the earliest.

Any planning application for bypass construction is unlikely to appear within the next six months and in both cases the community will have adequate time to consider the applications and if needs be referenda voting.

Neither of these development ideas are Council proposals or Council sponsored.

### 4. Gatwick Airport Development

If the key decision to proceed is taken this Summer; thereafter there will be a protracted debate **but only about detail**.

What is going on at present is that the Department for Transport is seeing how a new runway at Heathrow can be made compliant with the legal pollution limits and how the project can be made immune to judicial review that Gatwick have already warned they are likely to seek.

Allowing for the legislative approach Government are taking via a Parliament approved Policy Statement, planning approval should be achieved in 2019 plus a year or two for any Judicial Reviews from Gatwick or Stansted. Then the building process starts, although running through all this is the Transport Secretary's statement that there is no need for a new runway at either Heathrow or Gatwick before 2030!

(Primary source of the above is with acknowledgment to the Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign.)

## 2015 Report issues, progress

### 1. Policing

The tragic vehicle caused death at Costa and the man savaged by dogs at the Vicarage Hill property indicates that such serious events result in appropriate levels of police response.

We are still of the view that a more powerful response to youth vandalism and antisocial behaviour is possible and likely to be productive but so far without Constabulary support.

### 2. Dog faeces

See Open Spaces report.

### 3. Monuments, Memorials and Statues

Churchill and Wolfe have been cleaned and are looking good.

Restoration of the War Memorial is funded and contract awarded.

The Drinking Fountain at the side of the zebra crossing in Market Square has been vehicle damaged and repair work is imminent.

### 4. Broadband services from the Crockham Hill C.I.C

In 2012 the Council obtained a grant to assist the start of a local community broadband service. This has proved to be technically and commercially successful and now supports 300 installations with a widening catchment beyond Crockham Hill.

By the formation of a Community Interest Company to manage its activities, the popularity of the service has funded its first community donation providing a new wireless network into every classroom at Crockham Hill's Primary School.

## Finance, Regulatory and Audit

1. Our precept for 2016-2017 will be £186,200 compared with £182,600 in the previous year, an increase of 2%.

As a result of positive rent reviews and price increases for our facilities, miscellaneous income has risen by 17% whilst our overall expenditure increased by 4%.

2. In the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 Council activities and spending were within its authorized Budget and our accounts, financial activities and risk controls have been audited without qualification. In addition to routine audits, HMRC undertook a VAT "spotcheck" with no issues arising.

The Annual return for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 is published at the end of this report.

3. Council reserves remain adequate in respect of foreseeable risks

and planned capital expenditure. In my 2015 report I expressed concern regarding the likely financial outcome of a Council tree stock safety survey. Whilst the survey results required work to be done, the costs are within our reserves and routine budget.

### **Westerham and Crockham Hill Councillors and Employees**

Volunteering comes with little expectation of thanks and so I take pleasure in thanking my colleagues for their commitment to our community. I also thank our staff for their professionalism and routine cheerfulness.

**Alan Wesley**

**Chairman  
Westerham Town Council**

**April 2016**

## **Allotments, Playing Fields and Open Spaces (APFOS) Committee - Annual Report 2015-16**

This Committee is responsible for Westerham's three allotment sites, King George's Playing Field and an increasing number of community open spaces, including our iconic Green and Crockham Hill Garden.

The monsoon-like weather of the autumn and winter has delayed much of the planned work on these outdoor sites and we are now, in common with many gardeners, playing catch up.

### **Allotments**

The proceeds from the sale last year of one of our allotments has enabled us to make improvements to the sites. Allotment holders were asked for their views: weed control of unworked plots, noticeboards and communal areas were identified as priorities. We have bought industrial quantities of weed control fabric and begun to cover vacant plots. Noticeboards have been installed at each site and work begun to create communal areas.

It continues to be a concern that despite continuous advertising, we are unable to find sufficient individuals to take on allotments and have a constantly significant number of vacant plots.

### **King George's Playing Field**

The football clubs continue to be the most regular users of the field and it is good to see it being used so well for the purpose for which it is intended.

Work has continued to redevelop the field, and in particular the area around the Pavilion. The 'masterplan' which includes replacing the tarmac areas with a multi use games area, the installation of an outdoor gym, the replacement of the skate park and the refurbishment of the pavilion to support the expanded list of sports has received the blessing of Fields in Trust and the search for funding has begun.

We have secured funds for the outdoor gym equipment which has now been ordered and will be installed on the Field shortly.

We are especially pleased that Council has been able to provide funding to the Darent Valley project which will, in due course, extend the Darent Valley Path which currently ends in Chipstead, to Westerham, the source of the Darent. It is planned to extend access to this walking/jogging path to enable cyclists to use it too. The path will follow the course of the Darent along the south side of King George's Field (past the outdoor gym) on its way to Chipstead.

In the light of this positive news, it is disappointing and distressing to have to report that too much time and council taxpayers' money has had to be spent on vandalism which has struck the area around the Pavilion on the Field. Graffiti,

broken glass, litter bins set alight and destroyed, led Council to decide to dismantle the Youth Shelter. As ever the damage is caused by the few, the impact affects many. We are working with the Youth and Community Committee, the Police and Sevenoaks District Council Community Safety Unit to deal with the miscreants, and with the hope that the Youth Shelter will soon be able to be re-erected.

### **Outdoor spaces**

Our aim is to maintain our open spaces so that they make our Town an attractive place to both residents and visitors alike and that they can be the venues which the many town events held on them deserve.

During the year we completed the improvement of Grange Island. And this year there will be additional planters on The Green around Churchill's statue and the Jubilee Noticeboard. On a less positive note, we continue to wage war on dog poo and litter. The recent 'Clean for the Queen' event was successful, though sad that it was needed.

We have supplemented weed killing carried out around the town by KCC with our own, more frequent programme. The first results were encouraging and we will continue this work.

Following the tragedy in Westerham on Christmas Eve, we, with the support of Costa and with the agreement of the family will be planting around the statue of General James Wolfe in memory of Valerie Deakin.

Another memorial will shortly be installed in Crockham Hill Garden to commemorate the 21 children and 8 staff who lost their lives when the home for evacuated children, then sited in the village, was struck by a flying bomb.

Finally, I would like to thank my colleague Committee members for their work and commitment during the year, with especial thanks to our Deputy Clerk and Groundsman who ensure that the work we decide upon gets done

**Helen Ogden**

**Chairman, Allotments, Playing Fields and Open Spaces Committee**

## **Highways and Lighting Committee Annual Report 2015 – 2016**

During the last year the Highways and Lighting Committee had 5 meetings and our next one is April 25<sup>th</sup> when you are all welcome.

### **Road Repairs**

This is still an on-going battle and any damage notified to us or seen by us is reported promptly to Kent County Council - Highways, whilst recently they respond more quickly the standard of work often falls below an acceptable level and has to be done again. We will continue to monitor this problem.

### **Speed Watch**

The number of speed watch volunteers for this has fallen to one and unfortunately three people are needed to operate the equipment. There are courses being run throughout the year by Sevenoaks District Council. The next one is at the end of April. So if you can help and wish to be trained please contact Westerham Town Council.

### **Road Signage**

During the last year “unsuitable for heavy vehicle” advisory signs have been placed at both ends of Goodley Stock Road. Unfortunately the ones at the Westerham end were both knocked down by lorries and although one has been reinstated the other was erected in the wrong place by KCC and we are still waiting for them to rectify this.

We have requested a further sign on the A25 showing the concealed roads at Goodley Stock and Farley Lane and as I write this had been taken in hand by KCC.

### **Traffic Calming Measures**

During the year there have been a number of near miss incidents involving children walking to and from the Primary School along Rysted Lane. We have requested traffic calming measures such as a 20mph Zone, a pedestrian guard rail and an official crossing point. Disappointedly these have all been declined by KCC due to financial constraints.

### **Parking**

This remains a contentious subject in Westerham. During 2015 the Darent overflow car park was completed. Funds were obtained from a variety of sources and I would like to thank all those involved. The overflow car park has not yet been opened but when it does it will be under the control of Sevenoaks District Council. We expect it to be opened soon.

After the meeting with the Joint Transport Board last year we were requested to put together a report with an holistic view of our parking requirements in Westerham. This has been done with assistance from the residents living in the

affected areas. We have had meetings with the new Parking Engineer at SDC and also with the new Traffic Engineer at KCC. Our recommendations have been put to them to be considered in their workflow plan for 2016/17.

### **Lighting**

In 2015 we completed the conversion of all the Heritage Lanterns along the High Street to LED. As well as using much less energy LED lights are more reliable and require less maintenance. Roll out of LED technology for the rest of Westerham Town Council owned street lights will be looked into from 2016 onwards.

Two new street lights have been installed during 2015. One on Oak Road and the other along the Footpath that runs from the Church to Westerham Hall.

We have completed the following repairs on lights not owned by WTC as the safety of our residences is paramount.

- **Light above CCTV Column by Costa Coffee** - KCC and SDC refuse to take ownership of it despite SDC owning the CCTV camera and maintaining the lamppost. Due to the strategic location of the light it had been agreed that WTC would carry out a one off repair.
- **Rysted Lane** – KCC and the school have advised the light does not belong to them despite the electricity being linked to the school lights. Due to the location of the light being at the entrance to the school ground it has been agreed that WTC would carry out a one off repair.
- **Rosslare Close**  
A report had been received by members of the public that two of the three street lights were not working in Rosslare Close. The lights are not owned by KCC or WTC as the road has never been adopted since being built. WTC has repaired the lights as a one off cost.

I would like to thank all the members of the Highways and Lighting Committee for their dedicated assistance throughout the year, our Street Lighting Contractor for their efficient and reliable service and especially Deborah Rogers our Clerk.

**Linda Rodgers**  
**Chairman of Highways and Lighting Committee**

## **Planning Committee Annual Report 2016**

It remains the responsibility of the Town Council, through its Planning Committee, to review and opine upon local planning applications in line with current Central and Local Government policy, law and guidelines. Our aim is to protect the fabric of our community whilst promoting its continuing regeneration and renewal to make it an attractive and enjoyable place to live and work.

Westerham Town continues to evolve within the confines of the Green Belt and AONB that make our community an attractive place to live whilst continuing to struggle with ever increasing traffic and resultant pollution these bring.

Under the current SDC Local Plan, running through to 2026, development in Westerham is confined to three identified sites; Old London Road, Croft Road and an area of Currant Hill allotments, together with natural infill within the Town and Village envelope of Crockham Hill.

Linden Homes has submitted a planning application for 38 homes on the Old London Road site, this is eight more than the Local Plan proposed but is considered acceptable and within the national planning policies on densities within a Town. The Town Council responded to the application with a number of requests and recommendations for improvement and these are currently under review by the Company and SDC at the time of this report.

The other two sites require evidence of specific housing need before development can take place, which should enable us to promote affordable dwellings needed by both first time buyers as well as the older residents seeking to downsize.

The proposed expansion of either Gatwick or Heathrow remains a political hot potato and whilst the recommendations of the Davies Committee were in favour of Heathrow this is not binding on Government and the threat of increased air and road traffic continues to hang over us.

SDC are beginning the long process of developing the next Local Plan from 2026/36 that will undoubtedly highlight the need for a considerable increase in housing to meet the needs of a growing population in the South East. We are aware that the Warde Estate may offer land for housing in exchange for building a bypass road around Westerham and we will keep our constituents informed of developments.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of my Committee who have served diligently throughout the past year.

**P Ashley**  
**Chairman of Planning Committee**

## **Youth and Community Committee Annual Report 2015-2016**

Following the Local Government elections the Committee has had some changes of personnel. We have retained Councillors Boyle and Marsh and gained two new councillors, Bates and Bird. I am grateful for all the support and hard work of my colleagues

### **Antisocial Behaviour**

There have been an increased number of incidents of antisocial behaviour in the Town. The main locations for these have been the Crown building, Aqualisa, Westerham Hall which has sustained more recent damage and some issues associated with the youth shelter on the playing field.

Because of continuing issues with the youth shelter, including fire setting, drugs and alcohol and continual daily dangerous broken glass, the Council made the decision to at least temporarily take down the youth shelter. This is pity for the better behaved majority of young people for whom this is an appropriate resource.

It appears that the number of young people involved in this unacceptable behaviour is relatively small. Some of the issues relate to young adults including two in their twenties. There are also issues with three young people who are members of the youth club.

Councillors are continuing to work with multiple agencies and directly with young people in Westerham to tackle antisocial behaviour and provide support to young people who need it.

We continue to encourage the reporting to the police of all acts of antisocial behaviour. If it is reported it can be dealt with. If not the Town does not get the resources and priority it needs from other agencies.

### **Youth Club/ Youth Forum**

The Youth Club has had a difficult year with fluctuating numbers and some of the issues mentioned above. Some changes in the staffing of the youth club have improved matters.

After some unsuccessful attempts to engage the young people in dialogue on a number of matters the Youth Forum has had one successful meeting in March. The hopeful sign is that there are now some of young people keen to engage, who listen to the concerns and put forward good ideas for possible solutions.

### **PCSO/Community Warden**

After ten years service to the community our PCSO Simon Humphries has moved on. His place has been taken by PCSO Anne Kingscott. She has been very active already in the community and in particular in relation to anti-social behaviour. She has forged a good working relationship with our Community Warden Steve Grange.

Steve continues to do much invaluable work in the town. Last year's threat to the Warden Scheme funding has not been revisited but with both Kent and Sevenoaks Councils needing to find savings, future funding is rarely secure.

### **Forget-me-not Café**

Steve Grange has been involved with Angela Howells the Town Clerk in launching this project this year. It meets monthly and is for anyone recognising issues with their memory or cognition and their carers, family and friends. Attendance is increasing.

### **Christmas Lights**

The Christmas Lights this year were positively received. As ever there were some technical issues though less than in the previous year. The Christmas Late Night Shopping evening has become one of the highlights of the year for the whole Town which seems to come out for the turning on of the lights.

Councillors Marsh and Boyle have led on this for Council and we are grateful as ever for the support from the Westerham Town Partnership, the Westerham Society and the local traders for their financial support

### **Play Provision and Family Fun Days**

These sessions provided by the Town Council continue to receive positive feedback. We are grateful for the support we receive from Westerham Hall and Westerham Sports Association to support these days in case of bad weather and in providing refreshments which help to make them a great success.

### **Fullers Hill Public Toilets**

The Council has been concerned for some time that having saved the Town's public toilets by taking over their running from Sevenoaks District Council it would be required to pay historic and ongoing business rates. Following our discussions with SDC the District Council has agreed to give the Town a grant equal to the amount of the business rates for the foreseeable future.

### **Sea Cadets**

Lastly on a further positive note, congratulations to the local Sea Cadets who received an award this year as the most improved Ships Company in the country.

### **Nick Moore**

### **Chairman Youth and Community Committee**

## **Westerham AGM 2016:**

### **Kent Community Warden Service (KCWS)**

The Kent Community Warden Service (KCWS) provides a public facing, frontline service for the residents of Kent. The over-riding objective of our work is 'to create safer and stronger communities'.

A Warden's uniformed presence helps build community confidence and reassurance by reducing crime, the fear of crime, deterring anti-social behaviour, improving access to local authorities and fostering social inclusion.

The role of the Community Warden is ever evolving and developing. This is largely in response to the changing needs of our respective communities and other strategic requirements placed upon our frontline Service.

We work closely with /on behalf of other operational units within KCC, specifically within Public Protection, to address a wide range of issues, for instance:

- Emergency Planning response e.g., power disruption in Leigh (11.01.16).
- Conducting welfare visits with or on behalf of Adult Social Services.
- Delivery of Trading Standards' 'Stop the Scammer' project which builds resilience against repeat scam activity.

The Kent Community Warden Service also works closely with agency partners, responding to issues arising within / across communities. Recent Warden involvement in partnership activities includes:

- Channel / Prevent – which tackles radicalisation. Support community safety campaigns and events e.g., road safety; and, acquisitive crime prevention / reduction activities;
- Multi-agency referrals and associated support e.g., domestic abuse; hate crime; E-safety; reporting welfare concerns and arranging specialist assessment of needs.
- Special events e.g., Horsmonden Horse Fair; and, Thanet Illegal Tobacco Roadshow.

### **Kent Community Warden Service: A Service Review Update.**

Following public consultation, KCC Cabinet agreed with the recommendation to go with the preferred option (as set out in *KCC's Community Warden Service - Public Consultation Report*).

Service redesign and an assessment of operational practice invariably followed, however, the most important outcome of the Review is confirmation that current uniformed staffing levels across Kent will be maintained.



## Steve Grange: Westerham

Whilst not given to boasting about my multifarious activities, this is a timely opportunity to highlight my diverse activities and successes achieved whilst working across communities, including Westerham, over the past year.



- Supported households affected by repeat scam activity; wider public awareness about rogue trader / doorstep crime.
- Provision of intelligence to Kent Police / CSU colleagues.
- Successful development of new welfare amenities in Westerham, namely, the Food Bank and Memory Café.
- Participation in a number of Westerham events including 'Clean for the Queen'; and, 'Day of Action' (05.09.15).
- Scam awareness presentations delivered to community groups and at other forums *e.g.*, Westerham Rotary Club; NW Kent Volunteers' AGM in Swanley; Edenbridge MIND; IPAG at Sevenoaks District Council; and, at an Alzheimer's Society meeting.
- Deal with individually diverse issues or concerns that arose within Westerham *e.g.*, elder welfare issues affecting a gentleman living with dementia; recovery of stolen goods; arranged support for homeless man sleeping rough on Fuller's Hill; support of resident with mental health issues; advice following Facebook-based scam; dealing with the aftermath of a commercial fire; and, mediation in a neighbourhood dispute.
- Multi-agency actions and events *e.g.*, *Safety in Action* schools-based project hosted at Salomon's Estate (May 2015); and, Speed Watch near Churchill Primary School.
- Delivery of Road Safety sessions at Churchill and Seal Primary Schools.
- Applied SmartWater / Selecta DNA technology as a crime reduction tool.
- Regular reassurance visits to vulnerable members of the community to monitor welfare, provide advice / support, and, facilitate agency referrals when required.

The KCWS website is a useful resource I would direct you to if you are interested in further information: [www.kent.gov.uk/communitywardens](http://www.kent.gov.uk/communitywardens).

I attend regular meetings within the communities I cover. Alternatively, I am easily reached by telephone and email if there is a matter that you wish to bring to my attention.

Finally, may I reiterate my thanks to all of you who have made me feel valued in my role as Community Warden for Westerham.



## Steve Grange

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**WESTERHAM TOWN COUNCIL  
ANNUAL RETURN 2014/15  
Year ending 31st March 2015**

BALANCE B/F	£191,717
PRECEPT	£177,200
TOTAL OTHER RECEIPTS	£72,735
STAFF COSTS	£77,758
LOANS	Nil
TOTAL OTHER PAYMENTS	£134,543
BALANCE C/F	£229,351
TOTAL CASH AND INVESTMENTS	£227,651
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS AND LONG-TERM ASSETS	£2,010,615