



REPORT by the Mayor (2008/9), Cllr Michael Chartier

As we have emphasized in recent years: Our Council meetings are open to the public (with very few exceptions for technical legal reasons) and we **POSITIVELY WELCOME** visitors. Each meeting has time allowed for public questions and short presentations, but we are equally pleased to see anyone who simply wishes to observe the Council as it works.

We strive to make the best of every opportunity to listen to residents' views and ideas for the future, although I would like to begin this report by briefly outlining my own view of the past year from the Mayor's chair.

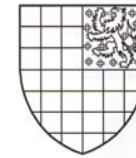
All my colleagues on the Council are keenly aware of the everyday needs and aspirations of Lewes people (after all: we **are** Lewes people!) and the town's status as the ancient County Town, and we serve the community in many ways. This year we have seen the culmination of several projects on which we have worked with partners for some time, much of it away from public view. For example, we have recently celebrated the final decision to include Lewes in the South Downs National Park, after much debate and a two-stage public inquiry. The Council has campaigned for this since the beginning of the process, both independently and with partners such as the Friends of Lewes, and we are delighted with the recent announcement. We have also worked closely with our colleagues at Uckfield and Crowborough Town Councils and other parishes, in studying the feasibility of reinstatement of rail link between Lewes and Uckfield. We contributed to the Network Rail study and have joined with our parish partners to commission a "second-opinion" on the business analysis element of this.

- ◇ By supporting local organizations with **FINANCIAL GRANTS** - we have given a total of over £50,000 in grants to organizations – often small voluntary groups who could not obtain such help elsewhere.
- ◇ By managing and developing the **ALL SAINTS ARTS & YOUTH CENTRE** as a thriving, popular, venue for a huge range of entertainment and educational and recreational events and functions.
- ◇ By maintaining and operating the **TOWN HALL** as a focus for events ranging from the weekly market, through opera and light entertainment, to regular blood donor clinics, private weddings, and exhibitions. July 2008 saw over 2000 visitors pass through our exhibition of prints by George Baxter; allowing public access, for the first time since 1967, to the collection of hundreds of prints and other items held by the Council. Two new passenger lifts facilitate access by those with mobility difficulties, and anyone who knows this building will appreciate how complex that project was to design and implement! We will next look at issues of hearing-loops, signage and other assistance for the hearing- or visually-impaired.
- ◇ By providing the **MALLING COMMUNITY CENTRE**, and supporting the tenant Community Association.
- ◇ By acting as Trustees of the charity which ensures the **PELLS** area remains as an enormously popular site for swimming; angling; walking; jogging; playing with the children; or just relaxing.
- ◇ By working to ensure the future of the **LEWES PRIORY** site and its historic heritage.
- ◇ By maintaining over 110 acres (43 hectares) of **OPEN DOWNLAND** at Landport Bottom, jointly-owned with the District Council, for public recreation and protection from development.
- ◇ By diligently fulfilling our role as consultee on local **PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT** matters, and making considered and well-informed responses to major issues, such as the feasibility of reinstating a Lewes – Uckfield rail link.
- ◇ By ensuring that **LOCAL ISSUES** are properly considered when projects and works are planned by other authorities or organizations.
- ◇ By providing and maintaining **ALLOTMENTS** for over 180 tenants, across six sites in the town.
- ◇ By installing and maintaining **SEATS; LITTERBINS; AND BUS SHELTERS** throughout the town.
- ◇ By maintaining the war memorial.

- ◇ By supporting the 40-year-old cultural bonds with Lewes' TWIN TOWNS in France and Germany; as well as long-standing friendships with other European neighbours, and with Lewes, Delaware, in the USA. It has been my privilege, as Mayor, to represent the town in France and Germany this year.
- ◇ By fully participating in the historic and ceremonial life of the wider community of the County, as representatives of this ancient County Town of Sussex.

I will end by repeating our open invitation to everyone to come and see how your local Council works; engage in our projects and let us know your views. Remember; we are YOUR representatives, at the “grass-roots” of local government, and we need to know what you think. Every Councillor can be easily contacted, and our offices at the Town Hall are open Monday to Friday, where our friendly staff are always pleased to help in any way they can.

Cllr Michael Chartier
Mayor of Lewes 2008/09
May 2009



SUMMARY STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS for the Financial Year 2008/2009

We note below the summary information on our financial affairs as published in our statutory annual return.

This is audited by external auditors appointed by the Audit Commission, having first been verified by our own auditor – who is also completely independent although commissioned directly by the Council.

This information represents only a basic summary, and considerable additional detail is provided for audit. A comprehensive set of accounts, with explanatory notes, is available on our website at www.lewes-tc.gov.uk. Copies are available at the Town Hall and we are happy to deal with enquiries at any time.

<i>line</i>	Year ending		Notes
	31 March 2008	31 March 2009	
	£	£	<i>All figures rounded to nearest £, All figures agreed to underlying financial records</i>
1 Balances brought forward	401,152	476,144	Total balances & reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in Council's financial accounts.
2 (+) Annual precept	694,700	734,700	Total amount of Council Tax precept received in the year.
3 (+) Total other receipts	145,139	144,005	Total receipts or income as recorded, LESS the precept (line 3). Includes support, discretionary, and revenue grants.
4 (-) Staff costs	367,443	354,947	Total expenditure made to and on behalf of all Council employees. Includes salaries/wages; PAYE & NI; pension contributions and related expenses.
5 (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	10,056	10,056	Total expenditure or payments of capital & interest made during the year on the Council's borrowings.
6 (-) Total other payments	387,348	487,979	Total expenditure or payments LESS staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7 (=) Balances carried forward	476,144	501,867	Total balances & reserves at the end of the year.
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8 Total cash & short term investments	408,443	463,683	The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings, and short-term investments held at 31 st March (reconciled to bank).
9 Total fixed assets & long term assets	3,206,060	3,206,060	The recorded "book value" at 31 st March of all fixed assets owned by the Council and any other long-term assets (eg loans to third parties).
10 Total borrowings	113,816	108,827	The outstanding capital balance at 31 st March of all loans from third parties (incl. Public Works Loans Board).

The Council acts as sole Trustee for, and is responsible for managing, Trust assets. These are treated as part of the Council's normal operations, and are included in these summary figures.