



West Mersea  
Town Council



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Season's  
Greetings

Newsletter

December 2023  
Issue 2 (quarterly)



## Your Town Councillors and Town Clerk



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Town Clerk  
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## Mayor's Update



Here we are, almost at the end of another year, and with Christmas suddenly upon us. What a year it has been!

Since the original election in May, there has been a lot of work to do. We started off with just two Councillors, myself and Cllr. Jarvis. It was quite daunting, but at the same time we felt it was a new start. Since then, the number of Councillors fluctuated, but finally at the recent election, David Boylan was elected, meaning we are now a full council again! We welcome Cllr.

Boylan to the team, and look forward to working with him.

As well as new Councillors, we welcomed a new Town Clerk, Karen Kuderovitch. Karen is a CiLCA qualified clerk with many years experience, and has fitted in very well as part of the council and staff team. Whilst it feels like it has been a year of disruption and uncertainty, it also feels like a time of consolidation and achievement. Councillors and staff alike have worked incredibly hard to move things forward. I would like to thank them all for their dedication and commitment to the Council's work.

I'm sure many of you will be aware of what we have done in the last six months from our newsletter and communications in the media, but here's a quick summary:

- Road linings at some key areas.
- Several more compacta bins (known as the talking bins) have been installed.
- Positive talks have been held with MISA, and two surveys have been carried out on the Glebe pavilion.
- Coastguards Compound, Coast Road – improvements and a budget have been agreed.
- Boardwalk – interim repairs have been done until the full replacement can be achieved.
- War memorial – this refurbished in time for the Remembrance Service and looked lovely.
- Newsletter – as part of our aim to improve communications, we decided to produce a regular newsletter, with first one going out in October. We received lots of positive feedback, so we are continuing with it. This is the second one and we hope to publish quarterly, so the next one will be in March 2024.



Since a very successful visit from Mersea School's Council, we are continuing our engagement with the schoolchildren. We asked them to run a competition to come up with new phrases for our Compacta (talking) bins. Love them or hate them, the Compacta bins are proving very successful, with children in particular taking notice and using them. The school's Eco-Warriors were very enthusiastic. We had many great suggestions and we are now choosing the best ones. As we now have seven of these bins, with a further two planned, we will be able to have up to nine phrases, one for each bin, as they are individually programmable. Hopefully when you read this we will have chosen our nine winners.

We recently had communications and a discussion regarding Sanderling Reach. City and Country have come forward with a proposal for consideration. Many will be aware that the plans for industrial/business units at the top of the site has not materialised due to a lack of interest. The proposal is for 12 more houses to be built, but with the possibility of providing a further six units as alms houses, to be gifted to WMTC to manage. This was discussed at a recent council meeting. Whilst some people thought there should be no more houses on the site, as it would not be in line with the Neighbourhood Plan, others felt that this would be a good opportunity to have a few units that would be 'Mersea homes for Mersea people.' There is still further consideration and discussion to be had on this proposal and we welcome your views. We hope to set up an open meeting soon.

In the meantime, please do contact us in any of the following ways:

Email the Town Clerk: [karen.kuderovitch@westmersea.org](mailto:karen.kuderovitch@westmersea.org)

Via the website: <http://westmersea.org/Contact>

Telephone: 01206 382128

***We look forward now to a new year, with new projects  
and challenges!***

***Please do stay safe and warm over the festive period.***

***We would like to wish you all very Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year!***

Sophie Weaver





## Town Clerk's Report



I am delighted to welcome Cllr. David Boylan to our amazing team. We now have all seats filled and look forward to working together for the benefit of the community.

The Mayor and I have continued to reach out to community groups to improve our community engagement. I visited the MICA centre and was very impressed with the wide range of facilities available and so good to have a thriving community centre.

We will soon be setting the Precept for 24/25 and reviewing all our current projects, together with a forward plan to include any new ideas.

### Project/Community Updates

#### **Coastguard Compound (Granny's Garden)**

The decision to remove the spikes was reversed at the November 2023 meeting, allowing us the time to arrange a health and safety inspection after a resident raised concerns about the removal and the historic value. The advice given was that these pose a significant danger to members of the public, being adjacent to the footpath. WMTC will debate and decide again what course of action to take. Please be assured that this area will soon be made more pleasurable for residents to enjoy. If anyone is interested in a memorial bench in this area please contact me.

#### **Flood Defence – received from David Chapman, Project Manager, Essex County Council**

*“The revised temporary works have been approved by CCC planning and listed buildings department. This information has been given to our contractors who are working on a revised programme and remobilisation date. I should have more specifics this week and will make an announcement to the wider community when I have more details to share.”*

#### **War Memorial**

The memorial was refurbished ready for the Remembrance Sunday Service and a great job was made of the works.



## **Road/junction markings**

Hopefully you will have noticed these have now been completed in a number of areas. These works were arranged and paid for by WMTC after residents raised concerns about the dangers.

## **Waterside Forum**

A meeting was held on 7th November 2023 with Cllr. Powling chairing the meeting and Cllr. Jenkins and myself also attending. A great meeting with lots of ideas shared, in particular about how to better protect our coastline.

## **D-Day Working Party**

We have now formed this group and any residents who may wish to get involved are very welcome.

## **WMTC Office opening hours – Tuesdays closed**

This change will commence on 2nd January 2024. The office will be open on Mondays and Fridays 9am – midday only. Tuesdays will no longer be available. This is so we can utilise the office staff on Tuesdays to deal with the workload.

## **Cemeteries**

New bins have now been installed and we will continue to look for ideas to improve the areas.

## **Staff**

Our wonderful gardener has been working very hard on the open spaces making many improvements. Our grounds team have been working tirelessly maintaining our open spaces, dealing with office maintenance and setting up Christmas lights, amongst many other things!. Our Cemetery Clerk has been busy supporting me and dealing with the day to day Cemetery tasks. Our office assistant continues to meet and greet residents collecting recycling materials and support me when available.

I would like to thank all the staff for their continued hard work and support.

## **Signage**

You will have noticed new signs at the office and at the public conveniences. We are reviewing all our signage at various locations.



### **New web site**

We hope to have a new web site created, making navigation easier, and will move to a .gov website which will become standard for Councils soon. I will be focussing on a new finance page and loading on lots of information.

### **Invitation to HM King Charles III**

A letter is due to be sent to invite His Majesty to visit Mersea Island, as he has a particular interest in Red Squirrels and their conservation. We have asked East Mersea Parish Council for their support. We live in hope!

I would like to wish residents a happy and relaxing break and best wishes for a healthy 2024.

Karen Kuderovitch

[karen.kuderovitch@westmersea.org](mailto:karen.kuderovitch@westmersea.org)

Telephone: 01206 382128



**FIND OUT WHAT YOU CAN DO BY VISITING:**

**<https://www.essexclimate.org.uk/essex-advice-pack>**





# Council News

## Cemetery adornments

Floral tributes may be left at the graveside, without any plastic wrapping or degradable materials, as this can be a potential danger to the surrounding animals and wildlife.

Please ensure that all Christmas adornments (trees, wreaths, decorations, Christmas flowers, candles etc) are removed by Monday 15th January 2024.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Further information can be found on the website: [www.westmersea.org/Cemetery](http://www.westmersea.org/Cemetery)

## Office Christmas Closure

Please note that the Council Office closes at midday on Friday, 22nd December, 2023 and reopens on Tuesday, 2nd January, 2024.

**For emergencies, please call 07512 324656**

Season's  
Greetings







Mersea Neighbourhood Watch Group ([merseanhw@gmail.com](mailto:merseanhw@gmail.com)) has evolved over the past twenty years I have been running it, and now we have a dedicated WhatsApp group, totalling around 60 members.

### **What is Neighbourhood Watch?**

Mersea NHW comes under the umbrella of Colchester NHW, which has a very accessible website ([colchesternhw.org.uk](http://colchesternhw.org.uk)). The aims of NHW is to bring neighbours together to create communities where crime and anti-social behaviour are less likely to happen. The vision is of a caring society in which people are safe from crime and enjoy a good quality of life.

If you become a member of NHW, no cost involved, you may possibly be able to get a discount on your house insurance. I receive fortnightly crime reports from Colchester Police Station of crimes in the Mersea and Pyfleet areas. Often Mersea is not listed in the crime reports due to very low criminal activity.

However, when I do receive crime reports I can alert the NHW group via the WhatsApp of any crimes committed in their area. We are always keen to have new members in different roads on Mersea who are willing to keep an eye on their neighbours or even a whole street.

To become a member of NHW, I need to know your full name, address and postcode and contact phone number through the email at the top of this page. Your details will be kept secure and will not be used for any other purpose. I am happy to visit members at home and provide a useful Member's Guide and Window stickers. It is your choice whether you wish to display these, but if is worth knowing that a Neighbourhood Watch presence is a deterrent to criminals.

I can also provide a street sign for your road if one is not already displayed.

We particularly need new members in the Sanderling Reach area.

Please feel free to contact me if you are interested in joining us or require further information.

Peter Rudlin, Chairman  
Mersea Neighbourhood Watch  
01206 385700





## Some of our recent completed works in photos



Litter bins at Firs Road Cemetery.





War Memorial renovation.



Toilet sign at Willoughby.



Toilet sign in the High Street.





**Live your other life**

**Volunteer as a Community  
Special Constable in  
West Mersea**

Please report any issues to our Special Constable:  
[andy.bryant@essex.police.uk](mailto:andy.bryant@essex.police.uk)

*my  
Other  
life*

Make a real difference in your town by volunteering as a Community Special Constable and play a part in keeping your neighbourhood safe. Find out more at the link below:

[www.essex.police.uk/communityspecials](http://www.essex.police.uk/communityspecials)

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Protecting and serving Essex