**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 7th October 2026 at 7pm**

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**Present**
Cllr Mike Livesey (Chair)
Cllr David Donaldson
Cllr Sarah Jarman
Cllr David Wallin
Ms Nabila Yakub – Town Clerk
Ms Ana Jagelo – Administration Officer
Ms Emma Dublin – Community Engagement and Social Media Consultant

2 Members of Public

**ETD/26/110 Welcome from the Chair**
The Chair welcomed those present and opened the meeting. He advised that a policy for Co-opting Community Members to Committees had been prepared and would be presented to full Council on 14th October 2026. Candidates would be contacted.

**ETD/26/111 Apologies for Absence**
Apologies were received from Cllr Mulinya and Cllr Fenning.

**ETD/26/112 Members' Interests**
None.

**ETD/26/113 Public Right to Speak**
Both speakers praised the successful Westgate Heritage Open Days and shop trail, noting positive feedback and community interest.

**ETD/26/114 Minutes**
The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd September 2026 were received and approved as an accurate record.

**ETD/26/115 Heritage Open Days**
The Committee congratulated everyone involved in Westgate-on-Sea's first participation in Heritage Open Days. The events and self-guided shop trail were considered successful, with good attendance and feedback. Members welcomed the prospect of building on the experience next year.

**ETD/26/116 Remembrance Sunday**
Preparations for the service on 8th November 2026 were discussed. Volunteer numbers had not yet been confirmed. The Chair volunteered to assist, and members agreed that a call for Council volunteers should be included at the next Full Council meeting. The Blooming Westgate Working Party would work to ensure the beds and grounds were presentable, including seeking red-coloured flowers.

**ETD/26/117 Christmas**
The Committee discussed the Christmas tree, lights and supplier follow-up. The tree was expected to be placed in the same location; possible changes to the surrounding fencing and the treatment of the nearby beds were still under consideration. Potential savings from suppliers were being pursued. Members discussed a disagreement about the timing of the Town Council's tree lights and the Christmas switch-on event. Views differed on whether the tree lights should be switched off for 48



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hours before the event as a gesture of goodwill. No decision was made at this meeting. The proposal may be brought to the next Full Council meeting for consideration.

**ETD/26/118 Blooming Westgate**
The Committee noted that the project had received £17,200 from the National Lottery Community Fund, allocated to ground preparation, planters, seeds and planting materials, tools, a community event, schools' programmes and signage. Members noted that the funding did not provide for general expert staffing, so community participation would remain important.

Priority areas proposed for meadowing included:

- The grass verge opposite the Library on Minster Road
- The area around the B24 Liberator Memorial
- Areas near the War Memorial, while maintaining access
- Green areas around the Lymington Road, Cambourne Road and Suffolk Avenue junction
- Further areas of Lymington Green and the seafront, subject to budget and permissions

The recommendations and a request to approve spending £5,000 for ground preparation were to be presented to Full Council. Members also discussed the proposed Blooming Westgate Day, tentatively planned for May 2027, and the need to consider content that would engage people of different ages. Community and school suggestions were raised as possible input to the planning process.

**ETD/26/119 Tourism Working Party**
The Committee noted that Full Council had approved the Tourism Working Party and its initial membership. The group would be led by Cllr Fenning, deputised by Cllr Jarman, with membership including Cllrs Donaldson, Mulinya, Wallin and Livesey.
The Chair offered a draft mission statement focused on establishing Westgate-on-Sea as a vibrant tourist destination by promoting its heritage and coastal character, and enhancing civic pride. Members discussed arranging an inaugural meeting shortly, with availability to be gathered by email. The mission and objectives would be developed further at that meeting.

**ETD/26/120 Tourism Initiatives**
Members discussed progressing a Blue Plaque Trail, potentially in liaison with the Heritage Centre. Other ideas raised for consideration included:

- A later music event linked to Picnic in the Park
- A winter film festival featuring films with local connections
- Local art and music projects involving schools and artists
- A carol trail, particularly visits to care homes

**ETD/26/121 Budget 2027-28**
Members began discussions on the forthcoming budget. Established events were generally considered to be broadly within budget, with inflation expected to affect future costs. Members noted that Blooming Westgate might require ongoing Council budget provision for costs outside the Lottery grant, such as fees, site rental and permissions.
New initiatives could affect the budget, including the proposed Blooming Westgate Day, tourism activity, a carol trail and events to promote council facilities. Members were asked to send in ideas and preliminary costings ahead of the next Committee discussion, to support budget planning before the January deadline.

**ETD/26/122 Councillor Reports**
None.

**ETD/26/123 Date of Next Meeting**
Wednesday 4th November 2026

**Signed:** _____ **Date:** _____

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