



Newhaven Town Council ANNUAL REPORT



2025 - 2026

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 tries 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 and Development 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 (Mon-Fri 08:30 – 15:30). 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 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 – 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 Recreation Ground, 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:

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| ○ 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) | ○ West Quay Day Centre (formerly Age Concern) |
| ○ East Sussex Association of Local Councils | ○ Safer C7 Project |
| ○ Egrets Way Committee | ○ Newhaven Historical Society |
| ○ Friends of Riverside Park | ○ Parishes of the Lower Ouse |
| ○ Newhaven Youth Partnership | ○ Southeast Community Rail Partnership |
| ○ 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

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. Kim Bishop



My first thoughts are wow, just how quick my year as Town Mayor 2025-2026 has flown by.

When I attended my very first engagement I thought how am I going to pay justice to the role as Town Mayor representing the Town and all its residents?

However, I really did not have to worry as I have been welcomed by all with open arms.

When you live in a town but work elsewhere you only get a snapshot of the community you live in, and it is not until you dig deeper that you realise how very special Newhaven is. I am filled with pride, gratitude and a deep appreciation for the people who make this town a remarkable place to represent. It has been a year defined by community spirit, partnership, and a shared determination to keep Newhaven moving forward.

I have been honoured to present two Freedom of the Town Awards, one to Juliet Smith former Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Sussex for her outstanding service, dedication and lasting contribution to the town and one to Roger Cohen MBE who dedicated a huge part of his life, voluntarily as Lifeboat Manager for the RNLI, helping to save 258 lives off the coast of Newhaven.

Over the past year I have attended Fetes, Carol Concerts, Church Services, opening of shops and even a resident's 100th Birthday celebration.

I also attended an emotional and difficult talk on knife crime and the dedication of a blue plaque at Bishopstone Station to the train driver who was killed at Tide Mills at the start of the second world war.

And of course, the Dieppe Raid Commemoration that is held annually in Newhaven to honour those men who bravely fought for their country. I was happy to meet and welcome Nicolas Langlois the Mayor of Dieppe who visited last year to lay a wreath at the remembrance service and talk about the important connections and friendship that is growing stronger between Newhaven and Dieppe. Not forgetting the reopening of our own museum here in Newhaven and the amazing exhibition marking 200 years of the Newhaven to Dieppe Ferry crossing.

Supporting children and young people has been a central focus of my mayoral year. I have been proud to champion NIPPERS, our much-loved children's after school and holiday club, and to help raise funds to secure

its future. Whether through the Mayors Charity Quiz Night or donation initiatives across the town, the community and many businesses have rallied behind the cause, showing how strongly Newhaven believes in giving every child a safe, happy place to grow and play.

I am pleased to have been able to reinstate the Mayors Cadet for the first time in a few years and have had Sea Cadet Max Connors accompany me on some of my Mayoral duties.

But of course, much of what I have achieved would not have been possible without the incredible support of my Deputy Mayor Cllr Mark Wardle, my wing woman Cllr Krissy Taylor and the dedicated office staff at the Town Council. Not forgetting my fellow Councillors who have all played a part throughout the year with unwavering encouragement and advice. I hope the large amount of cake and biscuits I brought into the office were seen as a huge THANK YOU and not as bribery!

With only a couple of weeks until I hand over the chain to my successor I want to reflect on the past year with much more of an understanding how Newhaven fits in along the Sussex Coast. With its strong sense of community and values I hope I have managed to convey to others further afield what a great town we live in. I certainly appreciate it much more now.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity and hopefully a little legacy my Grandchildren can talk about!

Kim x

Cllr. Kim Bishop, Mayor of Newhaven



Environment & Amenities Committee

Chair: Cllr. Lesley Boniface



TREE WORKS

Large scale tree works at the rear of the cemetery have now been completed and new trees have been planted.

The Newhaven Tree Wardens have been busy planting across town and still have a nursery stocked with saplings to plant. They 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 or approach them through their social

media.

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, will work to mitigate the losses with new planting.

GROUND MAINTENANCE CONTRACT & HIGHWAYS VERGES

We're excited to welcome our new grounds maintenance contractor, Southern Land Services (SLS), who are now settling into their work maintaining not only our valued green spaces but also the grass verges around the town. If there are any issues with the cutting, or places they've missed then please get in touch with the Town Council officers. SLS are also responsible for maintaining the cemetery and I'm certainly looking forward to working with them to see how we can improve biodiversity across all sites.

CEMETERY AND ALLOTMENTS

We've now got planning permission to start work on the new gates, entrance forecourt and toilets at the cemetery and work should begin very soon. The waiting list for allotments is now much reduced. We continually review the allotments and some are now going through an upgrade.

PLAY PARKS

Following the successful installation at Denton it was with eager anticipation that we waited to see how Eastside would progress. We're really pleased at how it has been improved and it's been a big hit with local children and parents.

VALLEY PONDS

Reed clearance didn't happen in the last year, but SLS are looking forward to tackling it this year during July and August. Valley Ponds continues to be a gem green space and now we have a new management plan we're looking forward to working with SLS to improve biodiversity. Going into next year, during the autumn and winter, SLS will be spending time at Valley Ponds to tidy up some of the overgrown scrub and carry out minor tree works management

DEVOLUTION OF GREENSPACES

Devolution of a number of greenspaces, including Riverside Park, Lewes Road Rec field and Ouse Valley Nature Reserve are close to completion. We now have a great management plan for Meeching Down green space and are looking forward to working on improvements.

TOWN CENTRE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Another year of winter light welcomed residents from early December, with another low-key switch on due to bad weather. Hopefully the 2026 switch on will be different and we can all gather together

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. Jo Pettitt, Cllr. Jan Woodling



Planning & Development Committee

Chair: Cllr. Steve Saunders



It has been a pleasure to have been asked to be Chair of this Committee again for the past year and I would like to thank my Deputy Chair

Cllr Krissy Taylor, for stepping in on a few occasions, as well as her support over the last 12 months. My thanks also go to all the members of this important Committee, as well as the Town Clerk and his Deputy.

It has been a relatively quiet time for Newhaven since April 2025, but we have still had to try and stand firm against continued pressure to encroach on our town centre and the unending push to turn family housing into flats. We seem to constantly be trying to argue against the loss of family housing and the problems that then causes with on-street parking.

Newhaven continues to be a target for development both large and small, with permissions having been approved for several large sites in Beach Road, Transit Road, Newhaven Marina and north of Court Farm Road. These are both controversial and impactful for our residents and we will need to be reviewing these as they return to us as 'Reserved Matters', where we will ensure they meet the needs and aspirations of the Council and our residents

We have recently objected to Traveller Site proposals at South Heighton and at the Mount, in Denton. Unfortunately, as many of you will know, our powers are limited, as we are only a consultee to the decision-making Lewes District Planning Authority. However, we do ensure that we carefully consider each decision and where representations are made to the committee by letter, email or in person, we carefully listen and include those comments in our responses when and where we can.

Some plans still slip through the net and an application for a development off the western end of Valley Road Newhaven that we previously successfully managed to get refused, has recently been passed under delegated powers by Lewes District Council (LDC) officers.

Whilst LDC had been tasked with considering the applications within the South Downs National Park (SDNP) that fall within the district, this arrangement has now ended and those few that impact Newhaven will now come to us direct from the SDNP for comment.

Councillor Steve Saunders, Chair of the Planning & Development Committee

Members of the Planning & Development Committee:

Cllr. Steve Saunders (Chair), Cllr. Krissy Taylor (Vice Chair), Cllr. Graham Amy, Cllr. Kim Bishop,

Cllr. Lesley Boniface, Cllr. Pinky Mclean-Knight, Cllr. Jessa Chapman

Promotion, Partnership & Finance Committee

Chair: Cllr. Mark Wardle



The Promotion, Partnership & Finance Committee continues to play a key role in promoting Newhaven, strengthening partnerships, and ensuring the Council's finances are managed responsibly and transparently. The Committee oversees the Council's communications and promotional work, including its website, newsletter and social media, helping residents to stay informed and engaged with the Council's activities.

This year has seen the introduction of a refreshed look for *Newhaven Matters*, the Council's quarterly magazine. Delivered to every household in the town, the publication remains an important and effective way of sharing information about Council services, local events and the wide range of community organisations that contribute so much to life in Newhaven.

Supporting the local community remains a core priority. The Committee is proud to support a large number of local groups and organisations through the awards of grants and financial assistance. Many of these organisations rely on vital funding to enable them to continue delivering services, activities and support that benefit residents across the town, and it is a privilege for the Council to help them continue their important work within the community.

The Committee also oversees civic, community and commemorative events organised by the Town Council, including the Commemoration of the Dieppe Raid, Remembrance Sunday and the Mayor's Christmas Carol Concert. In addition, it provides support to events organised by others, recognising the important role they play in bringing people together, celebrating Newhaven's heritage and strengthening community spirit.

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

Members of the Promotion, Partnership & Finance Committee:

Cllr Mark Wardle (Chair), Cllr James Harrison (Vice Chair), Cllr Shaun Boniface, Cllr Jessa Chapman, Cllr Lindsey Macleod, Cllr Julie Carr, Cllr Steve Saunders



Strategy & Regeneration Committee

Chair: Cllr. Shaun Boniface



LOCAL PLAN

Review of the Neighbourhood Plan has been delayed by the Lewes District Council Local Plan which is still in progress. We hope that later in the year when the Plan is accepted we'll be able to continue to review.

EVENTS

The committee continue to work on bringing great events to the town. Sussex Day at The Sidings last year was great fun with music, food, stalls and some fun activities – the Bubble Man was a great hit. The Easter Family Fun Day was also a great success, the arrival of the fire engine being the highlight for many, as well as an Easter Egg Hunt and lots of fun activities.

We're now working on a number of events for the coming year including Sussex Day on 13th June at The Sidings. Please keep an eye on the website, social media and quarterly Newhaven Matters for what's coming up. It's very exciting that Abyss will re-opened at The Sidings and we know that last year's summer events were very popular with residents and visitors.

Buildings Asset Strategy Review

The review of assets is now complete and some very hard decisions made. To be able to improve and repair Council assets we've had to make the hard decision to sell Meeching Hall and the Mortuary building in the cemetery. As Meeching Hall is an Asset of Community Value there is now a moratorium on the sale while we wait for community groups to put forward bids to purchase. With the proceeds of the sale of both properties we'll be able to deal with issues at Eastside Social Centre and hopefully improve Denton Social Centre to provide public access to toilets and a café.

Noticeboards

The new Town Council noticeboards are now in use. If you'd like anything advertised in them, please contact the Town Council offices.

Councillor Shaun Boniface, Chair of the Regeneration and Strategic Development 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 2025 - 2026

The Town Council's full audited accounts for the year 2025/2026 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 2024/2025 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 2025/2026 the actual figures were:

Precept (Council Tax)	£ 723,962.00
Interest	£ 19,120.00
Income (Actual)	£ 212,908.00
Total	£ 955,990.00

Expenditure

The Town Council's expenditure is controlled by a budgeting and monitoring process which categorises expenditure into separate headings. For the year 2025/2026 the actual figures were:

Administration/Office	£ 100,731.00
Staff & Training	£ 314,224.00
Buildings & Grounds Maintenance	£ 158,401.00
Community Services/Engagement & Promotion/Partnership/Support, Regeneration & Strategy (includes CCTV Cameras, Christmas Lights, Grants, Play Areas)	£ 337,828.00
Use of Reserves	£ 221,395.00
Total	£1,132,579.00

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 2025/2026, the following expenditure has been made from Earmarked Reserves:

Cemetery Repairs	£ 1,493.00
Professional Services Fees	£ 12,931.00
Eastside Play Area	£ 140,000.00
Allotment Refurbishments	£ 19,416.00

During the year 2025/2026, the following grants were awarded by the Town Council:

Meeching & District Bonfire Society	£ 6,300.00
Newhaven & District Model Railway Club	£ 1,160.00
Towner	£ 7,500.00
Denton & Newhaven Guides	£ 500.00
Newhaven District Rangers	£ 500.00
3rd Newhaven Scout Group	£ 2,138.54
Newhaven & District Model Railway Club	£ 750.00
Newhaven Cricket Club	£ 900.00
Ouse Valley Morris	£ 1,600.00
Newhaven Tennis Club	£ 2,400.00
Hospitable Environment	£ 2,200.00
CTLA	£ 4,974.51
Total	£ 30,923.05

The table below sets out CIL receipts received from 1st April 2025 – 31st March 2026.

Regulation 62A Reference	Description	Amount
2(a)	<i>total CIL receipts for the reported year</i>	<i>£54,797.00</i>
2(b)	<i>total CIL expenditure for the reported year</i>	<i>£90,000.00</i>
2 (c)	<i>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</i>	<i>Eastside Play Park - £90,000.00</i>
2(d)	<i>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</i>	<i>None None</i>
	<i>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</i>	<i>£ 54,797.00 £30,702.44</i>

Newhaven Town Council Office

Town Council Staff

Position	Name
Town Clerk	Ken Dry
Executive Officer	Stephen Honey
Responsible Finance Officer	Alison Campbell
Administrator & Finance Officer	Sarah Edwards
Communications & Events Officer	Carrie Higgs
Amenities Officer	Trevor Tucker



Newhaven Town Council
Town Council Offices
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