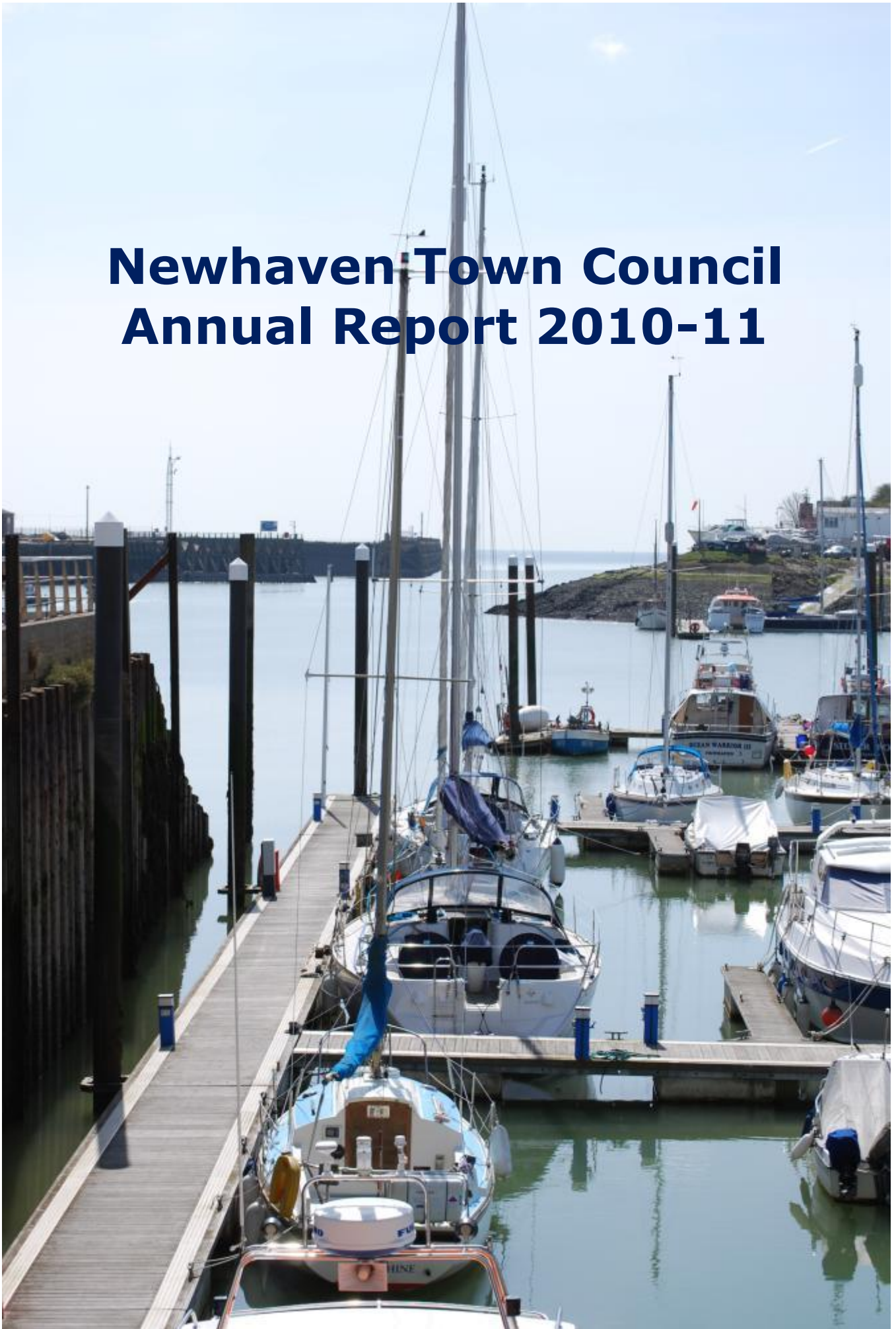


Newhaven Town Council Annual Report 2010-11



Introduction by the Mayor

Councillor Graham Amy



It was a great honour to be chosen as the 26th Mayor of Newhaven and although it was the second time I have been Mayor it has been a very enjoyable year and one that I will never forget. Indeed, I will find it hard not to be opening businesses, visiting groups or meeting my fellow Mayors at various events throughout the area.

I have met hundreds of my fellow townspeople and made many new friends along the way. I have been ably supported by the Mayoress, my wife Marlene, the young Mayors Daly Tucknott and Adam Wiggins, and the excellent staff at Newhaven Town Council.

My official duties have included opening the discount store in the High Street, opening the Pets at Home store and joining the Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex Peter Field to open the Searchlight charity shop in the town.

Searchlight was my charity this year and I am delighted to announce that with the aid of Sainsbury's, the Enterprise centre and the Friends of Searchlight we have raised more than £45,000 towards the refurbishment of Powell House. This included the princely sum of £8,000 raised at the Mayors charity dinner and auction.

On a light-hearted note I was volunteered to be Neptune again and lead the Children's Parade at the Maritime Festival, which was organised by the NCDA and supported by Newhaven Town Council. It was great fun and once again ably supported by our local schools and our marvellous sea cadets.

I was honoured to attend the Newhaven Gardening Club's 60th birthday celebration, the award of the prestigious "Green Flag" to the Castle Hill group and Grays and Southdown schools' tree planting events. I also attended the Newhaven in Bloom AGM and must congratulate the group on the excellent work they do in adding colour to the town.

Newhaven Town Council along with Lewes District Council have carried out major improvements to recreational facilities in the town and along with the Chair of Lewes District Council we opened the new parcour site in the Valley and the children's playground at Fort Road Recreation Ground. Recently the Vice Chair of Lewes District Council Cllr. Steve Saunders and I opened the "Green Gym" at Fort Road Recreation Ground which is proving very popular with all ages.

Newhaven has a long and proud history and I am pleased that during my period of office that there are now a series of notice boards throughout the area telling new residents and visitors about our town and its people.

The Town Council along with the Meeching Amateur Dramatic group, the Sea Cadets and the Bridge Hotel put on a re-enactment of Louis Philippe (the last King of France) arriving at



Newhaven. This was attended by the Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex, the High Sheriff, the Honourary French Consul, school children and many residents. The event stemmed from an idea from the Newhaven Historical Society and was great fun.



On a more sombre note, the Mayoress and I were privileged to represent Newhaven at the Dieppe Raid commemorations held in Newhaven and France. Many people attended the services both in Newhaven and Dieppe and it is important that we never forget the people that lost their lives on the ill-fated raid.

The Council has achieved "Village Green" status for the sandy beach and we are now going through the next legal hurdle so that once more our children can enjoy the safe swimming that many of us enjoyed.

My year in office has seen the biggest financial recession in most people's lifetime and this has had a major impact on the town centre with a number of shops closing. Plans are at an advanced stage for a new state-of-the-art library in the town centre however, we will need further improvements if we are to maintain the footfall in the town. I urge residents to shop in the town where possible, to help our beleaguered shopkeepers at this difficult time.

Plans for an Asda supermarket, additional commercial units, a pub and 200 houses have been put forward for the Eastside area. The council are expected to receive an outline planning application for this site soon.

While welcoming this enormous investment in the town, I am concerned that this will put added pressure on the town centre shops. Many elderly people and those that lack transport will find shopping difficult if the retail sector continues to move away from the town centre.

However, Newhaven people are famed for their resilience and we will rise to the many challenges that lie ahead as we always do.

I would like to thank the people of Newhaven for all their support during my time of office and my fellow councillors for giving me the second opportunity to be Mayor.

Councillor Graham Amy
Town Mayor

Report from the Leader of the Council

Councillor Judith Ost

The past year has once again seen the Town Council involved in a wide variety of different projects and activities.



The Public Inquiry into the application by the Town Council to register the West Beach as a Village Green took place at Meeching Hall on 6th, 7th and 8th July 2010. The Inquiry was presided over by Ms Ruth Stockley, an Inspector appointed by East Sussex County Council, who are responsible for maintaining the register of Village Greens in East Sussex. The Town Council presented a large quantity of evidence in support of its application and was supported by ten local residents who appeared in person at the Inquiry. A barrister employed by the Town Council ably argued various legal points that arose.

The Inspector duly published her recommendation in October, which was that the West Beach should be registered as a Village Green. After some further legal arguments raised by the Port Authority's solicitors, which the Inspector responded to, the County Council's Village Green Registration Panel met just before Christmas and resolved to accept the Inspector's recommendation. However, the Port Authority's solicitors had written to the County Council in advance of the Panel's meeting warning that if it was decided to register the beach as a Village Green they would challenge this decision in the courts. As a result, the Panel decided to defer actually registering the beach for 60 days to see whether this challenge materialised.

Shortly before the 60 days elapsed, the Port Authority's solicitors duly submitted their application for a Judicial Review. There are two stages to the Judicial Review process - first the application for it to be heard - which is likely to be considered by the Court within the next two to three months (this is quickly by Court standards); then, if the application is granted, the actual Judicial Review itself, which



would be at the High Court in London some time later.

The Town Council is only too well aware of how frustrating this is for the people of Newhaven. The Port Authority is clearly determined to put as many obstacles and delays in our path as possible and keep the beach closed for as long as possible. The Town Council has asked the County Council to register the beach as a Village Green whilst the case is waiting to be heard, but they have said no to this. Although it would be possible for the Town Council to take legal action of its own against the County Council to try to force it to register the beach, our legal advisors have advised against this. It would involve both the Town Council and the County Council in two costly legal battles at once, which would not be the best use of public money. Clearly it is a better use of resources for the Town and County Councils to work together to vigorously defend the County Council's decision to register the beach.

We have always known that this would be a long battle, but please be assured that Town Council will continue to fight to get the beach re-opened.



The Newhaven Uncovered project, which aims to reveal some forgotten treasures in the town and help residents to find out more about Newhaven's rich history, has come to fruition over the past year. A new residents' guide has been produced and was delivered to every household and business in the town in June 2010. This includes a much improved town map. To launch the new guide a second photo quiz took place with exciting cash prizes donated by a local benefactor who wishes to remain anonymous. Guided walks were held around Newhaven Cemetery at the end of May and these were so popular that several further walks took place during the summer and early Autumn, together with walks around the old workhouse building in Church Hill. It is hoped to do some more of these walks this summer. The crowning glory of the project is a series of interpretation panels which have now been installed in various places around the town giving glimpses of the history of the town illustrated with old photographs.

Following the problems caused by the very icy winter of 2009/10, the town council provided grit bins this year at a number of particularly steep or dangerous locations around the town. These were installed just in time for the onset of snow and ice at the end of November and during December 2010. Fortunately, the first months of 2011 proved not to be quite so cold as the previous year.



The town council was approached during 2010 by the Mayor of a French town, La Chapelle Saint Mesmin, asking to twin with Newhaven. La Chapelle Saint Mesmin is a small town of about 9,000 inhabitants, situated in the Loire Valley, just outside Orleans. Their twinning committee researched widely on the internet looking for a suitable English town to twin with and chose Newhaven because they felt there were a lot of similarities between the two towns – size of population, emphasis on opportunities for young people, large number of voluntary organisations in the town, etc. The town council felt this was a wonderful opportunity for local people to form lasting friendships with people in a French town and to find out more about each other's cultures. After a number of public meetings, the Newhaven Twinning Association has now been formed and will be taking the twinning forward. The Mayor of La Chapelle

Saint Mesmin will be visiting Newhaven over the Easter weekend as the personal guest of our Mayor. The town council has promised £200 to the Twinning Association to help them to get started – the Twinning Association has already started raising their own funds with a fun pancake race generously hosted by Sainsburys, which raised a further £100. It is hoped this will become a lasting link between Newhaven and the French town.



Continuing the French theme, there was a lovely, unusual event in the town last June when a re-enactment of the landing of the deposed French king Louis Philippe in Newhaven in 1848 took place. The Town Council worked in partnership with Meeching Amateur Dramatics, the Newhaven Historical Society and the Sea Cadets to organise this event which was held to celebrate Sussex Day.

Children from Newhaven's primary schools came down to the slipway at Newhaven Marina to watch the Royal Party land and then walked along to the Bridge Hotel to see them arrive there in a beautiful carriage pulled by horses. The event was blessed with sunny weather, although the stiff off shore breeze caused a few difficulties for the men trying to row the Royal Party across to the slipway. This didn't spoil anyone's enjoyment of the occasion, however.

This was not the only event for local people in which the Town Council has been involved this year. Funding was given by the Town Council to enable Rock the Fort to take place in the summer, bringing exciting live outdoor music to the Fort. We also part funded the Newhaven Fish Festival and the Christmas Shopping event in the town centre in December. Over the May Day bank holiday weekend the town council funded the provision of free tickets to the Fort for local residents, enabling 1,200 Newhaven residents to have a great day out there. This will be repeated again this summer on 4th and 5th June. In December the second annual Mayor's Christmas Carol Concert took place at St Michael's Church and local residents were treated to a wonderful selection of carols performed by local school children and talented local adult musicians. The Town Council has also contributed financially to what promises to be an amazing spectacular event taking place this summer on Saturday 16th July 2011. "Newhaven Cormorant" will be a huge free family event, centred around Newhaven Harbour and including street theatre, pyrotechnics and special effects.





Following on from the success of the election of the first ever Young Mayor last year, a new Young Mayor was elected in October 2010 – 15 year old year 11 Tideway student Adam Wiggins. Adam has carried on the great work started by his predecessor, Daly Tucknott – accompanying the grown up Mayor to all sorts of events and even attending events on his own in his own right – for example talking to students at Peacehaven Community College about his role and being interviewed on Seahaven FM.

Adam presided over the second Young People Awards on 22nd March. This was again a really lovely occasion, attended by about 170 people, including the Lord Lieutenant. Some musical entertainment was provided by a group of extremely talented young people from Tideway school. The winners of the awards were:

- Young Achiever – Kayleigh Read
- Young Carer – Spike Barber
- Young Volunteer – Natasha Trickett
- Young Person of Courage – Paul Dutton Sim
- Young Sportsperson – Rebecca Davis
- Young Group – Denton & South Highton JFC Under 12 team

For several years now the Town Council has made children and young people one of their top priorities and has continued to bring improvements to facilities in the town this year. The new Parkour and play area at Valley Road was opened at the end of May. This was a partnership project between the Town Council, District Council and the County Council. The same partnership also brought about the new play area at Fort Road at about the same time. More recently, the Town Council has paid for a “green gym” at Fort Road, which provides fun exercise equipment which has proved exceedingly popular with older people as well as with teenagers.



We also part fund the provision of youth clubs in the town at Lewes Road hut and at Denton Social Centre. This funding will be increased in 2011-12 to meet the shortfall in other funding sources which is being caused by the economic situation and government cuts. The town council is determined to make sure that these clubs can continue to offer somewhere for our young people to go. We also continued to part fund summer holiday activities for young people. Additionally, funding was provided by the town council towards a new youth drama group called “MADDIES” organised by Meeching Amateur Dramatics and towards a group of young people volunteering at NIPPERS at Shakespeare Hall.

The town council also played a major role in helping to save Shakespeare Hall from closure. The trustees of the Hall announced that the hall would have to close last summer. The town council stepped in to act as caretakers for the hall whilst a rescue package could be put together allowing Wave Leisure to take the hall over, funded jointly by Newhaven Town Council, Lewes District Council and Wave Leisure. Essential refurbishment works



are now taking place at the hall, which will re-open in April and will provide a good quality sports and recreation facility for both young people and adult residents of the town. Many of the activities which normally take place at the hall are taking place in town council premises whilst the improvement works are being carried out.

Further improvements at Fort Road Recreation Ground took place in the summer of 2010

when the cricket pavilion underwent a major refurbishment. This work too was partly funded by the town council in partnership with other funding providers.

The three towns community bus, jointly funded by Newhaven, Peacehaven and Telscombe Town Councils, is now in its second year of operation. The community bus provides a door to door service for all residents of the three towns and is ideal for shopping trips, visits to the doctors, visits to friends, going to the day club or playgroup and much more. It is operated by CTLA (Community Transport for the Lewes Area) which is a registered charity providing affordable, accessible transport for people who find it difficult to access normal forms of transport.

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.

Councillor Judith Ost, Leader of the Council

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 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 9 Town Council **noticeboards** around the town which are used for the display of Town Council minutes and agendas and a list of Town Councillors.

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
- Community Transport for the Lewes Area (CTLA)
- INPACT
- Lewes District Association of Local Councils
- Lewes District Foyer
- Local Partnership for Children
- Meridian Mature Citizens Forum
- Newhaven in Bloom
- Newhaven Strategic Network
- Open Spaces Group
- Parishes of the Lower Ouse (POLO)

Newhaven Town Council Structure 2010-11

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 (<i>Lead Member for Children & Young People</i>)
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>Town Mayor</i>)
Carla Butler	6 Southdown Close, Newhaven
Maurice Langham	34 Mariners Wharf, Fort Road
Robert Robertson	28 Western Road, Newhaven
David Rogers	74 Fort Road, Newhaven
one vacancy	

Valley Ward

Julie Carr	73 Iveagh Crescent, South Heighton (<i>Lead Member for Partnership & Promotion</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>)
two vacancies	

Staff

Town Clerk	Ian Everest
Assistant Town Clerk (Part-time)	Jacky Cole
Administration/Financial Assistant	Ruth Durrant

Financial Summary

The Town Council's full accounts for the year 2010/11 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.

2010/11

Precept (Council Tax)	£354,145.00
Income (budgeted)	<u>£60,100.00</u>
	<u>£414,245.00</u>

Expenditure

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

For the year 2010/11 the budgeted figures were

Administration/Office	£48,800.00
Staff and Training	£126,650.00
Building and Grounds Maintenance	£68,500.00
Community Services	<u>£102,100.00</u>
(CCTV cameras, Christmas lights, grants, play areas Citizens Advice Bureau, School Holiday activities)	<u>£346,050.00</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 2010/11 the following expenditure has been made from the Earmarked Reserves:

Project Development	£4,949.00
West Beach Village Green application	£37,614.00
Newhaven Uncovered	£13,550.00
Youth Clubs Support	£5,496.00
War Memorial lighting	£1,205.00
Zap Arts Event	£2,500.00

Continued...

During the year 2010/11 the following grants were awarded by the Town Council:

Access in Seaford & Newhaven Committee	£200
Breakout Community Trust	£200
Castle Hill Group	£400
Growing Together Committee	£200
Hanson Road Residents Association	£200
Hillcrest Amateur Boxing Club	£200
Jumping Beans	£100
Maddies Youth Group	£350
NFRPA Friday Club	£200
Neills Close & Jubilee Homes Social Committee	£150
Newhaven Cricket Club – Youth Section	£100
Newhaven Girls Football Club	£300
Our Newhaven	£300
Rock Solid (Newhaven)	£200
Time 2 Talk	£100
Vista Group for the Blind & Partially sighted	£250
The Boomerang Klub	£50
Meeching Amateur Dramatics (MAD)	£350
Meridian Mature Citizens Forum	£150
Newhaven & Peacehaven U3A	£150
Newhaven Youth Marching Band	£200
Tideway School	£200

Special one-off grants were also made as follows:

Newhaven Fish Festival	£1,000
Lewes Road Hut/Denton Youth Clubs	£12,000
Shakespeare Hall Refurbishment	£15,000
Summer Community Event at Newhaven Fort	£500
Community Bus Service	£4,400
Newhaven in Bloom	£1,500
NIPPERS Young People's volunteering scheme	£1,137.00
NIPPERS/NCDA Summer Play Schemes	£5,290.00
MADDIES	£1,166.00
Sea Cadets	£500.00
Rock the Fort	£500.00
NCDA Christmas Fayre	£540.00
Green Gym, Fort Road Recreation Ground	£10,000

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 2009/10 have been duly audited and certified by the external auditor.