



#### WESTERHAM TOWN COUNCIL

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

Chairman: Helen Ogden

Town Clerk: Angela Howells

Finance Officer: Debbie Marshall

Deputy Clerk: Deborah Rogers

Assistant Clerk: Emily Rodgers

## First steps

We have now taken those first tentative – but welcome - steps out of lockdown. Shops have reopened; our hospitality businesses are able to serve us outside and, possibly soon, inside. Those who have not met for many months are able to meet, albeit in small numbers, outside.

Inevitably as we continue along this road through the early summer, there will be some twists and turns. We look forward to welcoming visitors to all our town has to offer – walking, eating, shopping, our historic heritage. The vast majority will respect and value our town. They will maintain social distancing and take their litter home when the bins are full. As will we!

We may be unsure about foreign holidays this year, but we are so fortunate to live in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. There is much to see and do close to home. We have an enviable range of independent shops and hospitality businesses which we will continue to support. May the weather gods look kindly on us!

Helen Ogden - Chairman

## 20mph is Plenty for Westerham and one way around The Green

We asked our community, we listened to your concerns on making Westerham a safe town and we actioned!

The Council are delighted that on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021, Sevenoaks Joint Transport Board approved The Councils proposal for 20's Plenty and one way around The Green. The objective of the schemes is to improve the quality of life for residents and to calm and control the traffic at a speed that is acceptable and practical for the town. We believe this campaign can only help the town as we emerge from the pandemic into a new normal.

Consultation had taken place in 2020 and then was presented to SJTB for their approval. This is a huge success for Westerham as the A25 is the first 'A' road in Kent to have a speed reduction scheme.



Westerham Town Council are working closely with KCC in the next steps on finalising plans in order for works to start Summer 2021.

### **Annual Town Meeting**

For the first time the Annual Town Meeting was held virtually on 21<sup>st</sup> April. For those of you unable to attend a report will be distributed with the May/June edition of the TN16.

### **Community Litter Pick**

Westerham Town Council is organising a litter pick on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April at 10 am to help keep Westerham clean and tidy.

If you would like to help, we will provide all the equipment, just turn up at the council offices at 10 am to pick it up and attend a short safety briefing.

You can litter pick in the street you live in or in the town centre or King Georges Playing field – up to you as long as it is done safely and socially distanced!

### **Council meetings**

All Council meetings have been held remotely over the past year. It has been heartening to see how many residents have braved the technology to join our Zoom meetings! However the legislation which allows virtual meetings expires on 7<sup>th</sup> May and the government has not renewed or extended it. So please bear with us as we do our best to reconcile the conflicting requirements of meeting face to face with the guidelines for coming out of lockdown.

### **FORTHCOMING TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Members of the public are very welcome to join those virtual meetings that take place. Please contact the office for a link to the meetings. 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](http://westerhamtowncouncil.gov.uk) for a schedule of meetings for 2021. You can also follow us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/WesterhamTownCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/WesterhamTownCouncil)