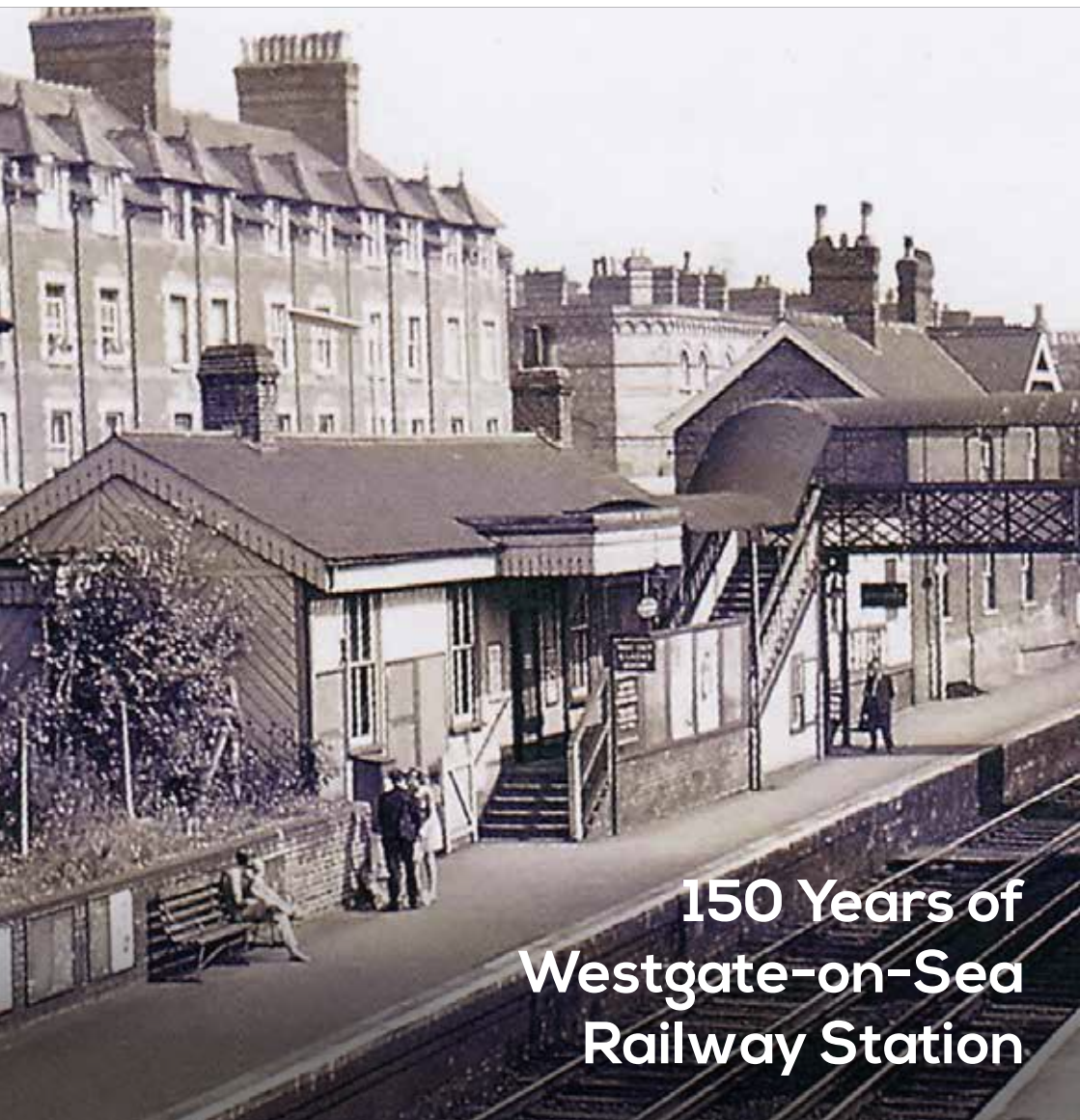




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Westgate-on-Sea Station

In the 1850s rail travel to the North Kent Coast was by a very circuitous route to Margate and local land owners conceived a direct line, namely The East Kent Railway along the coast from Faversham to Margate.

A member of this fledgling railway project was George Dirs Mertens, whose brother Herman Dirs Mertens was a lawyer practicing in Margate. Herman Dirs Mertens had bought some land in Birchington and Tithe records show that he had by 1864 purchased swathes of land across North Thanet. House of Lords records show that much of the land for the new railway in Westgate, (by then run by the London, Chatham and Dover Railway) was bought from Hermann, who was founding Westgate-on-Sea.

Originally single track, the railway was doubled by 1863. Trains ran from Faversham to Ramsgate Harbour across Mr Mertens' land. As the new Westgate estate was evolving, it became obvious that a station was essential. He had invested in the area; with the knowledge the railway was transecting the land. Mr Mertens had reserved as a gift, ample space for a permanent structure for a station. There were suggestions that Mr Corbett, who was developing the estate, funded the building of the station, hoping to recoup his costs by the expansion of the estate. The London, Chatham and Dover Railway used one of their standard 'off the shelf' designs for rural stations for Westgate.

The station was opened on 12th April 1871 by the arrival of a train from Victoria at 1pm. A report of the day was in Kebles Gazette on 14th April and a full report is included in the forthcoming booklet "History of the Station with Pictorial Record." There was some bunting, but no formal ceremony and the reception group retired, probably to Streete Court, for a meal. The population of Westgate at that time was under 150, a third of whom were children. Although the streets were made and laid out, there was a clear view from the station across to the sea. The 1871 census of that time confirms that there were no buildings in Station Road. The Estate Offices and Station Master's house were under construction. In the distance were the first few houses in Roxburgh Road. There were three houses in Sea Road and to the east were the coastguard cottages. To the west was the Southampton Arms on the horizon. To the south of the station was the Street area with Questeds first and further over was the Streete Court Estate.



A passenger from London, alighting at the station would see a single storey, brick-based building, timber-clad with diagonally laid planks. Exiting the centrally placed booking hall, the booking office was on the right and the ladies waiting room and facilities on the left. Outside the station to the left would soon be the Estate Offices, whilst to the right, would be the station master's house and garden. The London bound platform was yet to get its waiting room and later a booking office. Access to the London platform was not yet by footbridge, but via a rail level, boarded crossing from the western end of the sloping platforms.

Soon after the opening, in July 1871, a traveller from Ramsgate to London wrote a report in "The Guernsey Star" (? why there). He was somewhat cynical about Westgate when he said in part of the report "Very sleepy. Westgate-on-Sea. New place, too, apparently consisting of a block of houses recently built, and two sets of clothes lines, on a sort of desolate common, with a fine view of the sea". He was probably referring to the drying grounds for laundry, from the few big houses, in the open area between the railway and what later would be the top of Edith and Norman Roads. There was also at that time laundry drying grounds between the railway and Quested's grounds, before Westbury Road was built. These laundry grounds later moved further away from the railway. No doubt the washer women were not too keen on the smuts from the locomotives!

Dr Crouch was very keen on celebrating anniversaries and the 150th anniversary of the station opening was one that had excited her. She had made a lot of suggestions how the town should mark this occasion. Sadly, owing to lockdown restrictions, some of her ideas cannot be realised. This short article although a poor tribute to her enthusiasm, is dedicated to her memory.



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Donated IT Equipment

With schools across England closed due to the pandemic and teaching taking place online one of our proactive Councillors decided to rally the community together to help the many students who did not have access to a computer, laptop or data.

At Westgate-on-Sea Town Council we asked the public to donate their unwanted laptops and computers to try to give a helping hand to King Ethelbert School's students.



We are pleased to have had a large amount of donated IT equipment which has now been delivered and taken for use by King Ethelbert School; we hope this will provide some help to students learning from home.

We would all like to say a huge 'Thank You' to everyone who has been able to donate to the initiative.



Lymington Road Allotment Gardens 2020 Round Up and Spring 2021

After a long Winter, the lighter evenings and milder weather that comes with Spring is very welcome! It is a busy time of year for Allotment Plot Holders who are preparing for the year ahead with 10 new tenants looking forward to their first summer.

Waiting List and new Plot Holders

The last year has seen a steep rise in those interested in becoming an Allotment Plot Holder. Unfortunately, we had to put a temporary hold on offering vacant plots in line with the last National Lockdown. However, with the Lockdown beginning to ease we have been able to offer plots again and have welcomed three new Plot Holders.

If you are interested in having an allotment plot then please email finance@westgateonsea.gov.uk with your name, email, address and contact telephone number.

Please note priority is given to those who live in a CT8 Post Code.

Inspections and Working Group Meetings

As we are still working our way through the Governments Road Map and coming out of Lockdown we are organising provisional dates for both a Site



Inspection (April) and Allotment Working Group Meeting (June). Please email finance@westgateonsea.gov.uk if you require further information.

Water Switch on and Bonfire Season

Please note Bonfire Season ended on 31st March and will not restart until October this year. The water is due to be turned back on at the beginning of April dependent on repair works to some of the pipes and taps. An update confirming the switch on date will be sent to all Plot Holders.



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We have entered the South and South East in Bloom 2021 – It's Your Neighbourhood categories for six sites this year for Westgate in Bloom.

The sites included are:- Sea Road; St Mildreds Road & Station Road; Allotment Gardens on Lymington Road; Cambourne Avenue; Train Station and the Green (next to the Community Centre) on Lymington Road. There are six lead persons for each part of the project so please contact us at the office if you are interested in getting involved and we can put you in touch.

We arranged our first virtual meeting in February and we are hoping to continue with these through the summer months. We would like to promote three ideas shared by Kent Wildlife Trust:-

- Get WILD in the garden
- Go pesticide free this Spring
- Get involved and support Wilder Kent Awards

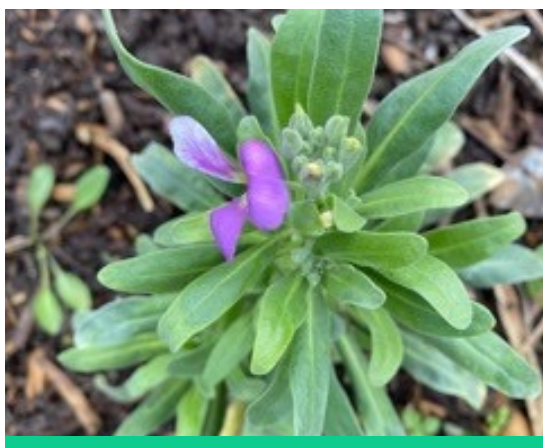
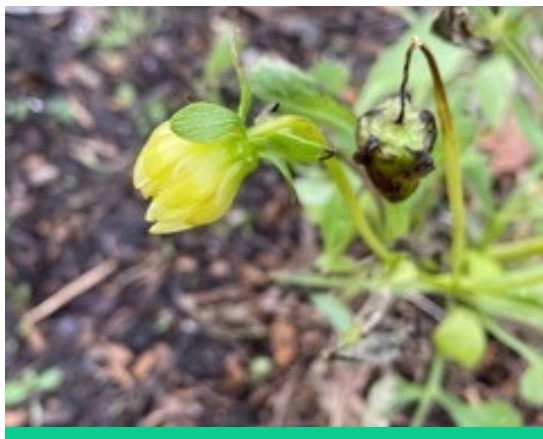
If you have any ideas for Westgate in Bloom, plants to donate or simply want to volunteer to help please do get in touch with us.

Our Tree/Biodiversity Warden is settling in his new role and we are hoping to commence an inventory of all the public trees in the town soon. The tree stock could potentially be valued for the benefits they provide, for example their carbon offset and biodiversity gains.

With the help of volunteers, it is hoped to gather the data, the goal is to have the data analysed and valued by an organisation called Treeconomics who are a social enterprise. Their mission is to have sustainable treescapes for everyone; the goal and passion of Treeconomics to work to understand how trees improve our urban spaces and make them a better place to live.

More details of this initiative will be added to our website and social media with further articles in our magazine during the summer months.

We have completed sowing seeds and planting bulbs in two triangle areas on the Green by the Community Centre on Lymington Road; it is hoped these will be wildflower/meadow grass areas which will help with the increase of biodiversity value for the area. Here are a few photographs from the train station flower beds taken in January this year.



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I have worked for hospices and gained my Diploma Level 3 in Health and Social Care that I completed to apprenticeship level including Mathematics and English.

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Defibrillator Fundraising Smashes £600 Target

In the previous issue we wrote about how Lorraine Hambidge from the Westgate on Sea Community Spirit Craft Group, in conjunction with Westgate on Sea Town Council, had been raising funds for the specialist, outdoor, heated cabinet required for the Defibrillator donated to the Town by Thanet Community First Responders.

We are thrilled to say that the target of £600 was smashed with a total of £1446.66 being raised. This has meant not only have they been able to purchase the cabinet for the donated defibrillator going at the Community Centre but have also bought a cabinet for the defibrillator currently housed at Edwards Supermarket and a further defibrillator and cabinet which will be placed in the Cambourne Avenue area.

Breakdown of fundraising

£102.00
raised from selling handmade Christmas themed face masks in December last year.

£236.28
raised from a Raffle drawn in January this year.

£1108.38
aised via Go Fund Me/Facebook

TOTAL RAISED - £1446.66

Lorraine, on behalf of the Westgate on Sea Community Craft Group, thanked all those who had been fundamental in raising the money, including the Town Council, the Little Brown Fairy Cake, the Krusty Kobb Bakery and Bethany's Sandwich Bar. Also thank you to Emma Dublin from the Westgate Matters Facebook Group who helped raise money via Go Fund Me. She also thanked everyone who had bought a mask, raffle ticket or kindly donated to the Go Fund Me page.

Finally, a big thank you to the Thanet Community First Responders (TCFR) who donated the initial defibrillator. TCFR are volunteers who put themselves forward to be available to help with selected 999 calls to help members of the community. They also provide training on the use of defibrillators and resuscitation.

For more information you can visit their website: www.thanetcfrrs.co.uk



Additional Defibrillator – St Mildreds Bay

Following on from the amazing fundraising by the Community Craft Group it was noted it would be beneficial for a final defibrillator to be sited at St Mildreds Bay due to the high number of visitors, particularly in the summer months.

It was agreed at the Full Council meeting on 2nd March 2021 that the cost of this would be met by the Town Council. This means that by Summer 2021 there will be a defibrillator installed in 5 key areas of the Town: St Mildreds Bay, West Bay, the High Street, Lymington Road Green and Cambourne Road.

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Do you want to be part of building a better future for the town?

Volunteering is an essential part of the success of Parish and Town councils, in my own experience of dealing with the effect of a pandemic causing lockdowns which isolated so many vulnerable members of our community, it was clear to me that without the core of volunteers who gave their time to support others, Westgate-on-Sea town council would not have been able to help so many people during the unprecedented crisis of Covid-19 last year.

We want to continue to recruit to our Westgate Volunteer Corps and we have lots of activities for volunteers to help in the Town; to support initiatives and projects and work with the Town Council. Volunteering is not just about giving your time, volunteering provides opportunities for sharing ideas on community projects, improving physical health and well-being and establishing new friendships along with plenty of tea and cake!

If you have green fingers then 'Westgate in Bloom' needs you! Not happy with the litter come and try out our litter picking equipment, an hour here and there makes such a difference to our environment. Grumpy with speeding vehicles come and help with raising awareness and join 'Speedwatch'.



Volunteering has multiple benefits for an individual, such as:-

- Meet new people and develop lasting relationships.
- Increase your happiness and better your mental health.
- Learn new skills and increase your brain function and self-esteem.
- Stand out on job applications and further your career.
- Decrease your stress and accrue the health benefits.
- Do good in the world and help make a difference.

The various projects and initiatives that are active and open for volunteers are –

- Westgate in Bloom
- Westgate Against Rubbish
- Speedwatch
- Renovation of Changing Rooms at War Memorial Recreation Ground
- Relaunch of Friendship Group meetings

You can pledge any spare time you have, this is not restricted to physical tasks and we are keen to hear from anyone who wants to make a difference; we welcome any suggestions on how we can encourage further engagement.

If you do want any further details please do get in contact with us by phone – **01843 836182**. or by email – townclerk@westgateonsea.gov.uk



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View from the Chair

The town council year 2020-2021 has been as busy as ever and on 22nd April we have our 5th Assembly of the Westgate-on-Sea Town Meeting. It will be our first ever Virtual Town Meeting with guest speakers and a presentation of awards, along with plenty of time for residents to ask questions, which we hope will be well intentioned.

Since its formation Westgate-on-Sea Town Council has received considerable criticism, but a year of lockdowns has clearly proved its worth; led by the Town Clerk and supported by volunteers we provided a mainstay for deliveries of food and medication, sustained over several months, some of which continues, and one councillor remains busy on the phone lines answering queries and offering support.

Responding to emergencies is not all we do and old images of what the town council does, or does not do, need replacing with recognition of our achievements and the vision provided in the 2020-2024 Forward Plan.

Our aim is to achieve the best we can for our town and our area, but we do not work alone; parish and town councils collaborate to achieve the best outcomes. Our most recent work is focused on campaigning for a change in the law to protect the best and most diverse agricultural land from housing development. Working together provides a stronger more effective voice in support of the National and County Associations of Local Councils who are lobbying Government on our behalf.

Collaboration does not stop at parish and town level and in May we have the important county elections. Sadly, County Councillor, Emma Dawson, will not be standing for re-election. As our representative at KCC she procured funding for the Ursuline Crossing and last Summer worked tirelessly to reverse the deeply flawed traffic plan imposed on our high street. Emma has always communicated with the town council giving her time generously, she will be a hard act to follow.

Despite good working relations with other local authorities the greatest asset a parish or town council can have is community support; its residents, its businesses, and its schools, sharing their skills to create a better place to live. Schools have already welcomed the Westgate in



Bloom (WiB) initiative. Following months of extra commitment to helping parents and maintaining an effective learning environment, during one of the most difficult years in the history of our country's education, teachers have welcomed the ideas and initiatives of WiB, which is also an education in the importance and beauty of our natural world.

There are so many opportunities opening up; the asset transfer of the Lymington Road War Memorial Recreation Ground; a large area accommodating a football pitch, netball court, skate park and children's play area, all benefitting the community and needing a helping hand to make the most of, along with our beaches, high street, and heritage assets such as the Library (recently the focus of a town council funding bid). What better time, after months of isolation and restrictions, to join together to enhance our living environment?

One last point; we hope you will support the town council's Forward Plan by taking part in the town survey, a consultation with residents on their views and what might realistically be achieved over the next year.

Parish and town councils are by nature apolitical, an ethos that allows us to work towards the best for our area, rather than the best for a political party.

Cllr Joanna Cornford
Chairman 2020-2021

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Are You Registered To Vote?

Households in Thanet are being reminded to register to vote ahead of going to the polls on Thursday 6 May 2021.

In order to have a say on who represents you at the following elections, you need to have applied to register to vote by midnight on Monday 19 April. This takes five minutes and can be done online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote.

- Police & Crime Commissioner Election
- Kent County Council Election
- Newington Ward By Election
- Dane Valley By Election
- Central Harbour Ward By Election
- Broadstairs Neighbourhood Plan Referendum
- Ramsgate Town Council Central Harbour By Election

If you are already registered to vote, you do not need to register again unless your circumstances have changed, for example, you have changed address.

Three ways to cast your vote on 6 May

Voters have a range of options for casting their ballot:

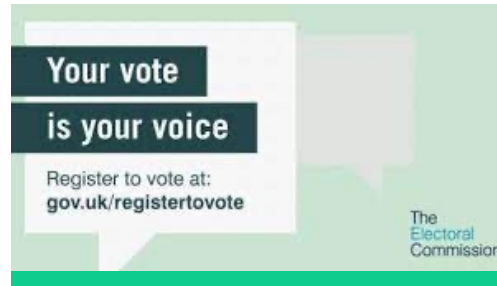
- In person
- By post
- By appointing someone they trust to vote in their place, known as a proxy vote.

Anyone can apply for a postal vote and during the current pandemic you may wish to consider whether this is the best option for you. Voters have the option of requesting a postal vote until further notice (a permanent postal vote) or solely for this election. The deadline to apply to vote by post is 5pm on Tuesday 20 April, and for a proxy vote the deadline is 5pm on 27 April.

Madeline Homer, Electoral Returning Officer for Thanet District Council said: "Now is the time to make sure your voice is heard in the local elections in May. We are urging all eligible voters to ensure they are registered to vote, especially if they have moved house this year. You have until midnight on Monday 19 April and it only takes a few minutes to register and have your say."

"If you decide to vote by post, please don't wait until the deadline to apply. Sending your application now will make sure it's processed early, and your postal vote can be sent to you more quickly once the candidates for the election are confirmed. Postal voting is easy to apply for and is a safe and secure way of taking part in the upcoming elections. If you would prefer to appoint a proxy you have until 27 April to submit your application."

Ailsa Irvine, Director of Electoral Administration and Guidance at the Electoral Commission added: "The choice on how to vote at the elections is yours – you can have your say in person, by post or by proxy. However, you choose to cast your vote in May, you will be able to do so safely."



For further information on elections, how to register to vote, or how to apply to vote by post or by proxy, please visit www.thanet.gov.uk/upcoming-elections. This page will continue to be updated ahead of the polls.

If people need any help to register or would like to check that they are already registered, they should contact electoral.services@thanet.gov.uk or 01843 577500.

Notes

1. The deadline to register to vote for the May 2021 elections is midnight on Monday 19 April.
2. The deadline to apply to vote by post is 5pm on Tuesday 20 April 2021 but we are encouraging voters to apply now.
3. Those wishing to apply to vote by proxy have until 5pm on Tuesday 27 April 2021.
4. If you already have a proxy appointed to vote for you but the proxy is then affected by COVID-19, you can appoint a new proxy up until 17:00 on polling day.
5. To vote in the Local elections on 6 May 2021, people need to be on the electoral register and be aged 18 or over on polling day and be either a British, Irish, EU or qualifying Commonwealth citizen.
6. The Electoral Commission is the independent body which oversees elections and regulates political finance in the UK. It was set up in 2000 and reports to the UK, Scottish and Welsh Parliaments.
7. Elections taking place in Thanet on Thursday 6 May 2021 include:
 - Police & Crime Commissioner Election
 - Kent County Council Election
 - Newington Ward By Election
 - Dane Valley By Election
 - Central Harbour Ward By Election
 - Broadstairs Neighbourhood Plan Referendum
 - Ramsgate Town Council Central Harbour By Election

For more information, please contact press.office@thanet.gov.uk or 01843 577034.

Have you thought about becoming a Town Councillor?

Have you thought about becoming a Town Councillor in 2023 for Westgate-on-Sea?

WHAT ARE LOCAL COUNCILS?

Local council is a universal term for community, village, neighbourhood, parish and town councils. They are the first tier of local government and are statutory bodies. They serve communities and are elected by residents. They can raise their own precept (a form of council tax). There are 10,000 local councils in England and 120,000 councillors who serve on these local councils.

ATTRIBUTES FOR BEING A GOOD TOWN COUNCILLOR

You should ideally possess good communication skills, a problem-solving ability, analytical thinking and be a team player these are all advantageous attributes. How much time does being a Town Councillor take? As with anything, what you get out of being a Town Councillor will depend on what you are able to put in.

Councillors are elected to the local council to represent their local community, so they must either live or work in the area. Becoming a councillor is both a rewarding and privileged form of public service. You will be in a position to make a difference to the quality of other people's daily lives and prospects. Being an effective councillor requires both commitment and hard work. Councillors have to balance the needs and interests of residents, the political party they represent (if any) and the council. These will all make legitimate demands on a councillor's time, on top of the demands and needs of their personal and professional lives. Before you consider becoming a councillor you may want to discuss it with your family and friends to make sure they understand what you are taking on. You will need their support as you will have to spend some of your spare time on council business.

WHAT DO LOCAL COUNCILS DO?

Your local council has an overall responsibility for the well-being of your local community. Their work falls into three main categories:

Delivery of services including: • allotments • leisure facilities • bus shelters • litter bins • car parks • local illuminations • community centres • parks and open spaces • public toilets • street lighting • festivals and celebrations



Improve quality of life through: • Local housing and infrastructure through neighbourhood plans • Promoting dementia friendly communities • Tackling loneliness • Acting as community hubs • Funding community projects and vital services that have been cut

Give communities a voice through representing:

- To the local police and health services
- On planning matters with principal authorities and developers
- To parliamentarians and government.

There are many reasons why you might like to become a Town Councillor:

- To make a difference and help shape the future of the local community
- Concern about your local area and wanting to ensure the community gets the right services
- To represent the views of local people and ensure that community interests are taken into account
- Concern about a specific issue and wanting to do something about it
- Having good ideas for the council and community in a time of scarce resources
- To contribute your skills
- To build on other community work through a charity, voluntary group or school governing body
- To pursue your political ambitions and contribute to your community
- It can be a career-enhancing activity, allowing you to develop leadership and analytical skills and to obtain practical and managerial work experience.

If you would like any further details on becoming a Town Councillor please contact the Town Clerk, Gill Gray by email: townclerk@westgateonseas.gov.uk as it is now only two years until the next elections for the Town Council.



**Westgate on Sea Train Station
150th Anniversary**
12th April 2021

Annual Town Meeting
22nd April 2021 – now confirmed as virtual on Zoom

Great British Spring Clean
28th May to 13th June 2021

Food and Drink Festival on Sea Road
11th to 13th June 2021 - more details can be found at Zoom Events - <https://www.zoomevents.co.uk/westgate-on-sea-food-and-drink-festival/>

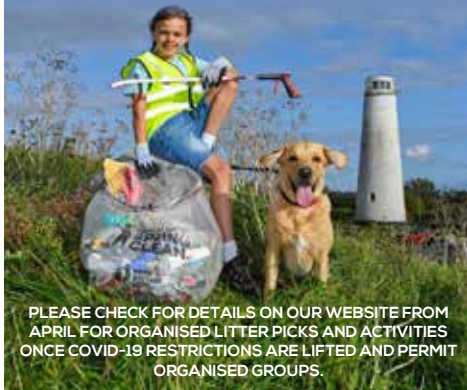
Scarecrow Festival
17th to 24th July 2021

Westgate on Sea Town Anniversary Day
18th July 2021

Remembrance Sunday
14th November 2021

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An interview with senior audiologist, Anabela Pinho, Hearbase at Spencer Private Hospital, Margate

What is an audiologist?

An audiologist is a clinical health care professional responsible for helping those who have problems with their hearing and balance disorders. It's a highly qualified role, and each day an audiologist could be assessing and fitting hearing aids, providing ear protection, tinnitus support and advising on balance and wax removal.

How long have you been at Hearbase?

I have been at Hearbase for nearly 3 years now and I enjoy my work, especially meeting and helping so many people all over Thanet, old and young, from all walks of life. I am based at the Hearbase clinic at the wonderful Spencer Private Hospital, Ramsgate Road, Margate, CT9 4TG.

What are the first signs of a hearing problem?

Some of the early signs are when you struggle to keep up with conversation in noisy places, when your family tell you the TV is too loud,



or when you have difficulty hearing people clearly. If you experience ringing or buzzing in your ears, or head, or a feeling of blockage, these can also be early signs of hearing loss.



Why should I have my hearing tested?

Not being able to hear, seriously impacts your quality of life, not to mention talking with friends, family and others. I recommend if you show any of these early signs, you should get it checked. If you are concerned about someone close to you who struggles to hear, speak to them about getting a free hearing test and why not join them to offer support if they need a little bit of encouragement?

Why should I go to Hearbase Spencer Private Hospital Margate?

Well, to start, our hearing tests are completely free. This isn't unique to us, you can get your hearing tested elsewhere, but as we are expert audiologists, if we find anything of concern after your free hearing test, we will point you in the direction of specialist services quickly. We are a really friendly bunch of people and



our focus is to listen and help you to manage your hearing.

How should I look after my hearing?

If you notice any change to your hearing, large or small, then always get it checked. This is important however old or young you are. If you work in a noisy place or have a history of hearing loss in your family, have a hearing test, it only takes 30 minutes. Call us on **0800 077 3061** or email admin@hearbase.com and book your free hearing test at Hearbase at Spencer Private Hospital Margate today!





Local government structures can often be confusing. What is a Town Council? And how about a Parish Council? Where do District & County Councils fit in? In this article, we will explain the basic system & structure of Local Authorities.

Firstly, and answering a key question that many have, it should be pointed out that a Town Council is exactly the same as a Parish Council and the only difference is in the name it chooses to use - rather akin to a 'Granny' also being called a 'Nan', or 'Nanny'. At this level, along with Town or Parish, the Council can also be called a Village Council, a Neighbourhood Council or even a Community Council. Likewise, the 'leader' of this level of Council can style themselves in a number of ways, including Chair or Mayor.

There is no 'obligation' for a parish (parish being the general term used for these areas - even if, like Westgate, they do not use it themselves) to have a Parish Council and some do not have one, but in England alone, there are currently around 10,000 of these councils, along with 120,000 councillors. Some parishes are very small areas, but eight parishes are also Cities - around 80% of parishes have a population of under 2,500, so Westgate's population of over 7,500 makes it one of the larger ones, but still a long way off being the largest civil parish in England, which is Northampton, with a population of over 200,000 residents.

As well as being the tier of local government that is closest to the electorate, parish councils can be traced back to the Parish Councils Act 1894, with the current structure of local government being established by The Local Government Act 1972, further refined by the Localism Act 2011, which was solidly aimed at facilitating the devolution of decision-making powers, away from central government and to a far more local level.

Being at the tier they are, Parish Councils are involved in local matters, such as:

- Allotments
- Leisure Facilities
- Bus Shelters
- Litter Bins
- Community Centres
- Parks and Open Spaces
- Public Toilets

- Street Lighting
- Festivals & Celebrations

The key point being that local council only deal with very local matters. A local council has no direct input on things that happen outside of their parish - Westgate's Town Council have as much of a say-so in connection with the bins in Ramsgate, as they do on Britain's nuclear defence or did on Brexit! However, having a Parish Council does give the local community a voice that can influence decisions made at higher tiers in local governance, initially being the District Council, in this case, Thanet District Council.

On matters such as Planning Permission, Westgate's Town Council can give their comments & opinions to Thanet District Council, but it is down to Thanet District Council to make the final decision. To learn a little more about different types of Local Councils, their responsibilities and authorities, have a look at the National Association of Local Councils' publication about this -

<https://www.nalc.gov.uk/library/publications/800-all-about-local-councils/file>




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Football and Much More at Lymington Recreation Ground

Westgate Town Council having successfully acquired the recreation ground at Lymington Road has some big ambitions.

The Lymington Road recreation ground has now been transferred to Westgate Town Council from Thanet District Council. Due to the lack of funding, the ground has unfortunately been neglected. However, Westgate Town Council has big ambitions for the site. A complete refurbishment is planned, through a series of bids to the National Lottery Community Fund. This was attempted last year, but huge amounts of the National Lottery finance were diverted from community orientated projects to help in the fight against the Covid epidemic, putting everything on hold and it has also left a gaping hole in the normal finance stream of the voluntary sector, in general.

The refurbishment master plan focuses on the five main facilities within the ground: the changing room building, the football pitches themselves, the outdoor gymnasium, the skateboard park, and the children's play area. Each one of these offers its own challenges. For example, the changing rooms have a 1960s style architecture and needs a complete refit with facilities for everyone. It is most important that facilities are suitable for everyone as women's football has not only become increasingly popular for at least a couple of decades but developed into a truly significant international sport. There is also huge interest in skateboarding. Skateboarding expert: Nick Pully of Skate Pharm in Margate has taken a keen interest in the skateboard park and designed an international level facility to replace the existing one, this will be incorporated into the funding bid. Football enthusiast: Russell Rowe of the Kent Football Association, has also been contributing to the project and last year with David Donaldson of Westgate Town Council were planning a football tournament during the weekend of Westgate day anniversary, but sadly the pandemic prevailed and the events were sadly cancelled.

The Vision for Westgate is to use the recreation ground as a platform from which to build a comprehensive sports, health and youth services with facilities, for the whole community of Westgate and surrounding area. The council is very keen to involve all the Westgate community groups. Bringing together other interested groups, such as the Cricket Club, Youth Project, Christ Church Youth Project, Tennis Club, the



Community Centre, Scouts, Local Schools, the proposed Westgate Youth Council and so on.

Management of the project. Even though this is a Westgate Town Council initiative to be effective and sustainable it needs to be completely community oriented by having its own management organisation. To do this, David Donaldson of Westgate Town Council has been working on a proposal for a Community Interest Company (CIC). A CIC is an independent organisation at arms length from the Council but working together with it. A CIC is Social Enterprise that is fundamentally a business but having social goals and objectives whose surpluses are invested back into its activities for the sole benefit of the community that it essentially serves. Giving its services a strong sustainable and socially inclusive aspects to local community and with its inherent social benefit ambitions. This umbrella organisation if successful would coordinate activities and be a lever to obtain external funding, and design and implement new initiatives.

There is still much work including community development work with the various partner organisations and community groups and to secure funding from Kent Football Association, the National lottery community fund, and so on.

Finally, there seems to be, at last a new sense of optimism in the air as we emerge from the gloom of the covid pandemic. If you would like to find out more about the recreation ground or would like to become involved, please feel free to contact David Donaldson of Westgate Town Council on **07977 544697** or email him on **ddonaldson@westgateonseas.gov.uk**

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Please mention Westgate Town Council Magazine when responding to this ad

Confirmed Budget for 2021-22 for Westgate-on-Sea Town Council and Comparison

The Budget for this year has now been agreed and Thanet District Council have confirmed the Tax Base figure of 2,482.41. The approved Precept request for this year is £149,475.00 and when divided by the Tax Base figure equates to £60.21 Band D equivalent figure; this represents an increase of £3.60 (6.37%) on last year. The approved Budget figure for this year is £154,135.00 for Westgate on Sea Town Council.

Precept request 2021-22 £149,475

Tax Base figure 2,482.41

This year Band D equivalent £60.21

Prior Year Band D equivalent £56.61

Uplift £3.60 Uplift 6.37 %

| | Final Budget 2020-21 £ | Budget 2021-22 £ | Budget Uplift £ |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Staffing & Administration | 93,933 | 95,600 | 1,667 |
| Events & Promotion | 12,400 | 6,000 | (6,400) |
| Community Assets | 5,000 | 7,800 | 2,800 |
| Civic & Election | 4,450 | 3,950 | (500) |
| Other (incl. s137 expenditure) | 9,333 | 10,665 | 1,332 |
| Office Expenditure | 27,879 | 30,120 | 2,241 |
| Transferred to/from balances | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Income | (11,822) | (4,660) | 7,162 |
| Total Precept | 141,173 | 149,475 | 8,302 |

Income

This has been reduced to £7,162 to reflect that due to COVID restrictions we are unable to generate income via room rental or events including relevant grants.

Expenditure

Total uplift required is £8,302 this is reflected in the reduction in event expenditure this year due to continued COVID restrictions; this has been offset this year by the Community Asset transfers for the recreation ground and football pitches at Lymington Road and office running costs.

How does this compare with neighbouring Town Councils?

| | Broadstairs & St Peters Town Council £ | Ramsgate Town Council £ | Westgate on Sea Town 2021-22 £ |
|---------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Staffing & Administration | 294,283 | 336,300 | 95,600 |
| Civic & Election | 94,754 | 30,300 | 3,950 |
| Events & Promotion | 82,275 | 145,000 | 6,000 |
| Other (incl. s137 expenditure) | 337,640 | 477,308 | 48,585 |
| Transferred to/from balances | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Income | (153,372) | (46,200) | (4,660) |
| Total Precept | 655,580 | 942,708 | 149,475 |

What has Westgate-on-Sea Town Council provided the residents of Westgate for their money this year?

- We were at the forefront for facilitating support from volunteers for those vulnerable residents who needed us; we collected prescriptions, delivered medication, undertook shopping requests, friendly phone calls, transportation of food items and all the while working with other organisations and local authorities.
- Donated funds for Covid-19 support services to local authority and community organisation.
- We continued to be a Collection point for recycling and food banks, distribution point for free newspapers.
- Throughout all lockdowns we continued with our services provided by the Town Operatives, helping to keep our Town clean and tidy.
- We progressed Westgate in Bloom and secured recognition from South & South East in Bloom for our efforts.
- The Business Forum was launched virtually for local traders to have a voice.
- We conducted Speedwatch sessions in between the lockdown periods.
- We installed a further 7 public litter bins in the Town and supported the fund raising for additional defibrillators in the Town.
- We negotiated and installed a flagpole on Sea Road and purchased a union jack for civic occasions.
- We purchased and installed picnic tables with benches on the green near to the Community Centre.
- We assisted local community groups and secured funding on their behalf from Kent County Council.
- We secured the necessary licenses, supported the volunteers with public liability insurance and funded the cost for materials for the renovation works on the large shelter at West Bay.
- We facilitated the donation of computers and laptops from the community which were all given to a local school.



- We appointed a new volunteer role for a Tree/Biodiversity Warden for the Town.
- We supported the first ever Scarecrow Festival event organised by the Community Spirit Group
- Organised the litter picks for Great British Clean Up in September 2020
- We responded to planning applications as consultees in the planning process as well as other consultations from central government, KCC and TDC.
- We liaised with KCC and TDC when issues arose, sharing information on behalf of the community.
- We responded to enquiries by email and telephone, dealt with queries and reported to relevant authority on behalf of residents.
- We worked in the community behind the scenes to encourage partnership working and collaboration where possible.
- We moved to virtual meetings from physical meetings to ensure that the Town Council continued despite the lockdown restrictions.
- Produced and distributed a quarterly Town Council magazine
- Managed the Allotment Gardens site and secured new tenants for vacant plots
- Secured the Community Asset Transfer of the War Memorial Recreation Ground and two shelters.



Meet the Councillor: Pauline O'Connor – Vice Chairperson



You perform several duties within the Council. What does your role as Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee entail?

The Finance and General Purposes Committee have been set-up to ensure all financial Standing Orders and Regulations are adhered to; this is to protect the public's money and the staff who operate the day-to-day business on behalf of the Council.

With the support of the Town Clerk, my role as Chair is to ensure meetings are held regularly and conducted in accordance with the Standing Orders, the other councillors have the information for the meeting to enable them to make informed decisions regarding the Council's precept recommendation.

I work with the Town Clerk and Chairman of the Council to present a budget for debate to the Full Council each year.

As I have had some finance experience in my working life, I have also been asked to act as an internal auditor for the Councillors to ensure all processes are being followed correctly.

Westgate-on-Sea is well known for its strong community of volunteers, of which you are one. What have been some the most enjoyable events to steward?

I have enjoyed helping and have attended most of our events but I think the one that brings the most joy is the Pancake Races, there is nothing quite as sweet as seeing the little ones run with their frying pan. It has been such a shame we were unable to hold it this year so roll-on next year.

Tell us about the Allotment Working Group?

I am one of the lucky ones who has a small allotment plot, so when I was asked if I would like to be on the working group I was delighted to accept. The allotment working group is the bridge between the allotment holders and the Council, this working relationship is important to help the smooth running of the allotments. Site representatives bring any issues to the meeting on behalf of the plot holders to be discussed and action, any issues from Westgate residents or the Town Council are also brought to the meeting.

With the light at the end of the tunnel a little closer after a difficult period for all of us, can Westgate-on-Sea look forward to a great summer?

With the slow easing of lock down we are hoping that we can put on some events that still maintain safe practice; we still have our great beaches and county side around us, so I do think we can all start to enjoy the great outdoors and hopefully be able to catch-up with family and friends once again.

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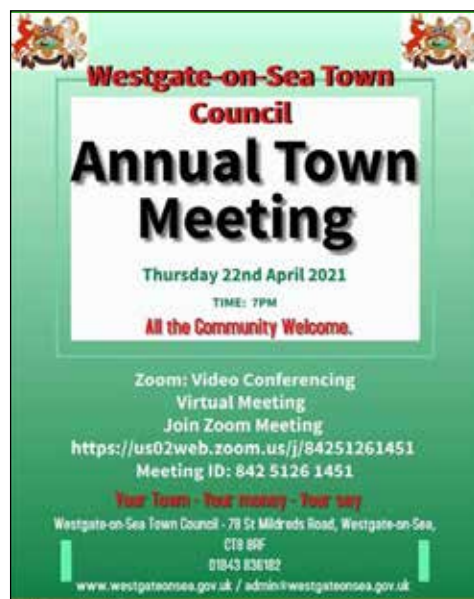
Westgate on Sea Town Council is pleased to confirm that the Annual Town Meeting is taking place virtually this year on Thursday 22nd April 2021 from 7pm on Zoom for the community of Westgate on Sea.

The link you need to access the meeting is:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84251261451>
 Meeting ID: 842 5126 1451

This is your annual opportunity to hear from the Town Council on achievements of the last year and celebrate them, proposed action plan for the future year and debate local issues that are impacting our community.

The Agenda is included in this article and can be found on our noticeboards and on the Town Council website. We hope you can join us to hear from guest speakers; our Tree/Biodiversity Warden, newly appointed PCSO for Westgate and the Lifeboat Project lead from Changing Minds Kent CIC; we will also use the opportunity to recognise those in the community who have contributed and go above and beyond to support the Town on a regular basis.

There will be designated times during the meeting when there is time to speak, ask questions or raise ideas/matters. We hope you can join us on this important date and if you have a prior engagement we would welcome any comments that you would like to have included for the meeting to be communicated via email at – townclerk@westgateonsea.gov.uk by no later than Tuesday 20th April 2021.



1. **Chairman's Welcome**
2. **To receive apologies for absence**
3. **Minutes – to receive and approve the minutes of the fourth assembly of 17th April 2019**
4. **Guest Speakers to speak to Members and residents**
 - Steve Migan to speak about Changing Minds and the Lifeboat Project.
 - Peter Hasted to speak about the role of Tree/Biodiversity Warden for the Town and how you can get involved in activities.
 - Mark Vogle the newly appointed PCSO for Westgate-on-Sea.
5. **Public questions**
 To receive questions and comments from the community in relation to the Guest Speaker's presentations.
6. **Chairman's Report**
 To receive an annual report from the Chairman
7. **Kent Association Local Councils Community Awards Scheme and Town Council Community Star Awards**
 - Town Council in conjunction with Kent Association Local Councils, Kent County Council and the High Sheriff of Kent to award a Local Council Community Award to recognise the contribution of individual(s)
 - Town Council to award people in the community who go above and beyond to support the Town and the local community of Westgate-on-Sea with Community Star Awards.
8. **Town Clerk Report**
 To receive annual report from Town Clerk (Presentation using PowerPoint) Town Clerk to present annual achievements of the Town Council.
9. **Public Discussion Forum**
 To receive ideas, questions and comments from the community.
10. **Consultation Opportunities and Looking Forward**
 - Feedback on recent survey undertaken via the Town Council magazine, April issue and invitation to take part if not already done so.
 - War Memorial Recreation Ground; ideas sought for improvements.
 - Christmas lighting update
 - Volunteering opportunities for various initiatives.
 - Draft Action Plan for 2021/22.

It has never been more important for communities to work together than now, the Town Council recognises that it has a key role to play to support, nurture and encourage engagement opportunities and is determined to seek consultation with the residents and local community as much as possible this coming year.

There will be various consultations conducted throughout the year, we will be using different mediums for this including our Town Council magazine, our Town Council website, the Annual Town Meeting this year on 22nd April and hopefully face to face meeting opportunities commencing in the summer (Covid-19 regulations permitting). We would urge you to get involved and take the opportunity to have your say, if you have any ideas or feedback in the meantime please contact me via email: Gill Gray (Town Clerk): townclerk@westgateonsea.gov.uk

We are starting with this first consultation on priorities for the year ahead, we have identified some capital projects and we would like your opinion on where they should lie in terms of level of priority for tackling by the Town Council? **Please complete and return to us at the office – 78 St Mildreds Road.**

This year the Town Council has scheduled further consultation opportunities for the community in order to hear your views on how you would like to see changes and improvements to community facilities, our local services, and the environment of Westgate-on-Sea. In order to do this, it is vital all residents take part in the consultation, without your input the Town Council is unable to fully understand the needs of the community it represents. Visitors describe our town as friendly; we have a unique and beautiful environment, and we all need to play our part in maintaining and improving the town for both residents and all those who visit us throughout the year.

TOWN COUNCIL LIST FOR CAPITAL SPEND PROJECTS AND CONSULTATION WITH COMMUNITY FOR PRIORITIES FOR 2021/22

| DETAILS | EST COST | FUNDING FROM | PLEASE TICK ONE | | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | | HIGH PRIORITY | MEDIUM PRIORITY | LOW PRIORITY | NOT REQUIRED |
| Litter Bins X 6 : Top Belmont Road by Field / Ursuline Drive / Station Road / 3 others to be identified | £800 | Capital projects earmarked budget | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Grit Bins x 6 | £1,200 | Capital projects earmarked budget | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Climate Change Report | £1,000 | 2021-22 Budget | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Christmas Lights | £2,000 | Capital projects earmarked budget | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Boating pool/beach works | £850 | Capital projects earmarked budget | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Remedial Works for Shelter Slope | £850 | Capital projects earmarked budget | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Local Plan Support - NP/ Gallops etc | | Earmarked budget £12,200 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Recreation Ground | £5,000 – £7,500 | Capital projects earmarked budget | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Highway Improvement Plans | £1,800 | 2021-22 Budget | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Westgate Day Anniversary 18th July :- Flag / Banners / Bunting | Up to £1000.00 | 2021-22 Budget | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |



Land South of Westgate and Garlinge

Hybrid Application for Outline Permission for provision of up to 2,000 residential units

Thanet District Council has received a hybrid application for outline permission for provision of up to 2,000 residential units.

The Planning Reference number for this is OL/TH/20/1400 and this application includes a full application for the erection of 120 residential units forming Phase 1.

Full details for the application can be found on the Planning Portal using this link:-

<https://planning.thanet.gov.uk/online-applications/simpleSearchResults.do?action=firstPage>

Public comments can be submitted to Thanet District Council and the consultation is ongoing with further reports expected.

This is the link to the Thanet District Council website where you can find advice for commenting on Planning Applications:-

<https://www.thanet.gov.uk/info-pages/planning-application-search/>

The Town Council has strongly opposed the plans to build on prime agricultural land and has sought professional advice and formulated a response to the hybrid application which has been sent to Thanet District Council.

https://planning.thanet.gov.uk/online-applications/files/703900C35DADE335B8ED4204745D4FE7/pdf/OL_TH_20_1400-WTC-829326.pdf



WESTGATE & GARLINGE

ACTION GROUP AGAINST HOUSING

Westgate and Garlinge Action Group Against Housing has been set up by a group of local residents who are concerned regarding the impact of the housing development for the environment and local community.

It aims to raise awareness, encourage people to respond to the planning application and to contact their local councillors and MP with their concerns.

Since the group was formed only a few months ago, the campaign has gained in momentum. It now has almost 800 Facebook members. We have delivered leaflets to 1,500 households. Objections to the first phase planning application now stand at approximately 400.

The group committee meets weekly and is interested to hear from local residents who might have some particular expertise they can offer.

You can join the Facebook group Westgate and Garlinge Action Group Against Housing Development.
Follow on Twitter @OurWestgate #saveourfields
Email saveourfields2021@gmail.com

Hoe, Hoe, Hoe!

When I first started gardening, I didn't really understand how to use one. There are a couple of varieties of hoe and they are used in different ways, and they really are your friend at this time of year. The hoe is actually one of the most ancient garden tools and came before the plough. It's mentioned in Egyptian art, the Code of Hammurabi and in the Bible.

The reason spring is a great time to put your hoe to good use is because right now is when the annual weeds (the ones that self-seed freely and pop up all over the place every year) have started to germinate. The aim when hoeing, aim to sever the top growth from the roots, just below the soil surface, then leave it in the sun to dry out and die. Hoeing is best done when the soil is dry as this creates a 'dust mulch' which inhibits the germination of new weeds.

I prefer a hoe with a long handle because it's better for preventing back pain. I also have a short-handled hoe known as an 'onion hoe' for closely planted areas. A shorted handle gives more control, so you don't damage your prized



plants. It's important to note that hoeing only kills the annual weeds, not the deep-rooted perennial weeds, those need to be dug up by hand.

There is also a tool called a Dutch hoe. This is used by sweeping it smoothly over the soil so that the surface is just 'brushed'. If used correctly it slices the tops from the weeds. It's actually simple to use but you do need to practice your technique. Slice the tops of weeds by bringing the hoe towards you, altering the angle to accommodate slopes. When you turn over a Dutch hoe you can use it to make a shallow trench called a seed drill to sow larger seeds, like peas into. Larger seeds are better because they need to be covered well. Your hoes need to be kept sharp and well maintained for maximum effectiveness. I use a metal file to both clean and sharpen, but you can buy sharpening stones reasonably cheaply and they are easy to use.

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The Business Forum already has 25 members and has been busy, despite the restrictions of lockdown.

As well as discussing the planning application to build 2000 homes in Westgate and Garlinge and keeping up to speed with the help available to local businesses through TDC, the Forum has planned for the re-opening of "non-essential" shops on 12th April, which of course – we have earned our luck! – coincides with celebrations of the 150th anniversary of the opening of the railway station.

We thank all those businesses in Westgate which have gone the extra mile to help residents who were self-isolating or otherwise put in difficulty by the lockdown of the past year.

We also understand the frustration of those who had to close even though their "non-essential" goods were still on sale in supermarkets in Westwood Cross!



The Forum is open to all businesses based in Westgate, not just shops but those providing goods and services of all kinds; for these businesses there is a closed Facebook group called Westgate-on-Sea Business Forum - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/westgateonseabusinessforum>.





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Felicity's Café at Quex is run by two cousins, Laura & Molly, from a large and very close farming family. We value family over everything so named the café after Laura's daughter Felicity Rose.

We are thrilled to be re-opening the doors of Felicity's Café at Quex from Tuesday 13th April, where you can come and enjoy all of our delights again. From breakfast and lunch to coffee and cake, not forgetting our incredible Afternoon Teas which will all be served in our tranquil outside seating area. We have been so excited to welcome you back. We have made some changes to ensure the safety of our staff and customers, which will allow you to have the best experience possible!

We have limited seating outside, so it is strongly advised to book. If you would like to book an Afternoon Tea with us, we need at least 48 hours notice.

Our opening times will be Tuesday – Sunday 10am until 4pm.

If you would like to make a reservation or book an Afternoon Tea please email:
info@felicityscafeatquex.co.uk

We can't wait to see you all soon!



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Westgate-on-Sea Councillor Contacts



Cllr Joanna Cornford
Chairperson

Appointed Committee:
Planning, Highways and
Environment Committee and
Human Resources Committee

Contact: 07896 092324

Email: jcornford@westgateonsea.gov.uk



Cllr Pauline O'Connor
Vice Chairperson

Appointed Committee:
Finance and General Purposes
Committee and Human
Resources Committee

Contact: 01843 836182

Email: p.oconnor@westgateonsea.gov.uk



Cllr David Donaldson

Appointed Committee:
Finance and General Purposes
Committee and Human
Resources committee

Contact: 07977 544697

Email: ddonaldson@westgateonsea.gov.uk



Cllr Timothy Green

Appointed Committee:
Finance and General Purposes
Committee

Contact: 07914 412965

Email: tgreen@westgateonsea.gov.uk



Cllr Roy Nightingale

Appointed Committee:
N/A

Contact: 07733 011723

Email: rnightingale@westgateonsea.gov.uk



Cllr Helen Page

Appointed Committee:
Planning, Highways and
Environment Committee

Contact: 01843 836182

Email: hpage@westgateonsea.gov.uk



Cllr Martyn Pennington

Appointed Committee:
Human Resources committee

Contact: 07710 030278

Email: mpennington@westgateonsea.gov.uk



Cllr Dr Hannah Scott

Appointed Committee:
Planning, Highways and
Environment Committee

Contact: 07411 815157

Email: hscott@westgateonsea.gov.uk



Cllr Matthew Scott

Appointed Committee:
Finance and General Purposes
Committee

Contact: 07512 777399

Email: mscott@westgateonsea.gov.uk



Cllr David Wallin

Appointed Committee:
Planning, Highways and
Environment Committee
and Finance and General
Purposes Committee

Contact: 07502 924240

Email: dwallin@westgateonsea.gov.uk

Westgate-on-Sea District & County Councillors

Cllr Sam Bambridge

District Councillor for Westgate-on-Sea Ward

Contact: 07583 533309

Email: cllr-sam.bambridge@thanet.gov.uk

Cllr Bertie Braidwood

District Councillor for Westgate-on-Sea Ward

Contact: 07518 783090

Email: cllr-bertie.braidwood@thanet.gov.uk

Cllr Matthew Scott

District Councillor for Westgate-on-Sea Ward

Contact: 07512 777399

Email: cllr-matthew.scott@thanet.gov.uk

Cllr Emma Dawson

County Councillor for Westgate-on-Sea which
forms part of Division

Contact: 03000 411009

Email: emma.dawson@kent.gov.uk

Cllr Liz Hurst

County Councillor for Westgate-on-Sea which
forms part of Division

Contact: 03000 411009

Email: liz.hurst@kent.gov.uk

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Westgate-on-Sea Town Council: Can we help?

- Westgate in Bloom
- Events including Pancake Races, Westgate Day as well as supporting Remembrance Parade and Services and Scarecrow Festival
- Local meetings including: Business Forum, Planning, Highways & Environment Committee, Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, Events, Tourism & Developments Steering Group, Allotment Working Group, Finance and General Purposes Committee, Human Resources Committee and Full Council Meetings
- Saturday Surgeries
- Information on our "Top Up" street cleansing including fly tipping
- Speedwatch
- Deaf Group, Westgate Community Spirit Craft Group and Friendship Club meeting in Community Space
- Local talks and more local events hosted in Community Space
- Hot desking opportunities
- Council Meeting Videos
- Westgate-on-Sea News Magazine
- Westgate-on-Sea Social Media accounts and Website.
- Annual Town Meeting
- Public Town Council Litter Bins
- Consultee for Planning Applications
- Defibrillator training and information
- Photocopier use
- Local Councillor information
- Local artists display
- Westgate-on-Sea food bank collections
- Terracycle recycling scheme
- Allotment gardens, Lymington
- Supporting local Community Groups and Projects
- Small Grants Funding Scheme
- Neighbourhood Plan
- Computer Hub for research and reports
- Community Emergency Plan
- Volunteering
- Local Newspapers



PLEASE NOTE: some of these services have been suspended due to COVID-19

Westgate Town Council: 01843 836 182

Not us? Please see the services Thanet District Council and Kent County Council can assist you with as well: Thanet District Council (Services include Waste & Recycling, Council Tax, Planning & Land, Leisure & Recreation, Environmental Services and Housing)

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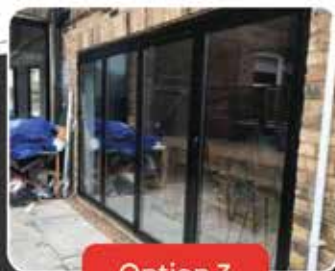
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