

# Renovation of Eastbourne Carpet Gardens

## What is happening?

The Carpet Gardens are being restored and renovated this year to trial a sustainable planting showcase, offering greater biodiversity and allowing the removal of an invasive weed. The new planting scheme will provide an attractive year-round display for residents, visitors and wildlife, while also able to withstand the warmer and drier climate and benefit the environment.

A section of the Carpet Gardens will be planted in the traditional style to allow people to compare the old and the new, and we want to know your thoughts on both approaches as we plan for next year.

The current traditional bedding scheme has been in place for over a hundred years. While this approach has provided an attractive display every spring and summer, it has meant the plants must be changed twice a year. This is a costly and wasteful approach by modern standards and does not provide the biodiversity necessary to support wildlife.

In recent years the soil has become overrun with an invasive, non-domestic weed called *Oxalis latifolia*. This weed and the soil it has contaminated will be removed, without necessitating the use of harmful chemicals.

This year, the Carpet Gardens will feature plants that flower in different seasons, meaning there will be something to enjoy throughout the entire year and provide a more naturalistic display. The soil level throughout the Gardens will be raised by 20–30cm. This will not only provide a specified free draining rooting medium for the new plants but also it forms part of the (non-chemical) integrated weed control programme devised to eradicate the pernicious *Oxalis* weed that has colonised the existing plantings.

This year's display will be better suited to the seafront conditions and will support wildlife by being pollinator-friendly providing nectar for insects and seeds for birds.



## What to expect

- The plants will grow and mature over time
- There will be year-round floral and foliage interest
- The plants will change visually with the seasons
- The plants will last for many years
- A naturalistic design

## Improvements

- Different displays throughout the year
- Better suited to the seaside conditions
- Pollinator-attracting plants
- Food for wildlife
- Improved soil health
- Increase carbon capture
- Less wastage and lower costs

## Timeframe

**Start date:**

Monday 12 May 2025

**End date:**

Friday 21 June 2025



## About the designer

The work is being led by Sussex-based landscape and garden designer, Peter Thurman. Peter has designed gardens and landscapes across the world and has advised on environmental management widely in the UK and overseas.

During his 45-year career, Peter has trained and taught at Kew Royal Botanic Gardens. For many years he has also lectured at the Inchbald School of Design in London and the London College of Garden Design.

Peter is a fellow of the Arboricultural Association and the Chartered Institute of Horticulture (CIH), he has chartered status in trees & forestry (ICF), and the environment (SocEnv).

Peter has lived in East Sussex for over 40 years



**For more information, please visit**  
**[lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/Carpet-Gardens](https://lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/Carpet-Gardens)**  
**Scan the QR code to share your views on**  
**this approach** →

