



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

Deputy Clerk: Deborah Rogers

Assistant Clerk: Emily Rodgers

Tiptoeing out of lockdown

Spring has officially begun: the bulbs are in flower, the days are lengthening and after a winter of rain, there are occasional glimpses of the sun. And with it come the first careful steps out of lockdown. Our children are back in school and we are all looking forward to our town coming back to life.

We are full of admiration for our essential shops which have stayed open throughout the varying degrees of lockdown: we have been grateful for the ingenuity of those who have adapted to click and collect and to takeaway.

But we look forward most of all to seeing all our shops open and to taking advantage of the food and drink offers from our cafes and restaurants. We are relying on the sun to shine on 12th April, as we'll all be outside!

As we all work to make our town welcoming and safe, let's continue to support our local businesses and hope for a summer of greater normality to come.

Helen Ogden – Chairman

Council Tax

Council tax bills will be dropping through our doors soon. This will show us what we will be paying for the services we receive from Kent County Council, (education, highways etc) Sevenoaks District Council, (rubbish collection, car parks) the Police and Crime Commissioner, for the police service, the Kent Fire and rescue services and last but not least Westerham Town Council.

Your Council aims to ask you for the minimum amount needed to keep its services running effectively and efficiently and to fund improvements you have highlighted. This year the increase for a Band D house is just 17p per week, £8.87 a year.

Full details of how your Council spends your money will appear in the Annual Report to be published in May.



BARLEY CHARITY

Westerham Town Council invites applications for general charitable purposes for the benefit of the residents of Westerham parish.

The closing date for applications is **31st March 2021**.

Please apply in writing to the Town Clerk to request an application form or download from our website westerhamtowncouncil.gov.uk/barley-charity

Youth & Community Committee - initiatives to help students

The Youth & Community Committee are very alive to the challenges faced by our young people as regular schooling has been interrupted yet again and students have had to rely on remote learning. We identified at least 2 issues that this environment has created namely: -

1. The need for laptops or equivalent computer equipment whilst home schooling
2. Worry that future careers may not be realisable due to the interruption to learning and in some cases the lack of exams to demonstrate grades actually achieved.

However, instead of seeing this changed environment as a handicap, we are keen to encourage our young people to turn it into an opportunity to be positive and proactive about their futures. We are therefore looking to help the schools which we know our Westerham children attend in both of these areas.

During February we wrote to the 14 senior schools that we know our Primary School children move on to offering two forms of support. The first was marry up the school's need for IT equipment with donations that have come our way. The children are returning to school very soon but remote learning could easily be required again. The second was to introduce a mentoring service aimed at supporting the young people in the town as they contemplate their future education, career paths, job opportunities and so on at a time when the traditional pathway may seem fraught with problems due to Covid. As a Council we have a range of skills and experience that we believe could be used in a complementary way alongside the providers of careers lessons in school. We are thinking along the lines of providing practical support around CV writing, interview practice and so on which may not be available to students during the typical school day.



We hope that either or both of these initiatives will be of interest to the education providers. We had plans for so much more face to face community activity this year but until Covid 19 is firmly under control we have to be a little more creative with how we engage with our young people and the wider community. However, as soon as the restrictions lift and it is safe to mingle, we look forward to being much more visible !

FORTHCOMING TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

April 2021

1st Planning
15th Planning
19th Youth and Community
26th Highways and Lighting
29th Planning

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 for a schedule of meetings for 2021. You can also follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/WesterhamTownCouncil