

**Minutes of the meeting of Langport Town Council's
Tourism & Marketing Committee
held on Wednesday 8th October 2025 at 7.00pm**

PRESENT:

Cllr Sarah Peterkin
Cllr Ian MacNab
Peter Roberts

Cllr Sean Dromgoole
Cllr Steve Glas
Rachel Smith

Cllr Cosmin Gherasim
Gordon McKerrow

Gerard Tucker Town Clerk, Morag Kelly Deputy Town Clerk. 1 member of the public and 0 press were present.

TM2025/15 Apologies

To receive Apologies for Absence and to approve the reasons given. ([LGA 1972 s85 \(1\)](#)). Kim Woods sent apologies and reasons were approved.

TM2025/16 Declarations of interests

Members to declare any interests, including Disclosable Pecuniary Interests they may have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the Town Council's Code of Conduct and to consider any prior requests from members for Dispensations that accord with Localism Act 2011 s33(b-e). (NB this does not preclude any later declarations). There were no declarations of interest.

TM2025/17 Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd July 2025

The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated with the agenda. The minutes were duly signed by the Chair.

TM2025/18 Presentation from Langport Area Business Group on the future of tourism in Langport

Rachel Smith (LABG Chair) provided feedback following comments gathered during the brainstorming session at the last LABG meeting in September. She noted that these were *individual observations rather than formal group recommendations*. The most frequently raised issues were:

1. Car Parking:

- Proposal to conduct another survey of car park users, assessing usage across different seasons, days and times of the week.
- Concerns about non-EV vehicles occupying designated EV bays.
- Insufficient parking provision for motorcycles.

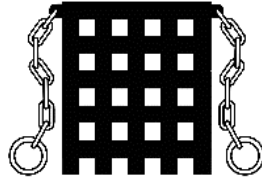
Action – Committee agreed to support LABG in carrying out another survey of car park use.

2. Signage for River Users:

- Lack of signage informing river users of the variety of shops and services available within the town.

Action – Committee supported idea of additional encouraging signage installation on key sites.

3. Vehicle Speeds on Bow Street:



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- Reports of excessive vehicle speeds on Bow Street.
- Lack of adequate signage indicating the speed limit, particularly for drivers travelling from The Hanging Chapel down The Hill.

Action – Committee agreed to seek assistance from Somerset Highways -Traffic Management in providing better signage/awareness of the 20mph speed restriction in place in the town.

TM2025/19 An update on Cocklemoor to include

- Pétanque Court Installation - Completed today and now ready for use. Sincere thanks to everyone who volunteered their time to assist with the build. The first match is scheduled for Friday afternoon.
- Path Maintenance and Upgrade - Works will commence Thursday, 9th October, covering the sections of pathway between Gasworks Inlet and Huish Bridge. A number of local volunteers will be supporting this project. The path will be closed during the works, which are expected to be completed by the end of the same day.
- 'Dogs on Leads' Signage - The new signage is currently in production and a supporting social media campaign will be launched shortly to promote awareness and compliance.
- Wessex Water Monitoring Project - Following several months of collaboration with the Wessex Water team, it was confirmed that Langport's bid to install water quality monitoring equipment in the River Parrett has been successful. Installation is anticipated by March next year. The equipment will operate for a year to assess bacteria levels and will subsequently provide real-time data on water quality for river users through a dedicated website.
- Inland Waterways Association Film – Gordon McKerrow, in partnership with Val Saunders (Former LTC Chair) and Ray Alexander (IWA), has produced an excellent documentary film showcasing the story of our river and the recent regeneration project. The film is available to view online at: <https://langport.life/things-to-do/the-outdoor-life/>

TM2025/20 Markets update

Market Co-ordinator Rachel Smith reported that the Friday Markets continue to perform steadily, whereas the Saturday Markets remain challenging. Trader commitment to regular attendance is inconsistent, making it difficult to ensure a sufficient number of stalls each week.

Rachel noted that this year has been particularly difficult for the retail sector, with little expectation of short-term improvement given the current economic climate. Feedback from traders who do attend has been very positive, highlighting the market's friendly and supportive atmosphere; however, this enthusiasm has not translated into consistent attendance.

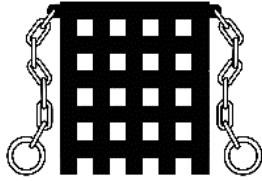
The Food and Drink Markets - held on the fourth Saturday of each month, continue to perform well.

However, an increase in power supply is required to accommodate additional traders. It was queried whether additional electrical outlets could be installed at the toilet block to support this expansion.

Gerard Tucker reported that the damaged gazebo canopies have been replaced and gutter attachments have been purchased to enable the gazebos to be positioned together to collect and channel rainwater.

TM2025/21 Christmas market and firework display update

Plans for the upcoming event are progressing well. The Langport Community Choir has been booked to perform and GingerFred's will present a dance routine. Fireworks are scheduled to start at 4:30 pm on Cocklemoor.



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Volunteers are required to assist with marshalling. Anyone able to help on the afternoon of 6th December is encouraged to come forward.

TM2025/22 Transport Hub and Railway Station update

Councillor Dromgoole attended the Langport Transport Group Conference, where the new railway station working party provided an update on progress. Despite significant funding shortfalls following recent changes in government, all campaigns continue to operate actively. Working party members remain confident in their ability to advance the project, though it was noted that Somerset Council currently has no funding available to support the initiative.

Gerard Tucker reported that communication regarding the Transport Hub has been limited, despite follow-ups. He will continue to liaise with the team leading the project and will provide an update as soon as further information becomes available.

Meeting Ended at 8.20pm

End of Minutes

Signed Date