



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

Four THURSDAY MORNINGS in August - 10.30am – 1.30pm

KING GEORGE'S FIELD, WESTERHAM

The sessions will be on Thursday 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th August 2016.

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.

SEVENOAKS DISTRICT COUNCIL CLEAR RECYCLING SACKS & BROWN GARDEN WASTE SACKS are available to buy from 'The Light Brigade', 1 & 2 Hortons Way, Westerham, TN16 1BT, Tel: 01959 562252. Opening times are: Monday – Thursday 08.30 – 17.30, Friday – 08.30-17.00, Saturday 09.30 – 16.00, Sunday – Closed.

SPEED WATCH VOUNTEERS REQUIRED FOR WESTERHAM

Are you interested in becoming a speed watch volunteer for Westerham? Training by Kent Police provided. For further information contact the Town Council on 01959 562147 or email office@westerhamtowncouncil.gov.uk



BEING A WESTERHAM TOWN COUNCILLOR **What's it all about?**

Want to do something positive?

Help make a difference by influencing decisions that affect your community?

Then stand for election to become a Councillor on your Local Council!

Who is eligible?

Any person over the age of 18 who is a citizen of the United Kingdom, The European Community, or the Commonwealth can be a Councillor if they are an elector in, work in, live in or live within three miles of the area of the local Council.

What will I do if elected?

- Raise matters that the Council can consider and formally decide to take action at meetings
- Attend Council meetings
- Make informed contributions which influence the debate on the business that needs to be decided at those meetings
- Participate in the Council's decision making process, which in itself is subject to strict rules and guidelines
- Represent the Council externally

So, what are you waiting for?

Please contact Angela Howells, Town Clerk on 01959 562147 or email office@westerhamtowncouncil.gov.uk for further information.

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

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 25th 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.

Linda Rodgers, Chairman of Highways and Lighting Committee



Planning and Development Committee Annual Report 2015 - 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.



P Ashley, Chairman of Planning Committee

FORTHCOMING TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

June

Monday 20 th	Highways and Lighting Committee
Thursday 23 rd	Planning and Development

July

Thursday 7 th	Planning and Development
Monday 11 th	Council
Thursday 21 st	Planning and Development