TELSCOMBE TOWN CRIER NEWSLETTER

News & information from Telscombe Town Council

Issue 99 Oct/Nov 2026

Ministers Pause Local Government Reorganisation

Angela Rayner, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, has announced a pause to the process of reorganisation of local councils to review the Government's plans.

East Sussex is one of 18 areas included in the review which was announced on 7th September. It means the Government's initial decision to create a new Unitary Council for almost all of East Sussex from April 2028 now goes on hold. That plan would also have meant moving East Saltdean, Peacehaven and Telscombe from East Sussex into an expanded Brighton and Hove, despite overwhelming local opposition.

In her announcement, Ms Rayner said she wanted to ensure any reorganisation would be effective, legal and in tune with the Government's ambitions to 'rewire the state'. She also confirmed that local elections in May 2027 will go ahead on existing Council boundaries.

There is, therefore, no change to current Councils or services in East Sussex while the review is carried out.

Morrisons Supermarket Update

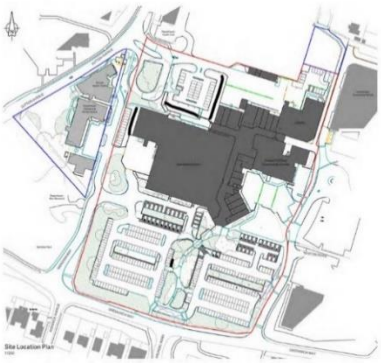
The long-awaited Morrisons supermarket for Peacehaven has moved a significant step closer following the approval of the planning application by Lewes District Council's Planning Applications Committee on 7th October.

The proposals will see the redevelopment of the Meridian Centre to provide a new 25,000 square foot supermarket, a new town square, landscaped public spaces and parking, while retaining Peacehaven Library and Community House.

The decision marks an important milestone for local residents, who have waited a number of years for the project to progress.

Although planning approval is a major step forward, residents will now be looking ahead to the start of work, with construction currently anticipated to begin in 2027 and the supermarket potentially opening in 2028.





Contents:- Councillor Contact Details; Meeting dates; Events; Mayor's Report; Mayor's Donations 2025/26; Green Corner; Grants; Citizen's Advice; Prohibited Activities on Telscombe Tye; The People's Emergency Briefing Screening; Adverts; Christmas Wishes



Telscombe Town Council, Telscombe Civic Centre, 360 South Coast Road, Telscombe Cliffs, East Sussex BN10 7ES

Open Monday to Friday 9am-4:30pm, excluding bank holidays

See our website near the time for Christmas closing dates

Email enquiries@telscombetowncouncil.gov.uk
Website www.telscombetowncouncil.gov.uk
Telephone 01273 589777
Town Clerk & RFO: Stella Newman, PSLCC Email - stella.newman@telscombetowncouncil.gov.uk (full-time)
Amenities Officer: Bianca Buss. Email - amenities@telscombetowncouncil.gov.uk (part-time)
Admin Assistant: Diana Joel. Email - admin@telscombetowncouncil.gov.uk (part-time)
Admin & Finance Assistant: Angela Greenfield. Email - office@telscombetowncouncil.gov.uk (part-time)

Committee Chairs & Vice Chairs
Amenities/Civic Centre
Chair - Cllr Laurence O'Connor
Vice Chair - Cllr David Judd
Planning & Highways
Chair - Cllr Cathy Gallagher
Vice Chair - Cllr Neil Watts
Policy & Resources
Chair - Cllr Ciarron Clarkson
Vice Chair - Cllr Michele Lawrie

Telscombe Cliffs Ward Councillors:-
Ciarron Clarkson
cllr.ciarronclarkson@telscombetowncouncil.gov.uk
David Judd
cllr.davidjudd@telscombetowncouncil.gov.uk
Isobel Sharkey
cllr.isobelsharkey@telscombetowncouncil.gov.uk
Neil Watts
cllr.neilwatts@telscombetowncouncil.gov.uk
Tony Williamson
cllr.tonywilliamson@telscombetowncouncil.gov.uk
Vacancy x3

East Saltdean Ward Councillors:-
Cathy Gallagher
cllr.cathygallagher@telscombetowncouncil.gov.uk
Michele Lawrie
cllr.michelelawrie@telscombetowncouncil.gov.uk
Laurence O'Connor
cllr.laurenceoconnor@telscombetowncouncil.gov.uk
Brian Page
cllr.brianpage@telscombetowncouncil.gov.uk
Christine Robinson
cllr.christinerobinson@telscombetowncouncil.gov.uk

District Councillors for Telscombe:-
Cllr Ian Alexander
ian.alexander@lewes.gov.uk
Cllr Laurence O'Connor
laurence.o'connor@lewes.gov.uk
Cllr Christine Robinson
christine.robinson@lewes.gov.uk

County Councillor for Telscombe:-
(Ward area Telscombe, East Saltdean & North Peacehaven)
Cllr Stephen Chapman
cllr.stephen.chapman@eastsussex.gov.uk

Telscombe Town Council's Meetings Dates November 2026 to beginning of March 2027

Planning & Highways	18th November
Amenities & Civic Centre	25th November
Planning & Highways	9th December
FULL COUNCIL	**16th DECEMBER**
Planning & Highways	6th January
Grants (sub-committee)	13th January 6:30pm
Policy & Resources	13th January
FULL COUNCIL	**20th JANUARY**
Planning & Highways	27th January
Amenities & Civic Centre	3rd February
Planning & Highways	17th February
Policy & Resources	3rd March

- There is a maximum of 15 minute public question time at the beginning of each meeting with questions that are relevant to that committee.
- Meetings are held on a Wednesday and start at 7:30pm unless otherwise stated and are held at the Civic Centre.
- Agendas are displayed on Council notice boards and the website a few days before meetings.
- Dates are subject to change – please phone the Civic Centre on 01273 589777 to ensure the meeting is being held or check the website.
- A full list of dates is available on our website – dates may be subject to change
- The Council, members of the public & press may record/ film/ photograph or broadcast meetings when the public and press are not lawfully excluded.

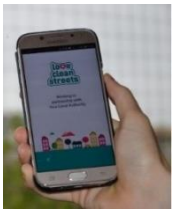
Other Useful Contact Details

Citizens Advice 03444 111 444
Peacehaven Town Council 01273 595493
East Sussex County Council 0345 60 80 190
Chris Ward MP 01273 082531

Lewes District Council 01273 471600
Highways 0345 60 80 193
chris.ward.mp@parliament.uk

Report property, street and environmental issues in Lewes or Eastbourne, including fly-tipping, dog fouling, planning breaches and more via the Report It smartphone app.

https://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/streets-parking-and-travel/report-it/



What's On

27th November – Bingo

18th December Christmas Cracker Bingo Night

Day tbc December
Carols with the Salvation Army

25th December
Christmas Coffee Morning

12th March 2027 – Mayor's fundraising Quiz Night

BINGO takes place on the last Friday of the month from 7-9pm in the Telscombe Civic Centre, except for Christmas. Limited spaces are available so booking is essential. *Proceeds go to the Mayor of Telscombe's Charity Fund.*

We will include update on our website, noticeboards and Facebook page of all upcoming events.

To see details of all Council events and classes/activities being held at the Civic Centre, scan the QR code which will take you to our What's On website page.

Non-Council events are also advertised on our noticeboards within the Civic Centre.



Coffee Morning Raises £435 for Macmillan

Telscombe Town Council is delighted to announce that £435 was raised for Macmillan Cancer Support through its World's Biggest Coffee Morning. We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated cakes, tea and coffee and raffle prizes and to the stallholders and everyone who attended and gave so kindly for this worthwhile cause.
A special thank you goes to the Mayor, who generously donated half of the proceeds from her fundraising bingo event held in September. The donation was included in the total raised.



MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT
COFFEE MORNING

Chatsworth Park Ball Wall - We would like to thank Emily Golding, a local art student, for brightening up the ball wall in Chatsworth Park again. She was encouraged by the friendliness of all the park users and says that it can still be used as intended. Art is collaborative and sometimes that collaboration is kicking a football at the art. Apart from her two dogs seen at the top of the wall, there are another 51 creatures to be found – how many have you seen?





Mayor's Report - The last few months have been a whirlwind for me as Mayor of Telscombe Town Council. The Telscombe Summer Fayre in July was a happy, successful day despite the exceptionally hot weather.



On 27th September, the Mayor's Civic Service was held at Telscombe Cliffs Community Church. Cllr Neil Watts, our Deputy Mayor, was the Minister for the service and together he and I chose readings and hymns which reflected neighbourliness and community. I thank everybody involved in what was a very special service.

October has brought a trip to Chichester Cathedral, invited by the High Sheriff of East Sussex. I represented Telscombe Town Council at the Annual Justices Service and I met the Crown Court Judges for Chichester in full ceremonial robes and wigs. I hope never to come up before them when they are on the bench!

On 1st November we are holding a children's Halloween Magic Party at the Civic Centre, followed closely on the 6th by Race Night, which is a special fundraiser for the Sussex Heart Charity. I will also be attending the Lewes Bonfire Celebrations on the 5th, the Remembrance Service on 8th and the Armistice Service on the 11th at the War Memorial. I continue to fundraise for my chosen charities – Develop Outdoors CIC and Boomerang Kids Nursery.

I invite you to come to my **Meet the Mayor session on Wednesday 30th December** 10am-12midday at the Club Room in Saltdean Lido. Everybody is welcome and there is no need to book. Refreshments will be provided.

Cllr Cathy Gallagher, Mayor of Telscombe Town Council

Household Waste Recycling Sites Booking System – East Sussex County Council would like to remind residents how they can book a slot at household waste recycling sites ahead of busier periods this autumn. The system requires residents to book a time slot up to two weeks in advance of their visit. They can do this online or by phone – see details opposite. The system helps to reduce queuing at peak times, as well as supporting fair access and preventing misuse of sites. Please note telephone bookings can only be made between 8.30am & 5pm Monday to Thursday and 8.30am to 4.30pm on Fridays.



Mayor's Donations 2025/26

Cllr Isobel Sharkey, former Mayor of Telscombe, was pleased to make donations from her charity fundraising, and writes:

"During my Mayoral year I was able to donate to five local projects that fitted my theme of the environment, biodiversity and sustainability. I hope that all of the groups will send me photos and information of how the grant has been spent. This is how some of the projects are progressing so far.

The Joff Youth Hub had money to build some raised beds so that the young people can grow food and learn about healthy eating. They will also have a shelter built in this area to make the garden more usable all year round.



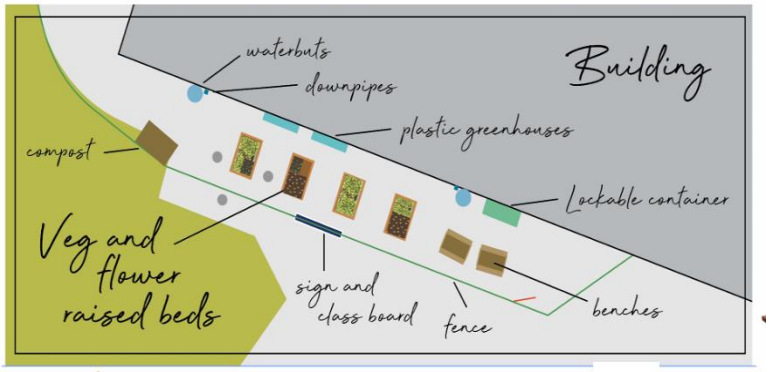


South Coast Sussex Gull and Wildlife Rescue:

With very few actual volunteers to help this year, the grant enabled the following: to continue to assist many residents in both Telscombe and Peacehaven with instant rescue/fostering support; a small amount to be donated to three volunteers to cover their costs in terms of petrol/bus fares and fostering costs; fish supplies for gulls from the local fishmonger; help with utility costs; support for the one remaining seagull/wildlife site in Hailsham; and in general costs to keep Justin's rather worn out car on the road. This grant was a lifeline for the start to the middle of the rescue season.







East Sussex Academy is an alternative provision centre for young people who cannot attend mainstream schools for some reason. They have created an outside classroom where the students can learn how to grow their own organic vegetables and use what they learn across the curriculum. The grant paid for the raised beds, composter and seeds."

SGN Gas Works - SGN are replacing old metal pipes reaching the end of their useful lives, with new, reliable plastic pipes in the A259 South Coast Road area as part of their 30-year programme of work. Work started on 7th September and will be carried out in six phases to help minimise disruption, with the project expected to finish in May 2027.

SGN recognise roadworks can be frustrating. However, the new plastic pipe has a lifespan of 80 years. This means that once the essential upgrade project is complete, Telscombe Cliffs residents and businesses will be able to enjoy the benefits of a safe and reliable gas supply for many years to come.

The first 3 phases have already started. Phase 4 starting on Monday 4th January will be at Highview Road for approx. 5 weeks, Phase 5 starting on Monday 8th February will be at the junction of Telscombe Cliffs Way with 4 way temporary lights for approx. 6 weeks and Phase 6 starts on 22nd March at Central Avenue for approx. 8 weeks. Full details are available on their website- https://www.sgn.co.uk/our-gas-works/major-planned-projects/telscombe-a259-south-coast-road

Green Corner – *Volunteer Sessions & Litter Picking*



The Volunteers had a fantastic August volunteer session. Despite the baking sun the group managed to put wood chip down on the Willow classroom. This will protect the water added earlier this week and help it hold more water when it rains. They also strimmed the path for the mini forest, swept paths, cleared growth in the ponds and collected some dumped pallets.

In September, nine great volunteers turned up to help prepare the park for autumn. The park was much greener following the recent rain and there was even a little water back in the ponds. Following the brush cut of the wildflower areas, this was the day to rake off the cuttings. This allows the wildflower seed to drop but prevents the plant material adding its nutrients to the soil. Wildflower prefer nutrient poorer soils. The mini forest was inspected and the tree guards that have fallen off of some of the rapidly growing trees were removed. On top of all of this, five bags of litter were collected, including some window blinds and more pallets that were left in the park and the ponds were given a tidy up.

The sun shone for the October session and lots of volunteers came to help, all doing lots of prep for next year. They sharpened tools, inspected the mini forest, litter picked and rotovated and seeded the Kirby Drive bed. This bed has been in progress for a few years now and is at its maximum size. Next year, with good weather, it will be one heck of a show.

Food Recycling Bins



Your outdoor food waste recycling bin has a locking handle. Use the bin for all acceptable food waste and make sure you keep it locked. This should keep the waste inside if the bin falls over and helps prevent unwanted smells. This should also avoid foxes and other vermin being attracted to it.

Wrap food scraps securely: Use compostable food waste caddy liners and securely tie them before emptying into your food waste bin. If you're running low on caddy liners, extra rolls of liners are available free of charge from the Civic Centre.

Citizens Advice helping Telscombe Residents

Citizens Advice report that over the last six months they have supported 56 clients with 143 differing issues, and over 18% of them were seen in person. Benefits and housing were the two biggest areas of needs and Personal Independence Payment was the one that required the most support, and 56% of the people they supported had a long term health condition or disability. They said that £8,699 was secured in income gains and debts written off.

They can be contacted on their local freephone advice line, 0808 278 7892, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays between 10am and 3pm and their self-help website is www.citizensadvice.org.uk. You can also get further information via www.lewesdistrictca.org.uk. They currently hold drop-in services in the Meridian Centre, Peacehaven on Wednesdays between 10am-12noon & 1-3pm.

Solar Panel Readings at the Civic Centre

CO^2 saved**:- 97,390 Kg** Total Energy Generated**:- 170,860 Kwh**

Total revenue generated since installation in late 2010**:- £83,189.20**

Readings at date of going to press

Help Us Protect Telscombe Tye

Telscombe Town Council is committed to maintaining the Tye as a safe, peaceful and welcoming environment for residents, visitors, livestock and all legitimate users. Certain activities can risk injury, distress livestock, damage the land or interfere with others' enjoyment of the common. The Council does not permit a number of activities on the Tye, subject to applicable legal rights, statutory requirements and any relevant permissions. These include:

- Unauthorised driving or riding of motor vehicles, including cars and motorbikes.
- Flying model aeroplanes or drones.
- Hang gliding, powered hang gliding, kiteboarding, kitesurfing and power kiting.
- Shooting or activities involving firearms, shotguns or air weapons.
- Hunting of any kind.
- Using metal detectors or digging holes.
- Playing golf or practising golf shots.
- Camping, lighting fires or having barbecues.

All users are asked to behave responsibly and respect others and the environment. Dog owners must clean up after their dogs, dispose of waste appropriately and keep their dogs under effective control, taking particular care around livestock and other users. Horse riders should ride considerately and avoid behaviour that endangers others or unreasonably interferes with their enjoyment of the common.

With limited staffing and resources, the Council cannot provide patrols or an immediate enforcement presence. We therefore rely heavily on members of the public to report activities that appear to breach these restrictions. Reports will be considered and referred to the relevant authority where appropriate. Suspected criminal activity, including unauthorised motor vehicle use, should be reported directly to Sussex Police on 101, or 999 in an emergency where there is an immediate threat to life or serious injury.

If you are unsure whether an activity is permitted, please contact the Town Council before proceeding. Requests will be considered individually.

By working together, we can help protect the Tye, its wildlife and livestock and ensure it remains a safe and enjoyable place for everyone. Thank you

Public Notice:

You are invited to attend a screening of The People's Emergency Briefing

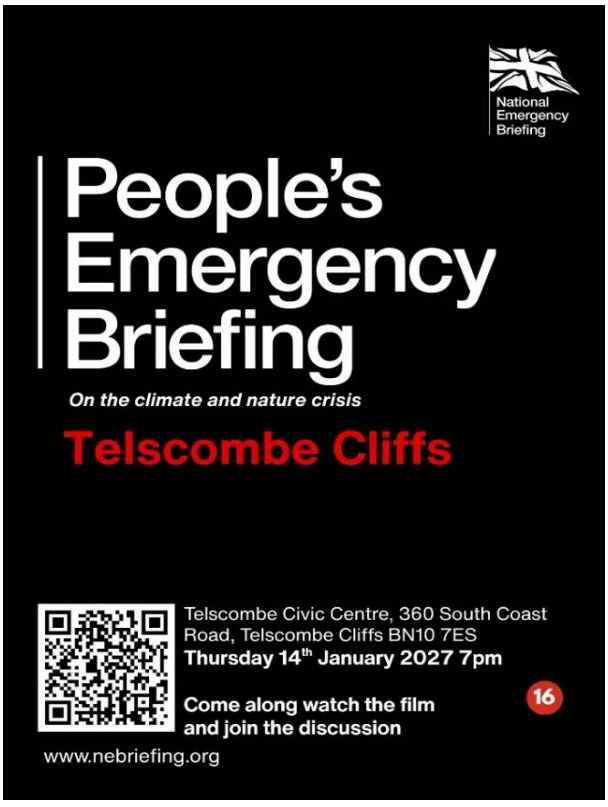
An eye-opening film featuring nine leading UK scientists and experts updating us on the latest in the climate and nature crisis and its impacts on everyday national life.

Including:
- extreme weather
- food security
- health
- cost of living

Based on the National Emergency Briefing in Westminster, as covered by ITV, C4, and the Times. Followed by a short open discussion about what we can do and what it means locally.

Featuring Chris Packham, Deborah Meaden, surprise guests, and a wide range of Brits.

Please note: The film is only being shown at in-person screenings, not online. Bring a friend or neighbour. Please book your free seat asap.



Community Grants

Twice a year, the Town Council invites local voluntary or community groups to apply for a grant of up to £500.

The aim of the scheme is to help promote Telscombe Town as a vibrant, active and sustainable community and contribute to the development of projects and services that will directly benefit residents of the town as much as possible. Applications can be made for help towards a special project, or the everyday running costs of your organisation.

The Council's total annual budget is only £3,000, so you may not get the amount you have requested, depending on the number of applications received.

The application form is available from the Council Office at the Civic Centre, or can be downloaded from our website by scanning the QR code opposite. You can also see our Grants Policy for full terms and conditions.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 13th January 2027 and the deadline for applications is midday on Thursday 31st December 2026.

Businesses, individuals and political parties are not eligible.

Telscombe Town Council would like to wish residents a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Don't forget to join us at our Christmas day coffee morning at Telscombe Civic Centre from 10am to midday. Hot drinks and bacon/sausage baps or vegetarian equivalent will be provided free, courtesy of the Mayor of Telscombe Town Council

Maloncho

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If you would like to place an ad or have any queries regarding advertising, please email enquiries@telscombetowncouncil.gov.uk
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