



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 25th March 2026 at 6.00pm

Present

Cllr Mike Livesey (Chair)

Cllr David Donaldson

Cllr Stephen Fenning

Ms Nabila Yakub – Town Clerk

Ms Ana Jagelo – Administration Officer

Ms Emma Dublin – Community Engagement and Social Media Consultant

One Member of Public

ETD/26/27 Welcome from the Chair

The Chair welcomed all present.

ETD/26/28 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Wallin and Cllr Mulinya, The Chair placed on record their thanks to Cllr Mulinya for her substantial contribution to the Blooming Westgate Working Group.

ETD/26/29 Members' Interests

None.

ETD/26/30 Public Right to Speak

A resident mentioned the upcoming Safari Garage Sale, as well as the skate park fundraising exhibition in April at the Westgate Galleria. The resident also provided background information on the Tiles of Joy initiative and requested Council support for finding a permanent public location for the project, as well as possible future funding. The Chair highlighted the small grants scheme as a potential route for financial assistance, subject to eligibility.

ETD/26/31 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th February 2026 were received and approved as an accurate record.

ETD/26/32 Easter 2026

Members received an update on arrangements for the Easter Sunday "Chase the Easter Bunny" event in the grounds of St Saviour's Church. The event will start at 12:30 pm, with chocolate treats for children, building on the success of last year's event.

ETD/26/33 Tiles of Joy Exhibition

Final arrangements for the Tiles of Joy exhibition from April the 7th to the 17th of April were noted. The Committee discussed potential long-term outdoor locations for the tiles and agreed that the project leads would identify preferred sites for the Council to pursue permissions and possible grant support for installation.

ETD/26/34 Annual Town Meeting

The Committee reviewed plans for the Annual Town Meeting, recognising it as a key opportunity for residents to speak. It was agreed to advertise the event widely, arrange a generous buffet including vegan options and invite a range of community speakers while ensuring sufficient time for public contributions.

ETD/26/35 Blooming Westgate

Cllr Livesey reported on progress of Blooming Westgate, including seed germination for town planters, proposals for wildflower planting in Adrian and Ethelbert Squares and other sites, and collaboration with St Saviour’s Junior School. The Committee noted potential support from a KCC councillor’s member’s grant and identified further locations that could become wildflower areas to benefit pollinators.

ETD/26/36 Picnic in the Park

An update was given on the planning for Picnic in the Park, including confirmation of a Punch and Judy performer. The main outstanding issue is securing suitable first aid provision for the event; options beyond the regular provider are being actively explored to meet TDC requirements before submitting the event application.

ETD/26/37 Tourism Initiatives

Members continued their discussion on tourism, including potential participation in Heritage Open Days, closer working with the Heritage Centre, and the creation of heritage trails. Updates from recent tourism summits and new Visit Thanet online resources were noted, and the Committee reiterated its support for establishing a tourism working party to coordinate ongoing initiatives.

ETD/26/38 Councillor Reports

Members discussed the Pride in Place funding initiative and the condition of the Station Road Victorian canopies. The complexity of ownership and funding was acknowledged, along with the importance of the canopies to the town’s character, and members agreed the issue should be explored further as a longer-term heritage project.

ETD/26/39 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 22nd April 2026, 6pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____