



Westgate-on-Sea

TOWN COUNCIL MAGAZINE



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At our virtual Annual Meeting on the 27th May 2020, Councillors voted in a new Chairman and re-elected the Vice-Chairman Cllr Pauline O'Connor.

Since our last Annual Meeting held in May 2019, significant changes within the Town Council have been achieved: we have moved to improved office premises; almost all the railway station improvements are completed; Lymington Road Recreation Ground War Memorial asset transfer from TDC to Westgate-on-Sea Town Council is close to completion, delayed only by lockdown. Last July, we celebrated our first-ever 'Westgate Day' - the brainchild of Cllr Helen Page with events focusing on education and fun. It involved lots of work, but thanks to the event-running experience of our Town Clerk (Gill Gray) and help from volunteer stewards and Councillors, it was a fabulous success, as well as a learning curve!

Our volunteers are still the familiar faces of pre Covid-19, but the communication lines they set up across the community have truly raised awareness of how effective a Town Council can be, working with residents for the benefit of the community. We are told 'every cloud has a silver lining'. For Westgate-on-Sea this has been the huge increase in engagement between resident volunteers, the staff of the Town Council and the whole community.

Part of my election pledge last year was to seek to improve communication; the last few months have forced businesses, residents, and the Town Council to communicate more widely, as a result much has been achieved and learnt. There have been tears and laughter but, overall, the improved interactions with businesses and residents have been significant and clearly beneficial. We cannot keep this up alone. We need residents to continue their engagement, to read the website news (improvements are in the pipeline), to read the notices on our Facebook page and to take part in emerging initiatives and events. The forthcoming 'Scarecrow Festival' will be a fun time for everyone despite the continuing restrictions placed on our social interactions, but we can still 'get creative' whilst making each other laugh and feel good.

This Civic year will have its successes and its setbacks but will be remembered for the positive interactions between strangers - helping each other whilst keeping safe.

My best wishes to everyone.

Cllr Joanna Cornford - Chairman



Twitter: @WestgateonSeaTC
www.westgateonsea.gov.uk

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SSEiB (South & South East in Bloom)

When the World Health Organisation (WHO) announced the Covid-19 pandemic, one of the first commercial casualties was bedding plants. Luckily, Westgate-on-Sea has some thrifty and green-fingered residents and we have managed to create some attractive displays, both in the town and outside our homes. The Social Club (corner of St Mildred's Road and Westbury Road) is always a show of colour and has managed to fill its planters despite the shortage of bedding plants. Nature herself has done us proud; a few natural 'Bloom' displays are included in the gallery of photos.

More ambitious projects for Westgate in Bloom are in hand. Everyone will understand that lockdown and social distancing have prevented planting and maintenance, nowhere more obvious than at the railway station. Renovation work, including the installation of the new footbridge has continued and nears completion, the new beds are slow to create the blooming we anticipated but our photo shows that work has re-commenced!

Lymington Road Green is a truly lovely open space, the Community Centre sits at the main entrance and the Green itself is a popular meeting place especially for dog walkers. Benches and seating have been purchased for the top south west corner where several trees are now establishing themselves, giving shade and shelter for social get-togethers.

Sea Road, at the St Mildred's Bay end, has benefitted from additional planting by TDC and by mid-July their colour will be adding to the attractions the town provides for both residents and visitors, a heartfelt "thank you" to all those who are providing the essential watering.

Volunteers are always welcome. If you are interested in helping with any of the 'Bloom' projects, please call the main office on **01843 836182**.

In July, we will be sending a report to South & South East in Bloom, if you have photos of your summer displays please send them in to townclerk@westgateonsea.gov.uk for possible selection and inclusion, thank you.



The Lifeboat Project

The Lifeboat Project was set up by Changing Minds Kent in response to the Covid-19 Pandemic in March 2020. The aim of the project has been to provide care packages of food, toiletries, and entertainment such as books and DVDs to vulnerable individuals and families across Thanet.

Since starting the project, we have been overwhelmed by support from both other organisations and our local community who have helped us to deliver the project through the provision of supplies and funding. The project reach has been phenomenal, initially planned to cover primarily the Westgate and Birchington areas due to their higher populations of elderly and vulnerable residents. This quickly spilled out across Thanet with packages being distributed as far as Minster and even a couple of families who we have helped in Canterbury and Whitstable.

As we have adapted the project to meet the ever changing needs of the community throughout the pandemic, we aim to maintain the sustainability of the Lifeboat Project as part of the social inclusion opportunities that we already offer at The Lodge in Westgate-on-Sea once life returns to normal.

The project has also been aiming to identify individuals and families throughout the community who are in need of basic provisions for whatever reason and has been working in conjunction with the other services provided by Changing Minds Kent to ensure we are supporting the community's physical needs as well as their mental needs.

Changing Minds Kent aims to continue supporting local communities and organisations by improving wellbeing so that anyone and everyone can lead a more active, healthy and fulfilling life. We all have mental health, and many people will find that their mental health and wellbeing has been affected by the pandemic. We aim to reduce the stigma surrounding this and support those who have been affected to recover, grow and hopefully build meaningful relationships along the way with others in their community.

Alongside the Lifeboat Project and with thanks to funding from Kent Sport, working in partnership with StreetGames UK, Hartsdown Academy and the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA), Changing Minds Kent has also been supporting vulnerable families impacted by Covid-19 by distributing



food parcels and free sports equipment to keep families Fit and Fed during lockdown.

Due to the impact of Covid-19, many families often rely heavily on free school-meals, with the impact of lockdown this has caused a significant strain on many families across the UK.

Changing Minds Kent, along with our partners, aims to support those families by providing nutritional food along with activity cards to keep families mentally and physically fit. We have supported over 100 families across Thanet and will continue to work with partners to replicate this work in other areas across Kent.

For more information about Changing Minds Kent and the work that we do, along with how you can get involved, please visit our website www.changingmindskent.co.uk

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Tree planting on Lymington Community Green

Last November, we ran a community tree-planting day led by Cllr Dr Hannah Scott.

Residents came from all over to plant a tree and many have adopted theirs, pledging to water and look after them.

Many thanks to Chloe, our Town Council's finance assistant for helping to organise the adoption scheme and to Peter Hasted and Denise Packer for their expert gardening advice. We are happy to report that the majority of the trees have settled in and have survived the exceptionally hot weather in May.

As well as these trees that were donated by the Woodland Trust, sisters Jan Delo and Marion Mitchison donated a lovely acacia tree.

Marion explained "We ordered an acacia tree back in the spring as a memory tree for my late mother. It got lost in the post and spent 10 days in a warehouse un-watered. It finally arrived as a twig. We planted it without much hope of its survival on a fruit farm in north Kent, where my mum was happiest and then we complained and got a replacement tree. Miracle of miracles the twig survived and is doing very well, so the one I donated is the replacement tree. It will be lovely to see the tree that she loved on a daily basis in the park".

Thank you to all the residents who look out for our trees around the town and who go out of their way to make the town look beautiful.

There are many who pick up litter and water a street or park tree if they are really struggling in these exceptional times. We can do great things when we work together.

There will be more stories about trees in the next issue of the Town Council magazine.

If you have a story you would like to tell us about trees or nature in Westgate please email: hscott@westgateonsea.gov.uk



Cllr Dr Hannah Scott watering in May



Donated Acacia tree



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Response to Covid-19

It does not seem possible that we are now into our fourth month since the Government announced that life as we knew it was to change dramatically for everyone.

Whether you were advised that you were vulnerable and should shield away for months, furloughed; as your occupation meant you could not undertake your work from home, or working as a key worker; to ensure that the essential services continued to support the communities all across the UK.

At the Town Council, it has been a busy period. We have continued to work and provide essential services and support to the community. We were ably assisted by a group of volunteers and the significant support we received cannot be understated. We aided vulnerable residents for essential shopping, collection and delivery of prescriptions, friendly chats over the telephone and general advice in sometimes challenging circumstances. The telephone lines were spread to multiple locations and these were answered by Town Councillors at times when the office was overwhelmed with requests.

The Town Council restricted the response we offered initially to Westgate-on-Sea but as we received further offers from residents volunteering we were able to extend our assistance and have since included Garlinge and Westbrook residents upon request where we can accommodate.

As many of you are aware, our Community Warden, Laura Bungard has moved to a new occupation but she played a pivotal role during the past three months and I know that a lot of residents will miss her presence in the town.

The Lifeboat Project has been a huge support to the local community and the Town Council was pleased to assist with the logistical requirements to ensure the essential foods and other items were transported from the main collection point to the distribution point to provide parcels for those in need; you can read more about Changing Minds Kent CIC in a separate article in this issue.

We must not forget the local retailers who provided essential supplies and services for us all, we are lucky to have a diverse range of shops and they can only continue to trade if we provide our custom. As we emerge from the lockdown restrictions and enter the "Recovery Phase", it is essential that we all remain vigilant and play our part to ensure that

the local community is resilient and bounces back as much as possible. As you have hopefully seen, the local Councillors produced a video to remind us all how important it is to support our local economy in these unprecedented times of economic uncertainty. This can be viewed on our Facebook page: @WestgateonSeaTC. It's been lovely to receive messages from people expressing their gratitude towards the Council's support, including this one from a resident:

"Thank you for the phenomenal work in leading the community during the COVID crisis. Your organisation, solutions and dedication gave certainty and security when it was needed most".

We are aware that this has been a difficult time for many residents and if you do still require any support please do not hesitate to contact us on **01843 836182** or send an email to: **townclerk@westgateonsea.gov.uk**

- It maybe that you are feeling nervous about your first shopping trip
- Unsure about the latest guidance
- Or feeling isolated

If any of the above apply to you, we can offer help ourselves or signpost you to other organisations to assist you; we are here if you need us!

Heritage Quiz #2

Which building has this delightful display?
A bag of compost awaits the first correct answer - ring or email Westgate-on-Sea Town Council!



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SCAN ME



A Rubbish Article

Over more than 2 million pieces of litter are dropped in the UK every day, litter is considered anything from (but not limited to) crisp packets, cigarette butts, takeaway cartons, discarded bags of rubbish and dog waste. There's an old saying, "one man's trash is another man's treasure" however there doesn't appear to be a 'gold rush' for the aforementioned items.

Unfortunately, litter does not clean itself away. It can take years to degrade, causing harm to wildlife and habitats. If residents were asked about their feelings regarding litter, there would undoubtedly be an almost complete consensus that litter is unsightly and makes our local areas look untidy and uncared for. In fact, research states litter may contribute to increased crime and indicates that people feel less safe in areas that are littered.

So why do we still have litter? It could be suggested the cause may be due to our limited services to manage the level of waste produced or it may be that there are not enough bins placed out in the community or fundamentally it could be the activity of human behaviour and the lack of care and respect. It's important for us all to cherish our environment and make the changes that are needed to keep our local areas looking neat and tidy.



It costs the taxpayer almost £1 billion per year to keep England's streets, parks, roadways and public spaces clean.

It has been suggested that £1 billion could be used to fund any of the following:

- 38,644 social care workers
- 301,476 primary school places
- 4,400 libraries
- 33,200 nurses
- 26,900 paramedics
- 31,990 firefighters
- 1 billion school dinners

Dropping litter is illegal. People who drop litter can be fined or face prosecution in court. Authorised officers have the power to issue a fixed penalty charge of up to £80 for a litter offence, as an alternative to prosecution. If the offender is prosecuted and convicted in court, the fine could rise to £2,500

Westgate-on-Sea is a unique beautiful coastal town with two fantastic Blue Flag award-winning bays. Naturally, we all would love to keep this wonderful place looking pristine and this is where our Westgate-on-Sea Town Council (WoSTC) works hard to help tackle the litter problem, therefore overseeing and maintaining facilities and initiating programs to keep Westgate tidy. At the beginning of 2018, it was agreed by councillors that there were certain areas within Westgate that lacked litter bins and by identifying these areas, were able to initiate a plan of action. The plan resulted in the Town Council purchasing 14 100-litre general waste



litter bins at the cost of £115.00 each + VAT. Thanet District Council kindly installed them via their Minor Works team at a cost of £75.00 + VAT per bin.

After a Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 16th June 2020, it was agreed that there would be a need for an additional 7 general waste bins and by installing these it would benefit the local community and ensure Westgate remains tidy. The 7 new bin locations were agreed as follows:

- 2 bins to place on Sea Road, 1 by the newly restored shelter by St Mildred's Bay and 1 in or near to Memorial Garden. 1 Bin on Minster Road, by bridleway
- 1 on Beach Road, to replace the melted vandalised bin
- 1 on green between Quex Road and Victoria Avenue, behind the Greek Community Centre (formerly the Walmer Castle)
- 1 on green next to two benches by the Community Centre on Lymington Road
- 1 on Cambourne Avenue/Linksfield Road area

Remember we can all do our part to help reduce litter:

Take your rubbish home

On a visit to the town, seaside or countryside, always take your rubbish home with you. It may sound obvious, but it is surprising how many people don't.

Reduce your packaging

Ensure your picnics use the least amount of packaging. Bring sandwiches in reusable containers rather than cling film, use a refillable bottle and avoid products in plastic.

Spread the word

Tell others what you do and encourage them to respect areas and community. Post on your social media feeds about litter-picks you've done, and share recycling information.

Join an litter picking event near you

Check with local councils and online social media community groups to see when the next litter picking event is available near you.

Support national schemes

Such as Keep Britain Tidy and other litter organisations. They campaign for proven solutions, such as the deposit-return system for drinks cans and bottles.

WoSTC also has its hard-working cleansing operatives who help maintain the overall cleanliness of the town by emptying our Town Council bins and undertaking street cleaning, clearing weeds and overgrowth. During the autumn season the operatives will clear fallen leaves and ensure our storm drains are kept clear.

Neil Adams one of the cleansing operatives states "The team gets a great sense of satisfaction from seeing Westgate tidy. We are really lucky to work in such a beautiful town."



Our town also benefits from our active volunteer litter pick groups (and individuals) who contribute hugely towards the tidiness and betterment of our town. For which we are enormously grateful for.

Councillor Matthew Scott added "We are lucky to have the additional services, bins and volunteers to help maintain Westgate's cleanliness. However, we must bear in mind that we should all be individually accountable in keeping our town clean and tidy - making sure that we responsibly dispose of our waste, clean up after our pets and take pride in our great town"

Westgate-on-Sea Town Council Recycle Scheme

Westgate-on-Sea Town Council have launched an innovative recycling programme from their offices at St Mildreds Road where you can recycle products that usually go into your current bins.

By doing this we raise money for charity!

All of the Terracycle products would give a financial return that would go into a Westgate-on-Sea Town Council grant pot to use on projects running locally.

Ink Cartridges would raise money for Food for the Hungry UK. Batteries would raise money for Food Bank UK. Please drop your recycling into Westgate-on-Sea Town Council offices: 78 St Mildreds Road, Westgate-on-Sea, CT8 8RF.

www.westgateonseas.gov.uk/community/westgate-on-sea-town-council-13327/council-recycle-scheme

Community Speedwatch

Community Speedwatch is a nationwide initiative which helps to monitor local vehicle speeds.

Using detection devices, members of the public, working with Kent Police, record drivers exceeding the speed limit with a view to educating them to slow down. The aims of Community Speedwatch are to help:

- Reduce death and injury on the roads.
- Reduce speed of vehicles, so they are not exceeding the limit.
- Increase public awareness of the dangers of speeding.
- Improve quality of life for local towns and communities.

After a temporary stop on sessions due to the Covid-19 restrictions, as of 15th June, Community Speedwatch is back in action with the first session in Westgate having happened on Sea Road on 20th June. All volunteers were provided with PPE and followed the Government Social Distancing Guidelines.

If you are interested in becoming a Speedwatch volunteer you can sign up at anytime, please contact the Council Offices or the Town Clerk for more information.



Councillor Cornford and Councillor Page monitoring traffic on sea road.

Community Warden

After almost 18 years of service as Community Warden for Westgate, Laura Bungard sadly left at the beginning of June for pastures new. Laura started as Community Warden back in 2003.

During those years she has been an invaluable support to the community helping to tackle low-level crime and antisocial behaviour and supporting local residents, businesses and community groups.

We would like to say thank you to Laura for her 17 years of hard work and dedication to the Westgate-on-Sea Community.

If you are interested in becoming a Community Warden or helping then Kent County Council are currently looking for volunteers.

For more information please visit:
www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/community-safety/community-wardens/community-safety-volunteers



Laura Bungard



facebook.com/WestgateOnSeaCommunitySpirit

TRAIL AND PRIZES



WESTGATE-ON-SEA SCARECROW FESTIVAL

18th - 19th July 2020

12noon - 5pm

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6. 15 LINDEN ROAD
7. 40 VICTORIA AVENUE
8. 52 VICTORIA AVENUE
9. 10 MINSTER ROAD
10. 27 COLLEGE SQUARE
11. ST MICHAEL'S, ELM GROVE
12. 119 SEA ROAD
13. ST SAVIOUR'S CHURCH - NORTH GATE, WESTGATE BAY AVENUE
14. ST SAVIOUR'S CHURCH - CHURCH ENTRANCE, ST MILDREDS ROAD
15. BRIDAL SHOP, 86 ST MILDREDS ROAD
16. PIGGYBANK NURSERY, STATION ROAD
17. 5 STATION ROAD
18. FLAT 2 JACKSON STABLES, STATION ROAD
19. 4 SEA ROAD
20. 25 SEA ROAD
21. WATERSIDE STABLES, ROWENA RD
22. FINBARS DECKING
23. 81 SEA ROAD



We were disappointed that we had to cancel the Westgate Day event this year so were very pleased when, following discussions with Community Spirit Craft Group and Fixology, it was agreed that the Scarecrow Festival could be brought forward to July instead of the planned September dates.

As we are in uncertain times still, the Scarecrow Festival is scaled back without encouraging large groups of people gathering in one place at a time. We have shared the trail map in the magazine, and it will also be available on our website for downloading if any additional copies are required.

We hope that if this is a success it can be repeated on an annual basis and become an opportunity for people to get creative and show their crafting skills. I am sure that during the lockdown period we have all found time to focus on hobbies and this will hopefully provide a platform to share ideas for future Scarecrow Festivals.

We hope that you enjoy the event and we have enlisted the help of three judges to award the creators for the following six categories:-



- Most humorous Scarecrow
- Best Scarecrow from a young person
- Most skilfully created Scarecrow
- Best traditional Scarecrow
- Best Scarecrow in shop window
- Overall favourite Scarecrow

The judges will be viewing the Scarecrows on the morning of Saturday 18th July from 10am, so please if you have one pledged ensure it is out on display ready for the judging panel to inspect.

The winning Scarecrows will be photographed and form part of our future promotion for the Scarecrow Festival. We hope you all enjoy the day, whether you are simply walking around the town to view or are more ambitious and build a Scarecrow yourself!

If you have not pledged a Scarecrow but still want to take part, please contact the Town Council by no later than Friday 10th July at 12noon so that your location for your Scarecrow can be advertised on our website and social media as it will not appear on the trail map. Please email admin@westgateonsea.gov.uk or telephone **01843 836182** for further details.



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Thanks and Praise – Cllr Helen Page

I would like to thank and praise my colleagues (Town Clerk, Office Staff, Cleansing Operatives and all the Councillors) at Westgate Town Council for their committed and solid hard work throughout this pandemic.

That work continues and will do for some time to come, even as we ease out of the lockdown, because the consequences of the pandemic will also need to be addressed. They should all be very proud - each one has contributed their time, energy, skills and heart. And always with a smile!

I would like to thank and praise all the Volunteers in Westgate who have unselfishly given of themselves and their time during the lockdown.

Very early on, the Town Clerk had a plan and strategy in place to support residents in the town and organised a team of volunteers to do whatever was needed : for example: shopping - using local shops/businesses who had agreed to provide support; prescriptions - via the medical practice and chemists; phone buddies - for those isolated alone and wanting to have a conversation; advice or guidance on where to get help or assistance. If you needed anything, a call to the Town Council office was all that was needed to get it done through the network of volunteers who were on-call.

I want to give them all a shout of thanks and praise - and I feel sure that I also speak for all the residents who have been looked after by them in different ways.

This is a local resident, litter-picking through the last couple of months collecting bags and bags of litter and larger fly tipped items. The big question being; where to dispose of it all?



Resilience prevailed, with larger items being carefully included into regular refuse collections! It took time, effort and consideration but achieved by determination and with a smile.

Thank you to everyone who gives their time to tidying up our environment.

Volunteers

Where would we be without volunteers

Who quickly respond when a need appears?

This is the way you have chosen to serve

What appreciation you deserve!

There are very many things to do

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Proposed Signal Controlled Pedestrian Crossing Canterbury Road, Westgate-on-Sea

Public Consultation 23 June to 3 August 2020



What are we proposing to do?

Kent County Council (KCC) are consulting on a proposal to install a new signalised pedestrian crossing on Canterbury Road outside Ursuline College by widening the central reservation to create a staggered crossing. This would require restricting vehicle access to Hengist Road to enable the crossing to be located in a safe position.

KCC councillor Emma Dawson commented "After a very long and awaited time, we now have the issue of traffic and road plans brought into the public domain for consultation regarding the proposed signal-controlled crossing in Westgate-on-Sea. I have attended meetings throughout the period of two years to establish with the highway officers a proposal that will keep children safe. The Ursuline School desperately needed a safe & controlled crossing. The Westgate Town Council have supported the plans to initiate the project and many of the parents of children who attend the school also support the project. It is felt that alternative measures were required to calm the chaotic road system and control pedestrian and traffic disorder.



Both Cllr Hurst and I are supporting this project with our community grant funding, which has initially helped to start the process and move the project forward.

Please go to the consultation and have your say. The new plans will be beneficial for all who use the road. Road safety will be enforced by the new design for pedestrians and for traffic."

Executive Principal of Ursuline College Mike Walters said: "We are very pleased that consultation is being undertaken regarding a pedestrian crossing on the Canterbury Road outside Ursuline College. This crossing would make both our pupils and the general public considerably safer when crossing this busy dual-carriageway road with a speed limit of 40mph. We hope to see the crossing in place in the not-too-distant future."

Why are we proposing to do this work?

Canterbury Road is a dual carriageway with a 40mph speed limit. There is currently no controlled crossing point outside Ursuline College. This scheme would provide a safe and convenient crossing point for pedestrians near the school. It could also encourage more students to walk to school.

This scheme supports the delivery of KCC's Active

Travel Strategy, which aims to make active travel (walking or cycling as a means of transport) an attractive and realistic choice for short journeys in Kent. This is by developing accessible, safer and well-planned active travel opportunities. It would also support the delivery of Aim 1 of the Thanet Transport Strategy to 'Encourage Sustainable Transport Habits' by improving an existing pedestrian route.

What will the scheme involve?

The scheme would involve the installation of a 'Puffin' crossing outside the school. This is similar to a 'Pelican' crossing in that pedestrians push a button on a control box when they wish to cross the road, which changes the lights. Red and green man light signals indicate to pedestrians when it is safe to cross. Puffin crossings have sensors attached to the signal pole, instead of a timer. These sensors can detect whether any pedestrians are on the crossing and ensure that the lights for traffic do not change until all pedestrians have finished crossing the road.

A staggered crossing would be used to enable pedestrians to cross the road in two stages and ensure that traffic is stopped for the least amount of time. The crossing would be located directly outside the school as this is where the crossing demand is concentrated. To locate the crossing in the safest place, it would be necessary to restrict vehicles accessing Hengist Road. This means that vehicles would only be able to turn left into Hengist Road from A28 Canterbury Road. Locating the crossing on either side of Hengist Road would be unsafe as there is a slight hill, which means it would be hidden to approaching traffic. Consideration was also given to fully closing Hengist Road to traffic but our preferred scheme minimises restrictions, still allowing some access for traffic, whilst ensuring the safety of pedestrians using the new crossing.

A short section of the footway at the bottom of Hengist Road would be widened to enable an shared (unsegregated) footway / cycleway to be put in. Some additional double yellow lines will be needed to maintain clear sight lines in each direction. The existing bus stop on the north side of the road would be moved slightly to provide more space for pedestrians to wait, away from the edge of the road and to ensure that stationary buses do not hide pedestrians crossing the road. A new shelter will be installed to provide additional benefits.

An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has been undertaken to assess possible impacts, both positive and negative, of this proposed scheme on people with protected characteristics as defined in the

Equality Act 2010. The EqIA is available to view at kent.gov.uk/canterburyrdpedcrossing or on request.

The scheme would deliver positive impacts by providing a safe place to cross, which will benefit pedestrians of all ages. Dropped kerbs at the crossing with red tactile paving will particularly benefit disabled pedestrians and those with buggies or prams.

During the works, alternative routes will be provided for pedestrians with barriers and ramps for those with visual and mobility impairments as required and in accordance with industry standards. No adverse effects have been identified however the EqIA will be updated after the consultation to consider any relevant information received.

How will this scheme be funded?

This scheme will cost approximately £200,000 and will be funded from KCC's Local Transport Plan fund, which provides grants for schemes that help fulfil key transport priorities within the county.

Have your say

We would like to give you an opportunity to let us know what you think of this proposal and we invite you to complete the consultation questionnaire, which is available on our website kent.gov.uk/canterburyrdpedcrossing. If you have any questions regarding these proposals or require hard copies of any of the consultation material,

please email traffic.schemes@kent.gov.uk or call **03000 418181**.

Please use the reference 'Canterbury Road, Westgate-on-Sea Consultation' to identify the scheme.

The closing date for this consultation is midnight on Monday 3 August 2020.

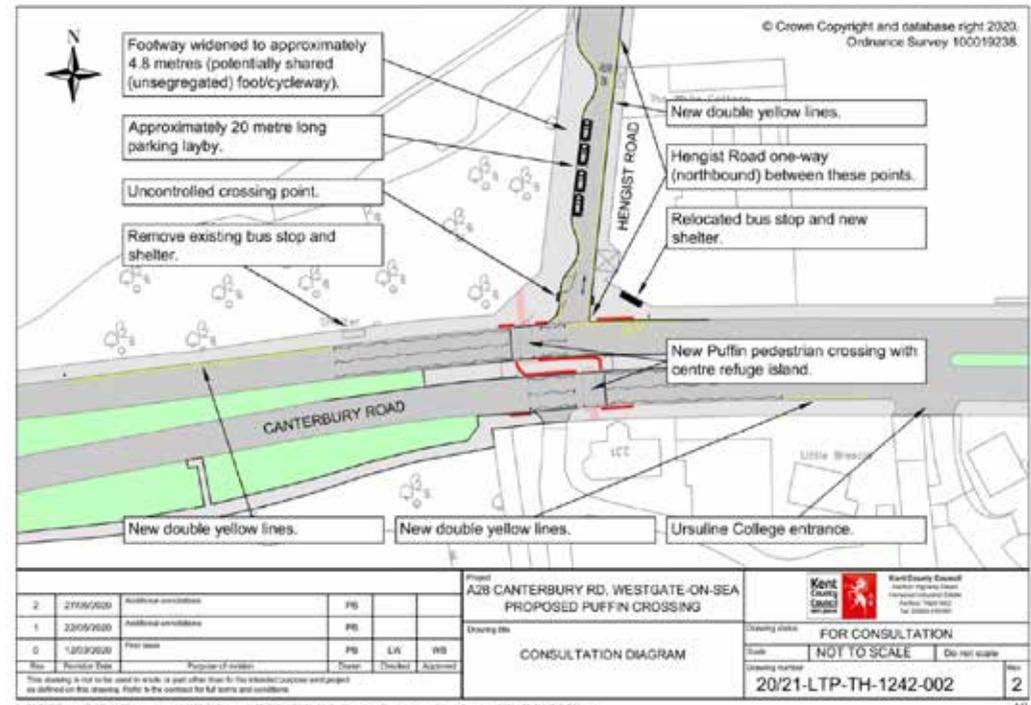
Next steps

Following the consultation, a report will be compiled summarising the analysis of the responses. This report will be made available to consultees via the consultation webpage.

The consultation responses and EqIA will be used to inform the decision on whether to proceed with this scheme.

If the decision is taken to proceed, we will carry out a statutory Traffic Regulation Order consultation on the additional double yellow lines. This will be publicised via notices in the local newspaper, on Canterbury Road and the consultation webpage will be updated to reflect this.

Before any construction takes place Start of Works notices will be delivered to local residents and placed on site. These will advise you of when the works will start and any changes to the highway that may arise during construction. Large advance notice boards will also be placed on site to advise passing motorists of the works.



A28 Canterbury Road, Westgate Proposed Pedestrian Crossing

Public Consultation
23 June - 3 August 2020



Have your say!

We are proposing to install a new signalised pedestrian crossing on Canterbury Road outside Ursuline College to make it safer to cross the road at this location.

Find out about our proposals and tell us your views by reading the consultation leaflet and filling in the questionnaire at: kent.gov.uk/canterburyrdpedcrossing

Example of signalised crossing outside King Ethelbert School

kent.gov.uk/canterburyrdpedcrossing 23 June - 3 August 2020

Paper copies of the leaflet and questionnaire are available by emailing traffic.schemes@kent.gov.uk or phoning 03000 418181. Please reference 'Canterbury Road, Westgate-on-Sea Consultation' to identify the scheme. For any alternative formats, please email alternativeformats@kent.gov.uk or call 03000 421553 (text relay service number 18001 03000 421553). This number goes to an answering machine, which is monitored during office hours.



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Meet the Councillor



Joanna Cornford was recently elected as the new chairman for Westgate-on-Sea Town Council. Hof Media asked Cllr Cornford about her new role and her thoughts on recent events.

Congratulations on your recent election as Chairman. What will some of the key areas of focus be for the Town Council over the next 12 months?

The immediate future is uncertain and looking at the global experience of the virus we cannot assume anything but, despite the uncertain times, we as a community have a Forward Plan. Based on the Town Council's consultation with residents, our Mission Statement forms the basis from which we make decisions on the way forward.

During the coming months we will continue to work on these fundamentals; improve, support, influence, help, and engage with residents and businesses to promote Westgate-on-Sea.

You grew up in Westgate-on-Sea, moved back as an adult and run a prominent business in the town. What are some of the things you value and enjoy most about the area, both personally and professionally?

Westgate-on-Sea is a lovely town, situated on the coast with beautiful, safe, bays not far from the open spaces of our rich agricultural land. Personally, Westgate-on-Sea holds many happy memories especially West Bay and the beauty of the entire area. From a business perspective, Westgate-on-Sea is a natural tourist attraction. Close to two Cities and other unique sea-front towns such as Broadstairs and Ramsgate, with access along the coast westward to the Reculver Towers and eastward to Margate's entertainment and arts influences. It takes only a little imagination and a little hands-on input from everyone to create a destination of excellence which would improve the economy and improve job prospects.

In many countries around the world, which are less economically stable than our own, there is respect for keeping your patch clean with the act of sharing and community a priority. The creator of *The Big Issue* asked: 'Why is it that we are such a dirty nation? Every CCTV camera is a sign that the people are letting the people down.

Every fly-tipper or litter-dropper is an encouragement to create more laws to control our lawlessness.* When I first returned to Westgate-on-Sea it was very obvious the town had taken a down turn, more recently with traditional businesses and new businesses this trend has, thankfully, been reversed.

Recent events have highlighted the importance of having a responsive, adaptable Town Council that is the primary "port-of-call" for local residents. Do you believe the role of local government will now be permanently reshaped?

Absolutely yes! 'Devolution' was on its way but since the pandemic 'local' has been catapulted into the limelight as the real glue in society. The place where the local gift shop makes tea for those who need a cuppa and a chat, the grocery store that delivers come what may, and the town council that organises last minute prescription deliveries at 5pm on a Friday.

Who knows their area better than those who live within the community? Those experiencing its strengths and its flaws? Recent events have hastened many changes, and improved local governance has become a hot topic. The recognition given by central government and local council associations, to the tremendous work Parish and Town Councils have carried out during the last few months has hastened innovative training programmes for first tier Councillors, encouraging a more professional approach to the business of local government, and what better way to provide improvements for local communities than to raise standards and devolve decisions to those who are local.

It is a challenge, but we have the legislation (the Localism Act 2011) and everyone has challenges, every town has challenges.

Dealing with them at a local level delivers the best outcomes for local needs.

What are some of the most challenging issues in relation to providing the best quality of life and results for the residents of Westgate-on-Sea?

Engagement with the community on a positive level can sometimes be a minefield. To complain about an issue is a way of making it known, but if we offer ideas on how to solve these issues we can achieve much more as a community. The town councillors make decisions based on the needs of the town and to be better supported by those living in the town could generate so much more positive energy.

There are highly creative and generous residents, however a little more understanding and forgiveness from the wider populace (town councils do not always get it right first time) would create a more proactive atmosphere. All Cllrs are residents and willing to give their time, we are all part of our community. The Westgate-on-Sea Town Clerk is hugely supportive, she is also a resident and gives her time willingly to town initiatives.

Westgate-on-Sea is a town to treasure; we live in a beautiful area. Since the 23rd of March 2020, we have seen how important it is to work together, underlined by the lockdown and the aftermath we are now going through.

Working more fully with residents who are wanting the best for the town, would be a step towards big improvements within our community.

** Comment: Opinion The Big Issue founder A. John Bird May 21-27-2007 No.745*

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Community Emergency Plan



Why do we need a Community Emergency Plan?

Emergencies happen. Local emergency responders will always have to prioritise those in greatest need during an emergency, especially where life is in danger. There will be times when you may be affected by an emergency, but your life is not in immediate danger. During this time, you need to know how to help yourself and those around you. By becoming more resilient, you and your community can complement the work of local emergency responders and reduce the impact of an emergency on your community both in the short and long term.

The Town Council has prepared and formally adopted a Community Emergency Plan which is a living document to support the community; a copy of the document can be found on the Town Council website, this is the link you will need:- www.westgateonsea.gov.uk/community/westgate-on-sea-town-council-13327/community-emergency-plan/

The Kent Resilience Forum have produced a handy guidance booklet – What should I do in an Emergency – it contains useful information, tips, and a template for your own Emergency Plan for your household. This can also be found on the Town Council website, please use the same link as above.

Of course, recent events have proved a challenge and we have learned lessons in the last three months which will be reviewed and used to improve our readiness for any future emergencies that may occur.

If you possess any particular skill or information that you feel may benefit the community in a time of crisis please contact the Town Council so that we can collate any details which will only be used in the event of an emergency; please email townclerk@westgateonsea.gov.uk. The volunteers during the recent Covid-19 response played a major part in helping the community to ensure that the vulnerable were assisted, your community needs you!

Upcoming Events



SCARECROW FESTIVAL
18th - 19th July, 12pm - 5pm

Taking place all over Westgate.
Please refer to the map on pages 16-17.



WESTGATE FOOD & DRINK FESTIVAL
PROVISIONAL DATES: 29th - 31st August

Food and Drink festival by the Market Square Group. Date is provisional - to be confirmed.



WESTGATE REMEMBRANCE DAY
11th November 2020

More details to follow.



CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON
29th November 2020

More details to follow.



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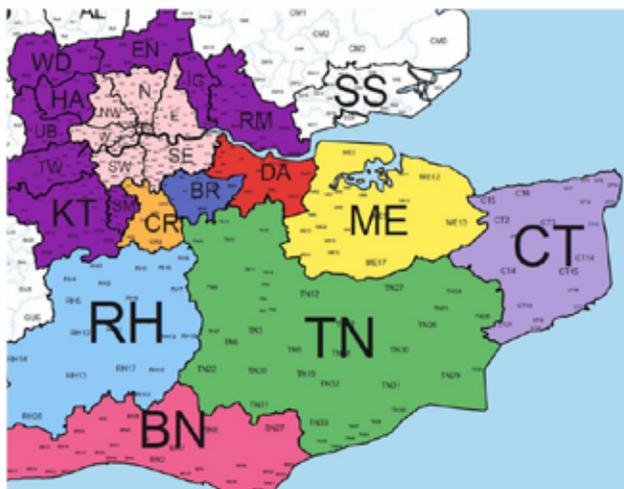
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