



WESTERHAM TOWN COUNCIL

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Chair: Jonathan Lord

Town Clerk: Angela Howells

Finance Officer: Debbie Marshall

Deputy Clerk: Carla De Bono

Assistant Clerk: Jo O'Sullivan

Westerham Town Partnership events

This year's Spring Fair on Monday 5th May will be VE80 themed to remember the Victory in Europe day. As well as the usual stalls and music there will be military vehicles, 'Dads Army' actors and an excellent '40's singing group. There will also be the annual 12 mile Beating the Bounds walk which now starts and finishes on The Green (although you can start anywhere). See The Visit Westerham website for more details.

On Friday 13th June The Mary's Church will host a music concert featuring 'The Lennon & McCartney Songbook' who will play music from The Beatles, Wings and John Lennon. The concert is to raise funds for the St Mary's Heritage Trust. More information and tickets will be available shortly on the St Mary's Heritage Trust website.

Start to sort out your old clothes as this year sees the return of the Westerham Scarecrow Festival. This will run from Saturday 23rd August until The Summer Fayre day which is Saturday 6th September. Look out for more details on the Visit Westerham website in the next few weeks.

A future for nature in Kent & Medway – your chance to take part

People across Kent and Medway are being asked to help shape an exciting new Strategy to end the decline of nature across the county and support its recovery.

The consultation on the draft 'Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy' is open between 16 January to 12 March 2025 and can be found at

www.kent.gov.uk/naturerecovery

The Strategy highlights the ambitions of helping habitats such as chalk grasslands, ancient woodland and coastal grazing marsh and mudflats.

It also identifies priority species that need assistance, like the Shrill Carder Bee, Barn Owl, Duke of Burgundy butterfly and Green-winged Orchid.

The draft strategy sets out the priorities for the recovery of nature in the county, and the recommended actions to deliver this. It also proposes areas where the creation or improvement of habitats could take place, highlighting where the greatest benefits will be for nature.

The Strategy's principles start with improving and safeguarding what we already have and



aim towards connectivity between these areas, giving nature more resilience. Some habitats are becoming increasingly fragmented, and the Strategy aims to connect up these fragmented pieces and provide a more linked natural space for nature to thrive in. A lot of this action will take place not in the areas already protected for nature but in the parts of Kent where opportunities to enhance, extend and create habitat have been identified.

Whilst the measures identified are voluntary, the Strategy offers a comprehensive guide to nature recovery that opens the door to strategic and financial benefits for farmers, landowners, developers, community groups and others, in taking forward the measures. It is also linked to local planning and is anticipated to be delivered by a variety of public and private funding mechanisms.

The Strategy is the first of its kind for the county and will be one of 48 Strategies across England, with the shared aim of halting and reversing the decline of nature.

It has been prepared by Kent County Council, appointed by Defra as Responsible Authority. It was drawn up by the Making Space for Nature project team, working with more than 1000 people over the past year to develop it to this stage.

FORTHCOMING TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council committee meetings are now taking place in the council chamber. Please contact the office if you wish to attend a meeting.

All meetings start at 7 p.m. - except Planning which is held at 9.30 am - in the Town Council Chamber in Russell House.

March 2025

10th Finance and General Purposes

13th Planning and Development

17th Full Council

27th Planning and Development

31st Allotments, Playing Fields and Open Spaces

Members of the public are very welcome to join those meetings that take place.

The first ten minutes of every meeting are available for members of the public to raise any issues with Councillors.

Visit our website westerhamtowncouncil.gov.uk for a schedule of meetings for 2025.