

Report to: Events and Tourism Committee
Date: Tuesday 26th September 2017
By: Julie Pilbeam, Town Clerk
Subject: Tourism Update
Summary: To note the update and consider discussion items

1. Public Transport Links to Westgate-on-Sea

The Chairman has been in touch with the Station Manager to discuss the issues with litter and ticket purchasing. A meeting is required to discuss cleaning and possible partnership with 'Westgate In Bloom'.

2. Tourist Information Centre

It has been confirmed that Westgate-on-Sea Town Council can host a tourist information site in the town. There is no longer any funding for this activity and the council would need to order leaflets in at a cost. The council could sell bus tickets to residents with a small commission fee to contribute towards the costs. The council could run the centre using a team of volunteers (the team in Ramsgate consists of 40 volunteers according to Visit England).

3. Putting Green

A children's play area is being investigated for this area.

4. Britain in Bloom

The garden centre is working on a full plan for presentation at the next meeting.

5. Open Top Bus

The Clerk has written to Stagecoach to request that the open top bus route is extended to Westgate with no response. A further chase up has been sent

6. Isle Magazine

The Clerk has written to Isle Magazine to investigate options on promoting Westgate.

7. Tourist Signage

The Clerk is arranging new 'Welcome to Westgate' signs direct with Kent County Council.

Brown Tourist Signs are available such as the design circulated to councillors.

The information board at the top of the stairs at Westbay café is due to be replaced by Thanet District Council tourism and Thanet Coast group. Funding is being obtained.

8. Historic Information Boards

The Heritage Society have agreed to produce a plan for what is required this will be presented at the committee as soon as possible.

9. Louis Wain Commemoration

The office has been unable to locate a society for Louis Wain, it is understood that the artist was ill for some time and did not consider copyright at the time. Further investigation is underway to understand how the council can proceed with reproduction of his work.

10. Hark, I hear the bells of Westgate...

The Clerk has contacted the local branch of the Betjeman society in Canterbury and they have referred the council to the national branch for more information on how the poem can be used in the town and to promote the society.

Julie Pilbeam
Town Clerk
Westgate-on-Sea Town Council