



Newhaven Town Council - Annual Report 2019-20



The Mayor - Councillor Graham Amy



Although I had the honour of being voted Mayor for a record fourth term, I have enjoyed my time in office as much as on the very first occasion.

The Mayor's role is to be the Chair of the Council in a neutral capacity and to represent the Town. It is also expected for the Mayor to raise funds for good causes within the town.

I was able to give substantial donations to Fitzroy (formerly Searchlight) to carry out repairs to their much-loved pond and Seahaven Academy and SCDA youth club for girl's sanitary protection. I had a wonderful visit to Mencap and donated money towards the refurbishment of their hut and gave money towards the celebrations for the 900th anniversary of St Michael's church.



There have been many highlights during the year including Armed Forces Day at the Blind Veterans Association, Homelink Charity Concert at Glyndebourne, the 20th anniversary of the Newhaven lifeboat, meeting with the Vietnamese Ambassador to mention just a few. The Dieppe raid commemorations both here and in Dieppe were once again a very moving experience especially meeting some of the last few remaining survivors of the ill-fated raid. I was also pleased as were the veterans at the large crowds that attended the Remembrance Day service and wreath laying.



The Mayors Carol Concert was a huge success and a very big thank you to all the children, their parents, teachers and members of the congregation. More than £450 was raised in the collection which went to the churches food bank to help the needy of the town.

In January I laid a wreath to commemorate 120th anniversary of the sinking of HMS Brazen and opened the Newly refurbished community hall at St Michaels Parish Church.

When I was appointed Mayor I said that I would like to see more trees, shrubs and flowers planted and thanks to the Riverside Park Group, our Newhaven Tree Wardens and our contractors idverdi we have planted hundreds of spring bulbs and close to a thousand trees. This is important because we will lose a lot of mature trees in the next few years because of Ash dieback and Dutch elm disease.



Finally, I would like to thank my Consort Marlene, my fellow councillors and my excellent Deputy Lesley Boniface for all their support during my Mayoral year.

Councillor Graham Amy, Mayor of Newhaven 2019-2020

Ted Rackham - Young Mayor



Ted was elected as Newhaven's Young Mayor at the end of October 2019.

Ted has indicated that he would be seeking to support SCDA in their ongoing Youth Counselling Work and that of the mental health of young people across the town.

Additionally, he will be looking to support projects that provide opportunities for young people, get them off 'the streets' to be safe and have fun.

Ted Rackham, Young Mayor

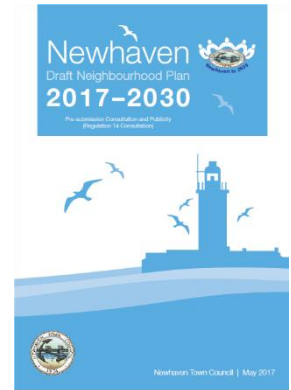
Regeneration & Strategic Development Committee

Chair - Councillor Paul Boswell



Following on from last year's busy time, the Regeneration & Strategic Development committee have been hard at work, firstly, and probably most importantly for Newhaven, in promoting and ultimately successfully adopting the neighbourhood plan.

A big thank you to all those who had a hand in helping to get the plan to fruition and also to the voting public who ensured the referendum vote went through.



We have been disappointed with the lack of use of the bandstand, but after working so hard to get the extra funding to pay for it, the committee is determined to see it used in 2020 – to this end we're going to install electricity, which is one reason some bands have been unable to use it. We've also been told by at least two local bands that a series of regular 'concerts' will be put on over the summer months. We will publish details as soon as they are confirmed. In the meantime, if you know anyone who could use the bandstand to stage an event, please ask them to contact us as soon as possible.



The Coastal Community Team (CCT) and the creative quarter have not been neglected during the past year and discussions are still ongoing as to how we can help to promote the many creative people we have locally.

The council is also busy compiling a local business listing which will be an invaluable tool in helping promote local firms and businesses to the community – again, we'll give more details when the project is further developed. Again, this summer we had very attractive bunting in the town, many people have commented on how it brightens the place up – I expect this to become a yearly tradition from now on!

There was also the 'adopt a station' scheme in conjunction with Southern Rail, this will result in our local train station looking more attractive to rail passengers and may encourage them to pop into the town and see what we have to offer.

The district heating study is slowly moving forward, with more feasibility studies in the pipeline. If we can get this project up and running it would be a massive boost for Newhaven, but I must stress there are immense hurdles to overcome and a huge amount of investment will be needed



Councillor Paul Boswell, Chair of Regeneration & Strategic Development Committee

Planning & Development Committee

Chair - Councillor Steve Saunders



This year's Planning Committee has seen the retirement of Jacky Main as our Clerk and the welcoming of Ken Dry into the role. I would like to recognise the support, hard work and attention to detail that Jacky gave the committee over past years and also thank Ken for his enthusiasm and quickly getting his head around the position. It's never easy stepping into someone else's shoes, but Ken appears to be relishing the challenge.

We have now adopted our Neighbourhood Plan, after years of development by Susie Mullins and the working group of Councillors and local people, along with the support of our residents when it was put to the vote in the referendum. It is a testament to the hard work of Susie and her team, that the Plan was approved for adoption and the security and influence that it will now give the Town Council and the residents, going forward. On behalf of our Members, I must give them (and you) all my thanks.

Following the elections last year, I was honoured to be asked to chair the Committee for another year and like all new and returning councillors that sit on the committee, I have undertaken planning training, to keep us up to date with current Planning Law and guidance. The local knowledge of our new and existing members is invaluable to our decision-making. No matter how long one has lived here, there is always something new to learn, or some nuance of which you may be unaware.

I am committed to operating in an open and transparent way at meetings, including enabling everyone to have the opportunity to give their views on applications, whilst bearing in mind the constraints we have as a committee over compliance with legislation, time and protocol. Applicants and developers continue to be encouraged to engage with committee, at all stages of the project.

The Committee does not have any direct power to make decisions but is a consultee for the higher tier decision-making authorities of Lewes District and East Sussex County Council, as well as the South Downs National Park Authority. I and other members can (and often do) reiterate our Committee's comments personally at District and County Council meetings, to reinforce our and our town's position.

Our Planning Committee continues to be busy and we have seen several large and often contentious applications come forward, to both consult and comment upon. With the town's continuing a focus for developers and businesses wishing to expand and invest, along with the attraction of the enterprise zone status, we have seen a continuing raft of applications.



With large applications likely to come forward for the Marina and land between Court Farm Road and Seahaven Academy in particular, we are expecting another busy year, with some meetings being undoubtedly held at larger premises to facilitate larger audiences. We also support developers with consultations on their particular schemes, enabling them to engage with residents prior to making full applications. We are acutely aware of the traffic infrastructure problems in and around our town of future developments and try to focus on ways of mitigating effects of vehicles associated with all applications.



I would like to thank all the members of the Committee for their hard work and their support over the past year and my Vice Chair, Councillor Graham Amy. He has stood in for me, when I have been unable to attend one or two of the meetings, through work and personal commitments.

Thank you to all the members of the public, that have come along to meetings and I hope they have been able to feel they have been listened to. Your opinions count and it is the members' responsibility to listen, advise on planning guidance and procedures, collate the responses of them and the Committee and to ensure our Town's voice is heard.

Councillor Steve Saunders Chair of the Planning & Development Committee

Environment & Amenities Committee

Chair - Councillor Graham Amy



The past year has seen many decisions made to make our town a greener and more pleasant place to live.

We have planted more spring bulbs in roadside verges and more than 850 trees have been planted in areas such as Riverside Park, Castle Hill and Avis Road. This is important because we will sadly lose many mature trees due to diseases such as ash dieback and Dutch elm disease. We have had a survey of all the trees on council owned land and have agreed a maintenance programme for the future.



Despite budget cuts we will continue the same number of grass cuts as in the past but will retain the previous policy of not removing cuttings because of the extremely high cost of removal and disposal.

Once again, this year we will continue our reed cutting programme at Valley Ponds taking advice from Arundel Wetland Trust. We have installed two information boards at either end of the site and two new benches. We have also put up a reed screen along the eastern barriers because of the problem of ducks venturing onto the roadway.



At Riverside Park the new ponds are flourishing and we have a conservation expert monitoring the flora and fauna at the site. The council has given a small grant to the Riverside Park group for additional dog waste bags to make the site cleaner for the areas many users.

At the Lewes Road hut we have provided bird/bat boxes have been sited at the Cemetery and looking at the future use of the former Community garden.



At the war memorial green we have replaced the lectern which was in a state of disrepair and improved the lighting for the Christmas period.

Dog bins and litter bins can be problems at times and we have been installing dual purpose bins and increasing the number of bins where problems have arisen.

We are still assessing the cost of improvements at Meeching Hall and following the departure of the nursery at the Eastside Social Centre we are pleased to say that NIPPERS will be taking over.



We are in negotiation with Lewes District Council and East Sussex County Council to devolve both formal green spaces to your council. Newhaven is an area earmarked for a lot of housing in the future but where possible your council will look to take over all the available green areas to protect them, not only for this generation but for generations to come.



Councillor Graham Amy Chair of Environment & Amenities Committee

Promotion, Partnership & Finance Committee

Chair - Councillor Angela Simmons



The Promotion, Partnership and Finance Committee oversees the Council Finances: it also promotes the town and communicates with local people and partner organisations.

The Committee gives out grants for local groups and voluntary



organisations. During the year money was given to sports clubs, clubs to help support the elderly, Sussex Community Rail Partnership and Haven Harmonies. These grants will continue to be available and clubs and organisations are encouraged to apply.

The young people of Newhaven have been helped, with substantial amounts of money given to Summer Holiday Activities and Youth Clubs, including the Youth Counselling Service. Support was given to Denton School who celebrated their 50th Birthday and the Seahaven Academy Summer Camp.

Annual events – Denton community challenge and the Fish festival continue to be supported by the Council, and this year saw the resurrected pram race receive an enthusiastic reception, hopefully this will become another annual event. The summer saw the Gig Rowing Club Regatta, another successful event.



The Photographic Competition gets better and better and the winning photos are used for banners along the West Quay.

The Dieppe Raid commemoration occurs in August and is supported both in Dieppe and Newhaven with a service and parade. Money was given to Peace Day anniversary, Veterans and Arm Forces day 2019 and support for the Remembrance Sunday Service in November. The Town Civic is present at numerous events during the year, which culminates with the Mayors Carol Service at St Michaels.

CTLA and CAB both received substantial financial support from the Council to enable them to continue their excellent work in the town.



The Community Awards demonstrate how many active Voluntary Services operate in Newhaven and reflect the wonderful community spirit there is in the town.

Councillor Angela Simmons Chair of Promotion, Partnership and Finance Committee

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.

The Town Council has four main committees -

Promotion, Partnership and Finance, Regeneration and Strategic Development, Environment and Amenities and Planning and Development. 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 meets 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 are 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. Current planning applications can now be viewed online during normal office opening hours. The building also has a large reception area for viewing materials and a large private meeting room. Leaflets and posters are displayed concerning local events, places of interest and other items of general interest. The meeting room is modern and well equipped and is in regular use in hosting meetings. 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. *Valley Road Parkour and play area also Eastside Football pitch and recreation ground from 1st April 2020.
- ◆ 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 together with some play equipment for small children. The Valley Ponds area is 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 Harbour Primary and Nursery School, linking Church Hill and Rose Walk) is owned by 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 hosts a commemoration service at the Canadian Memorial on the anniversary of the Dieppe Raid in 1942. The Town Council also works 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 Town Council owns and funds the **CCTV cameras** in the town centre, which are operated and maintained by Sussex Police.
- ◆ The **Christmas Lights** in the town centre are funded and managed 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 together with the floral displays in the High Street. The Town Council has also planted bulbs in grass verges in various locations in recent years.
- ◆ 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). The dial-a-ride service now operates across the coastal towns from Telscombe to Seaford.
- ◆ 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 as well as for information on local events.

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 Rail Partnership
 Community Transport for the Lewes Area (CTLA)
 East Sussex Association of Local Councils (2 representatives)
 Friends of Riverside Park
 Heat Network Board
 Lewes District Association of Local Councils
 Lewes District Foyer
 Meridian Mature Citizens Forum
 Newhaven Chamber of Commerce
 Parishes of the Lower Ouse (POLO)
 Uckfield Railway Parishes committee

Newhaven Town Council Structure 2019-20

Town Council Members

Denton Ward

Bill Giles	15 Marine View, Newhaven (Chair of Audit Committee)
Charlie Carr	c/o Town Council Offices, Newhaven
Diane Hall	7 Fairholme Road, Newhaven
George Taylor	c/o Town Council Offices, Newhaven
Angela Simmons	Cedars House, 1 Heighton Road, Newhaven

Newhaven South Ward

Graham Amy	71 Court Farm Road, Newhaven (Chair of Environment & Amenities Committee)
Marlene Amy	71 Court Farm Road, Newhaven (Chair of Personnel Committee)
Kim Bishop	Bay Tree House, 128 Court Farm Road
June Dyer	103 Newhaven Heights, Court Farm Road, Newhaven
Philip Boorman	18 Mariners Wharf, Newhaven
Joe Emery	126 Court Farm Road, Newhaven
Heather McLean	71 Gibbon Road, Newhaven

Newhaven North Ward

Steve Saunders	86 Hurdis Road, Bishopstone (Chair of Planning & Development Committee)
Lesley Boniface	33 Metcalfe Avenue, Newhaven
Paula Woolven	87 Ambleside Avenue, Telscombe Cliffs

Newhaven Central Ward

Paul Boswell	Meeching Estate Agents, 43 High Street, Newhaven (Mayor & Chair of Regeneration & Strategic Development Committee)
Christoph von Kurthy	15 Newfield Road, Newhaven

Staff

Clerk to the Council	Ken Dry
Responsible Finance Officer	Ruth Durrant
Head of Strategic Development	Susie Mullins
Administration & Finance Officer	Jill Marshall
Assistant to the Clerk	Nicky Still
Amenities Officer	Kevin Lewry

Financial Summary 2019-20

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The Town Council's full accounts for the year 2019/20 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.

2019/20

Precept (Council Tax)	£493,892.00
LDC Grant	£ 34,118.00
Income (budgeted)	£ 62,700.00
	<u>£590,710.00</u>

Expenditure

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

For the year 2019/20 the budgeted figures were

Administration/Office	£ 98,211.00
Staff and Training	£197,532.00
Building and Grounds Maintenance	£153,972.00
Community Services/Engagement & Promotion/Partnership/Support and Services (CCTV Cameras, Christmas lights, grants, play areas, Citizens Advice Bureau, School Holiday Activities)	£140,995.00
	<u>£590,710.00</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 2019/20, the following expenditure has been made from the Earmarked Reserves:

Skatepark	£110,000.00
6 x Auchans Circular Planters	£ 6,000.00

During the year 2019/20, the following grants were awarded by the Town Council:

Affinity Rowing Club	£	500.00
CTLA	£	625.00
Denton Cat Rescue	£	199.47
Denton Cricket Club	£	500.00
Denton Women's Fellowship	£	100.00
Friends of Riverside Park	£	300.00
Greenhavens Network	£	250.00
Munkins	£	350.00
Newhaven Cricket Club	£	150.00
Newhaven Lifeboat Events	£	200.00
Newhaven Youth for Christ	£	150.00
Our Newhaven	£	240.00
Rotary Club	£	200.00
Sail Haven	£	250.00
Salvation Army Housing Association	£	500.00
Start Art Smart Art	£	200.00
Sussex Community Rail Partnership	£	500.00
Newhaven Heights Residents Assoc	£	200.00
Meeching Amateur Dramatics	£	200.00
Guesthouse Storytellers	£	300.00
Haven Harmonies	£	180.00

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 2018/19 have been duly audited and certified by the external auditor.

The table below sets out the CIL receipts received from 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020

Regulation 62A Reference	Description	Amount
2(a)	total CIL receipts for the reported year	£35,388.23
2(b)	total CIL expenditure for the reported year	£6,000.00
2(c)	summary of CIL expenditure during the reported year including— (i) the items to which CIL has been applied; and (ii) the amount of CIL expenditure on each item	6xAuchans Circular Planters £6,000.00
2(d)	details of any notices received in accordance with regulation 59E, including— (i) the total value of CIL receipts subject to notices served in accordance with regulation 59E during the reported year; (ii) the total value of CIL receipts subject to a notice served in accordance with regulation 59E in any year that has not been paid to the relevant charging authority by the end of the reported year	None None
	the total amount of— (i) CIL receipts for the reported year retained at the end of the reported year; and (ii) CIL receipts from previous years retained at the end of the reported year	£35,388.23 None