



#### WESTERHAM TOWN COUNCIL

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Chairman: Alan Wesley

Town Clerk: Angela Howells

Deputy Clerk: Debbie Marshall

Assistant Clerk: Deborah Rogers

## Public Statement Westerham's views on Which Way Westerham

Westerham Town Council asked for the views of those living or working in its area on 'Which Way Westerham', the concept promoted by Squerryes to provide '600 homes in new neighbourhoods, together with a relief road to divert the A25 around the town centre, with environmental and landscape improvements, new green public open spaces, community facilities and extensions to Common Land'

**741 completed questionnaires were returned by the closing date of 20<sup>th</sup> October, some 37% of Westerham's 2,016 households.**

**Of these 105 (14%) supported the concept with 636 (86%) opposing.**

Of equal importance to the Council are the comments made by respondents. Both those supporting and those opposing the concept shared a number of common concerns, as will be seen below:-

**From those supporting the concept**, the most frequent comments were:

- infrastructure needed must come first
- traffic congestion could worsen albeit pollution could be reduced
- 600 houses was too many
- housing should be affordable and/or for Westerham people only
- a by-pass is essential
- greater detail of the concept is needed
- development should not be in Green Belt.

**Those opposing the concept**, the most frequent comments were:

- the infrastructure i.e. Doctors and schools was not sufficient
- flooding could be a problem
- 600 houses was too many
- it would destroy the character of Westerham
- the development would create too much traffic and congestion especially to the north of the town
- the bypass was not necessary
- the Green Belt and ancient woodland should be protected
- there was insufficient parking now
- the bypass would adversely affect the businesses
- there was not enough detail to comment fully.

**In launching the survey, Westerham Town Council said that it wanted to know the views of**

its residents and businesses, so that it could represent them with certainty, and before the Local Plan process moves on.

The Council will now be presenting these views to Sevenoaks District Council and will, as ever, continue to watch carefully the next phase of the Local Plan, and will continue to Keep you Informed.

The Council will be formally discussing the outcome of the survey at its next meeting.

### **Turning the Town Red**

*We hope everyone has noticed the poppies on lampposts around the Town for Remembrance Sunday.*



**A BIG THANK YOU from Westerham Town Council to everyone who helped us raise an amazing £393 at our MacMillan's Coffee Morning on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September.**

Thank you also to Chocs on the Green, Costa Coffee, Day Lewis Pharmacy, Food for Thought and The Grasshopper on the Green for donating fabulous raffle prizes.

### **Keeping our street lights effective**

The Town Council has maintained, and improved, the town's stock of streetlights, energy efficient LEDs are being brought in; however the help of residents is required to help keep



our street lights effective. We would ask that vegetation such as trees, shrubs and hedges from your property or land does not obscure street lights so that they can shine effectively onto the highway.

The Town Council's 2017 Annual Maintenance Service inspection report for WTC owned street lighting had identified several lights were obscured by vegetation. It had been agreed on this occasion that the pruning work be carried out and paid for by Westerham Town Council however due to financial pressures the Town Council cannot continue to do this. In future, street lights obscured by vegetation will be reported to Kent County Council as per the Highways Act 1980 that states, "where a hedge, tree or shrub obstructs or interferes with the light from a public lamp the competent authority (i.e. Kent County Council), may by notice either to the owner of the hedge, tree or shrub or to the occupier of the land on which it is growing, require him within 14 days from the notice to lop or cut it as to remove the cause of the danger, obstruction or interference".

### **Garden bonfires: the rules**

There are no laws against having a bonfire, but there are laws for the nuisance they can cause.

### **Burning domestic waste**

You **can't** get rid of household waste if it will cause pollution or harm people's health. This includes burning it.

You can get rid of household or garden waste by composting or recycling it. Contact your local district council to find out how to dispose of garden waste and about recycling in your area.

### **Danger to traffic by smoke**

You could be fined if you light a fire and you allow the smoke to drift across the road and become a danger to traffic.

### **What should you do if you are bothered by bonfires?**

If you feel able to do so, it is often better to try and resolve a problem informally by yourself. Your neighbour may be genuinely unaware that their activities are having a negative impact upon you and speaking to them will hopefully make them more considerate in the future. If this fails, contact Environmental Health, who will investigate the matter. If after investigation, statutory nuisance is established an abatement notice can be issued. A bonfire must happen frequently to be considered a nuisance. Your neighbour can be fined up to £5,000 if they do not stick to the abatement notice. For more information on bonfires contact Sevenoaks District Council 01732 227000.

## *Date For The Diary*

*Westerham Late Night Shopping and Lights Switch On*

*Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017 from 6pm*



## FORTHCOMING TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

### December

7th Planning and Development

11th Council

20<sup>th</sup> Highways and Lighting

21st 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](http://westerhamtowncouncil.gov.uk) for more information.**