



Peacehaven Town Council



Annual Report
2025/26



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Town Clerk's Foreword



George Dyson, Town Clerk

The past 12-months have been a demanding and important period for Peacehaven Town Council (PTC), with words such as Devolution, Local Government Reorganisation, and Local Control Transfer, which this time last year were just starting to be discussed, now being part of our day-to-day vocabulary.

In August 2025, the Council agreed to a revised Committee structure, which streamlined the delegation to Committees, and introduced our new Environment & Sustainability Committee – further strengthening our commitment to pursuing net-zero.

With regard to Local Government Reorganisation, on 12th August 2025, we hosted a public meeting to hear local residents views on the different proposals for Unitary Authorities in this area, the meeting resulted in overwhelming support for Peacehaven to remain in an East Sussex Unitary Authority, rather than Brighton & Hove. PTC has championed this view at every opportunity, and will continue to do so as the next consultation from Government now begins. I do stress the importance of all residents also responding to these consultations though, which can be completed online, or paper copies available from the Information Office at Community House.

PTC has also submitted nominations for Local Control Transfers, to take control of some of the assets that Lewes District Council (LDC) currently own and manage, which will ensure the continued protection and provision of these, which include Car Parks, Greenspaces, and the Roderick Avenue Public Toilets. We await the outcome of these nominations.

I'm also delighted that Morrisons Ltd are sending representatives to speak at our Annual Town Meeting as the continuing lack of a supermarket provision in Peacehaven is unsustainable for the town – there has been significant ongoing local interest in this, and I sincerely hope that we will get some answers and firm commitments from Morrisons at this meeting.

As every year, I would like to express my thanks to all of the Town Councillors, Volunteers and Staff, who work exceptionally hard day-in-day-out, supporting the efficient running of the Town Council, and towards collective, common goals for the benefit of Peacehaven and all it's residents.



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

- East Sussex County Council (ESCC)
- District and Borough Councils, such as Lewes District Council (LDC) and Eastbourne Borough Council (EBC)
- Town and Parish Councils (e.g. Peacehaven Town Council)

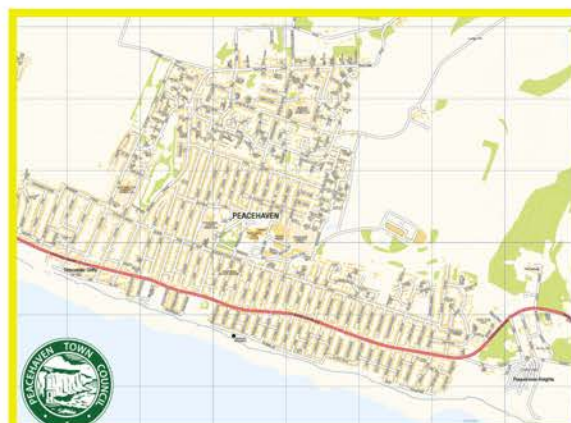
Your local town council is Peacehaven Town Council (PTC)

Alongside working with local charities, voluntary organisations, schools and Peacehaven Chamber of Commerce, PTC also works closely with LDC and ESCC. 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 2026

George Dyson
Town Clerk

☎ (01273) 585493
✉ TownClerk@peacehaventowncouncil.gov.uk



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

15th May 2026

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Wednesday 27th May 2026

7 p.m.

Main Hall, Community House

The 2026 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 Aimee Harman
2. To receive apologies for absence
3. To approve and Sign the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting, Thursday 22nd April 2025
4. Presentations from Peacehaven Town Council Committee Chairs
5. Presentation by Lewes District Council's Environment First Team
6. Presentation by the SCDA Community Supermarket
7. Presentation by representatives from Wm Morrison Supermarkets Limited
8. Refreshment Break
9. Questions & answers by representatives from Wm Morrison Supermarkets Limited
10. Public Questions to The Council
11. Meeting Closes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aimee Harman", is written over a horizontal line.

CLlr Aimee Harman, Mayor of Peacehaven

Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting 2025

George Dyson
Town Clerk

☎ (01273) 585493
✉ TownClerk@peacehaventowncouncil.gov.uk



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

Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held at Community House at 7pm on Tuesday 22nd April 2025.

Present:

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

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), Vicky Onis (Committees & Assistant Projects Officer), Steph Georgalakis (Public Relations Officer), Michael Ripley (Senior Caretaker).

Public: 37 members of the public in attendance.

1. Welcome delivered by Peacehaven Town Mayor, Councillor Debbie Donovan

Cllr Debbie Donovan welcomed everyone to the meeting, read out a statement on Civility & Respect, ran through the building fire procedures, and asked that mobile phones be put onto silent.

2. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Cheta and Cllr Ashby-Parkin.

3. To approve and Sign the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting, Thursday 23rd April 2024

Proposed by: Cllr Veck **Seconded by:** Cllr Studd

The minutes of the annual town meeting on Thursday 23rd April 2024 were **accepted** as a true record.

4. Presentations from Peacehaven Town Council Committee Chairs

Cllr Donovan asked that all Councillors briefly introduce themselves to the meeting and what Committees they sit on.

All Peacehaven Town Councillors introduced themselves, and the Committee Chairs gave a brief overview of what their respective Committees have achieved in the past year, reflective of the reports included in the Annual Report which had been circulated before and at the meeting.

Cllr Donovan also gave a summary of the Mayor's report she has written, and Cllr Gallagher spoke on the Neighbourhood Plan.

5. Presentation on the History of the Peacehaven Post

Local resident, Derek Barton, gave a presentation on the history of the Peacehaven Post, a magazine first published in September 1921, the presentation covered the contents of the Post, the people behind it, the development of Peacehaven, and some examples of articles from the Post.

6. Refreshment Break

The meeting was suspended at 20:01 for a refreshment break and reopened at 20:23.

Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting 2025

7. Public Questions to The Council

The Chair of the Resident's Association spoke about the work that they undertake and invited those present to attend their meetings.

A resident spoke to advise the meeting that he has spoken with a highways worker who informed him that the contractors are using a cheaper filler to fill in potholes in the town to save East Sussex Highways money, and to request that we request this practice stops.

The resident also advised that light aircraft are now regularly flying over Peacehaven, and that there should be some contact with the aviation authority to discuss the risks.

Another resident asked about the link to Lewes District and Eastbourne Borough Councils, Cllr Ian Alexander spoke as a District Councillor, who answered that the only shared services are the management team.

A resident also asked about development in Peacehaven, Cllr Campbell advised that the density analysis, completed as part of the Lewes District Local Plan, suggests that only about half of developments that have been given planning permission have been developed, although noted that the data is now slightly out of date.

Another resident spoke about the provision of seats at Friar's Bay steps.

Another resident advised that in September last year, the Royal Mail Sorting Office building in Peacehaven flooded, and the postal staff are still having to travel into Brighton to ensure Peacehaven gets its post, he requested that Councillors put pressure on Royal Mail to get a date on the Peacehaven building opening again. Cllr Rosser spoke in support of this, Cllr Alexander spoke about some of the background about responsibility for the repairs. Cllr Veck suggested that contacting the MP, Chris Ward, might be the best way to progress this. The Town Clerk will write to Royal Mail to establish the facts relating to this.

Another resident asked about what's happening with the Meridian Centre Development, and why Morrisons haven't been doing anything. Cllr Alexander advised that whilst Lewes District Council grant planning permission, they do not have the power to make them develop. Several others at the meeting echoed these comments about Morrisons.

Another resident spoke about the news on devolution, and in particular whether the Council will be able to sway whether Peacehaven gets absorbed into Brighton & Hove or East Sussex. Cllr Fabry reassured the meeting that there is a preference to remain with East Sussex.

There was a further comment about the poor state of pavements around the town. Cllr Gallagher advised that specific examples would need to be provided in order to make reports as necessary to the County Council, but to ensure they are reported to Councillors. Cllr Campbell further added that the Planning & Highways Committee will bring this forward as an agenda item for discussion.

A volunteer from the SCDA thanked the Town Council staff who support them each week and spoke about the work that the SCDA Community Supermarket does in Peacehaven.

8. Meeting Closes

The meeting was closed at 21:05.

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 Philip Mills
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



Cllr Amber Hart
West Ward



Cllr Debbie Donovan
West Ward

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.

Committees



Environment & Sustainability



Cllr. Griffiths - Chair & Cllr. Mills - Vice Chair

Cllr. Campbell, Cllr. Harman and Cllr. Rosser.

Cllr. Sue Griffiths

This year has seen the creation of a new committee called the Environment and Sustainability Committee which I have the honour of chairing.

The Terms of Reference of the committee is to make decisions in line with Council Policies, in particular those relating to climate change, biodiversity, nature recovery, and to be proactive in ensuring Council's carbon neutral targets are met by 2030.

Reviewing, advising on and proposing changes to policies and procedures relating to the environmental management and sustainability practices of the Council. We submit proposals for the following year to the Council no later than the end of October each year, including any proposals for revising the forecast.

As a new committee, we have been feeling our way into the work in the two meetings that we have had so far, but we have already created some significant documents.

We have updated our Action Plan and agreed on a Sustainable Procurement Policy with a checklist for ease of compliance.

The unwritten Pesticide Policy has now been formalised and includes a ban on glyphosate being used on PTC owned land.

We are also looking at biodiversity on PTC owned land and how to fund projects which will improve biodiversity and also to create a Climate Policy based on the pre-existing government climate policy, where it is relevant to Peacehaven.

There are two more meetings of the committee within this calendar year on 30th June and 3rd November.

We are looking forward to working alongside the Community Engagement Committee to put on the Peacehaven Sustainable Living Fair, which is being held on Sunday 7th June, in Centenary Park from 11am to 3pm and hope to see you all there.



Peacehaven Sustainable Living Fair

Sunday 7th June 2026

11am - 3pm

@ Centenary Park (The Big Park)

free entry

wellness area
various stalls
free bike demonstrations
live music
kite flying demonstrations
picnic area
...and much more

the gateway
cafe will be
open

Leisure & Amenities



Cllr. Sharkey - Chair & Cllr. Studd - Vice Chair

Cllr. Gallagher, Cllr. Fabry, Cllr. Donovan
and Cllr. Griffiths

Cllr. Isobel Sharkey

The lead officer for this committee is the Parks Officer Kevin Bray, who oversees a team of four ground staff and the handyman.

We meet every two months to discuss issues relating to parks and most other facilities owned by PTC, and this year we have also absorbed the responsibilities from the Highways Committee. Like all other committees, residents are welcome to attend meetings.

This year, the Leisure & Amenities Committee has collaborated with LDC to successfully resurface the MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area) Court at Centenary Park. This upgrade features a dedicated netball court for Peacehaven Netball Club and a new basketball court, addressing a previous lack of facilities in the town. While the basketball and football areas remain free for public use, the netball court is available for hire through the Town Council office.

Additionally, LDC funded the installation of a new, free-to-use pump track adjacent to the skatepark.

To improve site management, car parking spaces have been repainted and new double yellow lines installed to discourage improper parking during peak periods.

The Committee has also overseen essential maintenance across several playgrounds, including:

- A new self-closing gate at The Dell
- Repairs to the seesaw equipment at Firlie Road
- Updated safety signage throughout all playgrounds and the skatepark

The Grounds Team has completed several infrastructure projects, such as installing inclusive park entrances at The Oval and a new bench on the A259. Security at the bowling green has been enhanced with a new boundary fence, and the War Memorial in Meridian Park has been upgraded with a bonded resin surface to ensure safe footing for those laying wreaths.

Finally, in line with the Council's Net Zero climate targets, the team has transitioned to more sustainable operations by replacing an old diesel mower with a new battery-powered ride-on unit.



New battery powered mower



The oval entrance improvements



New MUGA Court

Personnel



Cllr. Fabry - Chair & Cllr. Veck - Vice Chair
Cllr. Campbell, Cllr. Alexander, Cllr. Donovan,
Cllr. Gallagher, Cllr. Harman and Cllr. Davies

Cllr. Nikki Fabry

Our PTC Officers represent both our greatest strength and our largest budget consideration. The Personnel Committee is responsible for staffing matters, and we have a supportive and collaborative working relationship with George Dyson, our excellent Town Clerk.

We are extremely fortunate to benefit from a full complement of staff, an effective HR system, and solid, robust administrative processes. Many officers have worked at the Town Council for a number of years, and we highly value both their experience and the support they provide in welcoming and mentoring newer members of staff.

We recognise effective staffing starts at the top, and Wendy and I would like to thank George for his management over the past year of a large and diverse staff team. Alongside George, Zoe P, our Meeting & Projects Officer, deputising for George when necessary and Zoe M, our Responsible Financial Officer, keep us within budget and manage council projects. Karen, Vicky, Steph and Jessa respond to residents, manage grant applications, PTC communications and civic events. Michael's Caretaking Team with Dan and Michael keep a clean and welcoming Community House and Kevin's Grounds Team of Tom, Luca, Andy, Andy and Des work extremely hard to ensure our parks and green spaces are well-managed and safe.

Of course, this is a very simplified description of all officer roles which are often responsive to needs and consist of a high proportion of statutory responsibilities.

George has ensured all staff are encouraged to take part in professional development as part of their roles. This is of significant value to our Town Council and we would like to commend all staff for the commitment they have to training.

At the heart of maintaining a positive workforce is staff welfare. Our joint staff-councillor Wellbeing Group has worked hard to achieve the East Sussex Bronze Wellbeing at Work Award, and we are now working towards Silver.

We are fortunate to have a positive, forward-thinking, and extremely competent group of staff who work hard for Peacehaven, well able to navigate the new unitary authority by putting Peacehaven front and central in all up-and-coming changes. As the role of the Town Council becomes increasingly important going forward, it is vital that we continue to support and value our greatest asset: our staff.



Policy & Finance



Cllr. Alexander – Chair & Cllr. Mills – Vice Chair
Cllr. Campbell, Cllr. Harman and Cllr. Rosser

Cllr. Ian Alexander

The Committee is responsible for managing the Council's budget, assets and ensuring that Council Policies are up to date and in accordance with the law.

The Committee is made up of the Chair of Council –the Mayor, their Deputy, the four Chairs of the other Council Committees and three 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

We also look at all the policies of the Council, reviewing and adopting them or preparing them for Full Council to agree where needed. Having the Chairs of the other committees means that we are aware of most of what is going on across the Council, so we can ensure that things run smoothly without duplication. At the moment, we are also responsible for Community House.

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

- Increase in staff salaries as agreed nationally – for the Financial Year 26/27 we have had to put aside an increase of 7.1%, which covers the potential pay rise and annual 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 – We are continuing to set aside money for repairs and replacement of Community House infrastructure, putting aside £50,000 per year as we renew time-expired equipment such as boilers, heating systems and updating of essential fire precautions.
- Grass cutting – This is contracted out to ESCC and their new contract has built-in increases every year, this has gone up by 26.5% (last year's increase was 40%) for 26/27, from £16,178 to £20,842. The Council has looked at other suppliers of the service but was unable to find anyone cheaper. To a lot of our residents, the condition of the grass verges are a symbol of how well we are performing, others may accept fewer cuts but this would mean longer verges.

We are continuing with plans to improve The Hub, using Community Infrastructure Levy money (CIL) from LDC to fund 50% of the cost, the other 50% coming from local CIL money. We are also preparing a bid to go to LDC for additional CIL money to extend The Hub so we can have additional space available for users. We have appointed an architect to work on plans ready to submit our bid to LDC.

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

Planning



**Cllr. Gordon-Garrett - Chair
& Cllr. Campbell - Vice Chair**

Cllr. Sharkey, Cllr. Davies, Cllr. Rosser
and Cllr. Wood

Cllr. Kiera Gordon-Garrett

Overview of the Committee's Role

The Planning Committee's work is fourfold:

- Planning Input – providing local knowledge to support LDC in its decision-making on planning applications
- Resident Advocacy – raising and pursuing individual resident's concerns with the relevant authorities
- Service Delivery – improving services for residents within the Town Council's limited powers
- Strategic Representation – ensuring that Peacehaven's voice is heard by the local authorities that shape policy and make decisions with long-term impacts on the town

Committee Meetings and Engagement

Due to LDC's statutory deadlines for determining planning applications, the Planning Committee meets approximately every three weeks. Two types of meetings alternate with 'Planning Applications Only' meetings and 'Planning Applications and General Business' meetings - which also considers wider issues.

The Committee is committed to public engagement. Each meeting begins with an open session of at least 15 minutes, during which residents are invited to raise questions and concerns. Residents are actively encouraged to attend.

Planning Applications

PTC has no decision-making authority over planning applications; this responsibility rests with LDC and, in some cases other statutory bodies. Most applications considered are small in scale.

The Planning Committee may:

- Support a planning application
- Recommend that applications be approved subject to specific conditions, or
- Request that LDC refuse an application altogether

During 2025–26, two particularly controversial applications stood out:

- The proposed replacement of the former Dewdrop Inn with flats
- A proposed glamping site in the Valley area.

The latter has been under consideration for over a year, attracting significant public comment. A decision is expected shortly from the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) and ESCC.

Supporting Residents and Managing Expectations

During the year, the Committee formally changed its name from "Planning and Highways" to "Planning". This decision was made to reduce misunderstanding among residents about the Town Council's responsibilities. The inclusion of "Highways" had led many residents to assume that PTC was directly responsible for issues such as potholes, which are the responsibility of ESCC. Alternative titles, including "Planning and Infrastructure", were considered but rejected, as these risked further confusion over matters such as drainage and water supply. While the Town Council has direct responsibility for only a small number of infrastructure assets (such as parks), it believes strongly in its duty to advocate on behalf of residents.

Throughout the year, Council Officers – particularly a member of the Planning Committee's Officer Team – have worked tirelessly to assist residents. Requests ranged from faulty street lighting and inconsiderate parking to potholes. By building effective working relationships with Officers at LDC and ESCC, significant progress has often been achieved.

Services for Residents

The Planning Committee has worked collaboratively with other parts of PTC to improve services within its legal remit. Notable achievements include:

- Cleaning and improving the area around The Monument, including the installation of a new information board
- Delivering a long-overdue update to Peacehaven's street map, which had not been revised for over 20 years

The new map reflects recent development, will be available both in print (at PTC reception) and digitally, and will enable residents to locate important facilities – such as Safe Spaces and defibrillators – quickly on smartphones. In time, it will also include accurate walking, cycling and horse-riding routes.

Strategic Advocacy and Policy Work

In the long term, advocacy may represent the Committee's most important function. This work is largely responsive but always evidence-based, with councillors undertaking detailed research.

Examples from the year include:

- Preparing and submitting applications to ESCC for new double yellow line restrictions to address safety and access concerns raised by residents
- Coordinating ward-level research by councillors, subsequently converted by officers into formal submissions
- Supporting public consultation processes prior to final decisions, which may take many months

The Committee's most significant piece of strategic work this year was its response to the Lewes District Council Local Plan to 2042. This included requesting the designation of Local Green Spaces and highlighting the infrastructure deficiencies already affecting Peacehaven. Four councillors undertook extensive research to support PTC's formal response.

Responsibility for work relating specifically to Nature and Biodiversity has now transferred to the Environment and Sustainability Committee.

Business and Community Plan Work

One Business and Community Plan project progressed to the research stage this year and included consideration of a comprehensive survey of pedestrian crossings and related safety measures that might be requested of ESCC to improve pedestrian safety in Peacehaven, from which it was resolved to *'...provisional long-term proposals for improvement in pedestrian crossings, traffic islands and other related highway matters, subject to public consultation and confirmation by Planning Committee...'*, and reflects the Committee's ongoing concern for road and pedestrian safety.

Community Engagement



Cllr. Veck - Chair & Cllr. Wood- Vice Chair,
Cllr. Studd, Cllr. Harman, Cllr. Donovan
and Cllr. Sharkey

Cllr. Wendy Veck

Introduction

Thank you for reading our annual report. This year, the committee has experienced major changes, refocusing on communications and events linked directly to the Council's activities. We have built strong partnerships with Steph Georgalakis, our Public Relations Officer, and are pleased to welcome Jessa Chapman as our new Civic & Events Officer. Both have made invaluable contributions behind the scenes.

Inclusion Project

With a new mandate, we've concentrated on our Inclusion Project. This project supports residents struggling to maintain friendships or social connections. Our studies found that digital exclusion is prominent in Peacehaven, especially among older adults who face difficulties with tasks like making appointments, seeing doctors, or managing banking online. Many newcomers also want to engage locally but aren't sure where to start.

The Welcome Cafe Initiative

To tackle these challenges, we launched 'The Welcome Cafe' during the winter, staffed entirely by volunteers. It provides free tea, coffee, cakes, and pastries – with small donations for food ensuring hot drinks remain free for everyone. The Cafe has been well received by locals, and we have offered warm coats to those in need. The Havens Food Cooperative have donated bread and cakes weekly. The Welcome Cafe has run Mondays from 10am to 1pm, with the last one held on 30th March and is scheduled to return on 5th October 2026. We've received generous support from organisations such as: LDC's Environment First, Neighbourhood First and Homes First, plus Lewes District Citizens Advice, A Touch of Gentleness, Sussex Police, and East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service. Special thanks go to Neil Peters, a steadfast helper who assists with recycling matters, every other week.

Communications Project

Improving communications has been another key focus. We're committed to broadcasting the message that Community House is open and welcoming. We've strengthened our digital presence through *Peacehaven News*, a bi-monthly online magazine packed with council and local updates. Our Facebook page is kept current with news, events, and important information – join us there! For those who prefer printed materials, our office staff are available at Community House's Information Desk to help answer questions.

Youth Involvement

Engaging young people is now central to our communication efforts. Previously, youth involvement was limited, but this year we've benefited from active participation by Youth Mayors, Deputies, and the Mayor's Cadet who have highlighted the significance of youth voices. In partnership with The JOFF Youth Hub, it was agreed we host a Youth Disco at Community House in April and are looking to plan more. We have some exciting new plans in the pipeline, more information will be available soon across our different communication channels.

Events

Our year began with the biennial Summer Fair at Centenary Park – a lively day opened by Deputy Mayor Cllr. Aimee Harman. Next up is our Sustainable Living Fair on Sunday 7th June, spotlighting sustainable living and offering inspiration, engaging stalls, and delicious local food.

If you would like to join the Sustainable Living Fair, please contact jessachapman@peacehaventowncouncil.gov.uk

All our meetings are open to the public. Details can be found on the PTC website where you can also sign up for our bi-monthly newsletter online—or pick up a paper copy at Community House, if you prefer.



Mayor's Report 2025-26

Cllr. Deborah Donovan



Thank you for your support and kindness.

Over the past two years, it has been a profound honour to serve the people of Peacehaven. My term has been defined by a commitment to visibility, community cohesion, and the celebration of our town's unique character. By visiting numerous local organisations, schools and businesses, I have witnessed first hand the vibrant spirit that makes Peacehaven so special.

Community Spirit and Charitable Impact

The kindness of our residents was most evident in their support for my chosen charity, **Seahaven Community Supermarket**. Together, we raised vital funds and awareness through a diverse calendar of events, including:

- **Monthly Bingo Sessions** (thank you to Lucy & Sherral) and competitive **Quizzes** (thank you to Rose & Malcolm) and **Race Nights** (thank you to Len & Nick)
- **Festive Easter Craft Fairs**, (thank you to Yvette & Jessa) that showcased local creativity
- **The Christmas Sizzler**, a reimagined event, where our local churches came together with our community, to celebrate festive music, carols and songs

Civic Duty and Local Partnerships

I have been proud to represent the town at all **Royal British Legion** civic occasions, ensuring we continue to honour those who served.

My work alongside the **Horticultural Society** aimed to raise its profile and identify the work it achieves, while my regular attendance at **Peacehaven Chamber of Commerce** breakfasts and committee meetings allowed me to advocate for, and support, our local business economy.

The Muslim community in Peacehaven is a growing and resilient part of the town's fabric, with the Peacehaven Mosque (also known as the Peace Community Centre) serving as a central hub for worship, youth education, and community outreach. Overcoming recent challenges, including a suspected arson attack in October 2025, the community has seen an outpouring of local solidarity and has actively worked to build "*sound relations with all communities*". We enjoyed a community gathering at the Council Office in January 2026, featuring a selection of food to foster mutual understanding.

Leaving a Lasting Legacy

I am particularly proud of two initiatives designed to celebrate Peacehaven's heritage and future:

- **The Meridian Line Meander**: A now-established three-mile walk that invites residents and visitors to explore the town's most significant landmarks. A beautifully designed map can be found at the council offices
- **The Community Wall**: Currently in development with the young people at **The JOFF Youth Hub**, this mural will feature the iconic Peacehaven ammonite, blending local history with the artistic application of our youth and will be displayed at Community House

It was a deeply moving experience to lead the community in honouring the **80th anniversary of VJ Day** on 15th August 2025. During the commemorations at Centenary Park (The Big Park), I had the honour of planting a memorial tree and burying a time capsule filled with "*Letters to Loved Ones*" to ensure the bravery of the Second World War generation is never forgotten. A commemorative plaque marking this site can now be found within the park.

On 21st April Peacehaven marked the centenary year of the birth of our late Queen Elizabeth II. I raised the Union flag and planted a tree at centenary park to celebrate and commemorate the occasion.

As I look back on these two years, I am filled with gratitude for the "amazing" community that supported these endeavours. It has been a privilege to work alongside you.

During my term, I was consistently inspired by the promising young leaders who supported our civic life. My sincere thanks go to Sea Cadet **Zack Osborne**, whose unwavering dedication during civic duties was exemplary. I also celebrate the growth and leadership shown by our Youth Mayors – **Amber, Katelyn, Karena, and Ruby** – and their deputies, **Jacob and Daniel**, all of whom served with distinction.

It has been an absolute joy to serve as your Mayor, but I couldn't have done it without my wonderful daughter, **Rhiannon**, by my side. As **Mayor's Consort** over these past two years, Rhiannon has provided enormous support, balancing the role with grace and dedication. Not only has she been a constant source of strength, but she has also been the eye behind the lens—capturing those special moments and sharing the stories of our community through her photography. Rhiannon, thank you for being there for every ribbon-cutting, tea party, and community milestone. I am so proud to have shared this journey with you.

I am also deeply grateful to council members, the **Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Aimee Harman** and **staff** for their support.

I must also pay tribute to **Seahaven Community Supermarket**. The selfless volunteers who support the Seahaven Community Supermarket and dedicated support staff are the heart of this part of **Sussex Community Development Association (SCDA)**, an organisation providing vital, unwavering care to our community.

I have been incredibly proud to support this project. This initiative is more than just a food service; it is a vital lifeline that fosters resilience and connection across our coastal towns. The Community Supermarkets in Peacehaven and Newhaven serve over 230 local families every week, ensuring that everyone has access to healthy, affordable, and nutritious food. The charity provides a welcoming weekly service for a donation of just £3 per week for a complete shop. This model preserves dignity and offers a sense of belonging, with some of our community members attending just for the social aspect. Whether it is through the community cafés, which offer a warm space for a chat and a cup of tea, or the direct support of the Community Navigators, the charity is working together to tackle the underlying causes of food insecurity.

It has been a privilege to recently mark several milestones for our town. I was honoured to unveil a new defibrillator at the **Peacehaven Evangelical Church**, made possible through the generous donation of **Ross Patrick** and **Port Manor Care Home** in Seaford. This life-saving equipment is a vital addition to our community's wellbeing.

I also had the pleasure of officially reopening the **Peacehaven Stonehouse Pizza and Carvery** following its recent refurbishment. It was wonderful to see the fresh new look and celebrate this local business's investment in our town.

Gyrohaven has been a popular eating place since I opened the restaurant in July 2025. Michael and Nancy are always welcoming, and the food is plentiful. Watch out for the new themed events.

A brand new initiative for Peacehaven is '**Little City**', which supports projects that encourage early years development and provides safe, engaging spaces for our youngest residents, and is a priority for Peacehaven, and I am delighted to see Dani Sean's vision come to life here in the town.

On Friday 8th May, I attended the **Seahaven Business Awards**. I have been working with and supporting our local businesses throughout my term in office. This prestigious awards ceremony is always a memorable event, celebrating the best of our local business community.

My term comes to a close on 12th May, serving as your Mayor has been a true privilege, but the highlight has undoubtedly been the time spent meeting the incredible, kind-hearted people who make our community so special.

While I bid you a formal farewell in my official capacity, I take with me wonderful memories of the spirit and resilience of Peacehaven. I will however, remain as a West Ward councillor for the rest of my four year term and will continue to fight for the supermarket we so desperately deserve, complete various projects and keep an eye on the pothole situation.

Thank you for welcoming me so warmly over the past two years.

Take care of yourselves and stay safe.

Debbie
Cllr. Debbie Donovan



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