

Re-imagining Newhaven Board

Minutes of Meeting

Friday 28th March 2025

2pm to 3pm via MS Teams

Attendees:

Chair

- Chris Ketley

Community, Education and Business Representatives

- Dave Collins-Williams (DCW)
- Duncan Kerr (DK)
- Nick Backstrom (NB)
- Penny Shimmin (PS)

East Sussex County Council

- James Harris (JH)

Government's Local Growth Team

- Yazmin Taylor (YT) on behalf of Emma Smith

Lewes District Council

- Ian Fitzpatrick (IF)
- Zoe Nicholson (ZN)

Guest Speakers

- Danielle Holter (DH)
- Joshua Walker (JW)
- Kane Tudor (KT)

Secretariat (provided by Lewes District Council)

- Anna Salmon (AS)
- Dan Fairbrother (DF)

Apologies:

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| ○ Alison Turner (AT) | ○ Emma Smith (ES) |
| ○ Andrew Tucknott (ATu) | ○ Graham Amy (GA) |
| ○ Andy Hill (AH) | ○ James MacCleary (JM) |
| ○ Annie Lorys (AL) | ○ Janet Whitaker (JW) |
| ○ Ben Anderson (BA) | ○ Ken Dry (KD) |
| ○ Christine Robinson (CR) | ○ Lisa Rawlinson (LR) |
| ○ Corinne Day (CD) | ○ Mike Shorer (MS) |
| ○ Dick Shone (DS) | ○ Rob Cottrill (RC) |

1	Welcome, Introduction and Apologies CK welcomed the Board members and guest speakers to the meeting. CK started the meeting by talking about the wonderful official opening of Newhaven Fort with the Duke of Gloucester. CK urged everyone to visit the Fort. DK stated how hard the team worked to achieve the renovations in just one year. The Fort now offers exhibitions of a high standard and has already attracted lots of visitors to Newhaven. Ticket sales have sold out on numerous days since the Fort re-opened.	
2	Minutes of Last Meeting held on 24.01.25 The minutes were agreed.	
3	Declarations of Interest None	
4	Newhaven Football Club Outputs and Successes Agenda item carried over to the next Board meeting.	
5	Newhaven Business Grants Programme Update KT presented the successes of round 1 of the Newhaven Business Grants Programme delivering over £200,000 across 17 businesses in Newhaven and creating 29 jobs. DH provided a summary of round 2 of the Newhaven Business Grants Programme: ○ The Newhaven Business Grants Programme offers grants to SME businesses in the Newhaven Town Deal area. ○ The programme launched in November 2024, however due to Christmas, businesses were reluctant to meet pre-January. ○ Businesses can apply for grants of 50% of the cost of capital projects up to £15,000. ○ Funding pot of £180,000. Round 2 activity to date: ○ Discussions with 95 businesses. Three of which are previous applicants looking to claim the remaining allowance. ○ Currently an active pipeline of 18 businesses with applications totalling £176,164. ○ These businesses are currently profiled to provide an additional £280k in match funding, meaning the total investment into Newhaven businesses is currently forecast at £480k. ○ 8 grants have been approved by panel so far totalling £59,796. ○ Expecting the first few businesses to defray in April & May. ○ Employment creation of 9.4 FTE from approved applications with a forecast of 19.5 overall. ○ 8 applicants have been referred to the Newhaven Enterprise Zone funding programmes.	

	○ 9 referrals to the Growth Hub which offers free and independent business support. ○ 2 referrals to Department of Business and Trade International Trade Advisors. Next steps: ○ Support approved businesses in defrayal of their grants. ○ Manage waiting list for when programme is full. JH highlighted the effective partnership of ESCC and LDC working together to deliver this programme. AS emphasised the value of the outreach work carried out by DH.	
6	Social Enterprise Incubator Update PS provided an update on the Social Enterprise Incubator project. ESCC and LDC have continued to support SCDA in the search for a suitable property for the project. The business plan cannot be presented to the Board until a premise has been identified. IF echoed the efforts of ESCC and LDC in supporting this project but acknowledged the tight funding timeline of spend by 31st March 2026. IF suggested meeting with PS and reporting back to the Board virtually between now and the next Board meeting. AS confirmed that the grant must be spend by 31st March 2026. If a project has match funding, the match can be spent after this date. But this project does not have any match funding associated with it. Therefore, we only have one year left to spend and deliver. AS confirmed that if required, with Board approval, the grant funding allocation can be reprofiled across the remaining projects within the Re-imagining Newhaven programme.	
7	Re-imagining Newhaven Programme Updates AS informed the Board that the Quarter 4 Dashboard will be circulated once the reporting data has been received from all the project leads across the programme. AS shared photos of the new hoardings which have recently been installed in Newhaven Square. The hoardings are multi functional, providing wayfinding signage, project information and construction area notices. AS reminded Board members there is only one year left to finish delivering the Re-imagining Newhaven Programme. Over the coming year, there will be lots of project activity on various sites across Newhaven. • Landing Stage tenders are due back on 11 April and construction is expected to start on site in June. This is slightly behind the original timeline but will still be finished within the expected project timeline.	

	• The tender process for the Fort Road Recreation Ground programme of works took a little longer than expected, however, the main contractor will be appointed imminently, and construction will start on site in June. • Construction of the Restaurant and Community Destination project will commence in the summer. • There will be a lot of activity on various sites once the construction of the two large Wayfinding and Public Realm Improvement projects commences. • Eastside Recreation Ground project – the Town Council are still hopeful to deliver the playground replacement but is subject to finding the funding. IF expressed the newsworthy nature in regard to the uniqueness of investing in the fishing sector by delivering a new Landing Stage. AS stated that information signs have been prepared to go up on the construction site hoardings to inform the public what is happening and what is being delivered. DCW added that the contractor will be carrying out a leaflet drop in the local area to let residents know what is going on. IF offered to make the leaflets available at The Sidings and in the Marine Workshops.	
8	Government Strategic Updates YT mentioned that grant determination letters will be sent to all Accountable Bodies and grant payments are expected to be made on 21st April. JW from MHCLG introduced himself as the lead for Devolution in Sussex and Brighton. The combined mayoral authority covering East Sussex, West Sussex and Brighton & Hove would take on devolved powers and devolved funding. The mayor would be elected in May 2026. JW encouraged Board members to participate in the consultation: https://consult.communities.gov.uk/lggc/sussex-and-brighton-devolution-consultation/ (consultation closes on 13.04.25). JH and NB spoke about the benefits of devolution in regard to skills funding and delivering the qualifications that are actually needed in the county rather than the general national menu. This has worked well in existing Mayoral areas.	
9	Any other business CK shared on behalf of JW: The Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust (known as OART) are involved in some work called the 'Newhaven Reserve Enhancement' which deals with the wetland and water network near Newhaven, in conjunction with the National Park. These projects attract local volunteers to take part in the regeneration of the natural world. Are any Board members in touch with OART about this work, especially in relation to enhancing Newhaven?	AS to introduce JW to the relevant LDC officers regarding The Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust.

	ZN stated that LDC works closed with The Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust. AS to introduce JW to the relevant LDC officers. NB provided an update on the College's occupancy of the Marine Workshops which currently delivers Marine Biology courses. From September, the occupancy will be at capacity with the addition of higher education creative programmes and a school of counselling.	
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