



WESTERHAM TOWN COUNCIL
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Chairman: Alan Wesley
Town Clerk: Angela Howells
Deputy Clerk: Debbie Marshall
Assistant Clerk: Deborah Rogers

SAVE THE DATE!
FREE FAMILY FUN SESSION
FRIDAY 7th APRIL 2017
10:00am - 1:00pm
Westerham Hall, Quebec Avenue
Crafts, bouncy castle, indoor games, Suitable for ages 1-11
Event sponsored by Westerham Town Council

Statement from Westerham Town Council

Many of you have been asking about the current activity in planning the future of our town. Our aim, as your elected representatives, is to make sure that we keep you updated on what it going on, and most importantly, are consulted about any proposals which are likely to affect our town. The current work, all of which is directed at producing a new Local Plan, is only the start of a lengthy process, throughout which your Council will seek your views, so that it can accurately represent them.

This statement is intended to introduce the main strands of work, explain how they fit together and the points at which your Council will formally be asking for your views. There will be more detail on our website <http://www.westerhamtowncouncil.gov.uk/> and on Sevenoaks District Council's website <http://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/services/housing/planning/local-plan-and-planning-policy> In addition to the more formal consultations, our Town or District Councillors welcome your comments and questions at any time. Contact your Town Councillors through the Council Office office@westerhamtowncouncil.gov.uk and your District Councillor Cllr.Maskell@sevenoaks.gov.uk

The Local Plan: the key document which determines where new homes will be built. The one which covers Westerham is currently being rewritten by Sevenoaks District Council and will cover the period up to 2035. It's being rewritten to deal with the well publicised need



for more housing.

The 'Call for Sites': Landowners were invited to put forward sites which might be suitable for development over the next 20 years. Several sites around Westerham were put forward and are being assessed for suitability. This does not mean that all or any of these sites will be developed. However because 93% of Sevenoaks District is Green Belt, then many of the offered sites are in the Green Belt. So there is a

Green Belt assessment: undertaken by consultants, it looked at whether any of the Green Belt could be taken for development. Two areas round Westerham, one to the north and one to the west of our town have been recommended for 'further investigation'. This does not necessarily mean that the land will be released from the Green Belt. SDC have said that brownfield sites within the Green Belt would be investigated before greenfield sites are considered.

Housing Study: looks at the need for housing in the District, taking into account our aging population, need for affordable housing, and the sort of housing we said we wanted when we filled in the housing survey sent to us all.

Which Way Westerham?: the Squerries Estate is the major landowner in and around our town and responded to the call for sites with several pieces of land around Westerham. This has led to their current exercise to consult the community. When complete it will be presented to Sevenoaks District Council to consider as they prepare the Local Plan. Squerries are also continuing their engagement with the community. There's lots of other input too, all on the SDC website: search for New Local Plan.

Where does Westerham Town Council stand? Your Town Council has always supported and endorsed the **current** Local Plan, under which **no** new development is allowed in the Green Belt unless it meets very special circumstances. It routinely opposes any planning application which proposes development on the Green Belt land which encircles our town.

With the prospect of a new Local Plan, and as your elected representatives, we have to take an even handed view of any proposals which come forward during its preparation. It will form its view, based on your views, as proposals become firmer.

In late Spring/early Summer this year, the issues and options which have emerged from all the evidence assembled will be published and views of the District's residents asked for. A year later, in 2018, the first draft of the new Local Plan will be produced, again for consultation. It won't be until 2019 that the new Local Plan will be adopted and become the framework for all future planning decisions.

If you would like to receive updates on this, or other Town Council matters via email, then please respond 'Keep me updated' to office@westerhamtowncouncil.gov.uk

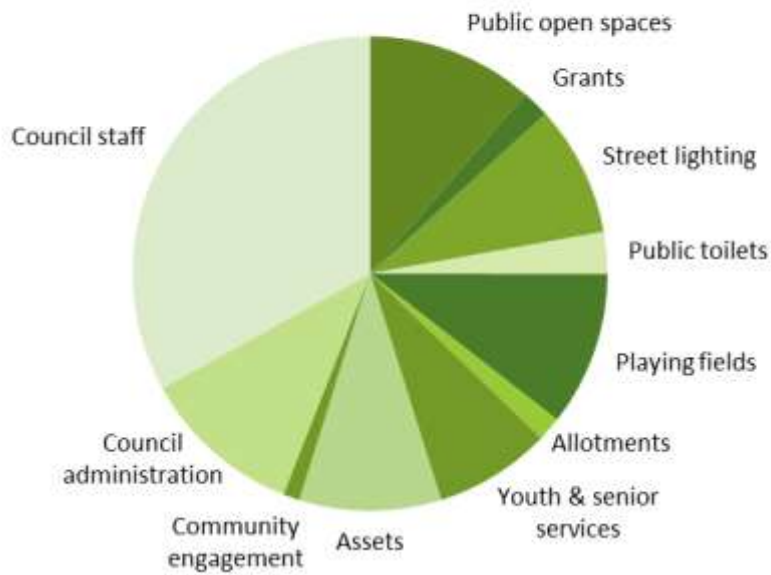
£1.85
per week

Where does Westerham Town Council get its money from?

The Council's expenditure for 2017/18 is budgeted to be £263,400. The Council generates income of £67,475 from rents, leases, grants and business contributions (Christmas lights/hanging baskets etc). The balance of £195,925 is called the precept, which is paid by local tax payers. Council tax band D houses in Westerham/Crockham Hill will pay £95.62 per year or just under £1.85 per week. This is a 3.5% increase on last year, an increase of 4p a week.

How will the budget be spent?

Expenditure



What do we do?
Allotments: Bloomfield, Currant Hill & Farley sites
Assets: Russell House Council office & chamber, Doctor's Surgery, Wolfe & Churchill statues, Domesday Mosaic, Fountain, Jubilee Clock, War Memorials, bus shelters, defibrillators, dog bins, notice boards and public seats
Council administration including business rates, insurance, audit fees and legal fees
Council staff: office staff responding to public enquiries, project management and managing council business and a groundsman managing the playing fields
Community engagement: tourism, events, newsletter publication
Grants to local organisations
Playing fields: Crockham Hill and King George's Playing Fields, pavilions, playgrounds, tennis and ball courts, skate park, car park & outside gym
Public Open Spaces: The Green, Verralls Corner, Grange Island, Bonneval Garden, Crockham Hill Garden, Ash, Granville, Hartley, Madan Roads: weed killing, mowing, tree work, planting/hanging baskets, Xmas lights & tree
Public toilet (Fullers Hill)
Street lighting
Youth & senior services: youth club, street workers, holiday play schemes and forget-me-not cafe

Parking at the Madan Road/London Road Junction

The Town Council has been receiving a high number of complaints from residents regarding obstructive parking at the junction of Madan Road/London Road. It is believed that the vehicles may belong to workers of the Linden Homes Development on London Road.

Westerham Town Council have been in contact with Linden Homes, Sevenoaks District Council (SDC), Kent County Council (KCC) and the police. Linden Homes are raising the issue with the site manager. SDC have advised us that the Highway Code rule that drivers should not park within 10 metres of a junction is advisory and is not enforceable, although they have asked their wardens to take a look. If parked vehicles are preventing other road users from passing the police can use their highway obstruction powers. We would urge residents to call their non-emergency telephone number 101 to report such instances. We have also sought the assistance of our PCSO.

The Town Council has approached KCC to find a longer term solution such as installing restrictions to protect the junction, for example double yellow lines. KCC has informed us that this location does not meet their assessment criteria, so the Town Council is exploring other avenues of funding to install such a scheme.

Linden Homes has advised that complaints about parking and all other problems should be emailed to tom.dalzell@lindenhomes.co.uk or call Mark Thompson, Site Manager on 0771 267 6082.

We will continue to monitor the situation very closely and the item will be on the next Highways and Lighting Committee Agenda to be held on April 24th.

Grow your own – rent an allotment!

Allotment gardening is a great way to keep fit, enjoy the fresh air, make new friends and grow your own fresh produce.

Allotment gardening is hard work, but very rewarding!

Westerham Town Council has a small number of full and half allotment plots for rent at each of their 3 sites: Bloomfield, Currant Hill and Farley Allotments.

This season we will be creating some raised beds at the Currant Hill site, which will offer disabled and elderly residents the opportunity to access allotment gardening.

The cost of renting a full allotment is just 12p a day (£44 per year).

For more information, contact the Deputy Clerk on: 01959 562147.





BARLEY CHARITY

Westerham Town Council invites applications for general charitable purposes for the benefit of the residents of Westerham parish. The closing date for applications is **31st March 2017**.

Please apply in writing to the Town Clerk to request an application form or download from our website westerhamtowncouncil.gov.uk/barley-charity

UK Power Networks – Priority Services Register

UK Power Networks delivers the electricity to homes and business in and around Westerham. They are asking people who are priority users, for example customers who rely on medical equipment, who are chronically ill, with a disability, who have dementia, who are blind or partially sighted, deaf or hard of hearing, of pensionable age, or customers with children under five in their household, to register on their Priority Services Register. You can register online with www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/internet/en/power-cuts/priority-services-during-a-power-cut/ or telephone 0800 1 69 9970. This Priority Register will enable UK power Networks to provide the support that these people may need in the event of a power cut.

FORTHCOMING TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

March

Thursday 16th Planning & Development
Monday 20th Full Council

April

Monday 10th Youth and Community
Thursday 13th Planning and Development
Monday 24th Highways and Lighting
Thursday 27th 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 for more information.**