



WESTERHAM TOWN COUNCIL

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Chairman: Helen Ogden

Town Clerk: Angela Howells

Finance Officer: Debbie Marshall

Deputy Clerk: Deborah Rogers

Assistant Clerk: Emily Rodgers

The School Bus Saga

By the time you read this, this saga may have come to a happy ending. I do hope so. But as I am writing this (mid August) Westerham children who attend secondary schools in Kent do not know how they are going to get to school at the beginning of the new school year on 1 September. KCC and the bus operators announced two weeks before the end of the summer term that some of the school buses, which have for many years safely carried our children to their schools in Sevenoaks, Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells, would be withdrawn; others would be amalgamated. Which has left children and their parents in a state of limbo not knowing if there will be sufficient buses with sufficient capacity to get **all** the children to their schools **and back again** safely.

There has been no shortage of statements, explanations and justifications from both Kent County Council and the bus companies, but as of this moment there is no clear solution.

Working parents cannot afford the time or the fuel to transport their children back and forth to school each day, never mind how that would add to the already bad traffic congestion and pollution. Nor do they wish to tell their children to board the buses which remain and run the risk of them being left by the roadside or stranded in Sevenoaks.

Yet a solution is what is needed - a solution which focuses on our children and their stressed parents, not just for those currently at school, but also for future generations of Westerham children who aspire to attend Kent schools.

Westerham Town Council, along with Sevenoaks District Council are urging Kent County Council to find that solution and to find it quickly. But in the absence of a solution and if this situation concerns you, then I suggest you let our County Councillor, Nick Chard (Nick.Chard@kent.gov.uk) and the Leader of Kent County Council, Roger Gough (Roger.Gough@kent.gov.uk) know.



I very much hope that this will be the most redundant article I have ever written and that a solution will have been found. Our children have had sufficient disruption to their education over the last two years. They deserve better.

Helen Ogden, Chairman, Westerham Town Council

Wilder Kent Awards

We're delighted to have been awarded silver in this year's [Kent Wildlife Trust](#) Wilder Kent Awards!

The award recognises the positive action we're taking to restore nature and how we're encouraging people to reconnect with it.



For more information and how to enter the Wilder Kent Awards 2023 go to www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/get-involved/wilder-kent-awards

FORTHCOMING TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council committee meetings are now taking place in the council chamber however places are limited due to social distancing. Please contact the office if you wish to attend a meeting.

All meetings start at 7 p.m. - except Planning which is held at 9.30 am - in the Town Council Chamber in Russell House.

September 2022

- 1st Planning and Development
- 5th Highways and Lighting
- 12th Allotments Playing Fields and Open Spaces
- 15th Planning and Development



19th Youth and Community
26th Finance and General Purposes
29th Planning and Development

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 2022. You can also follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/WesterhamTownCouncil