



#### WESTERHAM TOWN COUNCIL

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Chairman: Helen Ogden

Town Clerk: Angela Howells

Deputy Clerk: Debbie Marshall

Assistant Clerk: Deborah Rogers

### **What's happening to the Moorhouse site? What progress on the Covers Farm restoration and on the Draft Local Plan?**

We promised that we would keep you informed on these three issues, any of which could have a big effect on Westerham. So as TN16 goes to press for its August edition, here's the latest information we have.

**Moorhouse:** we were pleased to hear that DPD has decided not to go ahead with plans to build a distribution depot on the old Tileworks site. The prospect of many DPD vans hurrying through Westerham on their way to their destination has been removed, but we do not yet have any information on what else might occupy the site.

Preserving the Green Belt is of vital importance to all of us and so your Council continues to oppose Tandridge District Council's proposal in its draft Local Plan to remove the site from the Green Belt. It has repeated its objections to the Planning Inspector and has asked to present those objections in person at the hearing to be held during October this year.

**Covers Farm restoration:** the latest information we have is contained in the following note from KCC's Planning Department:

*'We have received a report from our geotech consultants which we are currently digesting and discussing with them. We are also still awaiting the package of additional detail from the Applicant which I understand will primarily be further information in relation to the engineering of the haul road (as requested by Highways England), and additional biodiversity information. When we receive this we will be required to carry out a re-consultation exercise which has to run for at least 30 days.'*

We are keeping in close touch with our County Councillor, Nick Chard, to ensure that we hear of any developments as soon as they happen.

**Sevenoaks District Draft Local Plan:** at the beginning of August we, along with all those who had responded to the last (Regulation 19) consultation, heard from the Planning Inspector's Office of the issues the Inspector will want to investigate at the public hearing which is scheduled to begin on 24 September in the Stag Theatre. As this is a lengthy



document, there has not been time to analyse it, or to decide on the actions to be taken before TN16 goes to press.

The documents (see especially ed8,9,10,and 11) are now on the SDC website:  
[www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/downloads/download/434/examination\\_documents](http://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/downloads/download/434/examination_documents)

Work is ongoing in consultation with our Planning Advisor and our District Councillors. As ever, we will keep you informed.

### **Gatwick Airport Noise Reporting**

Gatwick has completely overhauled its on line noise and track keeping monitoring systems. There is an automated phone system 01293 311568 for reporting noise complaints and an online system for tracking aircraft in the area <https://webtrak.emsbk.com/lgw2>

Complaints can also be made by post, online form, via the flight tracker on by app on your mobile phone. Full details at [www.gatwickairport.com/business-community/aircraft-noise-airspace/noise-enquiries/](http://www.gatwickairport.com/business-community/aircraft-noise-airspace/noise-enquiries/)

## **Summer Family Fun Sessions**

**Many thanks to James Millard, Estate Agents for sponsoring the boards advertising the Family Fun Days on King George's Field this summer and for all the residents who agreed to display them.  
Thanks also to Handsome House for displaying a board.**

### **Launch of new noise app**

Sevenoaks District Council has launched a new app making it quick and easy for residents to report noise related complaints.

The 'Noise App' is easy to use and is free for residents. The app takes recordings of the noise together with the time and location of the disturbance, and instantly reports it to the Council, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Residents can make as many reports as is necessary.

Those making the complaints can enter details of the nature of the disturbance and the impact on them.

The Council will review the reports as part of any investigation. Data collected via the noise app can be used as evidence if the Council takes further action.



Prior to the introduction of the noise app, the Council sent paper diary sheets to residents who made noise complaints. Not only was this time-consuming for residents, it slowed down the process of making a complaint and gathering the all-important evidence.

This app also saves the Council time as staff no longer need to review and analyse written responses.

However, paper diaries will still be available for residents without smartphones or other suitable devices.

The Council's Cabinet Member for Cleaner and Greener, Cllr Margot McArthur, says: "Noise disturbance, especially when persistent, can really impact on physical and mental health. This new service makes reporting noise nuisance quicker and easier. It means we can start to deal with the problem straightaway and this will be welcomed by people suffering from noise disruption."

The Noise App is available on iPhone and Android by searching for 'The Noise App'.

## **Forthcoming Town Council Meetings**

### **September**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Allotments, Open Spaces and Playing Fields
- 9<sup>th</sup> Highways and Lighting
- 12<sup>th</sup> Planning and Development
- 10<sup>th</sup> Youth and Community
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Finance and General Purpose
- 26<sup>th</sup> 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. Meeting agenda's and minutes are published on our website [westerhamtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://westerhamtowncouncil.gov.uk)