



#### WESTERHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Russell House, Market Square,  
Westerham, Kent TN16 1RB  
Tel 01959 562147

Email [office@westerhamtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:office@westerhamtowncouncil.gov.uk)

Website: [www.westerhamtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.westerhamtowncouncil.gov.uk)

[f www.facebook.com/WesterhamTownCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/WesterhamTownCouncil)

Chairman: Helen Ogden

Town Clerk: Angela Howells

Deputy Clerk: Deborah Rogers

Assistant Clerk: Emily Rodgers

Finance Officer: Debbie Marshall

As I write this, the Prime Minister has just announced the 'rule of six' - socialising limited to a maximum of six people. By the time TN 16 readers see this, the world may have moved on again. It is clear that we will be living with Covid-19 for some time to come. We in Westerham are not immune and as we enter autumn and winter, we want to make sure that all our businesses - retail, hospitality, commercial - are able to remain open and trading. Never has 'Shopping Local' been so important.

But life goes on and after the Covid pause your Council is refocusing on the action plan it put together in consultation with our community last year. Over the next few weeks and months, we hope that work can begin on the additional car parking spaces, that we can begin to plan for the regeneration of King George's Field, and restart the activities with young people which had to end suddenly in March.

We'll also be keeping a watching brief on national developments - the proposed reform of Planning legislation and of Local Government itself. As we understand a little more of these we will keep you informed.

And we'll also be thinking about what we **can** do to celebrate Christmas in Westerham!

**Helen Ogden, Chairman**

### **Wooden picnic Bench at The Green**

The wooden picnic bench on The Green has been removed and is to be replaced by a stone table with benches that is a memorial to

Major Alan Taylor Smith, RA

### **Skate park equipment at King Georges Playing Field**

Following a recent health and safety inspection the skate park equipment needs to be removed. This work is planned to commence shortly. The removal of the equipment is for safety reasons. Whilst we have been able to undertake small ad hoc repairs in recent years this is no longer a viable option. We will review what is needed as a replacement as part of the King Georges Field Re-development consultation process which we hope will commence later in the year.

### **Changes to mobile phone payment service for car parking**

If you want to reduce contact with cash when you park, sign up to the 'MiPermit' mobile phone payment service. MiPermit allows you to pay via a smartphone app or by text once you have registered with the service. The service is easy to use and there's no handling coins or touching parking machines. You can also use MiPermit to extend your stay to the maximum time allowed. So if your ticket is about to run out, there's no rushing back to your car to buy another. Since its introduction in June, more than 9,000 people have signed up the service in the Sevenoaks District.

The MiPermit app is available on the App Store and Google Play by searching for 'MiPermit'. See the side of the parking ticket machines for details text payments. MiPermit replaced Parkmobile as the mobile phone payment service in the Council's car parks and on street.

### **Flooding**

Following recent flooding events from storms across the United Kingdom, we would like to encourage residents & businesses to be prepared for flooding in the Town. We advise the following preparations before any further severe weather occurs:

- Regularly check road or surface water drains are not blocked near where you live. If they are, use the Kent County Council "Report a Problem" tool to get it cleared <https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem>
- If there are any water courses that are blocked or partially blocked with rubbish or weeds, report it to the Environment Agency via email [enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk) or telephone 03708506506



- It is wise to have a sufficient stock of sandbags or flood sacks ready to deploy when there is a threat of flooding. Bags of sand and flood sacks can be bought from local DIY stores or off the internet. Sevenoaks District Council Direct Services also sell sandbags, but payment must be made first by calling 01732227000 before you collect them
- The Kent Prepared website offers advice on how you can protect your home or business, including a 'Personal Flood Plan' template and links to Environment Agency documents: <https://www.kentprepared.org.uk/flooding>
- Register to Floodline to receive the latest information for your area during a flood by calling 03459881188.

Sevenoaks District Council will only provide sandbags to residents in emergency situations. Unfortunately, with flash flooding incidents, it is normally too late to stop flooding reaching your property. More information on how we serve our district during flooding and a video on how to lay sandbags can be found at [www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/flooding](http://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/flooding).

If you would like any further advice on how to protect your home during flooding you can call the District Council Emergency Planning service via our main switchboard at 01732227000 or you can talk to the Kent Resilience Forum on 01622 212409. You can also find more information on the Government website: <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/what-to-do-in-a-flood>.

## 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.**

### **November**

2<sup>nd</sup> Allotments, Planning Fields & Open Spaces

5<sup>th</sup> Planning & Development

9<sup>th</sup> Youth & Community

16<sup>th</sup> Highways & Lighting

19<sup>th</sup> Planning & Development

23<sup>rd</sup> Finance & General Purpose

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.**