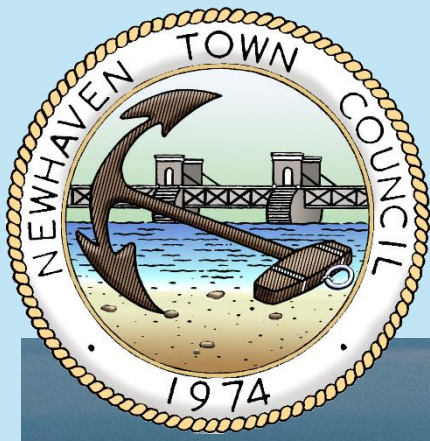




Newhaven Town Council ANNUAL REPORT



2024 - 2025

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 (NTC) 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 and Development 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.

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 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. The building has a private interview room and a small meeting room. Current planning applications may be viewed online there during the office's opening hours. Leaflets and posters are displayed concerning local events, places of interest and other items of general interest. 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, Eastside Social Centre, Lewes Road Social Centre and Meeching Hall.
- Some of the town's recreation grounds are maintained by the Town Council. These include Denton Recreation Ground and Children's Play Area, Eastside 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 and 2nd 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 organises the annual service of remembrance during November.
- The Town Council has produced a Book of Remembrance containing the name of the people of Newhaven who died as a result of the Second World War. Copies of it can be seen at the Town Council offices and at the Newhaven 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 and also at Eastside, 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.
- 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.
- Some of the public seats in the town are owned and maintained by the Town Council.
- There are nine Town Council noticeboards around the town which display Town Council minutes and agendas and a list of Town Councillors together with information on local events.

Newhaven Town Council is represented on the following outside bodies:

- | | |
|--|--|
| ○ Access in Seaford & Newhaven Committee | ○ Lewes District Association of Local Councils |
| ○ Lewes District Citizens Advice | ○ Newhaven Chamber of Commerce |
| ○ CTLA (Community Transport for East Sussex) | ○ Newhaven Day Centre (formerly Age Concern) |
| ○ East Sussex Association of Local Councils | ○ Newhaven Historical Society |
| ○ Egrets Way Committee | ○ Parishes of the Lower Ouse |
| ○ Friends of Riverside Park | ○ Southeast Community Rail Partnership |
| ○ Hillcrest Centre | |
| ○ Joint Action Group | |

The Responsibilities of Lewes District Council and East Sussex County Council



Lewes District Council

- Abandoned vehicles
- Anti-social behaviour, noise and nuisance
- Business rates and business grants
- Car parks
- Deceased animals
- Dog fouling
- Elections and Electoral Register
- Environmental health
- Fly Tipping
- Food – business regulation and safety
- Flooding
- Housing, including housing benefit
- Licensing, including taxis, alcohol, tattoo, street party, etc.
- Litter
- Pest Control
- Pollution
- Recreation Grounds: Fort Road and Avis Road
- Planning and Building Control
- Refuse Collection
- Stray animals
- Toilets
- Waste and Recycling, including food waster, garden waster and bulky item collection

Tel: 01273 471600. Information about all services, including online forms, can be found at:

www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk customerfirst@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk

East Sussex County Council



- Children's services
- Education
- Footpaths
- Grass Cutting / Verges
- Highways, including road conditions and street lighting (Tel: 0345 60 80 193)
- Parking enforcement
- Newhaven Library
- Roads and pavements
- Social Services
- Trading standards
- Trees and hedges

Tel: 0345 60 80 190 www.eastsussex.gov.uk

Town Mayor and Chair of the Town Council

Cllr. Pinky McLean-Knight



I know pretty much all Mayors say this...

But this year has been AMAZING.

I have been so honoured and humbled to represent you all.

I very much enjoyed representing Newhaven at the Dieppe Raid which is a memorial observance over several days and is dedicated to the thousands of soldiers who took part in a catastrophic raid and lost their lives. It is almost unimaginable to think about their extraordinary bravery in the face of what they must have eventually realised on landing was adversity beyond hope at that time. Yet into the breach they went...

This is an understandably huge event in France with extremely important government officials, dignitaries and VIP guests, (of which we are one) in attendance. The Dieppe side of things is arguably the largest event in our calendar. We hold a smaller ceremony with quite a few invited dignitaries the week before.

I have met with the Vietnamese Embassy a few times, The Chair of ESCC, the neighbouring Mayors of Seaford, Peacehaven and Telscombe and have just visited with the Mayor of Uckfield.

I was able to hand the Keys of Newhaven to the retiring Deputy Lieutenant who is a long-time friend of the town, greeted the incoming Deputy Lieutenant, and met the Duke of Gloucester when he re-opened the Fort after all the wonderful upgrades they have had.

I have very much enjoyed every event, dinner and concert this past 11 months. Although after Christmas I didn't want to see another roast potato for a while... Being Autistic has also held its challenges. I have always had sensory issues with textures, noises and some foods. I don't consider myself a fussy eater but I do struggle with the unwritten things some people seem to take for granted. Like plopping a perfectly good cheesecake in raspberry coulis and not mentioning it anywhere on the menu. I also struggled a few times with the sheer volume of some events and it can be hard to explain to some. My instincts are to literally get out of there as soon as I can. I do pride myself on being an incredibly talented social masker of 50 years, and I think I did ok.

I did hope to have a Mayor's Fundraiser for The Havens Food Cooperative who have also had a tough year before the end of my term but this was not to be for many reasons and this will just be happening later in the year instead.

I have had a few personal challenges this year which have been a bit testing, but along with my deputy and the AMAZING NTC office team, they have really had my back and I am forever grateful.

I could not have completed this year without my amazing deputy Cllr. Kim Bishop who has been a truly wonderful support as deputy, colleague, confidante and friend.

I would also like to thank Cllr. Lesley Boniface who has also been a wonderful person to keep company with at some of the events this year as Chair of Lewes District Council. I value her opinion and knowledge very much.

Cllr. Steve Saunders has also been an amazing supporter and his knowledge of local issues and past happenings can be invaluable when you are trying to find out how to help a constituent. History is just as important as the future in some cases and can help gauge a wider understanding of local issues. He is also happy to present himself at the mercy of future voters as SpongeBob SquarePants, Santa's trusted grotto colleague or even representing the Easter Bunny.

My heartfelt thanks to all of my colleagues here at Newhaven Town Council for your support this year.

I do hope I did you all proud.

This town of ours is an extraordinary place and its people also hold a warm space in my heart. I will always aim to serve you all to the best of my ability and to try and make it the best Newhaven it can be.

I will be wishing my successor, whomever that may be, the best hopes for a wonderful term at the next full Council meeting.

I will enjoy these last few weeks of my term as your Mayor and will hopefully continue as your public servant.

Thank you all x

Town Mayor of Newhaven, Councillor Pinky McLean-Knight



Environment & Amenities Committee

Chair: Cllr. Lesley Boniface

It has been another very busy year for the Committee.



TREE WORKS

We were sad that we had to agree tree felling to the rear of the cemetery in late 2024 due to Ash Die Back. Our contractor Bonny's Wood carried out the work sensitively and as safely as possible and whilst the felling was devastating our Tree Wardens have been allowed to plant over 500 mixed species to mitigate the losses of the Ash trees. They've also been busy planting trees, shrubs and bulbs throughout the year around the town. They've also planted new trees in various areas, including more in Lewes Road Rec and opposite Paradise Park.

The Tree Wardens always need more hands with planting and aftercare, please get in touch if you're interested in helping. Please contact the Council Officers who will put you in touch with the group.

We continually review the health of trees on Council property and every effort is made to ensure that only diseased trees are removed, and, as we have with the cemetery, we will work to mitigate the losses with new planting.

CEMETERY

We are continuing to review the service provided by the Council and the grounds maintenance, improving the grass cutting regime and the natural habitats to encourage wildlife. Works to improve the entrance gates and the toilet block are now well underway, we're just waiting for planning permission to come through.

MEMORIAL GREEN

Moving the flagpoles has made such a substantial difference to the look of the Green, a minor change with a substantial impact.

PLAY PARKS

Councillors have really enjoyed seeing so many families enjoying the new play equipment at the new Denton play park. Our next project is Eastside - the consultation phase is complete, so we can now move on to the tender and design stages.

VALLEY PONDS

Reed clearance and tree works management continue during the year as we continue to improve the site for biodiversity and conservation. A recent survey will form part of the new management plan.

HIGHWAYS VERGES

The new verge cutting regime continues to be reviewed to get the timing right. With 6 cuts this year, one at the beginning of April, one at the end of April and then the next one in early June to avoid No Mow May, although of course any verges which need cutting for sight lines in May will be carried out. If any town verge is concerning residents, please do report them to your ward Councillor or Council staff. Ideally for

biodiversity the grass would be left in June as well, but we are aware that this isn't practical. Verge cutting will then continue monthly until the 6 cuts are complete.

The new wildflower beds looked lovely during the summer months.

DEVOLUTION OF GREENSPACES

We still await the legal papers to be signed off for the devolution of a number of greenspaces, including Riverside Park, Lewes Road Rec field and Ouse Valley Nature Reserve

TOWN CENTRE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

It was lovely to do the Christmas lights switch on at Memorial Green this year. The weather meant we couldn't do a proper event but thanks to Officers for swiftly rearranging to another date due to the weather conditions.

Councillor Lesley Boniface, Chair of the Environment & Amenities Committee

Members of the Environment & Amenities Committee:

Cllr. Lesley Boniface (Chair), Cllr. Kim Bishop (Vice Chair), Cllr. Graham Amy, Cllr. Lindsay Macleod, Cllr. Krissy Taylor, Cllr. Corina Watts, Cllr. Jan Woodling



Planning & Development Committee

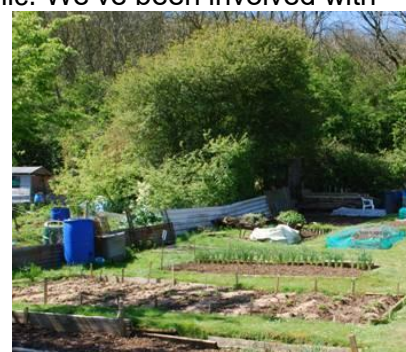
Chair: Cllr. Pinky McLean-Knight



This year has been quite a year for planning.

Harbour Heights was once again in the forefront of our minds. Myself and a couple of other Councillors attended the planning decision meeting, and we were hoping that Lewes District Council (LDC) would listen to our researched pleas for common sense, along with the local businesses and property owners that will be directly affected by this build. Cllrs Amy and MacLeod were prevented from voting, which was a shame, due to their very vocal objections as Councillors. It is a shame that local businesses and people were not listened to on this occasion. Sadly, the majority of the LDC planning committee, who were not from Newhaven, decided against our advice to approve the outlined plans.

We do have some exciting projects happening in the area in the next few years such as the West Beach build, which will see much needed and very long-awaited facilities for the public. We've been involved with restoring public spaces, such as the recreational play spaces at Denton by Newhaven Town Council (NTC) and also creating more allotments at Eastside and soon at Newhaven cemetery for use by new tenants, easing the waitlist considerably. Restoration on other public spaces like Fort Road rec and the facilities there are being started very soon. And the town centre project is still underway.



There will always be those plans that come in front of us where local knowledge really becomes important. We are familiar with both the town layout and the people here who use the spaces. So, when we can see something isn't right, we will say so. Like us saying STOP to the slops when the LDC led plans for the food recycling centre along Lewes Road were proposed. This was something we all agreed as a Committee was right to object to and our local knowledge proved that some of their data had not been collected correctly and their idea of what was considered property proximity was questionable at best having not consulted half of the neighbouring properties and residents. We wrote a very long detailed letter to the LDC Planning Committee outlining our many concerns. We have done the same for other plans that have raised similar concerns and always will if it is in the interest of doing what is right. We are a consultant committee which means that although we don't get the end decision, our local knowledge and also our adherence to our publicly voted in local neighbourhood plan are paramount to making sure we get the RIGHT developments here. We will always point out infrastructure and traffic issues where we see them in plans and will support changes to improve the lives of people here. We will always use our local knowledge to support or object where current planning law permits. We will continue to listen to you and to serve you all, as always. Development should always be thoughtful. And the aim is for these local developments to improve the lives of Newhaven and its people.

Councillor Pinky McLean-Knight, Chair of the Planning & Development Committee

Members of the Planning & Development Committee:

Cllr. Pinky McLean-Knight (Chair), Cllr. Steve Saunders (Vice Chair), Cllr. Graham Amy, Cllr. Kim Bishop, Cllr. Lesley Boniface, Cllr. Shaun Boniface, Cllr. Krissy Taylor



Promotion, Partnership & Finance Committee

Chair: Cllr. Mark Wardle



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

The Committee also oversees Council communications and promotions such as its website, newsletter and social media, and is also responsible for supporting tourism and promotional activities, community, civic and commemorative events, and the awarding of grants.

The Newhaven Town Council magazine, 'Newhaven Matters', continues to be a great success. The magazine is produced quarterly and is delivered to all households in the town. It includes a lot of information about things going on in the town and local organisations, as well as information about the Town Council itself.

We had over 250 entries in our annual 'Best of Newhaven' photographic competition this year, with the standard being extremely high. The winning photos can be seen on the banners along West Quay.

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 Sunday, and the Mayor's Christmas Carol Concert. It also helps to support events organised by others by providing funding.

Councillor Mark Wardle, Chair of the Promotion, Partnership & Finance Committee

Members of the Promotion, Partnership & Finance Committee:

Cllr. Mark Wardle (Chair), Cllr. Corina Watts (Vice Chair), Cllr. Lesley Boniface, Cllr. Shaun Boniface, Cllr. Julie Carr, Cllr. Lindsay Macleod, Cllr. Steve Saunders



Strategy & Regeneration Committee

Chair: Cllr. Shaun Boniface



We're currently reviewing our Neighbourhood Plan but that has been delayed by the Lewes District Council Local Plan which is in progress.

The Committee is working on a number of events including Sussex Day on 21st June at the Sidings. We're also looking at utilising the Sidings more for community events later in the year. Please keep an eye on the website, social media and quarterly Newhaven Matters for what's coming up. It's very exciting that the Abyss have re-opened at the Sidings and we know that last year's summer events were very popular with residents and visitors.

We've recently gone through consultation for Eastside Playpark and soon we'll be going to tender stage with contractors to come up with a design. Denton Playpark was a great success this year thanks to Councillors hard work engaging with the process and working with the contractors to come up with an excellent play facility.

The Business Asset Strategy Plan has been a very big piece of work for both the Committee and the Council as a whole. We've now reviewed which buildings need renovation and we're working towards instructing architects and contractors.

The Business Plan has now been reviewed and will be put out to public consultation. This is a great opportunity for residents to give us feedback on the plan and put forward suggestions for additions.

We're also looking at improving the entrance signs to the town on the A26 and A259. Each entrance will have a "Newhaven" theme.

You will have seen the brand new Town Council noticeboards which have been installed around the town. The old ones were becoming damaged and difficult to repair. If you'd like anything advertised in them, please contact the Town Council offices.

Councillor Shaun Boniface, Chair of the Strategy & Regeneration Committee

Members of the Strategy & Regeneration Committee:

Cllr. Shaun Boniface (Chair), Cllr. Kim Bishop, Cllr. Lesley Boniface, Cllr. Krissy Taylor, Cllr. Mark Wardle, Cllr. Jan Woodling



Finance Summary 2024 - 2025

The Town Council's full audited accounts for the year 2024/2025 will be available later in the year for public inspection.

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 2023/2024 have been duly audited and certified by the external auditor.

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. For the year 2024/2025 the actual figures were:

Precept (Council Tax)	£672,430.00
Interest	£18,130.00
Income (Actual)	£141,550.00
Total	£832,110.00

Expenditure

The Town Council's expenditure is controlled by a budgeting and monitoring process which categorises expenditure into separate headings. For the year 2024/2025 the actual figures were:

Administration/Office	£ 99,474.00
Staff & Training	£ 256,176.00
Building & Grounds Maintenance	£ 129,918.00
Community Services/Engagement & Promotion/Partnership/Support, Regeneration & Strategy (includes CCTV Cameras, Christmas Lights, Grants, Play Areas)	£ 366,702.00
Use of Reserves	£ 305,958.00
Total	£ 1,158,228.00

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 one-off funding demands. During the year 2024/2025, the following expenditure has been made from Earmarked Reserves:

Ecology Surveys/Reports	£ 4,320.00
Business Asset Management	£ 44,486.00
Cemetery Paths	£ 2,305.00
Lift Repairs	£ 3,586.00

During the year 2024/2025, the following grants were awarded by the Town Council:

Newhaven Bowling Club	£ 1,435.00
Hospitable Environment CIC	£ 6,207.00
Denton Community Challenge	£ 500.00
Culture Connect Project	£ 3,500.00
MAD Bonfire Society	£ 6,000.00
1 st Newhaven Brownies	£ 500.00
2 nd Newhaven District Rainbows	£ 300.00
Culture Shift	£ 600.00
Family Support Work	£ 1,481.00
Haven Young Creatives	£ 3,750.00

Continued

Newhaven & District Model Railway Club	£ 890.00
Newhaven Bowling Club	£ 500.00
Newhaven Cricket Club (Youth Section)	£ 340.00
Newhaven Twinning Association	£ 500.00
Newhaven Young Peoples Forum	£ 3,000.00
Newhaven & District Mencap	£ 300.00
N021 Newhaven Detachment, Delta Coy, Sussex Army Cadets	£ 1,000.00
Photo Fringe	£ 1,000.00
Santa Tour	£ 400.00
Havens Community Hub	£ 2,100.00
Inroads Productions	£ 1,680.00
Newhaven Bowling Club	£ 400.00

Total £ 37,383.00

The table below sets out Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts received from 1st April 2024 – 31st March 2025.

Regulation 62A Reference	Description	Amount
2(a)	total CIL receipts for the reported year	£17,244.64
2(b)	total CIL expenditure for the reported year	£70,328.19
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	Denton Play Park - £70,328.19
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	£17,244.64 £103,457.80

Newhaven Town Council Office

Town Council Staff

Town Clerk

Executive Officer

Responsible Finance Officer

Administrator & Finance Officer

Amenities Officer

Amenities Officer

Events & Communications Officer

Ken Dry

Stephen Honey

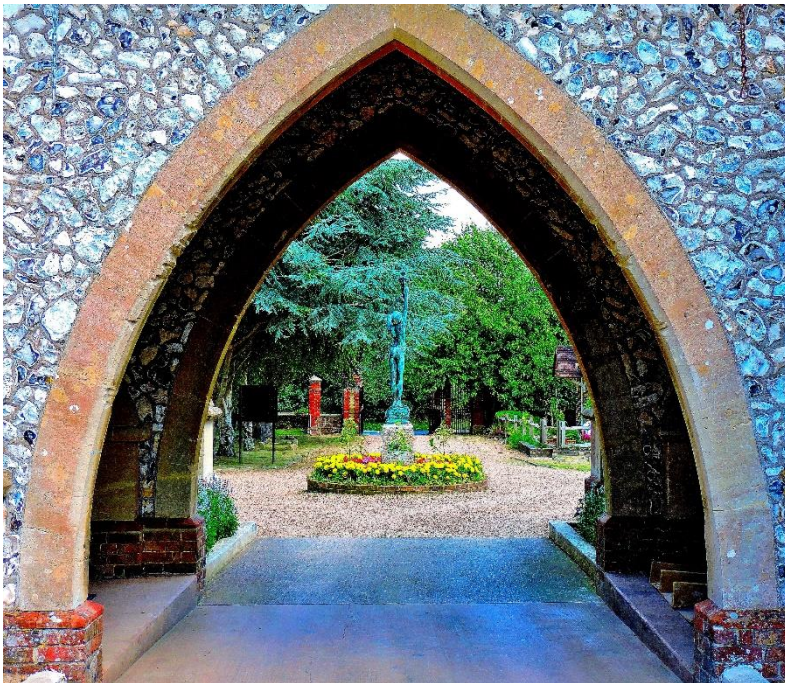
Alison Campbell

Sarah Edwards

Kevin Lewry

Martin Coombs

Laurie Marsden



Newhaven Town Council
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