



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

Car parking changes to increase in Westerham

We're sorry - but despite the strong objections raised by your Council, by Westerham Town Partnership and others - Sevenoaks District Council decided in their meeting on 7 July to raise car parking charges both for on-street parking and car parks.

We recognise that, like the whole of local government, Sevenoaks needs to increase its income if it to continue to provide services to its residents and that some increase in charges was to be expected following a period of no increase and indeed of no charges at all during the pandemic charges.

However, we argued that increases of 33% and upwards were excessive for a town largely dependent on visitors, and with no regular public transport links. We cited the likely adverse effect on our businesses and retailers just at the time when our economy is emerging from the pandemic, and the deterrent effect the imposition of charges could have. We especially objected to the removal of the three-hour free parking in the Darent Car Park and the increase in residents' permits for those who have no option but to park on the street.

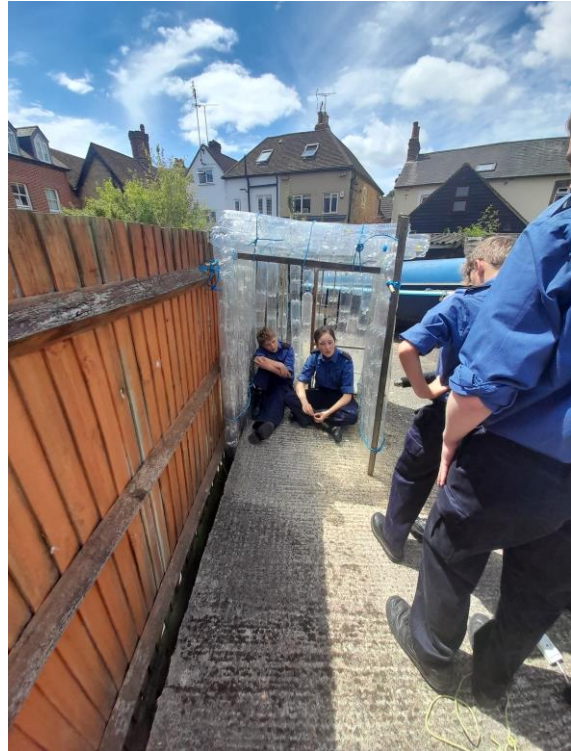
Our objections, the Town Partnership's objections and others' objections were all in vain and the new charges are to come into effect from 1 August. We have posted details of the new charges which apply to Westerham on the Town Council's website and have asked SDC to provide information on car park use and parking receipts both before and after the change so that we can see the effect of these increases.

We expect that Sevenoaks District Council will also publicise these increases.

Westerham Sea Cadets

Following our Annual Town Meeting Green Agenda we are delighted to receive a report from Westerham Sea Cadets regarding their green house made from appropriately 300 x 2 litre plastic bottles, they are supported by bamboo that was grown in the yard at the back of the Sea Cadet unit, the rope is also old rope that cannot be used with boating any more due to its age.

Well done Westerham Sea Cadets!



Citizens Advice Edenbridge & Westerham

I'm due to fly with my family for our long awaited summer holiday. After hearing about all the problems at airports, I'm really worried. My family have been looking forward to this and it's cost us a lot of money. What do we do if our flight is cancelled or delayed?

A lot of people will be worried after seeing the recent news about flights. If you face issues, the Citizens Advice website has lots of information about what to do when your flight is delayed or cancelled:

www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/holiday-cancellations-and-compensation/if-your-flights-delayed-or-cancelled/

If you're already at the airport when they announce the delay, the airline should give you food and drink, access to phone calls and emails. You should also get accommodation if you're delayed overnight (including journeys to and from the airport).



Your airline might offer you vouchers to pay for these or advise you to keep receipts to claim back expenses later. They will only refund 'reasonable' expenses, not expensive meals or luxury hotels.

What counts as a long enough delay to get this help depends on how long your flight is. A short flight only needs to be delayed two hours, whereas a flight of more than 3,500km needs to be more than four hours. Full details are on the Citizens Advice website.

It's worth knowing that if your flight is delayed for more than five hours, you don't have to take it. The airline legally has to give you a full refund for that flight (and any onward flights and return flights if you're part-way through a connecting journey). Talk to someone from the airline as soon as you decide you don't want to fly.

If your flight is cancelled altogether, you've a legal right to either a full refund or a replacement flight to get you to your destination. The refund includes any onward flights and money for a return flight if you're part-way through a connecting journey. Ask about this at the airport if you can.

Don't just rebook another flight yourself - check with the airline first because it's their responsibility to sort out your replacement. If you do have to rebook it yourself, keep any receipts and evidence of why the airline couldn't do this for you, for example screenshots of live chats. If the cancellation ends up delaying you getting to your holiday by two or more hours, you're entitled to help with costs.

Check if you're entitled to compensation for a delayed or cancelled flight. Again, this will depend on how long the delay was, the distance, and whether it's the airline's fault. The Citizens Advice website has details on claiming compensation for delays or cancellations from the airline. You might also be able to claim from your travel insurance – check if your policy covers this.

If you have a problem with an airline and you're not sure what to do, call the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline 0808 223 1133.

If you live in the Edenbridge and Westerham area, please get in touch with your local Citizens Advice if you need help with any issue.

Call our free Adviceline on **0808 278 7962**

Monday to Wednesday 9.30am to 4pm.

Email us at: **enquiries@edenbridgecab.cabnet.org.uk**
anytime.

Drop in at our offices in the Eden Centre, Four Elms Road,
Edenbridge TN8 6BY

Monday to Wednesday 10am to 3pm.

Appointments are now also available in Westerham.

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.

August 2022

4th Planning and Development

18th 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