

# De Montfort Newsletter

Spring 2022



**Welcome** to the De Montfort newsletter, keeping you up to date with estate matters and the work of Homes First. We aim to produce the newsletter quarterly, so if you'd like to contribute to future editions, please email **Billie Webster** (Senior Caseworker) at:



**billie.webster@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk**

## Growing Spaces in your community

We've noticed that the raised beds and growing spaces are not being used and wondered if residents had any ideas for these? **Some suggestions are:**

- A Gardening Club
- A Vegetable patch
- A Herb garden
- A Community Forest Garden with fruit trees and bushes
- Wildflowers and pollinating plants

We'd love to hear your ideas so if you have one, please contact Jo Wunsch (Community Development and Sustainability Advisor) on **07710 066440** or email: **jo.wunsch@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk**



## Keeping the estate tidy

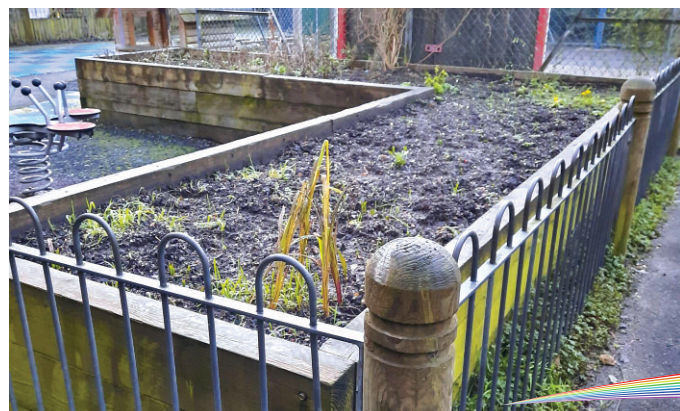
Homes First will hold another **litter pick day** on 17 February between 1pm and 3pm and everyone's welcome.

All equipment is provided, and children accompanied by adults will receive a small gift.

Everyone has the right to live in a clean, litter free environment, and similarly, everyone has a part to play in reducing the amount of litter on our estate.

### What you can do

- Always use designated bins for litter.
- Don't throw litter out of your car window, put it in the bin when you get home.
- If you can't find a bin when you're out, put the rubbish in your pocket or handbag until you find one or until you get home.
- Reuse plastic bags you already have at home or buy a bag for life when you go shopping.
- Help out by joining the litter pick event on 17 February.



# Tidying up!

## Day of action...

On the 24 January Homes First, Neighbourhood First and Waste and Recycling officers met for a **day of action** to tidy up and improve the estate for residents.

A month of planning had gone into organising the event which, we are pleased to report, was a resounding success.

The Day of Action team worked really hard throughout the morning to make a difference by:

- Emptying general waste bins in the Heron Court bin store
- Removing and clearing a lorry load of fly tipped rubbish
- Removing and replacing old waste bins with new ones
- Deep cleaning and sweeping bin areas
- Moving the recycling centre on Ousedale Close to a smaller area across the car park



**Pictured on this page:**

1. Emptying and removing old bins.
2. Fly tipped rubbish.
3. Deep cleaning the bin areas.
4. New bins arrive.

**NEIGHBOURHOOD FIRST**

## In addition to these improvements...

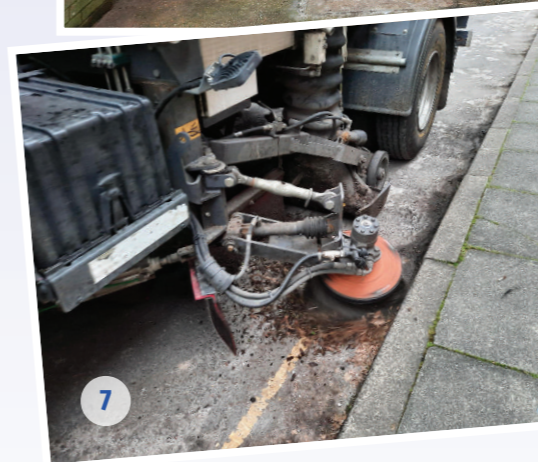
- Signs were ordered for all new bins and for the re-organised bin stores
- Four community bins, funded by the Tenants of Lewes District Community Improvement budget, were installed across the estate to support the new litter picking sessions being carried out every half term by Senior Caseworker Billie Webster and the Tenant Involvement Team
- A CCTV camera was installed to help prevent fly-tipping in the Heron court car park
- A new CCTV camera for Shelley Close is being considered (*subject to funding*)
- Information on keeping areas clean and disposing of litter was delivered to all residents.

### CCTV Surveillance

Images are being monitored for the purposes of Crime Prevention and Public Safety



If you have any suggestions following the day of action or ideas to improve the estate, please email Billie Webster on: [billie.webster@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk](mailto:billie.webster@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk)



**Pictured on this page:**

5. New bin store signage.
6. Cleaned and reorganised bin store.
7. Sweeping the streets.
8. The Day of Action team.

# The Library of Things

The Lewes Library of Things (LLOT) is a project, run by Go Local, a not-for-profit community interest company, organised by Tony Rowell, that seeks to address inequality and reduce consumption and waste by giving local people the opportunity to borrow the items they need for short term or one-off use at a reasonable cost.

From tools for DIY to a gazebo for a family celebration, there's no longer a need to spend money on buying an item that will only be used for a few hours, or that you don't have room to store in your home.

In the future we want to provide a mobile service to reduce journeys and ensure that those who don't have a car can still get heavy or unwieldy items, and to do this we aim to buy an electric cargo bike.

We'd be interested to hear from residents to see if they'd use such a service, so please let us know your thoughts by emailing [leweslot@gmail.com](mailto:leweslot@gmail.com) or by visiting [www.leweslibraryofthings.org.uk](http://www.leweslibraryofthings.org.uk) and using the contact form.

The Lewes Library of Things has been operating for three mornings a week from the Community Room, 2a Horsfield Road, BN7 2TA on the Landport Estate since

July 2021 and has been a great success!



# How do I contact HOMES FIRST?

Many issues can now be reported online using our website: [www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk](http://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk)

Simply type in 'report a problem' in the enter search text field and press return to see a range of options. Another way is to type in a key word to find out more.



For example, if the grass verges need cutting, type in the word 'overgrown' or 'grass' and press return.

Some of the online reporting forms need you to register a "MyAccount" first, but you only need to do that once. The online forms are a quick and easy way to report many issues including repairs to your home and communal areas, missed bins or waste and recycling issues, dog issues, litter and fly tipping, graffiti, and vandalism, and even noise nuisance and anti-social behaviour.



Energy bills are rising and we want to help you:

- take control of energy usage
- has your energy company gone bust?
- are you eligible for any discounts?

Lewes Climate Hub has teamed up with OVESCO and their Big Energy Saving Network champions to offer free, impartial advice.

**Free drop-in sessions**

Tenants Resource Centre, 2a Horsfield Road, Landport, BN7 2TA  
**Friday 4th & Friday 18th February 2022**  
Between 10am-1pm

Come along and speak to an energy champion to see if they can help you with your energy usage. It can be helpful to bring along your latest fuel bill. Free Teas & Coffee provided!

Call or text 07909 816664 Freephone 0800 4589045 Email [energyadvice@ovesco.co.uk](mailto:energyadvice@ovesco.co.uk)



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