

# Peacehaven Town Council

## Annual Report 2021/2022



*Community House, Meridian Centre, Meridian Way*

*Peacehaven, East Sussex, BN10 8BB*

*Tel: 01273 585493*

*Email: [Info@peacehaventowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Info@peacehaventowncouncil.gov.uk)*

*Website: [www.peacehaventowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.peacehaventowncouncil.gov.uk)*

*Facebook: [www.facebook.com/PeacehavenTownCouncil](http://www.facebook.com/PeacehavenTownCouncil)*

*Twitter: [www.twitter.com/PeacehavenTown](http://www.twitter.com/PeacehavenTown)*

*Instagram: [www.instagram.com/peacehavenc](http://www.instagram.com/peacehavenc)*

# The Role of Peacehaven Town Council

**The Council:** The Council is a legal corporate body, entirely separate from, but comprising, its Members.

The Council has a duty to appoint a Chairman / Mayor, a Clerk, a Responsible Financial Officer (often this will be the Clerk) and an Internal Auditor (among other things).

It must convene an Annual Meeting of the Council in addition to at least a further three meetings each year. Further meetings must be convened if requested by the Chair, or by any two Members.

The Council has a duty to consider all relevant matters brought before it in a proper manner; to make informed judgements, decisions and recommendations and, by instruction to the Clerk, to implement the same.

The Council has responsibilities towards its employees under Health and Safety legislation and may take responsibility for the provision and / or maintenance of (for example) open spaces, allotments, footpaths and litter bins and may appoint School Governors.

Maps of Peacehaven Wards are available on the Peacehaven Town Council Website [www.peacehaventowncouncil.gov.uk/ward-maps](http://www.peacehaventowncouncil.gov.uk/ward-maps) as are further details on your Councillors.

Peacehaven Town Council produces a monthly E-News magazine. This is an effective way of keeping in touch with our local community. Details can be found on our website on how to subscribe and how to place an advertisement:

<http://www.peacehaventowncouncil.gov.uk/e-news-magazine/>

# The Mayor of Peacehaven

As my Mayoral Year comes to a close, it is somewhat of an understatement for me to say that it didn't quite go as planned.

As some residents will know, I was diagnosed with lung cancer in September of last year and so took the decision to go on sick leave for at least six months. I had hoped, as well as to raise money for my chosen charities, to raise the profile of the visual arts and music in Peacehaven, but it was not to be.

In the first few months, I was able to attend events of course. From hosting the first NHS and Carers Day here at the War Memorial Gardens to representing Peacehaven at the Dieppe Memorial in Newhaven, to being interviewed on Seahaven FM. This and of course chairing full Council Meetings.

I was also able to attend events held by two of my three charities – CATS Club Open Day and its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party, and Dean's Senior Tea Club's 'Opening Up Again Get Together' in Saltdean with some great entertainment.

After that, Deputy Mayor Cllr Gloria Hill took over until she too was also taken ill.

I don't yet know how successful my chemo and radiotherapy have been, but I will find out soon and with luck I will be back to regular Council duties soon.

We have a summer of events coming up and I wish my successor all the best in a role that is a real honour to hold.

**Councillor Isobel Sharkey**  
**Mayor 2021-2022**  
**Peacehaven Town Council**



## The New Mayor of Peacehaven – 2022-2023

On 10<sup>th</sup> May, Councillor Lucy Jo Symonds was elected as the new Mayor of Peacehaven Town for the year 2022 to 2023 by a unanimous vote from all her Peacehaven Town Councillor colleagues.

On being elected, Lucy said: “I am very privileged and honoured to have been elected as Mayor of Peacehaven Town. I would like to thank Councillor Sharkey and Councillor Hill for their representations as Mayor and Deputy Mayor and for all they have given to the town in their respective positions despite some very difficult challenges that they have been faced with during their term. I will work hard to continue to build on all the fantastic work and results they have achieved.

“In addition, I would like to thank my fellow Councillors who, during the last three years, have shown great dedication and commitment to the town and who give so much of their time working over a range of different committees to make positive and needed changes for the community - despite having to work against unforeseen circumstances and unprecedented times such as the COVID pandemic. I have gained so much knowledge from them and looking forward to being able to continue to provide any - and all - support that I can.

“Peacehaven is a wonderful place to live. I think after 38 years I can say that I am in a good position to reflect on this especially as I have lived in the town as a teenager and single mum.

“I have seen many changes over the years, but the biggest change has been with regard to the development of the town with an increase in the number of residents and a decrease in the services that are provided to them - and the town.

“However, we have recently seen the strong community network that has been building, where residents are coming together to fight against these losses - especially with the predicted library closure and the redevelopment of the Meridian Centre.

“It is so important to have the links with residents, as the Town Council is limited to what it can do. However, with the support of the community and the proactive work from the Councillors, we can try to influence change with both Local and County Councils to start to revitalise and rejuvenate our town.

“During my term as Mayor, I would like to focus on reducing isolation for all, increasing participation and inclusion - and creating more opportunities.

“I want to support organisations and charities to increase their memberships and look at ways that we - as a community - can create new activities and groups for everyone so that no one should have to feel, or be, alone.

“Isolation has a significant impact on both our physical and mental wellbeing and therefore by addressing this and creating new ways of engagement and participation for everyone, we can try to minimise the impact that this has on us.

“This is going to be a very busy year where I will be taking full advantage of the Deputy Mayor, Councillor David Seabrook – and, as most Councillors are aware, I do like to create ideas and make them to happen.”



**The Mayor of Peacehaven Town, Councillor Lucy Jo Symonds  
2022-2023**



**Jon Borthwick, Peacehaven Town's Town Crier with new Mayor, Cllr Lucy Jo Symonds and new Deputy Mayor, Cllr David Seabrook at their election on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at Community House.**

# Councillors

Peacehaven Town Council has a complement of 17 Members covering East, North, West and Central Wards. They represent more than 20,000+ residents and will sit on Peacehaven Town Council until the next election in May 2023.

The primary role of a Councillor is to represent their individual Ward and the residents who live in it. Councillors have a central part to play in making decisions that impact on their Ward and across the whole Council.

Becoming a Councillor can be a rewarding form of public service that puts people in a position where they can make a difference to the quality of someone's life. However, being a Councillor involves a lot of hard work. Every day, Councillors have to balance the needs and interests of their residents, voters, the Council and their personal lives.

A Councillor's role takes in:

- Ward representation
- Decision making
- Policy and strategy review and development
- Overview and scrutiny
- Regulatory duties
- Community leadership and networking

## Your Councillors



## Powers & Duties

Local Councils have a wide range of powers and duties. The following table sets out the main ones:

Function	Powers & Duties	Statutory Provisions
<b>Allotments</b>	Duty to provide allotments. Power to improve and adapt land for allotments, and to let grazing rights	Small Holding & Allotments Act 1908, ss. 23, 26, and 42
<b>Bus Shelters</b>	Power to provide and maintain shelters	Local Government (Miscellaneous Provision) Act 1953, s. 4
<b>Clocks</b>	Power to provide public clocks	Parish Councils Act 1957, s.2
<b>Community Centres</b>	Power to provide and equip buildings for use of clubs having athletic, social or recreational objectives	Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s.19
<b>Conduct</b>	Duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct	Localism Act 2011, s.27
<b>Crime Prevention</b>	Duty on Parish Councils to consider crime reduction in every policy and action	s17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended)
<b>Dogs</b>	Power to make a Dog Control Order. Power to take enforcement action against those who commit an offence against a Dog Control Order	Cleaner Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005
<b>Entertainment and the Arts</b>	Provision of entertainment and support of the arts	Local Government Act 1972, s.145
<b>General Power of Competence</b>	Power to do anything that an individual may do (eligible Councils only)	Localism Act 2011, s.1
<b>Land</b>	Power to acquire by agreement, to appropriate, to dispose of. Power to accept gifts of land	Local Government Act 1972, ss.124, 126, 127 Local Government Act 1972, s.139
<b>Litter</b>	Provision of receptacles. Power to take enforcement action against those that litter	Litter Act 1983, ss.5,6 Cleaner Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005
<b>Neighbourhood Planning</b>	Power to create a Neighbourhood Plan and other development mechanisms	Localism Act, s.116

<b>Open Spaces</b>	Power to acquire land and maintain	Public Health Act 1875, s.164 Open Spaces Act 1906, ss.9 and 10
<b>Public Buildings and Village Hall</b>	Power to provide buildings for public meetings and assemblies	Local Government Act 1972, s.133
<b>Public Conveniences</b>	Power to provide	Public Health Act 1936, s.87
<b>Sustainable Communities</b>	Able to be represented on a panel of representatives to be consulted on proposals that would contribute to sustainable communities	Sustainable Communities Act 2007
<b>War Memorials</b>	Power to maintain, repair, protect and alter war memorials	War Memorials (Local Authorities' Powers) Act 1923, s.1; as extended by Local Government Act 1948, s.133

## Council Officers & Team



Tony Allen  
Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) and  
Town Clerk



Sue Moscatelli  
Events, Amenities and Projects Officer



Zoe Malone  
Finance Officer



Michael Ripley  
Senior Caretaker



Leigh O'loughlin  
Communications and Marketing Officer



Vicky Onis  
Committees and Assistant Projects Officer



Karen Bray  
Information and Bookings Officer



Kevin Bray  
Parks Officer



Daniel Tiller  
Caretaker / Electrician



Michael Dawes  
Caretaker



Tom James  
First Assistant Groundsman



Andy Heffernan  
Groundsman



Gianluca Fossella  
Groundsman



Des Baker  
Groundsman



Andy Picton  
Maintenance and Reserve Caretaker

Deputy Clerk and Civic Officer

Post to be filled June 2022

## Policy & Finance

This year as Peacehaven Town Council set its precept for 21/22, we were still mindful that the globe was only just beginning to recover from a pandemic. This was clearly going to have a long-term impact not just on the Council's finances, but also on the residents of Peacehaven.

The Council also needed to continue to rebuild the financial position that it inherited in 2019. To ensure that a council can continue to provide its services it needs to have financial security. The Policy and Finance Committee has been committed from day one to giving the Council a solid base to deliver its services. As Chair for the Committee, I'm exceedingly grateful for all the work carried out by the Finance Team at Peacehaven, the RFO and Finance Officer. They have worked above and beyond to reduce the Council's exposure to debt and increase revenue.

Their work has help deliver a solid base for the future of Peacehaven, despite the global pandemic. The table below illustrates the sound fiscal base the Council will work from in the next year.

General Reserves	
2018/2019	£86,131
2019/2020	£86,357
2020/2021	£130,960
2021/2022	£131,155

Now that the Financial Year is closed and the Council Officer has delivered another exemplar audit, here are the annual figures which have been verified by Mulberry & Co.

	2020/21	2021/22
Balances Bought Forward;	413,546	576,378
Precept	644,160	640,705
Other receipts	193,895	285,071
Staff Costs	431,500	481,089
Payments	243,723	392,407
Balances carried forward	576,378	628,658
Total Value of cash	496,114	622,686
Fixed assets	3,247,765	3,573,033

# Leisure, Amenities & Environment

As Chair of the Leisure, Amenities and Environment Committee along with Vice Chair Cllr L Symonds, Cllr E Simmonds, Cllr D Seabrook, Cllr G Hill, Cllr C Gallagher, Cllr I Sharkey, Cllr D Paul, Cllr W Veck, Cllr R White, Cllr C Cheta and Cllr J Harris, we have the responsibility of managing and caring for most of Peacehaven's Parks and Open Spaces.

Coming out of Covid 19 restrictions projects are finally starting to take place alongside the regular maintenance, litter picking and the use of our parks for exercise and sports activities.

## **Trees planted this year:**

- Rowan Tree donated by a resident for Epinay Park
- Twenty trees donated by the South Downs National Park Authority were planted at the east end of Centenary Park
- For the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, two Silver Birch Trees were planted by the Deputy Mayor and the Women's Institute (WI) and 25 bare rooted trees donated by the Gateway Café were planted by the Head Teacher and students of PCS in Centenary Park
- Thirteen trees have been planted along the Southern Water service road in a partnership with Brighton Permaculture Trust and jointly funded with the Urban Tree Challenge Fund

## **The Dell:**

The project for which we received £6,000 from the Lewes District CIL Fund has now been finished with the provision of a Water Refill Station, which was opened by the Chairman of Lewes District Council, Cllr Christine Brett and Deputy Mayor of Peacehaven, Cllr Gloria Hill.

## **Firle Road Play Area:**

A new inclusive style roundabout is to replace the old one which has reached the end of its life.

## **Epinay Park and The Oval:**

A survey of residents is taking place about what residents think of and what they would like to see in these parks. The survey is on the Peacehaven Town Council website at:

(<https://www.peacehaventowncouncil.gov.uk/the-oval-and-epinay-park-public-consultations-your-views-matter/>) or a hard copy can be picked up from the Information Office at Community House.

## **Centenary Park:**

A new toddler swing has been installed. The paving to the north of the Gateway Café has been completed and they will soon be providing a kiosk there which will reduce the queues in the building.

The CCTV around the Café and Bowls Club is to be upgraded so that it is linked to the Police.

The plans for improving the bridleway into the Park have now been drawn up by an engineer and will be going out to tender in the near future.

**Other News:**

The Council has agreed to seek a Deed of Dedication for the land known as Peacehaven Community Orchard which offers very strong protection of the site.

All the Grounds Team's hand held equipment - such as strimmers - are being changed from petrol to battery to reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

Thanks go to all our staff, Councillors, SDNPA and volunteers for all the work over the last year.

**Cllr Sue Griffiths**

## Personnel Committee

After many months of having several staff vacancies which has significantly held back progress of the Council's various projects, we have now appointed an Events, Amenities and Projects Officer, Sue Moscatelli, and Leigh O'Loughlin our new Marketing and Communications Officer. I would like to welcome them to the Town Council and are all looking forward to working with them in the future. We have also appointed two new caretakers, Dan Tiller and more recently Michael Dawes, who many of you will know from when he worked here before.

Debbie had completed almost 20 years of dedicated service with the Council, and she will be missed. Debbie always had the residents of Peacehaven uppermost in her mind in everything she did and passionately arranged numerous and varied events for the public. Debbie's negotiating skills in obtaining sponsorship and attracting top class events would shame any contestant on the BBC's 'The Apprentice'. Debbie's work as our Civic Officer was first class. Her support of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor was highly professional and her arrangements for the various memorial/flag days ran like clockwork. We will all miss Debbie.

We are still looking to recruit a Deputy Clerk / Civic Officer. In the meantime, Lisa Hayward will be looking after the Civic Office and our Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Training is very much at the forefront of the Personnel Committee, and we have implemented an extensive training programme for both staff and Councillors.

Most staff have now returned to the office after the Covid lockdowns, but we still have our hybrid working policy in place that allows them to work from home, when necessary. The Council has provided all of the technology needed to make this possible during the lockdowns. We look forward to getting a full complement of staff in the near future and can then move forward with our many projects.

**Cllr David Seabrook**  
**Community Champion Councillor**

# CCTV Working Party

With the ongoing crime and ASB within the town over the past few years, there appeared to be no significant deterrent in the town to reduce. CCTV can provide this deterrent and linking in with the Sussex Police Partnership, allows Sussex Police to monitor these cameras and use any evidence obtained from the CCTV for its investigations. The only CCTV that the Town Council held was at The Big Park which has become dated and incurred high costs following requests for CCTV.

On 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021, it was agreed by the Council that a CCTV Development Working Party could be formed to produce a full feasibility report on the following:

- a. Identify the types of CCTV available e.g., SMART CCTV or linked to the GRID
- b. Identify the costs involved of CCTV
- c. Identify the requirements of CCTV in respect of needs for the town
- d. Identify sources of funding
- e. Consult with the residents on areas of concern

From this date the Working Party has:

- Obtained an analysis of hot spots in the area
- Carried out research of CCTV units including solar energy to meet Climate Change
- Arranged presentations from Sussex Police and Digital Marketing
- Had on site meetings with Sussex Police and Chromavision
- Presented a phased approach of development in the town
- Obtained quotes for works to be carried out for Phase 1

Through the reports presented to the Leisure and Amenities Committee and Full Council, we have now had agreed by the Policy and Finance Committee to use Peacehaven CIL money for the cost of works to upgrade the existing CCTV at The Big Park as Phase 1.

Once the new equipment has been installed, discussions with Sussex Police will then be held to progress with the partnership.

Phase 2 will continue to be researched in the coming year.

**CLlr Lucy Symonds**

## Planning & Highways

The Planning and Highways Committee meets every three weeks. Perhaps more than any other committee, it often gets members of the public attending, and we appreciate hearing the views of residents when a planning application comes before us.

We are an advisory committee and our recommendations for applications go on to Lewes District Council (as the Planning Authority) for a final decision. When an application is contentious, a Committee Member will try to attend the District Council Planning Committee and put our case to the District Councillors.

Of course, many of the applications that come to us are quite small scale: private householders building a small extension or a loft conversion. We continue to see applications for developing detached bungalows into larger dwellings or multiple properties. It is often difficult to object to these on planning grounds, but of course they do have an accumulative effect on our population and strain on our roads and other infrastructure.

There are also larger developments. The Chalkers Rise estate is now into Phase 3 of its development and continues to cause concerns for some local residents. The Town Council continues to support its residents through the Developers' Liaison Working Group where we can try to resolve issues with Barratts and the District Council.

The Committee is also concerned with improving residents' safety and has recently formed the Public Safety Group, which covers road safety, Community Speedwatch, CCTV deployment and any other initiatives that will make our town safer for its residents.

**Tony Allen**  
**Town Clerk**

# Civic & Community Events

## **Members of the Committee:**

Cllr L Duhigg, Chair, Cllr W Veck, Vice Chair, Cllr L Symonds, Cllr E Simmons, Cllr G Hill, Cllr Katie Sanderson, Cllr J Harris and Cllr D Paul.

The Civic and Community Events calendar for 2021/22 has been another difficult year due to the Coronavirus, with so many of the favourite community events having to be cancelled.

The Civic and Community Events Committee has been as conscientious as always during the past year and was well supported and advised at all times by the Civic and Community Events Officer, Mrs Deborah Donovan.

The Peacehaven Community Remembrance Day was preceded by a march with residents walking from the Joff Field to the Memorial in Meridian Park. The Commemoration Walk was followed by complimentary tea and biscuits at Community House.

Events including Wrestling Spectaculars, regular Bingo sessions and the popular Cinema evenings screening the latest films have recently returned and, as of the 1st April, Coffee Mornings have resumed in the Foyer at Community House.

A wonderful party was held on the afternoon of Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March to celebrate and congratulate Peacehaven Town Council's Deputy Clerk, Civic and Community Events Officer, Deborah Donovan on her retirement.

The heart-felt and touching retirement party marked nearly 20 years of Deborah's devoted service to the residents of Peacehaven and Peacehaven Town Council. During the party, Deborah was congratulated by many of her colleagues and friends on her well-earned retirement after so many years of admirable commitment and dedication to not only Peacehaven Town Council, but to the wider community of Peacehaven as well.

We welcome Sue Moscatelli, who is Peacehaven Town Council new Events, Amenities and Projects officer. Sue has over 30 years of marketing experience, managing brands, marketing campaigns, promotional activity, new products, PR and high-profile events for both large and small companies.

Leigh O'loughlin joins us as our new Marketing and Communications Officer. Leigh is responsible for the monthly E-News, the Council's website, social media accounts, photography and advertising. Leigh will also assist at Council events and Civic functions.

We also welcome Lisa Hayward who is managing the Civic and Mayor's engagements until a permanent replacement for Deborah can be appointed.

## **Peacehaven History Group**

The Community History Group Working Party is ongoing and has been formed to connect with residents that have an interest in the town of Peacehaven. The aim is to research, collect and keep information found to eventually display in a museum.

## **Towards Zero Carbon Peacehaven**

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April saw residents, businesses, visitors of the local community visiting Community House and Centenary Park (The Big Park) to enjoy and experience Peacehaven Town Council's first 'Towards Zero Carbon Event'.

The day was fun, enjoyable and informative, and demonstrated how everyone can help Peacehaven to move towards Zero Carbon.



**Cllr Lynda Duhigg, Chair, Civic and Community Events**  
**Cllr Wendy Veck, Vice Chair, Civic and Community Events**

# Climate Change Working Party

The Climate Change Working Party organised a very successful event at the beginning of April 2022 with the aim of providing information and help to residents so that they can make changes to reduce their carbon footprint.

The event was sponsored by Rampion Offshore and an electric bus was provided by Big Lemon to bring people to the event at Community House. The Seahaven FM Team were there all day to help with the continuity of the event.

The event also had many exhibitors, demonstrations and stalls. Dr Bike, in partnership with Cycle Seahaven, gave free bike checks at Peacehaven Cycle Hub in The Big Park, Cycling Without Age gave visitors free trishaw cycle rides and The Enterprise Car Club demonstrated one of its self-charging hybrid cars.



Promoting reuse, Freegle collected and exchanged unwanted items, Peacehaven Community School screened its new film on Sustainable Fashion and Seahaven FM entertained everyone with great music. But that wasn't all. Peacehaven 'Net Zero' led a gentle two-mile community walk and Dr Mark Earthy gave presentations on Energy Bills.



Other stalls in the Zero Carbon Marketplace included Greenhavens Network, who work in partnership to enhance our parks and opens spaces for people and wildlife, The Sussex Community Development Association (SCDA), Louvain Organic Nursery who produce locally grown shrubs, hedging, herbaceous perennials, herbs, alpines, climbers plus seasonal and annual vegetable plants; Havens Food Cooperative, Peacehaven Community Orchard, Peacehaven Community Garden, Seaford Environmental Alliance, Plastic Free Peacehaven, Circular Brighton, Water Blade, Ovesco, LDC Recycling Team The Vegan Society and Peacehaven Community School.



There is still a long way to go for Peacehaven Town Council to achieve its goal of Net Zero Carbon by 2030.

Some small steps have been made including purchasing handheld battery powered equipment for the grounds staff which will replace petrol driven equipment.

A reserve has been created so that our vehicles can be replaced with electric vehicles at the end of their life cycle and there are plans to upgrade Community House and the Hub to improve their energy efficiency and heating systems. The Community House plans will be considered in more detail once we know what the future plans are for the Meridian Centre.

**Lewes District Association of Local Councils**

Recent meetings of this association have focused on the C7 road between Lewes and Newhaven. Road safety has been discussed on several occasions and a letter has been sent to Sussex Police regarding the illegal use of e-scooters.

**CLlr David Seabrook**  
**Community Champion Councillor**

# Peacehaven and Telscombe Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group



## VISION

**Peacehaven and Telscombe Towns aim to be sustainable with clean air and an environment providing a good quality of life for all inhabitants and visitors.**

The Plan Area was defined in 2013 but work did not start until 2018 when a grant was obtained, and consultants appointed.

Over 40 reports have been written to evidence the final plan document and numerous consultations. The Neighbourhood Development Plan is now drafted, and a public consultation known as Regulation 14 carried out ending 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022. All the responses will be used to modify the Plan and then it will be sent to Lewes District Council who will consult further. A government appointed inspector will examine the Plan before it goes again to the public for final Referendum.

The Plan contains a number of policies to guide future development of the two towns, the policies aim to protect and enhance the natural beauty of the area and create 20minute towns where services are within 20 minutes' walk, cycle or bus ride away.

The Policy Areas are:

- Open Spaces
- Housing
- Transport
- Employment
- Community Facilities

The ambition to create a new Town Centre based in and around The Meridian Centre remains. The site has been sold by Coop Food Stores to Morrisons which is aware of the aims and ambitions of The Neighbourhood Development Plan and the Design Guide, we await the proposals.

Further information and reports can be found on the website at:

<https://www.peacehaventowncouncil.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan/>

**Clr Cathy Gallagher**  
**Steering Group Member**

[Peacehaven and Telscombe Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group \(peacehaven-and-telscombe-neighbourhood-plan-steering-group.co.uk\)](https://www.peacehaventowncouncil.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan/)

# Peacehaven & Telscombe Football Club

We are pleased to say we have had a full season of football these past nine months and Covid free as a club.

The Club has had a very busy year and had to install new floodlights at the ground, which we were able to do with a very quick turnaround, due to Health and Safety implications.

We are also fortunate to now have a new lease of 25 years, which Peacehaven Town Councillors and others supported us to progress. This has helped us gain much need grants to maintain the site.

We now house the Diversity School four days a week in our clubhouse, supporting the local community to help children that need help to get back into mainstream schooling. Also, during school holidays, our clubhouse is used to help feed local children and families through local schemes.

We have also been lucky enough to hold two charity football matches and in total raised over £3,500 for very good causes.

The Club has over 500 members from the community of which 300 are under the age of 16. Each week you will see children and adults get fit attending training sessions during the week and play football matches at the weekend across the whole sports park site, which is wonderful to see. In total our volunteers give over 300 hours per week to the local community to enable this.

We would like to thank the Peacehaven community, our members, players, volunteers and our local Councillors for enabling such a successful season. We are now going into our Centennial Year and look forward to seeing everyone again this coming season which will bring with it a lot of events for all to enjoy.

**Sue Norwood**  
**Chairperson**  
**Peacehaven Football Club**



## Peacehaven Community Orchard

The winter storms of 2021 / 2022 have done a lot of damage to the wind breaks around the Apple Trees but with help from many of their volunteers they hope to repair this before next winter.

Last year's harvest was particularly poor due to the weather earlier in the year, but they hope this year will be much better. The Orchard now has a five-year management plan in place which can be found on the Facebook page. Forty-seven species of wildflowers were identified growing in The Orchard, and they hope to conduct a more scientific bio-diversity study when funds allow.

One hundred trees were planted as the result of a successful bid from the Trees for the Downs Project, these include Wild Cherry, and disease resistant elms amongst others and have been planted in the north-eastern corner of The Orchard. They were also successful in obtaining ten Apple Tree root stocks from the People's Trust for Endangered Species which has a Traditional Orchard Project. These will be used to graft new Apple Trees next winter including from the Apple Tree in the Meridian Centre that will be cut down when it is redeveloped.

The Peacehaven Community Orchard is waiting for the outcome of the application by the Town Council for The Orchard to be registered through Fields in Trust.

The Orchard has submitted a CIL bid to Lewes District Council which will, if successful, create an additional shelter belt through The Orchard with around six hundred new trees and shrubs which they hope to plant in conjunction with The Brighton Permaculture Trust next year.

Fundraising has remained difficult as coffee mornings at Community House have only just restarted.





# Peacehaven Horticultural Society Celebrate Its Centenary

Peacehaven Horticultural Society, one of the longest running organisations in Peacehaven, will be celebrating its Centenary on 12th May. The Society's first meeting was held in Rosemary Tea Lounge and the first few Horticultural Shows covered more diverse classes than today including best rabbit, cat and pigeons!! with sports and brass bands giving a festive air to the occasion.

Today, the Society covers many classes including vegetables, flowers, baking and photography. Children also have their own categories.

The Society holds an annual show every year in the Meridian Centre which attracts around 350 entries, which is followed by a special Trophy Presentation Night.

The Society works hard in the community, holding coffee mornings, looking after the Indoor Community Garden in the Meridian Centre and, over recent years, started a Vegetable Growing Competition with local schools, playgroups and nurseries which, after a two-year Covid break, will be back in 2023.

The Society's Trading Hut is on the Peacehaven Allotments site which is open for residents to purchase compost etc. It also runs Peacehaven Open Gardens which is a lovely weekend for visitors to visit local gardens with money raised being donated to charity.

To mark its Centenary, the Society held an afternoon tea party for its members in the Meridian Centre, and everyone had a lovely afternoon.

Everyone at The Society is looking forward to the next 100 years!!

The Peacehaven Horticultural Society holds Monthly Talks in the Anzac Room at The Meridian Centre, Peacehaven.

Timings are 7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m. Entry to the Monthly Meeting is £2.50 and includes refreshments.

A wide variety of talks take place throughout the year including social evenings on subjects ranging from flower displays, vegetable gardening and a plant and seed swap evening.

To join, Membership is £6 per person & £10 a couple. On joining you will receive a Loyalty Card for Paradise Park which entitles you to half price entry to the lovely gardens and Playzone. You will also receive a £1 plant voucher for every £10 spent on plants.

For further info about The Society or, if you would like to join, please contact Alison on 01273 589502.





## Lewes District Citizens Advice

Lewes District Citizens Advice is an independent local charity with no direct support from central government. We have been offering, free, independent, confidential and impartial advice to the residents of Peacehaven for many years and never has it been more important. Fuel prices and the cost of living increase will hit residents hard at a time when household finances are already stretched after two years of the pandemic. Many local families have low financial resilience and any additional cut in income or increase in outgoings could easily tip them into a negative budget at the end of every month.

Our advisers have listened to the stories of local people whose lives had been turned upside down in a matter of months through no fault of their own. More and more clients have come to us with mental health issues brought on by anxiety and sadly family breakdowns have also increased. In the last year we have helped residents with 1,237 problems, 42% of which were related to benefit issues, closely followed by 32% on utilities.

With inflation predicted to top 10% later this year, the need for our services is only set to increase. A very welcome by product of our work is the amount of income that we secure for clients, often in the form of benefit entitlement. Such is the complexity of the benefits system, that often residents are unable to make successful claims without input from us. In the last year, we helped residents secure £277,923 in additional income which they will spend in local shops and businesses and give a much-needed boost to the local economy.

To help secure our services for the residents of Peacehaven in April 2021, the Town Council signed a three-year funding agreement with the Trustees of Lewes District Citizens Advice. This agreement will allow us to plan ahead and develop our services for the town so that together we are in a strong position to meet the challenging times ahead.

Details of our opening times and how to access advice are included on our website at [www.lewesdistrictcab.org.uk](http://www.lewesdistrictcab.org.uk). Please take time to have a look and see the variety of services that we offer including our volunteering opportunities.

**Jackie Wilkes**  
**District Manager**



## Sussex Community Development Association (SCDA)

Sussex Community Development Association (SCDA) works across East Sussex running community-based projects and services. We are very pleased to have been able to develop our Community Food services and on Thursday 17th March 2022, Peacehaven Community Supermarket celebrated its first birthday.

With support from Peacehaven Town Council and an amazing team of local volunteers, Peacehaven Community Supermarket welcomed 238 people through its doors in 2021-22 supporting an average of 45 households a week to access food and other household items on a pay as you feel basis.



One Peacehaven resident contacted us after her Grandmother joined the community supermarket and told us, "I think what you do is just fantastic and has given my Nanny a chance to get out of her flat once a week and choose some food for herself that she otherwise wouldn't be able to do, as she has no transport since giving up her car."

SCDA also offers a Get Socially Active, Building Better Opportunities project for the residents of Peacehaven. The two strands of the project are ReCycle and the GSA Kitchen, a community bike workshop and a community kitchen and garden offering training and volunteering to anyone over 16 and employability support to those who are unemployed or economically inactive. The offer includes information, advice and guidance and expenses for those eligible.

We have supported eight Peacehaven residents on this project so far and achieved outcomes including one participant into work, another on to work experience, one in to full time education and two into training. We look forward to supporting more Peacehaven residents in the future.

For more information, see our website [www.sussexcommunity.org.uk](http://www.sussexcommunity.org.uk)

**Lynda Clements**  
**Marketing & Communication Officer**  
**Sussex Community Development Association**

# Kempton House Day Centre QAVS

It has been great to be back and having the Centre open again.

Kempton House started new ways to support the community at the same time carrying on our normal weekly activities.

We now hold monthly jumble sales selling cheap, affordable clothing etc.

The money raised from the jumble sales, Christmas Fayre and Easter Fun Day, allowed us to buy Christmas gifts and gift cards for local school children, along with Christmas presents for the elderly and give out £400 pounds in book vouchers to local schools on this year's World Book Day.

During the year we took the elderly out on two garden centre outings and for a Christmas meal at the carvery along with treating all the volunteers to a lovely meal to say thank you for their work and support.

We held a Christmas get together at the Centre for over 40 people all had wonderful time. We also gave vouchers to the elderly to support with heating and food costs during the winter months.

We carried on our support of the Community Supermarket run from Kempton House by SCDA on a Thursday and rent the hall on a Tuesday to Haven Happy Club.

Linda, our cook, has served some wonderful meals during the year and been great asset to the Centre.

We also have now got a Hot Bin for food waste.

We have also had installed a community defibrillator which has already been useful.



Moving forward we are holding Platinum Jubilee Celebrations on Sunday 5th June and looking to take the elderly on a trip to The Bluebell Railway and a four-day Turkey and Tinsel holiday around October.

We are also going to give vouchers to local schools to support the families during the upcoming summer holidays.

We have just raised some funding for our garden looking to put in raised beds so we can grow our own vegetables, we are also looking at a way to raise funds for an environmental heating system.



Overall, Kempton House is very pleased how things are going at the Centre and looking forward to supporting a lot more people in the community in the coming year.

**Sue Taylor-Hill**  
**Trustee Charity at Kempton House**

# Greenhavens Network

## Connecting People and Wildlife

Greenhavens Network works in the community, with the community, to connect people and wildlife and aims to engage and inspire everyone to make positive changes to their lives, their communities and the green spaces we all love.

The Network wants to see our green spaces buzzing with wildlife and are creating wildlife corridors through wildflowers, trees and ponds.

Through sharing ideas, local knowledge, skills and resources the aim to make a significant difference to the quality of open spaces.

The Network holds quarterly network meetings with speakers and the December meeting will be held in Peacehaven.

In the last year, The Network has held a walk through Peacehaven's green spaces and a Butterfly Walk (pictures below). This year there will be another butterfly event 'The Big Butterfly Count' led by Dan Danahar at Centenary Park / Community Orchard on the 9<sup>th</sup> July from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, but booking is essential.

