



Newhaven Town Council Annual Report 2009-2010



Introduction by the



Town Mayor

Councillor Carla Butler

It was a great honour to be chosen as the 26th Mayor of Newhaven and it has been a year that I will never forget. My main objective during my term was to support the young people of the town who often get a bad press. One way I wanted to achieve this was by the introduction of a “Young Mayor”.



In July Daly Tucknott was elected as Young Mayor and Chloe Leister as deputy. Although at times we learnt how the project would work as we went along it has been very successful and there has been a lot of positive feedback from the public and other authorities along the way. I would like to thank both Daly and Chloe for their support and especially Daly for accompanying me at so many events throughout the year.



I was particularly pleased that it was agreed Daly could join me in the line up to meet Her Royal Highness Princess Anne when she visited Tideway School. This had the effect of showing to other people the importance of the role. It also proved that young people can learn that they can make a difference and contribution before they can even vote and they are still able to influence decisions which are made.

I have been able to support many fundraising objectives of different groups in the town. Most surprising for me was whilst helping raise funds for the local branch of Mencap, I found out that they receive no funds from Mencap itself and rely totally on volunteers and their own fundraising. I even had the opportunity of enjoying breakfast with 50+ men to help raise money on their Paris to London cycle challenge raising money for Care International.



In August I was pleased to help with “Rock the Fort”. Two young people Danny Woodford and Daniel Gravenor decided that Newhaven Fort would be a great venue for local bands to play. With their determination and the help of Newhaven Town Council and Newhaven Fort their idea became a reality whilst also raising over £1000 for Newhaven Air Cadets and the Newhaven Youth Marching Band.

During my term it was a privilege to take the opportunity to give talks in classes at Tideway about the role of Mayor and councils. And in Eastbourne I was asked to help try to inspire young people aged 14 -16 who were seen as being at risk of leaving education with no qualifications.

I was delighted to hold Newhaven Town Council's first ever Community Carol Concert. It raised money for the Breakout Community Centre but what was more important was the community coming together and enjoying the young talent from Denton, Meeching and Southdown schools, Rock Solid Youth Club, the Maestro players and the puppet group from St Leonards Church, Denton. My thanks again to all those involved especially Martin Miller from St Michaels Church.

I have been to Newhaven Fort on many occasions through my term including the celebrations for Battle of Britain Day. We are lucky to have such an important asset both historically and for the community and hope that the Fort can be used for bigger events in the future. I would like to pay particular thanks to all the staff especially to Minna Robertson for her help during the year.



The Sea Cadets were on top form throughout the year. They are a real credit to Newhaven and their presence is much appreciated on both side of the Channel. In addition the Sussex URNU (University Royal Navy Unit) have been an asset to Newhaven in recent years and it was great to see them turn out in large numbers for the Remembrance Parade last year.

I have felt very honoured to invite the Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex, Peter Field, and the High Sheriff of East Sussex, Bill Shelford, to Newhaven on a few occasions. As many of you know one of my interests involves Meeching Amateur Dramatics (MAD) and I was delighted to help raise their profile by inviting these VIPs to see Meeching Amateur Dramatic productions. Even our very own Young Mayor could not escape MAD. Furthermore they attended Daly's Young Mayor Awards which was a huge success and demonstrated Newhaven is not short of amazing young people.



MAD were not the only ones entertaining Newhaven though, I visited the Searchlight's performance of "Scrooge". This highlighted to me that with quality care, individuals no matter what their abilities can achieve anything. An enormous sense of community exists at the Searchlight and the performance was a true tonic and demonstrated the passion and hard work of the staff and residents.

ESDA (East Sussex Disability Association) celebrated 70 years of services to disabled people in and around East Sussex during my term and I attended their AGM. ESDA is another hard working organisation in our community looking out for the interests of disabled people. I visited the Newhaven Bluebird branch of ESDA who organise regular outings and transport. They make a significant contribution to providing services to disabled people and it was an honor to meet them.



The Seaford and Newhaven Access Group launched their guide which provides details of shops, restaurants, cafes, pubs and other services in the two towns. The guide indicates the suitability for disabled people - both those with mobility problems including those using wheelchairs or mobility scooters and people with sight or hearing problems. The guide is of use to residents and visitors alike who find

it difficult to find accessible services such as hairdressers with ramped access or a restaurant with a Braille menu. I hope that the access in Newhaven will improve in time and that future guides will also have important information on access.



Before I go I will have one last chance to help young people as Mayor. On 4th May there will be a skate competition that has been organised by a group of spirited young people.

With the help of NCDA, Shakespeare and Nippers and I it plans to be a fun event for all.

In fulfilling my official duties, one thing that has stood out is the amount of work put in by local volunteers. I have supported Newhaven at many events and would like to thank all those I have met during the course of the year who make Newhaven such a great place to live. But being Mayor is a team effort, so I would like to thank all the other Councillors and the Staff for their commitment, loyalty and plain hard work during the past year.

Councillor Carla Butler

REPORT FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, COUNCILLOR JUDITH OST

The past year has been a lively and varied one with the Town Council involved in a wide range of projects.

One of the Town Council's top priorities is to work towards better play, sport and recreational facilities for our children and young people. Following the successful provision of a new playground at the Denton Recreation Ground last year, partnership work has been taking place this year to provide new equipment at the Valley Road play area and work started on this two weeks ago. A special parkour area will be provided together with a new play area which will include a slide, climbing frame, see saw, dish roundabout, baby swings and a large dish swing. There will also be a bigger kickabout area. The total cost of the project is £83,562, of which the Town Council has contributed £30,000, with partnership funding obtained from Viridor Credits of £20,000 and £33,562 from the Play Pathfinder fund – a government fund administered by East Sussex County Council. Lewes District Council, which owns the land at the Valley Road site, has carried out the local consultation and provided the expertise for the design of the area.

Also in line with this priority, the Town Council has been working in partnership with other bodies to improve the provision of youth clubs in the town. This year substantial funding has been provided by the Town Council for the youth club running at the Lewes Road hut and also towards a new youth club which has started at the Denton and Mount Pleasant Social Centre. It is hoped that a further Denton club for younger children will soon start at the South Heighton Village Hall. The youth workers running these clubs are provided by NCDA (Newhaven Community Development Association) and in the case of the Denton clubs some additional funding has been provided by South Heighton Parish Council.

Grant aid funding has also been given to N.I.P.P.E.R.S. at Shakespeare Hall this year to enable them to run school holiday activities for children whose families cannot afford them, and to support a group of young people from Tideway School who have been working towards their bronze and silver Keystone awards by volunteering to help at N.I.P.P.E.R.S.

As another aspect of working with young people, the Town Council held the first ever elections for a Young Mayor of Newhaven on 2nd July 2009. All young people aged between 11 and 17 were eligible to vote and the winner was 13yr old Daly Tucknott, a year 8 pupil at Tideway. Daly, now aged 14 and in year 9, has been attending Council meetings to represent the views of Newhaven's young people and has been accompanying the grown up Mayor on many of her official engagements.

Daly was given an official budget of £500 to spend on a project for young people and came up with the wonderful idea of a Young People of the Year awards scheme. Daly feels that young people in the town often get a bad press and wanted to do something to counteract this and celebrate the positive things that young people achieve. This idea came to fruition on Tuesday 23rd March when an awards ceremony was held at Tideway school to present awards to six very special individual young people and one young group.

These are:

- Young Carer 2010 – Nicolle Payne
- Young Achiever 2010 – Adam Wiggins
- Young Person of Courage 2010 – Nicholas Cole
- Young Volunteer 2010 – Heidi Aveline

- Young Fundraiser 2010 – Maddison Manville
- Young Sportsperson 2010 – Connor Sandalls
- Young Group 2010 – Newhaven & Seaford Sea Cadets

The evening was a great success and was attended by around 150 people. Some of the awards had as many as ten nominees, which just goes to show that Newhaven is not short of amazing children and young people who are achieving wonderful things.

Not just young people, but local residents of all ages have continued to be frustrated by the continued barricading off of the sands at West Beach by the port authority, Newhaven Port and Properties. As is widely known, the Town Council submitted an application for Village Green status for the beach back in December 2008. If successful, this would mean that access to the beach could no longer be denied to local people. The Town Council are aware that local people have been finding the length of time this process is taking very frustrating, but this is because it is rather like a court case and the legal arguments are very complicated. At the time of writing this report, however, we are now expecting the date for the Public Inquiry to decide the application to be announced imminently. It is expected to take place sometime this July.

A couple of enhancements to the street scene in the town created considerable public interest this year. In the summer the roundabout by McDonalds in the Drove burst into spectacular colour as a result of having been seeded with wild flowers as an experiment by the Highway Authority, East Sussex County Council. This colourful display attracted an enormous number of favourable comments and as a result the Town Council has agreed to sponsor a repeat sowing this summer. In the run up to Christmas, the Town Council installed new, more colourful Christmas lights in the town centre and also placed beautiful white lights in one of the trees at the War Memorial Green which created a spectacular display which was much admired by both local residents and passing motorists on the A259. This too will be repeated next Christmas – and could also be switched on for special events if this is felt appropriate.

The Town Council entered into a new grounds maintenance contract in June 2009 with Wyevale Grounds Maintenance to look after the town cemetery in Lewes Road together with those open spaces looked after by the Town Council. This produced a saving in expenditure compared with the previous in-house workforce and has also enabled a number of improvements to be made, for example to the quality of the service offered for burials at the cemetery and the flower displays there. The contract is administered by the District Council. Additional improvements made at the Cemetery include the resurfacing of some of the paths.

A new community bus service got under way on 1st April 2009, funded jointly by Newhaven, Peacehaven and Telscombe Town Councils and operated by CTLA (Community Transport for the Lewes Area). This is a dial-a-ride service and operates door to door for anyone who finds it difficult to use other forms of public transport and who has registered to use the service with CTLA (registration is free). Initially the service only operated within Newhaven on Tuesdays and Thursdays, but after a few months it was decided to extend the remit of the service so that it is now operating Mondays to Fridays across Newhaven, Peacehaven and Telscombe from 9.30am to 2.30pm. The service has become more and more popular as the year has gone on and more and more people have come to hear about it – and it is hoped that it will continue to go from strength to strength – all three town councils have now committed the funding to continue to support the service for a further year.

In September 2009 the Town Council ran an exciting competition asking local residents to identify difficult to recognise photographs of parts of the town. The competition was to mark the launch of the Newhaven Uncovered project and the first prize of a bike, sponsored by Mr Cycles in Seaford, was won by Chloe Avenell of Brighton Road. Another photo quiz is to be held soon – with some exciting cash prizes donated by an anonymous benefactor.

Newhaven Uncovered is an exciting new project by the Town Council which aims to reveal some forgotten treasures in the town and to signpost residents to finding out more about Newhaven's rich history. The project will include self-guided walks in the town linked to a series of interpretation boards, guided walks and a residents' guide which will be delivered to every household and will contain practical information about the town together with a handy map and other features. Work is well under way on this project and it is hoped that the interpretation boards and residents' guide will be finished by early summer 2010. Town Clerk Ian Everest will be hosting some very interesting tours of the cemetery on the weekend of 23rd and 24th May – why not come along and hear all about some of the fascinating and tragic stories behind the headstones?

Local residents will have another opportunity to find out about local history and enjoy an interesting day out over the weekend of 1st, 2nd and 3rd of May when Newhaven Fort hosts a Festival of History which will include living historians, guided tours and special displays. The Town Council has funded free tickets for Newhaven residents which can be obtained from the Town Council offices (maximum 4 tickets per family). This follows on from the success of a similar free community event at the Fort last summer on 20th June 2009 which was attended by 1047 people.

The Town Council strongly supports the vibrant voluntary sector in Newhaven and this year has continued to give financial support to many local organisations, some of whom will be attending the Town Meeting to show what they have been able to do with the funding they received. A couple of larger projects that have received funding from the Town Council and which will hopefully be coming to fruition over the next few months are the refurbishment of the cricket pavilion at Fort Road by the Newhaven Cricket Club and improvements to the pedestrian access across the railway line at Tidemills. Both of these projects have successfully managed to attract substantial funding from other parties, partly as a result of the Town Council's matched funding to support their bids.

Councillor Judith Ost

THE ROLE OF NEWHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

There are three tiers of local government with areas of responsibility in Newhaven - East Sussex County Council, Lewes District Council and Newhaven Town Council.

East Sussex County Council's responsibilities include:

- ◆ Adult Social Care, working in partnership with East Sussex Downs & Weald PCT and others, to assess the needs of and commission services for older people and those with disabilities, either in their own homes or in residential placements;
- ◆ Waste Disposal, such as by landfill or incineration
- ◆ Children's Services, leading the Children's Trust arrangements, supporting school improvement, commissioning services for children and families through Children's Centres and otherwise, and managing fostering and adoption;
- ◆ Transport and Environment, including road safety; the maintenance of footways, roads and bridges, and street lighting; support for public transport; rights of way and access to the countryside; and protection of the Downs and Heritage Coast;
- ◆ A range of other services, including Libraries, Archives and Records Management, Trading Standards, Adult Community Learning, and the Registration Service.

Lewes District Council's responsibilities include:

- ◆ Housing
- ◆ Deciding planning applications
- ◆ Rubbish collection from premises in the town; provision of recycling facilities
- ◆ Street cleansing
- ◆ Environmental health
- ◆ Provision of leisure and sports facilities, such as the Seahaven Pool, recreation grounds
- ◆ Collection of Council Tax on behalf of all three tiers of local government
- ◆ Licensing of taxis

Newhaven Town Council is the equivalent of a village parish council. It receives annually a small percentage of the money raised by Council Tax, known as "the Precept". This money can be spent on the provision of various things that are of particular benefit to the local community and which the Town Council feel are not adequately provided by the other two tiers.

Eighteen local people serve as Councillors on the Town Council. They are all volunteers and receive no pay for the work they do on behalf of the town. Elections are held every four years.

There are full meetings of the Town Council about every six weeks throughout the year, which take place at Meeching Hall, in Fort Road. All meetings of the Council are open to the public and there is a short period at the beginning of each meeting put aside for questions from the public and for the receipt of petitions.

An important part of the role of the Town Council is to represent the views of the town in response to various public consultations.

On a regular basis our Planning Applications Committee meet to look at planning applications received by the Planning Authority and to pass on to them our comments. The Town Council always try to represent the views put forward by local people in this

regard, although sometimes this can prove difficult when an application is controversial and has both vocal support and opposition amongst local residents. Nevertheless, members of the Planning Applications Committee take a vigilant approach in representing the local viewpoint, and encourage objectors/supporters of planning applications to attend meetings and put forward their views. When an application is of particular public interest a special public meeting may be held.

At the present time, Newhaven Town Council provides the following for the local community:

- ◆ The Town Council **offices** in Fort Road act as an information point for local residents. The offices were the subject of a major refurbishment in 2003-4 and are now much more people friendly, with easy public access from street level. Internally there is a lift for the less agile or parents with buggies and the interior is light, modern and convenient. The building also has a private interview room and a small meeting room. Current planning applications may be viewed there during normal office opening hours. Leaflets and posters are displayed concerning local events, places of interest and other items of general interest. The Registrar visits the offices by arrangement to allow local residents to register births and deaths. The meeting room is in regular use in hosting meetings connected with the Meridian Mature Citizens Forum, Anti-Social Behaviour, Tourism Group and the Local Area Transport Strategy. The offices are owned by the Town Council.
- ◆ Four **social centres** are owned, maintained and run by the Town Council. They are available for hire by local organisations and individuals. They are Denton Social Centre, East Side Social Centre, Lewes Road Hut and Meeching Hall.
- ◆ Some of the town's **recreation grounds** are maintained by the Town Council. These are the Denton Recreation Ground and Children's Play Area, the Valley Road Play Area, and the Lewes Road Recreation Ground and Children's Play Area. Other local recreation grounds and play areas are the responsibility of Lewes District Council.
- ◆ Three **amenity areas** in the town are maintained by the Town Council. The Bay Vue Amenity Area in Bay Vue Road is owned by the Town Council and maintained as a grassed area with public seating. The Valley Ponds area are owned and looked after by the Town Council as a wildlife conservation area and amenity area for local residents. The strip of land known as the Rose Walk Amenity area (behind Southdown School, linking Church Hill and Rose Walk) is leased from East Sussex County Council and maintained as a grassed area by the Town Council.
- ◆ The town's **war memorials** are looked after by the Town Council. All three memorials – the Canadian Memorial, the Mercantile Marine Memorial (also known as the Transport Memorial) and the town's War Memorial – now stand together in the Memorial Gardens in South Way. Each year in August, the Town Council host a commemoration service at the Canadian Memorial on the anniversary of the Dieppe Raid in 1942. The Town Council also work in partnership with the Royal British Legion to organise the annual service of remembrance during November
- ◆ **Newhaven Cemetery** is owned by the Town Council, which acts as the local burial authority. The Cemetery includes burial plots, a garden of remembrance for ashes interments, and a chapel which is used for some funerals.

- ◆ There are a small number of **allotments** at Newhaven Cemetery, which are let to local residents for a nominal annual fee. The allotments at East Side are owned and controlled by Lewes District Council.
- ◆ The Town Council own and fund the **CCTV cameras** in the town centre, which are operated and maintained by Sussex Police.
- ◆ The **Christmas Lights** in the town centre are owned and put up each year by the Town Council. A number of local businesses allow the Town Council use of their electricity supply for this purpose. The bulbs are LED energy saving bulbs.
- ◆ The **floral boat** at the junction of Bridge Street and South Way is owned and maintained by the Town Council. The Town Council have also planted bulbs in grass verges in various locations in recent years. Additionally, support is given by the Town Council to Newhaven in Bloom, who provide many of the floral displays in the Town in the summer.
- ◆ A **community bus service** operating on a door to door dial-a-ride basis started on 1st April 2009, funded by the Town Council and operated by Community Transport for the Lewes Area (CTLA).
- ◆ Some of the **public seats** in the town are owned and maintained by the Town Council.
- ◆ There are 8 Town Council **noticeboards** around the town which are used for the display of Town Council minutes and agendas and a list of Town Councillors. One of these – at the Fort Road Recreation Ground – has been added this year. A further board at the top of Gibbon Road will be installed during April 2010.

The Town Council is also consulted on wider matters, such as the Lewes District Sustainable Community Strategy and the Local Development Framework plan.

The Town Council is represented on the following outside bodies:

- Access in Seaford and Newhaven Committee
- Age Concern Day Club
- Citizens Advice Bureau
- Community Transport for the Lewes Area (CTLA)
- INPACT
- Lewes District Association of Local Councils
- Lewes District Foyer
- Meridian Mature Citizens Forum
- Newhaven Children & Young People's Initiative
- Newhaven in Bloom
- Newhaven Local Action Team (LAT)
- Newhaven Strategic Network
- Open Spaces Group
- Parishes of the Lower Ouse (POLO)
- Shakespeare Hall

NEWHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL STRUCTURE 2009-2010

Town Council Members

Denton Ward

Charlie Carr	73 Iveagh Crescent, South Heighton
Diana Conyers	8 Essex Mews, Essex Place, Newhaven
Ann Giles	41 Arundel Road, Denton
Roderick Main	5 Avis Parade Flats, Avis Road, Denton
Angela Simmons	Cedars House, 1 Heighton Road, Denton (<i>Lead Member for Community Services</i>)

Meeching Ward

John Adams	110 Newhaven Heights, Court Farm Road, Newhaven
Graham Amy	71 Court Farm Road, Newhaven (<i>Lead Member for Promotion</i>)
Carla Butler	6 Southdown Close, Newhaven (<i>Mayor</i>)
Darren Grover	2 Firlie Terrace, South Heighton
Maurice Langham	34 Mariners Wharf, Fort Road
Robert Robertson	28 Western Road, Newhaven
David Rogers	74 Fort Road, Newhaven

Valley Ward

Julie Carr	73 Iveagh Crescent, South Heighton (<i>Lead Member for Partnership</i>)
Emma Clothier	c/o Town Council offices
Cynthia Kennedy	70 Elphick Road, Newhaven (<i>Lead Member for Children and Young People</i>)
Judith Ost	Mary Ann's Cottage, Lewes Road, Newhaven (<i>Leader of the Council</i>)
Pat Ost	Mary Ann's Cottage, Lewes Road, Newhaven
Steve Saunders	25 Southdown Road, Newhaven (<i>Lead Member for Planning</i>)

Staff

Town Clerk	Ian Everest
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Assistant Town Clerk (Part-time)	Jacky Cole
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Administration/Financial Assistant	Ruth Durrant
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Caretaker (Part-time)	John Seymour
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FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The Town Council's full accounts for the year 2009/10 will be available later in the year for public inspection.

Income

The Town Council's budget is comprised of the amount paid by residents of the town (via the Council Tax) and the amount raised by income from rentals, lettings, bank interest and other fees and charges.

2009/10

Precept (Council Tax)	£354,145.00
Income (budgeted)	<u>£66,100.00</u>
	<u>£420,245.00</u>

Expenditure

The Town Council's expenditure is controlled by a budgeting and monitoring process which categorises expenditure into separate headings.

For the year 2009/10 the budgeted figures were

Administration/Office	£51,300.00
Staff and Training	£181,150.00
Building and Grounds Maintenance	£27,070.00
Community Services	<u>£85,700.00</u>
(CCTV cameras, Christmas lights, grants, play areas Citizens Advice Bureau, School Holiday activities)	<u>£351,520.00</u>

The Town Council also has an Earmarked Reserves Budget. This is used for projects for which it may be necessary to accumulate funding over a number of years or for special one-off funding demands.

During the year 2009/10 the following expenditure has been made from the Earmarked Reserves:

Elections	£3,250.00
Asset Management	£16,100.00
Projects	£6,200.00
Play Areas	£35,000.00
Lunette Battery, West Quay	£10,000.00

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During the year 2009/10 the following grants were awarded by the Town Council:

Breakout Community Trust	£180
Hanson Road Residents Association	£300
Jumping Beans	£200
Meeching Amateur Dramatics (MAD)	£400
Munchkins	£200
N.F.R.P.A.	£100
Neills Den Social Club	£200
Newhaven Cricket Club Youth Section	£120
Newhaven Day Club	£100
Newhaven Youth Marching Band	£300
Our Newhaven	£300
Shakespeare Hall	£150
Vista for the Blind and Visually Impaired	£200
Guest House Storytellers	£100
Meeching Valley School	£450
Meridian Mature Citizens Forum	£250
National Coastwatch	£500
Newhaven District Guides	£500

Special one-off grants were also made as follows:

Newhaven Fish Festival	£3,000
Isn't it Bonkers Event	£1,000
Dutch Elm Disease Control Programme	£800
Sussex Crimestoppers	£100
Lewes Road Hut Youth Club	£7,497
Newhaven Cricket Club – pavilion refurbishment	£2,216
Tidemills Level Crossing	£1,000
Shakespeare Hall Health & Safety measures	£500
Summer Community Event at Newhaven Fort	£1,000
Community Bus Service	£4,400
Denton Youth Club	£1,020
Newhaven in Bloom	£1,000

Note:

The accounts of Newhaven Town Council are audited each year in compliance with the Audit Commission Act 1993 – Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 (SI 2003/553)

The accounts for the year 2008/09 have been duly audited and certified by the external auditor.