



## Westgate on Sea Town Council 2022: Action Plan

Following the adoption of the Forward Plan by the Town Council in early 2020 it is now best practice and timely to form an action plan for the forthcoming financial and Town Council year from April 2022 to April 2023.

The Town Action Plan is drafted by the Town Council and will then be used to consult with the residents and the community to seek what the priorities should be and where the resources and funds should be focussed.

There will be recommendations identified from the Forward Plan formed from various themes and issues that seek to support and meet the needs of the local community, in particular the residents.

PRIORITY	CURRENT ACTIONS TO NOVEMBER 2021	PLANNED ACTIONS FOR PERIOD APRIL 2022-23
<b>Neighbourhood Plan (NP)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulation 14 Consultation completed and awaiting data from consultants captured from survey.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft NP to be sent to TDC early spring 2022 for next stage of the process undertaken by TDC – Regulation 15 Consultation.</li> </ul>
<b>Planning – proposed developments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council opposes plans to build two thousand houses on agricultural land, further reports/consultation expected soon.</li> <li>Letter sent to local MP Sir Roger Gale MP to lobby for change of law on building on agricultural land, copies sent to Secretary of State for Housing, Communities &amp; Local Government, Secretary of State for Environment, Food &amp; Rural Affairs and Prime Minister.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Town Council to help shape planning proposal for the proposed 2,000 houses, future phases, if permission granted.</li> <li>Town Council to pursue S106 agreement for renovation of the community centre.</li> <li>Town Council to work in collaboration with Birchington PC and engage with other action groups.</li> <li>Town Council to approach TDC to enquire about the alteration of the parish boundary if the proposed development is granted permission.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town Council responded to Outline Planning Application through TDC.</li> <li>• Report sent to TDC Planning Officer and shared with developers.</li> <li>• Engaged with Action Group and supported fund-raising activities.</li> </ul>	
<b>Sourcing of additional income and funding opportunities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential funding opportunities identified.</li> <li>• Pre pandemic income streams now commencing again in front community space; groups starting up again.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply for multiple funding from various sources to progress ambitions for the Community Assets.</li> </ul>
<b>Improving Communication and Input to Decision-making</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facebook page better utilised and numbers visiting page doubled.</li> <li>• Website pages tidying to improve visitor experience.</li> <li>• Consultation process for NP including live Facebook for first time.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create E Newsletter.</li> <li>• Better use of press releases for highlighting good news items.</li> <li>• Review the website and continue to update.</li> <li>• Improve the use of Instagram for the Town Council.</li> </ul>
<b>Highway Improvement Plans</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collated short list for HIPs and £1,800 earmarked in budget for traffic surveys.</li> <li>• Traffic surveys completed in September 2021; data shared at Full Council in November 2021 with Members.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consult with the community/residents on the shortlist for HIPs; budget to be considered for next year included in any Precept requests.</li> <li>• Liaise with KCC on any proposed HIP to seek accurate estimate of timescales.</li> </ul>
<b>Partnership working &amp; Community Engagement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working with community groups/organisations to deliver events and projects, such as Pancake Races, Remembrance Parade, Paint the Town Poppy Red, Westgate Against Rubbish, Speedwatch, food donations and Westgate in Bloom.</li> <li>• Used events in the Town as an opportunity for community engagement; eg the Food and Drink Festival.</li> <li>• Various consultations took place this year with the community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Events planned for this year include:- Pancake Races, Skate Park event, Annual Town Meeting, Jubilee Weekend event and Westgate Day, also working in collaboration on the Food and Drink Festival, Scarecrow Festival and Remembrance Sunday.</li> <li>• To seek new partnership opportunities in the private sector; build on those achieved so far, for example South East Rail and Stagecoach.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organise various consultation opportunities across different mediums with the local community next year.</li> </ul>
<b>Collaboration with other authorities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Liaising with TDC and KCC to support services provided by both authorities.</li> <li>Worked with other statutory bodies including local councils and local businesses to minimise financial pressures; eg. the installation of the Christmas Lights.</li> <li>Improved on relationships with BPC, RTC, TDC and KCC.</li> <li>Regular input on parish calls facilitated by TDC.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To expand co-operation with town and parish councils in the area in relation to training, plant management, etc</li> <li>To share best practice and assist where possible with other local councils across Thanet.</li> <li>To explore increased representation at NALC for local Councils; to be conducted via the Thanet Area Committee and representatives for the Town Council</li> </ul>
<b>Shop canopy repairs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Researched approach and explored funding opportunities.</li> <li>Research completed and surveyor report obtained with estimated costs – could be taken forward by Business Forum.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate collaboration approach and secure funding.</li> </ul>
<b>Facilities for Young People &amp; Funding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acquired the War Memorial Recreation Ground under a Community Asset Transfer from Thanet District Council.</li> <li>Researched funding opportunities for the War Memorial Recreation Ground to secure renovation of the site.</li> <li>Report for Full Council in December 2021 to propose the formation of Youth Council.</li> <li>Met with SE Steel and engaged Westgate Lovelies as volunteers.</li> <li>Engage with young people to form part of the objectives for the Youth Council.</li> <li>Secured interest from Margate Football club for free coaching for young people.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish the formation of a Youth Council for Westgate on Sea.</li> <li>Seek funding and volunteers for Pavilion improvement works.</li> <li>Engage with young people in the community to seek opinions and feedback on the facilities at the recreation ground and how they can be improved for future generations.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Environmentally Sustainable Community</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recycling initiative continued at the Town Council office and expanded through the community.</li> <li>• Westgate in Bloom and tree planting scheme continued throughout lockdowns in 2020 and into 2021.</li> <li>• Allotment garden rules now permit more allotment plots to be let to those in the local community; enabling residents to grow their own produce.</li> <li>• Recycled/refurbished furniture/hardware purchased where possible as part of Town Council procurement strategy.</li> <li>• Draft Environment Policy shared at the Full Council in December 2021.</li> <li>• Committed to trialling an electric vehicle via the REVS KCC Scheme.</li> <li>• Established wildflower meadows areas in the community.</li> <li>• Using utilities provider for Town Council buildings who provide 100% renewable electricity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider Climate Change Emergency and how the Town Council can support the community in reducing carbon footprints and reaching local carbon reduction targets.</li> <li>• Undertake Carbon Literacy Training for staff and Members; explore hosting for other local councils via TAC.</li> <li>• Calculate carbon footprint for the Town Council using Local Government Association tools.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Promotion of Town and Heritage</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working with the Westgate Heritage Centre to promote unique history of the Town.</li> <li>• Community events used to raise the profile of the Town.</li> <li>• Hoisted Town Flag in 2021 and conducted short service at flagpole on Sea Road.</li> <li>• Shared maps with visitors for Westgate and Thanet.</li> <li>• Installed new Christmas lighting in 2021.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote the Westgate Day town anniversary including values on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2021.</li> <li>• Work with Thanet District Council during the summer months to promote the bays and other attractions that Westgate has to offer visitors.</li> <li>• Purchase additional new Christmas lighting for the Town and manage the installation and maintenance for the future.</li> </ul>

<b>Improve the standards and progress the recognition for the Town Council</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Formulated and adopted various policies, plans and procedures to establish firm foundation for the Town Council.</li><li>• Good governance and best practice now accomplished as routine habits at the Town Council.</li><li>• Local Council Award Scheme adopted by Council.</li><li>• The Foundation Level application has been submitted with the decision expected in January 2021.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Work towards the Quality Level in the Local Council Award Scheme for 2022.</li></ul>
--	---	--