

TRUSTEE'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORT 2026

Introduction

Over the last 12 months there has been a lot of activity at West Kent Community Radio to ensure the station's survival in an ongoing challenging financial environment. The work to keep an Ofcom regulated radio station on air whilst also pushing forward plans for improvement cannot be left to the Trustees; there is simply too much work to do.

We would encourage all members to think about the time they can give the station outside their assigned programmes. It is not an exaggeration to say that the accumulated time that goes into preparing programmes across the week by members needs to be matched with time helping with activities to keep the Station afloat.

There have been some challenges during the year with behaviours that members have found uncomfortable and even caused Members to leave the Station. We are committed to address this, to make being a Member of West Kent Community Radio a more inclusive and encouraging place to be, and hope that you feel supported and included within the Station.

In October 2026 we shall reach the end of our 5 year licence, we have made an application to Ofcom for the licence to be renewed and we are currently awaiting the outcome of that application. In the mean time we have launched our service on DAB+ extending our broadcast area to include places such as Edenbridge, West Malling, Borough Green and Maidstone.

Finally, we would like to express our thanks to you, our loyal members. We rely on your continued support and hope that you are encouraged to take a deeper involvement in West Kent Community Radio to ensure its survival into future.

West Kent Radio Trustees

Financial Report

Included in the information for this AGM are the account for the year end March 2025, these were submitted and published by the Charity Commission in January 2026.

The 2024-25 figures showed we had an income of £22,535 against costs of £26,017 so we made a loss of £3482.

Our figures for the financial year 2025-26 have not yet been formally published, but the bank statements show we had an income of £18,823 against costs of £21,393. This is yet to be verified and transferred into annual return.

Our bank balance at the 31st March 2026 including the Reserve funds was £9680.

The good news is since then we have received a grant arranged by Chris Manser from Colyer Ferguson for £7500. Most members have renewed their membership and we have started to sell some advertising, so at the time of preparing this report our bank balance including the Reserve funds is now £16,956

Broadcast Operations - Programming

Having worked so hard in 2025 to increase the number of live shows being broadcast, the decision by most of the news team to withdraw their involvement in January 2026 has had a big impact on our output and while we have continued to meet our Ofcom commitments most of our daytime shows are lacking content and missing a live presenter.

In recent weeks Mona Channet has started recording a number of interviews and a series of monthly features about Health & Wellbeing, Pet Matters and West Kent Connects are being introduced on Fridays alongside the Legal Eagle by Alex Hakes and the interviews conducted by Chris Makey and John Butt. We hope to continue building on this in the months ahead.

Recruitment of new presenters is taking place, however progress has been disappointingly slow, all new presenters are being trained to voice track and then shown how to use the studio if they opt to do their shows live. However, we need assistance from existing presenters to help get new people trained, so if you can assist with this please let the Trustees know.

Studio Operations - Systems & Myriad

At the end of 2025 Will Dunn who had looked after our IT and playout systems for more than 20 years decided to step away. At the moment the systems are being managed by the combined help of Tim Godsalve, Jason Sonance and Broadcast Radio.

We have experienced a few recent issues in the studio due to a faulty backup power unit and Microsoft windows have been doing updates which upset the desk settings. We can only apologise for any inconvenience caused to presenters and any issues are being dealt with as quickly as possible.

Small Scale DAB

We are pleased to report that the SSDAB project has gone ahead successfully and our output can now be heard on DAB+ which extends our coverage area to parts of Sevenoaks, West Malling, Borough Green, Edenbridge and Maidstone. We shall be looking into getting additional place names recorded for the station's jingles and updating the news in jingle to include DAB+