

## **Town Clerk Report 05.07.22**

### **Community Space**

**Following Covid we now have community groups starting to use the Community Space again in the front office. We have a Spanish classes group, Hearing Voices group, Sewing Bees and Deaf Friends Book Club at the moment. I have started negotiations with Barclays bank, they are looking for a venue for a drop-in service on a Friday which would operate on an appointment only basis. This would be another revenue stream and I will update Members in due course once the confirmation and details are known.**

### **Waste Services for Westgate**

**I had a recent meeting with the Environmental Services Manager and the Senior Supervisor for Waste, Recycling and Street Cleansing. This will now be a monthly meeting and it is proposed that we work in closer collaboration with TDC going forward which is very much welcomed.**

### **5G Mast proposed for Canterbury Road**

Following the temporary mast sited on Minster Road there followed a proposal for a replacement mast at St Saviours School and Westgate Cricket Club as a new site by the mast operators MBNL.

The P,H&E Committee considered this at the meeting on 14.09.2021 and a letter was sent to Waldon Telecommunications who are the operator's agent to enquire about the conditions of the proposed licence/agreement for the telecom mast.

There have been numerous exchanges of emails from the Town Council on the subject, this has included Westgate Cricket Club, St Saviours School and the KCC Estates Surveyor who is dealing with the negotiations for the proposal. Our KCC Cllr Crow-Brown has also been working behind the scenes and is awaiting an update from TDC about the position of the proposal that lies within a conservation area and whether this will mean it is considered by the Planning Committee at TDC as a formal planning application as opposed to a permitted development.

The initial concerns from the school were access arrangements and safeguarding; the cricket club had issues with the proposal in terms of access and the risk of damage to the pitch caused by heavy machinery. There has been work undertaken to mitigate these issues and the scheme was redesigned as a result but negotiations are still ongoing.

I know that St Saviours School has been sent a link to a website where concerned residents can access information about living or working near a mast; a concise outline of the plan/rationale from the operator is awaited from Waldon Telecommunications and we will share that as soon as it is received.

### **Civility and Respect Project**

The Society of Local Council Clerks have recently shared a project update for the Civility and Respect Project. A programme of support has been devised for Councils, Councillors and officers. There will be training opportunities and solutions offered via expert advice to tackle behavioural issues. The Bullying and Harassment Statement has been printed for all Members and I will be asking the HR Committee that this is adopted and recommended to Council for the September meeting.

### **CPR and DEFIB Training**

The next CPR and Defib training session is scheduled for Monday 8<sup>th</sup> August at the Westgate Fire Station on Osbourn Road in Westgate. It will commence at 7pm and is due to finish at 9pm.

### **TC Magazine**

The next issue of the TC magazine is out for delivery and we have a supply here in the office for collection if required.

### **Work Based Learning Group CIC**

Following the TC decision I have been meeting with the Work Based Learning Group to arrange the proposal for training and development that has been offered to the TC. The whole team of the TC will be offered an opportunity to work in a small team initially in a workshop to identify what they would like to achieve as a result of the training programme. I will be emailing everyone later this week to advise the date of a 1.5-hour workshop which is step one of the process. Step 2 involves the design of a course outline for discussion by all participants and is likely to happen in September. Step 3 will follow in late September/October when further workshops using practical exercises to introduce the course, workbook and learning methods.

### **Westbury Road Enquiry**

Following an enquiry from a resident about a problem with Westbury Road and parking caused by overgrown vegetation our KCC Cllr Crow-Brown has sought the advice from KCC Highways. The overgrown vegetation has been logged for an inspection and this will result in any necessary vegetation clearance. I will chase for progress on this matter next week. The parking along Westbury Road could be added to the Town Council HIPs for comment and consideration by KCC and the Town Council. The safety arrangements of an individual property is for the homeowner/landlord to address and is not the responsibility of any local authority. I am not an expert in this field, but I would advise anyone to seek professional advice from their insurance company on the matter.

### **Networking Event in Ramsgate for local Organisations**

Lindsey our Administrator attended a Networking event recently hosted by Kent Coast Volunteering, it was very well attended and Lindsey made some useful contacts at the event which will benefit the community and the Town Council.

### **Town Councillor Vacancies Update – Item 11**

**The first vacancy is following the Co-option route for electing a new TC – the flyer has been shared and we are inviting expressions of interest from the community – closing date is now Friday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2022 at 4pm. If you want to discuss the role of Town Councillor or simply find out more please do contact me – telephone 01843 836182 or email [townclerk@westgateonsea.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@westgateonsea.gov.uk)**

**The second vacancy has been decided and Cllr King is elected to the Town Council as the by election was uncontested. I am awaiting the invoice from the Electoral Services team at TDC for the cost of printing that was incurred for the by election.**