



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 23rd July 2025 at 6.00pm

Present

Cllr Charlotte Thomason (Chair)

Cllr Mike Livesey (Vice Chair)

Cllr David Donaldson

Cllr David Wallin

Ms Ana Jagelo – Administration Officer

Ms Emma Dublin – Community Engagement and Social Media Consultant

ETD/25/38 Welcome from the Chair

Cllr Thomason welcomed everyone and asked for introductions.

ETD/25/39 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Mulinya and Cllr Fenning.

ETD/25/40 Members' Interests

None.

ETD/25/41 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th June 2025 were received and approved as an accurate record.

ETD/25/42 Picnic in the Park 19th July 2025

The Chair expressed satisfaction with the event's success, noting that despite a brief downpour, the weather mostly held out. All the activities organised were highly popular and feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Cllr Livesey described it as a brilliant success despite the weather. Cllr Thomason suggested expanding the football activities next year to also include an assault course. It was suggested to provide free tea and coffee for parents next year, possibly with the support of the Community Centre. There was discussion around food provision next year, but the original picnic concept where attendees bring their own food was emphasised.

ETD/25/43 VJ Day 80th Anniversary Commemoration

Ana provided an update on the VJ Day commemorations, confirming services at 11am with Rev. Susan Wing, followed by tea and coffee and a two-minute silence at midday as per national protocol. Regarding the commemorative flag, Ana emphasised the need to provide PDF artwork by the beginning of next week, which Cllr Livesey volunteered to do. Cllr Wallin questioned the flag size, recommending the larger size in proportion to our flagpole. It was agreed not to include "80th Anniversary" on the flag, but just "VJ" for annual reuse.

ETD/25/44 October Coat Donation Point

Cllr Thomason referenced last year's successful coat swap, with surplus donated to Thanet Family Hub. It was proposed to focus more on donations this year while maintaining the swap element, with a focus on children's coats due to high demand and rapid outgrowth. The Committee resolved to proceed with the initiative, possibly starting collection in September

and coordinating with Councillor Surgeries and Saturday openings if needed. It was agreed that the Town Clerk would establish the precise dates.

ETD/25/45 Remembrance Sunday

Cllr Thomason emphasized the importance of beginning to decorate the town early in preparation for Remembrance Sunday on November the 9th. The Committee agreed to install decorations soon after Halloween and to raise the flag on Thursday the 6th of November and take it down on the 12th. Event timings will remain consistent, with parade at 11:45am and service at 12pm, and road closures from 11:30am to 12:30pm. Ana confirmed submitting road closure documentation and event permission, with First Aiders already booked.

ETD/25/46 Christmas 2025

Cllr Thomason announced the Christmas lights switch-on for November 30th, with earlier installation requested for the Late-Night Shopping event on November 20th. The Committee resolved to use the allocated budget to purchase new lights for the tree, with the recommendation to oversee the installation process.

ETD/25/47 “Blooming Westgate”

The Committee discussed the 2026 Blooming Westgate initiative. Cllr Livesey proposed using wildflowers and plants to attract insects, suggesting locations like St Mildreds Road and Westgate station. It was recommended to create a community working group to develop the initiative. The Committee agreed to seek volunteers through social media, investigate potential grants and add the project as a standing agenda item.

ETD/25/48 Councillor Reports

Cllr Donaldson reported that he will be attending the KALC (Kent Association of Local Councils) AGM Meeting in November.

ETD/25/49 Public Participation Session

None.

ETD/25/50 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 24th September 2025.

Signed: _____

Date: _____