



Issue 15 - August/September 2022





More choice is returning to the housing market, with agents reporting a rise in new instructions in both the sales and lettings markets.

The net balance of respondents reporting a rise in new sales instructions was positive for the first time in a year. Letting instructions were positive for the first time since July 2020 (latest RICS survey March 2022).

Demand for properties to buy and rent remains high however, and a continuing shortage of properties is likely to underpin price growth. Despite economic headwinds, price growth seems set to remain in positive territory over the next year.

The RICS net balance score is based on the proportion of survey respondents reporting a rise, less those reporting a fall in instructions. Source: Dataloft, The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (net balance of survey participants)

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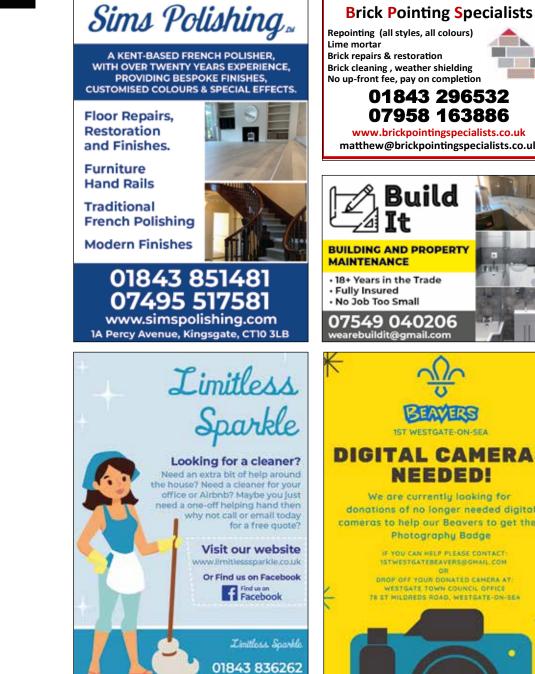
Westgate Day 2022

The 4th annual Westgate Day was marked on Monday 18 July. Established in 2019. Westgate Day is an annual town anniversary to celebrate our unique town, it's heritage and people.

The anniversary date was chosen to reflect the year 1870 which was significant in Westgate's history as the year the Coastguard and Coastguard houses were installed along the coastline and also the year of the first development of the Westgate Estate.

To mark the day, the Westgate flag was flown in the town and, in the spirit of Westgate Day, the Zoom Events Feastival offered a wonderful opportunity for the community to come together within the town.





thecleanteam@limitlesssparkle.co.uk



Westgate-on-sea Town Council Magazine

Westgate on Sea Feastival

Westgate on Sea was lucky to host for the second year running the popular The Free Wheelin FEASTival event that took place on Sea Road Gardens from Friday 15th July to Sunday 17th July 2022. The organisers are Zoom Events and they offer these free to access events across Thanet in July.

The weather was glorious and the atmosphere very relaxed, there were street food outlets, bars, alfresco dining tables and a covered shaded area for families who wanted protection from too much sun. You could browse the various stalls who were offering grocery food, arts & crafts and even clothing; or simply chill and listen to the fantastic bands that performed over the whole weekend. There was also entertainment for children which was extremely popular with the younger audience.

The Town Council offered support by volunteering as stewards and I know we all agreed that it was great organisation by Zoom Events and well attended by the community.



We do hope you enjoyed the event and we look forward to next year. For those of you who like to go further afield there is another Free Wheelin FEASTival planned in Tankerton and Whitstable from 8th to 11th September 2022.

Birchington Guild Of Players

Birchington Guild of Players is a well-known local amateur dramatic society that has been producing entertainment for the village and around since 1936.

A versatile and talented group we are always happy to welcome new members, not just as actors but everyone interested in all the facets of amateur dramatics. We have a varied program of productions over the year which are performed at The Village Centre in Birchington. These include:

February

Our annual pantomime.

Мау

A full length play or an evening of one act plays.

October

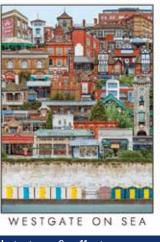
Usually a full-length play.

December

A Christmas evening of light entertainment.

For further information please contact The Secretary, Sherry Underwood, on **07969 293336** or **email secretary.bgop@gmail.com** or visit our website **www.birchingtonguild.co.uk**





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Community Speedwatch

Community Speedwatch was launched in Westgate in September 2018 to actively deal with residents' and councillors' concerns relating to the excessive speeds which drivers reach along the town's residential streets.

Thanks to the commitment of Town Clerk Gill Gray and Councillor Matthew Scott, Community Speed Watch (CSW) soon became an active and committed initiative.

During the pandemic, Speedwatch activities had to be suspended but have recently been relaunched with the ongoing support of Cllr Scott.

CSW is a national initiative aiming to educate and reduce unnecessarily excessive speeds in residential areas. In partnership with the police, members of communities use detection devices to monitor local vehicle speeds.

The volunteers report drivers exceeding the speed limit to the police with the aim of educating drivers to slow down.

If the data proves a driver is ignoring repeated warnings, police can prosecute.

The aim of CSW is to:

- · Reduce death and injury on the roads
- · Improve the quality of life for local communities
- Reduce the speed of vehicles to the speed limit
- Increase public awareness of inappropriate speed

CSW depends on the support of active members from local communities. We have a small group of volunteers who support Westgate's CSW initiative, all have received training and ongoing support.

There are several benefits to volunteering to support CSW:

- Providing a positive solution to the problem of speeding
- · Developing teamwork skills
- Anti-ageing benefits exercising the mind by learning the phonetic alphabet and recognising car models.



We are always keen to hear from new volunteers. If you are interested in supporting Speedwatch, please contact Westgate-on-Sea Town Clerk, Gill Gray, by calling **01843 836182** or emailing **townclerk@westgateonsea. gov.uk** and make a difference to yourself and our community.

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Issue 14 Correction

We would like to clarify some details contained in the Westgate-on-Sea Community Centre: Annual General Meeting article published in issue 14.

The Over 55's group is chaired by Mr Mick Jenkins. The Photography Club is run by Mr Mick Jenkins and Mr Ray Clay. The Canterbury Auction Galleries is Kent's premier Saleroom for Fine Art and Antiques with an International Reputation Dealing with the Valuation and Sale of a Single Treasured item through to the Complete Contents of a Country Estate.

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Please Contact; Cliona Kilroy MRICS - Director Dave Parker BSC (Hons) ASFAV - Managing Director

Telephone: **01227 763337** email: general@tcag.co.uk

Annual Report 2021/2022 & Budget for 2022/2023

The Town Council has continued to strive to meet the needs of the community and provide support and guidance for the vulnerable in our town. The Annual Report can be found in detail in detail by going to the "Annual Report 2021/2022" tab on our website: www. westgateonsea.gov.uk, and there are printed copies available on request.

The Town Council progressed projects, initiatives and events throughout the year and the notable highlights were:

- Westgate Neighbourhood Development Plan progress
- · Receiving the Local Council Award Scheme Foundation Level
- · Securing a share of the Contain Outbreak Management Funding to distribute items in the community
- · War Memorial Recreation Ground and football being welcomed back
- Events 150th Train Station Anniversary; GB Spring Clean Litter Picks; NHS Day; Westgate Day; Paint the Town Poppy Red; Remembrance Sunday Parade and Pancake Races
- Christmas Lighting adorning lamp columns in the town with braids and shops fronts/canopies
- New Post Office Station Superstore
- Grits bins and defibrillators four additional grit bins and now a total of six outdoor 24/7 accessible defibrillators
- Youth Council the Town Council resolved that a Youth Council to be formed in 2022

The Town Council also delivered the following:

- 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 guarterly Town Council magazine
- · Managed the allotment gardens site
- · We hosted an 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

The Town Council confirmed the budget for 2022/2023 with the Precept request of £161,600.00 with an approved Budget figure for this year of £172,275.00. The budget preparation at the Town Council starts each year in September usually at Committee level, the Finance and General Purposes Committee then draft a proposed budget and then it is agreed at the December or January Full Council meeting before being shared with Thanet District Council as a proposed Precept request.

The details for this year's budget can be viewed on the Town Council website, please follow this link for details: www.westgateonsea.gov.uk/community/ westgate-on-sea-town-council-13327/towncouncil-budget-summary-202021/

The Town Council uses a Forward Plan that was formed from feedback and ideas and adopted in early in 2020 - you can read this document by visiting our website.

Each year the Town Council reviews the Forward Plan and then forms an Action Plan for the coming year, the Action Plan for 2022 can also be viewed on the Town Council website

If you have any questions or would like to discuss the budget and Forward or Action Plan for the Town Council please contact the Town Clerk by email townclerk@westgateonsea.gov.uk or telephone 01843 836182 to arrange to visit the office at 78 St Mildreds Road, Westgate on Sea CT8 8RF.



Westgate Tree Walk and Talk

On Sunday 26th June 2022 Westgate-on-Sea Town Council held its first ever Tree Walk and Talk. The walk led by Tree and Biodiversity Warden, Peter Hasted, aimed to introduce residents to the large variety of trees we have in Westgate-on-Sea.

The walk started at the Town Council Offices on St Mildreds Road, round into Station Road taking in the beautiful holly tree situated on the corner of Station Road and Ethelbert Square, then on to both Ethelbert Square and Adrian Square, then along Westbrook Avenue finishing at the Sunken Gardens. Along the walk Peter helped participants to identify the different species of trees and explained recent studies from the forestry England indicate that the tree canopy coverage of Westgate is as little as 6%, whereas the average for Thanet is about 10% thus proving the need to plant more trees as well as develop the towns green infrastructure. In attendance was local historian, Mr James Brazier, who kindly added to the Tour by sharing his extensive knowledge of both Ethelbert and Adrian Square.

The event was well attended with over 30 residents joining the informative walk. Cllr Glyn Parry who attended the walk from Westgate to the Sunken Gardens in Margate gave his experience of the event:





Due to an abiding interest in Westgate on Sea history, architecture together with a fascination with plants, trees and gardens I put my name down for the tree walk with Peter Hasted.

Medium expectations expecting a quick scoot round the town with a few of similar interests and home in an hour. How wrong could I be. 20 to 30 people turned up including a local historian and another tree expert. 2 hours later still talking and learning.

We started on Station Road and ended up in the Sunken Garden via the two Town Squares learning about not just the trees but put into the context of the history of the Town our climate and the effect of sea and prevailing winds. Holm oaks, ash, sycamores, yew, cherry and tamarisk, all examined, identified and discussed. We also viewed and critiqued examples of KCC's strategy for tree removal and regenerative planting.

Everyone contributed to the afternoon - thoroughly good fun.

Westgate-on-Sea's unique distribution of trees didn't allow to explore all the trees in our Town, so we are looking at the possibility of hosting a second tree walk on the south side of Canterbury road. I am also looking at delivering a tree walk in Minster due to the amount of champion trees in the village there and the close historic links St. Mildred has with Westgate and Minster.

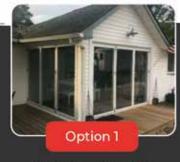
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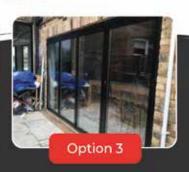


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Westgate-on-sea Town Council Magazine

Make a Change – Become a Councillor

Are you passionate about your community? Do you want to help make a long-lasting change? Do you have innovative ideas for the council? Do you have concerns about a specific issue and want to do something about it? If this is you, then we need you!

We need people from all backgrounds and experiences who reflect their community to put themselves forward for election.

What do local councils and councillors do?

Local (parish and town) councillors make a massive difference to local people's quality of life. They are passionate about their communities and seek to make a change to help improve their residents' lives.

Local councillors have three main areas of work:

- 1. Decision-making
- 2. Monitoring
- 3. Getting involved locally

Why would I want to be a councillor?

Becoming a councillor is a rewarding experience. A councillor's role can include responsibilities such as developing strategies and plans for their community, helping with problems and ideas, representing the community, working with other local community groups, decision making and reviewing decisions and talking to the community about their needs and council decisions.

What training and support is there?

Councillors can receive training and support via their county association which are the representative bodies for local councils in their county area.

What is the time commitment?

NALC's Diversity in Local Councils in 2018 report found that councillors put aside, on average, three hours a week for council work. This works out to an average of 144 hours per annum.

The Council is actively seeking expressions of interest for a Co-option vacancy we have, the deadline for registering your interest is Friday 26th August no later than 4pm. For further information please contact Gill Gray, Town Clerk on **01843 836 182** or **townclerk@ westgateonsea.gov.uk** or pop into the Town Council offices for a chat!

CALLING ALL COMMUNITY HEROES





Westgate-on-Sea Town Council **NEEDS YOU!**

MAKE A CHANGE BECOME A COUNCILLOR

> TO FIND OUT MORE, CONTACT: townclerk@westgateonsea.gov.uk

Welcome to Westgate Town Guide Update

The Town Guide has been updated to include some new businesses in the Town and we want to thank Becky our local graphic designer and illustrator for doing a brilliant job on revamping the guide for this season.

It was extremely popular last year and you can obtain a free copy from the Town Council office at 78 St Mildreds Road or if you visit an event where you may find us there to promote the Town and are giving away copies to residents and visitors.



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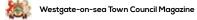
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Community Connectors Day Out

Community wardens Alison Ring and Karl Aylett saw a need for days out for older people that didn't have access to transport. They contacted Christchurch in Westgate on Sea who were fantastic and offered the use of their accessible minibus and volunteer driver Liam.

Alison and Karl invited connected community service users and member of the church's coffee morning for a day trip to Herne bay, with the option of a fish and chip lunch this proved extremely popular and we filled the bus.

We set off at 11.30 and collected each person from their doorstep accommodating various walkers and trollies as we went. After picking up the ninth and last person we set off for Herne bay, we arrived in time for lunch and most of the group decided to have fish and chips.

The lunch was lovely and everyone commented how good the fish was and how big the portions were.

We then made our way to the bus and asked what everybody would like to do next? The answer was ice-creams and a sit down by the beach! One of our ladies told us she hadn't had an ice cream for four years, everyone said how much they had enjoyed the day.

We made our way home the scenic coastal way stopping to look at Reculver Towers and agreed that they could be a future outing.

With the last person dropped home and walked to their door we returned the bus to the church it was a very successful day, and we will be doing more in the future.









Westgate Draft Neighbourhood Development Plan Update 2022

The Westgate-on-Sea Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) is a new kind of planning document. It is part of the Government's approach to planning which aims to give local communities more influence in their neighbourhood's development.

This NDP has 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 NDP has been prepared through consultation with residents utilising the feedback at the initial meeting.

Westgate-on-Sea Town Council and the residents of Westgate want to protect and enhance the town for the benefit of present and future generations. We hope that this Westgate Neighbourhood Development Plan will help to fulfil this aim.

The NDP outlines the proposed vision and objectives for the town and is split into eight themes which the survey used to seek your views on individual aspects of the draft NDP. The themes are design, economy, heritage, sustainability, green space, biodiversity and facilities. Each theme is supported by proposed planning policies and which are holistically grouped. Section 18 of the draft NDP then contains details of the Community Actions which are strategies for managing other important aspects of the town that are not under planning law.

The Town Council has now completed the Regulation 14 Consultation as per The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 for the Westgate Neighbourhood Development Plan. All the comments received have been considered and debated at Council on 5th July 2022 and the Town Council were pleased to be working with Goldstone Town Planning and Breakthrough Communications who have provided expert guidance during the process. The draft Westgate Neighbourhood Development Plan has been reviewed and the proposed Schedule of Changes can be found on our website by following this link www.westgateonsea.gov.uk/community/ westgate-on-sea-town-council-13327/ neighbourhood-plan/



The proposed Schedule of Changes and draft Westgate Neighbourhood Plan have now been sent to Thanet District Council and the Town Council is awaiting confirmation of progress to the next stage of the process under Regulation 15 as per the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The future consultation for the Westgate Neighbourhood Development Plan will be undertaken at Thanet District Council and this is the link to the page on the Thanet District Council website: www.thanet.gov.uk/infopages/neighbourhood-planning/

If you have any queries please contact me, Gill Gray the Town Clerk by email **townclerk@** westgateonsea.gov.uk or phone the office on 01843 836182.

The NDP will then undergo independent examination before finally going to a local referendum. If the NDP 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 Thanet District Council Local Plan.



We're a very polite bunch at Westgate Town Council and don't like to use dirty words but, for this article, we're going to make an exception – Litter, Garbage, Refuse, Rubbish, Trash!

All dirty words for some of the unwanted and unwelcome waste which can spoil our beautiful town.

There are many reasons why litter and waste ends up on the streets. Some is dropped by people, some blows out of household bins and communal litter bins, seagulls and foxes can be responsible for scattering waste and some is deliberately fly tipped.

We can all do our part to think about how we dispose of our waste safely and effectively in order to keep our town clean, tidy and more pleasant for everyone.

Household Waste

Thanet District Council provides all households with containers for general waste, food waste, cardboard, paper and other recycling. Green bins for garden waste are available via a subscription service, further information is available at https://www.thanet.gov.uk/gardenwaste-service/

However, bins will not be emptied if they are filled with the wrong waste and households can check the regulations at https://www.thanet. gov.uk/info-pages/what-goes-where-oncollection-day/

Damaged bins with missing lids can easily be accessed by foxes and seagulls and rubbish can quickly be strewn across properties and streets.

If a bin is damaged, the resident or property owner can order a replacement from Thanet District Council by calling the customer service team on 01843 577115. For further details please see https://www.thanet.gov.uk/infopages/new-or-replacement-bins/

Seagull Proof Bags

For some properties, plastic wheelie bins are not practical and therefore seagull proof bags are provided instead. These bags stop seagulls from ripping open plastic sacks and spreading litter. They are designed to protect black rubbish bags on collection day and are not intended to store rubbish in between collections.

When seagull proof bags are left outside

between collections, they are an eyesore and a health hazard and therefore should be stored safely until collection day.

Missed Bins and Thanet District Council Online Portal

Thanet District Council offer a handy online tool to check the status of bin collections and enable residents to report missed bins.

Residents can create an account using an email address and secure password, or a Google or Facebook account.

Up to 3 properties can be added to an account allowing access to collection information for elderly relatives or tenants, for example.

The portal is linked directly to the Thanet District Council back office system meaning that if a missed collection is reported, it will be picked up immediately within the system and it's no longer necessary to complete a long form.

For residents who do not have access to a portal, feel free to pop into the Town Council offices and we can always help to check collection status or report missed bins.

Further information about the portal can be found at https://www.thanet.gov.uk/services/wasteand-recycling/

Assisted Collections

For residents who are unable to put bins or bags out for collection due to a physical inability, illness or disability, help can be requested from Thanet District Council to arrange an assisted collection.

To request an assisted collection, complete the online form at https://www.thanet.gov.uk/ online-services/assisted-collections/ where you will need to provide the name of your doctor and address of the surgery.

Public Litter Bins

The council provides street litter bins for disposal of litter when out and about. Public litter bins are not for household waste as the capacity is limited and just a small amount of household waste can fill the bin which leads to overspill and more littering.

And did you know, disposing of litter in bins can actually earn you rewards! LitterLotto rewards you for getting rid of your litter responsibly through spot prizes and guaranteed monthly



jackpots. The aim is to create a world free of litter, waste and pollution, and you can help!

All you need to do is take a picture as you bin your litter using the app, and you'll get an entry into the guaranteed monthly jackpot. As more people use the app and start binning litter, the jackpots will start getting bigger. You can also win prizes along the way.

There is no limit to the number of entries (subject to verification checks and fair use limits) so the more litter you bin, the more chances you'll have to win! Look out for litter bins displaying the LitterLotto logo and for more information, visit https://litterlotto.help/en/

Fly Tipping

Fly-tipping is the illegal disposal of controlled waste, or depositing any waste onto land without permission. It can vary in scale significantly from a single bin bag of waste to large quantities of waste dumped from trucks.

Fly-tipping is a criminal offence and offenders have been, are and will be prosecuted. The Fixed Penalty Notice for fly tipping is £400.

Wasted dumped on public land can be reported to Westgate Town Council or Thanet District Council at https://www.thanet.gov.uk/fly-tipping/

How Westgate Town Council tackles litter

- We have two cleansing operatives dedicated to keeping Westgate clean and tidy
- We regularly empty the public litter bins in Westgate
- · We organize regular litter picks
- We work together with Thanet District Council to co-ordinate street cleansing and tackle problem areas
- We encourage residents to report fly tipping, street cleaning or litter issues to the Town Council
- We are always looking at ways to improve the level of service we provide

How you can help

- Ensure your waste and recycling is securely contained and stored
- When out and about, put rubbish in the litter bins provided or take it home if the bin is full
- · Take part in a litter pick

It's so important that the Town Council works together with residents to ensure Westgate is kept clean and welcoming and we thank everyone who helps to maintain our lovely town.



Get your hearing checked by a professional

Open During Coronavirus

An interview with senior audiologist, Sharon Harris, 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 an audiologist?

I have been an audiologist for over 20 years and 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!



Please call us on 0800 077 3061 or email admin@hearbase.com to book your free hearing test today!

Don't forget to mention 'The Westgate Town Council Magazine' when you book!

Platinum Jubilee - Portrait of the Queen Competition

To Advertise: hello@hofmedia.co.uk | 01227 723223

As part of the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations the Town Council held a competition for children who live in Westgate-on-Sea (or attended a Westgate primary school) to draw a portrait of the Queen.

The Town Council were overwhelmed with the number of entries and the amazing talent of Westgate's younger residents! Thirty Nine finalists and their families were invited to the Westgate Jubilee Community Picnic on Saturday 4th August 2022 where 1st, 2nd and 3rd places were awarded in each of the age categories (3-5 years, 6-9 years and 10-11 years).

All 39 finalists received a Certificate and Commemorative Jubilee Coin, with 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners receiving amazing additional prizes on the day courtesy of Alexander Russel Estate Agents. Also part of the prize was the chance for the portraits of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners to be put up on display at the Westgate Galleria, with each child also receiving a special printed pack of cards with their artwork. To see the fantastic portraits pop along to the Westgate Galleria (29 Station Road, Westgate-on-Sea CT8 8RB) between 30th September and 26th October 2022.

Bunting

The Town Council would also like to say a huge thank you to the Westgate-on-Sea residents who made over 100 metres of red, white and blue bunting to help decorate the town over the Jubilee weekend.

A huge thank you also needs to be given to both King Ethelberts School and the Westgate Sewing Bees for matching the huge effort of our residents by providing an additional 100 metres of bunting between them.



Aae 3-5 1st - Olivia, Age 5 2nd - Lola, Age 4 3rd - Jaxen, Age 5

Competition Winners



Competition Winners

Age 6-9 1st - Amelia, Age 9 2nd - Sienna, Age 8 3rd – Freddie, Age 6



Competition Winners

Age 10-11 1st – Dylan Age 10 2nd - Ellie Age 11 3rd - Benedict Age 10



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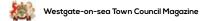
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Westgate Blue Flag Awards

The Blue Flag is a worldwide recognised award which is given to beaches and marinas who meet a number of stringent criteria including: excellent water quality, environmental management, safety and facilities.

Westgate-on-Sea is very proud to have not one but two blue flag awards for both Westgate Bay and St Mildreds Bay. Both Bays have been Blue Flag Winners for the last 10 years in a row!

The awards, which were announced earlier this year, are two out of seven Blue Flags awarded to bays in Thanet.

Thanet Beaches Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) 2021

Last year Thanet District Council introduced the Thanet Beaches Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) which will remain in force until 2024. A PSPO is used by Local Authorities to prohibit specified activities and/or require certain things to be done by people engaged in a particular activity or in a defined public area. The Thanet Beaches PSPO outlines the do's and don'ts of using Thanet Beaches and promenades. Items covered under the order for specific activities include:

- Use of the promenade including vehicles/ driving of vehicles
- Bicycles
- · Bonfires, Barbecues and Large Gatherings
- · Begging, touting, hawking and selling
- · Horse/Donkey riding
- Encampments
- Preaching, lectures, music and entertainment, sporting and other events.
- · Other actions
- · Beach recreation activities
- · Water sports

For detailed information on the order please visit: www.thanet.gov.uk/info-pages/beach-andcoast-pspo-code-of-conduct/



Westgate Bay



St Mildreds Bay

Dogs – when can you take your dog on the beach at St Mildreds and Westgate Bay

In both St Mildreds Bay and Westgate Bay dogs are not allowed on the beach between 10.00am and 6.00pm between 1st May and 30th September.

Please note all dogs on the promenades adjacent to the beach should be kept on a lead.

Remember to always follow the doggy code:

- Respect other beach users and keep your dog in sight.
- Follow the requests on our signs you'll find our traffic light signs at all bays.
- Always bag and bin your dog's poo. Any public litter bin will do. If you don't you will be fined £100. If you forget your poo bags, you can grab an emergency supply from our Tikspac stations
- Help protect our nesting birds along the coastline: keep to paths and use a short lead when asked to do so. Never let your dog chase wildlife.

Beaches and our Byelaws

What is a Byelaw?

Byelaws are local laws that have been put in place to keep our residents, visitors and amazing coastline safe. There are a variety of Byelaws along the Thanet coast. Breaking these can result in you **facing prosecution**.

Horses on beaches



From 1 May to 30 September horses are not allowed on any beaches between 9am and 7pm. Outside of these dates, they are allowed at any time.

Dogs on beaches



From 1 May to 30 September restrictions are in place. Check the bay information points for more details. Outside of these dates, dogs are allowed at any time.

Launching jet skis and watercraft



To launch any watercraft along our coast you must be a member of the Water User Group, or of another club recognised by the council, and use designated launch sites.

Preaching, lectures, music and entertainment



The use of the promenades or beaches to preach, lecture, perform music or entertainment is not allowed, unless permission is given by the council.

Booths and tents



Overnight camping is not allowed on any of our promenades or beaches.

Cycling on the promenade



Whilst cycling is allowed on the promenade, seasonal restrictions are in place from 1 May to 30 September. Please make sure you follow the instructions on the signs.

Vehicles on the promenade and beaches



Vehicles are not allowed to drive or park on the promenades or beaches, unless permission is given by the council.

Bonfires and barbecues



Bonfires are not allowed on any of our beaches or promenades. Barbecues are allowed on beaches after 6pm (apart from Joss Bay, where they are allowed but **must** be at the furthest sides of the beach only).

Ball games



Ball games are allowed in most areas along our promenades and beaches. However, where there are signs that say they're not please respect this.

Further important details on the rules can be found at **thanet.gov.uk/beaches**



25







White Cliffs Walking Festival

The White Cliffs Walking Festival will take place from 25-30 August 2022. The festival aims to showcase the scenic delights, history and natural history of our area through a variety of walks suitable for all ages and abilities.

Each day there will be a choice of walks of varying lengths, ranging from easy short walks to more demanding longer walks. Experienced volunteers will welcome and guide participants and be available to share more information about the year-round walking programme. For most walks the maximum number is 40 but there are several walks where there is a lower limit. Walkers are requested to book in advance via the website.

The schedule includes walks in a variety of locations across East Kent including Margate, Deal, Dover, Folkestone, Canterbury and Ramsgate. A full list of walks and booking details are available at

www.white cliffs walking festival.org.uk

Most walks will be free of charge but donations are welcome!



New Groups at Westgate Town Council

The Town Council is pleased to welcome a number of new groups who are using our office space for their meetings:

- Sewing Bees meet every Wednesday from 10am to 12noon and are a friendly group with a common interest in needlework, dressmaking and sewing.
- Spanish Group meets on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday with different classes for beginners and intermediate speakers.
- Hearing Voices Thanet Network Group meet every Thursday evening from 5.30pm to 8pm.
- Deaf Friends Book Group are meeting once a month on a Saturday morning from 11.30am to 12.30pm.

We are delighted to welcome all the groups to the Town Council space, it is wonderful to open our doors to the community.

Previously the groups met at The Lodge on Westgate Bay Avenue where there have been recent changes to staffing and therefore room availability.



We are very sad to say goodbye to Steve Migan who has done exceptional work at Changing Minds and has been a great supporter and friend to Westgate Town Council. We wish Steve all the very best with his new ventures and thank him for everything he has done for Westgate, consistently going over and above for residents.

Please mention us when responding to adverts





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27

Election Process - The Myth of the Democratic Process Explained

When a resignation is received from a Town Councillor this is shared with the Monitoring Officer at Thanet District Council who then advises if the resignation is formally accepted and of the process to follow.

The Democratic Services team at Thanet District Council then draft an official notice of vacancy for the Town Council to display on our noticeboards and on our website. The notice is used to inform the electorate that there is a vacancy and they have 14 days to write to request a By-election to TDC - if this is the case the process is then handled by TDC. If a By-election is not requested then the Town Council can follow a Co-option process which will be widely advertised to seek interest from the community for potential candidates.

If you are not aware there will be a Co-Option for Westgate on Sea Town Council to potentially fill one vacancy for a Town Councillor in the coming weeks but there is also an Election due in 2023 when all of the Town Council ten seats will be up for re-election. The Co-option process involves an advertisement inviting interested people in the community to come forward and provide a personal statement.



There are various ways you can get involved for 2023, you may know of a friend, colleague or neighbour whom you think has something to offer as a potential Town Councillor; you can speak to them as a potential candidate for election in 2023 if they are interested. If you are interested in the community and have particular skills. expertise and passion you may consider standing yourself for election in 2023; the Town is a great place to live and work and you could be contributing to the firm foundations that are evident in the Community. The personal rewards for a positive contribution to the Community are immense and to be part of a team with a common goal is inspirational.



The following required criteria must be met to be a Councillor:-

- Any person aged 18 or over who is a local government elector, lives or works in the Town/Parish or lives within three miles of the area of the Town Council may stand for election.
- · A British citizen. or a citizen of the Commonwealth, or the European Union

You cannot stand for election if you:-

- · Are the subject of a bankruptcy restriction order or interim order.
- Have within five years before the day of the election, been convicted in the United Kingdom or any offence and have had a prison sentence (whether suspended or not) for a period of over 3 months without the option of a fine.
- · Work for the Council you want to become a Councillor for.

The full range of disqualifications for candidates is quite complex and some exceptions may apply. You should refer to the website for the Electoral Commission for full details. www. electoralcommission.org.uk

A quote from one of our local residents:-

"Democracy works best with active participation: If we do not take part, we get what those that do take part want".

Do I need to be a Member of a Political Party?

No, you do not have to be, most Local Councils are not political, and most Councillors sit as independent Members of the Council.

These are a couple of quotes from current sitting Town Councillors around the UK:-

What three key attributes would you say are most important for a Councillor to possess?

Commitment "not worth doing if you don't get involved":

Analytical thinking "need to think things through before making decisions";

Thick skinned "don't take things personally, be patient and exercise self-restraint in conversation."

If you had to describe your role as a Councillor using three verbs, what would they be and why?

Challenge

"because nothing is ever easy to resolve when dealing with the public purse and not every decision is met with universal agreement "

Satisfy

"....a project you have initiated comes to fruition it is immensely satisfying"

Understand

"...whether it is colleagues. local residents or Council staff you always have to be able to listen and understand their problem or viewpoint and empathise ... "





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View from the Chair - Cllr Joanna Cornford

Welcome to the latest issue of the Town Council Magazine, Issue 15. I would like to open by expressing sincere thanks to all those who have contributed to the success of Westgate-on-Sea Town Council: to the volunteers who give their time; to those councillors who work positively for the betterment of the town; and to the officers who always smile and carry on despite the frequently frustrating obstacles and difficulties they encounter.

Being in the first tier of local government, the Town Council, its officers and members are in the front line concerning local issues. Despite legislative restraints, we always act in the best interests of the town and its residents. An example of this is the production of the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP); much maligned but a vital tool to protect Westgateon-Sea against poorly-designed housing development. The NDP was recently updated to reflect comments submitted by those who took part in the consultation exercise (under 400 in a town of 7,000) and will be back out in the community for your vote by referendum within the next few months.

Recently central government have begun the roll out of new 5G technology – the fifth generation of the technology used by cell phones and broadband. In April 2021, planning requirements were changed and permitted development rights have been legislated for small scale mobile-phone masts. In siting these masts, no information has been provided for communities despite the conflicting health and safety reports between Government and independent scientists. The Town Council has been in constant contact with the agents acting for the telecoms company and both TDC and KCC over the siting of the mast in the grounds of St Saviour's Church of England Junior School which is shared with Westgate Cricket Club. Through discussion with KCC, the Town Council achieved improvements to the design of the mast and the layout, removing concerns over disruption to any school activities or cricket matches - not much you might say, but with strict legislation in the form of permitted development, this is an achievement. For a change of location, we need a collective voice - not a handful of individuals but hundreds of parents, grandparents, extended family members. friends and associates.



If legislation prevents local authorities from making changes the only recourse is for communities to object.

As a local authority we have a voice within the framework of overall governance of communities. There are limits to our authority and the authority of district and county councils. which is why the public voice is so important in making a difference. Communicating and sharing has positive outcomes and a fine example occurred last June when information came in from residents regarding a mobile home which had been placed on the cliff top near the Westgate Pavilion. Thanet District Council requested the owner of the mobile home to move the unit. This was interpreted by the owner as moving it to the other side of the safety barrier and placing it on the edge of the cliff top above the promenade. As a direct result of residents' input and the prompt action of the Town Clerk, the relocation was halted and costly disruption to the use of the cliff top area and below averted.

This same public voice needs the courage to speak up for the protection of prime agricultural land and for the safety of our children in our schools. Within the Town Council there are good people contributing and benefitting our town and community, but we cannot do it without the involvement of the residents. With our hands tied by legislation, public voice is essential if we are to achieve a better deal for ourselves – whatever



that might be: protection of food supplies, better consideration when siting mobilephone masts and achieving the best from all proposed changes. KCC's last Active Travel proposal was overturned by local comment, which demonstrates that involvement by local people can be effective.

The Town Council is against the loss of prime agricultural land and we are against the inappropriate siting of mobile-phone masts. We are also against Government funding being wasted on inappropriate plans for highway changes, but we need the community to have the courage to use their voice.

Without residents' support, democracy will be whittled away and we will lose the say we still have. We can still speak up and, on behalf of those who come after us, we should speak up for the best outcomes for our lovely town.

Notice of Co-Option of One Town Councillor

DO SOMETHING POSITIVE FOR YOUR COMMUNITY!

You do not have to be interested in politics or be a member of a political group to become a Town Councillor.

As a Town Councillor, you become a voice for your community and if you think you have what it takes to contribute to the growing success of Westgate on Sea Town Council then we want to hear from you. There are currently two vacancies, one vacancy to be co-opted and the Town Council is keen to find out about your skills and experience that could help expand the existing expertise of its membership.

If you are interested in serving as a Town Councillor and have passion and time, please send a written expression of interest to the Town Clerk along with a short personal statement/CV giving reasons why you are interested in joining the Town Council and what particular skillset and experience you feel you can bring to the role.

You will need to check that you meet the qualification for standing and are not at risk of disqualification – this website explains more from the Electoral Commission www.electoralcommission.org.uk

The closing date for the written submission of interest is Friday 26th August 2022 at 4pm.

Town councillors will consider submissions at a meeting date to be confirmed.

You can contact Gill Gray, Town Clerk by Email: townclerk@westgateonsea.gov.uk. Address: 78 St Mildreds Road, Westgate on Sea CT8 8RF Telephone: 01843 836182; if you want to visit the office to discuss you are welcome.

More details can be found on the Town Council Website - www.westgateonsea.gov.uk or speak to one of our current Town councillors about the role.

The Rotary Club of Westgate & Birchington

Following on from our donation of £2500 to the Viking Chemotherapy Unit at the QEQM hospital in Thanet, the Rotary Club of Westgate & Birchington has now donated £2500 to a wonderful charity, "Hope For Tomorrow", which provides mobile cancer care in East Kent.

President Chris presented a symbolic cheque to the Chief Executive of the charity, Tina Seymour and Fundraising Manager, Kara Frampton.

The mobile chemotherapy unit, called "Caron" in memory of Caron Keating has been completely refurbished at considerable expense and will be providing vital cancer care to people who cannot easily get to hospitals in East Kent.

The newly refurbished vehicle was launched by Gloria Hunniford at the County Cricket Ground in Canterbury in front of a large audience of Rotarians, cancer care workers, local dignitaries and organisers from "Hope For Tomorrow". Gloria explained how she supported the charity in memory of her daughter and thanked all the generous people and groups who make it possible for "Hope For Tomorrow" to continue with their wonderful work.

The Rotary Club would like to thank the generosity of the people of Westgate & Birchington who supported our Christmas Collections, sponsored walk and race night.

Pictured from top: Gloria Hunniford & President Chris; Cheque presentation to Hope for Tomorrow; Caron Mobile Cancer Care Unit and intertior







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TO BOOK OR FOR MORE INFORMATION Call 01843 823007 / 01843 823700 Or visit www.connections4you.net

Please mention Westgate Town Council Magazine when responding to this ad

Community Safety Steering Group for Westgate

Westgate on Sea Town Council recently formed the Community Safety Steering Group and invited representatives from other local authorities to join them with residents to investigate and identify areas in the town that present concern for the safety of the community.

The first meeting took place on Monday 25th July 2022 at the Town Council offices and included residents, officers from Thanet District Council, Town Councillors, a representative from the Westgate Business Forum and a representative from Thanet Safe Limited.

There were a variety of items on the first agenda and these included:

- The Community Shield Scheme in Thanet that is facilitated by the Community Safety Team at Thanet District Council. The purpose of the Scheme is to create safe places throughout Thanet. There are visits undertaken by Thanet District Council officers to encourage sign up from organisations and businesses. Another benefit of the Scheme is that residents can collect cards from an organisation displaying the Scheme logo; these cards enable a vulnerable person or child to provide their emergency contact details. There is also an app which will identify safe places near to your location. If you use this link it will provide you with further information - https://www.thanet. gov.uk/info-pages/community-shield/
- The CCTV provision across Thanet as a district and the process for gathering data to support any funding opportunities. The importance of reporting incidents cannot be stressed enough as all pieces of information can help build a picture
- The Community Safety Charter which is part of the Neighbourhood Watch network is an opportunity for individuals and organisations to make a commitment and take positive, concrete steps to contribute to making an area safer for everyone. If you would like further details please visit this link https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/charter
- Thanet Safe Limited are a local not for profit organisation who provide a radio shop link across Thanet and the Thanet Safe website. This is the link to their website https://www.thanetsafe.org.uk/



 My Community Voice Kent service which is a two-way engagement tool facilitated by Kent Police. The notifications can be tailored to individual requirements. You can sign up to receive alerts by following this link https://www.mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk/

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 14th September at 7pm at the Town Council office, 78 St Mildreds Road, Westgate on Sea, CT8 8RF



ourwatch.org.uk/charter #BETHECHANGE

Please mention us when responding to adverts

Since January this year we have welcomed three new Plot Holders to the allotments. The popularity of the allotments continues as on average the Town Council receives 2 requests per month from residents to be added onto the waiting list.

As of 1st August, there were 28 Westgate residents on the waiting list with a further 35 people on the list who live outside of Westgate. Please note priority is given to those who have a CT8 post code. If you are interested in having an allotment plot then please email **finance@westgateonsea**. **gov.uk** with your name, email address, postal address and contact telephone number.

New Allotment Path

A new allotment path has been installed connecting the main path with the site's toilet facilities. Thank you to Vic James, the WOSTC Maintenance/Grounds person and Peter Hasted, the WOSTC Tree and Biodiversity Warden for their hard work in getting this installed.

Allotment Working Group

The Allotment Working Group Is formed of Allotment Plot Holders, Westgate-on-Sea Town Council representatives and members of the Westgate-on-Sea Horticultural Allotments Association. The Group meet 3 times a year to discuss the Allotment services and ways in which the Town Council can improve the Lymington Road Site. The Working Group is next due to meet in November 2022.

Renewals 2022

Each year Plot Holders are required to renew their Tenancy and pay the annual fees for their allotments. This happens in September each year. It's usually the time Plot Holders either decide to relinquish their plot or downsize, making it a busy time of year for the office, welcoming new plot holders and organising existing tenancies.

Inspections

So far this year we have had one formal and two informal inspections. The Site is looking amazing and really shows the hard work Plot Holders are putting into their plots. The next Formal inspection is due to be held at the end of August 2022.



Tide Times: October 2022

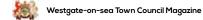
Margate Tide Times October 2022

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9	00:26	06:21	12:32	18:59	ා <u>ය</u> 07:08	0
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11	01:41	07:38	13:43	20:06	්ර 07:11	0
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12	02:13	08:16	14:18	20:37	-ద- 07:13	0
WED	H: 4.75m	L: 0.74m	H: 4.91m	L: 0.60m	👾 18:08	
13	02:42	08:53	14:54	21:06	-☆- 07:14	0
тно	H: 4.67m	L: 0.78m	H: 4.82m	L: 0.77m	-☆- 18:06	
14	03:11	09:27	15:29	21:34	-⇔ 07:16	0
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Please Note: Times are adjust for BST where appplicable.

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тно	L: 1.93m	H: 3.68m	L: 1.41m	H: 3.90m	⊯- 17:51	
21	03:55	09:57	16:21	22:33	-⇔ 07:28	۲
FRI	L: 1.69m	H: 3.94m	L: 1.15m	H: 4.17m	-≝ 17:49	
22	04:46	10:48	17:08	23:16	- 6- 07:30	
SAT	L: 1.42m	H: 4.20m	L: 0.91m	H: 4.39m	- 6- 17:47	
23	05:27	11:29	17:48	23:53	්ර 07:32	
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WED	H: 4.72m	L: 0.86m	H: 4.80m	L: 0.58m	රෝ 17:39	
27	01:36	07:52	13:51	20:06	·스· 07:38	
THU	H: 4.75m	1: 0.80m	H: 4.86m	L: 0.60m	날· 17:37	
28	02:12	08:30	14:30	20:42	-25- 07:40	
FRI	H: 4.73m	L: 0.78m	H: 4.85m	L: 0.69m	⊯ 17:35	
29	02:49	09:09	15:13	21:21	-6- 07:42	
SAT	H: 4.64m	L: 0.80m	H: 4.76m	L: 0.84m		
30 _{SUN}	02:30 H: 4.50m	08:53 L: 0.86m	15:02 H: 4.61m	21:06 L: 1.06m		0
31 MON	03:18 H: 4,31m	09:44 L: 0.97m	15:59 H: 4.40m	22:02 L: 1.33m	-cc- 06:45	€

Please Note: Times are adjust for BST where appplicable



Westgate-on-Sea Councillor Contacts



Cllr Joanna Cornford Chairperson

Appointed Committee: Planning, Highways & Environment Committee; Finance & General Purposes Committee; Events, Tourism & Development Sub-Committee and Human **Resources Committee**

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Cllr Cathy Calcutt

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Cllr Timothy Green

None

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Cllr Tom King

Appointed Committee: None

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Cllr David Donaldson Vice Chairperson

Appointed Committee: Finance & General Purposes Committee: Events. Tourism & Developments Sub-Committee: Planning, Highways & Environment Committee and Human Resources committee

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Cllr Matthew Scott

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Cllr David Wallin

and Finance and General **Purposes Committee**

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Appointed Committee:

Contact: 07914 412965

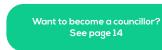


Cllr Glyn Parry Appointed Committee: Planning, Highways &

Environment Committee and Community Safety Steering

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Email: gparry@westgateonsea.gov.uk



District & County Councillors

Cllr Sam Bambridge

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CIIr Bertie Braidwood

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Cllr Matthew Scott

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CIIr Derek Crow-Brown

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Cllr Linda Wright

County Councillor for Westgate-on-Sea which forms part of Division Contact: 03000 411009 Email: linda.wright@kent.gov.uk



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Appointed Committee: Planning, Highways and **Environment Committee**

Contact: 07502 924240

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 back 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

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

Wesqate Town Council: 01843 836 182

Town Council Offices: 78 St Mildreds Road, Westgate on Sea, Kent, CT8 8RF

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)

www.thanet.gov.uk 01843 577000 Cecil Street, Margate, Kent, CT9 1HX

Kent County Council (Services include Education, Roads & Travel, Births & Deaths, Business, Libraries and Social Care and Health)

www.kent.gov.uk 03000 41 41 41 County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ

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