



WESTERHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Russell House, Market Square,
Westerham, Kent TN16 1RB

Tel: 01959 562147

Email office@westerhamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Website: www.westerhamtowncouncil.gov.uk

 www.facebook.com/WesterhamTownCouncil

Chairman: Helen Ogden

Town Clerk: Angela Howells

Finance Officer: Debbie Marshall

Acting Deputy Clerk: Deborah Rogers

Assistant Clerk: Emily Rodgers

This message is to all who live and work in Westerham from your Council.

As Westerham, along with the rest of the Country, gets ready to enter the third month of 'lockdown' and awaits information on how we might emerge from this situation, we continue to be thankful to all those who are giving their time, their talents or their donations to support the community through these strange times.

Too numerous to list, we say thank to you all.

Your Council continues to carry on business as usual as far as is possible:

- Both Council and Committee meetings continue to be held virtually when there are decisions to be taken or business to be done.

They **are** open to the public and times and date may vary; please contact the Town Clerk for details of how to join them.

- Although the Council offices are closed to members of the public, our phones are still answered, our mail picked up and our emails acted upon.
- Our Allotments and Playing Fields remain open; but please observe social distancing and don't use the playgrounds, skate park, tennis courts or outdoor gym.

We are really sorry, but in the light of the advice we have received, we do need to keep them closed.

- Our Town Clerk is acting as Westerham Coordinator for the Sevenoaks District Volunteer scheme. One of our Cllrs, Deborah Coen, fulfils the same role for Crockham Hill.

From Shopping to prescription collection and delivery, from lost tortoisés to distribution of information on anything and everything, volunteers are matched with those needing help.

- The Council's website now has a section devoted to Covid-19 (look for the tab at the top of the home page) which is regularly updated. It brings together all the sources of information on the pandemic in one place and gives the contact details for those who need more information. Updates are also posted on our and other Facebook pages

As ever, communication is key and while the world moves inexorably 'online' we are aware

that many of our residents are not connected. Our Community Warden Steve is out and about in the Town and has delivered paper copies of information to those he knows have no internet connection. The Town Clerk and volunteers' phone those who have asked for support. Key information is on notice boards.

Our message remains the same : Your Council is here to support the communities of Westerham and Crockham Hill. Let us know if you find gaps we can fill or people who might need support. We know how difficult it can be to ask, but please do not hesitate. If we cannot do it ourselves, we probably know someone who can!

So until we meet again face to face, keep well and stay safe.

Councillors and Staff of Westerham Town Council

SO GENEROUS!

The Italian Shop donated 100 free food parcels to those in need in Westerham!



The owner of the Italian Shop, Egidio and Steve Grange KCC Community Warden.

Can you paint or draw a rainbow for our bus shelter?

We are decorating our bus shelter on the Green with rainbow pictures drawn by the children of Westerham.

Please post your designs through our letterbox at the Town Council Offices, Russell House and we will display them. You can include your name and age.

We can't wait to see your colourful pictures to brighten our days!



Nisa donation

The Barley Charity Trustee – Westerham Town Council is delighted to have received a donation for £650 from Nisa, Westerham - Making a Difference Locally to the Barley Charity.

In these challenging times this donation will be divided between the Community Meal Scheme and the Food Bank.

The Community Meals Scheme has been set up to enable vulnerable residents to have cooked meals delivered direct to their homes and is run by Tanya and Ian from The Courtyard in conjunction with Westerham Hall.

The Food Bank remains open in these difficult times and provides weekly food deliveries for those who need extra help. It will continue to do so both through the pandemic and afterwards.

Nisa, Westerham has also donated £500 worth of food to provide meals for staff at four London hospitals. This is greatly appreciated by the NHS staff.



Go Coach and ViaVan launch Go2, a new on-demand public transport service in Sevenoaks

The new service will provide rides using the new Go2 app as the city replaces seven fixed-route bus lines during the COVID-19 pandemic due to lack of ridership. In response to the COVID-19 crisis, Sevenoaks bus services 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8, operated by Go Coach, will temporarily be replaced by a new on-demand service from next week.

The three-month trial period is taking place because of falling passenger numbers and uncertainty surrounding the coronavirus pandemic.

The protection of bus services for key workers, such as NHS staff, and for those that have no choice other than bus, has been the key task of operators and Kent County Council's public transport team over the past few weeks.

KCC Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport Michael Payne said: "I'm grateful to Go Coach and my team at Kent Public Transport who have been able to react to the current situation and put this trial in place which offers the best possible service they can with the limited bus driver resource currently available.

"As the coronavirus pandemic continues with a country-wide shut down, bus passenger numbers in Kent have dropped dramatically. Kent Public Transport have worked hard with the operators to ensure services continue as best as they are able, whilst at the same time supporting the sustainability of their business operations.

"With funding from the Local Council, which we have helped fund, residents will continue to



be able to make crucial journeys to the shops, work or for medication, at no extra cost beyond their regular bus fares at this time.

"Those booking the service will be able to travel to anywhere within Sevenoaks,

FORTHCOMING TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS



COVID-19 – All Council meetings will now be held ‘virtually’ – If members of the public wish to join the virtual meeting please contact the Town Clerk prior to the meeting taking place for joining instructions.

Members of the public are very welcome to join those meetings that take place. **The first ten minutes of every meeting are available for members of the public to raise any issues with Councillors.**

Visit our website westerhamtowncouncil.gov.uk for a schedule of meetings for 2020. You can also follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/WesterhamTownCouncil