

DN

magazine

#DistrictNews

Spring 2019



Lewes District Council

Spring is sprung

Birds, bees, bats, trees
and more inside

News from across the Lewes district

Hello

**Welcome to the spring edition of DN magazine,
brought to you by Lewes District Council.**

Spring is here and for many of us this means (weather permitting) spending more time outside, enjoying the glorious East Sussex countryside, local parks and our own gardens.

It has never been more crucial that these green spaces provide the right habitats for pollinating insects. The pollinator strategy being prepared now (page 7) is key in making sure they thrive, and the national decline is reversed.

We have great news about new homes on pages 4/5. A Newhaven company has been contracted to create high-quality, affordable homes using a modern, modular system which allows them to build entire properties off-site in their factory.

**These are just a couple of the stories covered in this edition of DN.
We hope you enjoy reading it.**



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Keep in touch

DN magazine is available in **large print**, audio disc or in another language upon request.

To receive **DN** magazine by email visit lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/district-news

Call: 01273 471600 | Twitter: @LewesDC | Facebook: Lewes District Council

Modern innovation puts families in new homes

A £1.3m Lewes District Council project to create a new development of high-quality affordable family housing is taking shape in Peacehaven. The new accommodation in Ashington Gardens has been built off-site by a specialist modular building company in Newhaven and then installed on council-owned land.

Councillor Ron Maskell, Cabinet member for Housing, said:

“The UK is suffering from an acute lack of affordable properties. There are people in the district, often families, in real need and these innovative new modular builds will provide the homes they long for, at a time when they need them most.”

The temporary accommodation initiative was first proposed by Councillor Sarah Osborne, and when complete will see 13 new homes in Newhaven, as well as the six in Peacehaven.

Councillor Osborne said: “Local people should receive local housing support, not sent miles away from their friends, family, schools and employment; it makes no sense at all.”

Based in Newhaven, Boutique Modern was awarded the contract to supply the new homes and is well known for its pioneering use of modular technology in conjunction with innovative housing designs.

Councillor Maskell added: “We can get the temporary housing built and in place quickly and are also creating jobs as a result of working with a local manufacturer.”

Photo (left to right): Lucas Shone, Cllr Maskell, Cllr Elayne Merry, Dick Shone



About Boutique Modern

Boutique Modern builds homes to precise specifications in its Beach Road factory before delivering and installing them exactly where needed.

Previous projects range from a bespoke home in the Scottish Highlands to a penthouse in central London.

The company employs more than 30 people locally and can be working on as many as 10 projects at any one time.

Dick Shone, founder of Boutique Modern, said: "We are very excited to be working with Lewes District Council to help solve this housing shortage. This is the first of many exciting projects in the pipeline which provide a fantastic opportunity for us to showcase our build system.

"Newhaven provides a perfect base for us, with strong transport connections across Sussex and up to London, and a skilled workforce and supply chain on our doorstep."

Dropping off at school?

Keep our air clean.

Please TURN OFF your engine.



‘Don’t be idle!’, drivers warned

The council has launched a campaign encouraging drivers to cut down on air pollution by turning off their engines while dropping off children at school.

Across the district, schools are being invited to sign up to the anti-idling campaign. Those that do will receive digital information packs to send out to parents and pupils, giving them the opportunity to find

out more about air pollution and ways to help reduce it.

Did you know every minute a vehicle idles, it could fill 150 balloons with harmful chemicals?

Councillor Isabelle Linington, Cabinet member for Environmental Impact, said: “Air pollution impacts on everyone but some groups are more vulnerable, such as children,

and it can affect their lungs before as well as after birth. That is why we want to change people's behaviour and raise awareness of the damage caused by keeping engines running.”

The scheme is part of the council's ongoing work to raise air quality awareness in partnership with East Sussex County Council, Sussex-air and Public Health England.

Idling facts

Turning the engine OFF and restarting it after 1 minute causes LESS pollution and uses LESS fuel than keeping the engine running

Modern batteries need less engine running time to stay charged

Idling an engine will not keep a catalytic converter warm. They retain heat for approximately

25 minutes after the engine is switched off

It takes up to an hour for an engine to cool down. Turning off the engine but keeping the ignition and the fan blowing will provide warm air for some time

What can drivers do?

Switch off when picking up or dropping off children from school

Switch off when waiting to pick up passengers

Switch off when delivering, loading or waiting at the roadside

Switch off when sitting in traffic or at level crossings

For more information about the campaign contact Melissa. bomford@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk



New strategy is buzzing

The council is taking steps to help the district's pollinating insects survive and thrive.

It is preparing a pollinator strategy to maintain, protect and enhance key habitats and species for the long term.

In the UK there are over 1,500 species of insect that pollinate our

crops and wildflowers, including bees, butterflies, moths, flies, beetles and wasps. They are integral to our ecosystems but are sadly under threat.

The strategy aims to improve and increase pollinator-friendly spaces in the district and as part of this, people will be encouraged to cultivate these habitats in their own gardens.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Spring is calling

**Sunday, May 12: 7.30am
Birdsong on Newhaven Cliffs**

Listen and learn how to identify

the birds that sing at Castle Hill Local Nature Reserve. Everyone is welcome but places are limited, so booking is required.

For more information or to book email:

Rangers@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk

**Thursday, June 9: 2pm to 5pm
Looking Out Festival**

A celebration of the natural world at Lewes Railway Land Local Nature Reserve.



Bat bioblitz

Plans are underway for a one-night bioblitz in an attempt to record bat species using green spaces across the district.

Community groups, part of the Greenhavens Network and charity Sussex Bat Group have joined forces to carry out the survey and are looking for people to get involved in the blitz on Saturday, September 7.

The aim is to better understand the way bats use the district's green spaces and help conserve their populations for the future.

Anyone who wishes to take part should email

Rangers@Lewes-Eastbourne.gov.uk titling the message Batblitz Interest.



Seaford Health Hub exhibition

Photo (left to right): Dr Dan Elliot, Seaford Medical Practice; Cllr Liz Boorman, Lewes District Council; Dr Raj Chandarana, Old School Surgery; Cllr Andy Smith

Seaford residents learned more about the proposal to extend Downs Leisure Centre to provide a new health hub for the town. Some 1,250 people attended an exhibition which was held over two days at Downs Leisure Centre. The exhibition was also available to view online.

According to feedback submitted online and collected at the events, 78% of people felt that the exhibition helped them to understand what was being proposed for the new health facility.

The feedback is helping to inform the next stage of the proposal. This includes the development of more detailed designs. Further

consideration will be given to traffic, parking and public transport. There will be an opportunity for the public to view and comment on the detailed plans before a planning application is submitted later this year.

The health hub has been proposed in response to Seaford's growing population and increasing demands on the town's GP services.

Old School Surgery and Seaford Medical Practice both urgently need more space and have been looking for some considerable time for alternative premises. The Downs Leisure Centre has been identified as the only suitable site in the town.

Councillor Andy Smith, Leader of Lewes District Council, said:

“

We were delighted with the turnout at the exhibition and are very grateful for the constructive feedback from Seaford residents. This is a ground-breaking scheme and will make a real difference to the future provision of healthcare in Seaford.”

For further information and updates please visit lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/SeafordHealthHub

Signs for Seaford



Twelve new signs have been installed around Seaford to direct tourists to the town's array of attractions.

Among the destinations signposted are the three-mile Seafront Promenade, magnificent views of the Seven Sisters, Seaford Museum and The Crypt Gallery. Places such as the town centre, Tourist Information Centre and car parks are also included.

The signs were jointly funded and designed by Lewes District Council and Seaford Town Council. The work was supported by Impact Seaford.

New attractions to Seaford seafront this year include new daily or weekly rented beach huts, craft and small business retail beach huts, free water refill points and additional temporary toilets, as well as a new £200,000 skatepark in nearby Salts Recreation Ground.



Elms for Armistice

Some 104 men and boys are listed on Seaford's war memorial as having lost their lives in World War 1. To remember them on the Armistice centenary, Seaford residents planted 104 new elm trees – one for each life lost.

Elms are iconic to the area but have been ravaged by Dutch Elm Disease. The new trees are resistant to the disease and it is hoped the trees will be a lasting memorial to those who lost their lives, as well as being a haven for wildlife, particularly the endangered White-letter Hairstreak butterfly.

The trees were planted by volunteers, staff and children at Seaford's schools, churches, Seaford's golf courses, Cheyney's residential home and in private gardens.



To take part in regular, friendly tree-care and planting activities in Seaford, or to find out more, visit www.seafordtreewardens.wordpress.com or email seafordtreewardens@outlook.com

Elms for Armistice was organised by Seaford Tree Wardens (who are supported by Seaford Town Council), Sussex Wildlife Trust, Butterfly Conservation and the South Downs National Park Authority with support from Lewes District Council, Seaford Town Council and East Sussex County Council.



**Tourist
information**

Benefits of using your local TIC

Alongside being the first point of contact for thousands of visitors every year, Tourist Information Centres (TICs) provide a wide range of information and advice for residents.

Fully trained information assistants provide discounted travel tickets for buses and trains, National Express Coaches, a booking service for local community theatres, Seaford Cinema, Eastbourne Bandstand and other local events.

Residents wishing to promote events can advertise these in the TICs.

The TICs also have a gift shop selling a range of local area postcards, books and many other souvenirs.

The district has TICs in Lewes High Street, and Church Street in Seaford.

Joint Tenants' Conference

Around 100 people attended the first Joint Homes First Tenants' Conference for Lewes District and Eastbourne.

The event in January was an opportunity for tenants to take part in workshops, visit information stands, meet other tenants and staff, and learn more about the council's Homes First and Neighbourhood First services.

Workshops included advice on how to avoid being scammed, reducing energy bills, team building, healthy



cooking on a budget, planting and using garden containers.

The Lewes Tenant of the Year Award was presented to Ken Healey, who kindly cooked Christmas Day dinner for 14 neighbours who may otherwise have been on their own, and for his hard work on the communal garden.

Housing advice

If you are having difficulties paying your rent or mortgage, want advice on your rights as a tenant or owner, need to find somewhere to live or are having problems maintaining your home, then you should contact Lewes District Council as soon as possible.

ALL APPOINTMENTS MUST BE MADE PRIOR TO ATTENDANCE.

Scheduled appointments only:

Mondays: 9am – 12.30pm:

Peacehaven, Community House, Meridian Centre, Meridian Way

Tuesdays: 9am – 12.30pm:

Lewes, Council Offices, Southover House, Southover Road

Wednesdays and Fridays: 10am – 12.30pm:

Newhaven, Saxon House, Meeching Road

Thursdays: 10am – 12.30pm:

Seaford, The Police Building, Church Street

Visit lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk and complete an online housing advice request or email housingneeds@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk





Pictured seated at the workshop (left to right) Jeremy Donaldson from Clark & Kent, Cllr Smith and the Deputy Town Mayor of Newhaven, Councillor Graham Army

Olympic team builds Newhaven skatepark

The specialist team that built the London 2012 Olympic BMX track has been commissioned to build the new Newhaven skatepark and pumptrack.

Clark & Kent Contractors has a worldwide reputation in the world of BMX and is now bringing its unrivalled experience and expertise to Newhaven.

Funded by Newhaven Town Council and Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy monies from Lewes District Council, construction of the facilities will begin in April with completion scheduled in the summer.

Jeremy Donaldson and Kent Bridgett from Clark & Kent were in town recently with riders to carry out a workshop looking at design ideas for the project.

Councillor Andy Smith, Leader of Lewes District Council, said:

“What a fantastic message this sends out to have arguably the best BMX track designers and builders in the world in Newhaven, helping to create a venue that will attract riders from far and wide. I'd like to thank Newhaven Town Council for their joint support on this project and the local people who attended the workshop and shared their great ideas with the team from Clark & Kent.”

For further information visit www.newhavenskateparkpumptrack.org



Cliff safety

As the summer nears, walkers are reminded to stay safe while enjoying our stunning coastline.

People should always take notice of warning signs and stay a safe distance away from the cliff edge and away from the cliff face when on the beach below.

Phone 999 and ask for the coastguard if you see anyone in danger.

Help to get healthy

Lewes District Council has launched a new website to help residents improve their health and wellbeing.

HealthyLewesEastbourne.org.uk is packed with helpful advice and information for anyone looking for ideas to become healthier, including a directory of local groups and a calendar of upcoming events.

What's more, if you are planning a local event you can submit this to the website to help attract attendees. To find out more, visit HealthyLewesEastbourne.org.uk

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Register to vote

People across Lewes district have a month left to register to vote ahead of the 2019 local elections.



Voters who wish to submit their ballots and have their say in the poll have until Friday, April 12 to register.

The local elections will take place on Thursday, May 2, with all district council seats up for grabs.

- To vote in a local election you must be:**
- **Registered to vote**
 - **18 or over on the day of the election in England, Northern Ireland and Wales, or 16 or over in Scotland**
 - **A British, Irish, Commonwealth or European Union citizen living in the UK**

To register to vote or for more details on the electoral registration system visit: www.gov.uk/register-to-vote. You will need your date of birth and National Insurance number in order to complete your registration.

Lewes District Council meetings for spring 2019 are open to the public:

Planning Applications Committee	1	13 March	5:00pm
Audit and Standards Committee	4	18 March	10:00am
Scrutiny Committee	3	21 March	2:00pm
Employment Committee	2	25 March	10:00am
Cabinet	3	27 March	2:30pm
Planning Applications Committee	1	3 April	5:00pm
Planning Applications Committee	1	24 April	5:00pm
*Council	1	20 May	6:00pm
Planning Applications Committee	1	22 May	5:00pm
Planning Applications Committee	1	5 June	5:00pm

* The date of the May 2019 Council meeting has been moved to 20 May 2019 (originally 15 May 2019), subject to approval at the Council meeting on 25 February 2019.

- Venues:**
1. Council Chamber, County Hall, St. Anne's Crescent, Lewes
 2. Telscombe Room, Southover House, Lewes
 3. Ditchling & Telscombe Rooms, Southover House, Lewes
 4. Ditchling Room, Southover House, Lewes

For further information and to confirm meetings times, dates and locations, please contact Committee Services at: committees@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk or call 01273 471600. Information is correct at time of going to press.

Price trim for extra garden waste collections

Lewes District Council has halved the cost of a second garden waste bin to just £35 a year.

The reduction means residents can have 24,000 litres of garden waste collected from their home annually for £105, or just over £2 a week.

The garden waste service costs £70 per year for one bin, and following this price cut a second or third bin will only cost residents an additional £35.

The offer is available to existing and new customers.

The amount of garden waste collected and recycled by the council almost tripled last summer to a massive 736 tonnes, compared to 249 in summer 2017.

All of it was composted in Beddingham and sold locally.

People also have the option of sharing a bin with their neighbour, or of paying in instalments.

For more information visit lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/gardenwaste

To reduce odours, maintain street cleanliness and protect rubbish from animals, we recommend residents put their rubbish in a wheelie bin. These cost either £20 or £30 depending on size and are available to order at lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/wheelie-bins



Spotlight

Name:

Thomas Broad

Role:

Waste and Recycling
Engagement Co-ordinator

Best part of my job:

I love meeting all the amazing volunteers who devote their own time and effort to helping keep our environment free of litter; it's great that I get to help them do such fantastic work.

The best part of my job though, is that I get to work to improve things I really care about and which can make a huge difference to our environment and our future.

Recent projects:

Recycling on the Go has

been a great success: we've installed 10 on-street recycling litter bins around the district and they have been so successful that we're expanding and installing even more in the coming months – look out for them, and keep recycling!

Plans for 2019:

With the national Great British Spring Clean coming up from March 22 to April 23, I'm asking anybody who's interested to get in touch with me at recycle@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk. I can offer equipment (such as litter pickers, bags, gloves), advice around organising or carrying out a litter pick, and help with any special requirements.



Crackdown on fly-tippers

Lewes District Council has recently been awarded the power to issue a fixed penalty notice of £400 to a resident if their waste is found to be fly-tipped.

This follows a government consultation last year that identified some lack of awareness and care by people who use private contractors to dispose of their rubbish.

The council is reminding people that they should take all reasonable measures to ensure that their waste is given to someone who is authorised to remove it. Local authorities and private waste contractors must hold a waste carrier's licence.

Allowing an unauthorised person to dispose of waste could lead to it being fly-tipped. If you give your waste to somebody else and it is found fly-tipped, you must be able to provide evidence to the police or council of who you gave it to. If you cannot provide this information, you run the risk of the issue of a fixed penalty or on conviction through the courts, a criminal record.

Before using a private contractor, please consider this advice:

Legitimate waste disposal is not cheap. The cost for disposing of a ton of waste is in the region of £140.

Ask questions of cold callers who promise to take your waste there and then.

Make background checks on the carrier such as asking for their business address.

Think carefully before dealing with people whose only method of contact is via a mobile telephone number.

Ask the carrier what exactly is going to happen to your waste and seek evidence that it is going to be disposed of appropriately.

Demand to see a waste carrier's certificate. You can check whether a company has a waste carrier's licence on the Environment Agency website.

Always record the registration number of a vehicle used to take your waste away.

Ask for an invoice or receipt.

Information about fly-tipping can be found at lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/fly-tipping or download the 'Report It' app at lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/report-it



Spearheading the way in food waste collections

Lewes District Council is leading the way as the only authority in East Sussex to offer a weekly kerbside food collection service.

Everything collected is turned into soil conditioner, which is used by local farmers and gardeners, and crucially means less rubbish being incinerated.

The Government has announced a proposal for all households in the country to have weekly food waste collections, so other authorities may soon follow Lewes's example.

To sign up for food waste collections visit lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/foodrecycling

Easter holiday waste collections

No refuse collections on bank holidays Friday 19 April and Monday 22 April. Please note that some collections are a day early on Good Friday week.

All refuse to be put out at the edge of your property by 6am on the advertised day of collection below (unless you have an assisted collection).

If not collected on the advertised day of collection, leave out for collection the following day.

Collections below are for Good Friday week and Easter Monday week.

Normal Collection Day	Easter Collection Day
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Monday	15 April	Monday	15 April
Tuesday	16 April	Monday	15 April
Wednesday	17 April	Tuesday	16 April
Thursday	18 April	Wednesday	17 April
Friday	19 April	Thursday	18 April
Monday	22 April	Tuesday	23 April
Tuesday	23 April	Wednesday	24 April
Wednesday	24 April	Thursday	25 April
Thursday	25 April	Friday	26 April
Friday	26 April	Saturday	27 April

Normal collection days resume from Monday 29 April.

For Easter recycling collection dates, please refer to your recycling calendar. If you do not have one, you can download one from lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk

