



## Minutes of the Events, Tourism and Development Committee Meeting

Held at the Westgate-on-Sea Town Council Office

78 St Mildreds Road, Westgate-on-Sea CT8 8RF

on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at 7.00pm

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### **Present**

Cllr Charlotte Thomason (Chair)  
Cllr Mike Livesey (Vice Chair)  
Cllr David Donaldson  
Cllr David Wallin  
Ms Ana Jagelo – Administration Officer

Cllr Matthew Scott

4 Members of Public

### **ETD/25/28 Welcome from the Chair**

Cllr Thomason welcomed everyone and asked for introductions.

### **ETD/25/29 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mulinya. No apologies were received from Cllr Fenning.

### **ETD/25/30 Members' Interests**

None.

### **ETD/25/31 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025 were received and approved as an accurate record.

### **ETD/25/33 Picnic in the Park 19<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

The Chair confirmed that a range of activities had been organised for the day, including a circus workshop, face painters, street football, Punch and Judy shows, music and a bear mascot. Arts and crafts to be hosted in the Community Centre Hall.

Cllr Thomason emphasised that no food or ice cream trucks would be present, ensuring the event would be completely free for the public.

### **ETD/25/34 VJ Day 80th Anniversary Commemoration**

Discussions were opened for a commemorative ceremony that would balance remembrance and celebration. Reverend Susan Wing provided historical background information about VJ Day and the sacrifice of the people of the forest. Cllr Wallin proposed acquiring a VJ flag and it was agreed to proceed without wording for the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Bunting will be placed around town, including any bunting made by children at Picnic in the Park.

It was also decided to hold a multi-faith service led by Rev Susan Wing, similar to that held for VE Day.

The service will be followed by tea and biscuits offered in the Council hall.

### **ETD/25/35 "Blooming Westgate"**

Initial ideas were put forward for the 2026 event. Community Involvement is seen to play an important role, which could include local schools and nurseries, allotment plot holders and local businesses and shop owners, with the potential for a dedicated volunteer program to

sustain long-term maintenance. The Committee agreed to investigate the availability of grants and funding for the project.

Mention was also made of the possibility of including a “Westgate Gardens” section, with the intention of continuing to build on the theme in each future Agenda.

**ETD/25/32 Public Participation Session**

A resident raised existing challenges with current planter maintenance, noting that currently only one trader pays for upkeep. A more sustainable model was discussed, potentially through sponsorship programs, community dedication plaques (allowing residents to dedicate planters to loved ones) and shared maintenance responsibilities.

**ETD/25/37 Date of Next Meeting**

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2025.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_