

Welcome

to the

2021 Annual Town Meeting



Agenda

- Welcome and Introduction : how the meeting will work
- Minutes of previous Annual Town Meeting 10th April 2019
- Chairman's Report of the year and progress on priorities.
- Looking forward
- Your questions?



Chairman's report 2020-2021: A year like no other

Thanks are due to so many:

- ❖ all who stepped forward to help
- ❖ our businesses – adapting to keep going
- ❖ clubs & organisations – planning to return
- ❖ our Council Officers
- ❖ your Councillors
- ❖ and you



You chose the priorities for your Council

- ❖ Keep Westerham a thriving, clean and tidy small town
- ❖ Improve parking
- ❖ Keep Westerham a safe town, from traffic and anti social behaviour
- ❖ Support the community & the businesses which operate In Westerham



Keep Westerham a thriving, clean and tidy small town - action

- ❖ Major planning issues which could affect our town
 - ❖ Local Plans (Sevenoaks and Tandridge)
 - ❖ Covers Farm
 - ❖ New legislation

- ❖ Darent Valley Pathway – slow progress

- ❖ Our green spaces – kept open throughout



Clean and tidy?



This

doesn't have to mean



This



Litter – a national problem, local solution

- ❖ Daily emptying of town centre litter bins
- ❖ Action with hospitality outlets
- ❖ More frequent emptying of bins on King George's Field
- ❖ Town Ambassadors
- ❖ Litter picks (join us on 27 April)
- ❖ **When it's full, take it home!**



Improve parking



Costells Meadow, Crockham Hill Playing Field, Hartley and Madan Roads

- ❖ Victims of the pandemic **BUT**
- ❖ Funds, plans and contractors in place
- ❖ Revised programme expected
- ❖ Work on the ground later this year 🙌

Keep Westerham safe: traffic



20mph limit on A 25 through town

- ❖ Lobbying by Town Council
- ❖ Help from Kent County Council & Cllr Nick Chard
- ❖ Funded by Town Council, Community Infrastructure Levy, KCC Member's Fund
- ❖ Work to start in summer



One-way system round The Green

Croydon Road drain, gully and ditch clearing –

Warning signs to be erected



Keep Westerham safe: anti-social behaviour



Burnt out bikes, damage to houses, abandoned vehicles etc



More mindless vandalism than we are used to....& activities to

engage young people in more constructive pursuits - on hold.

WTC has lobbied Police, SDC Community Safety Unit for action

- ❖ Action taken on motorbike use in sandpit using drones
- ❖ Arrests made, warnings issued for ASB and off-road bikes confiscated
- ❖ PCSOs patrol: speed checks (speeders caught): Covid breaches. WTC CCTV moved on police advice.

Positive activities for the young will resume as soon as possible

In the meantime PLEASE keep reporting Incidents 101 or 999



Support the community & businesses

Support has been different this year:

- ❖ Coordination of Community Volunteers: matching volunteers and those requesting support : shopping, prescriptions.
- ❖ **'Shop local'** message: use of The Green
- ❖ Reacting to events rather than planning ahead!
- ❖ Ready to restart:
 - ❖ **For the young:** Free Food Friday, Youth Bus, Youth Club
 - ❖ **For the young at heart:** Forget-me-not cafe,
 - ❖ **For organisations:** Art Group, Hearing Aid Clinic, Lip reading class



Business as usual

...the day-to-day business of the Council also means

- ❖ we manage 3 allotment sites
- ❖ we look after Westerham's open green spaces
- ❖ we are consulted on around 130 planning applications each year
- ❖ we own & manage many of the town's street lights & have to date spent £45k on converting to LED lighting
- ❖ we work with neighbouring councils and many other bodies



Finances 2020-2021

Town Council's income

Precept (WTC's share of Council Tax)	£237,200
Income from rents, grants, leases etc	£126,088

Town Council's spend (including staff costs)

Highways and Lighting **£33,500**

Streetlighting & LED conversion; 20s plenty; One-way round The Green

Allotments Playing Fields & Open Spaces **£91,400**

King George's & Crockham Hill Fields; Allotment sites: The Green & Open Space mowing; Hanging baskets & planting; Dog bins & trees; Benches & notice boards

Planning **£6,500**

Consultants' advice on major Planning issues

Youth & Community **£39,450**

Public toilet; Christmas lights

Finance and General Purposes **£124,650**

Maintenance of buildings etc; grants; admin; Communications; grants; building up of reserves



Finances 2020-2021 - continued

❖ WTC was able to spend – or commit to spending - some £58,500 more than it asked its community to contribute.

❖ The precept for the year was **£237,200**
❖ For Council Tax Band D houses : **£114.81 pa, or
£ 2.21 per week**

❖ WTC makes sure it puts sufficient funds aside (reserves) for anticipated risks (eg emergency tree work) and planned projects (eg playground replacement costs)



Looking forward

- ❖ Get things back on track – when safe:
 - ❖ car parking project
 - ❖ resumption of support & activities for the young and not so young in our community
 - ❖ Darent Valley Pathway

- ❖ Redevelopment of King George's Field
 - ❖ Preparatory work being done
 - ❖ Community consultation later this year

- ❖ Continue to hold a watching brief on planning issues – and make representations when necessary



Your views and input on matters whether
great or small are important

So please tell us!

KEEPING YOU
Informed

