



WESTERHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Russell House, Market Square,

Westerham, Kent TN16 1RB

Tel 01959 562147 / Fax 01959 569373

Email office@westerhamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Website: www.westerhamtowncouncil.gov.uk

www.facebook.com/WesterhamTownCouncil

Chairman: Alan Wesley

Town Clerk: Angela Howells

Deputy Clerk: Debbie Marshall

Assistant Clerk: Deborah Rogers

FREE SUMMER FAMILY FUN SESSIONS

Funded by Westerham Town Council

4th, 11th, 18th and 25th August 2016- 10.30am – 1.30pm

KING GEORGE'S FIELD, WESTERHAM

There will be inflatable fun at each session including
A Magician on the 4th, Circus Skills on the 18th and African Drumming 25th.

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

NEW Moorhouse Tileworks Planning application

Following refusal of application TA/2015/1217, the redevelopment of the Moorhouse Tileworks site, a new planning application has been submitted as (TA/2016/1036) – demolition of existing buildings and erection of Class B8 commercial buildings, access, servicing, parking and landscaping.

This application can be viewed on the Tandridge District Council website, www.tandridge.gov.uk/Planning/planningapplications/majorapps.htm using the reference 2016/1036 to view the application and email comments to comaps@tandridge.gov.uk

The following changes have been made to the proposals:

- Reduction in the site size, with the existing occupier (Monier Redland) remaining on site.
- Reduction in the number of new units from four to three
- Reduction in the height of buildings
- Increased landscaping



**Presented to the Westerham Town Council
Annual Town Meeting – 13th April 2016**

**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 throughout the year by the Town Council continue to receive positive feedback. We are grateful for the support we receive from Westerham Sports Association to support the summer outdoor events 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



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 are 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 we have planted 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

FORTHCOMING TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

July

Thursday 21st Planning and Development

August

Thursday 4th Planning and Development



Thursday 18th

Planning and Development