



WESTERHAM TOWN COUNCIL

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Chairman: Alan Wesley

Town Clerk: Angela Howells

Deputy Clerk: Debbie Marshall

Assistant Clerk: Deborah Rogers

FREE SUMMER FAMILY FUN SESSIONS IN WESTERHAM

Funded by Westerham Town Council

The sessions will be on Thursday 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th August
10.30am – 1.30pm, King George's Field

There will be inflatable fun at each session including
a Magician on the 3rd, and African Drumming 17th.

If the weather is wet all sessions will be held in the Westerham
Sports Association building on King George's Field.

SUMMER Funfest

Free Fun Sessions for ALL 10-14 year olds

Run by West Kent Communities Youth Service

Sponsored by Westerham Town Council and Kent County Council

15th August – King George's Playing Field

10.30am-1.00pm Urban Arts

Learn new skills with a professional graffiti artist!

2.30pm-5pm Learn to juggle and more!

21st August – Westerham Hall

10am-2pm Come Dine with Us!

Have fun cooking a meal for others to taste

2.30-pm – 5pm Drama Workshop

BOOK YOUR FREE PLACE AT: westkent.org/funfest - Places are limited



Keeping you informed... what's happening over the summer...

We have promised to keep you informed of developments that may affect the future of Westerham. Many of you came to the Public Meeting held on 24th May to hear the Leader of Sevenoaks District Council explain the progress being made towards delivery of the new Local Plan which will run until 2035; and when it will be available for consultation so that you, as residents, can make your views known. As your elected representatives – Westerham Town Council will also be consulted on the plan and it is important that we also know our residents' views so that we can better represent them.

SDC have been clear that in the new Local Plan they **will continue to protect the Green Belt**. In order to do so they will:

- Agree that new housing will need to be built at higher densities, within existing town and village boundaries
- Allow 'brownfield' land in the Green Belt to be sustainably developed
- Look at cases where a convincing 'exceptional circumstances' case can be made in accordance with national policy

It is important to Westerham that we all not only understand the arguments and reasoning Squerryes Estate is putting forward as 'exceptional circumstances' for the building of some 600+ houses on Green Belt land to include funding a by-pass but also the implications for the Town if this is approved.

Your Town Council does not yet have the details of this submission, but expects to see it in early August when it will be made public by Sevenoaks District Council.

If agreed in whole or part within the new Local Plan this will have a substantial effect on Westerham's future.

Once it has sufficient further information, your Council will both hold another Public Meeting alongside the 'drop-in' sessions SDC plan to hold and follow that up with a poll of every household in Westerham. The results of this poll will not only enable your Council to better understand and represent the community's views, but will also be important information for Sevenoaks District Council as they continue to draft their plan.

So please watch out for further information during August and September – we will continue to 'keep you informed' when we know more through our web site, email, Facebook as well as printed publications.

Westerham takes part in Herd of the Hospice, siting a horse sculpture on the Green

Hospice in the Weald is a local charity operating in the communities of West Kent and Northern East Sussex providing compassionate, holistic and supportive care for people with a terminal illness, their families and carers. All services are offered completely free of charge. Hospice in the Weald is not part of the NHS. It costs over £7 million to run the Hospice each and every year.

They are launching a campaign to raise vital funds and 'stirrup' excitement and curiosity across the region. 25 uniquely decorated horse sculptures will be placed in parks and open spaces to create an interesting focal point in the community and encourage the general public to search them out and drive footfall to these areas.

The project will bring together businesses, local artists and communities whilst attracting more visitors to West Kent and East Sussex. Each sculpture will be approximately 5-6ft in height and made of fiberglass and will be sponsored by a business, an individual or local community group and each will look very different.

Westerham Town Council has agreed for a horse to be sited on the Green from Tuesday 4th July until the end of September. After they have been displayed each of the sculptures will be auctioned and all proceeds donated to Hospice in the Weald.

The horse to be located on the Green in Westerham is called Steam Punk and has been designed by Ashley Shen, a student at Mayfield School. The photos below show Ashley's design and Steam Punk in production.





Westerham's War Memorial is given a new lease of life by the Town Council and local craftsmen

Over the last few years, Westerham Town Council has been working with Prelude Stone, a Westerham-based, family-owned company of specialist stone craftsmen, to clean and restore the three most prominent and loved statues in the Market Town. First, it was Sir Winston Churchill's turn; then, that of General Wolfe and now Westerham's War Memorial has been lovingly renovated. Angela Howells, Town Clerk explains:

'As part of the commemoration of the centenary of WW1, Westerham Town Council arranged for the town's War Memorial, situated in St Mary's Churchyard to be repaired and cleaned. The Memorial has been a focus for the Town since its dedication in 1920 and the excellent work completed by Prelude Stone will ensure that the memorial remains a fitting tribute to those who gave their lives in two world wars.'

The Memorial was funded by public subscription and erected within the curtilage of Westerham's Anglican church, St, Mary's at their invitation. As a result, its upkeep falls under the jurisdiction of the Diocesan Architect who therefore determined the extent of the work just undertaken. Prelude Stone Contracts Manager, Levi Evans, explains:

"Certainly no one wanted to turn the Memorial into a soulless lump of white stone, but we did recommend slightly more intensive cleaning to those areas most badly stained. The Memorial has been under attack by both algae and lichen for nearly a century. Algae is a far more serious problem as it 'eats into' the stone structure as well as staining it and has therefore been fully remedied. Lichen, though, causes heavier black staining but is benign. The Diocesan Architect therefore stipulated, in accordance with the Church's stated conservation practice, that the worse of the lichen staining be left as evidence of the Memorial's age, history and character. Now that the work is finished, we are extremely proud of the results, especially the repainted inscriptions (using a carefully chosen enamel) ensuring the names of all those who gave so much can, once again, be clearly read. Left unattended, Wealden sandstone succumbs slowly to the elements so the cleaning and repairs will help the Memorial stand tall through its next 100 years."

The company's founder, Chris Regan, echoes this sentiment:

"A community's statuary speaks to and for the residents and is vital to its sense of place. We're delighted, therefore, that the Town Council thinks the same and chose us to help Westerham show itself in its true colours."



And one last thing – the bird at the top of the Memorial is actually a pelican. The bird is a Christian symbol of sacrifice as it was once believed that, when there was no other food, it would wound her breast and feed the young on her blood.”

The work has been undertaken by Prelude Stone through its *Community Project Initiative* and was funded by a generous grant from the War Memorials Trust, with contributions from St Mary's Heritage Trust, the Westerham Society, the Wolfe Society and Westerham Town Council.

Community and partnership working at its best!

Crockham Hill works together to provide three defibrillators around the village

The Crockham Hill Women's Institute launched a fund raising initiative to provide defibrillators in Crockham Hill. A working party was formed with local residents June Davies, Anthony and Kate Rogers, Susan Cash, Michael and Olga Court, Anna Goldstein and Liz Jowett who raised £3,250 from villagers. Crockham Hill War Memorial Playing Field Trust contributed £550 and Westerham Town Council £800.

Westerham Town Council organised the purchase and installation of the three defibrillators and cabinets outside Crockham Hill Village Hall, Crockham Hill Sports Pavilion and purchased the redundant telephone box in the village from British Telecom to house the third.



FORTHCOMING TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

August

3rd Planning

17th Planning

21st Allotments, Playing Fields and Open Spaces

31st Planning

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 more information.**



PUBLIC TOILETS IN WESTERHAM - THE FUTURE

For many years there have been public toilets on Fullers Hill in Westerham. The age and condition of those facilities are now such that the toilet block must either be replaced or permanently withdrawn from use.

A replacement unisex, disability compliant, toilet at the same location would cost approximately £50,000. Before the Council seeks funding for expenditure on this scale, it needs to know if the public considers that there is a requirement for a public toilet in the town.

Please help the Council to assess the public's views on this issue by answering the following questions and returning this page to the Council office.

- Do you use the public toilets in Fullers Hill? Yes No
 - Do you think the toilets are essential for residents? Yes No
 - Do you think the provision of public toilets is essential for anyone visiting Westerham as a tourist? Yes No
 - Have you any other comments?
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Thank you for completing this survey
**Please return it by 18th August 2107 to Westerham Town Council, Russell House,
Market Square, Westerham TN16 1RB.**