



Newhaven Town Council - Annual Report 2018-19



The Mayor - Councillor Paul Boswell



Being asked to be Mayor for 2018 – 19 was a great honour and privilege for me. Just as I start to get settled in the role, the year has come to an end and it's time to pass the baton on to my worthy successor.

I can honestly say that I've really enjoyed my year and have met all sorts of interesting people and been to all sorts of interesting places.

The year started off with an 'induction talk' from Peter Field, the Lord Lieutenant where I met many of the other new mayors from around the county, many of whom I have met on many occasions since and now regard as friends.

I have 'flown the flag' for Newhaven when I met the High Sherriff, when visiting the wind-farm base, at the chairman of East Sussex County Council's summer and Christmas receptions. No opportunity to talk up Newhaven has been overlooked, whether that was at a Rotary Club meeting, the Royal Society of St. George or at the annual Armed Forces Day - which turned into a full-on weekend of mayoral visits. I also had the opportunity of visiting Westminster (Story's Gate) where I attended a reception hosted by the Vietnamese Ambassador to the UK along with the President of the Newhaven Chamber of Commerce and we met several British MPs and other high-ranking officials.



The Dieppe commemoration, both here and in France was, once again, a poignant and humbling experience. This was my third attendance (twice as deputy mayor) so I'm becoming an old hand now! I hope that when Elodie Anger and Yves Bégos, representatives of the Mayor of Dieppe, came to our town, they took back pleasant memories and felt looked after.





It hasn't all been pleasure though – I have had to do things! This has included awards ceremonies for Seahaven Academy, our Town Council, the Denton Community Challenge, Nippers Fun Day, not to mention numerous interviews from the BBC!

One of the highlights though must surely be the appointment of our first ever Town Crier. Following a competition, Jason was auditioned at the Fort and was duly appointed. My thanks go to him for stepping forward and to Mandy Ward for making such a fantastic outfit for him.

My chosen charity this year has been CTLA (Community Transport for the Lewes Area). I organised a charity casino night, which was well attended, and we raised £542.50. We also sold the now famous 'Make Newhaven Great Again' tote bags. These were printed for free by the students at Seahaven Academy and the bags themselves were donated by the Newhaven Chamber of Commerce, raising an amount of £153. The Mayor's Community Carol Concert was attended by the local school choirs and raised a further £114.00.



There are two other highlights for me during my time as mayor – the completion and erection of the bandstand on Denton Island. This project to deliver an exciting new community facility has been paid for by external funding obtained by the town council. A full programme of events is being planned and discussions are currently under way about seating nearby.

Councillor Paul Boswell, Mayor of Newhaven 2018-2019

Huey Pripps - Young Mayor



Thank you to everyone who voted for me to be Newhaven's Young Mayor and gave me the opportunity to represent young people

I have had some amazing opportunities during my year, especially my visit to La Chapelle Saint Mesmin in June.



YOUNG MAYORS PROJECT

When I first became Young Mayor, I had the idea of attempting to incorporate young people more into the community and remove the stigma around today's youth. A few weeks later, my brother suggested setting up a soapbox race in Newhaven. I raised this and began working on this with several others including the Mayor, however, the original plans of a soapbox race were changed to a Pram race for certain reasons. The prams will follow a winding course along the riverside, starting by the RNLI Boathouse and finishing by Huggett's Green. There will be prizes for the best-looking pram and team, fastest pram and the pram which is closest to a secret set time.

FUNDRAISING

The main source of fundraising is hopefully the Newhaven Pram Race. I have also been working with my school, Seahaven Academy, to organise a dodgeball tournament and table tennis tournament to raise money for the Young Mayors charities which are the Sea Cadets and the Bhopal Medical Appeal. I am also hoping there will be a home clothes day.



I was really pleased to be able to attend the Lighting of Beacon at Newhaven Fort for HM The Queen's 90th Birthday.

I would like to thank every single person who has helped and guided me through my term as Young Mayor. It has helped developed me as a person, and I hope I have helped develop the role of Young Mayor and represented the youth of Newhaven well. I would especially like to thank those who have been directly involved with organising the Newhaven Pram Race (my project) who have made the small idea a potential reality.

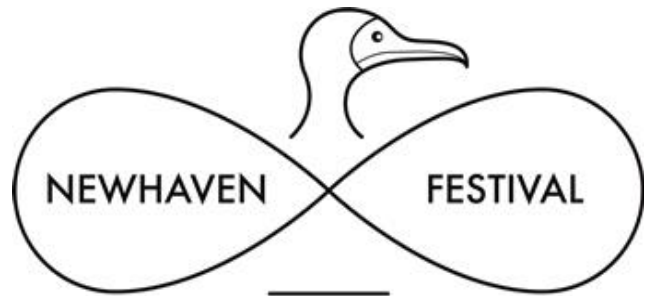
Huey Pripps, Young Mayor

Regeneration & Strategic Development Committee

Chair - Councillor Paul Boswell



The first Newhaven Festival held in 2018 was a great success and will be returning for the last 2 weeks of August in 2019. Last summer residents and visitors had the choice of attending sixteen events covering a wide range of creative activities, as well as open houses which showcased the work of local artists. We've certainly been encouraged by the positive response we've had from both the community who attended and those that put-on events. What a creative and talented community we have!



The Newhaven Neighbourhood Plan is also making forward strides, and has now been submitted to Lewes District Council for final consultation. Soon an examiner will be appointed to make sure that the Plan has been properly produced and if so, the Plan will be allowed to proceed to a referendum. Those on the electoral role in Newhaven will then be invited to vote on the Plan and if the majority support the Plan, it will be adopted as the main document which sets out how the town will grow and change over the coming years.



The District Heating project, which is looking to see if the incinerator can be the source of heating for local businesses and homes is still on-going. We have received funding from government to help investigate this and will bring you more information on this in the future.

As well as driving forward the bandstand project to be a focal point for creative activities in the town, this committee will support local services and trades by starting a 'Keep Trade Local' campaign, including the listing of local businesses

Councillor Paul Boswell, Chair of Regeneration & Strategic Development Committee

Planning & Development Committee

Chair - Councillor Steve Saunders



The town's Planning Committee is formed of members from across all wards of our town and is supported by knowledgeable officers of the Council staff, who support us in a range of ways. These include ensuring that we have all the background information, plans and documentation and that we have all the training and up to date knowledge of planning law. The committee itself is non-political and tries to ensure that the public are encouraged to take part and offer their views in an open and transparent way at our meetings. We also encourage involvement of applicants, developers, agents and other authorities, with presentations and consultation events being regular features.

The Committee does not have any 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 often reiterate our Committee's comments personally at District and County Council meetings, to reinforce our position.

Our Planning Committee has had another busy year, with many applications coming forward, to both consult and comment upon. The town continues to be a focus for developers and businesses wishing to expand and invest and the attraction of the enterprise zone status, has seen a lot of attention focussed on the Town Centre and industrial areas of the port in particular.



There have been several applications this year, that have attracted a great deal of public attention and our committee have raised serious and detailed objections in support of the understandable anger and frustration of local residents. These include an application

for an Aggregate Plant on the North Quay and a Medical Waste Incinerator on Eastside. Both were vehemently opposed by our committee but were frustratingly approved by the County Council Planning Authority, despite our protestations.

We await applications coming forward for the District Council's Town Centre proposals and a number of large-scale housing developments in our area and are always stressing the need to address the huge concerns we have over traffic infrastructure problems, along with pressures on health, the environment and education provision.



The town council's Planning and Development Committee continues to allow members of the public and other interested parties to speak about individual applications during its meetings. This is in a continued effort to allow and encourage open and transparent engagement.

The hard work of our Council officers and in particular Susie Mullins, our Head of Strategic Development, along with our panel of local residents and advisors, has nearly completed our Neighbourhood plan and we hope to be able to put it out to the residents later this year, to vote on its adoption. This will help us to have a greater say in how we shape Newhaven in the future.

I would like to thank all the members of the Committee for their hard work and support over the past year and in particular my Vice Chair, Councillor Tony Bradbury. He has continued to stand in for me, when I have been unable to attend one or two of the meetings, through work commitments and getting married in September.

Thanks too, to all the members of the public that have come along to meetings and taken part in often lively and considered debate. Lastly, I must thank our Clerk, Jacky Main. Her professionalism and recording of meetings, together with her support, have been invaluable to me and my colleagues throughout the past year.



Councillor Steve Saunders Chair of the Planning & Development Committee

Environment & Amenities Committee

Chair - Councillor Graham Amy



The Environment and Amenities Committee has once again had a busy and rewarding year working to improve and enhance the town council's open spaces, buildings as well as the town's street scene.

At Valley Ponds a major programme of scrub clearance, mowing and thinning of reeds took place last year making the site more visually attractive. It is sometimes difficult to balance the wishes of local residents with the conservation objectives of the site. However, we have had a lot of positive feedback on the maintenance scheme we have had carried out. Interestingly, while the work was under way, we discovered a large number of toads that were sheltering under piles of reeds that had been cut the previous year.

We will continue to monitor the area and we are hopeful that the biodiversity will be enhanced by the work we have carried out especially with regards to amphibian numbers. We have budgeted to continue a programme of reed thinning this year as well as maintaining those areas where we have cut back the scrub. This year we will be putting a display board showing old and young alike the various animals and birds that make the area their home and we are also looking at options for seating around the area.

Major construction work took place at the exit culvert near Lewes Road and other work will continue to try to alleviate the flooding that has occurred in the area in the past.



Still on the theme of ponds, one of the most interesting and exciting schemes implemented last year was the creation of two large ponds in the northern area of Riverside Park. Ancient maps showed the presence of two ponds on the site and it was decided by the committee that the new ponds might improve the toad population following the decline in numbers at the Valley Ponds. Consultation took place with East Sussex County Council the owners of the site, Barry Kemp a top ecologist and members of the Riverside group. The ponds, excavated by our contractors Bonny's Wood, are now full and it will be interesting to see how quickly flora and fauna start to colonise the new habitat.

More than half the ponds in this country have disappeared in the last 50 years and your Environment Committee are keen to create more ponds and to protect the important aquatic environment that we have in our town. For example, we are working with the ecological consultants at the old Parker Pen site to see how we can mitigate for the development that could start there during the next 12 months.



Residents may be aware that East Sussex County Council have cut back on their grass cutting of grass verges. Your Town Council has decided that this is not sufficient and have agreed to cut the verges eight times a year. However, some people have complained that the contractors do not pick up the cuttings. We accept that at times this can look messy, but the additional cost is prohibitive because it is both labour and travel intensive and would mean a substantial rate rise.

Dog waste and litter continue to be a major problem, indeed the Castle Hill Group did not get the Green Flag award this year because of excess dog dirt spotted by the anonymous Judge when she visited the nature reserve during Christmas Week. Please ensure that you have a bag with you when you are taking your dog or dogs with you so we can keep Newhaven as clean as possible. At the request of residents, we have installed an extra five bins this year. They are at Valley Road opposite the school, two in Gibbon Road, one in Hill Top way and one in Haven Way.

Once again, we have been commended by the public for the beautiful Christmas lights in the town. They do make a difference and with the free Christmas grotto sponsored by the Town Council, the Chamber of Commerce and the House Project from Peacehaven many more people visited the town centre then in recent years. This year we installed additional lights at the War Memorial and the tree near Peacocks.



Councillor Graham Amy Chair of Environment & Amenities Committee

Promotion, Partnership & Finance Committee

Chair - Councillor June Dyer



The Partnership, Promotion and Finance Committee works to promote the town and communicate effectively with local people and partner organisations as well as overseeing the Council's finances.

An important part of the work of the committee is the giving of grants to local events organisers and voluntary organisations. This year the committee gave grants to support events like the Scouts from Newhaven who attended the 24th World Scout Jamboree in North America, Hillcrest Community Cafe to enable them to offer a meal on Christmas Day to people of Newhaven who are lonely, aged, homeless or in need and The Rotary Club to enable them to purchase a small gift for each person attending their Christmas Party. Newhaven has a vibrant and active voluntary sector and the town council is delighted to be able to support it in this way.

The committee has continued to subsidise local bus services during 2018-19, working in partnership with CTLA to provide a new Sunday and Bank Holiday 145 bus service. Substantial grant funding is also provided to support the town's Foodbank, the Citizens Advice Bureau, the Four Towns Dial-a-Ride service, youth clubs at Lewes Road and Denton and summer holiday activities for our young people.





Community events are an important part of the work of this committee. The committee oversees the organisation of events organised directly by the town council such as the Commemoration of the Dieppe Raid, Remembrance Day, the Newhaven Community Awards and the Mayor's Christmas Carol Concert. It also helps to support events organised by others by providing funding – this includes events such as the Diep~Haven cross Channel festival and the Denton Community Challenge.



This year's Best of Newhaven Photographic Competition proved to be very popular and the town council received hundreds of photographs by the closing date. There were ten categories and winners' photographs from each category provided artwork for new banners along the West Quay.

June Dyer 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 on line 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.
- ◆ Three **amenity areas** in the town are maintained by the Town Council. The Bay View Amenity Area in Bay View 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 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 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
 Egrets Way Committee
 Friends of Riverside Park
 Healthy Newhaven
 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 2018-19

Town Council Members

Denton Ward

Simon Barnes	10 St Leonards Close, Denton
Diane Hall	7 Fairholme Road, Newhaven
Charlie Carr	73 Iveagh Crescent, South Heighton
Angela Simmons	Cedars House, 1 Heighton Road, Newhaven
Dave Twaits	18 Thompson Road, Denton

Meeching Ward

Graham Amy	71 Court Farm Road, Newhaven (Chair of Environment & Amenities Committee)
June Dyer	103 Newhaven Heights, Court Farm Road, Newhaven
Pat Clarke	Hornblow, The Highway, Newhaven
Marlene Amy	71 Court Farm Road, Newhaven
Paul Boswell	Meeching Estate Agents, 43 High Street, Newhaven (Mayor & Chair of Regeneration & Strategic Development Committee)
Darren Grover	c/o Town Council Offices (Chair of Personnel Committee)
Donna Martinez-Claras	c/o Town Council Offices, Newhaven

Valley Ward

Tony Bradbury	4 Rothwell Court, Newhaven (Chair of Audit Committee)
Keith Corbett	7 Lee Way, Newhaven
Steve Saunders	86 Hurdis Road, Bishopstone (Chair of Planning & Development Committee)
Julie Carr	73 Iveagh Crescent, South Heighton
Christoph von Kurthy	15 Newfield Road, Newhaven
Alex Wolfson	41 Lewes Road, Newhaven

Staff

Clerk to the Council	Jacky Main
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 2018-19

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The Town Council's full accounts for the year 2018/19 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.

2018/19

Precept (Council Tax)	£457,813.00
LDC Grant	£ 28,718.00
Income (budgeted)	£ 64,766.00
	<u>£551,297.00</u>

Expenditure

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

For the year 2018/19 the budgeted figures were

Administration/Office	£ 89,897.00
Staff and Training	£172,065.00
Building and Grounds Maintenance	£145,237.00
Community Services/Engagement & Promotion/Partnership/Support and Services (CCTV Cameras, Christmas lights, grants, play areas, Citizens Advice Bureau, School Holiday Activities)	£144,098.00
	<u>£551,297.00</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 2018/19, the following expenditure has been made from the Earmarked Reserves:

Devolution	£ 3,000.00
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During the year 2018/19, the following grants were awarded by the Town Council:

Denton Newhaven Guides	£	100.00
Denton Village Cricket Club	£	150.00
Denton Women's Fellowship	£	100.00
Haven Cricket Club	£	200.00
Hillcrest Community Café	£	300.00
Meeching Amateur Dramatics	£	100.00
Meridian Mature Citizens Forum	£	200.00
National Coastwatch Institution	£	100.00
Newhaven Baptist Church	£	200.00
Newhaven Day Club	£	560.00
Newhaven District Mencap	£	5,210.00
Newhaven District Rangers	£	100.00
Newhaven Families Forum	£	100.00
Newhaven Football Club	£	150.00
Newhaven Gig Rowing Club	£	300.00
Newhaven Regeneration Group Ltd	£	250.00
Nippers	£	146.95
Rotary Club of Newhaven	£	250.00
Seaford Gymnastics Academy	£	100.00
Seahaven District Scout Council	£	600.00
St Michaels Church	£	100.00

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 2017/18 have been duly audited and certified by the external auditor.