



Westgate-on-Sea

TOWN COUNCIL MAGAZINE





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NHS



Coronavirus Looking out for each other

You must stay at home, but there are safe ways to provide essential support to vulnerable people who are in isolation.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

-  Phone or keep in touch on social media
-  Pick up food for others
-  Pick up medicines

Find out how to help others safely at gov.uk/safehelp



I write this as the third week of 'lockdown' comes to an end – no doubt there will be several more. I'm pleased to say that our Town Council was one of the quickest off the blocks in terms of organising support for those who are self-isolating, showing how effective Town Councils can be, and with the strong community spirit in Westgate, we soon found enough volunteers to get the scheme going.

Special thanks must go to our town clerk and the council office staff who have worked flat out this week to meet the demands. We were even mentioned in the Telegraph! Thanks are due to the volunteers, and also to those in the local shops who have borne the brunt of the onslaught of those desperate to get their prescriptions dispensed and their larders stocked.

I stood on my balcony and clapped for the NHS workers whose value in our community is fully understood, and it was great to hear the noise of applause echoing round in the darkness. The Council has fought hard to have as many health services as possible available for Westgate residents.

Naturally our face-to-face meetings aren't currently taking place and so we have been switching to using other ways of keeping business going. I was especially disappointed that the inaugural meeting of our new Business Forum had to be postponed; the Forum can give a major boost to the development of our town.

We are still hoping that things will have returned to something like normal in time for our Westgate Day to take place on Saturday 18th July 2020.

Who knows what the next few months will bring?

Please take care of each other, stay at home unless you're needed outside, and above all - stay safe.

Regards

Martyn Pennington
Chairperson



Twitter: @WestgateonSeaTC
www.westgateonsea.gov.uk

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Hello to everyone at this very strange time. I was going to give you a basic update on the TDC Local Plan, the 2000 houses and the Westgate-on-Sea Neighbourhood Plan, however this now cannot be done without saying something about the current situation we find ourselves in.

As you know Westgate-on-Sea Town Council has been against the building of the 2000 houses on farmland south side of the town. Given the issues around access to food, it is now imperative that TDC halts this plan, and the plan to build a further 6000 on prime agricultural land across the whole of Thanet.

We cannot afford to destroy this fertile soil, the quality of which is higher than most areas in the UK. It should be valued as a local and national asset.

Now, more than ever, we need to take a step back and think about the local plan and what it will do to food production and our local environment. We do need some houses, but these should be for local people as Thanet already has a very high housing density. The residents on the protest walks over the past years chanted about this issue very clearly:

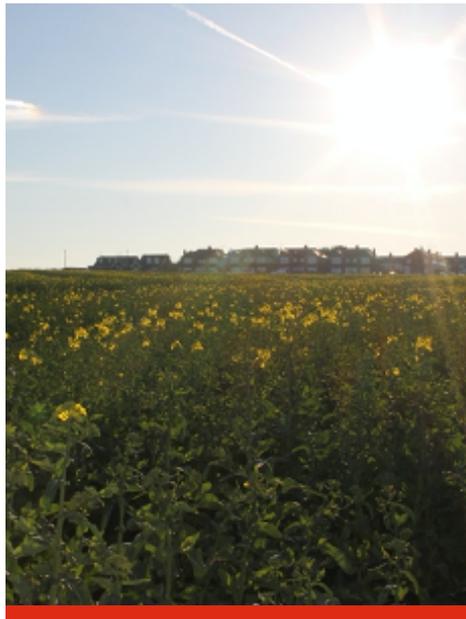
“Fields for food,
not for houses”



Not only will events like coronavirus test us, but climate change will decrease food availability and imports from drought ridden countries such as Africa and even the Mediterranean. We must now make sure that we grow enough food to cater for the local populations without relying on imports.

As individuals, we might like to start growing food in our back gardens or window boxes. We could perhaps start to harvest water using water butts so that our plants will continue to flourish in periods of drought. Also, we call on you to write to our local Thanet District Councillors and our MP, to encourage them to work with the local people to save the agricultural land for growing food and to set up more local food markets to ensure food security.

Most of us in Westgate-on-Sea are lucky enough to not experience extreme poverty, however some of us or our friends or family may be living one pay package away from great monetary stress. Now is the time for us to all come together and support one another using the skills and the finances that we have. Furthermore, when this over, we need to continue this community spirit, supporting each other as we have always done. Let us work for our local people, local food production and local businesses, so that in the future we can weather any storm.



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WESTGATE-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

	Final Budget 2019-20 £	Budget 2020-21 £	Budget Uplift £
Staffing & Administration	85,325	93,933	8,608
Events & Promotion	10,600	12,400	1,800
Community Assets	7,620	5,000	(2,620)
Civic & Election	2,000	4,450	2,450
Other Expenditure	5,046	6,122	1,076
Office Expenditure	31,891	31,090	(801)
Transferred to/from	0	0	0
Income	(5,576)	(11,822)	(6,246)
Total Precept	136,906	141,173	4,267

TDC Unit Cost
Precept £141,173
TAX Base £2,493.94
Unit Costs £56.61
Prior Year £55.80
Uplift £0.81
Uplift 1.45 %

How does this compare with other Parish/Town Councils?

	Broadstairs & St Peters Town Council £	Margate Charter Trustees £	Ramsgate Town Council £	Westgate on Sea Town £
Staffing & Administration	266,373	115,525	330,000	93,933
Civic & Election	46,650	30,950	15,000	4,450
Events & Promotion	126,504	5,200	132,500	17,400
Other-incl. s137 expenditure	389,528	575	509,503	37,212
Transferred to/from balance	(42,530)	0	0	0
Income	(125,073)	0	(46,000)	(11,822)
Total Precept	661,452	152,250	941,003	141,173

WESTGATE-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL 2019-20

	YTD as at Feb	Actual for Mar	Full Year	Final Budget	Variance
Income	(6,283)	(68)	(11380)	(5,576)	(5,804)
Grants Received	(11,500)		(11,500)		(11,500)
Precept Received	(136,906)		(136,906)	(136,906)	0
Total Income	(154,689)	(68)	(159,786)	(142,482)	(17,304)
Staffing & Administration	71,383	8,447	79,830	85,325	(5,495)
Events & Promotion	10,212	217	10,429	10,600	(171)
Community Assets	834		834	7,620	(6,786)
Civic & Election	5,576	91	5,667	2,000	3,667
Other Expenditure	6,039	962	7,001	5,046	1,955
Office Expenditure	53,129	5,531	52,760	31,891	26,869
Total Expenditure	147,173	15,348	162,521	142,482	20,039
Overspend /(Underspend)	(7,516)	15,280	2,735	0	2,735

Income: This includes the income generated by moving to the new office, £1,500 for Westgate Day 2019; Grant received for Westgate in Bloom for £10,000 of this £8,532 will be transferred to earmarked reserves and £890 for fees for stalls for 2020 Westgate Day that will be transferred to reserves.

Expenditure: Office Expenditure is overspent due to £17,211 for the office move, this has been met by underspends across the services. Legal costs for TDC asset transfers for £4,352, this has resulted in an overspend of £2,735 for the year.



What has Westgate-on-Sea Town Council given the residents of Westgate for their money this year?

Well! The move to the new office has enabled the Town Clerk and her staff to expand the profile of the council by hosting community groups coffee mornings, easy access for residents to drop in to see the clerk or her staff.

Collection point for recycling and food banks, tourist information leaflets. Community displays. Council meeting held in house saving room rental costs.

Generating income by renting office space/ hosting events. Decent working environment for the staff. Services provided by the town operative, helping to keep out town clean and tidy.

New town events which promotes the town to encourage visitors to help boost our town economy, working on transferring town assets back to Westgate to protect them from development Making Westgate a great place to live.



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Covid19 Council Support Lines

Kent County Council 24 Hour Helpline
03000 41 92 92
www.kent.gov.uk/kenttogether

Thanet COVID-19 Support
01843 577330
communitysupport@thanet.gov.uk

Westgate on Sea Town Council
01843 836182
townclerk@westgateonsea.gov.uk

**Get coronavirus support as an
extremely vulnerable person**

Register if you have a medical condition that makes you extremely vulnerable to coronavirus. For example, you'll be able to ask for help getting deliveries of essential supplies like food. If you're not sure whether your medical condition makes you extremely vulnerable, register anyway.

You can register yourself, or on behalf of someone else. www.gov.uk/coronavirus-extremely-vulnerable

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Meet the Councillor

Tim Green was the successful candidate in February's by-election. In the first of a new regular feature, Hof Media caught up with Cllr Green to ask him about his new role.

Tell us a little bit about yourself

I am Tim Green, I am 46 years old and a full time firefighter for Kent Fire and Rescue Service. I have three children aged 23, 19 and 15. The youngest child has Downs Syndrome and Autism. I have a fiancé and she has two children aged 13 and 11. I am a member of British Cycling an avid cyclist. As well as being a full-time firefighter I am an on-call firefighter on my days off for Westgate. I served in the Royal Navy from the age of 16 for five years.

What is your connection with Westgate-on-Sea and the local area?

I first moved to Westgate in 1996, buying my first house. I am originally from Herne Bay but decided to cross the Wantsum to beautiful Thanet.

Have you always held ambitions to be active in local politics? Was there a particular catalyst or reason for standing in the recent by-election?

I was standing as a district councillor in 1997 but had to pull out due to work and having a young child. I have thought many times about getting involved in local politics and last year I noticed the Town Council by-election poster and thought "that's it, I want to do that and help the Town".

How has your work for the Kent Fire and Rescue service formed the approach you plan to take towards your role as a Councillor and your views on the importance of serving the local community?

As a firefighter, everything we do is community centred. The service has a strong ethos on us interacting with the community and getting involved. I am used to working with other people with different political views to come together and achieve a common goal. I have always been in public service and it is an integral part of my life to help others.

You stood as an independent candidate. In general, how difficult is it to reconcile any personal political views in a national context with the work a Town or Parish Council is required to do?

I am a member of the Labour party but in my personal opinion, national party politics really doesn't have a place for the local issues in the



town. I am always keen to talk through any political opposition and find a satisfactory goal that is best for the town, that's what makes us all so different.

The current COVID-19 situation has left an indelible mark on the Town, for the immediate future at least. The Town Council has received local and national attention for its quick response and strategy to help those in need. As a new Councillor, this must have been a baptism of fire. What has your experience been of this and have you been impressed by the work of your colleagues on the Council and the wider community?

Wow yes it really is a baptism of fire, but I am very fortunate to have the working background that I have. I'm used to emergency preparedness and can bring that skill to the current crisis. The Town Council have been absolutely fabulous, from the elected councillors to the staff employed by the Council. The town clerk and office staff deserve a special mention. It is fantastic to see the way residents have volunteered their time to help those vulnerable in the town. I want to say a massive thank you!

Finally, thinking about the years ahead, what do you hope to achieve for Westgate-on-Sea, both on a personal level and collectively as Council?

I want to see the updating of the recreation ground at Lymington Road, which the town council has taken over. I am also keen to see the Westgate Day flourish year on year and become a real focal point in the town calendar. Personally, I want Westgate to be a place that people come to for its magnificent beaches and independent shops. As a council I want to and will support the local plan as we move forward.



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Upcoming Events

CELEBRATE WESTGATE

WESTGATE DAY

Saturday 18th July 2020 12pm – 9pm

Sea Road, Adrian Square and Ethelbert Square.
A family fun day with plenty of stalls, entertainment, activities and more!



SCARECROW FESTIVAL

26th and 27th September 2020

Free event for the whole community, if you would like to pledge a scarecrow please contact Gill at townclerk@westgateonsea.gov.uk or Lorraine at pottybird@ismyemail.co.uk or pop in the Town Council office. This is the first year for this event and it is hoped that there will be a Scarecrow Trail that Westgate can be proud of, so please do get in touch!



WESTGATE REMEMBRANCE PARADE

8th November 2020, 11.30am to 12.30pm

More details to follow next issue.

Westgate-on-Sea Poem

Hark, I hear the bells of Westgate,
I will tell you what they sigh,
Where those minarets and steeples
Prick the open Thanet sky.

Happy bells of eighteen-ninety,
Bursting from your freestone tower!
Recalling laurel, shrubs and privet,
Red geraniums in flower.

Feet that scamper on the asphalt
Through the Borough Council grass,
Till they hide inside the shelter
Bright with ironwork and glass,

Striving chains of ordered children
Purple by the sea-breeze made,
Striving on to prunes and suet
Past the shops on the Parade.

Some with wire around their glasses,
Some with wire across their teeth,
Writhing frames for running noses
And the drooping lip beneath.

Church of England bells of Westgate!
On this balcony I stand,
White the woodwork wiggles round me,
Clocktowers rise on either hand.

For me in my timber arbour
You have one more message yet,

“Plimsolls, plimsolls in the summer,
Oh galoshes in the wet!”

John Betjeman

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History of the Pancake Races

Back in ancient times, in a beautiful & gated community, an ageing Wizard blended some butter with a splash of oil, a bit of flour & a few magical eggs.

He cooked and tasted his new delicacy - with great pleasure! Having tasted his creation themselves, some of the locals, who were so amazed by these 'pancakes', rushed to deliver them far & wide - racing to get them out the quickest.

And according to a local legend, that's how the 'pancake races' were created.

As time passed, the Wizard moved on and the gated community opened up, becoming a bustling seaside Town with 2 beautiful bays, a train station, a cinema, an art gallery and a myriad of other, sometimes unique, features.

Sadly, racing with pancakes was soon forgotten about - but one day, a group of soothsayers called The Town Council discovered the tales of old, and quickly brought the tradition back to life.

On Shrove Tuesday 2020 there were several Pancake Races held in Station Road in the Town, with many young Witches & Wizards, along with some 'ordinary' people, racing.

As well as a number of local Residents & Councillors, participants came from The London School of English, Hayley's Comets, Chartfield, Piggybank and St Gabriel's.

There was a great deal of running about - along with constant, accidental, dropping of many bits of pancake, which kept the local seagulls happy!

Many proud mums and dads greeted their little children as they (at last!) crossed the finishing line, and much fun was had by all the residents who joined in or simply watched.



By-Election Statement

Vacancies on town councils can be filled by either a by-election or co-option. The by-election for a Town Councillor for Westgate on Sea took place on Thursday 13th February 2020, following a request by 10 residents.

The Town Council publicised the Notice of Poll, which included details of the polling stations, the date of the poll and the names of the two candidates, as soon as this was available from Thanet District Council on 17th January 2020.

We posted it on the Town Council website, social media, in the office window, and on our noticeboards. Moreover, we had an article highlighting the by-election in our Town Council magazine which is free and for delivery to every household in the town as well as being available for collection from various central locations.

TDC charges the Town Council the cost for holding the by-election, around £5000 (equivalent to about 4% of our income for this year) and the total is borne by the people of Westgate on Sea. In fact, and contrary to popular belief, poll cards are not necessary to vote, so no-one is "disenfranchised".

To have had poll cards printed and delivered this time would have resulted in an additional cost to the people of Westgate of approximately £1,429.00; therefore, the Town Council decided not to request poll cards.

In our opinion the main contributing factors to the low turnout were the poor weather conditions, lack of coverage in the media, and some comments were fed back that not enough was known about either candidate.



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Additional evening guests are charged at £18.00 per guest

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Contact Numbers for Friendly Calls and other Services – Westgate and Thanet

Organisation	Services	Contact
Clr Joanna Cornford	Friendly phone call between the hours of 6pm and 8pm weekdays, 6pm to 9pm on Saturdays and 3pm to 6pm on Sundays	07896 092324 for Westgate
Clr Roy Nightingale	Friendly phone call	07733 011723 for Westgate
Penelope Wells	Friendly phone call	07769 159400
Clr Matt Scott (TDC)	Friendly phone call	07512 777399
Clr Bertie Braidwood (TDC)	Friendly phone call	07518 783090
Connect Well East Kent	Hub team are operational as normal and telephone services are still active. Open Mon, Weds and Fri 8:30am – 6pm Tues and Thurs 9am – 5pm	0300 302 0178
Carers Support East Kent	CSEK are operational and the Hub team still offering information and guidance and assessment for Carers. Information can be found on the website www.carersek.org.uk Open Mon, Weds and Fri 8:30am – 6pm Tues and Thurs 9am – 5pm	0300 302 0178 www.carersek.org.uk
Red Zebra Social Prescribing	For a updated list of services in Canterbury, Whitstable, Herne Bay and Faversham see their website www.connectwellkent.org.uk	connectwell@redzebra.org.uk www.connectwellkent.org.uk
Silverline Telephone Befriending Service	24 Hour befriending service. Free, confidential service to share worries and fears. A good sign posting service. The Silver Line is a helpline and friendship service for people aged 55 and over.	0800 470 80 90
Thanet Coronavirus support	A list of services across Thanet who are offering support during this difficult time. Click the link to the right.	http://thanetcoronavirusassistance.com/delivery/?fbclid=IwAR03vIF0BJ-vrnPTpLkaF3sITBDcvPC9r7TQFIQVJS_hSenPI31zwtowhxg
Age UK Thanet	Offering I and A support over the phone only. Also available for shopping calls. Buddy Box Hot Meal Delivery is open for anyone that needs food and is £8.00 Age UK Support at Home Service – operational as per normal contact Debby Turner via email.	01843 223881 debby.turner@ageukhernebay.org.uk
Ageless Thanet	Providing a free telephone service, during office hours, for 50+ Thanet residents who are struggling with feelings of social isolation and loneliness during this time and would like to hear a friendly voice to see how you are. You can contact them via phone, email or on social media (Facebook and Twitter). Ageless Thanet will also be sharing videos on how to use the internet and social media to stay connected with friends and family during the COVID – 19.	Ageless Thanet Email info@agelessthanet.org.uk or calling 01843 210005. https://www.facebook.com/AgelessThanet/
Global Generation Church	<u>Practical Support</u> Picking up online food orders and delivering to individual's home Picking up shopping, prescriptions etc Arrange and deliver food parcels sourced from Thanet Food Link (St Paul's Food Bank) Utilize our Dignity clothing store to help those needing clothing/toiletries where possible and deliver <u>Pastoral/Community support</u> Provide telephone calls to prevent feelings of isolation and loneliness, aiming to decrease feelings of anxiety and improve wellbeing where possible Signpost to different services where further help or advice can be provided also	01843 226232 Ext 2
The Bus Café Thanet	Offering a home delivery service from their food and drink menu between 9am and 3pm. No minimum order and no charges for delivery. They have bread and different types of milk available and all prices will be the same as in the shop.	01843 297985
St Pauls Food Bank (Margate)	Open as usual – Monday, Tuesday Thursday mornings 10:30am – 12pm. You can visit Cliftonville Community Centre to get a foodbank voucher on the	01843 221913
Thanet Community Support Partnership	TSCP are offering their car scheme to all ESSENTIAL hospital/medical appointments only.	Samantha Howlett 01843 609337 info@kcv.org.uk
Thanet Community Transport Association	Offering a personal shopping service in all areas and willing to help anyone who is self-isolating and who cannot get out and about. Also are running a dial a ride service to all supermarkets to allow elderly to get out to the supermarkets. This is covering Thanet, Herne Bay and Whitstable.	01843 602030 Charlotte or Hannah
Westgate Town Council	The Town Council offices is now Closed -But, the Town Council are still offering a service of volunteers to visit homes within the town to help isolated people to do shopping, walk the dogs, friendly phone calls, picking up prescriptions and general needs. If you know someone who needs this please contact the Town Clerk on the number/email to the right.	01843 836182 townclerk@westgateonsea.gov.uk
Changing Minds - The Lifeboat project	They will provide mental health support, advice, anxiety management, food and essentials for the local community throughout the Corona virus Pandemic. This will consist of weekly podcasts, videos discussing all things wellbeing, exercise, nutrition and more! To set up a social media hub for individuals to access for tips on combating loneliness whilst in isolation. To grow and adapt the project alongside the ever-changing situation to provide support for as many affected individuals as we can possibly reach.	Colin Rouse – colin.rouse@changingmindskent.co.uk

Westgate-on-Sea Town Council: COVID19 Provisions and Arrangements List

Coastal Electrics	01843 832 254	shop@coastalelectrics.net	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home Delivery Service/At Home Service.
Westgate Galleria - Gifts	07545 894 323	Shorelinepartners1@gmail.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home Delivery Service Special Opening Times for Elderly and Vulnerable on specific days. Essential Items can be reserved.
<u>Krusty Kobb Bakery</u>	01843 835 447	tinavac@icloud.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home Delivery Service. Essential Items can be reserved, orders needed before 1pm. Open from 6.30am.
Boots Chemist	01843 831 167	Joolturner63@boots.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact for information.
Supreme Vapes	07808 033 139	Jmw2309@gmail.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home Delivery Service. Essential Items can be reserved.
Edwards Supermarket	01843 833238	katiewolf@hotmail.co.uk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home Delivery Service. Essential Items can be reserved.
Felt Lovelies - Gifts	07905 222 558	feltlovelies@outlook.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home Delivery Service. Special Opening Times for Elderly and Vulnerable. Essential Items can be reserved.
Westgate Fish Bar	01843 834 154		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home Delivery Service. Special Opening Times for Elderly and Vulnerable. Essential Items can be reserved.
Clothes Care Drycleaners	01843 831348		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home Delivery Service.
J Prentis Fruit and Veg	01843 834934	Phone orders only between 10am & 2pm on main number Orders on 07827 452006 between 3pm & 6pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home Delivery Service. Collections only available between 10am & 2pm
<u>Dadds Butchers</u>	01843 833055		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home Delivery Service.
West Bay Café	01843 831791		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home Delivery Service.
Best One Supermarket	01843 831664		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home Delivery Service. Orders can be placed and collected later.
<u>Paydens Pharmacy</u>	01843 831186		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact for information.
Icehouse (<u>Julias</u>) Cafe	01843 831440		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home Delivery Service for takeaway food.
Station Superstore	01843 836363	Shang.keeth@hotmail.fr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home Delivery Service. Early opening for elderly/vulnerable only. Reservation of essential items for collection by volunteers for delivery.
Card Gallery	01843 835749	64 St <u>Mildreds</u> Road, Westgate Cards, gifts, helium balloons, gift wrap and gift bags.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home Delivery Service.
Thanet Pet Food Delivery	01843 836826	32 St <u>Mildreds</u> Road, Westgate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home Delivery Service
Co Op	01843 831676		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers can collect multiple orders for residents
Premier Supermarket	01843 831509	23-27 Cambourne Avenue, CT8 8NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Telephone orders available Home Delivery Service
<u>St Augustines</u> – Canterbury Road	01843 830150	Limited menu available, hot and cold homemade meals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orders taken from 12 noon until 5pm Monday to Friday Free Home Delivery Service or click and collect available
Morris General Stores	01843 835580		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home Delivery Service
Corkscrew Off Licence	01843 831551	55 Station Road, Westgate Open 9am to 7pm Monday to Saturday Open 10am to 4pm on Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home Delivery Service available with minimum order of £25.00
Budget Beaters Discount	01843 832427	39 Station Road, Westgate Open 9am to 3pm Monday to Saturday for household essentials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact for information



Following the national debate in the second week of March on the response to the Coronavirus pandemic, the Town Council launched immediate preparations for the Town to cope with measures the Government was likely to take. The Council already had an approved policy for volunteers, and a draft Resilience Plan (Community Emergency Plan), as well as some business continuity measures relating to PCs and phones.

Over the weekend 14th/15th March plans were already being devised for the Town to respond to the closure of schools and the need to support vulnerable and elderly residents. In the following days the Town Clerk immediately began seeking volunteers for a home delivery programme, and links were set up with other community organisations, notably the Westgate surgery and local chemists. The shops were also canvassed to see which of them might offer delivery facilities amongst other services.

Within days a system for the collection and delivery of food and medicines was up and running with the following principles, some derived from the Council's existing volunteer policy:

- Volunteers to work in pairs (the "buddy" system).
- The Town was divided into zones, with volunteers allocated to a specific zone.
- One volunteer in each pair preferably had a DBS check undertaken previously.
- A log is to be kept of the visits undertaken by the volunteers.
- All volunteers are required to follow the current Government guidelines at all times, for example the rules on social distancing
- Volunteers must ensure they are washing their hands on a regular basis and wear gloves when handling items for delivery.
- Items for delivery to residents should be left on the doorstep. You should then observe from a distance to ensure the person collects the items before leaving the area.
- The Town Council volunteer scheme is endorsed and supported by the NHS, TDC, KCC and Social Enterprise Kent.

Residents who were classed as being in the 'vulnerable groups' category were excluded from joining as a volunteer for this scheme but were

able to sign up to provide other support systems such as the 'friendly phone call'.

The demand for medicines was an unexpected difficulty in the early days; queues for the two chemists' shops went all along the main street, and some residents became worried about getting their urgent medicines on time. This was partially solved by Council staff bulking prescription orders and collecting at a pre-agreed time from the chemists, thus reducing queueing time and helping the chemists who have been working extremely hard in the last few weeks.

As the lockdown commenced in the second week, some volunteers dropped out and new ones had to be found. The inability of major supermarket chains (Tesco, Asda, Sainsbury's and Morrisons) to offer home delivery within a reasonable time also exacerbated the problem. Some local shops 'piggy-backed' the Town Council scheme to offer home deliveries for orders placed by phone. Westgate is lucky to have a network of local businesses who have rallied to support the community during the "lockdown" period; yes, we have a butcher, a baker and we can buy candles in the Town! There never has been a better time to shop local and enjoy the friendly personal service that is often taken for granted. We can all continue to support the local shops following this crisis to ensure they continue to thrive in these challenging times.

As we have now almost completed the third week it seems that we have more of a routine and arrangements are more established. The Town Council are proud to be working with other authorities such as Kent County Council, Thanet District Council and Ramsgate Town Council as tackling the crisis is only possible working in collaboration and supporting each other. Thanks are due to the Town Clerk and the Council office staff for the organisation, together with the Council cleansing operatives who have carried on keeping the Town tidy.

The requests to volunteer in the community have been overwhelming and we want to thank all of you (you know who you are!) for being available, sometimes at short notice to undertake tasks for the vulnerable, elderly and isolating residents in the Town. We could not have achieved this without you, and we hope that after this crisis the whole Town can get together to celebrate the community spirit with each other.

Laura Bungard, our Community Warden has been a huge support to the Town Council and community of Westgate whilst representing Kent County Council. She has assisted with prescription deliveries, welfare visits and essential shopping requests. Those of you who know her will not be surprised as she is always on hand for events and to give advice for a variety of situations – please remember you can contact her by mobile phone – 07969 583922; or by email – laura.bungard@kent.gov.uk.



Speaking of Town Heroes – Lorraine, our own Westgate Womble despite having to self-isolate herself has joined forces with Margate Scrubbers to assist with making and distributing scrubs for the fantastic front line NHS staff, for those of you who are not familiar with this cause please visit: www.crowdfunder.co.uk/margate-scrubbers

This is an important initiative and we know very close to Lorraine's heart; for anyone who is a keen seamstress/tailor or just would like to help please contact via Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/527970394801223

Lifeboat Project

Westgate based mental health and wellbeing provider Changing Minds Kent CIC has been supporting hundreds of vulnerable and isolated residents across Thanet affected by Covid-19 by providing food packages and other essential supplies.

The project which launched just under 3 weeks ago has been working in partnership with Westgate on Sea Town Council, Ramsgate Town Council, the Gap Project and other voluntary sector organisations to work collectively to provide relief and support to those most in need.

The project has raised nearly £2000 through our Crowd Fundraising page which has enabled the team to purchase essential supplies including food and toiletries. CMK: "It has been overwhelming how much support we have received for the Lifeboat project, given the challenges we are all facing, it is important that we continue to provide as much support as

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we possibly can to help those that are facing difficulties getting out". It has been amazing to see how many volunteers and donations of good will we have received. We are working hard to apply for local and national grants to ensure we can sustain this service long term so we can help rebuild our communities"

For more information and to donate to the project visit www.changingmindskent.co.uk/covid-assist.html

There are lists that the Town Council have collated for local businesses and shops who are offering services for the community and organisations and individuals who are offering their time to be available for "friendly phone calls" for the lonely and anxious residents in the community. We hope that you stay well and keep safe, please remember that you are not alone and there is a lot of help available for those who need it, you only have to ask!



Home safety with the Kent Fire & Rescue Service

Why do I need to think about home safety?

If a fire breaks out in your home you're at greater risk if you are an older person, or if you have mobility problems.

Babies and children are also at more risk as their bodies are even less able to cope with smoke and fumes.

We can help keep you safe with a free safe and well visit. If you don't need this service yourself, you can refer a relative or friend to us, too.

Smoke alarms save lives

We're aiming to make sure all homes in Kent and Medway have working smoke alarms. That's why we offer free safety advice and services to everyone.

Get a smoke alarm - it could save your life!

- Fires happen when you least expect them, often during the night.
- They also spread very quickly, damaging property, injuring and killing people.

But the real killer is smoke. If you're asleep when a fire starts and you don't have a smoke alarm to wake you, you are unlikely to survive. Smoke can suffocate you in just three breaths – you could be dead before the flames reach you.

Fitting your own smoke alarms

- Always fit your smoke alarms where you will be able to hear them throughout the home – at least one alarm on each level of your home is recommended. Alarms should not be fitted in or near the kitchen or any bathrooms, as steam or cooking fumes may cause false alarms.
- Fit smoke alarms on the ceiling, as near as possible to the center of the room – the alarms should be positioned at least 30cm away from any wall or light fitting. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions on the fitting and maintenance of your smoke alarms.



About smoke alarms

- If there is a fire, a smoke alarm will immediately warn you, giving you and everyone in your home time to escape to safety. Smoke alarms are cheap, available in most high street stores, supermarkets and DIY stores, and are easy to fit and maintain.
- There are a variety of models to choose from, depending on your needs and budget. Kent Fire and Rescue Service will be happy to give you free advice on the best approach for your home – just call us (free from most home phones, mobiles may charge) on **0800 923 7000** or email us at **home@kent.fire-uk.org**
- Whichever model you choose, make sure you buy it from a reputable outlet, such as a supermarket or DIY shop.
- There are two main types of smoke alarm – ionisation alarms and optical alarms.
- Ionisation alarms are the cheapest and the most readily available. They are very sensitive to flaming fires, (ones that burn fiercely such as chip pan fires) and they will detect this type of fire before the smoke gets too thick).
- Optical alarms are more expensive and more effective at detecting slow-burning fires (such as smoldering foam-filled furniture and overheated wiring). Optical alarms are less likely to go off accidentally, and so are best for ground-floor hallways and for homes on one level.
- There are many other specialist alarms, such as mains-powered alarm with strobed lights and vibrating pads for people who are deaf or have hearing difficulties.

Forward Plan

Your Town Council has just issued its forward plan, which is a heads-up for activities over the next four years. It's been built on what residents have identified as priorities and what the Council thinks can be delivered without asking for huge increases in Council Tax. So there are no big expensive projects (which can turn into white elephants!), but builds on what the Council and the community can achieve together.

Many of you have been involved in developing the Town's Neighbourhood Plan which is now in its final stages. We hope that differences of view over the proposed 2000 homes will not prevent TDC giving the green light for a final consultation on the Plan.

Already there are lots of things happening in the coming months. Through events like Westgate Day (18 July – don't forget!) and the Christmas Market, the town is building its identity and becoming more widely known, so these will continue and be supplemented by similar events such as a food fair planned for later this year (incidentally it would be great to see music playing a more prominent role in the life of Westgate). We are working on the transfer of ownership of the Lymington Road recreation ground from TDC back to the town, so that it can be used again for the people of the town, with proper football pitches and playgrounds.

One aspect of the Forward Plan is to examine ways in which better services can be delivered for the people of Westgate at lowest cost, so we shall be looking at different models of community companies to see what works on a long-term viable basis.

We know local businesses are keen to see Westgate prosper, so we are setting up a business forum to discuss with us how best to help the town and its residents. We're grateful for the support they've already given to community events, and can see this being developed further. It's great to see the impetus which the Galleria has given to local arts and crafts, and if you haven't seen the 'Westgate' shopping bags made from recycled material, you've missed something!

Westgate in Bloom will be developed and grown in the coming years. The Council intends to adopt an Environment Policy, and will seek to improve standards particularly in housing and open spaces.



More trees will be planted, in line with the aim to plant 1200 in Thanet.

The past is part of our future too – and next year we'll celebrate the 150th birthday of our railway station! We hope in future to partner with the Heritage Centre to increase knowledge of Westgate's heritage.

If you have ideas you think would fit in the Forward Plan, we'd be happy to hear about them.

Heritage Quiz #1

This little gem is located somewhere in Westgate on Sea. Can you tell us where? First correct answer wins a bag of compost, ring or email Westgate-on-Sea Town Council!



Small Grants Scheme

The Westgate-on-Sea Town Council Small Grants Scheme has been running since the Council was formed in 2015. The Grant Scheme gives local residents, not for profit community groups and organisations the opportunity to apply for a sum of up to £500 for projects or events which will benefit the Westgate-on-Sea community. Westgate-on-Sea Town Council wishes to encourage and support a diverse range of high quality, innovative and ambitious events and projects that engage local residents and visitors alike.

Last year the Westgate-on-Sea Cricket Club were awarded a Grant which enabled them to purchase Team Baseball Hats for the Junior Section of the club.

There are two rounds of funding available, with applications being accepted in April and October of each year. The amount of money available is set annually in the budget of the Council, grants will normally be up to a maximum of £500, although higher amounts will be considered in exceptional circumstances. All applications are reviewed by an elected panel at the Finance and General Purposes Meeting.

If you are intending to hold an event, form a new constituted not-for-profit community group or start a project in the future then please email the Council on finance@westgateonsea.gov.uk for more information.



Westgate-on-Sea Scout Group - Testimony

“Westgate-on-Sea Scout Group is growing and going from strength to strength, we currently have 50 children and 15 adult members which is more than twice the size we were this time last year.

Our aim as part of the Scouting movement is to help young people develop through learning through doing, responsibility, teamwork, taking acceptable risks and independent thinking.”

If you would like to hear more testimonies, then please join us at the rescheduled Annual Town Meeting, details of which will be made available on the Town Council website and Facebook page as soon as a date is chosen. Successful applicants will be making presentations about how they used the Grant money and the benefit it has had.

Keeping Westgate Tidy

Westgate-on-Sea Town Council employs three part time Cleansing Operatives who work to help keep our town tidy. The Operatives deal with any immediate issues, such as fly tipping and dog waste but day to day their role is to top up the street cleaning services provided by Thanet District Council. This includes general litter picking, sweeping and emptying of the Town Council rubbish bins.

The Operatives work on a rota, helping to ensure they cover as much of Westgate as possible. The Zones are named by road but really the Operatives will work those roads and the areas surrounding them. On occasion they can be called out to deal with an issue such as fly tipping which can pull them away from their scheduled duties. For more information then please see the table below:

Zone	Week 1					Week 2				
	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI
1 – Station Road & Roxborough										
2 – Adrian & Ethelbert Squares										
3 – Westgate Bay Avenue										
4 – Golf Club										
5 – St Saviours School										
6 – Westbury Road										
7 – Linksfield Road										
8 – Lymington Road										
9- Victoria Avenue										
10 – Promenade & Beach										

For more information about your bin collection day, a missed collection, graffiti, public litter bin problems and fly tipping you can call Thanet District Council on **01843 577 000** or visit the website: www.thanet.gov.uk as well as reporting this to Westgate-on-Sea Town Council.

Meet the Team

Left: Neil, Gary and Greg.
Right: Neil using the electric vacuum litter collector.



Before



After

Cleaning kerbs and drains.



Before



After

Clearing mud and leaves around the square..



Health, Sport and Youth Community Project

Introduction and Overview

With the impending acquisition of Lymington Road Recreation Ground and legal transfer from Thanet District Council to Westgate on Sea Town Council, we welcome the re-introduction of football and possibly other sports back to the recreation ground, following an absence of at least a decade.

However, looking towards the future, with the objective of providing comprehensive sports, health and youth services and facilities for the Community of Westgate and surrounding area, we propose bringing together other interested groups and working in collaboration to shape the proposed plans.

This could potentially be incorporated as a "Community Interest Company" or indeed, another similar entity. That would have a role as a management body, securing funding, and providing support and expertise to its member groups. So, developing comprehensive facilities and services to its users. This "bigger picture" strategy may be an important feature of Westgate Town Council's Four-Year Forward Plan.

Organisation and Management

The relationship between the Town Council and the CIC must be very carefully thought through and constituted. The main consideration to this strategy is that the Council could create an organisation that is "released" into the Community and ceases to be in the control and management of the Town Council. The obvious alternative is that the Town Council seeks funding on behalf of the various community organisations providing support and expertise. This would avoid an additional tier of management. So, a CIC or equivalent (see Annex below; organisation Types) may become a longer-term ambition, which will require more research and thought.

A CIC is a Social Enterprise that is fundamentally a business but having social goals and objectives whose surpluses are primarily invested back into its activities for the sole benefit of the community that it essentially serves. Giving its services a strong sustainable and socially inclusive aspects to local community and with its inherent social benefit ambitions.



Project Development and Deployment

The project development will follow a phasing-in design, with timescales and costings, while simultaneously seeking external funding. This allows the project to build and learn from its successes and difficulties.

The project should be introduced in clear distinct phases. As follows:-

- **Phase (1):** Re-introduction of Football to the recreation ground and pursue external funding (National Lottery and Kent Football Association).
- **Phase (2):** Refurbishment of the Recreation Site.
- **Phase (3):** Community Development Work with the various partner organisations and community groups.
- **Phase (4):** Incorporation and launch of umbrella organisation, only if appropriate.

Annex: Organisation Types

Before the project can go further the type of umbrella organisation that is to be adopted must be considered in detail with due diligence.

The main organisational types that may be adopted are as follows: -

- Social Enterprise.
- Community Interest Company (CIC).
- Company Limited by Guarantee.
- Charity.
- Community Development Agency. (Company Limited by Guarantee).
- Cooperative.
- Industrial and Provident Society.

The impact of waste and the importance of Recycling

Over the past 100 years, the amount of waste that humanity produces has increased by almost 10,000 percent. Of that staggering volume, it is estimated that 25 percent ends up in our oceans, forming five gigantic gyres of rubbish.

Since only a small percentage gets recycled the majority is effectively mummified in landfills, leaching out methane and other toxic outputs over time. If it is not buried, it is typically burned in incinerators. While a very small percentage of incinerators do produce some energy as an output, in the process they also destroy all possible value except the caloric (or energy) value inherent in the materials.

Recyclable vs. non-recyclable

The main reason most of our waste is sent to landfills and incinerators, and why few of our outputs are recycled (like they technically can be), is tied to the economics of waste.

It is simply more expensive to collect and recycle most things than the results are worth, and it's cheap—because we allow it to be cheap—to send waste to a landfill or an incinerator.

Why we work with TerraCycle

TerraCycle is working towards Eliminating the Idea of Waste® by making the non-recyclable, recyclable. They do this by offering a range of free programmes that are funded by conscientious consumer brands and manufacturers, as well as purchasable programmes that are funded by Eco conscious consumers to bring circular repurposing solutions to almost all forms of waste.

By sending waste to TerraCycle we avoid it ending up as litter, in a landfill or incineration facility. Instead, new materials and products will be made with your collected waste, reducing the need to extract new materials from the planet. This avoided impact is not small; for an average product over 90% of the environmental impact comes from extracting and refining the raw materials from which it is made.

Incineration of waste materials converts the waste into ash, gas, and heat (which is sometimes converted into electricity). While incineration does not completely replace landfilling, it significantly reduces the volume



of waste that is landfilled and is considered a more optimal linear solution. Incineration is not a circular solution as the waste material is destroyed in the incineration process.

TerraCycle will not incinerate any waste that it collects.

A landfill is a site for the disposal of waste materials by burial and is the oldest form of waste treatment. Historically, landfills have been the most common methods of organised waste disposal and remain so in many places around the world. TerraCycle will not landfill any waste that it collects.

Good causes

We also collect points for waste recycled and we are proud to say we have raised over £200 for various charities so far!

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The Annual Town Meeting

Every year between 1st March and 1st June Parish and Town Councils are required to hold their Annual Town Meeting, an opportunity for electors (residents who have registered to vote) and others to hear about the activities of the Town Council, and everyone can debate the current issues in the community. With Covid-19 putting a temporary stop to all public meetings, we have put together some of the highlights from the last twelve months: -

Following discussions early last year relating to the 150th anniversary of the train station in 2021 with Network Rail and South East Rail, major works were planned including the renovation of the waiting room on platform 2, which is complete, and the upgrading of the foot bridge. Sadly, due to Covid-19 all work is now at a standstill including the Bumble Bee Conservation Trust sponsorship with plantings and the planned actions by Westgate in Bloom.

In April the Independent Examination of the Thanet Local Plan by the Planning Inspectorate was launched at St. Augustine's. The hearing was attended by councillors and residents, and Cllr Dr H Scott, along with our Chairperson, made representations on behalf of Westgate on Sea. This was followed up by a public meeting at the Town Council offices when the Developers Millwood Homes faced strong questioning from Cllrs and residents.

In May, elections were held for all ten Councillor posts; eight Councillors were re-elected and two new Councillors, David Donaldson and David Wallin, joined them. At the AGM in May, Cllr Pennington was re-elected as Chair.

In July the Council moved its offices into St Mildreds Road, gaining more space and saving money on the rent. The new Offices have proved to be a turning point in the short history of the town council, providing a friendly hub for various community groups, events, Cllr Nightingale's recycling drive and of course all Town Council meetings. In months to come we hope the work of the Town Council will attract more interest and input from residents.

In July we also hosted the inaugural Westgate Day, an ambitious project and brainchild of Cllr Page; a combination of educational projects involving local schools, and a community 'fun and learning' day. The weather was glorious, and the



community came out in force to enjoy 'all the fun of the fair' including stalls, bands, an open topped bus and of course the things we forgot! It was a resounding success, thanks to the very hard work of all who gave their time to create a friendly welcoming atmosphere.

Following the departure of Reverend Dr George Kalu, the Reverend Susan Wing became Chaplain to the Council. She has regularly supported the Council through prayer and through her civic services for the 2019 war commemorations.

Cllr Dr Hannah Scott instigated a successful community day at Lymington Green on 30th November; planting trees donated by the Woodland Trust to enhance our environment with trees' ability to remove toxins from the air whilst providing shade in the heat of Summer.

Good news for us all came in January with the excellent draft Budget overseen by Cllr O'Connor, Chair of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, only a £0.81p Band D increase in the precept but still providing adequate finance for all initiatives and the important grant funding available for local groups. We also seek to work closely with neighbouring Councils so that we can build up co-operation and reduce costs.

Following the resignation of Cllr Micallef, Cllr Tim Green was elected to the vacancy in February. He is now establishing himself as an active, engaging with residents and providing a useful link to others within the emergency service departments of Kent.

There was more good news in February when the Town Clerk and Cllr Donaldson commenced work on the asset transfer and legal process involved with securing the use of the Lymington Recreation Ground (land donated in 1914 to the people of Westgate on Sea). This has been well timed, coming after all the efforts of Dr Dawn Crouch and the Heritage Centre organizing the

construction and unveiling on 2nd November 2018 of the long-awaited WW1 Memorial. The asset transfer will include our two cliff top Shelters, one previously renovated by the Town Council and the other by Michael Wiseman ably supported by Cllr Matthew Scott.

To complete the year our Neighbourhood Plan is almost ready, representatives of the Town Council very recently attended a meeting at TDC specifically designed to give feedback on the plan prior to it going out for public consultation, the most significant comment from the planning expert stated 'the quality of the draft document and inclusion of policies and community actions is to be commended'.

Throughout this year the Council has kept under detailed review the needs of the most vulnerable in the town, particularly in relation to the need for food collection and delivery through food banks, and the provision of meals in the school holidays. It has also built up relations with the newly created Community Land Trust, which seeks to ensure the provision of social and affordable housing for local people.

Many compromises are having to be accepted as a result of Covid-19; however, it has quickly become obvious the unprecedented and unnerving event of a global pandemic has accelerated an effective and positive relationship between the Town Council and the residents. Our Town Clerk has emerged as a sound and able planner with enduring energy, holding everything and everyone together with 100% support from her staff. As a result of these events a bond has been established which under normal circumstances might take several more years to develop, proving that in the direst of times there is somehow a bright light to help all of us move forward together.

Chairperson of the Council
Chairperson of Human Resources

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Community Speed Watch

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP MAKE OUR ROADS SAFER

We are appealing for additional volunteers to join the Westgate Speedwatch Group.

Residents in the Town often tell us about speeding issues that are worrying them.

The Speedwatch Group was set-up as a practical measure to address the concerns that are brought to our attention.

Our current Speedwatch Group is small. It goes out twice a month at the moment. If we have more members, we can go out more often and we can be a presence in a wider area in the Town.

The purpose of Speedwatch is awareness and prevention - making drivers aware of the speed limit and as a deterrent to speeding. It works in conjunction with Kent Police to keep our roads safer for pedestrians and drivers.

To be a volunteer on the Group, some basic training is required but it is straightforward and it doesn't take very long. It's done online, so:

- You can do it on your computer at home, or
- You can do it on one of the computers at Westgate Council Office.

A Speedwatch session takes place on a road/ location in the Town which is pre-approved by Kent Police. The session lasts one-and-a-half hours. It is usually carried out by three volunteers - which means you are not on your own.



If the Speedwatch Group is seen in action more often, and in more places in the Town, the message about speeding can be reinforced and made clearer especially in the problem areas of the Town.

Please help to make the roads in our Town safer:

- - spare 1.5 hours
- - become a Speedwatch volunteer yourself
- - encourage your family and friends to volunteer

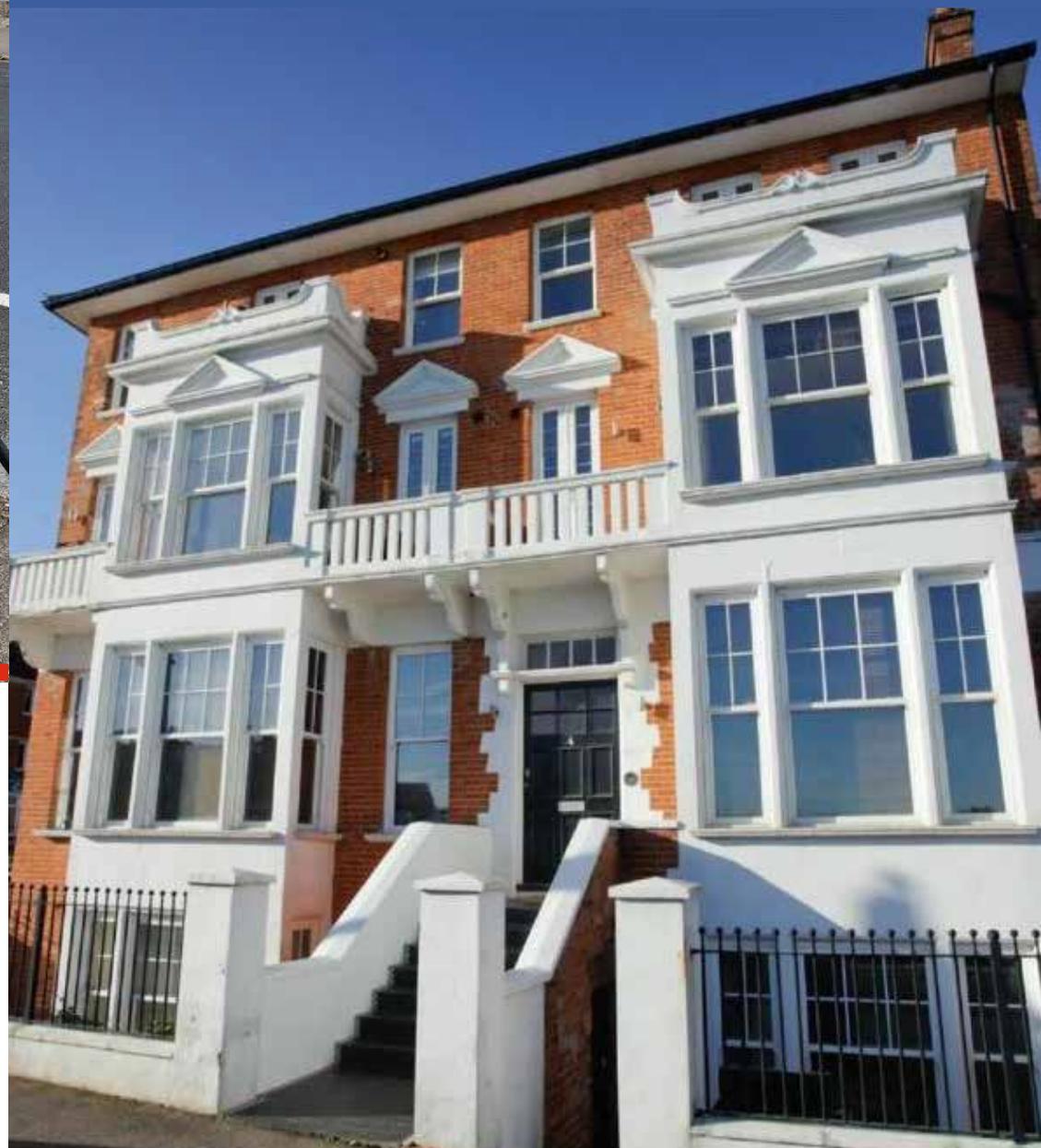
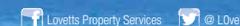
To join, contact our Speedwatch Co-ordinator, **Gill Gray: 01843 836182** or email townclerk@westgateonsea.gov.uk.



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