



REPORT by the Mayor (2009/10), Cllr Amanda Dean

It is my pleasant duty to report on the activities of Lewes Town Council for the Municipal year ended May 2010. Your Councillors have, for another year, striven in Council meetings and in its various Working Parties, to address local issues; establish meaningful policies; set appropriate budgets; and generally to improve the quality of life for the community. I list below some of the salient points from the year. We have invited representatives from the community and other authorities, agencies, and organizations to assist us whenever that was helpful, and we have not shied-away from offering (hopefully constructive!) criticism if it was appropriate. We have joined with other bodies to add our influence to theirs when it was thought useful, in matters such as the retention of Lewes within the National Park boundary, or to commission a specialist “second-opinion” on the case for reinstatement of a Lewes-Uckfield rail link. I am personally very pleased to have been able, as Mayor, to help my chosen charities; Women’s Aid and the Clock Tower Sanctuary. Some of you may have seen the pictures from my sponsored tandem free-fall parachute jump with members of the Army’s “Tigers” display team. Slightly less successful was my attempt to cross the Ouse over a rope-bridge constructed by the Scouts - an equally soft landing but considerably wetter! I was immensely proud to represent the Town when, last July, we welcomed home the soldiers of the Princess of Wales’s Royal Regiment, returning from Afghanistan and Iraq. To see so many townspeople turn-out into the streets and offer such a heartfelt welcome was very, very, moving and my colleagues and I feel privileged to have been able to mark the occasion as we did. The year has also seen the inauguration, after decades of debate, of the South Downs National Park, and we were able to take satisfaction in this after campaigning hard over the past few years. Briefly, during 2009/10 the Council has continued its work for the community;

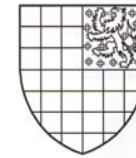
- ◇ By supporting local organizations with FINANCIAL GRANTS - we have given a total of over £67,000 in grants; helping more than fifty organizations – often small voluntary groups who could not obtain such help elsewhere.
- ◇ By providing the MALLING COMMUNITY CENTRE, and supporting the tenant Community Association. This year we have supported the Association through difficult times, and seen it reborn with a new executive committee and a new vision. The Council is working with the Association to refurbish and improve the building, and will shortly be investigating the options for redesigning parts of it to offer a much broader range of uses and to improve the facilities for everyone.
- ◇ 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. The Council has worked this year with experts and representatives of the community, to plan for necessary re-planting as trees and mature shrubs reach the end of their natural lives or are struck by disease. We have also engaged with the Pells Pool Community Association, who have operated the pool for us each summer for the past ten years, to consult the community and draft a joint application for significant funds to improve facilities at the pool and surrounding parkland as it celebrates its 150th year in 2011.
- ◇ 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. Plans are already being drafted, with the Sussex Archaeological Society, for the 750th anniversary in 2014 of the historic Battle of Lewes, which took place on this land.
- ◇ 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 proposed expansion of Tesco’s store.
- ◇ By ensuring that LOCAL ISSUES are properly considered when projects and works are planned by other authorities or organizations. We have lobbied, and will continue to do so, for a more common-sense approach to the treatment of pavements in icy weather. We campaigned for the inclusion of Lewes within the South Downs National Park, and pressed central government for fairer allocation of seats on the Park Authority for parish representatives. We joined with colleagues at Uckfield and Crowborough Town Councils to commission a second-opinion from technical experts

on the feasibility of reopening an Uckfield-Lewes rail link. We have also supported national initiatives such as the “10:10” campaign to reduce carbon emissions.

- ◇ By providing and maintaining ALLOTMENTS for over 180 tenants, across six sites in the town. This year we have been able to offer several more people the opportunity to “grow their own” by sub-dividing larger plots that were too big for the tenants and by the creation of a new mini-site at Landport.
- ◇ By working to ensure the future of the LEWES PRIORY site and its historic heritage. The site has now been leased to Lewes Priory Trust, which has enabled them to obtain funds that will, over the next two years, allow the removal of the ugly safety fencing and the establishment of a heritage park of which the town can be proud.
- ◇ 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. This year All Saints has welcomed a host of new users and visitors, and became the home of the weekly (Wednesdays – mid-day) Oyster Café - a fantastic self-help initiative by the local Oyster Project.
- ◇ 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. The building was an important focus for events during the Council-sponsored Tom Paine bicentenary festival in July 2009, and retains the legacy of the “Taking Liberties” exhibition (in the Corn Exchange) kindly given by the British Library when it finished its popular “season” there.
- ◇ By installing and maintaining SEATS; LITTERBINS; AND BUS SHELTERS throughout the town.
- ◇ By maintaining the war memorial.
- ◇ By supporting the 45-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 both France and Germany this year and to welcome colleagues from the Councils of both Blois and Waldshut-Tiengen alongside citizens from the Twinning Associations of both towns when they have visited Lewes. The Council has assisted in the work-experience placements of European students, hosting two itself, and helped facilitate exchanges of students and sportsmen/women.
- ◇ 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, including the civic welcome on the homecoming of the Princess of Wales’s Royal Regiment returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, and four visits by members of the Royal Family.

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 Amanda Dean
Mayor of Lewes 2009/10
June 2010



SUMMARY STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS for the Financial Year 2009/2010

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 2009	31 March 2010	
	£	£	<i>All figures rounded to nearest £, All figures agreed to underlying financial records</i>
1 Balances brought forward	476,144	501,867	Total balances & reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in Council's financial accounts.
2 (+) Annual precept	734,700	763,000	Total amount of Council Tax precept received in the year.
3 (+) Total other receipts	144,005	141,100	Total receipts or income as recorded, LESS the precept (line 2). Includes support, discretionary, and revenue grants.
4 (-) Staff costs	354,947	374,394	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	487,979	447,370	Total expenditure or payments LESS staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7 (=) Balances carried forward	501,867	574,147	Total balances & reserves at the end of the year.
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8 Total cash & short term investments	463,683	553,052	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	108,827	103,611	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.