

Policy & Finance Committee Report— Cllr. Mrs E Russell

As Leader of the only political party on the Council I am the Chair of the Policy & Finance Committee. This Committee determines the policy of the Council and holds the purse strings. It has the responsibility of recommending the budget to the Council.

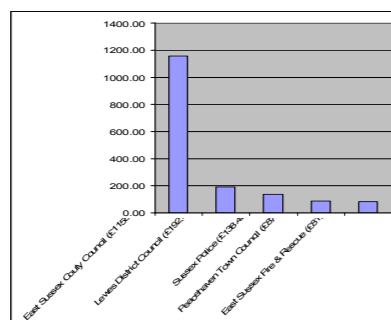
In the 2009 Annual Report the Chair of this Committee outlined various projects that it was proposed should be completed during the following year. I am pleased to be able to report that all of these projects have been completed – air conditioning in the offices and the Anzac Room, purchasing a portable dance floor that can be used in any of the meeting rooms, completing the 4 year plan to improve all of the Council's play areas, completing the upgrade of the County Football Pitch, contributing towards the costs of upgrading the Bowling Green and contributing towards the 3 Towns' Community Bus.

During the next 12 months the Council hopes to extend its allotment provision at Cornwall Avenue, including the provision of raised beds for disabled residents. Councillors will be working hard to get the best possible use of the land that Southern Water has agreed to transfer to either Lewes District or Peacehaven Town Council for the use of sports pitches as part of the planning conditions for the Waste Water Treatment Works. Southern Water has also pledged to help with the costs of building a sports pavilion. There will also be development contributions from the housing development east of the Sports Park. It is proposed to use this money to upgrade the facilities at the Sports Park.

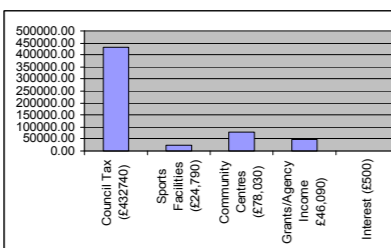
The Council's budgeted net expenditure for 2010/2011 is £433,240 compared to £423,130 for 2009/2010. In the past the Council has been able to offset some of its costs against interest received on its investments. Due to the long term low interest rates the Council now estimates that it will only receive £500 over the year, so Council Tax Payers of the Town will be

asked to pay the balance of £432,740. Lewes District Council has calculated that a band D property is liable to pay £87.61 during the year. This equates to £1.68 per week and reflects a 2.9% increase. I consider this to be very good value for money considering the services that the Council provides as outlined above and in the other Committee reports.

The chart below shows what a small percentage of the Council Tax bill is forwarded to the Town Council



The Council does not just rely on the income from Council Tax to finance its activities. It actively markets its facilities such as community rooms and sports facilities to increase its income. The chart below shows how the 2010/2011 gross expenditure is to be funded:



This Committee has 3 Sub-Committees – Grants, Employment & Audit.

The Grants Sub Committee meets twice a year and considers applications for financial assistance from local voluntary organisations. During the last 12 months 21 organisations applied for a grant and a total

of £7386.35 was awarded.

The Audit Sub Committee meets twice a year. Government legislation lays a lot of responsibility on Councillors to ensure that the Council's finances and other resources are safe. The Audit Sub Committee is expected to regularly review the Council's Financial Regulations and internal control procedures.

The Employment Sub Committee meets as and when circumstances require it. Several meetings have been held during this year to consider the recommendations of a Working Party set up to consider a Staffing Review. It also recommended that Cllr. Sargent should be appointed as unpaid Health & Safety Officer to ensure that the Council fulfils its statutory responsibilities under Health & Safety legislation.

As from 1 January 2009 all Local Councils are able to adopt the Power of Well-Being if they can comply with strict conditions. This enables the Councils to raise funds (by raising Council Tax and/or borrowing) for any project that it deems is likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of its area. Peacehaven Town Council can comply with the conditions as Councillors have received training, the Town Clerk has passed an addition module of CiLCA and the Council has published a Community Engagement Statement of Intent.

Residents will have noticed that the Council has changed the designer and printer of its Newsletter. This is now done by local companies with an improved presentation at no cost to the Council.

This Committee has also agreed that all of its assets should be re-valued to ensure that its asset register is accurate and that all of its properties and equipment are adequately insured.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Members of the Policy & Finance Committee for their support during my year as Chair.

Name	Tel. No.	Ward	Name	Tel. No.	Ward
Cllr. C Bishop	586633	North	Cllr. J Livings	583975	North
Cllr. Mrs S Bratchie	611695	East	Cllr. Mrs E Merry	580732	North
Cllr. I Buchanan	584865	West	Cllr. C. Ogden	585831	East
Cllr. Miss L Hallett	583501	West	Cllr. Mrs E Russell	583471	West
Cllr. J. Harris	583050	West	Cllr. A. Sargent	583501	East
Cllr. Ms J Harrison-Hicks	589430	East	Cllr. Mrs. E. Simmons	581676	North
Cllr. Mrs P Haswell	586379	East	Cllr. Ms C Terry	514347	North
Cllr. P Howson,	581612	East	Cllr. R Worthington,	581896	North
Cllr. Mrs H Livings	583975	West			



Annual Report 2010



Peacehaven Town Council

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Welcome from The Mayor—Cllr. Mrs Helen Livings



I have reached the end of the Mayoral Year and so it follows the end of my Mayoral journey. It has been a great honour to represent Peacehaven during the past 12 months.

It has been a year of great contrasts, one of the highlights being the Garden Party at Buckingham Palace, a close second was the High Sheriff's Garden Party at Chailey Place where I wore the Mayoral Chain with great pride. My husband and I have continued to support the East Sussex Music Service throughout this busy year, the talent that the young people have in Sussex for music making has to be heard to be believed.

I have travelled from Hastings in the East to Shoreham in the West raising the profile of Peacehaven and I hope that at last we can loose the word Cinderella when talking about our Town – a description I have always disliked. Due to the work that I and past Mayors have completed Peacehaven is now a force to be reckoned with.

As most people are aware, I have

been a volunteer for the past 11 years so volunteers are a group of people very close to my heart. I am constantly humbled by the groups that are supported by volunteers, to name but a few I have visited over the last 12 months - the Lionesses, Women's Institute, Searchlight, Mencap, Cancer Support, Alzheimers Society, Age Concern, Access, East Sussex Association for the Blind and the East Sussex Disability Association. It confirms my decision to give whatever monies I have raised to local groups in the area.

It is very difficult when producing an end of year report to highlight particular events as there have been so many, but I would like to



congratulate all involved in the Skate Park and I will watch with interest the development of the Piddinghoe Sports Park. We also have a superb new development for older people called Downlands Court at the Eastern end of our Town. We have chosen the design for the War Memorial. The Garden of the Year Competition will go ahead again this

year so we have a number of exciting and interesting events to look forward to.



Before I step down I would like to thank the Councillors who have supported me through this year and the members of staff. I would particularly like to thank Debbie Donovan who runs the Mayor's Quiz nights and Georgina Bancroft who organises the Mayor's Diary and makes the journey so much easier than it otherwise would be, my Deputy Councillor Chris Ogden who has supported me in everything I have attempted, our Town Crier who has made people smile wherever he went and last but not least my husband John who has driven me to functions and has offered constant support and encouragement.

I wish my successor, Councillor Chris Ogden every success in the coming year and I know that Peacehaven Town Council is going to go from strength to strength and will meet the challenges of the 21st Century.

Leisure & Amenities Committee Report - Cllr. Mr Chris Bishop

This was my third year as Chairman of the Committee and I have been pleased to see that more of our projects have been completed providing a range of facilities for the residents. The Leisure & Amenities Committee has a large budget to manage, providing Community Buildings, sports fields and recreation and play areas. In the main there have been many high points, however the Town is, like many similar Towns, blighted by a negative minority who set out to cause damage and disrupt the lives of the residents. With that said, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Sergeant Denham Vokins to the Town and hope he, along with his dedicated staff, will be able to continue the good work of his predecessor.

The past year has been very busy with a number of projects coming to fruition. When I started out as Chair, I outlined an issue which needed some attention. This was the upgrading of the play areas in the Town. I set out a 4 year plan and I am delighted to say that this has been completed in three years. Two new pieces of equipment have been installed at the play areas at the Epinay Park and the Sports Park which has meant that all the parks have been in some way updated.

The major project of the past year was the skate park in Piddinghoe Avenue Sports Park. This has been on the 'Wish List' for a number of years and has finally been provided.



The Young People from The Joff Youth Centre along with the staff there, worked in applying for grants. The Town Council were able to provide both the site for the park and some planning contributions which took the project forward. The total cost of the scheme was £97,000. Then using the skills of the staff and Councillors the project was completed in time for the spring. On 1st April it was fitting that the Chair of East Sussex County Council was present to open the new facility, as it was his staff who had started the ball rolling by encouraging the young people to apply for grants.

I would also like to mention the work of the volunteers who work to ensure that the sports clubs and organisations are a success. There



is a thriving Netball Club and Bowls Club as well as Park Football Clubs and clubs organised by churches and school. Finally I would like to congratulate the Peacehaven & Telscombe Football Club who won the John O'Hara League Cup on Good Friday. It has been a particularly good year for the Club as last season they were promoted and this year they have improved even further. I look forward to working with them to ensure further success and by helping to gain funding for their proposed stands.

Looking to the next year, I am keen to secure land for the much needed allotments in Cornwall Avenue and



hope that this can be secured and ready by the end of the financial year, we are also starting to plan the area to the west of the Southern Water site which will be used for sports pitches and a pavilion, this is a more long term project which needs to be properly managed and designed.

I would also like mention the important role of the Council ground-staff in all the events and activities which are organised for the residents. The ground-staff have been involved in a number of projects, planting the bulbs, improving the roundabout and the Greenwich Way flower beds. Head grounds-man, Kevin Bray, is also rightly proud of his work on the bowls club green, which is one of the best in Sussex; he was heavily involved in the Football Pitch resurfacing as well as the day to day work of mowing and marking pitches. There are also the other ground-staff, Tony Burrell and Tom James who are trained to a high standard and fulfil a wide range of services from the pitch maintenance to the tending of the floral decorations and play areas. Surprisingly this year there have been no new staff employed, although we will be employing a summer Groundsman and maintenance officer who will help maintain the facilities during the busy summer period.

Finally I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for their help and support during my 3rd year as Chairman of this Committee.

Planning & Highways Committee Report – Cllr. J Livings

The total Planning Applications considered by Peacehaven Planning & Highways Committee during the past twelve months was 85.



Fifty one applications were approved and eleven refused. Of those refused, eight were taken to appeal by the applicants and the Lewes District Planning Committee decision to refuse permission was overturned by the Government Inspectorate on two applications. A further two applications were

withdrawn. The remainder are still under consideration by Lewes District Planning Officers.

Most applications were from home owners to extend or alter their own property. Residents may well be aware of considerably more work being carried out than the number of planning applications registered, the reason for this is that quite a lot of alterations to existing properties can be carried out under "Permitted Development".

Where this is the case it is only necessary to observe "Building Regulations". Lewes District Council Building Inspectors need to approve the works and materials and inspect the site. They will, in most cases, inspect work in progress. Work should not be started without their approval; it is NOT a Town Council function to comment on "Permitted Development"

In addition to considering planning

applications, members of the committee are involved with liaison groups to monitor the progress of major projects in the Town. The Southern Water Sewage Works construction, the Bovis housing development being the main two.

They are also involved in, or keep a close watch on, all other projects within the Town, such as the relaying of the Football Club pitch, the War Memorial project and the proposed new sports facilities funded from 106 planning contributions. The most recent project to be completed is the new skate park. Members are also involved with the County Council Strengthening Local Relationship (SLR) panel. This gives the Town an opportunity to make the County Council aware of highway issues that have been raised by residents either at council meetings or at the Councillors surgeries held on the second Saturday of each Month.

