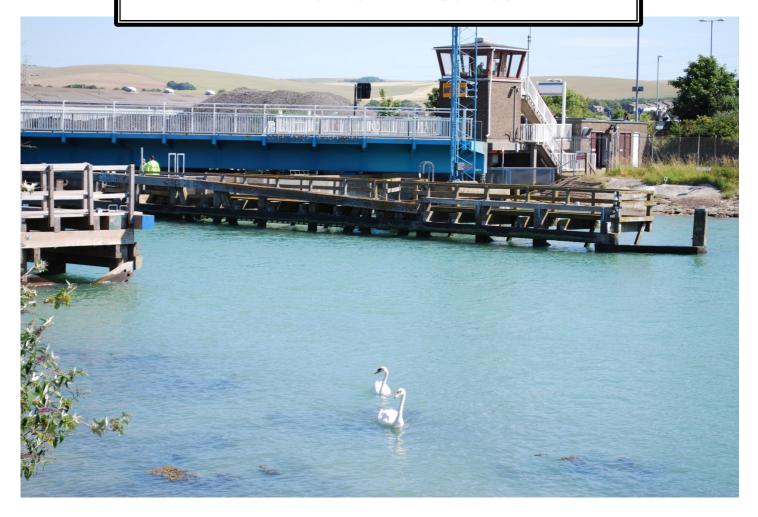


NEWHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2012-13



INTRODUCTION BY THE TOWN MAYOR COUNCILLOR GRAHAM AMY



Firstly I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for voting for me as Town Mayor for the third time in what was one of the most exciting years in our recent history. To become Mayor is the greatest honour a town can bestow, and my time in office coincided with four major events, the Queens Jubilee, the Olympic and Para-Olympic Games, and the 70th anniversary of the Dieppe Raid.

To celebrate the Queens Jubilee, residents held street parties, shops were decorated, Denton residents had a "Jubilee Olympics", the Royal Society of St George held a Jubilee dinner and Officers from TS Defiance were given Jubilee medals. Red, white and blue seemed to be the order of the day and despite the ongoing recession there was a great feeling of patriotism and goodwill.

I had the honour of sailing from Portsmouth to Newhaven with the Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex aboard HMS Ranger as it made its way to London as the guard ship for the Queen's Jubilee Regatta.

Also during June we celebrated "Sussex Day" at the War Memorial Garden and unveiled the new road signs showing that we are now twinned with the French town of La Chapelle St. Mesmin.



July saw my wife and I visit several fetes, visit the Olympic family day at Fort Road Recreation Ground, watch the torch relay in Lewes and actually get to hold an Olympic torch. I also become extremely popular with the youngsters in the Town for a few weeks when I opened KFC!



Once again Newhaven residents turned out in large numbers for the Dieppe Raid service at the War Memorial Garden. The following week we travelled to Dieppe and attended eight services, a vigil, two receptions and a concert. All that in three days! Tens of thousands of Dieppe residents turned out to commemorate the 70th anniversary and with the few remaining veterans in attendance it was one of the most moving and humbling experiences of my life.

With the Olympics being a major attraction we greeted a rather unusual group of cyclists embarking from the ferry. They had travelled from Beijing via Paris and had set off five



months earlier. Nearly two hundred cyclists, several of whom were disabled, made the journey and we provided refreshments for them at Lewes Road hut. They made their way from the ferry via Elphick Road, much to the amusement of one resident who thought she had got caught up in the Tour de France. One can only wonder what drivers muttered under their breath as the cavalcade of bicycles and their support vehicles made their way slowly up the C7 to Lewes.

Later in the month we once again played host to a group who were from a cycling club for the disabled based in France who had travelled over for the Para-Olympic Games. My charities for the year included Searchlight and with the help of Sainsbury's, Wave Leisure and Seaford Rotary Club we held a mini "Para-Olympics at Seaford for more than 20 residents. We also supported the Haydn's Wish charity, The Newhaven and Seaford Sea Cadets and the Newhaven Community First Responders. We were guests at several Sussex URNU and Royal Society of St George events.



As is always the case, the Mayors of Telscombe, Peacehaven, Newhaven and Seaford all support one another's events and so the Mayoress and I attended events such as the Muslim Community celebration at Telscombe, the War Memorial dedication at Peacehaven, and the Mayors Carol Concert at Seaford.

I was lucky enough to be able to visit all the gardens entered in the Newhaven In Bloom competition as a judge and to present the prizes at Newhaven Gardening Club and the

Sainsbury's Christmas Card Competition. I also judged the art and literature entrants for the Newhaven and Peacehaven U3A.

Marlene and I were guests at several Meeching Amateur Dramatic performances and we urge anyone who hasn't seen their productions to go along to what is always an enjoyable evening.

The history of the town as always fascinated me and I was especially pleased to be invited by the Sea Cadets to their HMS Brazen service and to the Newhaven Historical Society AGM. This month (May) we will be entertaining the Vietnamese Ambassador as we unveil our banner at the West Quay explaining the connection of Ho Chi Minh to Newhaven. Our last event (the Mayor's Last Bash) was held at Newhaven Social Club to raise funds for some of the most important volunteers in the Town – The Community First Responders. The aim was to raise £1800 to purchase a new defibrillator which will help save the lives of Newhaven residents. We should achieve that over the next few months.

My wife and I carried out nearly 100 official duties during the year and special thanks must go to Ruth Durrant and Jacky Cole from the Town Council for all their hard work. Also to our Young Mayor Charlotte Crookston who with her family attended numerous functions on behalf of the town. I will miss the roles of being Deputy Mayor and Mayor but will continue supporting the very worthwhile charities that make Newhaven such a great place to live in.

Councillor Graham Amy, Town Mayor 2012-13

BEING YOUNG MAYOR OF NEWHAVEN



Since I was elected as Young Mayor of Newhaven in November 2011, it has for me been a life changing experience, and I wouldn't have changed it for the world. I decided to run for Young Mayor in October 2011, after coming 3rd the year before, as I wanted to help the youth in my community, and change the views of how many people saw the youth, through my eyes, and not in a bad light.

Before I became Young Mayor, I was a very shy person, with very little confidence, but now, all that has changed. I can honestly say, from this experience, my life will never be the same again. I will look back on these two years, with very fond and happy lifetime memories.

Together, working with the Council, ex-Mayor, Steve Saunders, current Mayor, Graham Amy and my family, I have achieved dreams I never thought would be possible.

Over my time as Young Mayor so far, I have been invited to various events and done so many wonderful things, meeting most of the children in my community, in their schools and taken part in their everyday lives. Their smiles and faces I will remember for some time.

There are so many highlights that I can mention, working with both Graham and Steve. They have taught me great values in life, and allowed me to be part of their lives and taken me with them to events, whereby I represented them, my hometown, and the youth of Newhaven, and I will always be truly grateful, for the opportunities, they have given me.

A highlight for me was being invited to a high profile event in London, at Canada House, to represent the Youth of Newhaven, my school and Newhaven Town, along with Graham. I was introduced to many important Ministers, Canadian and British Officials, War Veterans from all countries, as well as high profile members of the public, to commemorate Canada Day, as part of the 70th Anniversary Dieppe Raid. I remember spending a remarkable afternoon, with so many interesting people, and I forgot that I was a normal 15 year old teenager, from Newhaven, living a dream.



For me, my aim is to leave a lasting achievement that the Youth of Newhaven can remember me by, and therefore I am, with the help of the NCDA in Newhaven, in the process of setting up a Youth to Youth Advice Service.

My aim is to provide them with an invaluable service for any 8-18 year old - a secure and confidential listening ear, to help them overcome any personal issues they may be experiencing in life. This will be linked with every school in the community, with a view to going national, as I want to make a difference to as many youths as possible.



I will also be continuing this role, after my term as Young Mayor, has finished, by becoming part of the Youth Forum in the community and working with a locally trained Councillor, continuing to run the project. I want to help the Youth I have come to know, as much as I can, and give them every opportunity to improve their quality of life, in any way I can.

My charity work has also inspired me to realise, that even with my dyslexia, it is possible to achieve your dreams and goals, and I hope

that I have inspired others to realise, they too, can do anything, with their lives. It has given me a greater insight into how important even the small and simple things in life are – they can make a difference.

During my time as Young Mayor, my views of the youth have changed, and I hope that I have been a credit to all those I have had the pleasure to meet and been a part of their lives. If I had to sum up my time in four words, I would simply say, LIFE CHANGING AND AMAZING.

I would like to thank everyone, who has supported me throughout my terms and believed in me. You have all made my time as Young Mayor one I will never forget.

There is something special about being Young Mayor, and I will look back and remember this, always.

Charlotte Crookston, Young Mayor of Newhaven 2011-13

REPORT FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

The past year has seen several events of great significance to the town in which the Town Council has been involved.



August 2012 was the 70th Anniversary of the Dieppe Raid of 1942 and hundreds of people attended the commemoration organised by the Town Council which took place on Sunday 12th August at the Memorial Green. The sun shone and there was a wonderful atmosphere on the green as wreaths were laid by civic dignitaries, including the Lord Lieutenant, the Mayor of Newhaven, the Deputy Mayor of Dieppe and representatives from the Canadian High Commission, the US Embassy and the French consulate. However, it was the wreaths laid by veterans which the watching crowd

appreciated the most. As some of them walked painfully across the green with their sticks to lay their tribute to their fallen comrades the crowd burst into spontaneous applause.

After the ceremony was over, Perky Mellow, a British Veteran of the Raid who had been the coxswain of one of the craft landing troops on the beach told the Mayor that this was the best day of his life. What happened on that August night had remained with him all his life and he was so thankful to have been able to come to Newhaven and share his experiences with former comrades and local people 70 years on.

The battle to get the sandy West Beach re-opened to the public reached the Appeal Court in February 2013. The Appeal was heard at the Royal Courts of Justice in London over three days by three Judges - Lord Justice Richards. Lord Justice McFarlane and Lord Justice Lewison. The very complicated legal issues surrounding the registration of the beach as a village green were once again discussed in great detail and were considered carefully by the judges in the light of previous cases relating to village greens and rights of way. The Town Council was delighted when the result was announced – the Appeal was granted and the judges found that the



beach could be registered as a village green. Unfortunately, to the frustration of the Town Council, the Port Authority responded to the court's decision by seeking formal leave to take the case to the Supreme Court and at the time of writing this report the outcome of this application is not yet known. The Supreme Court is, as its name suggests, the final court at which a case can be considered in this country. It will only agree to hear the case if it feels there is still a point of law which merits further discussion. The Town Council still feels very

strongly that there is no reason why opening the beach should be detrimental to the operations of the port and would very much like to talk to the port authority about ways and means of doing this and avoiding further litigation.

The Town Council feels it is essential that the local community has a say, so far as is possible, in how the town is developed and to this end it has recently announced that it intends to produce a Neighbourhood Plan for the town. This will build on the consultation work carried out with local people at the Big Planning Event in March 2012 to bring forward guidelines for where in the town different types of development should go and where green space and other amenities should be provided. Local people will be consulted more fully on specific topics as the plan develops. Having a Neighbourhood Plan in place will enable the town to get a bigger share of the new Community



Infrastructure levy on new developments which again will give local people more of a say in how this money is spent on the town.



As part of our wish to consult local people as much as possible, the Town Council is in the process of setting up a Citizens Panel. This consists of a data base of local people who are willing to be consulted on issues in the town. Sometimes we may want to ask the whole of the Citizens Panel what they think about something that is proposed for the town – such as a new supermarket, for instance. On other occasions we may only need to ask people living in a particular area – for instance about proposed play equipment in the local play area – or people of a certain age – for instance about a new facility for the elderly. The consultations might take place in various different ways – by email for instance, or by a paper survey, or by a meeting. The database simply enables us to get in touch with people

easily – there is no obligation to take part if you don't want to when we make contact. If you would like to be part of the Citizens Panel, please contact the Town Council offices.

It is not only the bigger plans for the town which are important to local people, however and the Town Council has continued this year to make small scale improvements to our town. The cormorant sculpture in the river by the swing bridge was replaced with a new improved, more permanent version at the end of August 2012. The Town Council felt that this well-loved icon of the town should continue to be enjoyed in future decades and commissioned its replacement from local sculptor Christian Funnell.

The Town Council arranged for new Christmas lights to be installed in the town centre for 2012. These gave the town centre a sparkling, new look for the festive season.



Unfortunately there were some electrical teething problems this year, but it is hoped that these will be overcome and that the new lights will provide fresh, attractive lighting for the next few years' Christmases.

"Celebrating 2012" banners were installed on West Quay to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics and these will soon be replaced with Newhaven Uncovered "soundbites" telling passers-by little known or quirky facts about the town. One of these in particular – "Did you know that Ho Chi Minh once worked as a pastry chef on the Newhaven-Dieppe ferry?" – caught the imagination of journalists and received wide spread publicity. As a result of this, the Vietnamese Embassy in London has made contact with the Town Council and will be holding an event in the town on 19th May to celebrate Ho Chi Minh's birthday.

Vietnam is interested in forging closer links with the

town.

The Lewes Road hut in Robinson Road, owned by the Town Council, has received an extensive make over inside which has much improved the facility and made it much more attractive to users.

Some essential tree works have been carried out at Valley Ponds in recent weeks. A tree survey identified that several of the trees, particularly



at the western end of the site, were in a dangerous condition and were likely to fall due to advanced basal decay and honey fungus. Replacement trees have already been planted. The replacement trees are around 10-12ft high and it is hoped that planting them now will enable them to make a good growth start over the summer period. Additional trees have also been planted elsewhere around the Valley Ponds site at the same time as part of a new five year management plan to look after and enhance the natural ecology of the site. Some further, less urgent tree works and some more

tree planting will take place as part of this plan in the autumn/winter.

It is an important part of the work of the Town Council to support other local organisations and work in partnership with them to fund the provision of services and facilities for the people of the town. For the past two years the Town Council has worked with Wave Leisure and providers of youth activities in the town to fund a co-ordinated programme of summer holiday activities for young people in the town. The Summer 2012 programme was chosen as the junior winner in the Health & Wellbeing Achievement category of the SPARK Awards 2013. SPARK is the operating name for East Sussex Council for Voluntary Youth Services and it was a great honour for the town's providers to win this award. The Town Council has already agreed to fund a similar programme of events for the summer of 2013.



The Town Council has funded youth clubs at Lewes Road Hut and Denton Social Centre for the past three years and will continue to do so for 2013-14. Additionally, substantial grants from the Town Council have enabled events such as the Fish Festival or "The Port, the Beast and the Traveller" at Newhaven Fort last summer. We also give out many smaller grants to local organisations to help fund things like Christmas parties for elderly or lonely local people, camping equipment for scout groups, football kit for junior football teams, or support the

setting up of a new group for the parents of autistic children.

Newhaven continues to face some interesting challenges and opportunities both big and small. The Town Council looks forward to these and will ensure that it works in partnership with other organisations and developers and in consultation with local people towards the regeneration of the town.

Councillor Judith Ost, Leader of the Council until March 2013 Councillor Chris Bradshaw, Leader of the Council during March 2013

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.

During 2012-13 there have been 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 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 may be viewed there between the hours of 8.30am and 3.30pm. The building also has 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.
- ◆ 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 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 Southdown 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 allotments at East Side are owned and controlled by Lewes District Council.
- 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 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 has 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 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

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 2012-13

Town Council Members

Denton Ward

Peter Clark

Diane Hall

7 Fairholme Road, Newhaven

Ann Giles

41 Arundel Road, Newhaven

C/o Town Council Offices

Angela Simmons Cedars House, 1 Heighton Road, Newhaven

(Lead Member for Community Services and Asset

Management)

Meeching Ward

Graham Amy 71 Court Farm Road, Newhaven (Mayor)

Paul Boswell Meeching Estate Agents, 43 High Street, Newhaven

Carla Butler 6 Southdown Close, Newhaven (Lead Member for Promotion)
Maurice Langham 34 Mariners Wharf, Fort Road, Newhaven (Deputy Mayor)

Chris Bradshaw 132 Court Farm Road, Newhaven

(Lead Member for Localism & Neighbourhood Planning,

Leader of the Council during March 2013)

Sebastian Hale-Smith 26 Meeching Rise, Newhaven (Lead Member for Children and

Young People)

Jane Scott c/o Town Council Offices

Valley Ward

Julie Carr 73 Iveagh Crescent, South Heighton

(Lead Member for Partnership)

Judith Ost Mary Ann's Cottage, Lewes Road, Newhaven

(Leader of the Council up until March 2013)

Pat Ost Mary Ann's Cottage, Lewes Road, Newhaven

Steve Saunders 25 Southdown Road, Newhaven (Lead Member for Planning)

Janice Butler 6 Southdown Close, Newhaven

Darren Grover c/o Town Council Offices

Staff

Town Clerk Stephen Meah-Sims (up until 31st March 2013)

Linda Baker (from 1st April 2013)

Deputy Town Clerk Jacky Cole

Administration & Finance Officers Ruth Durrant, Jill Marshall, Maureen Pope

Facilities Manager Nick Harker

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The Town Council's full accounts for the year 2012/13 will be available later in the year for public inspection.

<u>Income</u>

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.

2012/13

Precept (Council Tax)	£ 386,927.00
Income (budgeted)	£ 91,474.00
	£ 478,401.00

Expenditure

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

For the year 2012/13 the budgeted figures were

Administration/Office	£82,760.00
Staff and Training	£150,153.00
Building and Grounds Maintenance	£90,932.00
Community Services/Partnership/Support and Services	£74,581.00
(CCTV Cameras, Christmas lights, grants, play areas,	£368,951.00
Citizens Advice Bureau, School Holiday Activities)	

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 2012/13, the following expenditure has been made from the Earmarked Reserves:

Children/Play Areas	£	5,473.00
West Beach Court Cases	£	74,681.00

During the year 2012/13, the following grants were awarded by the Town Council:

2nd Denton & South Heighton Beaver Scouts	£	200.00
1218 SQN (Newhaven) ATC	£	200.00
DaSH JFC	£	200.00
Denton Women's Fellowship	£	100.00
Friends of Downlands	£	100.00
Growing Together	£	200.00
Making Sport Happen	£	50.00
Newhaven ASC Support Group	£	100.00
Newhaven Twinning Association	£	250.00
Seahaven District Scout Council - Scoutex	£	200.00
The Breakout Community Trust	£	200.00
VISTA Group for Blind & Partially Sighted People	£	150.00
Dragoon Explorer Scout Unit	£	150.00
3rd Newhaven Scout Group	£	200.00
FROGS Children's Club	£	200.00
Haven Harmonies	£	200.00
Meridian Mature Citisens Forum	£	200.00
Meridian Athletic Football Club	£	125.00
National Coastwatch	£	300.00
Newhaven & Peacehaven U3A	£	150.00
Newhaven Baptist Church	£	200.00
Newhaven Cricket Club – Youth Section	£	200.00
Newhaven Historical Society	£	300.00
NFRPA	£	200.00
NIPPERS	£	100.00
Our Newhaven	£	360.00
Rock Solid Youth Club	£	200.00
The Rotary Club of Newhaven	£	200.00
Vitalise	£	200.00
Start Art & Smart Art	£	200.00
Meeching Amateur Dramatics	£	200.00
Furniture Now	£	315.00

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 2011/12 have been duly audited and certified by the external auditor.