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# Dr Dawn Crouch (1930 – 2020)

When the Town Council members met for the inaugural meeting on 5th May 2015, Dr Dawn Crouch attended and, in April the following year, she was the official speaker at the first Annual Town Meeting. Later that year, councillors voted to exercise their legal power (Local Government Act 1972, s. 249) to admit Dawn to be an Honorary Freeman of the town, in recognition of her huge contribution to Westgate over many decades. On 25th June 2016 Dr Dawn Crouch became the first Honorary Freeman of Westgate-on-Sea.

**Gill Gray** (Town Clerk) writes: 'Dr Dawn Crouch was a fount of knowledge and would regularly assist with enquiries from relatives of those who used to reside in Westgate-on-Sea in years gone by. I am proud of have assisted Dr Dawn Crouch and helped to facilitate the War Memorial at the Recreation Ground on Lymington Road and the installation of three Memorial benches, one on Sea Road and two at St Mildred's Bay. It was always interesting to visit Dr Crouch and I would never tire of listening to her anecdotes about the people of Westgate-on-Sea, she will be sadly missed by the community.'

**Cllr Roy Nightingale** writes: 'I thought it would be nice to include how much Dr Dawn Crouch has meant to us (my wife Kaye is a member of the Heritage Centre Committee) and we feel that she has really helped to increase our love of Westgate. Probably our lasting memory will be how a group of us on the 4th September when we were able to sing a happy 90th birthday to her and she was able to come out on to her balcony and hear the good wishes.'

**Cllr Pauline O'Connor** writes: 'I didn't know Dr Dawn Crouch on a personal level but I contacted her via email (due to COVID) regarding asking her on the history of our local allotments. She responded at once, saying she would love to write a piece for our Westgate-on-sea community newsletter. About a week later, she replied not only apologising for taking so long but with a really detailed piece for our summer/autumn issue. I found out later, that she had done this while she was very ill, but being the type of person she was, she still wanted to do this for us. What a polite, lovely lady. I am just so sorry I will not get the opportunity to meet with her and continue to get to know her.'

**Cllr Helen Page** writes: 'I have been a member of the Heritage Centre for some time and have been present at many presentations given by Dawn. Her detailed knowledge of Westgate's history was incredible. She loved to share it all and it gave her a 'buzz' especially if she knew you were interested, too. Talking to her one-to-one about it was amazing. When I was working on my ideas for Westgate Day and was trying to decide on an appropriate date for it, I asked Dawn if I could meet and discuss it with her. She invited me to her home and she picked a couple of events in Westgate's history to focus on which helped us decide on 18th July as the date for Westgate Day. She was a tiny lady but she had a huge mind. I personally feel that her legacy to the town and to the local people, in different ways, is immense. And she herself will hold a special place in the town's history and she will be remembered with respect and affection.'

**Cllr Martyn Pennington** writes: 'I failed my history exams at school, and ever since, I have been fascinated by it!



So, when I came to Westgate, it was a joy to discover the work of the Heritage Centre and in particular to get to know Dawn. She was a charming lady, so friendly and unassuming, yet indomitable in her commitment to the heritage we enjoy in Westgate; people say we should not live in the past, but in Westgate the past is so much part of our present and our future. Over the last few years, it has been my honour to represent the Council alongside her, not only at several events to commemorate the two World Wars which decimated the youth of Westgate, but also to award her the freemanship of the town. She has given what so many people long for – lasting, valuable and distinctive legacy for future generations. So many ask if their lives have made a difference – Dawn's certainly has and can continue to do so. It's up to us to build on what she has done and maintain Westgate's heritage in for instance the 150th anniversary of the opening of the railway station.'

**Cllr Dr Hannah Scott** writes: 'I was always delighted to speak to Dr Dawn Crouch and hear her stories of Westgate. The one that has always stuck in my mind is of the deer which belonged to Domneva, mother of St Mildred, that marked the southern lands of Thanet by running around the perimeter in one day. There are so many symbols of the deer that can be found in our towns, nodding to that wonderful story. Wouldn't it have been amazing to have lived at a times when a deer could run free around the Isle of Thanet? I can just imagine the open rugged countryside and woodlands, teeming with wildlife instead of cars and trains. That was Dawn's gift, to be able to bring the past to life in our minds eye, as if we were almost there in person. You will truly be missed, Dawn. Until we meet again.'

**Cllr Matthew Scott** (also a TDC Ward Councillor for Westgate-on-Sea) writes: 'Dr Dawn Crouch had extensive historical knowledge of our beautiful town and this was often provided to residents courtesy of her interesting talks held at Westgate-on-Sea's Heritage Centre. Whilst my personal encounters with Dr Dawn Crouch may have been few and far between, they were however often very memorable and insightful. In my opinion she clearly showed her commitment and passion to Westgate-on-Sea whilst being actively adaptive to the modern age – she was a truly remarkable woman and an absolute loss to our town.'

**Cllr David Wallin** writes: 'One very 'strange' fact about Dr Dawn Crouch is that this rather quiet, restrained and peaceful lady was also a former rally driver.' Unfortunately, I cannot, at the moment, find any 'proof' of it or any details about races she was in, but I do remember talking with Dawn on more than one occasion when she told me about being behind the wheel at races in the 1950's.'

Dawn loved Westgate-on-Sea and was truly a remarkable woman now sadly missed by many in our town.




The Town Council welcomes our Volunteer Tree/Biodiversity Warden, Peter Hasted who will be working with the Town Council to promote biodiversity and the protection of trees in our Town.

He will be supporting the Town Council in ensuring the conservation and maintenance of trees and shrubs on public land in the town of Westgate-on-Sea.

If you would like to be involved and assist Peter please do not hesitate to contact us, initially email [admin@westgateonsea.gov.uk](mailto:admin@westgateonsea.gov.uk) for further details.



## The Tree Warden Scheme Background

The Tree Council launched the Tree Warden Scheme in 1990 to harness the power of local volunteers for the good of their communities' trees. It has co-ordinated it nationally ever since, working with local authorities, voluntary organisations, local councils and local partnerships to set up and develop Tree Warden networks in town, city and countryside across the UK.

Since 1997, The Tree Council's Tree Warden Scheme has been supported by National Grid. In 2005, the Government began backing the scheme, through its 'Cleaner, Safer, Greener' initiative, to help extend Tree Wardening further into urban areas.

Peter is best known for his sterling work to establish the Sunken Gardens in Westbrook; he has received the following accolades and acknowledgements for this project:- Bees Needs Champion, also recognition from both Royal Horticultural Society and Kent Wildlife Trust for the project.



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## New Defibrillator for Community Centre on Lymington Road

Westgate on Sea is already fortunate to have two community defibrillators, one based at Edwards on Station Road and the second at the Swan Pub on Sea Road.

Thanet Community First Responders have promised a new community defibrillator for the Community Centre on Lymington Road if the Town can provide the specialist, outdoor, heated cabinet required to house it.

Organised by Lorraine Hambidge, the Westgate on Sea Community Spirit Craft Group have stepped in to help raise the £600 required for the specialist defibrillator cabinet. Lorraine hand made and sold Christmas themed face masks which raised over a £100 in December.

There is also a raffle, with winners being drawn at the end of January 2021. Prizes include Carlton Cinemas Tickets, Wine, soft toys, gift sets, a rug and more. Raffle tickets are £1 for a strip and are available from the Town Council

Offices and the Krusty Kobb Bakery. For more information, please contact Lorraine at [pottybird@ismyemail.co.uk](mailto:pottybird@ismyemail.co.uk).

Thanet Community First Responders 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.thanetcfrs.co.uk](http://www.thanetcfrs.co.uk)



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**Westgate in Bloom has progressed this year and during the uncertain times it is appropriate to reflect on:-**

Lymington Green – the Town Council and volunteers have planted sapling trees on Lymington Green near the Community Centre; the majority have been adopted and are being cared for satisfactorily – the picnic tables and benches have been installed on the Green recently as well. We have a new tree recently planted (pictured). Thank you to TDC for your support.

Westgate-on-Sea Train Station – the planting at the train station has now been mostly completed, I would like to thank Bex from Bumble Bee Conservation Trust who has provided the sponsorship in the form of plants, her expertise and time to help with the weeding this year. Bex has also supplied tools for our two new volunteers who are now tending the beds on Platform 1, thank you Angie and Clare. I also want to thank Peter who attended the train station to water and weed the beds regularly this year.

Cambourne Avenue Planters – I want to thank Lorraine and Richard for the support with replanting these, I hope they continue to provide interest and colour during the winter months for everyone.

Station Road/St Mildreds Rd Planters – The planters on Station Road and St Mildreds Road have been tended by Cllr Joanna Cornford (thanks for your hard work) and I wanted to invite others to support this part of the project, if you can spare any time next year please do get in touch.

Sea Road – huge thanks to the volunteers Ray, Christina, James, Phil and Mike who kept the beds watered this summer, also Kevin from TDC. Work has been completed on planting the beds in Sea Road, including crocus bulbs (thank you to Chris from Rotary Club for donating them for your End Polio Now campaign) thanks to all those who volunteered, and I hope that you get an opportunity to visit if you have not already done so.

Sea Road Memorial Garden – Thank you again to Lorraine and Richard for the addition of the Paint the Town Poppy Red initiative for this month it just makes a fantastic spectacle for the community. Of course, our new flagpole was a fantastic addition this year, thanks to Ray for doing the honours on Sunday.



Allotment Gardens – the new shed on the Community Plot is now completed and I am so grateful that some of our smaller saplings are being nursed on the plot ready for planting out next year. Thank you to Joy, Tony and Cllr O'Connor for your support with this.

I hope that this provides a brief overview of the progress but if you have any specific queries or feedback please do not hesitate to contact me. We look forward to working with you all in 2021 to get the Town improved for the community and Westgate in Bloom bigger and better.

If you know of anyone else who is interested in the project please share this article; everyone is welcome.

We have received some recognition for our efforts this year from the Royal Horticultural Society and South & South East in Bloom. You can find the certificates on page 17.

Keep well and stay safe.





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We have continued to update the Westgate-on-Sea Town Council website (<https://www.westgateonsea.gov.uk/>) with minutes, agendas, events, news items and more.

However, there will now be a change in the format we upload documentation and making our website more accessible to everyone following these guidelines

<https://accessibility.campaign.gov.uk/>

Moving forward, where possible, our file types will be PDF/A. We have also started to convert old, archived files to PDF/A.

PDF/A is a special type of PDF that was designed for long-term digital archiving and the long-term preservation of electronic documents.

Instead of endless filing shelves and ring binders for paper documents, the modern digital world asks for a method that ensures the easy retrieving and displaying of documents over an extended period.



### Kent County Council reporting tool

We have now added KCC's reporting tool to our website as this enables you to directly report issues.

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem>

You can report non-urgent issues online including:

- Streetlight faults
- Potholes
- Drainage
- Traffic signal faults
- Overgrown vegetation (including hedges and grass).

Once KCC assess your enquiry, they will take the appropriate action. KCC aims to fix:

- Dangerous faults within 2 hours
- Safety hazards within 7 days
- Routine faults such as streetlights, potholes and soft landscape issues within 28 days, unless there is a more serious problem which could take longer
- Traffic signals within 4 hours if they are urgent or within 7 days if less urgent
- Drainage issues within 28 days after an investigation, where they will update you on the planned action
- All other faults will be scheduled into their planned maintenance.

Do not use the online form if the problem may cause an accident.

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Kent County Council have successfully secured funding from the government's Active Travel Fund to enable us to improve walking and cycling facilities in five areas across Kent. These seek to improve the health, wellbeing and safety of local people, as well as support the local economy. Funding has been secured to develop the following schemes:

- **Canterbury:** Littlebourne Road to the City Centre
- **Folkestone:** Central Railway Station to Cheriton
- **Thanet:** Birchington to Margate Sands
- **Folkestone:** Hythe to Dymchurch
- **Gravesham:** Gravesend to Northfleet

We want to understand and incorporate views of local communities and the travelling public about our ideas and how you feel about walking and cycling improvements. Your feedback will be vital in helping to shape how the schemes are progressed.

You can find out more and tell us your views at [www.kent.gov.uk/kentactivetravel](http://www.kent.gov.uk/kentactivetravel) or contact us at [traffic.schemes@kent.gov.uk](mailto:traffic.schemes@kent.gov.uk) if you have any queries.

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Welcome to the seventh issue of our Magazine, bigger and better than the four-page A4 newsletter started in 2017, and we hope you enjoy its contents.

The year 2020 was unprecedented, one we all want to forget, but need to record. By the time you receive this Magazine, we will have experienced a Christmas under Tier 4 restrictions and, hopefully, will now be looking towards a happier 2021 – Brexit permitting!

The Covid-19 virus and resulting pandemic has affected us nationally and globally, our social structure has been dented. However, humans are resilient and huge leaps of change have been made to continue to communicate with and provide for each other, and your Town Council (TC) has continued to support the residents.

In 2020, during pre-lockdown, lockdown then post-lockdown and back into lockdown, your TC has been busier than ever.

Pre-lockdown, we held the Pancake Races with the usual fun, laughter and fierce competition!

However, on 23rd March we were put into lockdown by the pandemic and the TC office became the hub of co-ordinated action, led by the Town Clerk and supported by a core of hard-working and generous volunteers who went above and beyond the call of duty to serve their community. The councillors and officers adapted quickly to 'virtual' meetings using the video-application Zoom. This has been a positive experience providing convenience, zero impact on the environment and a useful tool to conduct our business. In addition, a telephone hotline was set up, assisted by councillors, to support the residents.

Post-lockdown, we enjoyed the Scarecrow Trail which brought the whole community together. Lorraine Hambidge kindly supplied the carefully engraved glass trophies.

Throughout 2020, the governance of the TC continued and councillors responded to consultations notably the KCC pedestrian-crossing design at Ursuline College, the Planning White Paper and we are currently responding to the six-month review of the Local Plan. The Town Clerk is effectively overseeing the Community Asset Transfers from TDC of the



Lymington Road War Memorial Recreation Ground and the Shelters at West Bay and St Mildred's Bay. The external audit of the TC's accounts for 2019/20 was completed on 28th August. Most recently in December, we engaged Peter Hasted as our volunteer Tree & Biodiversity Warden.

The biggest challenge we faced was KCC's one-way traffic scheme in Station Road. Designed in a hurry, it took traffic away from our busy shopping area, which throughout lockdown had supported and supplied residents with life's essentials. KCC Councillor Emma Dawson gave her full support against the scheme, assisted by the initiatives of Abbie Evans (owner of Prentis) and businessman Reg Bell. At the decisive KCC senior leadership meeting, County Councillors Emma Dawson and Liz Hurst and myself, persuaded KCC to 'pull' the scheme. Never think that our collective voices are not heard.

One of the positives of the pandemic has been the renewed focus on our natural environment. The TC, already engaged with Westgate in Bloom (WIB), has made good progress in three key areas: Westgate's railway station, Lymington Road Green and the gardens along Sea Road at St Mildred's Bay. The tree-planting day at Lymington Road Green, has resulted in some residents adopting trees, and at the railway station the Bumble Bee Conservation Trust have donated plants and there are now two dedicated station volunteers working at transforming one of the entrances to our town, a popular tourist destination.



In addition to the plantings, seating has been added at the Sea Road gardens, provided by the Heritage Centre in memory of the VAD hospitals during the Great War and funded through our local Co-op. At Lymington Road Green, two picnic benches – both suitable for wheelchair-users – have been installed. The original 30-year-old bench, in memory of Jerry and Robbie Mills, has been replaced and a re-dedication ceremony was conducted by the TC's Chaplain, Revd Susan Wing.

Communication is a key to progress and throughout 2020 we have created stronger links between ourselves and other local authorities and the private sector. Regular contact with TDC has been essential since the first lockdown, and we are starting joint projects with our neighbours at Birchington. Councillors embarked on a full training agenda provided by the Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC). Incidentally, both KALC and the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) lobby the Government on behalf of parish and town councils, the most recent example being the Planning White Paper. Training is an important part of keeping abreast of new legislation and achieving better results, understanding what is possible and what has worked elsewhere. Some councillors attended a Mental Health Awareness course run by Changing Minds Kent CIC at The Grenville Lodge. This involvement with the private sector has been taken to another level by working with Mother Karen (from St Saviour's Church) and Sharon Goodyear (the inspiration for The Kitchen) bringing 'Our Kitchen' to The Grenville Lodge. It is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10.30am to 3.30pm providing nutritious ingredients and offering advice on creative cookery.

A newer venture into better communication is the initiation of a Business Forum. More detail on this is contained elsewhere in the Magazine.

Volunteering is an essential part of the success of projects initiated by councillors based on the needs of the community. Speedwatch is supported by a tiny core of volunteers raising awareness of the dangers of speeding in built-up areas. Vehicles share the roads with cyclists, runners and walkers and it is too easy to forget the vulnerability of others when insulated inside a vehicle. The most successful parish and town councils are reliant on their residents to support the needs of their communities.

Dr Dawn Crouch, the first Honorary Freeman of Westgate-on-Sea, celebrated her 90th birthday only a few weeks before she sadly passed away on 7th November at St Michael's Nursing Home in Elm Grove after a short illness. Elsewhere in the Magazine are a number of tributes to Dawn from councillors.

The final civic event of the year was Remembrance Sunday, officially cancelled at the last minute but beautifully recalled by Richard & Lorraine Hambidge who, with volunteers, 'painted the town red' with poppies (made by residents) in Station Road, St Mildred's Road and the Library. At the War Memorial Garden, Richard's 'ghost' soldiers and silhouettes were most effective. Volunteer Ray Taylor raised and lowered our new Union Flag on the recently installed flag-pole. There is a video of the short commemoration service on the TC's website.

On behalf of the Council, I take this opportunity to wish everyone well in 2021.

Cllr Joanna Cornford

Chairman, Westgate-on-Sea Town Council



## 2020 has been a challenging year and busy one at the Allotments.

With a long lockdown in Spring and favourable weather, existing Plot Holders were able to really enjoy and make the most of their plots. It was a great opportunity to get some exercise, fresh air and have some socially distanced conversations with other gardeners. A real blessing in what has been a difficult year, not forgetting the main benefit, the bumper crops of fruit and vegetables.

## Waiting List

The Lockdown also saw a steep rise in those interested in becoming an Allotment Plot Holder. The Town Council have had over 30 local residents place themselves on the waiting list since March this year. If you are interested in having an allotment plot then please email [finance@westgateonsea.gov.uk](mailto: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.

## Tenancy Renewals and new Plot Holders

It was a busy time for the Town Council in September this year with the Allotment Renewals. We saw a large number of plots become available so are happy to welcome 9 new Plot Holders to the Lymington Road Allotments Gardens.

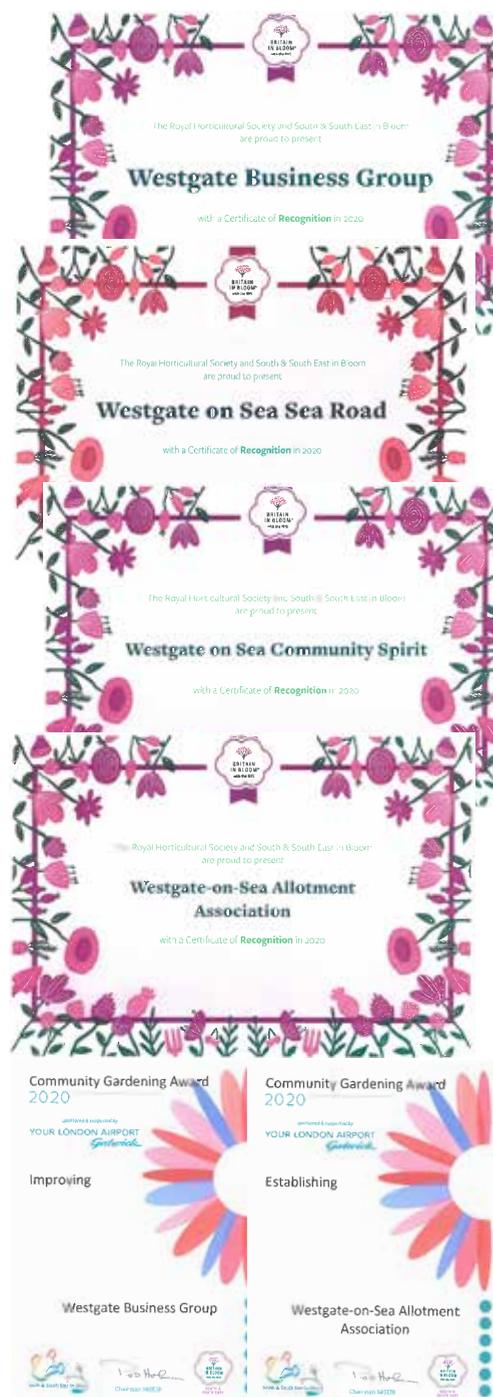
## Site Representatives

In November the Site Representative Election took place. Jose Gibbs and Mara Longley were successfully re-elected.

Jose and Mara have been the Site Representatives coming up to two years and look forward to continuing their hard work supporting other Plot Holders.

## Westgate in Bloom

The Royal Horticultural Society and South & South East in Bloom presented a Certificate to the Westgate on Sea Allotment Association in recognition of the Community Plot and its hard work in looking after the trees and shrubs which were planted on the green next to the Community Centre and at the Train Station in town as part of the Westgate in Bloom initiative.



Whilst it is fair to say that 2020 has been a challenging year for everyone, there have also been a lot of positive experiences and memories made this year at the Lodge in Westgate-on-Sea. This has been our first year of opening our doors to the public and what better time to have a global pandemic! Just as we had began rolling out our over 50's coffee morning, we found ourselves plunged into the first lockdown back in March and had to adapt our services to meet the needs of the community in Thanet.

As a mental health CIC, our focus is to provide support and social inclusion opportunities for everybody. This was made particularly difficult this year with social distancing, lockdowns and closure of local amenities and other services but we adapted and grew. We launched our "Lifeboat project" for the first lockdown, offering deliveries of food and toiletries to vulnerable families and individuals in isolation, this project has run in the background since then and is always on hand to provide help for those in need, with the current struggles around employment, finances and housing affecting so many people.

Alongside the lifeboat project, during the few months we have been allowed to open our doors at the Lodge, we have been so honoured to have hosted a number of local groups and organisations. These have included Fixology, a wonderful local group who take in broken or damaged furniture and fix it up to be donated to people in need. Sign and sing which has provided folk with the chance to learn a valuable communication skill in a fun and engaging way. Mindfulness and Yoga classes which have been an absolute godsend during these trying times. An incredibly useful drop-in advice session run by Ageless Thanet and A ridiculously successful Macmillan coffee morning which was organised by a few of our local legends! The list goes on and on... and with the hope of the vaccine on the horizon and a much-heralded return to normality, this could be just the tip of the iceberg for what we can offer and achieve as a community space in 2021.

In the meantime, we have been proud to support the wonderful food club's being offered by "Our Kitchen on the Isle of Thanet" who have set up a temporary base here with us at the lodge every Tuesday and Thursday between 10am and 3pm. The food club offers extremely affordable and healthy food supplies for anyone who would like to learn how to cook and eat better. I would highly recommend taking the time to go and see them! We have a number of other exciting projects that we will be launching in the new year and with any luck we will be able to reopen the doors at the lodge again for the people of Westgate-on-sea and beyond very, very soon!

You can find out more about the work we at Changing Minds Kent on our website [www.changingmindskent.co.uk](http://www.changingmindskent.co.uk) or find us on Facebook.



# Housing Development of 2000 Homes on Land South of Westgate & Garlinge

The proposal for this development as part of the Local Plan has been ongoing for the last five years.

Throughout that time, Westgate-on-Sea Town Council has been opposed to building homes on local Grade 1 and 2 agricultural land. We have always believed it preferable for brownfield sites to be used.

This Summer, the Local Plan was approved by Thanet District Council. Consequently, Westgate-on-Sea Town Council had to concede that the land would be used for housing against our will.

Last month (November 2020), a hybrid planning application was submitted to Thanet District Council by the planners, Gillings Planning. Westgate-on-Sea Town Council was advised on 13th November 2020 that the application had been validated.

The planning application and associated documents is on the Thanet District Council website. The reference number is : OL/TH/20/1400. To view it, go to the TDC website; go to Planning Applications and Search Applications; enter the reference number.

This planning application is in two parts : (a) the outline application for the whole of the development; (b) the detailed planning application for Phase 1 at Garlinge.

The plans are for the whole development to be phased :-

- Phase 1 Garlinge 120 Homes
- Phase 2 Westgate 293 Homes; Medical Centre; Care Home
- Phase 3 Westgate 364 Homes; Primary School; Mixed-use Centre (part)
- Phase 4 Westgate 429 Homes; Mixed-use Centre (part)
- Phase 5 Westgate 506 Homes
- Phase 6 Westgate 288 Homes
- TOTAL 2,000 Homes**

Any objections to the planning application were required by 8th December 2020 at Thanet District Council. Westgate-on-Sea Town Council submitted a formal objection and met the deadline.

To formulate our objection, we sought the assistance of Goldstone Town Planning to review this planning application and provide us with professional guidance and feedback.

The WoSTC objection is opposing the master plan for material planning concerns. In summary, these are :-

West of Minster Road, the application extends beyond the designated allocation in the agreed local plan. We oppose this extension.

The land south of the bridle path in the area West of Minster Road should be kept as open space.

The application has not considered the extensive bird population on the farmland, nor the functional land nor the wildlife fully.

The conservation and ecological assessments are out of date as they do not take into account changes in farming management which began early 2019. They also do not mention badgers which have been seen on the allocation.

The application plans no renewable energy installation and does not agree with the aspiration of policy CC04.

The master plan will not leave the environment in a better state for future generations due to lack of consideration for nature and the the impact on greenhouse gas production.

There is no clear travel plan. There is no clear plan for water supply and sewerage.

There is no clear modelling of the effect of the 2000 houses on surface water drainage and, therefore, there may be a risk of death from change in surface water flow (this refers to incidents of flooding that have happened in the past and resulted in the loss of life).

The effect on increased traffic on Minster Road and parking in roads such as Victoria Avenue and Belmont Road has not been fully considered. The affordable and social housing plan is not clear.

The detailed objection can be viewed on the Thanet District Council website. It is attached to the planning application OL/TH/20/1400. It is also on the Westgate Town Council website. A number of objections have been lodged against this Planning Application. These can also be viewed on the Thanet District Council website.

This is a formal process to be followed. We now await a review and response from Thanet District Council's Planning Department although, at this point, we do not have a specific date for this. We will continue monitoring this - and we know that you will, too.



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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](mailto:admin@hearbase.com) and book your free hearing test at Hearbase at Spencer Private Hospital Margate today!



## A forum for you?

**Shops and businesses play an important role in all our lives, and a lively local economy can help our town immensely.**

We get to know our shopkeepers, and they get to know us. They can provide employment for our youngsters (and the not-so-young). During recent months they have all made huge efforts to support the community, and we should do what we can to support them by giving them our custom.

Because we realise this important role, the Council has set up the Westgate on Sea Business Forum, with the aim of providing local businesses with support and information, creating a space where they can discuss and share views and problems, and where they can also give their input to the Council's thinking and planning.

The atmosphere is deliberately informal, and although the Town Council is a leading actor, it is not a formal Council grouping. Membership is open to any business with a CT8 registered address and is free, although support for community events such as the Christmas Market, the Pancake Race or Westgate Day will be welcomed.

Thanet is a deprived area even by national standards, with a youth unemployment level of 16.4%, but there are several opportunities coming up such as the Golf Open in Sandwich, and the developments at Manston and Parkway, which should give a boost to the East Kent economy.

The first meeting was planned for 24 March 2020 but obviously had to be cancelled! Since the summer however we have met on a monthly basis on Zoom, and have learnt from Academy FM Radio about their emphasis on local firms, from the local Chamber of Commerce about their efforts to support local enterprise, and from TDC's Business Support Officer about the help they can give during the current pandemic crisis. We talked about the one-way system imposed and then withdrawn by KCC, and about the effect Government measures are having on local businesses. We are making contact with similar groups in the area, starting with Birchington.

If you run a business in Westgate and would like to join the Forum, please get in touch with Councillor Martyn Pennington, Councillor David Donaldson or the Town Clerk.

## Census 2021

**Census 2021 will provide a snapshot of modern society**

Households across Westgate-on-Sea will soon be asked to take part in Census 2021.

The census is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives us the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941.

It will be the first run predominantly online, with households receiving a letter with a unique access code, allowing them to complete the questionnaire on their computers, phones or tablets.

"A successful census will ensure everyone from local government to charities can put services and funding in the places where they are most needed," Iain Bell, deputy national statistician at the Office for National Statistics, said.

"This could mean things like doctors' surgeries, schools and new transport routes. That's why it is so important everyone takes part and we have made it easier for people to do so online on any device, with help and paper questionnaires for those that need them."

Census day will be on March 21, but households across the country will receive letters with online codes allowing them to take part from early March.

The census will include questions about your sex, age, work, health, education, household size and ethnicity. And, for the first time, there will be a question asking people whether they have served in the armed forces, as well as voluntary questions for those aged 16 and over on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Results will be available within 12 months, although personal records will be locked away for 100 years, kept safe for future generations.

For more information, visit [census.gov.uk](https://www.census.gov.uk)

# census 2021

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## Remedial Works to Shelter on Sea Road

The Town Council is proud to have supported two fantastic volunteers Mike and Phil who have undertaken remedial works on the shelter next to West Bay café to make this an improved space and provide access for the whole community.

The Town Council has funded the materials needed for the project and provided the administrative expertise to gain the relevant permissions from TDC. The TDC Technical Services Team, particularly Luke have also been instrumental in facilitating the improvements to this area.

We would like to thank Mike and Phil who have volunteered their time, expertise and sheer hard work to get this project near completion. The works are now halted for the winter and will be completed in the spring of 2021.

The art-work project that Mike and Phil instigated underneath the shelter is another example of utilising the space we have around us to provide a focal point for creative ideas.

If you would like any further information please do not hesitate to contact the Town Clerk – on **01843 836182** or by email – [townclerk@westgateonsea.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@westgateonsea.gov.uk)



## Remembrance Sunday 2020

Unfortunately, the annual service held at the War Memorial on Sea Road had to be cancelled this year (Sunday 8th November) due to the rising number of Covid cases in Thanet and the increase in the UK Terrorism level.

Although the Town was not able to commemorate those who have fallen in conflict in its usual way, it did not stop Westgate on Sea marking the event. Lorraine and Richard Hambidge along with Fixology's Ray Taylor and other local volunteers ensured Westgate was 'Painted Poppy Red' by placing on display the beautiful crocheted and knitted poppies kindly made by residents last year. Also on display were the large wooden painted poppies and silhouette/sculpted soldiers.

On Remembrance Sunday some residents did attend the Memorial for a socially distanced 2 minutes silence whilst others did so in their homes or on their doorsteps. The Union Jack Flag was raised at 11.00am in honour of our war heroes on the newly erected flagpole. With our fingers crossed, we hope to be able to commemorate Remembrance Sunday 2021 with a formal service.

Thank you to all those who helped to put out and take down the poppy displays, to those who contributed to making the poppies, to Ray Taylor for kindly raising the flag on Remembrance Sunday and to Richard and Lorraine Hambidge for their hard work in ensuring Westgate honours its heroes.



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**Premier League Footballer Marcus Rashford has recently been campaigning directly to the Prime Minister about children going to bed hungry. Yes, children, and millions of them, going to bed hungry! Now, what are we doing about that?**

### “Our Kitchen” is Tackling Food Poverty.

Children and their families suffering the hardship of not having enough food must be the most distressing thing imaginable, and in a country as wealthy as ours, an absolute national disgrace. To help address this, a local organisation called “Our Kitchen”, has opened food shops with a difference. Targeting people who are finding it difficult to feed themselves and are described as the “Food Poor”. Our Kitchen, was conceived and now managed by an energetic and charismatic character; Sharon Goodyer. Sharon, a retired head teacher began when she recognised that large numbers of children were going hungry during the summer holidays, when school meals are no longer available. So, in 2018 Sharon launched Summer Kitchen by taking over Drapers Mill Primary in Margate and Dame Janet Primary School in Ramsgate during the summer holidays, to provide children and their families with hot, wholesome, nutritious meals. In addition, she was planning with help from David Donaldson of Westgate Town Council, to introduce Summer Kitchens into St Crispin’s Primary school and possibly Ursuline College in Westgate. However, these initiatives were not possible due to the Covid pandemic. Sharon, not being deterred, instead of summer kitchens in schools, set up food clubs. The first in Margate; 51, High Street (Next to the Kentucky Fried Chicken) and Ramsgate; St Georges’ Church Hall. Also, last month the Westgate “Our Kitchen Food Club”, was launched at The Lodge, 64 Westgate Bay Avenue, in partnership with Karen Gooding of St Saviours and Changing Minds. In the longer term, when Covid restrictions permit, Westgate Food Club will be permanently hosted by St Saviours Church. In the meantime, Westgate Food Club is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 am to 3 pm in the Lodge.

### The Ethos of Our Kitchen.

Our kitchen is all about allowing people to re-discover their dignity. Ridding the stigma and negative ideas about those who endure food



David Donaldson and Karen Gooding

poverty and hardship. However, handouts and charity are not what is needed. Sharon Goodyer said, “for four months we gave out free food, but that is never going to happen again, what we need to do is create a sustainable model. It is about giving people back their dignity that they have lost by being treated like second class citizens”. Our Kitchen provides wholesome nutritious food at truly affordable prices by buying and selling wholesale and identifying food sources that are rejected by mainstream super markets. Working with local farmers throughout Kent, to glean fruit and vegetables; cherries that Waitrose say are too big or a whole field of broccoli that is 48 hours too old, and normally just ploughed back in. The food clubs, are also educational.

The food club provides meal packs with ingredients and recipes designed by professional chefs. This encourages people to eat more healthily and be better informed. The clubs have a very welcoming, friendly and social atmosphere. In fact, many of the shoppers like it so much, that they volunteer their free time to help out. Our kitchen actively works with an incredible number of partners, so it is not just about food, it brings the local community together. In Westgate, the partnership is with Karen Gooding of St Saviours and David Donaldson of Westgate Town Council. Karen and her team at the church, are very ambitious and are planning to open a community garden, in the new year.

### The Food Poverty Epidemic.

The extent of this food poverty epidemic should not be understated. Even though we are so very lucky to live in one of the wealthiest Countries in the world, our levels of poverty are truly shocking. In the UK, 8.4 million people are experiencing food poverty of some kind, which is almost the entire population of London. These are some of the worst in Europe, particularly among children. In 2017, it was estimated that 19% of Children under the age of 15 live with an adult experiencing moderate or severe food insecurity. Thanet is one of the most deprived districts in the South East, if not the country. More than one fifth of people of working age are now receipt of Universal Credit. That is over 9,000 people are trying to live on Universal Credit or 23% of the working age population left to live in poverty and of course the economic impact of the Covid Pandemic is to amplify this, with the most vulnerable being hit the hardest. Not surprisingly, food poverty is creating its own health crisis. Poor diet and bad nutrition are directly linked to many serious illnesses: type II diabetes, heart disease and some cancers. So, living with food insecurity has a much larger impact on health and wellbeing than just immediate hunger, hardship and stress.

### Government Policy?

The Government is fully aware of the problem. As well as the footballer Marcus Rashford, tackling the Prime Minister head on. Sharon Goodyer’s endless enthusiasm and enterprise was also recently recognised by the Prime Minister, who presented her with a “Point of Light” award, given to outstanding volunteers for their inspirational service to local communities. The Child Action Poverty Group (CPAG), has a history that extends from the “re-discovering of poverty” in the 1960’s, relentlessly campaigning through the decades culminating in the passing of the Child Poverty Act in 2010. This legislation set targets to eradicate child poverty within 10 years, which meant by 2020. This was greeted with unanimous political support, at the time. There is little doubt, that there is a direct correlation between the roll out of Universal Credit and the increase in levels of poverty. Which is exacerbated by a five week wait before claimants receive financial help. Peter Kelly Director of the Poverty Alliance, said that “there is abundant evidence that the five-week wait

drives destitution and distress, pulling countless people into poverty and has trapped many more who were already struggling”. He went on to point out that, Amber Rudd, then Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, admitted that delays in paying Universal Credit could be responsible for rising food bank use. In January 2019 the Governments Environmental Audit Committee published its report that included “Hunger, Malnutrition and Food Insecurity in the UK”, its conclusions included that the Government has failed to respond to the hunger and food poverty allowing these issues to “fall between the cracks” and that a Minister for Hunger should be appointed.

If anything, positive is to come out of this Covid pandemic, it must be that we take time and really think deeply about the society that we live in, and endeavour to change it to a fairer and more equitable one: to abolish Poverty on Your Door Step.

### Our Kitchen in Westgate Opening Times.

Our Kitchen in Westgate is currently at the Lodge, 64, Westgate Bay Avenue, open on Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 to 3pm.

When the time comes our kitchen will be permanently in St Saviours Church.



Volunteers Sarah and Vanessa with a Food Club member



# Westgate-on-Sea Town Council Recycling Scheme

You can now recycle the following products, which would usually go in your current bin here at the Westgate-on-Sea Town Council office. By doing this we will be raising money for charity.

- Funds raised by the recycling of Terracycle products will go to charity.
- Funds raised by the recycling of Ink Cartridges will go to Hungry UK.
- Funds raised by the recycling of batteries will go to Food Bank UK.

For more information please visit [www.westgateonsea.gov.uk](http://www.westgateonsea.gov.uk)



## Cracker, Biscuit and Cake Wrappers

Every year huge numbers of cracker, biscuit and cake wrappers end up in landfill. The pladis Biscuits Snacks Recycling Programme allows us to recycle your wrappers and prevent them from ending up in the landfill.



Units Collected	Points Earned
3,999	3,839

## KP Nuts, Popcorn, Crisps and Pretzel packets

The KP Snacks Nuts, Popcorn, Crisps and Pretzels Packets Recycling Programme allows us to recycle your empty packets.



Units Collected	Points Earned
7,266	2,116

## Bread Bags

You can recycle your bread bags and turn them into new products such as sheeting and film for the agricultural industry.



Units Collected	Points Earned
2,339	2,259

## Spontex Disposable Gloves

The Spontex Disposable Gloves Recycling Scheme allows you to recycle disposable gloves.



Units Collected	Points Earned
475	316

## Drinks Ring Carriers

We accept Plastic Ring Can Carriers. We do not accept the outer packaging of drinks containers.



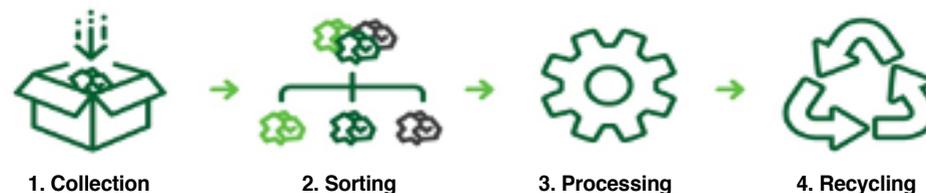
Units Collected	Points Earned
4,756	3,780

## Recycling in partnership with Hovis®

In each newsletter we are going to focus on one of the items we recycle to give you a better idea of where your waste goes.

TerraCycle® and Hovis® have partnered to create a free recycling programme for bread bags.

Once collected, the bread bags are shredded, washed, and then pelletized. These pellets can be used for several moulded rigid plastic products like benches or used as film for products such as rubbish bags.







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# Meet the Councillor

David Donaldson was one of 10 councillors elected on 2nd May 2019 and sits on several committees, including Planning, Highways and Environment:

**David, you have lived in Westgate-on-sea for nearly 30 years. What changes have you witnessed in that period? Is there anything significantly different in terms of community spirit and economic development?**

Actually, I have been living in Westgate much less than that, but my Parents lived here from the early 1990s when my Father retired. I lived in London and Africa before moving here. My work in the "third world" was local economic development. Working in the villages; real Africa, where the tourists don't go. I was based in Uganda, but also worked in Kenya and Tanzania, with the odd trip to Bangladesh. Westgate is a beautiful town and I have very fond memories of my parents, who were extremely happy here. There is a demographic in Westgate that is skewed towards older people and I recognise that facilities for younger people could be improved. I have been working on that with the acquisition and pending refurbishment of the Lymington Road Recreation Ground, and have been supporting Mike Wiseman, who is one of Westgate's amazingly dynamic volunteers, in organising the refurbishment and re-opening of the boating pool. I feel that there is, and indeed always has been, a great community spirit in Westgate and I was delighted to discover many voluntary community groups. I have been endeavouring to work with these groups through my role as a Town Councillor.

**Having sat on the Council for a year and a half now, has the role been what you envisaged when elected? What has been the most challenging element?**

Yes. Having never been in public office before it was much like starting a new job. In the beginning, I spent a good deal of time working on how it works, which meant becoming familiar with the procedures, policies, processes, legislation etc. It was also important to establish good, positive working relationships with the staff team and my fellow councillors. The Town council is relatively young and has had its "teething" problems in the past. But I feel that it has made a quantum leap forward in a very positive way. The main asset we have is a very professional



and strong staff team. Led by the Clerk, Gill Gray (who is really the Town Manager). She has always been very supportive to me personally, and in my various projects for the town. To reiterate, I think that the whole outlook of the council has changed since I was elected in May 2019, in that it is more focused on supporting and developing the community, for the benefit of the community in Westgate. Which is actually what we exist for.

**And the most rewarding?**

The most rewarding is, and will continue to be, the job in hand. I see being a councillor not as a title, but a job of work. I often cringe when I am referred to as Councillor Donaldson. My name is David! I was really delighted to discover that Westgate has such a thriving voluntary sector; many people and groups all working enthusiastically away in the back ground.

I find it most rewarding to reach out and actually work with people in the community. I have recently been involved in the setting up of Our Kitchen which is a food club, providing nutritious healthier food for people on low incomes. It is temporarily based in The Lodge, 64 Westgate Bay Avenue, on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 10am and 3pm.

We created a partnership with Mother Karen Gooding, of St Saviours Church, where it will be open permanently when Covid restrictions permit.

**As a member of the Planning, Highways and Environment Committee, where do you stand on the proposed development by Millwood Designer Homes?**

I am totally against the whole development and have been since I first heard about it some years



ago. I do not want to sound negative about it, but it will have a seriously detrimental impact on the town. Not only will it gobble up a huge area of prime agricultural land, but will compromise the facilities and services that are already under stress in Westgate. In addition, I strongly object to the way that the whole planning process was conducted. The consultation was a process of just paying lip service to not only the Town Council, but also more importantly to all the residents of Westgate as a whole. The development is a massive 2000 houses at around £300,000 a house so a massive, £600,000,000 (that is £600 million) building contract. There will be little or no social housing and the financial benefit from such a huge building contract for the residents of Westgate will be negligible. So, in common with the people in Birchington and Garlinge, I am completely dead against it. The house building programme is imposed from central Government, who are always eager to talk about engaging and involving local communities in the planning process, but the reality and depressing lesson learnt, is actually how powerless and irrelevant we really are.

**As someone who recognises the importance of youth and health services at a local level, tell us about your work on the Lymington Road Recreation Ground.**

Thanet District Council have been managing the Lymington Road Recreation Ground, but as local councils have become cash strapped in recent years, it has been somewhat neglected. Organised football has not taken place on the ground for at least a decade. Westgate Town Council is taking it over as part of an asset transfer from Thanet District Council. The ground has room for two football pitches; a 11 aside and a 9 aside. We did have plans for a weekend football tournament last summer in July as part of the activities for "Westgate Day". But very sadly both events were not possible due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I was also pursuing funding from the National Lottery for both projects. Again, these are on hold, as huge amounts of lottery grants have been diverted to assist in the fight against the Covid epidemic. I also was planning a "Summer Kitchen", just up the road in St Crispin's Primary School and also possibly one in Ursuline. This would provide hot wholesome meals during the school holidays for children and their families. I do sincerely hope that Westgate and the world will return back to a level of normality during this year, so that we can get on with the job in hand.



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Have you changed your day-to-day life to prevent you, or a loved one, from catching the Coronavirus?

If so, we would like to know how and if you think your actions worked.

Have you become ill with Coronavirus or Coronavirus-like symptoms since the pandemic started? If so, we would like to know the treatments you have tried and if you think they helped.

To help beat COVID-19 and to take part in a survey by the University of Southampton - please click here: [www.rtocovid19.com](http://www.rtocovid19.com)

As a thank you for your participation between now and March 2021 we are awarding over 60 vouchers (ranging from £5 to £500) as prizes to be won. See the survey for further details.

## HELP US UNDERSTAND WHAT WORKS TO PREVENT AND TREAT COVID-19

What have you done to try and prevent you, or a loved one, catching Covid-19?

If you became ill, what treatments did you try?

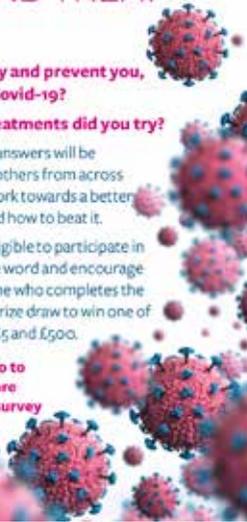
By filling out our survey, your answers will be combined with thousands of others from across the world. Together we can work towards a better understanding of Covid-19 and how to beat it.

Anyone over the age of 16 is eligible to participate in the study so please spread the word and encourage others to complete it. Everyone who completes the survey can be entered into a prize draw to win one of 60 vouchers worth between £5 and £500.

Follow the attached link or go to [www.rtocovid19.com](http://www.rtocovid19.com) for more details and to complete the survey



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Telephone: 01843 592938    Website: [www.ramsgateglass.co.uk](http://www.ramsgateglass.co.uk)

## Facebook Page

Westgate-on-Sea Town Council are happy to announce our new Facebook page is now live.

We have started, and will continue, to upload news, events, information and more.

Having our own Facebook page ensures we can stay connected to local events and news.

Please follow us to stay updated at: [@WOSTCKent](https://www.facebook.com/WOSTCKent) or <https://www.facebook.com/WOSTCKent>

Don't forget we also have an Instagram and Twitter too, both can be found by searching: [@WestgateonSeaTC](https://www.instagram.com/WestgateonSeaTC)

Please be aware this is not an official means of contacting the office and we encourage you to please email, call or write to us with any queries at: [admin@westgateonsea.gov.uk](mailto:admin@westgateonsea.gov.uk)

78 St. Mildreds Rd, Westgate-on-Sea CT8 8RF  
01843 836182  
[www.westgateonsea.gov.uk](http://www.westgateonsea.gov.uk)



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## Role of The Town Council as a Corporate Body

The Town Council is a first-tier local government body whose primary function is to serve the electorate in their parish/town by providing local services and taking informed decisions to improve the community amenities available. The Town Council does not have many statutory duties, the consideration for the provision of allotment gardens is one of the main examples and another example is holding an annual meeting which the electorate have a right to attend.

The Town Council has numerous discretionary powers, which it uses to implement the resolutions.

## Role of a Town Councillor

A councillor is a holder of a public office whose normal term of office is for four years. A councillor has no authority to make or implement decisions on their own. Their main role is to contribute to the collective decision making (known as resolutions) for the Town Council.

A councillor is responsible for attending meetings, representing the Town Council, raising matters to be considered at meetings and engaging in debate at the meetings. A councillor is obligated to abide by the Code of Conduct adopted by the Town Council.

A councillor has a duty to be consistent with the Nolan principles (Localism Act 2011, s28) which are defined within the Code of Conduct for the Town Council. A councillor has a duty to be transparent about certain personal and financial interests for themselves and their spouse, civil partner or the person they live with (known as disclosable pecuniary interests).

## Role of the Chairman

The chairman's main role is to maintain order and ensure the meetings are run in accordance with standing orders and terms of reference. The chairman presides at the meeting and establishes that the items on the agenda are addressed correctly by the Town Council.

The chairman is responsible for:-

- opening and closing a meeting
- to order debate on motions
- to decide points of order
- to exercise their casting vote if required in the event of a tied vote

- to ensure draft minutes are duly approved at the next meeting
- to control disorderly behaviour of anyone attending the meeting.

## Role of the Town Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

The Town Clerk's role is to carry out the decisions of the Town Council and to ensure the business of the council is conducted in accordance with the laws and legislation (often referred to as proper officer – the council must appoint a person under the Local Government Act 1972) that govern Local Councils. The clerk has support responsibilities which include:-

- To be responsible to ensure that statutory and other provisions governing and affecting the function of the Town Council are observed
- To ensure that management of governance risks are undertaken and met; for example, health and safety, financial and operational
- To draft agendas and produce minutes of meetings for approval by councillors
- The management of other staff, this includes supervising workloads, annual appraisals, organising training, administering annual leave & overtime, salaries and absence
- Implementing the recruitment process for newly agreed roles or replacement for vacant positions
- Updating the council website
- The main point of contact for the council with the public, other local authorities eg District Council and local groups eg Resident's Association
- Dealing with requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 2018
- Actions from committees for the council are undertaken
- Ensures that statutory core documents are reviewed at least annually for example Standing Orders and Terms of Reference for Committees
- Prepare draft policies and ensures that all policies are reviewed on a regular basis
- To ensure that day to day enquiries about the council from the residents are dealt with either face-to-face, by email or on the telephone
- To facilitate community engagement and

encourage collaborative working in the community groups

- To prepare draft press releases, negotiate cost savings on behalf of Council, seek funding opportunities and facilitate Town Council events
- To coordinate projects and initiatives to the full resolution and liaise with local community groups to nurture relationships whilst promoting the Town Council and our services
- To manage the Town Council facilities and assets and maintain proactive communication channels with the community
- To attend external meetings to represent the Town Council when required
- To research, provide information in the form of reports and advice for any council decisions

The responsible financial officer's role is to conduct and be responsible for the administration of the council finances (the council must appoint a person for this role under the Local Government Act 1972, s151). The responsible financial officer has certain responsibilities which include:-

- Payments for services and goods procured by the council
- Payment of salaries for staff employed by the council
- Payment of all salary associated payments for example tax, national insurance and pensions
- Internal control of the accounts and risk assessments
- Preparation of the council's budgets
- Liaises with the council internal and external auditors
- Ensures there is transparency for financial decisions and expenditure
- Review the Financial Regulations at least annually to ensure all relevant legislation is adhered to
- Maintain separate accounts for any s137 expenditure (only used when there is no specific power available)

The clerk has certain statutory duties which include:-

- To sign and serve on councillors a summons with an agenda to attend council and committee meetings (Local Government Act 1972, s12)
- To receive and retain documents or notices (Local Government Act 1972, s225)

The council has accounting and audit regulations that govern their procedures and result in statutory duties for the responsible financial officer which are:-

- Preparing the annual accounts for audit in accordance with proper practices (Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011, regulation 12)
- Signing the annual accounts of the council (the Annual Governance and Accountability Return) (Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011 and Practitioners Guide)

## Behind the Scenes

The Town Council has three members of staff who work in the office, one full time Town Clerk/ Responsible Financial Officer and two part time staff, a Finance Assistant and a Project Assistant. This is a tight knit team who deliver lots of projects/ initiatives and support events in the community.

## Town Clerk/RFO

My name is Gill and I have now been the Town Clerk at Westgate on Sea Town Council for three years. I have over 25 years' experience in the public sector and gained my Certificate in Local Council Administration in 2019. I am a Principal Member of the Society of Local Council Clerks. As the Town Clerk/ RFO you are the main point of contact for Councillors, residents, other local authorities and community groups/organisations. The role is varied and presents numerous challenges on a daily basis.

## Finance Assistant

My name is Chloe and I have worked for the Town Council for 18 months. My role is to provide financial administrative support to the Town Clerk. I process the invoices, maintain records for staff/HR matters and provide cover for Reception. A large part of my roles is helping to manage the Lymington Road Allotments, organising and minuting the Allotment Working Group meetings, taking part in the bi-annual allotment plot inspections, processing the Allotment renewals each year and dealing with any issues that may arise.

## Project Assistant

My name is Jasmin and I have worked for the Town Council for around 2 1/2 years. I manage a variety of projects/initiatives and events such as Westgate Day and the annual Pancake Races. I also arrange and organise the videos for meetings, oversee the Town Council website, cover reception, as well as updating and managing all social media. I liaise with community groups, local schools and outside organisations to arrange engagement opportunities with the Town Council. I facilitate the inclusion of articles for our Town Council magazine.



## 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

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**Email:** rnightingale@westgateonsea.gov.uk



**Cllr Helen Page**

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

**Contact:** 01843 836182

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**Cllr Martyn Pennington**

**Appointed Committee:**  
Human Resources committee

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**Cllr Dr Hannah Scott**

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

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**Email:** hscott@westgateonsea.gov.uk



**Cllr Matthew Scott**

**Appointed Committee:**  
Finance and General Purposes  
Committee

**Contact:** 07512 777399

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**Cllr David Wallin**

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

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**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

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

**Cllr Matthew Scott**

District Councillor for Westgate-on-Sea Ward

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**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, Lynton
- 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

**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 & Health)

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



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- Business Bank Account in Company Name
- VAT Registration Number
- ISO9001 Accreditation
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