

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING FEEDBACK -YOU SAID WE LISTENED!

- More litter bins needed
- More efficient street sweeping required
- Dog fouling issue
- Parking problems in general
- Westgate in Bloom to be launched
- Pot holes in Town problem
- Future of GP Surgery and Stroke Unit at QEQM
- More local businesses needed and engaged with
- Encourage volunteers, Westgate Against Rubbish appreciated
- More activities for young people
- Maintenance of recently planted trees needed

The Town Council is now purchasing further litter bins and dog waste bins which will be emptied by the Town Council cleansing operatives on a regular basis. The addition of two temporary part-time Cleansing Operatives for the summer months should address the additional litter problems experienced recently. We welcome them to the Town Council team and are sure you will notice an improvement very soon.

The Town Council will be working closely with Thanet District Council over the next couple of months to address the issue of dog fouling and how the message can be better communicated to all dog owners. We have dedicated bags for dog waste available free of charge in two locations currently West Bay and Lymington Park; but we are researching if we can acquire additional ones for popular dog walking locations in the Town.

The Town Council has contacted local businesses in the Town and would like to launch Westgate in Bloom in 2019; please watch our website and social media for further details in due course.

As the Chairman has mentioned the proposed parking charges by the District Council are now postponed but we would like to encourage everyone to use the limited waiting parking restrictions responsibly so that more people have the opportunity to use the parking as it is intended.

We work closely with our Community Warden and are pleased that she has regularly reported the potholes on behalf of the Town and that these are now being addressed by Kent County Council; if you do notice any road issues please do not hesitate to contact us and we will gladly report these for you.

Speedwatch Initiative

The Town Council has now launched the Speedwatch initiative and we have reached the minimum number of volunteers needed to get off the ground. Please be aware of your speed, we are working with Kent County Council and Kent Police to improve the use and safety of our roads for the whole community.

Saturday Community Surgeries

The Town Council operates a Saturday Surgery on the third Saturday of each month at the Westgate Library, Minster Road, Westgate on Sea CT8 8BP, from 10am until 11.30am. If you cannot attend on a Saturday you can make an appointment to attend our offices instead in the week Monday to Thursday.

Payphones in Front of Train Station

The Town Council has now successfully resolved the issue of the four payphones which were unsightly in front of the train station in the town, they have been removed after persistent requests and research and we hope you agree the area looks improved and cleaner.

The Westgate Youth Project have gone from strength to strength since receiving the Town Council grant last year and have now secured an amazing £46,752.00 as well as gaining charity status. The future of the project is now secured for another three years. The Town Council was pleased to support this important service for the young people of Westgate.

Many thanks for taking the time to read up on the news happening in your town! We would love to hear your thoughts for future editions of the newsletter - such as topics, events, editorial and overall design. Please contact the Town Clerk with your ideas.



Quarterly Newsletter of Westgate-on-Sea Town Council

"Westgate Talk"

A message from our new Chairman



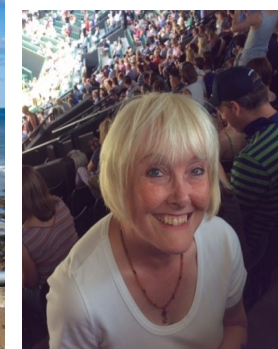
"At the Council's AGM on 1 May, I was voted in as Chair for the coming year, and Cllr Helen Page as Vice-Chair. I'd like to thank the outgoing Chair, Cllr King, for his work in setting up the Council which came back into existence in 2015 following the town's vote in favour. It's important, moving forward, that the councillors work together as a team—we're all volunteers who want to work with and support all Westgate residents, who are making fantastic efforts to improve life in the town, and keep it as a town we can all be proud of. We have lots of ideas for putting the town back on the map, and involving young and old in our life together."

We worked with Birchington Parish Council to oppose the District Council's plan to introduce a 'pay and display' system outside the shops and in the town centre (Station Road, St Mildred's Road and Cuthbert Road). Westgate has never had—and is never likely to have—a public car park, and charging for parking will only make things even worse in the surrounding residential streets.

The Town's Annual Meeting, held at the Community Centre on 11 April, was again a great success—next year we'll provide more chairs! We heard presentations by Inspector Lara Connor who told us that Westgate now has its own Police Community Support Officer again, and by Dr Coral Jones who warned us of the effects of the proposed closure of the stroke unit at QEQM in Margate.

We are enjoying the summer and welcome those who visit us to share our wonderful beaches, so like last year we hope to give them a day (or three) to remember."

Councillor Martyn Pennington Chairman



Councillor Helen Page Vice Chair



www.westgateonsea.gov.uk



admin@westgateonsea.gov.uk



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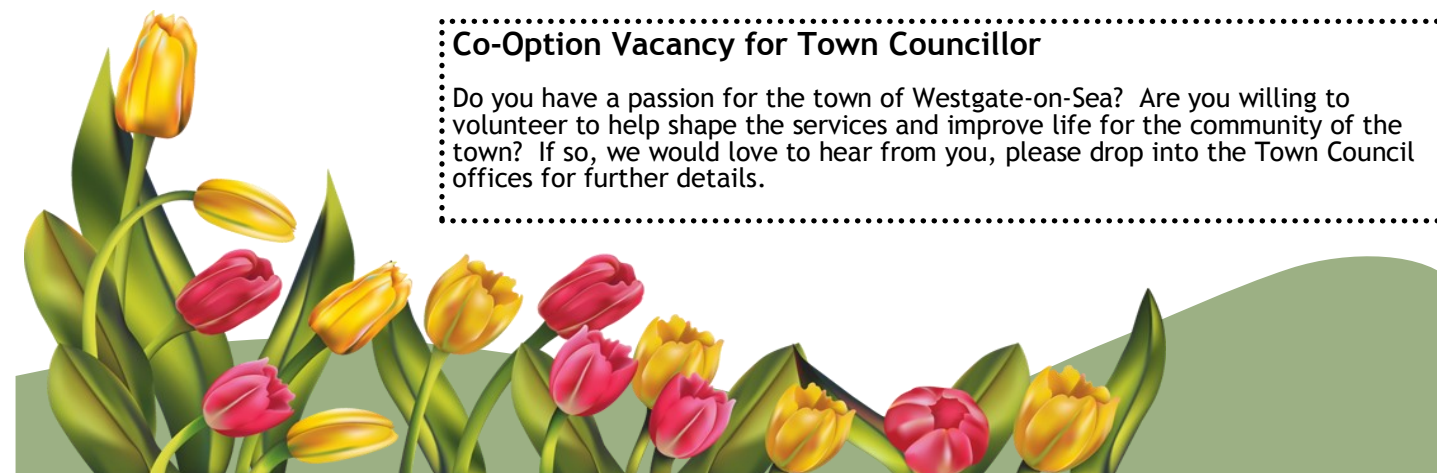
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Westgate-on-Sea
Kent CT8 8SR

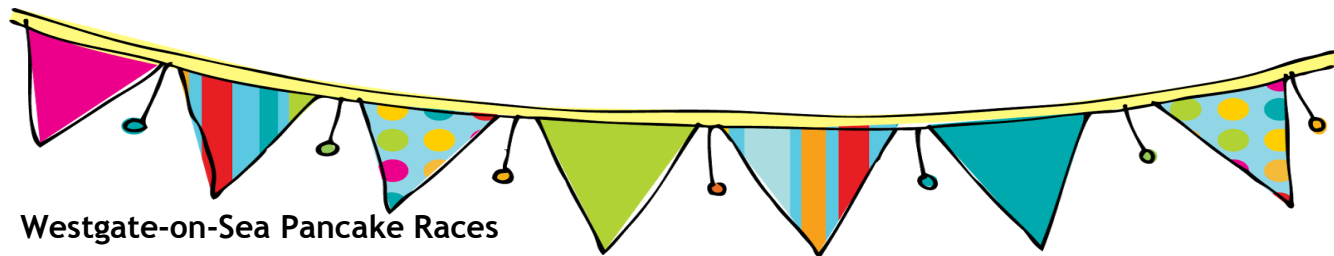


01843 836182

Co-Option Vacancy for Town Councillor

Do you have a passion for the town of Westgate-on-Sea? Are you willing to volunteer to help shape the services and improve life for the community of the town? If so, we would love to hear from you, please drop into the Town Council offices for further details.





Westgate-on-Sea Pancake Races

The Pancake Races for 2018 took place on Tuesday 13th February on a cold and windy day, this did prove a challenge to ensure that the pancakes stayed in the pan before the race even started!



The Town Council would like to thank all the organisations that attended and supported the event; these included The Piggy Bank Day Nursery; London House School of English and LaZolla School, Milan; 1st Westgate-on-Sea Scout Group; Chartfield School and St Gabriel’s House.

The Town Council would also like to thank Angelo’s Delicatessen for supporting the event and providing fresh pancakes for sale with all the proceeds raised going to the local Pilgrims Hospice.

Thanks also to Keith for volunteering his assistance and to Budget Beaters Discount who donated the sweets for the children who took part.

Westgate-on-Sea Town Council hopes that everyone involved enjoyed themselves and despite the cold weather it was a pleasure to be involved in a community activity and event.

Gill Gray
Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer



“Flipping great fun at Westgate’s pancake races—The Isle of Thanet News

Some 90 people took hold of their frying pans and flipped their pancakes at the annual Shrove Tuesday race in Westgate. Competitors took part in a dozen races along Station Road. Groups attending included The Piggy Bank Day Nursery; London House School of English and LaZolla School, Milan; 1st Westgate-on-Sea Scout Group; Chartfield School and St Gabriel’s House.“

Proposed War Memorial—Lymington Road Recreation Ground

The Town Council has been working in collaboration with the Heritage Centre to apply to Thanet District Council for permission to site a War Memorial on the playing fields on Lymington Road Recreation Ground as a permanent memorial to the men of Westgate-on-Sea who died in the Great War 1914-1918. It is hoped that this can be agreed and constructed in time for the Remembrance Day commemorative events. If you would like further information please contact Westgate-On-Sea Heritage Centre who will be only too pleased to assist, they can be found in St Saviours Parish Church, Westgate Bay Avenue Westgate-on-Sea CT8 8NX on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10am until 12 noon.

Foodbank donation points in and around your area:

Westgate-on-sea: Co-op Foodstore, Station Road, Westgate-on-sea / Christchurch United Reform Church, Westgate Bay Avenue, Westgate-on-sea / St Saviour’s Parish Church Westgate Bay Avenue, Westgate-on-sea

Birchington :Co-op Foodstore, Station Road, Birchington / Storehouse at Baptist Church, Station Road, Birchington

WAR breaks out!
 Don’t panic Mr Chairman, it’s Westgate Against Rubbish on a litter pick! Time to spare to help keep Westgate tidy?

 Please contact: westgateagainstrubbish@gmail.com

Neighbourhood Plan Update

The Westgate-on-Sea Neighborhood Plan (WoSNP) Steering group is chaired by Councilor Hannah Scott. It was set up by a number of Town Councilors after the shock allocation of 1000 houses. They organised a meeting at the Pavilion and then a community survey in 2017 to gauge residents’ views. The feedback showed that residents love the beaches, the heritage and green spaces of Westgate and want to protect and enhance these features. With regards to the development, residents were concerned about the use of the agricultural land and over development of the town, without proper infrastructure. It was realised that, unfortunately, the Neighborhood Plan did not have the power to reduce the number of houses planned in the Thanet District Council draft Local Plan, so the WoSNP Steering Group had to think of ways to ensure that the town achieved the best outcome given the circumstances.

The group are trying to ensure that any affordable houses built are offered to **Westgate residents first** and that any development includes the following stipulations:

- 1) Limited use of grade 1 agricultural land.
- 2) To not encroach on existing residents.
- 3) Extensive natural green spaces within the development
- 4) A mix of houses including:
 - Family homes
 - Homes for elderly to downsize to with some social and health care incorporated
 - Starter and affordable homes
- 5) Houses designed in a way that fits in with Westgate, completely energy efficient and future looking.
- 6) Infrastructure and services (doctor’s surgeries, schools, water resources, roads) provided, that are built at the same rate as the houses and not after completion.

The review of health services in East Kent and the stroke unit at QEQM

Following a review of health services in Kent and Medway’s called the ‘Sustainability and Transformation Plan’, major changes are under way which could make life worse for the residents of Westgate.

Changes could be seen with the grouping together of different areas to be served by one large surgery, so Westgate might not have its own surgery. The new surgeries will not only have rooms for consultations but also facilities for minor operations. However, the absence of a surgery in Westgate could pose major difficulties for some of our population, particularly the elderly who would need transport to get to the new surgery.

One major aim is to use the three hospitals in East Kent (QEQM at Margate along with the hospitals in Canterbury and Ashford) for particular medical specialties , so most facilities currently available at QEQM will in time only be available at more distant hospitals. This includes treatment for a stroke which would no longer be given at QEQM.



Punch and Judy Shows 2018

Your family can enjoy Punch and Judy Shows on Sunday 26th August and Monday 27th August on two sites, the first shows, on Sunday, will be on the green above West Bay (on the area between West Bay Café and the Pavilion). The second shows, on Monday, will be on the green above St Mildred’s Bay. The shows start at 12 noon, the last show is at 3.30pm on both days. We do hope that you can join us and that the weather will still be as glorious as it has been so far this summer!

Remembrance Service and Parade 2018

We are working in collaboration with the local churches to organise the Remembrance Service and Parade for the Town this year and as this is the centenary of the end of the First World War it makes it all the more poignant. We are also proposing a Beacon Lighting event in the evening for the Town; please check on our website and social media in the coming weeks for further details.

Christmas Lighting Event for the Town 2018

The Christmas Switch On event for the Town this year is taking place on Sunday 2nd December 2018; we know how popular this event is and as always are happy to support the organisers who make the event a success for the whole community.

Westgate Day 2019

The Town Council is proposing to launch a new event for next year, which will be known as Westgate Day, if you would like to volunteer and get involved we would love to hear from you. We are launching a Working Group for this event and if you think you have ideas, expertise that could be useful we would welcome contact from you; this is a community event that we hope will become a regular addition to the calendar.

Dates for your diary