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 2nd September 2026 at 7pm

Present
Cllr Mike Livesey (Chair)
Cllr Alice Mulinya (Vice-Chair)
Cllr David Donaldson
Cllr Stephen Fenning
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/26/95 Welcome from the Chair
Cllr Livesey welcomed all present.

ETD/26/96 Apologies for Absence
None.

ETD/26/97 Members' Interests
None.

ETD/26/98 Public Right to Speak
A trader had circulated traders' feedback on this summer's hanging baskets and proposed adding comments from volunteers and councillors, so the working party could review the feedback together.
The trader also said the High Street History Stories event is going ahead next month and has grown into a larger community project, with potential to expand in future. Around a dozen posters will be displayed around town. As the event has been promoted beyond the town and may attract visitors, she requested extra cleaning during the event period.
The trader reported that the Safari held the previous weekend brought many visitors from outside the area, including Dartford and Sidcup. She described it as well-promoted, friendly, and relaxed, with a mix of visitors shopping at participating businesses and browsing individual sellers' bargains.
The trader said they had followed up with the Christmas organisers regarding lights, but the response was disappointing. They also followed up on the suggested date for late-night shopping.

ETD/26/99 Minutes
The minutes of the meeting held on 1st July 2026 were received and approved as an accurate record.

ETD/26/100 Co-option of Community Committee Members
Cllr Livesey reported that Full Council had approved adding two co-opted community members to the Committee, a first for Westgate Town Council. He explained that co-option would give community members a fuller voice than the time-limited public speaking slot. Applications had

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closed, and successful applicants would be invited to address the committee at its next meeting on October 7.

ETD/26/101 Blooming Westgate
Cllr Livesey provided a Blooming Westgate update, noting that the cosmos planting day and school art and poetry displays had gone well. The team is replacing flowers in the planters, developing the project's website, and has applied for about £17,500 from the National Lottery Community Fund to support meadows, more planters, a possible May event, and the schools programme. They also plan to meet with teachers, seek TDC support with planting and watering, and encourage more entries to the logo challenge.
Regarding the successful school project, Cllr Livesey confirmed that both teachers want to stay involved and the working party plans to meet with them in the new term to discuss ideas. The group is considering a community-focused Blooming Westgate event in May, included in its funding application. The logo challenge has received only a few entries so far.

ETD/26/102 Picnic in the Park
Picnic in the Park was a great success, with good weather, strong attendance, and positive feedback from residents. Members praised the event's organisation and suggested considering an evening music event for adults alongside it in future; this would require additional volunteers.

ETD/26/103 Heritage Open Days
Emma Dublin has joined the Heritage Centre Committee. Cllr Livesey hopes this will help her keep the Events, Tourism and Development Committee informed about relevant developments from the Heritage Centre. One guided walk was nearly full, with 13 of 15 places booked, while other events still had spaces. The Heritage Centre newsletter was due to go out, after which the Committee planned to promote the events through Council channels, posters, flyers, and banners ahead of the September 12 and 19 dates. Some administrative details still needed to be completed.

ETD/26/104 Coat Donation Point
The coat donation drop-off period was confirmed as October 5–15. The Committee discussed whether to start promoting it; once members were happy with the dates, promotion could begin. It was noted that in previous years promotion typically started a week or two before the collection period.

ETD/26/105 Remembrance Sunday
The Committee discussed preparations for Remembrance Sunday, emphasising the need to recruit at least 10 volunteers to help manage road closures, as the Community Warden will be unavailable. They noted that signs can be moved and drivers have challenged closures in previous years, so volunteers should monitor them during the event. Members also suggested reminding residents through the Council newsletter to be considerate, and discussed repairing the poppies and tidying the War Memorial beds.

ETD/26/106 Christmas 2026
The Chair said they would arrange a meeting soon with the switch-on committee, traders, and interested Councillors to resolve the plans.

ETD/26/107 Tourism Initiatives
Cllr Livesey confirmed that the Committee had been given leave by Full Council to form their own Tourism Working Party and develop its remit and terms of reference. A key proposal was a self-guided Blue Plaque Trail, linking Westgate's heritage sites with information online, potentially using QR codes and involving local schools and community groups. Members favoured exploring a locally produced trail, while also checking the facts, costs, and design; the Heritage Centre could help develop the site list. Cllr Fenning suggested a possible route, which included a number of locations in the town, starting from the station. Cllr Mulinya put forward the idea for the working party to consider a winter film event at the Carlton Cinema,

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drawing on films connected to the area. It was agreed that Cllr Fenning lead the Tourism Working Party, provided he had a backup. Cllr Jarman agreed to be the backup person, and all members of the Committee agreed to join the Working Party.

ETD/26/108 Councillor Reports
Cllr Wallin noted that the VJ Day flag had not been raised and emphasised that it should not happen again.

ETD/26/109 Date of Next Meeting
Wednesday 7th October 2026

Signed: _____

Date: 7/10/26

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