



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 24th September 2025 at 6.00pm

Present

Cllr Mike Livesey (Vice Chair)

Cllr David Donaldson

Cllr Alice Mulinya

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/25/51 Welcome from the Chair

Cllr Livesey welcomed everyone on behalf of the Chair and asked for introductions.

ETD/25/52 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Thomason (Chair) and from Cllr Fenning.

ETD/25/53 Members' Interests

None.

ETD/25/54 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd July 2025 were received and approved as an accurate record.

ETD/25/55 VJ Day 80th Anniversary

Cllr Livesey updated on the successful VJ Day ceremony, thanking Rev. Susan Wing for the excellent service, as well as the volunteers at Christ Church URC for the generous hospitality they offered to attendees. Cllr Livesey commended the attention paid to balancing both aspects of celebration and commemoration during the event.

ETD/25/56 October Coat Donation Point

Town Clerk updated on the project running from 1st October to 14th October. This year coats will be collected by the Salvation Army. The focus will be more on donation, while coats will be available for viewing and potential swapping in the back vault.

ETD/25/57 Remembrance Sunday

Ana informed the Committee that the Remembrance Sunday road closure permission has been confirmed, while event approval from Thanet District Council is pending but expected.

ETD/25/58 Christmas 2025

Discussions were held about coloured lights for the Christmas tree. It was decided to defer the decision to office staff to select the specific set of coloured lights. The tree will be installed in time for the late-night shopping event on 20th November. It was agreed that Christmas lights on the tree and canopies will be switched on for the event and turned off again until the Christmas Lights Switch-on on 30th November.

ETD/25/59 Pancake races 2026

The Committee discussed the upcoming Pancake Races on Station Road scheduled for Shrove Tuesday on 17th February 2026, which falls during the half-term school break. The Committee will explore ways to broaden engagement, including inviting traders to form teams, reaching out to secondary schools and potentially creating inclusive categories such as a walking race or special mobility sections for care home residents. The intention is to make the event more community-oriented, with suggestions to highlight the historical significance of pancake racing through displays, possibly in shops, churches, the Cinema, etc.

ETD/25/60 Blooming Westgate 2026

The Committee described the Blooming Westgate project as an ecological and community-driven initiative aimed at transforming the town's green spaces and promoting environmental awareness. Cllr Livesey proposed that the Council focused on native wildflowers and insect-attracting vegetation, while allowing the public to create their own floral displays. Cllr Livesey and Cllr Mulinya volunteered to join the working group, with the vision of creating a long-term, sustainable project that extends beyond a single event. Ideas could include potential wildflower plantings in public spaces, such as the station's natural bank, central reservations and existing town planters. The project is conceived as an ongoing programme with multiple activities throughout the year. While full implementation might extend to 2027, the immediate focus will be on civic pride and community involvement.

ETD/25/61 Councillor Reports

Cllr Donaldson mentioned potential Black History Month events for October 2026. The KALC Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee encourages parish councils to engage with such initiatives, but no concrete plans were finalised during the meeting.

ETD/25/62 Public Participation Session

A resident informed the Committee that local traders are planning a Halloween event on 31st October led by Nicola of Borgyn and Bakes, focusing on community engagement and high street promotion. Businesses along Station Road, St Mildreds and other areas will decorate their windows throughout October. Between dusk and 8pm on Halloween, traders will distribute treats to children and run various competitions.

A local trader highlighted the escalating dog fouling problem on the pavements along Station Road and St Mildreds highlighting the deteriorating street conditions due to the cessation of local authority cleaning services. The proposed solution is a comprehensive anti-dog fouling campaign focusing on community awareness and potential enforcement.

Cllr King made several key suggestions. First, he raised the Community Centre's request for a Christmas tree, proposing a potential permanent planted tree for future years.

Regarding Christmas lighting, Cllr King suggested exploring uplighting for trees along St Mildreds Road. While recognising the aesthetic potential, the significant technical challenges were acknowledged, including electrical installation complexities and obtaining necessary permissions. A trader expressed interest in collaborating, but no definitive solution was reached. The Committee agreed that the project's feasibility could be further investigated, potentially considering it for future budgets.

Additionally, Cllr King highlighted the potential for a wildflower project at Westgate railway station.

ETD/25/63 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 22nd October 2025.

Signed: _____

Date: _____