



## 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 28<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 6.00pm

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### **Present**

Cllr Mike Livesey (Vice Chair)

Cllr David Donaldson

Cllr Stephen Fenning

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/26/01 Election of Chair**

Following the resignation of Cllr Thomason, Cllr Livesey was elected Chair of the Committee.

### **ETD/26/02 Election of Vice-Chair**

Cllr Mulinya was elected Vice-Chair of the Committee in her absence.

### **ETD/26/03 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mulinya.

### **ETD/26/04 Members' Interests**

None.

### **ETD/26/05 Public Right to Speak**

A resident enquired about the Isle of Culture bid. The Town Clerk confirmed having received notification from Thanet District Council and that the Council intended to support it.

A resident referred to the Christmas Lights Switch-on and asked that meetings be held early in the year in order to make arrangements in good time prior to the event.

A resident made reference to the Christmas Lights Switch-on, requesting that issues be addressed by earlier planning and funding for improved and additional lighting in areas other than the canopy, so the event space is better lit without needing to switch off existing lights.

A resident asked who would be taking the lead on the campaign to raise awareness around dog fouling.

A resident provided an update on the Westgate Tiles of Joy. The project leads are now happy for panels to be installed in exposed locations, so it was suggested that Westgate reconsider hosting panels, as earlier worries about vandalism and sea spray now seem unfounded.

Cllr Livesey noted that the Council is taking steps to engage all stakeholders in the Christmas Lights Switch-on, in order to ensure a successful 2026 event.

### **ETD/26/06 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2025 were received and approved as an accurate record.

**ETD/26/07 Christmas Update**

Cllr Livesey provided an update noting that the Christmas Lights Switch-on was a great success, with excellent weather, strong attendance and much improved Christmas-tree lights. Thanks were recorded to all organisers, and it was suggested that details such as the tree’s positioning and barrier height be reviewed. Cllr Livesey recommended that Christmas 2026 be included on the Agenda early on in the year, possibly from summer.

**ETD/26/08 Pancake Races**

The Administration Officer reported that this year’s Pancake Races will include a walking race alongside the usual pancake-flipping race, plus a funny dress-up race. Volunteers are needed, and committee members are invited to be involved. An update was also given on traffic signage for the event: A new supplier can provide reusable traffic signs at around half the originally budgeted price, and these can be used each year.

**ETD/26/09 Easter 2026**

It was confirmed to run the Chase the Easter Bunny event on the 5<sup>th</sup> of April. Cllr Fenning confirmed he would “be” the Easter bunny again. The Committee agreed to increase the number of chocolate eggs purchased for the event.

**ETD/26/10 Blooming Westgate**

Cllr Livesey provided an update on the Blooming Westgate working party, which has met twice (with another meeting due) to explore planting opportunities on Station Road, St Mildred’s Road, the church wall and existing planters. The project was described as long-term with educational benefits and a chance to give Westgate a distinct identity.

**ETD/26/11 Picnic in the Park**

The Administration Officer proposed that Picnic in the Park 2026 be held on Saturday 18 July, aligning with the end of the school year and allowing St Saviour’s Church to hold its summer fair on the following weekend. It was suggested that teas and coffees be provided at the event, potentially by Bronwyn and the Community Centre, with the option to use them as a small fundraiser by inviting donations. The Committee invited the Administration Officer to put forward a list of potential entertainment at a following meeting, including possible overlaps with the Blooming Westgate initiative. It was decided not to have food vans, but to ask that the ice-cream van pass by during the event.

**ETD/26/12 Tourism Initiatives**

Cllr Livesey proposed that a working party be established to examine tourism initiatives in more detail, including options such as a craft market or farmers’ market. Cllr Fenning recommended investigating the possibility of establishing a blue-plaque trail of notable Westgate residents. Following social media, Emma Dublin fed back that improved signage for the town and all it has to offer would be welcomed.

**ETD/26/13 Councillor Reports**

None.

**ETD/26/14 Date of Next Meeting**

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2026, 6pm.

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

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