

AUTUMN 2019 | #DISTRICTNEWS

# DN

MAGAZINE



NEWS FROM ACROSS  
THE LEWES DISTRICT



Lewes District Council



# Hello

Welcome to the autumn  
edition of DN magazine,  
brought to you by Lewes  
District Council

From flips to spins to grinds, Newhaven's fantastic new skate park and pump track has attracted huge numbers of skateboarders, BMXers, mountain bikers and scooter riders of all abilities since its summer opening.

As well as this popular addition to the town, we report on how Newhaven

is in the running for significant government investment to boost local economic regeneration.

There's a lot to shout about too on Seaford seafront, which has seen a range of enhancements to benefit residents and visitors alike.

Over in Lewes town centre, the

former Turkish Baths has been transformed into a stylish new yoga, wellbeing and arts venue called the Unity Centre – pop in and see for yourself.

With so many exciting projects across the district to celebrate, we hope you enjoy reading this edition of DN.

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## Get In Touch

District News 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](https://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/district-news)

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# Entrepreneur Wins £2,500 For Business Start-Up →

An entrepreneur has scooped £2,500 towards setting up her new business consultancy by winning the Local Enterprise and Apprenticeship Platform (LEAP) annual award.

Nicki Whitehead was also presented with a winner's trophy at a LEAP celebration dinner at The View, Seaford Head, after wowing judges in a Dragon's Den-style competition.

Nicki, who lives in Seaford, enrolled on the LEAP programme to develop her concept for Home Care Business Support, which will provide management and training for firms providing care to people who want to remain independent in their own homes.

She said: "The guidance given by



Nicki Whitehead (front, fourth from left) celebrating with others who completed the LEAP programme and judges

LEAP through one-to-one mentoring, workshops and seminars is invaluable in getting a new business off the ground."

Runner-up was Cara Brennan, who received £500 to help with her new business Cara Brennan Art, creating abstract paintings from her own designs.

Funded by Lewes District Council, LEAP

champions new enterprise within the Lewes district and guides local people through a training programme to help them start a new business.

Registration for the free LEAP 2020 programme, delivered by Edeal, opens in November with the course beginning in January 2020. For more information or to register visit: [yourleap.co.uk](http://yourleap.co.uk)

## Transforming Newhaven

Newhaven has been shortlisted for the next round of a £675 million Government fund.

Newhaven is joined by 50 other towns through to the second phase of the Future High Street Fund to transform high streets, out of around 300 towns that applied.

This bid is the latest step in Lewes District Council's regeneration plans for the town, following the designation of Newhaven as an Enterprise Zone in 2017 and £30 million of investment attracted since then.

The council is now working up detailed project proposals.

## Business Support

Businesses in the creative, cultural or digital sectors, which have significant growth potential, can benefit from specialist one-to-one mentoring support.

The new South East Creative programme will run until December 2020 and offers a range of services including events, networking and a grants programme.

For more information about High-Growth Business Mentoring visit [southeastcreatives.co.uk](http://southeastcreatives.co.uk) or email Graham Broughton at: [ggbroughton@btconnect.com](mailto:ggbroughton@btconnect.com)



Cllr Nicholson (centre) with her Cabinet

Photo : Carlotta Luke

## Change of Control at Lewes District Council

A cooperative alliance of the Green Party, the Liberal Democrats, Labour and Independent groups took control of Lewes District Council in July.

With Councillor Zoe Nicholson, Green Party, becoming Leader, Lewes District Council is now one of a handful of councils led by an alliance Cabinet in the UK. Her Cabinet includes four Green Party councillors, three Liberal Democrats, one Labour and one Independent.

The Green Party is the second largest party on Lewes District Council with nine seats, Liberal Democrats with eight, Labour three and two Independents.

Councillor Zoe Nicholson, Leader of Lewes District Council, said:

"I am delighted that our new cooperative alliance has the opportunity to share a forward-thinking and exciting vision for the district.



"It is clear that we are all passionate about putting the greater good of the district ahead of party politics.

"Our collaborative approach will get what matters done for local residents."

Cabinet councillors and their portfolios are listed below:

- Councillor Zoe Nicholson, Leader – Finance
- Councillor James MacCleary, Deputy Leader – Regeneration and Prosperity
- Councillor Emily O'Brien – Planning
- Councillor Julie Carr – Recycling and Open Spaces
- Councillor Matthew Bird – Sustainability
- Councillor William Meyer – Housing
- Councillor Johnny Denis – Communities and Customers
- Councillor Ruth O'Keeffe – Tourism and Devolution
- Councillor Chris Collier – Performance and People





## Warm Welcome for Turkish Baths Opening ↑

**The Unity Centre on the site of the former Turkish Baths in Lewes town centre has opened.**

The opening of the new yoga, wellbeing and arts centre follows a council refurbishment of the property that involved internal and external work to ensure the Turkish Baths meets with the latest energy efficiency, accessibility and other building standards.

Unity has been running a successful studio in Brighton since 2012 and will be offering a range of classes, a floatation tank and sauna, therapies and treatments, as well as a small café, gallery and shop.

Councillor James MacCleary, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Prosperity, said:

“The new Unity Centre has something for everyone.

“Unity deserve great credit for the interior design. It is light and airy, offering a very relaxing and comfortable environment, whatever the therapy, treatment or physical activity being undertaken.

“Above all, I’m delighted that this historic local building is back in use and local people are going to enjoy the benefits of that.”

For more information, including how to hire the facilities, visit [www.being-in-unity.com](http://www.being-in-unity.com)



## Gin & Fizzmas ↑

**Hot on the heels of Sussex Gin & Fizz Festival’s sun-soaked success in the summer comes the winter version, Gin & Fizzmas.**

Visit Lewes is hosting the event in Lewes Castle precincts on Thursday, December 5, to coincide with Lewes’ Christmas shopping night.

Councillor Chris Collier, Cabinet Member for Performance and People, said: “This promises to be a fantastic event – perfect timing for people looking for Christmas gifts or something extra special to quaff over the festive season.

“Visitors will be able to taste free samples and snap up bottles of award-winning local gin and sparkling wine direct from the producers – all under cover in a cosy marquee. Outside, there will be a great selection of local artisanal food stalls, an English mulled wine bar and live music curated by Lewes’ own Union Music store.”

This ticketed event will take place in the Maltings Car Park and the newly renovated Peace Garden, in the shadow of the castle. For more information, including tickets and special offers, visit [www.sussexginandfizzfestival](http://www.sussexginandfizzfestival)



At the opening with Cllr MacCleary (back row, third from left) and Deputy Mayor for Newhaven, Cllr Lesley Boniface (back row, fourth from left)

## Newhaven Skate Park and Pump Track opens ↗

**A stunning new skate park and pump track built by the specialist team that constructed the London 2012 Olympic BMX track opened in the summer.**

Clark & Kent Contractors are known throughout the world and have brought their unrivalled experience and

expertise to the south coast, creating a destination venue for BMXers, skaters and scooter riders.

It was funded by Newhaven Town Council and Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy monies from Lewes District Council.

Reflecting the council’s commitment to the national ‘Refill’ campaign, the new facility also has a water fountain installed to reduce the use of single-use plastic bottles.

For more information visit [newhavenskateparkpumptrack.org](http://newhavenskateparkpumptrack.org)



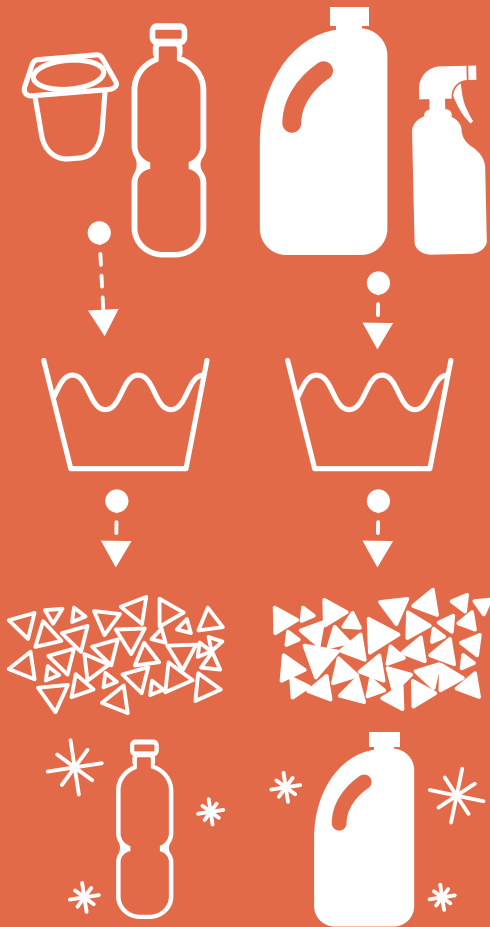
# Journey of Your Recycling

Lewes District Council collects recycling from homes across the district and East Sussex County Council is responsible for sorting, separating and recycling it. This is carried out at a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) operated by Viridor, where materials are separated by size, weight, opacity and colour, and magnetism.



1. Glass is separated and crushed into pieces no bigger than 50mm across
2. Any pieces less than 5mm across are used for industrial aggregate
3. Bits of ceramic, porcelain or heat-resistant glass are removed using microsorters and X-Rays
4. Optical sorters separate amber, green and clear glass, which are sent off to become new bottles and jars
5. Glass can be recycled over and over again with no loss of quality

## Plastics



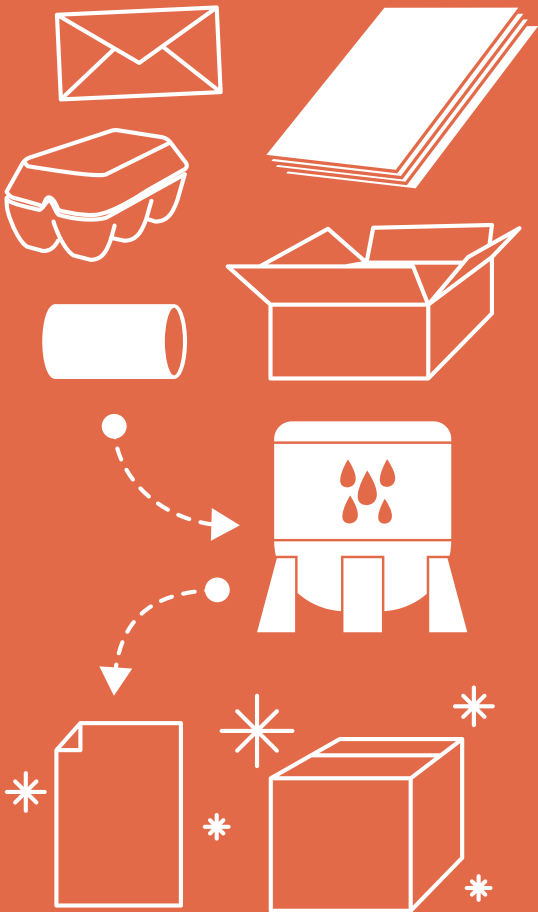
1. Mixed plastics are sorted by type and colour
2. They are then washed, dried and deodorised
3. The material is turned into pellets and flakes
4. The pellets and flakes are sent off to become plastic containers, clothes, children's toys and more

## Metals



1. Steel and aluminium are separated using magnets
2. Separated aluminium and steel are cleaned and shredded so they melt more easily
3. The metals are melted and purified; aluminium can have other metals added to make different alloys
4. Steel and aluminium don't lose quality when they're recycled, they're as good as new every time around

## Paper & Card



1. Paper and card are sorted into individual types of fibre, or into mixtures of types
2. Separated and mixed fibres are then baled up and sent on, including to paper mills
3. The paper is soaked in water, then crushed into a pulp, and contaminants like glue, string and staples are filtered out
4. Recycling paper is easy. It has low environmental impact, but the quality decreases a little each time it's recycled

# Climate Emergency

Lewes District Council has declared a climate emergency.

It has also agreed a wide range of measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero and become fully ‘climate-resilient’ by 2030.

Councillor Matthew Bird, Cabinet Member for Sustainability, said: “Climate change is the most serious and urgent challenge facing communities across the world and in Lewes district.

“The council has recently carried out some work in considering the impacts of climate change through several meetings of the Climate Action Group and initiated actions such as feasibility for electric vehicle charging points and commissioned some modular housing. This is a good start. However, much more urgent action is needed to keep temperature rises to 1.5°C and avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

“We are developing a targeted, measureable and costed action plan over the next 12 months and will be establishing a standing Climate Scrutiny Panel. We are committed to fully engaging with our communities, particularly young people, through the Climate Change Forum.”

For more details visit [lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/climateemergency](http://lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/climateemergency)



## Wildflowers ↑

**A beautiful array of wildflower areas have been attracting greater numbers of butterflies and bees into the district over recent months.**

Community group Wildflower Lewes has helped cultivate wildflower oases in the town through its partnership work with councils and other agencies. The group aims to create stepping stones and corridors of wildflower habitats for insect pollinators that connect to the Downs and the rest of the countryside.

The action being taken will help to reverse the drastic loss of wildflowers nationally, which has had a devastating knock-on effect on the wildlife that depends on them.

During spring, Wildflower Lewes encouraged people to grow wildflowers in their gardens or on verges nearby using seed packets they provided.

The group, with around 60 supporters, has worked with Lewes Town Council which, as a result, now only cuts its

verges twice a year so that wildflowers can flower and set seed for the following year.

The wildflower champions have also been working with Lewes District Council and its ground maintenance contractor Burleys on a wildflower initiative project covering roadside verges, recreation fields, housing estate land and cemeteries.

Councillor Julie Carr, Cabinet Member for Recycling and Open Spaces at Lewes District Council, said: “As well as our joint work with Wildflower Lewes we have been collaborating with town councils and the South Downs National Park Authority to develop wildflower areas across the whole district – in parks, cemeteries and other open spaces.

“Going forward, we are looking together with our partners to identify where we can develop new wildflower areas, building on the valuable work already carried out.”



## Seaford Seafront ↑

**The seafront area in Seaford has undergone a raft of improvements this year, delivered by Seaford Town Council as part of its action plan for the town, supported by Impact Seaford.**

Seven new, fully equipped beach huts proved very popular over the summer. The colourful huts will be available to hire again on a daily or weekly basis from spring 2020 via: [westviewbeachhuts.co.uk](http://westviewbeachhuts.co.uk)

Creating an extra buzz along this part of the seafront, four new retail concession huts have attracted strollers to the promenade.

A beach access ramp has been created in front of the Martello Kiosk, providing beach access for wheelchair users and others previously unable to get close enough to view the sea.

In addition, road markings have been repainted and a ‘share with care’ message put on the promenade to emphasise its use for everyone, including cyclists, dog walkers, joggers and families.

At The Salts Recreation Ground, just off the seafront, a new skate park has opened, creating a well-used amenity for young people with floodlights soon to be fitted, allowing longer skating hours throughout the year.

Also at the recreation ground, outdoor gym equipment has been refurbished and two new tennis tables installed next to the café.

Tennis courts have been improved this year ahead of a full refurbishment next year, including resurfacing, floodlighting and new nets.

Impact Seaford is the local Coastal Community Team administered by Lewes District Council and chaired by Seaford Town Council.

For more information about current and future projects visit [seafordtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://seafordtowncouncil.gov.uk)





The STEPS team, led by Service Manager Paula Leighton (pictured front, far left)

## STEPS to Stay Independent ↑ Your housing support service

**STEPS is a free support service for residents aged 60+ who are experiencing difficulty with issues impacting on their housing – regardless of their housing situation.**

One call to the contact centre gives people access to information, advice or a home visiting service where one of the team of Floating Support Workers will meet with the resident personally to discuss their needs and offer support to resolve them.

STEPS has eight Floating Support Workers in Lewes district, and between them they have supported 414 Lewes residents over the past year. Some 91% of these residents received a visiting service for up to six months.

This support resulted in:  
55 obtaining a new home  
280 better managed their physical health  
317 realised financial gain such as benefit payments, grants and awards.

Most importantly 328 of STEPS' clients said the support has resulted in them having more choice and control when dealing with their issues because of the truly personalised service that is offered.

Councillor William Meyer, Cabinet Member for Housing, said: "The team has received lots of excellent feedback from service users who say the help they received was invaluable in explaining their options and resolving problems."

To find out more or to make a referral phone 01323 436414.

## Landlord Reward Scheme

**Landlords with properties to let in Lewes district are being sought.**

In exchange, Lewes District Council can offer:

- Guaranteed rent payment or an cash incentive
- A choice of tenants
- A chance to swap tenants if things don't work out
- No admin or finders fees
- Minimum void periods
- A dedicated officer to assist both landlord and tenant

To find out more call 01323 415370 or visit:  
[lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/landlords](http://lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/landlords)

## Housing Advice

**Lewes District Council can provide a range of advice and support if you are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. This includes advice on:**

- Budgeting and benefits
- Maintaining your mortgage payments
- Finding and securing a privately let property
- Accessing other services to help you maintain your tenancy

You can complete an online self-assessment to find out what support options may be available to you at: [homesfirstlettings.co.uk](http://homesfirstlettings.co.uk) or find out

more about our housing services online at: [lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/housing](http://lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/housing)

You can also speak with one of our Customer Advisors Monday to Friday at our office at Southover House, Lewes between 8:30am and 5pm, or at Saxon House, Newhaven between 10am and 2pm.

Appointments in Peacehaven Meridian Centre on Mondays and Seaford Citizens Advice Bureau on Thursdays are available on request.

## Your Energy

**Residents are being encouraged to consider switching to Your Energy Sussex to pay less for their gas and electricity.**

Run by a partnership between local

authorities, including Lewes District Council, the energy is generated locally to people who live in or around Sussex.

Profits go towards helping local people who are struggling to pay their energy bills.

For more information visit [yourenergysussex.org.uk](http://yourenergysussex.org.uk)

## Council Tax

**Has something changed that might affect your council tax reduction?**

People claiming the Single Person Discount have 21 days to report any changes to their circumstances or risk a £70 fine.

For more details visit:  
[lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/council-tax](http://lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/council-tax)

## Upcoming Lewes District Council Public Meetings:

Cabinet (3)	16 Sept	2:30pm
Planning Applications Committee (1)	18 Sept	5:00pm
Audit and Standards Committee (4)	23 Sept	10am
Council (1)	25 Sept	6pm
Planning Applications Committee (1)	9 Oct	5pm
Cabinet (3)	28 Oct	2:30pm
Planning Applications Committee (1)	30 Oct	5pm
Audit and Standards Committee (4)	18 Nov	10am
Planning Applications Committee (1)	20 Nov	4pm
Council (1)	25 Nov	6pm
Scrutiny Committee (3)	28 Nov	2pm
Cabinet (3)	2 Dec	2:30pm

### 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](mailto:committees@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk)  
or call 01273 471600.  
Information is correct at time of going to press.



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# Spotlight On



## Julie Hickling Neighbourhood First Manager

### Tell us about your job:

I look after the Neighbourhood First team who deal with a vast array of environmental issues including fly tipping, dog fouling, littering, graffiti and more.

They also have an extensive understanding of council services, from council tax and housing to seafront amenities, which is useful as they are often people's first point of contact out in the community for questions about council services.

something relatively minor like getting brambles cleared from a footpath or assisting with anti-social behaviour issues that are seriously impacting on people's lives.

### What is your biggest annoyance?

My bugbear is littering. We need a real shift around why some people think it is acceptable to drop litter. Through education, and in some cases enforcement, I would love to see littering become a thing of the past.

I'm very lucky to work with a fantastic team. I'm proud of their 'can do' attitude and passion for getting stuff done.

### What is your favourite part of the job?

The best part is making a positive difference to people – whether that's

Each Neighbourhood First advisor is assigned an area which they not only have in-depth knowledge of, but also strong links with local partners such as emergency services and housing providers.

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## Stamp of Quality at Independent Shops

The quirky and diverse selection of independent traders in Lewes town centre is being celebrated with a prize draw.

From Friday, November 1, shoppers will be able to collect a Visit Lewes cloth tote bag from the Tourist Information Centre, containing a stamp card.

Each time they buy an item from a participating retailer, they will receive a

stamp. Once 10 stamps are collected, the card can be entered into a draw to win a hamper of assorted delights donated by the shops taking part.

The winner will be announced in the following places on Friday, December 20:  
[www.visitlewes.co.uk](http://www.visitlewes.co.uk)  
Twitter: [@enjoylewes](https://twitter.com/enjoylewes)  
Instagram: [@Visit.Lewes](https://www.instagram.com/Visit.Lewes)



# Lewes Bonfire Night

Bonfire revellers are being encouraged to consider the Lewes celebrations as an event for local people, rather than an attraction bringing large numbers of people into the town.

As in previous years, travel restrictions will be in place on Tuesday, November 5, to ensure public safety. These are being announced well beforehand to allow people plenty of time to plan ahead.

## Rail

On November 5 there will be no trains calling at Lewes, Glynde and Southease after 5pm.

There will be no trains calling at Cooksbridge after the 4.16pm from Victoria to Eastbourne has stopped there at 5.20pm.

There will be no trains calling at Falmer after the departure of the 6.31pm Brighton to Hastings service at 6.40pm.

No trains will call at the above stations until the first timetabled trains on the morning of November 6.

## Road

The following road closures will be in operation from 5.45pm on the day:

A27 junction with A277 Brighton Road (Ashcombe Roundabout)

A27 junction with A26 (Southerham Roundabout)

A26 junction with B2192 Ringmer Road (Earwig Corner)

C7 Kingston Road junction with C324 Wellgreen Lane

A275 Offham Rd junction with B2116 Plumpton Road

A27 junction with Southerham Lane (Cliffe Industrial Estate)

Parking restrictions will begin to be imposed from noon.

🌐 [lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/district-news](https://lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/district-news)

🐦 @LewesDC 📘 LewesDistrictCouncil



**Lewes District Council**