



**WESTERHAM TOWN COUNCIL**

Russell House, Market Square,

Westerham, Kent TN16 1RB

Tel 01959 562147 / Fax 01959 569373

Email [office@westerhamtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:office@westerhamtowncouncil.gov.uk)

Website: [www.westerhamtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.westerhamtowncouncil.gov.uk)

[f www.facebook.com/WesterhamTownCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/WesterhamTownCouncil)

Chairman: Alan Wesley

Town Clerk: Angela Howells

Deputy Clerk: Debbie Marshall

Assistant Clerk: Deborah Rogers

## **Christmas Message from Westerham Town Council**

*On behalf of the Councillors and staff of Westerham Town Council, may we wish all who live or work in Westerham and Crockham Hill a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year*

*Sadly Westerham had to say farewell to a number of well-known residents during 2016 and our thoughts are with their families and friends. We also send our thoughts to the families affected by the recent accident on Croydon Road and our remembrances go to family and friends of Valerie Deakin who sadly died in Westerham last Christmas Eve.*

## **Moorhouse Tile Works Planning Application**

At the time of going to press we have just heard that the application for the Moorhouse Tile Works has been withdrawn. There is no further news at present but we will keep you updated when we know more.

## **Vandalism in Westerham**

Westerham Town Council has asked to meet urgently with senior Police to discuss what action can be taken to deal with the spate of vandalism that has been taking place in Westerham recently. A meeting has been arranged for 13 December.

This vandalism has been widespread and damaging. Both Westerham Hall and The Crown building have had windows shattered: new picnic benches on King George's Field have been seriously damaged by fire and graffiti and litter and dog bins incinerated.

In all several thousands of pounds worth of damage has been caused.



An attempt was made to topple the Christmas tree on The Green, again causing substantial damage. More recently street lights have been shattered and lit fireworks pushed through a resident's letterbox.

While the Council is doing all it can; eg using outreach workers from the Kenward Trust to attempt to talk to groups of youths, it now feels that Police action is needed, especially in the light of evidence of drug taking and dealing among the youth of the town.

If you witness any anti-social actions or instances of vandalism, we urge you very strongly to phone 101 and report the incident, and let the Council know the incident number.

We will keep all residents updated on progress– but this is something which affects us all, and on which we need everyone's help.

Thank you.

### **Westerham's Future and the Town Council's position**

Currently Westerham is facing a number of important issues which may affect its future.

1. Sevenoaks District Council's "call for housebuilding sites" responded to by a number of local landowners and which will be available for public consultation early next year.
2. Sevenoaks District Council's revision of its Local Plan and review of the Green Belt within the District Council area.
3. A possible proposal for a bypass which has been the subject of meetings earlier this year and which will require infilling at the Covers Farm Sandpit.



Westerham Town Council sees its continuing role as maintaining and enhancing the environment of the town and its surrounding countryside, seeking, (as far as we can), to meet the social and economic needs of the town and resolving infrastructure challenges.

In doing so, as the democratically elected representatives, we seek to foster the long term sustainable development of the town.

This means that the Town Council cannot promote the interests of any one landowner over another and that it has to take an even handed view of the various development proposals that may come forward through SDC's Local Plan process.

The biggest issue impacting upon Westerham in the foreseeable future will be the outcome of SDC's "call for housebuilding sites."

The timetable is lengthy and we know a number of landowners have put forward potential development sites for consideration in and around Westerham.

SDC has not yet determined the overall amount of housing required across the district or the strategy by which it will be delivered, (which may or may not require some adjustment of Green Belt boundaries).

This means we do not yet know what role SDC expects Westerham to play in meeting future housing needs across the district.

In Westerham, we think future provision should be led by local housing needs and enable us to identify the necessary infrastructure upgrades that may be required to support new development.

With the above in mind we think it is premature to start any process of town planning until we have consultation details from SDC in March/April next year.

In the meantime the Town Council has engaged professional town planning advice so that we can be well prepared to evaluate the SDC proposals when they appear and advise the community appropriately.

For further information please contact Angela Howells, Town Clerk on 01959 562147 or email - [office@westerhamtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:office@westerhamtowncouncil.gov.uk)



## **Report a Problem on the Road or pavement**

Inform KCC about highway problems including potholes and broken signs by going online [www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem](http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem) or call 03000 41 81 81

## **Festive Refuse Collections**

Collections will take place one day later than usual - View your Christmas refuse collection dates at [www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/collectiondays](http://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/collectiondays)

## **FORTHCOMING TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS**

### **December**

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> Planning & Development

### **January**

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> Planning & Development

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> Finance & General Purpose

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> Allotment, Playing Fields and Open Spaces

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> Planning & Development

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> Council

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**