

Re-imagining Newhaven Board

Minutes of Board Meeting

Friday 24th January 2025

10.30am to 12pm via MS Teams

Attendees:

Chair

- Chris Ketley (CK)

Lewes District Council

- Christine Robinson (CR)
- Lisa Rawlinson (LR)

Members of Houses of Parliament and Lords

- Baroness Janet Whitaker (JW)

Community, Education and Business Representatives

- Andrew Tucknott (ATu)
- Annie Lorys (AL)
- Ben Anderson (BA)
- Dave Collins-Williams (DCW)
- Duncan Kerr (DK)
- Mike Shorer (MS)
- Penny Shimmin (PS)

Newhaven Enterprise Zone

- Corinne Day (CD)

Government's Local Growth Team

- Yazmin Taylor (YT) on behalf of Emma Smith

Greater Brighton Economic Board Representative

- Andy Hill (AH)

Guest Speakers

- Neil Harrison (NH)
- Nick Stockman (NS)

Secretariat (provided by Lewes District Council)

- Anna Salmon (AS)
- Bryn Mabey (BM)
- Dan Fairbrother (DF)

Apologies:

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| ○ Alison Turner (AT) | ○ Ken Dry (KD) |
| ○ Dick Shone (DS) | ○ Nick Backstrom (NB) |
| ○ Emma Smith (ES) | ○ Nigel Stewardson (NS) |
| ○ Graham Amy (GA) | ○ Rob Cottrill (RC) |
| ○ Ian Fitzpatrick (IF) | ○ Zoe Nicholson (ZN) |
| ○ James Harris (JH) | |
| ○ James MacCleary (JM) | |

1	<p>Welcome, Introduction and Apologies</p> <p>CK welcomed the Board members and guest speakers to the meeting.</p> <p>CK started the meeting by sharing a story about one of the talented Board members. Mike Shorer, who sits on the Board as the representative for Newhaven Chamber of Commerce, is a jewellery designer and goldsmith.</p> <p>Millions watched the Darts World Championship in early January. The winner's trophy was created in Newhaven by Mike. Mike also made ½ size replicas for the Champion and runner-up to keep. The World Darts trophy has now been seen by over 100 million people worldwide. The trophy is entirely handmade from silver, brass and bronze, with a large cabochon garnet coloured gem atop the hand-engraved globe, to signify the bullseye.</p> <p>Mike has also designed and made trophies and awards for Film, TV and Music Stars - including all the awards for the South Bank Show for ten years. And made jewellery and objet d'Art for members of the Royal Family, the Gladiator films and Princess Diana's (other) engagement ring in Netflix's The Crown.</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of Last Meeting held on 29.11.24</p> <p>The minutes were agreed.</p>	
3	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>JW declared an interest as an honorary fellow of The Royal Institute of British Architects in relation to the AOB.</p>	
4	<p>Newhaven Fort progress update</p> <p>NH provided the Board with an update on the project and shared lots of photographs of the works. The 150-year-old Fort is due to reopen to the public on 15.02.25.</p> <p>Core objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To secure the sustainable future of the Fort. • To develop the Fort into a community asset. • To improve Newhaven as a visitor destination. • To create and secure jobs. <p>Delivering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive repairs and restoration of the heritage fabric. • Health & safety and environmental improvements. • Visitor amenity & guest experience improvements. <p>Focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adventure play area which is bespoke to the Fort. • Casemate environments. • Casemate exhibitions. • Café. • Entrance, shop and office. • Gun emplacements (which were closed in 2018 due to structural and safety concerns). • Site-wide maintenance. • Romney Hut (large indoor venue restored and insulated). • Battery Observation Post (will be opening to the public for the first time ever). • Northwest Counterscarp (re-enabling access and providing guided walks to see the post-war murals). • New website. <p>Snagging items and minor works will continue after the school half term but will not impact on the visitor experience.</p>	

5	<p>Social Enterprise Incubator update</p> <p>PS informed that Board that SCDA are not in a position to present the Business Plan for this project for the Board to consider. SCDA have continued to work hard with partners like LDC, East Sussex County Council Property Team, the SPACES programme and commercial agents, to make this project viable.</p> <p>SCDA are in the process of waiting to hear back from the Property Team at ESCC to find out if they have a property available which is suitable for refurbishment that meets the requirements for this project.</p>	
6	<p>Creative Newhaven update</p> <p>NS presented an in-depth update on the Creative Newhaven activities and explained that Newhaven Enterprise Zone funding enables Towner to support the creative activity in Newhaven.</p> <p>Activities to date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following Ravilious public art trail in 2023. • Sea Magic (Mermaid Day) – first event at The Sidings in 2022. • Provided support to Hospitable Environment for their community engagement work. • Supported Newhaven Art Space in the High Street - which holds exhibitions, workshops and private viewings and fantastic exhibitions which included the Carla Black exhibition in 2023. • Supported Newhaven Festival events including Harbour Lights Parade. • Refurbished the top floor of the Marine Workshops into a large gallery space, attracting over 5,000 people to exhibitions in Q3 and Q4 2024 and hosted play on productions (amongst others) in the ground floor atrium space. • A summer season of events at The Sidings which attracted over 2,200 people over 4 weekends including performances, workshops, games, DJs and Ceilidhs and bands. <p>Aims for 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BN9 Arts Growth Fund is open for applications – deadline 06.02.25. • Working through a long list of artists interested in exhibiting at the Marine Workshops. • Partnering with SCDA who are applying for Arts Council funding to create a playground of imagination at The Sidings by artists ‘Leap Then Look’ called ‘Free Forms’. • Achieve Creative Opportunity Zone status. <p>CK asked if there is one website for all Newhaven based events. BM mentioned the Council’s Visit Lewes website but it’s not specific to Newhaven.</p> <p>JW congratulated NS and the team for their energy and bringing a sense of identity to Newhaven. JW acknowledged that a lot of the events are not revenue generating and asked about the security of future funding? NS explained there is an aspiration to charge for some future events at The Sidings. CD added that securing the Creative Opportunity Zone status would open up opportunities for private sector investment to enable financial sustainability going forward.</p> <p>AT offered support with delivering equipment, the use of a trailer for a stage or artwork on the side of a lorry.</p> <p>MS announced that the Newhaven Chamber of Commerce are hosting the new Vietnamese Ambassador in Newhaven on 07.02.25. They are keen to build upon cultural links between Newhaven and Vietnam. NS and MS will liaise outside of the Board meeting.</p> <p>CK asked about the plans for celebrating the 200-year anniversary of the first ferry crossing? CD and LR confirmed that LDC are leading on the plans and a meeting with</p>	

	French directors is planned for later this month.	
7	<p>Re-imagining Newhaven Programme updates</p> <p>Business Grants Programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Round 2 launched in November 2024. • Momentum since Christmas with lots of enquiries received this month. • 51 business enquiries, of which 20 are actively engaged in the programme. • 8 businesses are currently completing applications to an estimated value of £101,625 (56% of the £180,000 grant pot). • Newhaven businesses are currently profiled to provide an additional £156,820 in match funding, therefore the total investment into Newhaven businesses is forecast at £258,445. • Expecting the first few businesses to reach the panel stage in the next two weeks. • Businesses who may be interested in applying to the programme are encouraged to do so quickly, as the programme is filling up fast. Contact newhavengrants@eastsussex.gov.uk. <p>Eastside Recreation Ground: Newhaven Town Council are seeking local views on how the playground could be improved: www.newhaventowncouncil.gov.uk/news/have-your-say-about-eastside-playground/ Survey closes on 14.02.25.</p> <p>Wayfinding and Public Realm Improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both major public realm projects (Transport Interchange Hub and Town Centre Streetscape Improvements) have completed RIBA Stage 2. • Topographical surveys have been completed and will help inform the Stage 3 design. • Stakeholder and community engagement events for both projects took place in Quarter 3 and further engagement is planned for this Quarter. • Soil improvements and planting taking place at Riverside North, Chapel Street and Meeching Road between 20th January and 5th February. <p>Newhaven Square:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contractor started on site on 28.10.24. • Project is progressing well. • Continued engagement will take place with the GPs and Wave Active regarding the sequencing of works and sectional completion. • Works to Dacre Road car park are complete: 4th deck of the car park has re-opened, providing 51 additional spaces. • Engagement with local businesses and residents has commenced to ensure everyone's aware of the pedestrian access changes. • The draft site hoarding artwork was shared with Board members which includes site signage and redirection information. <p>Fort Road Recreation Ground:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RIBA stage 4 completed. • Retrofit and Demolition asbestos survey is currently being commissioned in readiness for the commencement of the building and groundworks at the Rec. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 3 buildings will be surveyed: public toilets, Shakespeare Hall and the Cricket Pavilion. 	

- Tree survey has been carried out and remedial works will start before the end of March 2025.
- Biodiversity and mitigation survey completed.
- Children's nursery who occupied the top floor of Shakespeare Hall have been temporarily relocated to Newhaven Football Club in readiness for works to commence.
- £268,000 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) will fund the new play area, outdoor gym, cricket wicket, biodiversity planting and seating.
- Currently out to tender for the main contractor and landscaping subcontractor who will be undertaking the retrofitting and landscaping works on the site.
- Public toilets are also currently out to Tender.

The Viewpoint Benches art competition received over 100 bench design entries. Two winning designs have been selected and will be etched onto the back of the benches. Publicity including an article in the District News and press release: www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/article/3077/Winning-bench-designs-capture-spirit-of-Newhaven

Community Orchard is being developed with Brighton Permaculture Trust and other interested parties in the community. The community orchard will be sited in the location of the existing play area which will be removed. A new play area will be built adjacent to the new cafe. Any equipment that is serviceable will be relocated to the new play area.

The foundations have now been completed in readiness for the shipping container to be relocated to its new position next to the Scout Hut. An arts project is being developed to involve the community in repainting the shipping container with a suitable design.

Landing Stage:

- The detailed design is now complete.
- Tender documentation is in progress.
- April 2025 – works will commence (Marine Management Organisation and ecological requirements mean that piling cannot begin until Spring / Summer 2025).
- November 2025 – works are due to complete.

Fish Processing Plant:

- The Lease, Grant Funding Agreement and Section 33 Deed of Covenant were completed at the end of Quarter 3.
- The building is now ready to be fully operational.
- During Quarter 4 – the Fish Processing Plant will be fully operational with fishers using the unit for the processing and storage of their catch.

Restaurant and Community Destination:

- The project is progressing well through RIBA Stage 4.
- The design team are progressing through the technical design stage ready for tender.
- Reptile translocation works have taken place successfully on the site prior to hibernation period.
- The site has been fenced.
- Some further site investigation works have taken place on site, which are now complete.

JW asked what are the reptiles and where have they been relocated to? AS to seek detailed information from the project manager.

AS to seek information about the reptiles and where they have been relocated.

<p>8</p>	<p>Government Strategic Update</p> <p>YT provided the Board with a comprehensive update.</p> <p>ES and YT are exploring plans for the Minister to visit Newhaven's town centre regeneration projects.</p> <p>Economic growth is government's number one priority.</p> <p>The Modern Industrial Strategy is under development and due to be published later this year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The eight growth-driving sectors are digital tech, life sciences, defence, services, clean energy, manufacturing and creative industries and manufacturing. They present the greatest opportunity for output and productivity growth over the long-term. The strategy is unreservedly pro-business, engaging on complex issues that are barriers to investment such as skills, data, tech adoption, access to finance, competition, regulation, grid, planning etc. The industrial strategy will concentrate efforts on places with the greatest potential for our growth sectors: city regions, high-potential clusters, and strategic industrial sites. • Following the Green Paper consultation last year, we are talking to businesses and experts to identify the most effective levers for our sectors and clusters across the country and where the investible propositions are. <p>Last year, Government published the English Devolution White Paper. On 16.12.24 the Minister for Local Government wrote to all councils in two-tier areas and neighbouring small unitaries, to set out ambitions and expectations, asking councils to confirm if they wanted to be part of a priority devolution programme. East, West Sussex and Brighton & Hove have since responded and are waiting for Ministerial decisions. For areas that responded by the 10.01.25 deadline, Ministers will consider whether to take forward the postponement of elections in May where this has been requested.</p> <p>The Government is fully committed to rejuvenating town centres and the high streets within them and will support the businesses and communities to make town centres successful.</p> <p>Local Authorities play a crucial role in regeneration and management of the town centres, particularly their ability to bring people and organisations together to develop a vision for the area.</p> <p>There is no 'one vision' for what town centres or a high street should look like as the design should be informed by local people. Government wants our town centres to be safe, accessible, welcoming places with lots of reasons for people to visit and expect town centres in the future will include a healthy mix of business and community services.</p> <p>The Department for Transport is developing a strategy which will set the high-level direction for how transport should be designed, built and operated in England over the next 10 years. It will set out a single national vision which will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • put people who use transport and their needs at its heart • empower local leaders to deliver integrated transport solutions that meet the needs of their local communities <p>The Department for Transport are calling for evidence which closes 20.02.25: Integrated National Transport Strategy: a call for ideas - GOV.UK</p>	
<p>9</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>JW asked for an update on Active House. LR explained that conversations are on-going, and an update would be provided in due course.</p> <p>CK highlighted that the Board has been operating since February 2020. CK exclaimed how much brilliant activity is taking place in the project delivery phase and how there will be lots</p>	<p>LR and AS to continue to provide JW with updates on Active House.</p>

	to celebrate as the year goes on. CK thanked the Board for their engagement and continued contributions.	
	Date of next meeting: Friday 28th March 2pm - 3.30pm	