



2024/25 Annual Report



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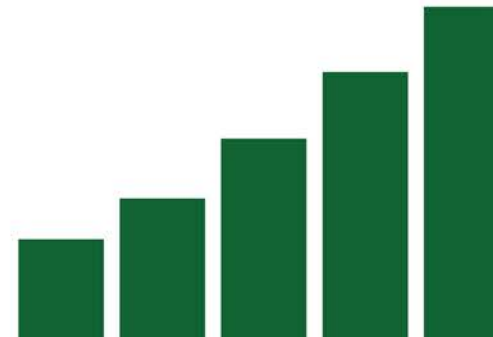
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Town Clerk's Foreword

George Dyson, Town Clerk



On 23rd July 2024, Peacehaven Town Council adopted a Community & Business Plan - a strategic document setting out the core values, priorities, and key projects that the Town Council hopes to deliver, primarily over a 4-year period. The plan has quickly become a part of daily life for myself, Council Officers, and Councillors, and has led to a huge amount of work, laying the foundations for larger projects to be deliverable.

If you haven't already had a chance to do so, please take a moment to have a look through the community & business plan, which is available under the policies section of the Peacehaven Town Council website.

In the past year we have also welcomed Steph Georgalakis to the team as our Public Relations Officer - Steph's experience and knowledge is a true asset to the Town Council, and you will have undoubtedly seen her excellent work in the improved Peacehaven News, and her management of the website, social media, and noticeboards around the town.

Town Council staff have recently all undertaken refresher training in First Aid, Fire Safety, and have also in the past year completed training in Carbon Literacy, earning the titles 'Certified Carbon Literate' from the Carbon Literacy Trust - strengthening further the Council's Commitment towards becoming Net-Zero.

We have had some Councillors step down in the past year, with David Seabrook leaving us in October, and Nick Evans leaving in February. I would like to express my thanks to them both for the time they dedicated to the Town Council, I wish them all the best moving forward, and trust that we haven't seen the last of them.

As we come into the 2025/26 year we should start to see a number of projects coming to fruition, we have the Annual Council meeting planned for 20th May, celebrations for VE Day 80 in May, and also have the return of the bi-annual Summer Fair in July.

I'd like to finish by extending my sincere thanks to all the staff, Councillors, and everyone who has supported Peacehaven Town Council this year, and will no doubt continue to do so over the coming year too.



About Peacehaven Town Council

Local government, delivered by councils (local authorities) is responsible for a range of vital services for people and businesses in defined areas.

Among them are well known functions such as social care, schools, housing and planning and waste collection, but also lesser-known ones such as licensing, business support, registrar services and pest control.

Local authorities receive funding from a range of sources, including government grants, council tax and fees and charges. Together, council tax and business rates make up local authorities' largest source of income.

There are three tiers of local government in East Sussex

1. East Sussex County Council
2. District, and borough councils, such as Lewes District Council and Eastbourne Borough Council
3. Town and parish councils (e.g. Peacehaven Town Council)

Your local town council is Peacehaven Town Council

Alongside working with local charities, voluntary organisations, schools and the Chamber of Commerce, Peacehaven Town Council also works closely with Lewes District Council and East Sussex County Council. However, it can sometimes be rather confusing as to which council is responsible for what, as each has its own area of service delivery and responsibility.

Peacehaven Town Council consists of 17 elected Councillors from four Wards, North, West, East and Central Peacehaven.

Peacehaven Town Council is responsible for:

- Maintenance of allotments, bus shelters, the Peacehaven & Telscombe War Memorial, several local parks, green spaces, sports and recreational facilities
- The provision of grants for local projects and organisations, and halls for social clubs and meetings
- Hosting local events for the benefit of the Community
- Peacehaven's first tier of government is the Peacehaven Town Council who have a statutory right to be consulted on local planning, highways and other amenities.

Meeting Agenda

George Dyson
Town Clerk

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Community House,
Meridian Way,
Peacehaven,
East Sussex,
BN10 8BB.

8th April 2025

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Tuesday 22nd April 2025

7 p.m.

Main Hall, Community House

The 2024 Peacehaven Town Annual Assembly is being convened by the Town Council.

All residents of Peacehaven are invited to attend.

AGENDA

1. Welcome delivered by Peacehaven Town Mayor, Councillor Debbie Donovan
2. To receive apologies for absence
3. To approve and Sign the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting, Thursday 23rd April 2024
4. Presentations from Peacehaven Town Council Committee Chairs
5. Presentation on the History of the Peacehaven Post
6. Refreshment Break
7. Public Questions to The Council
8. Meeting Closes

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Debbie Donovan", is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Clr Debbie Donovan, Mayor of Peacehaven

A copy of the Annual Town Report is on the Council's web site or available by request.

Minutes of last Annual Town Meeting

George Dyson
Town Clerk

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Community House,
Meridian Way,
Peacehaven,
East Sussex,
BN10 8BB.

Draft minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held at Community House at 7pm on Tuesday 23rd April 2024

Present:

Councillors: Cllr D Seabrook (Chair of Council), Cllr I Sharkey (Vice-Chair of Council), Cllr M Campbell, Cllr S Studd, Cllr N Evans, Cllr D Donovan, Cllr N Fabry, Cllr A Harman, Cllr S Griffiths, Cllr K Gordon-Garrett, Cllr I Alexander, Cllr W Veck, Cllr C Gallagher, Cllr P Davies, Cllr S Wood.

Officers: George Dyson (Town Clerk), Zoe Malone (Responsible Financial Officer), Zoe Polydorou (Meetings & Projects Officer), Kevin Bray (Parks Officer), Karen Bray (Information & Community Facilities Officer), Michael Ripley (Senior Caretaker).

Public: 21 members of the public in attendance.

1. Welcome delivered by Peacehaven Town Mayor, Councillor David Seabrook

Cllr David Seabrook opened the meeting at 19:03, went through the building fire procedures, asked that phones be put onto silent, and advised that the meeting was being recorded.

The Mayor's chosen charities for the past year (ABC Fund, MENCAP, and Sussex Heart Charity) were each presented with a cheque for £546.63 from the Mayors appeal fund.

Cllr Seabrook then went through the meeting agenda and gave some background information on the purpose and history of the Annual Town/ Parish meeting.

2. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Lee Ashby-Parkin.

3. To approve and sign the minutes of the annual town assembly, Thursday 26th May 2022

It was proposed that the minutes from the annual town assembly on Thursday 26th May 2022 be accepted.

Proposed by: Cllr S Griffiths Seconded by: Cllr W Veck

The minutes of the annual town assembly on Thursday 26th May 2022 were accepted as a true record.

4. Presentations from Peacehaven Town Council Committee Chairs

Cllr Griffiths spoke as Chair of the Policy & Finance Committee, highlighting CIL expenditure over the past year, the upcoming redevelopment of the Meridian Centre, the recent condition report of Community House, and the current CIL bid for improvements to the Hub building.

Cllr Sharkey then spoke as Chair of the Leisure, Amenities, and Environment Committee, focusing on the role and remit of the Committee, including the improvements needed to the Hub.

Cllr Campbell spoke as Chair of the Planning & Highways Committee, including an update on the wildflower verges and grass verge cutting, the role of the Committee in responding to Planning Applications with over 100 considered by the Committee in the past year, and finally about the upcoming Lewes District Local Plan and Peacehaven & Telscombe Neighbourhood Development Plan.



Cllr Gallagher spoke as Chair of the Personnel Committee, highlighting the challenges of the Committee in appointing the right staff over the past year, and the successful training plan implemented for staff and Councillors.

Cllr Veck spoke as Chair of the Civic & Community Events Committee, summarised the role of the Committee and gave a brief overview of the main events of the past year as well as some of the upcoming ones, and also reinforced that volunteers are always encouraged to come forward to support these events.

Cllr Gallagher spoke as Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan steering group, giving an update on the progress of the Neighbourhood Development Plan, some of the challenges in getting this far, and how the public referendum will work.

5. Presentation from South Coast & East Sussex Bird/ Gull Volunteer Network

Justin King from the South Coast & East Sussex Bird/ Gull Volunteer Network gave a talk on the role of the group of volunteers and the challenges that they have been facing due to a number of wildlife centres closing and avian flu outbreaks over the past few years resulting in a decline in wildlife.

Justin gave some examples of recent rescues and some general tips and advice on managing sick or injured birds and animals.

6. Refreshment Break

Refreshments were served in the foyer from 19:51, with the meeting resuming at 20:16.

7. Public questions to the Council

A member of the public asked why the Community House toilets aren't open to the public, as well as the disabled toilet at the Gateway Café often being out of order and unavailable for use.

The member of the public also raised a concern about dog mess in the parks.

Another member of the public asked the Council about what more can be done to deal with the potholes along the A259.

Another member of the public asked about the future of the Meridian Centre redevelopment, and in particular whether any further news had come through about the shuttle bus to the Morrisons store in Seaford.

Another member of the public thanked the Councillors for all they do, and spoke about the House Project having funds available for Community Projects, encouraging people to apply for the grants available.

A member of the public representing the Residents Association gave an update that the group is active and currently discussing the bus service around Peacehaven, as well as the suggested merger of Peacehaven and Telscombe Town Councils.

A member of the public representing the Peacehaven Community Supermarket thanked the staff for their ongoing support and patience with the Community Supermarket.

A member of the public raised concerns about the accessibility of Cornwall Avenue, particularly as a polling station.

8. Meeting closes

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20:43.

Meet Your Councillors



Cllr Max Rosser
West Ward



Cllr Ian Alexander
North Ward



Cllr Isobel Sharkey
North Ward



Cllr Mary Campbell
Central Ward



Cllr Claude Cheta
East Ward



Cllr Lee Ashby-Parkin
East Ward



Cllr Simon Studd
West Ward



Cllr Sue Griffiths
North Ward



Cllr Cathy Gallagher
East Ward



Cllr Aimee Harman
West Ward



Cllr Kiera Gordon-Garrett
North Ward



Cllr Sherral Wood
East Ward



Cllr Wendy Veck
North Ward



Cllr Nikki Fabry
West Ward



Cllr Paul Davies
East Ward

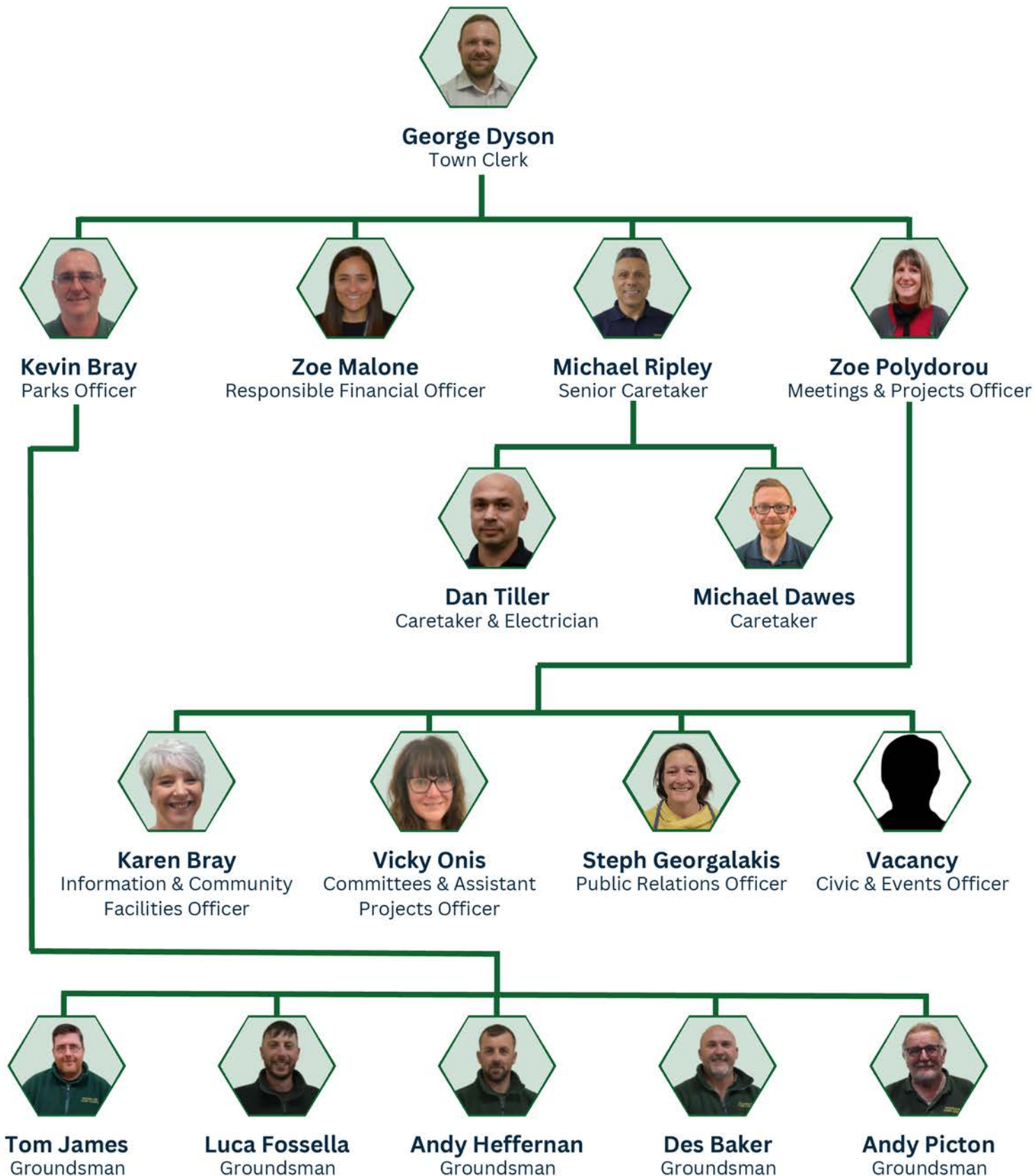


VACANCY
West Ward



Cllr Debbie Donovan
West Ward

Staff Structure





Vision And Mission

Vision

Peacehaven aims to be a sustainable environment providing a good quality of life for all residents and visitors.

Mission

To ensure Peacehaven remains a thriving community and a healthy, sustainable, attractive, resilient place to work, live and visit. To encourage vibrant retail outlets and culture offers that blend with our special and distinctive environment. To listen to our community and encourage residents to engage, educate and evaluate us

Core Values



Empowering and supporting the community

Supporting a resilient, inclusive, and healthy community, tackling inequalities, and promoting the safety of the community.

Growing the economy sustainably

Working with others to support sustainable growth and a strong community, ensuring Peacehaven is a great place to invest in, live, work and visit, and that Peacehaven Town Council is committed to being a responsible employer.

Helping children and young people

Supporting and inspiring children and young people to raise their aspirations and reach their full potential.

Improve the quality of life for residents and visitors to Peacehaven

Endeavour to address the needs of residents within the resources and powers available to Peacehaven Town Council.

Supporting residents in need

Supporting in times of need and improve quality of life.

Valuing the environment

Promote sustainability and nature recovery, improve our infrastructure, safeguard our heritage and biodiversity.

Committee Chair Reports



Policy & Finance Committee

Chair: Cllr Ian Alexander Vice Chair: Cllr Paul Davies



My name is Ian Alexander, and I'm the Chair of the Policy & Finance Committee. The Committee is responsible for managing the Council's budget, looking after its assets and producing any policies that the council need to ensure we keep running in a cost-efficient and legal manner.

The Committee is made up of the Chair of Council – aka the Mayor, their deputy, the 4 Chairs of the other Council committees and 3 other Councillors.

We look after :

- Budget & finance, including planning annual budgets, payment of accounts, financial audits and setting of fees & charges
- Premises & Capital Assets, including Community House and its operation
- Capital projects and spend
- Licences, leases and agreements (other than Allotments)
- Monitoring and overseeing Corporate Governance arrangements
- Grant requests

Having the Chairs of the other committees means that we are aware of most of what is going on across the Council committees, so we can ensure that things run smoothly without duplication. At the moment we are also responsible for your Community House, the building we are in tonight.

For the last two years this committee has been involved in ensuring that this building is kept in good condition and continues to provide a range of different size rooms and halls for your use for social activities of many kinds. We have had fire safety assessments, electrical equipment assessments and a carbon assessment to inform our approach.

We have had a few challenges this last year – the air-handling units for the Main Hall were in need of replacement due to their use over the years – Community House was built in the 70s and hasn't had any money set aside for repairs to the building, or a long term programme of works to spread the costs over a number of years.

With the help of our Responsible Finance Officer and new Town Clerk, we now have a 10 year plan of works to keep the building in good condition and up to date in terms of safety and security.

We are putting money aside every year to cover the costs of the works identified, which is estimated to be around £600,000 at today's costs.



We have had to pause some works such as the roof because of the plans for the rest of the Meridian Centre to avoid wasting any money on works that have to be redone.

We have bid for and received a grant from Lewes District Council for £175,000 for much needed improvements to the Hub at Centenary Park.

We are preparing a priority list of other works for the next round of grants – this round is expected to start in early 2026

The budget this year has had to rise for a number of reasons:

- Increase in staff salaries as agreed nationally – for Financial Year 25/26 we have had to put aside an extra 12%, which covers the pay rise and potential increases from staff evaluations.
- Councils aren't included in the small business National Insurance Relief, so we have to cover the 2% rise in Employers National Insurance.
- Buildings – as noted previously, Community House hasn't had the financial input needed to keep up with its age.
- Grass cutting. This is contracted out to ESCC but they have changed Provider and their new contract has built-in increases – this has gone up by 40% for 25/26, from £11,536 to £16,178. Last year the Council looked at other suppliers of the service but was unable to find anyone cheaper. To a lot of our residents, the grass verges are a symbol of how well we are performing, others may accept fewer cuts but this would mean longer verges.
- This year the Summer Fair will be in Peacehaven and will cost about £4,000 to put on, some of which will be offset by sponsorship if we can find someone to support us.

I am happy to answer any questions you may have, but may need to do some research to give you the full answers.

Personnel Committee

Chair: Cllr Cathy Gallagher

Vice Chair: Cllr Nikki Fabry



Writing this review is the opportunity to thank all of the members of the staff at Peacehaven Town Council. The Team is almost complete now, a Public Relations Officer has been appointed to improve the flow of information both internally and externally.

Everyone works together in difficult circumstances with the Meridian Retail Area closed down pending re-development. The Town Clerk , George Dyson , who leads the Team and The Responsible Finance Officer, Zoe Malone , who ensures that the finances are sound have completed a successful full year in post . cared for and The Community buildings and Council parks are cared for to give residents the best experience possible.

Extensive training has been undertaken by staff and Councillors including First Aid and Health and Safety to increase skills .

A digital support Human Resources company has been engaged to provide automated staff records and legal advice on tap re Employment Law and practice, all on a cost effective package.

The Council has many assets but our biggest asset is our staff. This Committee is tasked to operate within a budget and to look after the well-being of all who work for the Town Council and Councillors who volunteer their time and skills.

This is done through dedicated workshops and by undertaking recognised award schemes including:

- East Sussex Wellbeing at Work Awards
- The CPD Group Committed Employer Accreditation
- Training and ongoing implementation of the Civility & Respect Pledge
- Wellbeing Champion Training & Mental Health First Aid Training

Time to look forward to a happy and fulfilling 12 months 2025/2026



Leisure, Amenities, & Environment Committee

Chair: Cllr Isobel Sharkey

Vice Chair: Cllr Lee Ashby-Parkin



The Leisure, Amenities, and Environment Committee is currently made up of Cllr Isobel Sharkey (chair) Cllr Lee Ashby-Parkin (vice-chair) Cllr Nikki Fabry, Cllr Cathy Gallagher, Cllr Sue Griffiths, Cllr Simon Studd, Cllr Sherral Wood, plus Cllr Debbie Donovan and Cllr Wendy Veck as ex-officio members

The lead officer for the committee is the Parks Officer, Kevin Bray.

We meet every 2 months to discuss issues relating to parks, and most other facilities owned by PTC, and like other committees, welcome residents to attend.

2024-25 has been another busy year, as this brief overview below shows.

The Peacehaven and Telscombe Football Club had their long-planned for 3G pitch installed in January. This means that more games can be played on this high-quality pitch for the benefit of many. The funding from the football foundation is allowing us to improve the quality of the other pitches in the big park.

Many new trees have been planted, including 50 that were donated by a resident and 30 from a Woodland Trust grant. These help to improve the look of the park area and help reduce the impact of climate change.

In Howard Park, we have had a resin bond path installed as well as a new picnic bench. Both are wheelchair accessible this was partly funded using a successful LDC Community infrastructure levy Bid.

New inclusive play equipment has been installed in The Dell playground using 106 money from building that took place within the town.

If you use centenary park, then you will have seen the new ladder sign at the entrance by the café, the wildflower verge on the approach from the car park, and the concrete path from the park up to the Chalker's Rise estate.

Leisure, Amenities, and Environment Committee



Among future plans or partly completed projects are:

- Improvements to the overflow carpark in the big park
- The Hub. We have secured CIL money to replace the roof and the heating system in this building and are hoping for further improvements too. Keep an eye out for phase 2 of the public consultation.
- Improvements to the MUGA court. A new surface, a bookable netball court and courts for open use.

Further work in Howard Park including a sensory garden and a sculpture or installation that will include memory plaques available to buy.

We would like to thank Kevin and his grounds teams. They work hard to keep our parks looking good and by doing some of the repair jobs themselves, save the council money.



Planning & Highways Committee

Chair: Cllr Kiera Gordon-Garrett

Vice Chair: Cllr Mary Campbell



Planning and Highways Committee has no power and only one specific duty. But somehow or other it ends up with a lot of work.

The Committee's one duty is to comment on planning applications, well over 150 this year. Applications are always close to someone's home: so a lot of residents come to our meetings to have their say. Reflecting residents' [legal!] priorities, and advocating for them to higher authorities that take the decisions, is at the core of the Committee's role and work.

The bread and butter issues that fill the emails of P&H councillors and are actioned by council officers are more mundane: caravans parked illegally, potholes that a resident doesn't know how to report, hedges overhanging the pavement so that pushchairs can't get past, the do-it-yourselfer pushing the new fence they are building a few centimetres into their neighbour's garden.... getting these solved is the typical daily fare of the council officers that serve the Committee. They always know which individual in which of the higher echelons of local government will get the problem solved. Council officers can't always get the job done by yesterday – or at all. But all Peacehaven residents owe them a big `thank-you`.

This year councillors , officers and the Parks staff have also been involved in the restoration of the Monument and commissioning a new visitors display board. To help with active travel across the town footpaths, bridleways and rights of ways are monitored and the provision of cycle/wheeling routes are in constant discussion.

Committee meets every three weeks, because of the time limit on planning decisions. The most high-profile planning application in the last year has been for a glamping site at the northern tip of our town. It is still to be decided.

Most applications for new homes include the replacement of a single home with two or three on the same site. The Committee almost always supports these, while trying to maintain high design standards. Along the A259, applications can mean replacing one building with a block of flats.



The Committee supports official policy to `densify`: create extra homes by using the land within built-up areas more efficiently. Outside the so-called `settlement boundary` - the imaginary line that legally divides the town from the countryside - planning laws and regulations are quite different and new housing is not normally permitted. There, the Committee has prioritised the environment, biodiversity and nature recovery. Parts of Peacehaven are rich in biodiversity and habitat variety, but not officially designated as such and therefore not formally protected from house-builders. In the Valley Road area in the north, 3,358 sightings of 232 protected species (33 of international value) are officially recorded. Most people don't report the wildlife that they see (or hear), so there's probably lots more. Once habitats are lost, assets of nature can never be recovered.

The main type of homes needed in Peacehaven are cheaper homes - and social homes for rent: not as profitable for developers as big houses that sell for hundreds of thousands of pounds.

To sustain all the extra houses, Peacehaven needs more infrastructure: better road maintenance, more pedestrian crossings to keep children safe as they walk to school and play-group, drains that don't disgorge their contents into people's back yards when it rains a lot. The capacity of the A259 provides an absolute limit on how many more people and cars should be built for in Peacehaven. One infrastructure success: the Committee's campaign for disabled bus pass holders to be able to use their passes to leave for work or hospital appointments before 9.30am.

Committee has other proposals in the pipeline. Our town's needs for infrastructure have also been central to the many responses to official Consultations: the Lewes District Local Plan 2040, Transport for the South East, Bus Service Improvement Plan, and more. Peacehaven's voice is being transmitted to the powers-that-be.

In the coming year much will change. The Settlement Boundaries themselves may be moved, with swathes of new houses announced for what is now the domain of tawny owls and rare butterflies. The draft Peacehaven and Telscombe Neighbourhood Plan will probably at last come to referendum, with its proponents and opponents. Lewes District Council itself will probably be on the way out - with its functions divided between East Sussex and a new super-council with a Mayor of Sussex. Peacehaven may have been shifted from East Sussex into Brighton City. Who knows?

Civic & Community Events Committee

Chair: Cllr Wendy Veck

Vice Chair: Cllr Aimee Harman



The CCE Committee, or rather the Civic & Community Events Committee, is responsible for the Civic and events that the Council puts on.

The Civic side covers things like The Mayor's engagements and fundraising and all official duties carried out in the name of the Council. We organise remembrance services, flag raising and official duties in the name of the King. Last June we organised Peacehaven's celebration of the 80th anniversary of D-Day.



Our committee also covers the Youth Mayor and their deputy. We work very closely with.

Peacehaven Community School (PCS) who have been very proactive in the last year. Our Mayor Cllr Donovan has collaborated in several events including a very successful careers fair at the school and a luncheon for local businesses in the area.

Our less formal remit covers the events that the Council puts on for the benefit of the community at large. Most of our events have a zero budget and any profits raised go towards an agreed organisation or charity. This year we have been very busy. Our calendar has covered everything from an Artwave exhibition held last Autumn, to some very successful children's events such as our Halloween party held this year at The Gateway Cafe.



Peacehaven Town Council



Civic & Community Events Committee



Our Children's Christmas Party went down a storm with the youngsters too.

This year, our mayor has revived regular quiz nights, where there has been some serious rivalry! We have held regular Bingo and had some Cinema showings in Community House, had a very successful Line and Barn Dancing event, and a popular Easter Arts & Crafts Fair.

Part of our remit covers social exclusion, isolation and loneliness. As part of this we have been running a Welcome Cafe on Mondays during the Winter, where we have also had a free coat exchange. At the Welcome Café all the teas and coffees have been totally free to everyone, with donations accepted for cakes and pastries. All the donations raised this year, a total of £112.42, has been donated to The Havens Community Hub, who kindly donated various food items. The Welcome Café will be back in September – watch this space!

There are more events planned, and we are currently working on our Summer Fair held in the Big Park, which we now hold every other year.

This year's Summer Fair is being held on Saturday 12th July. With over 60 interesting stalls already booked, along with a fun fair, a bouncy castle and a variety of children's games, it promises to be a day to remember. In the main arena there will also be a variety of music and talented performers throughout the day. In addition, there will be a fabulous pizza and burger van, a bar, a cake and sweets stall; and if that hasn't tempted you enough – ice-cream and candy floss. We hope to see you there!

We would also love to see you at our next Committee meeting, which will be held on Tuesday 29th April at 7:30pm, at Community House.



Mayor's Report

Mayor: Cllr Debbie Donovan

Deputy Mayor: Cllr Wendy Veck



One thing I have learned whilst in post is that I can't be everywhere at the same time! This is why we have elected chairs of committees who manage meetings with other council members, who provide the best possible information for our residents. So, sometimes I'm not aware of absolutely everything that's happening in all committees. I rely on my colleagues to pass information on.

Fortunately, I have been able to manage a large majority of my engagements and have not had to pass too many onto my deputy, Cllr Veck.

I am so grateful to my consort Rhiannon, who has given me great support throughout my journey as Mayor. She learnt the procedures and protocols attached to the position, which was a great learning curve for her.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my year in the role as your mayor, and have met many more residents. In particular, I have connected with the community, local businesses and schools, which was the promise I made at my Civic church service; and I will continue to work for our community as much as I possibly can as your west ward councillor. I would hope that the connections I have made will prosper.

I fulfilled 95 official or unofficial engagements last year and am on target to managing a further 25 to the end of my term.

Between meetings, sub meetings, councillor training and my family life I have been volunteering for the Peacehaven Community Supermarket which I thoroughly enjoy. I have met some amazing people who are members of the service and have got to know what their shopping needs are likely to be.

We are lucky that PTC are able to provide a suitable facility to enable us to deliver this much needed service.

My fellow volunteers have supported my fundraising efforts and I would like to personally thank Rose, Malcolm, Joy, Babs & Gerry for arranging and participating in my fundraising events.

I would also like to thank Yvette Ferguson for organising a fantastic Easter Fair.

My sincere thanks to the Lions club for their kind donation, and for the 8 tablets which were handed over to SCDA.

We're lucky to have both a Youth mayor and a Deputy Youth Mayor, who attend functions and fundraising events when school work permits. Both Katelyn & Karina took part in all Remembrance ceremonies during my term; they are currently raising awareness for the Mind Charity.

Mayor's Report



Of course, the hot topic that I am currently asked about is Morrisons! Once I have any fresh news I will share this with you all. It is so frustrating not knowing their plans. However, our MP, Chris Ward, is on the case!

I have managed to build up our community events which have all been well received and attended. These include the quizzes and bingo sessions. Thank you to all who have supported these events throughout the year.

Before I left my job as PTC Civic & Marketing Officer I started a wellbeing project which is a meander walk along the Meridian Line. After a year of collective work, a group of Peacehaven volunteers and councillors is near to completing a leaflet which shows a map of points of interest along the route. Hopefully, the launch of the map will take place in early May.

Last year was the first group ArtWave festival in Peacehaven, which was a success. Watch out for news about the next autumn event on social media.

I have appreciated all invitations to events from our various groups, organisations and businesses. Some of the highlights have been:-

- Spending an afternoon tea with a donkey, at Deans Afternoon Club!

- Attending the Horticultural Society open gardens and annual show.

- Connecting with the Peacehaven and District Chamber of Commerce.

- Taking part in the Big Dig at Peacehaven Heights Academy.

- Commemorating the 300th park run.

- A tour of the life boat station.

- My own campaign to encourage residents to decorate their gardens at Christmas.

- To help organise the first careers fair for our local businesses at PCS.

- Attending two luncheons prepared and presented by the students at PCS - which was a great achievement for the students.

- A visit to Santa's grotto organised by in-pulse (Sussex Ambulance) which was absolutely amazing.

- A fabulous fundraising Jazz afternoon with the Saltdean jazz band.

There were many more fabulous occasions over the year which will hold many memories for me.

I was especially pleased to officially launch the Women's Walking Football Club, at the Peacehaven & Telscombe FC. Women's football has come a long way since the FA banned women from playing from 1921 until 1971. I am so pleased that our local football club supports the game at all levels and I thank everyone involved in making this possible.

Mayor's Report



One of my forthcoming engagements is to attend the Seahaven Business Awards. The ceremony will take place on Friday 9th May at the Amex Stadium.

I'm proud that many of our local businesses have entered and wish them all luck for a successful night!

The total raised throughout the year for my charity will be announced on Saturday 10th May, when I will be presenting a cheque to SCDA, Seahaven Community Food, specifically for the Peacehaven Community Supermarket.

Lastly, my thanks to the Town Clerk and staff at PTC for their support in making my year a success, and to those councillors who have supported and attended my fundraising efforts throughout my term in office.

I wish you all a lovely summer and hope you see you around and about the town.



Mayor's Report



Mayor's Report



Mayor's Report



Neighbourhood Development Plan Update



Cllr Cathy Gallagher, Chair of the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group

Peacehaven and Telscombe Town Councils resolved to complete a joint Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) in 2013, the plan area was officially designated and the Councils became joint authorising authorities.

The Steering Group was set up in 2018 made up from residents representing all of the neighbourhoods from East Saltdean to the borders of Peacehaven with Newhaven and Piddinghoe.

Years of public consultations, research and expert reports followed with over 40 substantial documents. All of the background work was completed in 2022/2023 and can be found on the Steering Group website details below.

At Regulation 16 in July 2024 the Town Councils passed the approved plan to Lewes District Council who are the Planning Authority.

The progress of our plan is affected by circumstances beyond the control of the Town Councils.

The change of Government in July 2024 brought further changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the emphasis on strategic infrastructure and affordable housebuilding.

Local Plans including Neighbourhood Plans are seen as vital to give communities a chance to influence what happens in planning terms in Towns and Villages.

The plan has been viewed by a Government approved Examiner who recommended a Habitats Regulation Assessment be obtained to check that our policies were in line with Statutory Regulations this was completed in March 2025 and sent to LDC along with other clarification information. We now await the Examiners further comments before the plan can go forward to the next step to Referendum. Once the plan is accepted at Referendum as well as receiving 25% of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) the policies in the plan will carry equal authority as those in the Lewes Local Plan and NPPF.

Even though the NDP has not completed it influences the Town Councils through their Business Plans and improvements to local amenities and infrastructure, improving air quality and increasing biodiversity.

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