



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 26th November 2025 at 6.00pm

Present

Cllr Charlotte Thomason (Chair)

Cllr Mike Livesey (Vice Chair)

Cllr David Donaldson

Cllr David Wallin

Ms Nabila Yakub – Town Clerk

Ms Emma Dublin – Community Engagement and Social Media Consultant

2 Members of Public

ETD/25/77 Welcome from the Chair

Cllr Thomason welcomed everyone and asked for introductions.

ETD/25/78 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Fenning and Cllr Mulinya.

ETD/25/79 Members' Interests

None.

ETD/25/80 Public Right to Speak

A resident asked that for Christmas 2026 the Council bring traders and fair organisers together early in the year to plan the town's Christmas activities so that dates were coordinated and clashes avoided. She said communication had been poor this year and wanted that formally noted. The resident also asked the Council to revisit co-opting non-voting members with relevant expertise onto the Committee, and requested more Christmas lights, arguing that the Council-funded tree and lights should be treated separately as a town asset that supported local traders and the local economy.

Cllr Thomason supported earlier joint planning and better communication, praised the new tree and lights, backed prioritising town lights in the budget, and requested a Facebook poll be set up in relation to separating the Council's tree from the external lights event by lighting it from late-night shopping onwards.

ETD/25/81 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd October 2025 were received and approved as an accurate record.

ETD/25/82 Remembrance Review

Remembrance Day was reported as well attended and smoothly organised. Members noted ongoing issues with volunteer numbers and road closure signage, and agreed to improve volunteer coordination and traffic management for future years.

ETD/25/83 Christmas update

Discussions continued regarding Christmas lights, with a resident providing historical information on the town's canopy lights and street lights.

ETD/25/84 Pancake races

The Clerk reported that the 2026 Pancake Races (17th February, 10:00–12:15, road closure from 9:00) have road closures, parking suspensions and the event application already approved by TDC, and outlined a draft budget covering a photographer, pancakes, medals, diplomas, a finish-line ribbon and re-usable banners, with an emphasis on using local suppliers where possible.

ETD/25/85 Budget Discussion 2026-27

The Committee reviewed a first draft events budget and noted: the Christmas budget needed increasing (adding about £500 so there is more than the £2,000 tree cost to work with); kept £1,500 as a provisional figure for Blooming Westgate pending a working-group plan; set £3,000 for initiatives, possibly including a Black History Month event. Members stressed that ambitions for new events must be matched with realistic budgets and enough volunteers.

ETD/25/86 Councillor Reports

Cllr Donaldson reported attending the recent KALC AGM together with Cllr Mulinya.

ETD/25/87 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 28th January 2026.

Signed: _____

Date: _____