

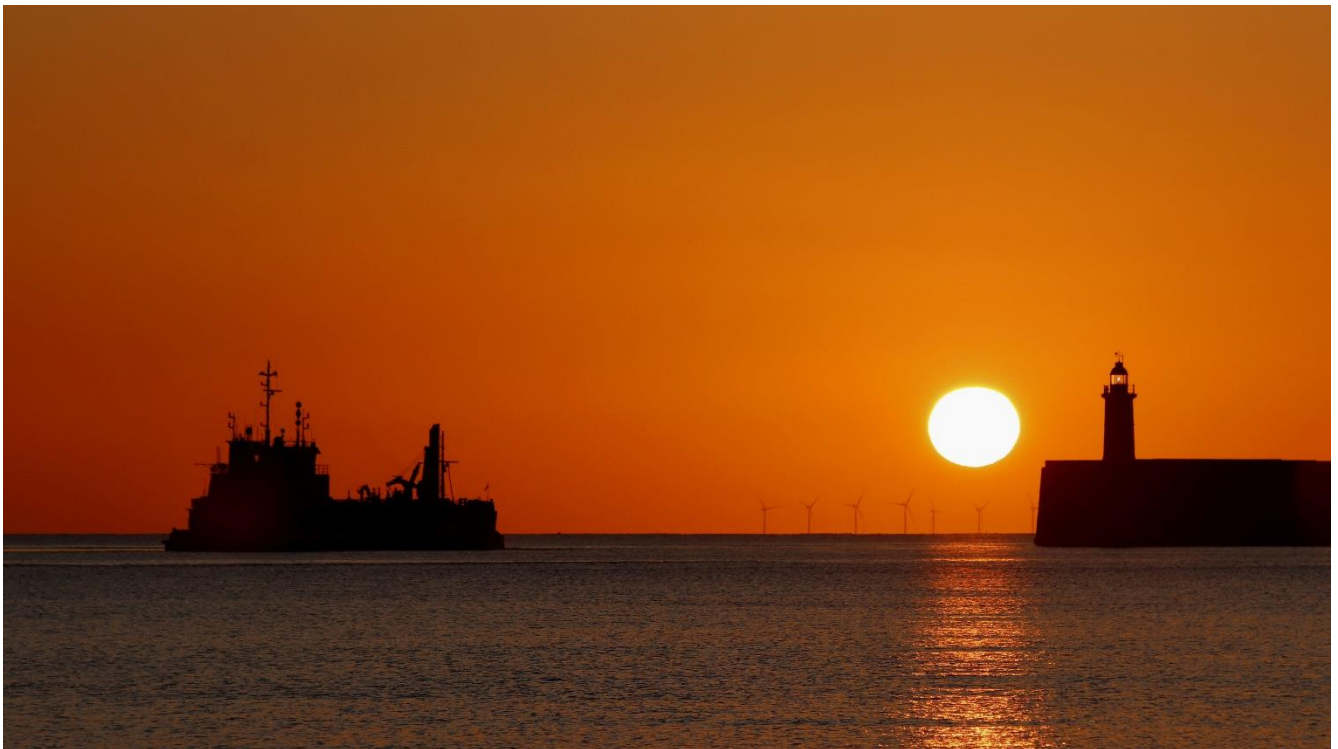


Newhaven Town Council



Annual Report.

2021/2022



Martin Brewer – Newhaven Town Council Photographic Competition 2021

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. 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”.

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 & Development 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.



Newhaven Town Council is committed to fair and clear ways of working, from the way it consults with the local community and does business with third parties who help it to deliver services, right through to the way it makes decisions. As part of this way of working, Newhaven Town Council has adopted the following principles that it is committed to:

- Represent and promote the interests of Newhaven and all its people in all forums
- Pay particular attention to the needs of our children and young people
- Actively involve local people in decisions affecting activities in the area
- Promote equality of opportunity and oppose discrimination
- Be open and accountable in all it does
- Support development which is environmentally, socially and economically sound and sustainable

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 now 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 online 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 various 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 Social Centre 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.
- 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 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 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 Transport Memorial and the town's 1st World 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 to mark the anniversary of the Dieppe Raid in 1942. The Town Council also work in partnership with the Royal British Legion to organize the annual service of remembrance during November.
- The Town Council has produced a Book of Remembrance containing the names of the people of Newhaven who died as a result of the Second World War. This book was published to mark the 60th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War in the summer of 2005. Copies of it can be seen at the Town Council offices and at the Newhaven Local and Maritime Museum.

- 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 can be used for funeral services.
- There are a small number of allotments adjacent to Newhaven Cemetery, which are let to local residents for a nominal annual fee.
- The Town Council own and fund the CCTV cameras in the town centre, which are operated and maintained by Sussex Police.
- The Christmas lights and Christmas trees 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 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 have also planted bulbs in grass verges in various locations in recent years.
- CTLA offer a dial a ride bus service which is partially funded by the Town Council.
- 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 together with information on local events.

The Town Council are represented on the following outside bodies:

- Access in Seaford and Newhaven Committee
- Community Rail Partnership
- Community Transport for the Lewes Area (CTLA)
- East Sussex Association of Local Councils
- Egrets Way Committee
- Friends of Riverside Park
- Heat Network Board
- Lewes District Associations of Local Councils
- Lewes District Citizens Advice
- Lewes District Foyer
- Meridian Mature Citizens Forum
- Newhaven Chamber of Commerce
- Newhaven Day Club
- Parishes of the Lower Ouse (POLO)
- Uckfield Railway Parishes committee

East Sussex County Council's responsibilities include:

- Highways – including roads, footpaths, pavements, alleyways, street lighting, the cutting of grass verges, etc.
- Education – schools, adult education, etc.
- Social services – including the provision of care homes, etc
- Waste sites, such as the tip in New Road

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 Mayor

Cllr. Lesley Boniface



My year as Mayor has gone way too quickly. It's been very busy but there have been some wonderful highlights including presenting freedom of the town to Sir Peter Field and Pat and Judith Ost and welcoming the Vietnamese Ambassador & staff.

Being Mayor has been a humbling experience to see so much amazing work going on in our community through volunteer groups, charities and local businesses. I've been able to visit a few groups to see first-hand the contribution they make to improve residents' lives, especially as we return to some kind of normality following the pandemic.

I was extremely pleased that we were able to put on full remembrance services for the Dieppe Raid and Remembrance Sunday. I hope that my successor is able to visit Dieppe to take part in the annual remembrance which we have missed for 2 years due to Covid.

Other community events have been great to take part in – including the Lifeboat Fayre, the Fish Festival, the Christmas Extravaganza and the Denton Community Challenge gave me a great opportunity to get out and meet residents.

It's a very exciting time for Newhaven with all the funding we've been given by Central Government and I look forward to seeing projects developed over the next few years.

Thank you to everyone who has invited me to events, openings, presentations and launches and to Rev Martin Miller and the St Michael's congregation who have welcomed me on many occasions in the past year including my Christmas Carol concert.

I have been heartened to see the towns' reaction to the situation in Ukraine – once again we show how strong our community is. Thank you to everyone who has donated to collections or registered to support refugees.

Councillor Lesley Boniface, Mayor of Newhaven 2020-2022

Regeneration & Strategic Development Committee

Chair: Cllr. Paul Boswell

We're all starting off 2022 with a great degree of optimism and hope for a brighter year ahead.

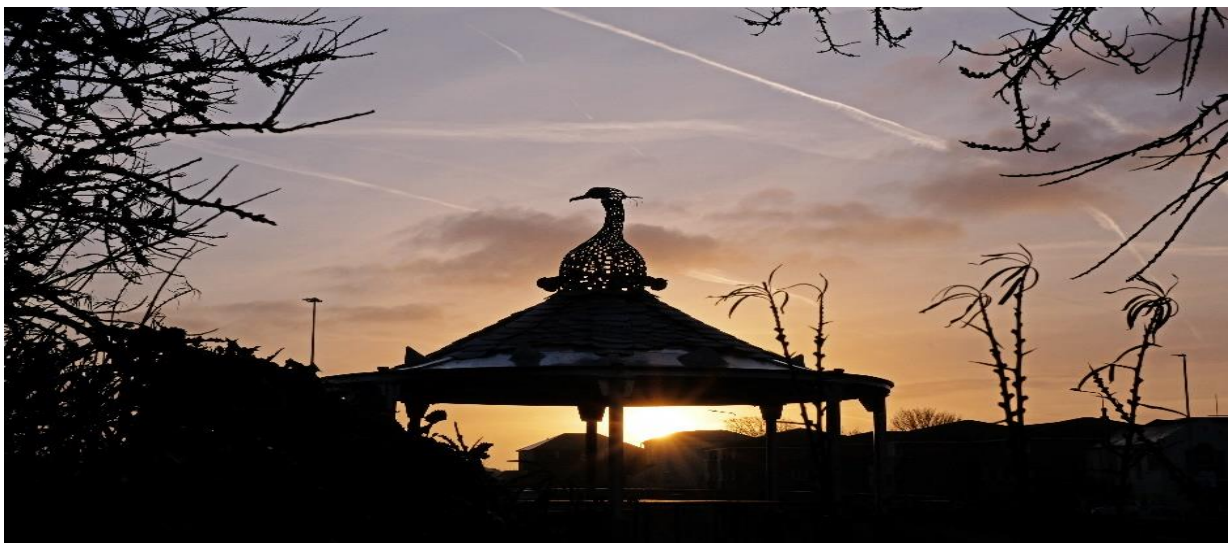
We did manage to hold the now eagerly anticipated Gin & Fizz event – our second year, when the bandstand came into its own again. The plan is to hold many more events around the bandstand this year and we're reaching out to local musicians, bands and groups who might like to 'put on a show' for the town.

The council also hope that this year we can finally get improvements underway at Meeching Hall. Covid has held us back from undertaking any kind of feasibility on the way ahead up until now...

Likewise with the District Heating Study and the regeneration of Newhaven Square – all things that our residents are anxious to see brought to fruition – I sincerely hope that this year we can finally get cracking on these long-awaited projects.

On a sad note, we said 'goodbye' to Susie Mullins, who was Head of Strategic Development – we wish her every happiness in her retirement. Discussions are being held about the best way to fill the gap she has left.

Councillor Paul Boswell, Chair of Regeneration & Strategic Development Committee



Planning & Development Committee

Chair: Cllr. Steve Saunders



As we return to physical meetings, following a sustained period of virtual (on-line) gatherings, we are looking to welcome back the public, to allow them to take a more personal part in the proceedings. It reinforces our mantra of transparency and engagement with our residents.

It's been a difficult time, but developers and homeowners, have continued to bring applications and proposals forward, for us to consider and comment upon, as a Planning Committee.

We have continued to feed back our comments on all the applications that come before our committee, to the officers at District Council and have successfully fought against several proposals that we considered unacceptable. We are emboldened by our neighbourhood Plan, which we often refer to, when putting forward our objections and/or suggested amendments for Lewes District Planning Committee's Officers and Members to consider. With 3 of our Town Councillors* sitting on this Committee, we are able to have a degree of influence over final decisions and our local knowledge is respected by colleagues on that authority. (* Myself, Cllr. Amy and Cllr. Von Kurthy)

I thank my fellow Councillor, Graham Amy for his continued assistance from time to time this past year - stepping in to chair the meetings, when I have been unable to do so through work and personal commitments.

The other members of the committee deserve equal praise for their commitment and individual knowledge of the areas they both live in and serve.

We continue to encourage developers to engage with us at an early stage, to ensure that Newhaven's visions and expectations are fully considered, and we have had some success in working with planners and architects to amend designs and work with us, to improve and align with our expectations.

Together with District Council, we have been successful in attracting grant funding from the Government, which will be helping rejuvenate our High Street and provide new community projects across the Town. In particular the Port and West Beach will be benefitting from the successful Levelling-up Grant money announced, together with our well-loved fishing community. We have had plans for the Old Police Station site consulted upon and this now LDC-owned site, will soon be commencing. The Stonewater site at the former Parker Pen site, is nearing completion and the nearby Optivo Housing site is well underway now too. The Guinness site at Augustfields, completes a trio of sites, providing much-needed affordable homes for our Town.

We are looking at our own facilities and part of the successful Towns Fund bid, will enable us to move into the Town Centre and make us even more accessible and approachable.

The traffic congestion in and around Newhaven continues to blight our lives, but the opening of the much-maligned Port Access Road, has eased congestion and traffic noise for Eastside residents. Much more needs to be done and the renewed focus on Newhaven, with grants and developer interest, will help reinforce the need for action.

The Government planned reforms to the planning system have been paused, whilst further consultations take place, but there are still concerns regarding the easing of restrictions and the opportunities this may give to developers, when it finally comes into being.

Finally, I'd like to thank our brilliant officer team at Newhaven Town Council, who have maintained our high standards throughout the pandemic and looked at every way possible for our business to continue and public participation. We have said goodbye to a number of them this year, as they have chosen to retire, or move on to roles elsewhere. We wish them well and thank them for their years of service to the Town. We have recently welcomed new members, Steph Georgalakis and Sarah Edwards to our team and hope to be looking to recruit further, soon.

Councillor Steve Saunders, Chair of Planning & Development Committee

Environment & Amenities Committee

Chair: Cllr. Graham Amy



Despite the difficulties with Covid the Environment and Amenities Committee and the Clerk have been working towards a greener town not only for this generation but for the generations to come. Sadly, we have lost many mature trees due to diseases such as ash dieback and Dutch elm disease. However, we intend to continue to plant more trees and plant more wildflowers.

TREE WORKS

The Environment Committee have agreed to carry out tree works on the Rose Walk Amenity Path, Lewes Road Recreation Ground, Newhaven Cemetery, the Valley Ponds and Bay View. We will also be planting trees this year to replace those lost to disease and to commemorate the Queen's jubilee. The Council also sponsors our brilliant volunteer Tree Wardens who do an excellent job in sourcing sites, planting and maintaining new trees in the town.

CEMETERY

We have had to remove vegetation along the eastern wall of the cemetery following a partial collapse of the perimeter wall. We will be rebuilding the wall, but it was initially delayed because of the difficulty of getting the materials and the constant price rises. We will also be looking at replacing the vegetation to encourage more wildlife in the area.

LOCAL BLUE PLAQUE SCHEME

Your Council is going to work with the Newhaven Historical Society to look at the possibility of commemorating some of the interesting and historic former residents of Newhaven.

We have also obtained the plaque commemorating the SS Maine from the recently sold Roman Catholic Church. The SS Maine was sunk in the channel between Newhaven and Dieppe on 21st November 1917. The plaque will go on display at the Newhaven Museum at Paradise Park.

DEFIBRILLATOR EQUIPMENT

The Council provided defibrillator packs at 5 key locations in the town, but to avoid any problems in an emergency we have upgraded the batteries. The equipment has been used and has been credited with saving at least one life in the last year!

VALLEY PONDS

This year we are carrying out a toad survey under the watchful eye of top ecologist Barry Kemp. The Valley Ponds were once famed for the large number of toads breeding there but pollution incidents and disease have reduced the numbers considerably in recent years. Barry will be doing surveys there and at Riverside Park and will advise us on how to boost numbers.

We will be carrying out the next phase of reed clearance under the advice provided by the Arundel Wetland Trust. The same contractor (Bonny's Wood) will be carrying out tree works, and wildflower augmentation will be carried out by another contractor Idverde. Other work to be carried out this year will be to reduce the number of rats that are drawn to the area by excessive feeding of the ducks.

HIGHWAY VERGES

We are looking at a wildflower species management plan with local experts and East Sussex County Council for 2022/2023. We will be looking at the economics and market testing to see what residents want. Planting wildflower verges is costly, and many people want to see well mown green spaces so it will be an interesting exercise.

OUSE ESTUARY NATURE RESERVE

We are in the process of the Ouse Estuary Nature Reserve being passed over to us and we have now received the hydrology report for the area. We will shortly be appointing a civil engineer to look at the cycle path to establish its existing condition and the likely maintenance implications for the future.

TOWN CENTRE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Once again, our town centre Christmas lights cheered up the shoppers during the ongoing pandemic. We have constantly replaced and updated the lights, and we propose to maintain and improve these in the years ahead.

Councillor Graham Amy, Chair of Environment & Amenities Committee

Promotion, Partnership & Finance Committee

Chair: Angela Simmons



The Promotion Partnership & Finance Committee oversees the Council Finances, details of which are given in the Financial Summary in this Annual Report. This committee also helps to promote the town and supports local people and their partner organisations.

This past year has seen a return of some annual events, although because of prevailing conditions not all have taken place.

Both the commemoration of the Dieppe Raid in August and the Service of Remembrance in November have taken place, the former a little simplified as there are now no surviving veterans in attendance. This event continues to take place in Dieppe always on the 19th of August, the date of Operation Jubilee in 1942.

Denton Community Challenge gets better every year. This year slightly later than planned and had a terrific attendance. The annual Photographic competition was held and several of the winners have their photos on display in the form of Banners on the West Quay.

Unfortunately, it was not possible to hold the Pram Race, but it is hoped that it will take place in this coming year.

The Council owned Halls and facilities are now being used again and have benefitted from refurbishment and redecoration when they were closed to the public.

Committee meetings have now resumed in Meeching Hall, and members of the public are welcome to attend.

Newhaven Matters continues to supply information to residents with regular contributors giving their latest news. The magazine has resumed its delivery to all households in Newhaven and South Highton.

The Museum has taken advantage of its closure during the winter to be thoroughly cleaned with some exhibits redisplayed and its many artifacts, pictures and books catalogued and stored in more suitable containers and conditions.

Affinity Rowing Club took part in the Head of the Ouse race, a new event that proved a great success.

SCDA's Youth Centre also benefitted from financial support.

In December, Newhaven Town Council helped fund a Christmas Extravaganza run by SCDA, a Christmas party for Newhaven, Lewes and District Mencap and the Ignite Theatre for its highly successful pantomime, Wind in the Willows.

The Mayor's Carol Service at St Michael's Church played an important part in the Christmas celebrations.

During this difficult past year financial support was given to both CTLA – Community Transport for the Lewes Area and Lewes District Citizens Advice, both these organisations did excellent work to assist the more vulnerable members of our community during difficult times.

Newhaven Town Council has for many years issued grants to local organisations, this year amounting to over £30,000. These covered a wide range of interests. Details are listed under the Financial Summary.

Hopefully this coming year will return to some normality and Newhaven Town Council will continue to support our excellent local community organisations in their valuable work.

Many thanks to the NTC staff, past and present for their continued hard work to enable much of this support.

Councillor Angela Simmons Chair of Promotion, Partnership and Finance Committee

Newhaven Town Council Structure

2021-2022

Town Council Members

Newhaven North Ward

Cllr. Lesley Boniface (Lib Dem) Mayor & Chair Cllr.Lesley.Boniface@newhaventowncouncil.gov.uk
33 Metcalfe Avenue, Newhaven
BN9 9XP

Cllr. Steve Saunders (Independent) Cllr.Steve.Saunders@newhaventowncouncil.gov.uk
86 Hurdis Road, Bishopstone, Seaford
BN25 2TQ

Cllr. Paula Woolven (Independent) Cllr.Paula.Woolven@newhaventowncouncil.gov.uk
87 Ambleside Avenue, Telscombe Cliffs
BN10 7LN

Newhaven Central Ward

Cllr. Paul Boswell (Lib Dem) Cllr.Paul.Boswell@newhaventowncouncil.gov.uk
Meeching Estate Agents, 43 High Street, Newhaven
BN9 9PA

Cllr. Christoph von Kurthy (Lib Dem) Cllr.Christoph.vonKurthy@newhaventowncouncil.gov.uk
15 Newfield Road, Newhaven
BN9 9ND

Newhaven South Ward

Cllr. Graham Amy (Lib Dem) Cllr.Graham.Amy@newhaventowncouncil.gov.uk
71 Court Farm Road, Newhaven
BN9 9DY

Cllr. Marlene Amy (Lib Dem) Cllr.Marlene.Amy@newhaventowncouncil.gov.uk
71 Court Farm Road, Newhaven
BN9 9DY

Cllr. Kim Bishop (Lib Dem) Cllr.Kim.Bishop@newhaventowncouncil.gov.uk
Bay Tree House, 128 Court Farm Road,
Newhaven BN9 9HB

Cllr. Julie Carr (Lib Dem) Cllr.Julie.Carr@newhaventowncouncil.gov.uk
c/o 18 Fort Road, Newhaven
BN9 9QE

Cllr. Joe Emery (Lib Dem) Cllr.Joe.Emery@newhaventowncouncil.gov.uk
126 Court Farm Road, Newhaven
BN9 9HB

Cllr. James MacCleary (Lib Dem) Cllr.James.MacCleary@newhaventowncouncil.gov.uk
c/o Town Council, 18 Fort Road, Newhaven
BN9 9QE

Cllr. Sean Macleod (Lib Dem) Cllr.Sean.Macleod@newhaventowncouncil.gov.uk
c/o 18 Fort Road, Newhaven
BN9 9QE

Cllr. Heather Pinky McLean (Independent) Cllr.Pinky.McLean@newhaventowncouncil.gov.uk
c/o 18 Fort Road, Newhaven, BN9 9QE

Newhaven Denton Ward

Cllr. Charlie Carr (Lib Dem)

c/o Town Council, 18 Fort Road, Newhaven
BN9 9QE

Cllr.Charlie.Carr@newhaventowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr. Bill Giles (Conservative)

15 Marine View, Newhaven
BN9 9DX

Cllr.Bill.Giles@newhaventowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr. Viki Lees Martin (Lib Dem)

The Flying Fish, 42 Denton Road, Newhaven
BN9 0QB

Cllr.Viki.Leesmartin@newhaventowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr. Angela Simmons (Lib Dem)

Cedars House, 1 Heighton Road, Denton
BN9 0RB

Cllr.Angela.Simmons@newhaventowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr. George Taylor (Lib Dem)

c/o Town Council, 18 Fort Road, Newhaven
BN9 9QE

Cllr.George.Taylor@newhaventowncouncil.gov.uk

Town Council Staff

Town Clerk
Responsible Finance Officer
Administrator & Finance Officer
Events & Communications Officer
Amenities Officer

Ken Dry
Ruth Durrant
Sarah Edwards
Steph Georgalakis
Kevin Lewry

Financial Summary 2021-2022

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The Town Council's full accounts for the year 2021/22 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.

2021/22

Precept (Council Tax)	£ 540,118.00
Use of Reserves	£ 45,250.00
Income (budgeted)	£ 82,095.00
	£ 667,463.00

Expenditure

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

For the year 2021/22 the budgeted figures were

Administration/Office	£ 106,282.00
Staff and Training	£ 206,137.00
Building and Grounds Maintenance	£ 207,819.00
Community Services/Engagement & Promotion/Partnership/Support and services (CCTV Cameras, Christmas lights, grants, play areas, Citizens Advice Bureau, School Holiday Activities)	£ 147,225.00
	£ 667,463.00

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 2021/22, the following expenditure has been made from the Earmarked Reserves:

Devolution-Licence Fee/Avis/Denton Recreation Ground	£ 950.00
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During the year 2021/22, the following grants were awarded by the Town Council:

1 st Newhaven Brownies	£ 500.00
CTLA	£ 2,642.00
Denton Island Indoor Bowls	£ 3,000.00
Family Support Work	£ 800.00
Haven Harmonies Community Choir	£ 450.00
Haven Community Cars CIO	£ 3,000.00
Haven Community Hub CIC	£ 3,000.00
Hillcrest Wood Carving Club	£ 500.00
Just Friends	£ 3,000.00
National Coastwatch Institution – Newhaven Station	£ 3,300.00
Newhaven & District Model Railway Club	£ 3,000.00
Newhaven Baptist Church	£ 3,000.00
Newhaven Cricket Club	£ 1,445.00
Newhaven Day Club	£ 3,000.00
Rotary Club of Newhaven	£ 250.00
	£30,887.00

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 2020/21 have been duly audited and certified by the external auditor.

The table below sets out the CIL receipts received from 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021.

Regulation 62A Reference	Description	Amount
2(a)	total CIL receipts for the reported year	£54,459.10
2(b)	total CIL expenditure for the reported year	None
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	None None
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	£54,459.10 £41,388.21