

# WESTGATE ON SEA TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2021/2022



LOCAL COUNCIL  
AWARD SCHEME  
FOUNDATION



The Town Council received an award in a national scheme in 2021. The National Association of Local Councils runs the Local Council Award Scheme and the achievement recognised that the Council achieved good practice in governance, community engagement and council improvement. Moreover, Westgate on Sea Town Council goes above and beyond their legal obligations, leading their community and continuously seeking opportunities to improve and develop even further. There are no other Local Councils in Thanet who have this.





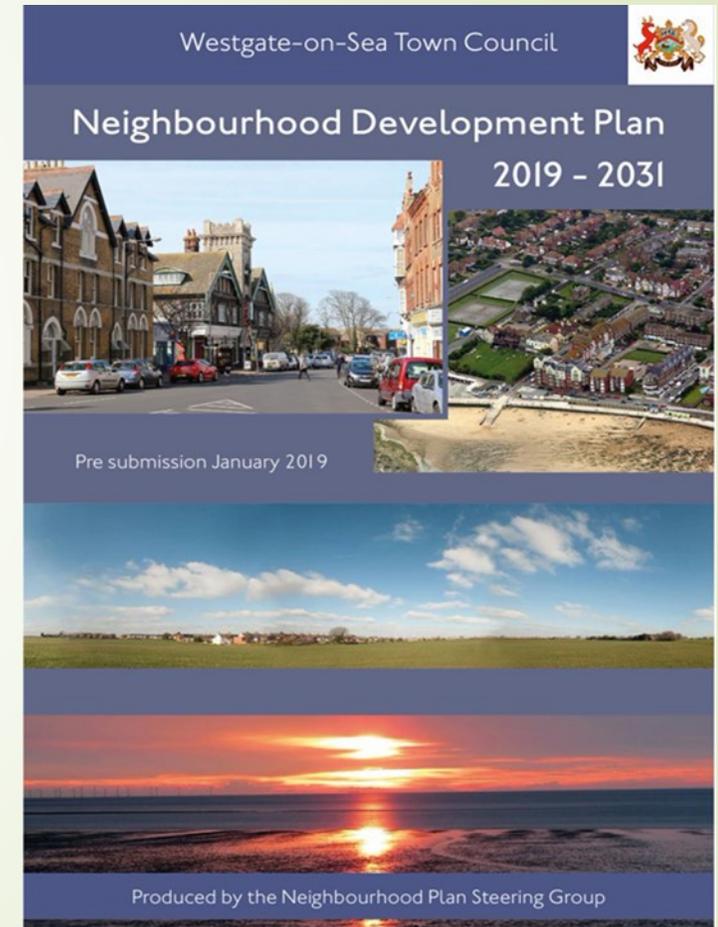
## Westgate on Sea Town Council and Actions in relation to Proposed Housing Development since 2020

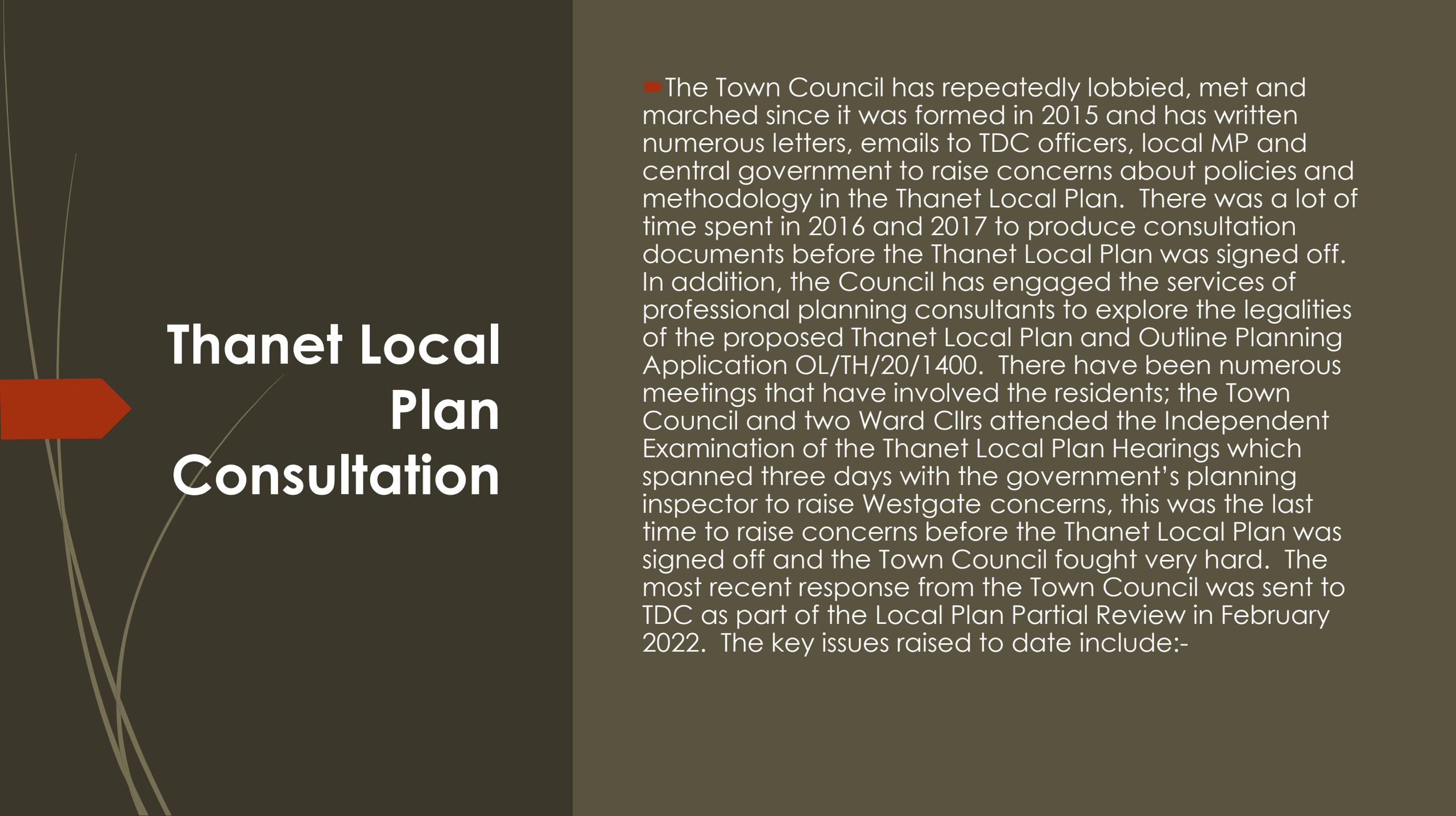
- ▶ The Town Council has continued to work with neighbouring parishes and groups in relation to the proposed development on land south of Westgate & Garlinge. The following actions have been undertaken since 2020:-
- ▶ Continued to research if the law can be challenged in respect of the building on agricultural land and the numbers quoted in the Thanet Local Plan
- ▶ Responded to and opposed the Outline hybrid application for the provision of up to 2,000 residential units on land south of Westgate and Garlinge submitted to TDC as consultees
- ▶ Secured the services of a planning consultant to provide expertise for consultation responses
- ▶ Sought support from our Local MP, Sir Roger Gale and corresponded as well as meeting virtually
- ▶ Met with KCC to discuss the Major Road Network fund project to improve the existing road network which is needed regardless of the proposed housing development
- ▶ Progressed the Neighbourhood Plan to Regulation 14 and undertook thorough consultation exercise
- ▶ Responded to TDC Thanet Local Plan Review – Call for Sites – proposed a Westgate Countryside Triangle and potential Green Wedge
- ▶ Wrote to the land-owner to request support for the proposed Westgate Countryside Triangle
- ▶ Represented the Council on the Thanet Area Committee and worked collaboratively with neighbouring Local Councils on lobbying for change in central government – sharing issues faced by Thanet with proposed development on agricultural land
- ▶ Responded to the TDC engagement process for the Thanet Local Plan partial update
- ▶ Provided regular updates in the Town Council magazine and on our website including details for the Action Group Against Housing and their events

# Westgate Draft Neighbourhood Plan

The draft NP has now been produced by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG), a sub-committee of the Westgate-on-Sea Town Council and formed of Town Councillors and community members. The NP has been prepared through consultation with residents using the feedback at the initial meeting.

A digital survey was formed, a printed copy was available as an alternative for the consultation Regulation 14 process that ran for eight weeks last year. The survey generated a total of 326 responses, of which 312 were digital responses and 14 from printed copies of the survey. The feedback is now being used to revisit the draft Neighbourhood Plan and use key themes that have emerged to amend or add to the existing draft document. The NP will then pass to Thanet District Council for the next stage of the process before undergoing independent examination and before finally going to a local referendum. If the NP is passed at a local referendum, it will then be 'made' by Thanet District Council and will become part of the Development Plan alongside the TDC Local Plan.





# Thanet Local Plan Consultation

- The Town Council has repeatedly lobbied, met and marched since it was formed in 2015 and has written numerous letters, emails to TDC officers, local MP and central government to raise concerns about policies and methodology in the Thanet Local Plan. There was a lot of time spent in 2016 and 2017 to produce consultation documents before the Thanet Local Plan was signed off. In addition, the Council has engaged the services of professional planning consultants to explore the legalities of the proposed Thanet Local Plan and Outline Planning Application OL/TH/20/1400. There have been numerous meetings that have involved the residents; the Town Council and two Ward Cllrs attended the Independent Examination of the Thanet Local Plan Hearings which spanned three days with the government's planning inspector to raise Westgate concerns, this was the last time to raise concerns before the Thanet Local Plan was signed off and the Town Council fought very hard. The most recent response from the Town Council was sent to TDC as part of the Local Plan Partial Review in February 2022. The key issues raised to date include:-



Housing Need projections and the exclusion of empty homes

Population forecasts using ONS figures that are now out of date

National Planning Policy Framework is not a one size fits all and is not correctly understood by local planning authority

Environmental impact should be thoroughly reviewed

Brownfield sites should be considered, particularly around Manston

High quality farmland should be protected by law to protect food security and mitigate climate change

The objectively assessed housing need is assessed for Thanet rather than a Kent or Southeast wide approach

The decision on the DCO is still pending for Manston and the outcome will be crucial to the housing numbers required in the rest of Thanet

The Government Standard Methodology is not a sound approach for Thanet

There should be direct consultation for local housing needs with the community and its stake holders

Following the pandemic, the employment needs are evolving and changing for Thanet; there is potential to repurpose large retail stores

The residential site assumptions used do not fit with the Thanet reality; there is an overwhelming need for improved infrastructure and community facilities

The new build sites in the area are not meeting the Local Plan policies, particularly within Sections 12, 13 and 15 which relate to Green Infrastructure

There does not appear to be future proofing in the Local Plan for flood risk

# CONTAIN OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT FUNDING

■ Thanet District Council received a share of this funding from central Government to help support public health – in particular, those most impacted by the pandemic. The Town Council was offered £3,500.00 to use to support our local residents, we were the only local Council to take up this offer. We have used this for a variety of initiatives including Christmas hampers for families who needed support, health packs which included much welcomed toiletries, gas and electric top up cards to tackle fuel poverty, food supplies to support a lunch club and essential food supplies for a local foodbank. We used local businesses where possible to source items.



■ **COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFERS COMPLETED FOR TWO SHELTERS AND WAR MEMORIAL RECREATION GROUND ON LYMINGTON ROAD**

**This was the state of the main ramps when works started following the play area inspections undertaken by the Town Council.**



**Following hard work by the contractor and expenditure of over £5,000.00 the ramps were restored to being safe and user friendly again. We have a Skate Jam planned for later this month, we are hoping you will join us and bring your children or grandchildren for what promises to be a fun action packed day!**



## EVENTS 2021-2022

Some of the events delivered last year by the Town Council were:-

- 150<sup>th</sup> Train Station Anniversary
- GB Spring Clean Litter Picks
- NHS Day
- Westgate Day
- Paint the Town Poppy Red
- Remembrance Sunday including the Parade
- Most recently the Pancake Races.
- We also supported delivery of the Recital Event, Scarecrow Festival, Food/Drink Festival organised on Sea Road in the summer and the Christmas Fair.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR THE NEXT OLYMPIC CHAMPIONS...

# TALENT PATHWAY WESTGATE-ON-SEA SKATE JAM



**THU 14 APR**

10AM TO 3PM

WESTGATE-ON-SEA

SKATEPARK (LYMINGTON ROAD REC)



TEAM  
RUBICON

TECH  
DECK

Enuff  
SKATEBOARDS

WITH SKATEBOARDING'S INCLUSION IN THE OLYMPICS - JOIN US FOR SOME COACHING IN THE MORNING AND A CHANCE TO SHOWCASE YOUR SKILLS AT A FUN COMPETITION WITH PRIZES IN THE AFTERNOON. OPEN TO ALL AGES AND ABILITIES.

# CHRISTMAS LIGHTING FOR THE TOWN

► The Town Council utilised funding provided from KCC and match funded to source and install new Christmas lighting for Christmas 2021. There was the addition of lamp columns lit with sparkling braids and lighting strung on the canopies and shop fronts. Thank you to the local businesses who supported this initiative. The lights were sourced from Blachere Illuminations UK, a company with strong environmental credentials which manufactures products using the latest LED technology to deliver longer product life, lower power consumption and reduced electricity costs.



# Football Came Home!

➤ The Town Council worked hard to get the pitch ready including the installation of football posts and goals, this was in addition to getting the changing rooms ready and fit for use. It has been amazing to get the football matches taking place after a lot of years and the players and spectators are appreciating the facilities, we are working with WUSC in the down time to get the pitch maintenance undertaken at the end of the football season this year.



# New Post Office for the Town

► The Town Council were in constant contact with the Network Provision team at Post Office to help facilitate an alternative Post Office when the news broke that it was due to close. We were determined to support and seek a solution for the town. We were thrilled for the community when the Station Superstore came forward to apply to open as the new Post Office location.



# NEW GRIT BINS AND DEFIBRILLATORS

► The Town Council purchased and installed four grit bins on the library side of Canterbury Road at carefully chosen locations following consultation with KCC.

► There are now outside heated defib cabinets and defibs installed at five new locations in the Town. This is a massive achievement due to local fund raising, sponsorship and donations provided in the community. The Town Council funded the defibrillator and cabinet now sited at St Mildreds Bay.



Are You Interested to Join  
**Westgate on Sea  
Youth Council?**

Let's Join Today & Make a Difference



**Make Your  
Voices  
Heard**

For more information, contact Gill Gray - Town  
Clerk - [townclerk@westgateonseas.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@westgateonseas.gov.uk)

# SUPPORTING YOUTH IN OUR COMMUNITY

► The Town Council were approached by Kiwi Education who run Traineeship Employer Work Placements and told us about a young man in Westgate called Brandon. We were very pleased to be able to offer Brandon seventy working hours in the Town Council and have subsequently offered a six-month temporary contract as part of the Cleansing Operations team.

## OTHER PROJECTS/INITIATIVES AND EVENTS

As if that was not enough we have also undertaken:-

- **Speedwatch sessions were conducted**
- **Facilitated and continued support for vulnerable residents**
- **Continued to be a collection point for our recycling project and foodbank donations**
- **We led Westgate in Bloom and gained recognition for the six It's Your Neighbourhood entries from South & Southeast in Bloom**
- **Provided a top-up cleansing service for the town**
- **Created wildflower meadows working in collaboration with TDC**
- **Assisted local community groups**
- **Responded to planning applications as consultees in the planning process as well as other consultations from central government, KCC and TDC**
- **Produced and distributed a quarterly Town Council magazine**
- **Managed the allotment gardens site**
- **We hosted a NHS Child Development Clinic, Business Forum, AGE UK, Community Clinic and a Defib training session**
- **Negotiated the Rural Kent Coffee project to visit Westgate this year**
- **Assisted the community clear up with Kent Police during Storm Eunice**

## **CONFIRMED BUDGET FOR 2022/2023 FOR WESTGATE ON SEA TOWN COUNCIL**

The Budget for this year has now been agreed and Thanet District Council have confirmed the Tax Base figure of 2,518.29. The approved Precept request for this year is £161,600.00 and when divided by the Tax Base figure equates to £64.17 Band D equivalent figure; this represents an increase of £3.96 (6.58%) on last year. The approved Budget figure for this year is £172,275.00 for Westgate on Sea Town Council.

**Precept request 2022-23 £161,600**

**Tax Base figure 2,518.29**

**This year Band D equivalent £64.17**

**Prior Year Band D equivalent £60.21**

**Uplift £3.96 Uplift 6.58 %**

## LOOKING AHEAD FOR THIS YEAR FROM APRIL 2022

The Platinum Jubilee weekend starts with a Beacon Lighting event at St Mildreds Bay on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2022 and then a family community picnic at the Community Centre green on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2022; we hope you can join us.

If you have any queries on any subject including the budget for this coming year or simply want to find out more about the activities, projects and events we have planned please either email, telephone or visit your Town Council office.

WESTGATE-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

# Platinum Jubilee Weekend

THURSDAY  
2ND JUNE  
2022

BEACON LIGHTING EVENT  
WITH THANET BIG SING CHOIR  
ST MILDREDS BAY

FAMILY COMMUNITY PICNIC  
COMPETITIONS, FUN AND GAMES  
LYMINGTON ROAD GREEN AND  
COMMUNITY CENTRE

SATURDAY  
4TH JUNE  
2022

SUNDAY  
5TH JUNE  
2022

MAKERS MARKET  
CRAFT FAIR  
ADRIAN SQUARE

SAVE THE DATES!  
FURTHER DETAILS TO FOLLOW SOON...

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE EMAIL [ADMIN@WESTGATEONSEA.GOV.UK](mailto:ADMIN@WESTGATEONSEA.GOV.UK)

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