



WESTERHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Russell House, Market Square,
Westerham, Kent TN16 1RB

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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

Council Tax

This is the time of year when Council Tax statements drop through our letterboxes. No-one likes bills – but this is the way in which we pay for the services we all use: education, roads, adult and social care from Kent County Council; rubbish collection, housing, car parks from Sevenoaks District Council; the services of Kent Police and Kent Fire Service.

The smallest part of your Council Tax comes to Westerham Town Council. From this we maintain our green and open spaces, provide street lighting, keep our public toilets open, operate Speedwatch, maintain our buildings and assets (for example, our Playgrounds, Russell House, Statue of Churchill) and pay our staff. From this we must also set money aside for large expenditure which we know is coming – replacements, major maintenance.

As a Council, we always strive to keep a balance between maintaining good service levels and being respectful of the amount we ask our residents to contribute; we make savings where we can. This year we have experienced significant increases in every area: in the electricity costs for streetlighting; in the cost of insurance; in the costs incurred by our contractors for materials; the national pay increase for staff was higher than anticipated.

In the light of this, the Council, after much discussion, decided to increase its portion of the Council Tax by an amount equivalent to 23p a week for a Band D house. This will allow us to maintain our service to our residents and save prudently for our future.

Annual Town Meeting – 26th April

This year's Annual Town Meeting is taking place at 7.30 pm on 26th April at Westerham Hall. It marks the end of the four year term of the current Council. This is your opportunity to hear the Council's report back to you the Community it represents on the progress it has made on the priorities you set for it in 2019.

It will also be an opportunity to celebrate and promote the theme of The [Big Help Out](#) – the campaign to be highlighted during the weekend of the King's Coronation. Westerham is already blessed with those who are prepared to volunteer for so many good causes.



Come and meet these local organisations which do so much to enrich the life of Westerham and Crockham Hill. We hope you will be tempted to volunteer with one of them!

If your organisation would like a stall please contacting the Town Clerk, Angela Howells on 01959 562147 or email office@westerhamtowncouncil.gov.uk

The Green, Westerham - Our Plans

The Council considers that Covid has changed the way that people socialise and there has been a sustained move towards a 'café culture' with increased use of outdoor spaces. Based on this, and the comments received from residents, businesses and visitors we want to improve the amenity provided on The Green to all residents and visitors. To enable this we will slightly enlarge the paved area around the Wolfe Statue, ensuring that this is matched to and in keeping with the existing York stone paving. We will then place one or two additional fixed benches / seating units that are environmentally friendly, do not block the paved area and are accessible to people with disabilities.

David Le Breton

It was with great sadness that Councillors and staff of Westerham Town Council learned of the death of former Councillor David le Breton. During nearly 30 years as a Parish and then a Town Councillor, David, was for a period, Council Chairman, and for 4 years a District Councillor.

Passionate about all things affecting Westerham and Crockham Hill, he combined his concern for the conservation of the heritage of the area with an understanding of the needs of the present. His advocacy for the community and its interests was listened to with respect both within and outside Westerham.



FORTHCOMING TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council committee meetings are now taking place in the council chamber. 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.

March 2023

2nd Planning and Development

6th Allotments, Playing Fields and Open Spaces



- 13th Finance and General Purposes
- 16th Planning and Development
- 20th Full Council
- 30th 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 2023. You can also follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/WesterhamTownCouncil