

Seaford Town Council Annual Report 2011/12



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Seaford Town Council

37 Church Street

Seaford

East Sussex

BN25 1HG

Tel : 01323 894870

Fax : 01323 872976

Email :

admin@seafordtowncouncil.gov.uk

Website :

www.seafordtowncouncil.gov.uk

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR OF SEAFORD TOWN COUNCIL

The Mayor of Seaford was a role that I never imagined undertaking but it has been a real honour and the year I have spent in office has been truly amazing.

Seaford is a wonderful area to live with beautiful surrounding countryside which is now included in the South Downs National Park.

During my term, I have discovered that our town is full of talented people spanning all age groups and covering arts and crafts, drama, music and sports. There is always something going on in Seaford.

I have attended nearly two hundred events—all of them special in their own right—but my thoughts always go back to the Dream Night at Drusillas Zoo Park, an event held for families with handicapped or life limited children. There was so much laughter and love and the animals made the event so special for the young people, I will never forget all those I met that night.

It was lovely to meet the actress, Sheila Hancock, when we opened the Peace Garden at the Crouch, last summer. A beautiful area for quiet reflection and enjoying the coastal sunshine.

My chosen charity this year was WAVES Family Support Service and as I worked alongside them, fundraising and raising awareness, I learned more about their work with families in Seaford who may be vulnerable, or isolated from the community and I was really pleased that I decided to support them.

A novel idea we had this year was to run a 'Mad March Marathon' where groups within the community held events, large and small, to raise funds for WAVES FSS. An amazing £4,000 was raised through sponsored hops, lunches, music and dance events and much more! My thanks go to all those who held an event or attended one.

I have enjoyed working with the Young Mayor, Maddie Jay, and her Deputy, Amy Gough, two great ambassadors for the young people in Seaford and I also welcomed the Mayors of Bonningstedt and Crivitz, Wisconsin to our town.

Thanks must go to our hard working Town Clerk, Officers and staff. A special thank you to my secretary Paula Woolven and her family for their support guiding me through the fundraising events. Last, but certainly not least, my friend, Liz Holland, (Mayors Consort) for her support and encouragement all year. Our achievements this year have been a real team effort.

Linda Wallraven

Mayor

Seaford Town Council



MESSAGE FROM THE LEADER OF SEAFORD TOWN COUNCIL

The last year has been one of change. Sixteen new councillors joined four from the previous council following the elections in May. This created a new Conservative majority group. We have many challenges ahead, it is a challenge that we relish.

Young People:

This year we have seen the reopening of the new revamped Mercread Centre which will provide a number of activities for our young people. "The Base" in the "Salts" has a new committee which is working on plans to improve the facilities. This will not only be for young people but also for other groups.

Town:

Following the bad snow we have experienced in recent winters, the council has embarked on a programme to introduce grit bins. We hope this will help should we get a repeat of the heavy snow and ice.

Seafront:

The council is committed to improvements to the seafront following the wonderful exhibition at "Arts@theCrypt". A result of the show was a number of excellent ideas which are helping to create a vision for enhancing not only, the facilities, also the appearance of our seafront. A number of refuse bins were damaged by fires caused by portable barbecues being placed in them without being properly extinguished. We are about to replace these with bins that are not only fireproof but have a larger capacity for rubbish.

Partnership Working:

We are working with our colleagues at both District and County Council's with the aim of providing better and more varied health care facilities for our Town. Progress is slow but we are determined to see these improvements come to fruition.

The council is working to improve parking in the town with an emphasis to encourage the greater use of the off street car parks,

Finally I would like to thank all those groups that we, as a council, are working with, for their idea's and input into plans for the future of Seaford.

Ian White

Leader

Seaford Town Council



A B O U T U S

Councillors—*Seaford Town Council has twenty Councillors*

Name	Address	Responsibility
CLr Sam Adeniji	1 Buckle Drive, Seaford, BN25 2QH	Chairman of Finance and General Purposes Committee
CLr Bob Allen	7 Heathfield Road, Seaford, BN25 1AW	Leader of Minority Group
CLr Mark Brown	93 Princess Drive, Seaford, BN25 2QT	Deputy Leader of the Council & Vice Chairman of F&GP
CLr Maxine Buck	33 Esplanade, Seaford, BN25 1JJ	
CLr Barry Burfield	6 Went Hill Park, Seaford, BN25 4QD	
CLr Adrian Campbell	64 Katherine Way, Seaford, BN25 2XF	
CLr Sylvia Dunn	8 Whiteley Close, Seaford, BN25 4AQ	Deputy Mayor
CLr Paul Franklin	45 Vale Road, Seaford, BN25 3EZ	
CLr Stephen Gauntlett	17 Kedale Road, Seaford, BN25 2BX	
CLr Terry Goodman	32 Richington Way, Seaford, BN25 3HU	
CLr Barry Groves	72 Marine Drive, Seaford, BN25 2RU	Vice Chairman of Golf Committee
CLr Ali Hayder	20a Sutton Park Road, Seaford, BN25 1QU	
CLr Paul Heseltine	3 Buckle Drive, Seaford, BN25 2QH	
CLr Sarah McStravick	Jumble Cottage, Alfriston Road, Seaford, BN25 3JN	Deputy Leader of Minority Group
CLr Rita Scarfe	15 Chyngton Avenue, Seaford, BN25 3SL	
CLr Ben Warren	Fieldings, Firle Road, Seaford, BN25 2JH	Vice Chairman of Community Services Committee
CLr Linda Wallraven	1 Eadric House, Bishopstone Village, BN25 2UE	Mayor and Chairman of Planning and Highways Committee
CLr Anthony White	30 Maple Fields, Seaford, BN25 3ER	Chairman of Community Services Committee
CLr Ian White	83 Hurdis Road, Seaford, BN25 2TH	Leader of the Council and Chairman of Golf Committee
Vacant Position		

Staff—the Council employ staff in the following roles;

Name	Role
Mrs Sam Shippen FCIS, Principal ILCM, CMC	Town Clerk
Mr Simon Cooper	Corporate Services Manager
Mr Ben King	Projects and Facilities Manager
Mrs Paula Woolven	Administration Assistant (Corporate Services)
Miss Dawn Thompson	Administration Assistant (Projects and Facilities)
Mrs Jacque Fox	Administration Assistant (Finance)
Mr John Linscer	Head Green Keeper
Mr Simon Lambert	Assistant Head Green Keeper
Mr Chris Walsh	Green Keeper
Mr Zack Suleyman	Trainee Green Keeper

I N T R O D U C T I O N

Welcome to the 2011/12 Annual Report, this is the full report of the Town Council.

A summary will be published in the next Town Council newsletter.

This report has been produced and made available prior to the Seaford Town Meeting to be held on 1 May 2012 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, 37 Church Street, Seaford. The Town Meeting is a meeting of the electors of the Town of Seaford and provides an opportunity for residents to discuss the information provided and to question the Council on its activities during the year. Any resident of the town is welcome to attend this meeting.

Seaford Town Council serves the Town of Seaford with a population of around 24,000 residents and has been awarded the Quality Council Status for meeting a set of quality criteria.

We deliver many services in the town, such as the provision of some of the parks, playing fields and recreation areas including the Crouch Gardens, the Salts Recreation Ground, the Martello Fields and Tower, the Seaford Head Golf Course, Arts@theCrypt at 23 Church Street, the Seaford Head Nature Reserve and the allotments in Sutton Drive.

Our aim is to give residents information about the Town Council and the services which we deliver in the town, to outline how we are dealing with current challenges and highlight our plans to meet community needs and deliver quality services in the next year and beyond.

Seaford Town Council is one of around 9,500 Town and Parish Council's within England. Town and Parish Councils are the first tier of local government and work closely with the other tiers of local government to try and achieve the best for their local communities. During the year, we have worked closely with Lewes District Council and East Sussex County Council on a number of issues and a number of Town Councillors are also District Councillors. We run a comprehensive Councillor training programme in conjunction with the Sussex Association of Local Council's Executive Officer.

Elections to the Town Council are normally held every four years, the last being during this reported year and the next are due to be held in May 2015.

The Town Council are statutory consultees on all planning applications for Seaford. This means that the Town Council has the opportunity to support or object to plans within the town. During 2011/12 there were 180 applications considered by the Town Council.

Agendas and minutes for all Town Council meetings are published on our website and are available for inspection at the Tourist Information Centre, 37 Church Street, or at Seaford Library. All meetings of the Town Council are open to members of the public and the Council welcome view and comments during the Public Participation section of the meeting.

THE SALTS RECREATION GROUND

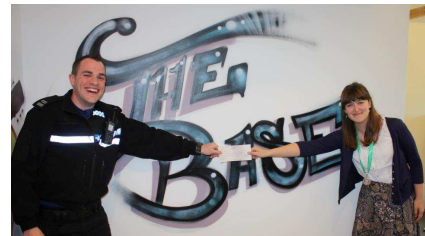
The Salts has benefited from further investment, improving the condition of footpaths, gates and buildings. Investment will continue through the year as part of the budgeted project works that will revive the Changing Room building and improve the appearance and atmosphere of the park. There was lots of activity through the summer with the Pitch and Putt and Tennis Courts being used more frequently.

The Base is a youth facility at the Salts which is growing in popularity

and the Management Committee have been focusing their efforts on developing projects and sourcing funding to invest in improving the building with possible installation of services. They were recently awarded £250 from the Police Property Act fund for improvements.

Towards the end of 2011, the Salts Café was taken over by new tenants—First Come, First Served Ltd – who continue to refresh the many residents who enjoy using the park.

Seaford Town Council also funded a summer programme of activities by the Youth Development Service including sport, music and social events.



Deputy Young Mayor Amy Gough receives a cheque from PCSO Lee Torbet

THE MARTELLO FIELDS

Martello saw increased activity in 2011 with the circus returning for a few days in summer, the fun fair was a returning visitor; Armed Forces Day and Bike Fest events were held once more and the Donkey Derby continued its good work in providing a valuable community event to finish off the season. The Seaford Rotary Club held their first car

boot fairs at the fields and plan to hold more in 2012 and work continues to accommodate new ideas and events for the fields. The first dog show, held by former Mayor Bob Allen, Scruffs, was repeated by Seaford Dog Rescue to raise funds for their charity and the re-launched Seaford Bonfire Society held the biggest event in Seaford in 2011 with

thousands of residents enjoying the procession through the town culminating in a spectacular firework display at the Martello Fields.



THE CROUCH GARDENS

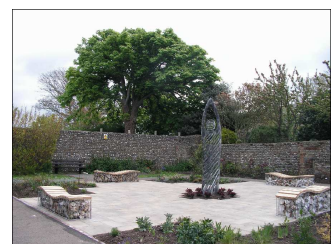
The Crouch has seen a number of improvements which so far includes repairs and maintenance to footpaths and gates and full redecoration of the children's play area fence. The fitting of meters and valves and repair work to the pipes, when completed, will save money and water.

The Town Council continue to

support the football and bowling Clubs and have facilitated some of their important projects and investments including fencing, access and glazing.

The Mercread Centre, was subject to delays but has now been officially opened and works continue to restore the surrounding areas of the Crouch.

The Peace Garden was officially opened by actress Sheila Hancock and the Mayor in the summer of 2011. A major funder was the Seaford Quakers Group.



The Peace Garden

ARTS @ THE CRYPT

Arts@theCrypt Gallery was re-launched in 2011 with planned project works undertaken over a number of months. These works included a new multi-purpose facility at the front of the building at 23 Church Street, new furniture and outside signage. Remedial works were necessary in the 13th century Undercroft in line with scheduled monument consent conditions and the improved facilities have attracted a broader range of users, both professional and community based.

13 weeks of exhibitions took place in the gallery in 2011/12 including Eastbourne Life Group, Seaford Art Club, Seaford Photographic Society, The Society of Sussex Painters. We also hosted an exhibition by Seaford Head Community College.



SEAFORD HEAD GOLF COURSE



Seaford Head Golf Course provides an income to the town which is used to offset the costs of other recreational provision. There are memberships available alongside 'pay and play'. The Town Council worked with LDC and SDNPA Planning Officers to deal with issues arising from the refusal of

Planning Permission. A new planning application for a replacement Clubhouse has now been submitted. If approved, building works will commence in 2012/13.

SEAFORD HEAD NATURE RESERVE

The Seaford Head Local Nature Reserve is in the Sussex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and is an SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) which adds to its status beyond that of some other local reserves, hence Natural England's involvement with the site. Because of its high geological, wildlife, historical and landscape value, it is also a Voluntary Marine Conservation Area.

The Nature Reserve is included in the South Downs National Park boundary.

A 'Celebrate Cuckmere' exhibition took place at the Seven Sisters Country Park and areas of Seaford in June 2011.

The Nature Reserve produces a filming income and recent programmes include BBC2's Parades End and BBC1's Inside Out. Pop star Cheryl Cole has also filmed a music video there!



S E A F R O N T

As well as the work from the Community Payback teams the seafront saw a significant voluntary contribution from local residents who gave their time and experience in executing the landscaping project at the Sunken Garden next to Hardwick House. This project managed by the Seaford Community Partnership - Seafront Theme Group with support from Seaford Tree Wardens was a valuable step forward in recognising the potential for aesthetic improvements on the seafront and

stimulated opinions on what people really expected to see for the future of the seafront.

New decking will soon be providing a more accessible space at the Martello Kiosk.

Large capacity 'mixed waste' bins will be installed along the Seafront to replace the old, damaged waste and dog bins which fail to meet demand in peak periods.

The Town Council manage the seafront concessions including

ice-cream vans, kiosks and the Café.

Investment in the seafront remains one of the Town Council's key priorities and we continue to work with the key stakeholders to consider improvements projects.



C O M M U N I T Y G R O U P S A N D W O R K S

Community Payback played a large role in a number of improvements in open spaces, completing work on the Martello Toilets, Seafront Shelters and of repainting the fence around the children's play area at the Crouch.

They also played a valuable role in the ground works for the Sunken Garden Project on the seafront managed by

the Seaford Community Partnership and Seaford Tree Wardens; at least 500 man hours has been spent on Seaford Town Council's assets in 2011/12.

The Town Council has worked closely with the Seafront Theme Group to identify practical priorities for seafront projects and with Cycle Seahaven and ESCC to

secure shared use of the seafront promenade by cyclists and pedestrians.

An charity Open Garden Day was adopted in conjunction with local gardens to support the Mayors Charity.

The Town Council is supporting the Campaign for Action in Seaford Health (CASH) who wish to improve

health facilities and services for Seaford residents. CASH is also working in conjunction with health care professionals and other health stakeholders in the town through the Town Council Health Stakeholders Group which meets regularly.



Valuable contributions continue to come from Community Groups such as Friends of the Crouch, the Seaford Family Focus Group, Seaford In Bloom and the Exchange Project in conjunction with the use of Council assets. Support and officer assistance has been offered to the Defenders of the Dip to seek Village Green

status for the Hawth Valley Dip.

In realising the enormous efforts of members of the community who demonstrate outstanding commitment to the well-being of Seaford, a policy to award the Freedom of the Town was established in 2011 and members of the public have been asked to forward their suggestions to

their local Councillors.

In conjunction with Sussex Police and Trading Standards, the Town Council ran a ballot and residents of Seaford voted in favour of a 'whole town' No Cold Calling Zone which had previously been restricted to just two wards.

Together with the Neighbourhood Watch

Association, signs were installed around town.

Works have been planned for the Community Allotments in Sutton Drove in conjunction with the Seaford Allotment and Leisure Garden Society to replace storage facilities and improve mains water services to and within the site

G R A N T S

Seaford Town Council give many grants and donations to local groups and charitable organisations during the year. Some of the grants are in the form of free or reduced rental use of Town Council facilities and assets. Other grants are in the form of monetary donations. All requests for grants are considered by the Finance and General Purposes Committee. Listed below are the organisations who have received financial assistance in 2011/12.

16th Seaford (St Lukes) Scout Group : £400	Community Safety Partnership : £26
9th Seaford (St Thomas More) Scout Group : £400	Seaford Bonfire Society : £620
ABC Fund : £100	Seaford Community Partnership : £1,037
Armed Forces Day : £110	Seaford Dog Show : £110
Bike Fest : £110	Seaford Handbell Ringers : £100
Bishopstone Parish Hall Management Committee : £200	Seaford Hard of Hearing Club : £50
Citizens Advice Bureau : £3,654	Seaford Head Community College : £225
Cuckmere Community Bus : £200	Seaford In Bloom : £4,357
Dial a Ride : £4,320	Seaford Inner Light Club : £100
Disabled Children : £29	Seaford Kurlers ESDA : £200
East Blatchington Pond Conservation Society : £100	Seaford Lifeguards : £500
Exchange Project : £110	Seaford Little Theatre : £200
Family Focus Group : £323	Seaford Live : £348
Flyball : £180	Seaford Museum & Heritage Society : £100
Friends of the Crouch : £50	Seaford Music Society : £50
Health Stakeholders : £31	Seaford Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators Association : £100
Hive Youth Work : £200	Seaford Seniors Forum : £496
Lions Donkey Derby : £110	Seaford Silver Band : £400
National Coastwatch Institution : £500	Seaford Street Pastors : £200
Seaford Head Nature Reserve : £67	Seaford Youth Forum : £2,000
Police Panel : £116	Smarter Seaford : £46
Quality Streets : £23	St James' Trust : £400
Seaford Rotary Club : £153	Seaford Twinning Association : £224
	Sussex Wildlife Trust : £17
	Willet Charitable Trust Bishopstone : £50

FINANCE

The accounting statement from the 2010-11 Annual Return is shown below. The External Auditors Certificate was signed by Mazars LLP on 13 September 2011.

Section 1 – Accounting statements for


SEAFORD TOWN COUNCIL

Readers should note that throughout this annual return references to a 'local council' or 'council' also relate to a parish meeting.

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2010 £	31 March 2011 £	
1 Balances brought forward	270,288	270,797	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year.
2 (+) Annual precept	335,913	450,242	Total amount of precept received or receivable in the year.
3 (+) Total other receipts	486,045	573,934	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept received (line 2). Include any grants received here.
4 (-) Staff costs	256,767	275,416	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include salaries and wages, PAYE and NI (employees and employers), pension contributions and employment expenses.
5 (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	33,091	33,091	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the council's borrowings (if any).
6 (-) All other payments	531,591	677,379	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7 (=) Balances carried forward	270,797	309,087	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6)
8 Total cash and short term investments	330,163	431,742	The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March - to agree with bank reconciliation.
9 Total fixed assets and long term assets	4084,793	8,640,387	The recorded book value at 31 March of all fixed assets owned by the council and any other long term assets e.g. loans to third parties and any long term investments.
10 Total borrowings	273,832	254,952	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).
11 Trust funds (including charitable) disclosure note	NO	NO	The council acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing trust funds or assets. (Readers should note that the figures above do not include any trust transactions.)

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2011 the accounting statements in this annual return present fairly the financial position of the council and its income and expenditure, or properly present receipts and payments, as the case may be.


Signed by Responsible Financial Officer


Date 29/06/2011

I confirm that these accounting statements were approved by the council on:

16/6/11.
and recorded as minute reference:
C30.1

Signed by Chair of the meeting approving these accounting statements.


Date 30/06/11

The budgeted gross expenditure for 2010-11 was £891,119 with income budgeted at £465,451 which, after reserve movements, produced a Precept requirement of £450,242.