

# homing in

[www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/council-housing](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/council-housing)

Autumn 2012



Keen gardeners  
Pete and Helen  
enjoy their  
retirement at  
Lindfield Court,  
Hollingdean.  
More on page 10

## In this issue

The new single number for customer services

Meet the housing management team

Update on benefit changes

New money advice services

Dealing with the dealers



Brighton & Hove  
City Council

# Changes ahead

There are a lot of changes that will directly affect tenants and leaseholders in the coming year. Many will improve lives, such as the planned refurbishment programme for high rises which is on target and progressing well, (see page 9), and the reorganisation of housing services, which will provide a faster and more efficient service.

However, some changes may not seem so welcome at first, especially the government welfare reforms which will see an end to the current council tax benefit system next April. All local authorities, including Brighton & Hove City Council, are busy developing their own systems to replace it, and with a 10% reduction in funding for 2013, this is proving no easy task. We are proposing to introduce a Council Tax Discount for people on low incomes to limit the impact

on the most vulnerable households. Details of these important proposed changes appear on page 4.

On a really positive note, we are delighted that Seaside Homes recently housed its 100th tenant, 23 year old Lisa McGrath and her young family (see page 6). Seaside Homes has now leased 185 properties since November 2011, with a further 85 currently undergoing work. All money received is ploughed back into our council housing

Councillor Liz Wakefield

bringing properties up to Decent Homes standards, (see Pat and Yvonne's new kitchens on page 8).

Finally, thank you to all those tenants who are helping with this year's new look annual report, which will appear in the winter issue of Homing In. I hope this exciting move will mark the beginning of more tenant involvement for the future.

**Liz Wakefield**  
Chair of the Housing Committee



## Meet the teams

In the last issue of Homing In we explained some big changes coming up to improve your housing services. We are making it easier for you to contact us, which means we can respond faster and more efficiently. Now that the improved service is in place we would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to the new teams.



### **Janet Dowdell**

Manager of Customer Services Team

Janet said: "We are your first point of contact for all non-repair enquiries on one main number - **01273 293030** - as our service becomes citywide, more accessible and convenient for you. We aim to

resolve 80% of all your enquiries straight away, saving you time."

You can also e-mail us at [housing.customerservices@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:housing.customerservices@brighton-hove.gov.uk)

services and partners. We are here to advise and support you, arranging regular estate inspections and working with others to improve your homes and your local environment."



### **Robert Keelan** Neighbourhood Manager

"We are your friendly face and your link to all council

### **Adrian Channon**

Manager of Tenancy Management Team

"We deal with



complex areas of tenancy management, covering a range of issues from exchange and succession to breaches of tenancy and tenancy fraud, domestic violence or harassment. Being citywide means we can resolve problems faster, making your estate a better place to live."



**Emma Gilbert**  
Manager for Social Inclusion and Involvement Teams

Emma said: "Our team falls into two areas. I directly manage the Housing Inclusion Team and Becky is our dedicated manager for the Resident Involvement Team.

do you know what are you entitled to?

- Money advice – information about savings schemes, affordable credit, repayment rates and much more.
- We have an in-house Money Advice Worker and an independent money and debt advice service with MACS.
- Debt advice
- Helping you to save money on line – pay your bills, buy groceries cheaper online and shop around for better deals with comparison websites.
- Help with reading, writing, maths, and computers. Tutored group sessions start in October
- Peer support – training for interested residents to be money mentors

If you would like some financial help and advice, contact Holly on 01273 293317 or Kate on 01273 293173 or email [HousingInclusionTeam@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:HousingInclusionTeam@brighton-hove.gov.uk)



**Katie Miller**

Co-ordinator, Social Inclusion Team

Katie is part of our new team and here to help you into learning and employment, providing one-to-one support to help you achieve it through access courses, volunteering and training with key partners in the city. They can also help with job searching, applications, CV writing and interview skills. Free computer skills workshops start in October. Call Teresa or Catherine on 01273 294620 or 293375 or email [HousingInclusionTeam@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:HousingInclusionTeam@brighton-hove.gov.uk) to make an appointment or find out more.



**Holly Robertson and Kate Riseborough**  
Financial Inclusion Co-ordinators

Holly and Kate, will be working with a range of agencies to help you manage your finances, as well as offering free expert advice and guidance to help anyone concerned or directly affected by the future changes in housing benefit.

These are just some of the services on offer:

- Financial and budgeting advice
- Help with opening bank accounts
- Maximising your benefits –

**Becky Purnell**  
Manager of Resident Involvement Team



"We are here to help you get more involved in your housing services. As a unified team, we can now offer more expertise and support to tenant and resident associations, both existing and new. Our new training and confidence building sessions can really help those wanting to get involved. Call 01273 292112 or 294651, or email [CPT@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:CPT@brighton-hove.gov.uk) for more information.

## The new number for customer services

**The single number for the new Customer Services Team is now up and running. The team are your first point of contact for tenancy management and general housing enquiries by phone, letter or email across the city.**

The individual housing office numbers are being cut off in December but will forward your calls to the new Customer Services Team until then.

Contact the Customer Services Team on **01273 293030**, e-mail [housing.customerservices@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:housing.customerservices@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or write to them at the Housing Centre, Unit 1 Fairway Trading Estate, Eastergate Road, Brighton, BN2 4QE.

# Have your say on important changes to Council Tax Benefit



As part of the government's welfare reforms, the national Council Tax Benefit system is ending in April 2013, with councils needing to develop their own systems to replace it. Government funding for council tax support is also being reduced by 10% nationally, meaning a reduction of at least £2.5 million to help people on low incomes in Brighton & Hove.

The council's proposal is to introduce a Council Tax discount for people on low incomes in Brighton & Hove. The scheme aims to limit the impact of the reduction on low income households in the city and you can comment on the proposals until 5 October.

Although we plan to absorb around £1 million of the funding reduction, most households of working age will still need to pay something towards their Council Tax. The proposed scheme aims to limit the impact on

the most vulnerable households – with people who are less well off paying the least – and keep the switch as simple as possible. Plans also put a limit on how much people currently claiming Council Tax Benefit will pay in the first year.

Pensioners are protected from the changes, and will receive the same amount of discount as they do under Council Tax Benefit.

If you currently receive Council Tax Benefit, you won't need to reapply to the council for the new scheme unless your circumstances change.

Council Tax bills giving details of what every household will need to pay will go out in March 2013.

For the details of the proposals and to have your say, go to [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/draft-cts-scheme](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/draft-cts-scheme)

## Got a spare bedroom?

**As reported in the last issue, the government is changing how Housing Benefit is worked out next year.**

From April, any working-age tenant who has spare bedrooms will have their Housing Benefit cut by 14% for one spare bedroom or 25% for two or more.

The number of bedrooms you will receive benefit for depends on who is living in your home. You are allowed one bedroom for:

- every adult couple (same or opposite sex)
- any other adult aged 16 or over
- any two children of the same sex aged under 16
- any two children under age 10
- any other child

In a change to the government's original criteria, tenants with a disabled child can now claim for an additional bedroom where it is unreasonable to expect the child to share a bedroom due to

the nature and extent of their disabilities.

You can also receive benefit for an additional bedroom if you or your partner need overnight care from someone who doesn't normally live with you, but generally you must receive Disability Living Allowance at the higher or middle rate for this to be awarded.

Our benefits team has written to all tenants affected by the changes and housing staff have started visits to explain the changes in more detail.

If the changes affect you, visit [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/hbchanges](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/hbchanges) to check out your options.

**For the latest information  
on the welfare reforms, go to  
[www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/  
benefit-changes](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/benefit-changes)**



## Could a smaller home suit you?

If you've got spare bedrooms and affected by the Housing Benefit bedroom rule changes, you could think about moving to a smaller, more manageable home through the Transfer Incentive Scheme (TIS).

As well as saving money on your rent, heating bills would be lower – a typical three-bedroom house can cost around £900 to heat compared to £540 for a one-bedroom flat or bungalow.

If accepted on to the TIS, you'd be given the highest priority, giving you a better chance of finding a property that suits you. You'd also be eligible to receive a payment following a move.

To find out more, visit [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/tis](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/tis) or call Homemove on 01273 294400 (option 1) or pick up a TIS application form from any housing office.



## Shark alert

Many of us have read about Mike in the national news – he paid a loan shark £90,000 over 17 years after borrowing just £250 to fix his car. Following years of harassment and stress, Mike was finally driven to report the loan shark to the Illegal Money Lending Team and they helped him bring the man to justice.

Mike's action resulted in the loan shark going to prison and Mike received the Trading Standards Institute Hero award for being brave enough to give evidence. Loan sharks operate outside the law, charging impossibly high interest rates, and using threatening behavior when payment can't be made, often leading the unfortunate borrower into a spiral of increasing debt.

If you have borrowed from an illegal money lender, you haven't committed a crime - they have, and they could receive a prison sentence.

To report a loan shark in confidence, call the Illegal Money Lending Team on 0300 555 2222, text LOAN SHARK and your details to 60003 or email [reportaloanshark@stoploansharks.gov.uk](mailto:reportaloanshark@stoploansharks.gov.uk)

## Better borrowing

There are safe, legitimate ways to borrow money, such as with the East Sussex Credit Union. It's a savings and loans co-operative that provides easy access savings accounts and affordable loans to anyone who lives or works in Brighton & Hove and throughout East Sussex.

Loan agreements include a savings plan to help you move away from debt.

The main office is at Community Base, 113 Queens Road, Brighton.

Open Monday to Friday 10am - 3pm.

You can call them on 01273 234858 - Monday to Friday until 4pm, or email [info@eastsussexcu.org.uk](mailto:info@eastsussexcu.org.uk).

Visit [www.eastsussexcu.org.uk](http://www.eastsussexcu.org.uk) for more information.

# Seaside Homes welcomes 100th tenant



**Young mum to baby Sophie and 18 month old Theo, Lisa McGrath is now settled in her newly decorated and refurbished two bedroom home in Moulsecoomb after spending months in temporary accommodation. Lisa said: "I am so happy to have my own place! I have never had my own kitchen or bathroom before!"**

Chair of Housing Liz Wakefield said: "I am delighted for Lisa and her family. Having a permanent home is vital to enable the family

Chair of Housing Councillor Liz Wakefield holding Theo, Lisa McGrath with baby Sophie and Charles Bramly, Director of Seaside Homes.

to set down roots so that they can develop and flourish."

Charles Bramly of Seaside Homes added: "This is what Brighton & Hove Seaside Community Homes is all about. We're providing much-needed homes for some of the most vulnerable residents in this city by raising money from the private sector to refurbish homes that the council simply has not been able to afford to repair. This is wonderful news for Lisa and her family whose lives will be transformed by having a stable home at last."

## Money sense with MACS

Everyone is feeling the pinch these days, with more and more people seeking advice from MACS. MACS (Money Advice and Community Support) is a local charity offering free advice. Jackie Grigg, Director of MACS said: "We'll treat you with respect and in confidence. We're independent too - offering you the best advice. Call our advice line on 01273 664040 open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 10am - 12 noon, and Tuesday and Friday from 2pm - 4pm."

**Appointments are available at:**

The Whitehawk Inn,  
Brighton - call 01273 682222 to book

The Bridge, Lucraft Road,  
Brighton - call 01273 687 053 to book

Council tenants and leaseholders can also contact us through the Financial Inclusion Co-ordinators by emailing [HousingInclusionTeam@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:HousingInclusionTeam@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or calling 01273 293317 or 293173.

# Local run!

Residents will have more influence over how their areas are run under new moves by the council, as part of the government's Localism Act. Two neighbourhood council pilot schemes are being set up this month for a year in response to an almost 90% 'yes' by local people in favour of more say in decisions affecting their area.

Whitehawk and Bristol Estate have taken on the challenge for their area, which will run along traditional lines, using existing organisations and systems, whereas residents in Hollingdean & Stanmer ward will be using the internet as their main tool to galvanise everyone, with emphasis on social media.

The information gathered over the year will be used to help introduce neighbourhood governance throughout the city in the future. Homing In will be following and comparing their progress over coming the year.

For more information, contact Claudia Rees on 01273 296821.



**Everyone had a great time on People's Day this year despite the weather! Music, dance, and food from around the world was enjoyed by an excellent turn out in July. The annual event is organised by the council to bring the many communities of our city together in celebration of its diversity.**

## Ask someone who knows

Tenants are to take a much more active part in writing this year's annual report, not only have they been involved in the new style and format, they have also been writing for it.

"I think it's really important that the articles in the report reflect the tenant experience," said Barry Hughes, Chair of the Sylvan Hall Residents Association and long standing member of the Tenant Editorial Board for Homing In.

Contributors to the new look report will include Barry, Leon Delaney, and Lynn Bennett, Chair of Whitehawk Manor Farm South Residents Association, who is also an invaluable member of the Tenant Editorial Board.

Lynn said: "We will be writing about the issues that really touch as council tenants, particularly anti-social behaviour on our estates and priorities for our repairs and maintenance service."



**Barry Hughes works with council communications officer, Tracey Waters, on Homing In.**

Chris El Shabba with  
Mears apprentices  
and staff at Swallow  
Court, Whitehawk



## Building relationships

Everyone works together on the Whitehawk and Manor Farm 'Our Neighbourhood' team to make sure residents get the most from their repairs & maintenance service. The team is led by nominated tenants, council officers and Mears staff from the local Swallow Court office in Whitehawk, which has proved invaluable as a base in the local community.

Chair of 'Our Neighbourhood' Chris El Shabba from Robert Lodge in Whitehawk said: "Older residents and young families feel very reassured because they have got to know

the staff. It's good for us and it's good for them as they also get to know our properties, which saves time and money".

Tenants and residents can just pop into the 'Our Neighbourhood' base at Swallow Court, Albourne Close, Brighton to report a repair, or call during office hours on 01273 622922.

If you have any ideas for improving the repairs and maintenance service in your community, please call our Repairs Partnership Team on 01273 574354.

## New kitchens are a perfect fit!

**Pat has lived in Frederick Street for 20 years, only around the corner from where she was born. She said: "I love my flat she and am absolutely delighted with my new**

**kitchen! It's exactly as I wanted it. Even the ceiling has had a new coat of paint!" Pat was particularly impressed with how polite and tidy the team were. "The boys did a magnificent job! They cleaned up every day and even hoovered!"**



**Yvonne has lived at Park Royal for 15 years and was very impressed with the quality of work on her new kitchen. She said: "We had a good choice of units to choose from and it's great to have so much more storage space now." Yvonne chose her own paint for the walls and was delighted with the result.**

## The heat is on!

Seven low rise blocks on the Bristol Estate have been completely refurbished. Not only do they look great but their thermal efficiency has been greatly improved, as roofs and windows have been replaced and the outside walls insulated to keep the warmth in.

Well-insulated and ventilated homes not only improve living conditions, they also save a substantial amount of money on energy bills. This is why Mears will be dealing with damp and condensation issues on affected properties as part of their planned future works.

**Partnership Manager for Mears** James Cryer said: "If a number of flats are affected in the same block, it makes much more sense to deal with the root of the problem and improve the fabric of the whole building, than deal with repairs reactively case by case. We are re-roofing with a new breathable material, insulating lofts, cladding, and fitting new windows to whole blocks at a time which is already helping to combat the growing problem of fuel poverty."



Ann with Chair of Bristol Estate Residents Association, Ray Freeman and his son, Harry outside her home. Ann said: "We are all so pleased with the new look cladding, and I can already feel how much warmer my flat is!"

## Apprentices are on track

Mears' apprentices were given the unique experience to hone their carpentry skills, learning how to repair the wooden carriages using traditional joinery methods at the much loved Bluebell Railway in Sheffield Park this summer.



# Clearly safer

The fire service visited Somerset Point last month – but they were expected. Councillor Liz Wakefield said: “These safety exercises are really important for both residents and the fire service. Hard lessons have been learned, especially in tower blocks, which is why we work with the fire service to arrange these ‘real time’ scenarios in our blocks. It also helps residents to understand how essential it is to keep all common ways clear as a means of exit in an emergency.”

**Remember the advice - if a fire is inside a flat the occupants should leave immediately. If the fire is elsewhere in the building, however, all other residents should stay in their flats until advised otherwise by the emergency services.**

For a free home safety check call the East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service booking line 0800 177 7069.



## Never a dull moment

Pete and Helen retired to Lindfield Court in Hollingdean four years ago. Helen said: “We had busy lives and loved living in the city centre, but the time came to slow down.” Pete added: “Helen was unsure about moving, but once she saw the view and the garden she was hooked! It’s the best move we ever made.” Both keen gardeners, Pete and Helen have grown a beautiful communal garden which centres around original Fuchsias planted 25 years ago by the first resident, Edith, who still enjoys the flowers today.

All these gardening projects are funded from Estate Development Budget bids. If you are interested in applying for financial support to improve your local environment and communal areas, please contact Michelle Johnson on 293021.

**Top:** Pete & Helen outside their flat, fortunately for everyone it's right next to the entrance!

**Bottom:** When they're not gardening Pete and Helen keep busy in the new library and computer room!



# Try before you buy...

Kevin Banfield and Jayne Leigh make a great team with years of experience and knowledge under their belts. Together, they run the Daily Living Centre in Montague Place, Brighton. This unique service enables people to try out all sorts of equipment and aids to help make life easier for those with living with mobility issues. Kevin and Jane offer free and in-depth expert advice for anyone faced with the often expensive decision to fit a walk-in shower, purchase an orthopaedic bed, wheelchair, or re-fit their home with a variety of adaptations.

The centre has a complete bathroom set up, demonstrating a range of sanitary devices, showers and baths, as well a kitchen area, stair-lift and a variety of beds to try.

Kevin said: "We are in touch with manufacturers across the country all the time researching the latest helpful gadget or new invention. The great thing is that when we like a device the company usually send us a demonstration model free of charge – so our range is always up to the minute.



"People like to come here because the advice is impartial. We are not commercially driven – we just want to give the best honest advice. We have saved customers a lot of money in the past, and helped them to retain their dignity and independence in the home as far as possible, which is so important."

To make an appointment call either Kevin or Jayne on 01273 296132, or email [dlc@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:dlc@brighton-hove.gov.uk). The centre is open every day from Monday to Friday from 10am - 4pm with a 'no appointment needed' drop-in all day Wednesday. You will find them on the ground floor of Montague House, Montague Place, Brighton, BN2 1JE.

## Catch cancer early... it could save your life

Breast, bowel and cervical cancers are virtually undetectable in the first stages, but routine screening can check for early signs. Testing for cervical cancer is available up to age 64 at your GP surgery. Breast cancer screening is available from age 50 to 70 at the NHS Park Centre. Call 01273 664966 for more information or to self refer if you haven't been checked yet and are aged over 70. Self test kits are available from your GP to check for symptoms of bowel cancer.

The cancer prevention team will be visiting sheltered housing schemes throughout the year. Contact your scheme manager for information.



Equipment comes in all shapes and sizes – the Doctor Cook is easier and safer for those with poor grip.

# Double Diamond celebrations at Craven Vale



Residents on the Craven Vale Estate celebrated a 'Double Diamond' event this summer when they shared their own 60th anniversary with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

The Mayor, Councillor Bill Randall, declared the day open as the local community samba band welcomed a procession of kings and queens through the ages, including Queen Elizabeth II of course. The street party was held in Hadlow Close where there was fun for children of all ages with crown making and plate decorating.

Newer residents had the chance to see a fascinating exhibition of photographs dating back to 1952, when the estate was first built. Older residents, also shared stories of the good old days through poetry and prose.

The Mayor of Brighton & Hove, Councillor Bill Randall, said:

"I've worked with Craven Vale residents during the past seven years and know the estate well. It's good to see at first hand all the hard work and imagination that has gone into creating this double celebration. It is testament to the pride residents and tenants of Craven Vale take in their local community."

Alan Cooke, Secretary of the Craven Vale Community Association said: "We have a very active and close knit community and, with great support from our local Trust for Developing Communities, we managed to put together a great day full of celebration and reminiscence. There will be plenty of lovely memories for the next anniversary!"

For more information about the Trust for Developing Communities see page 15.



## We've got a handle on it!

Able & Willing printed this wonderful limited edition Diamond Jubilee mug – there are three favourite images of the Queen from the Argus children's drawing competition. Hurry to the Pavilion Shop to buy yours!

**ableandwilling**



Able & Willing are a social enterprise, supported by the council, providing meaningful employment to people with a variety of disabilities, helping them to enjoy an independent life. To find out more about their services call 01273 296087 or email: [ableandwilling@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:ableandwilling@brighton-hove.gov.uk)

# Doing what comes naturally

Daisies, Cornflowers, Poppies and wild Orchids – a mix of meadow flowers you would normally associate with the countryside. But this summer they could be found blooming in rather unlikely spots thanks to the council's wild flower planting projects.

Wildflower planting takes place throughout the city, including Craven Vale and Albion Hill.

Councilor Liz Wakefield, Chair of Housing, said: "Wildflower planting is not just decorative, beautiful as it is. By allowing the plants to self seed and



**The central reservation of Eastern Road, opposite Leach Court**

encouraging bees and butterflies we are doing our bit to conserve threatened wildlife and creating new opportunities for local people to discover more about the natural environment."

Consultation is now complete on the council's Biodiversity

Action Plan which sets out how the council will conserve most important species and habitats in the city, most of which have been nationally recognised as being a priority for conservation action. To find out more, visit the council's wildlife website [www.citywildlife.org.uk](http://www.citywildlife.org.uk)

## Let's Level with you!

The £2.3 million Level restoration project pays homage to the great heritage of this popular park which has played such an important part in so many people's memories. With its iconic elm trees, The Level has been a valued focal point for local people since becoming Brighton's first general recreation ground in 1822. Work will soon be starting to create a high quality, well-used and vibrant park in keeping with the 1929 design.

In celebration, the council will be working with the community to offer a variety of exciting volunteer opportunities including wildlife conservation, sports and arts activities, as well as inviting residents from sheltered housing schemes to join Memory Days

which will trace The Level's rich social and cultural history.

If you would like to attend a Memory Day, contact your scheme manager or go to [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/thelevel](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/thelevel). To find out more about how you could be involved, or become a volunteer, visit [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/joinusonthellevel](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/joinusonthellevel), email [parksprojects@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:parksprojects@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or call 01273 292929.

The Level will close for construction in mid-October, and re-open for the summer 2013 season.

The £2.3 million restoration of The Level is being funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and The Big Lottery Fund 'Parks for People' programme.



**Residents from Lavender House with the Creating Timelines reminiscence group share their stories of the Level.**

# Dealing with the dealers

Illegal drugs have had a devastating effect on individuals and local communities, often at the core of criminal activity and anti-social behaviour.

Almost 700 people have been arrested for possession and supply of illegal drugs in Brighton & Hove since 2005 when Sussex Police introduced Operation Reduction – an ongoing drive to tackle serious drug dealing in our city in close co-operation with the council to stop the activity of ‘drug dens’ and ‘crack houses’.

Last month, thanks to the concerted effort of affected residents, police and council staff, closure orders were served on two separate drug dens in two flats in Tyson Place and a number of arrests were made. The flats are now securely locked and the previous occupiers have been banned from the building for a minimum of three months, during which time the council will seek re-possession of the properties.

Ann Ewings, Chair of Tyson Place Residents Association said: “It just takes a few anti-social people to completely ruin the lives of others. Residents were determined to stop this appalling blight, and with marvellous support from the police and the council, we have our lives back. I hope that others will find strength from our example. It is a wonderful feeling to know that together we have achieved a solution and peace has returned to our community. This is an occasion where the phrase, ‘one for all and all for one’ definitely applies!”

Inspector Gareth Davies from Brighton Neighbourhood Police Team said: “I am pleased for the other residents of Tyson Place - I hope that having been able to close these premises down, they will now have some peace and quiet. I would also like to thank them for their support and patience. The information they supplied to both us and the council was vital in obtaining the closure orders.”



Richard Jordan-Penswick, Tenancy Manager for Anti-social Behaviour Housing Team, said: “Closure orders are a tool to be used very quickly and in exceptional circumstances where the safety of the local community has to come before the individual perpetrator. If an excluded tenant is particularly vulnerable we will do our best to help and possibly rehouse into supported accommodation.

“The council has zero tolerance for tenants who are found to be dealing drugs from their property and will normally apply for their eviction. Within the past two years, we have taken part in Closure Orders on four properties. In two of these we have taken legal action and the tenants have been removed. In the other two, possession action to evict is underway.

“The message is clear – if a tenant breaches tenancy rules by drug dealing they run the very real risk that they will lose their home.”

Inspector Davies continued: “The effect that drugs has on not only the drug user but on the local community is devastating. Sussex Police is committed to bringing those responsible to justice. Please call us on our 101 number if you know of anyone in your community who you suspect is dealing drugs. We will deal with your call in the utmost confidence and you can always call the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.”

# Got a community project in mind?

# We can help!

The Trust for Developing Communities delivers community development work in communities across Brighton & Hove. They support community groups to develop and flourish by supporting them to identify needs, and sources of funding which might assist their work. They also run successful community development projects with older people in Coldean, and young people in Bevendean, Queens Park and Craven Vale. Tackling inequality runs through all their work.

The trust supported teenagers to run 'The Big Dish Out' in Moulsecoomb where they decided how best to spend the £19,000 local community youth budget for themselves at a fun and empowering event, (covered in the summer issue of Homing In). They also supported Craven Vale residents with their 'Double Diamond Jubilee' event featured on page 12. In the next issue you can see how residents both young and old of all abilities are getting on at the Foredown community allotment in Portslade.



If you have an idea you would like support with, contact your worker on:

Bevendean: 603698

Coldean: 676416

Hollingdean: 236160

Moulsecoomb: 262220

Portslade and Portland Road, Hove : 430176

Queens Park and Craven Vale: 571573

## Let's talk about it



why and what to do to avoid communication breaking down between service-users, their carers and professionals. Interactive workshops followed with practical techniques and fascinating role play with the audience.

Participants were encouraged to go on the fourth annual Recovery Walk, being held in Brighton & Hove on 29 September to celebrate the achievements of those in recovery.

For more information go to [www.recoverywalk2012.org.uk](http://www.recoverywalk2012.org.uk)

Silent Voices was funded by the Communities and Families Tackling Addiction (CAFTA) project, run by the city council's Communities Against Drugs team using money from the European Union's Interreg programme.

For more information about ongoing activities that CAFTA will be organising go to [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/CAFTA](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/CAFTA)

Affected relatives, friends and carers of people with drug and alcohol dependency were joined by professionals to hear speakers and take part in workshops at the annual Silent Voices Conference in Brighton earlier this summer.

Local youth drama group, ONO, put on a thought-provoking performance highlighting how,

# Online services

Visit the council housing website at  
[www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/council-housing](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/council-housing)

Pay online at [www2.brighton-hove.gov.uk](http://www2.brighton-hove.gov.uk)

Go to or register for the Housing Customer online system at <https://housingcos.brighton-hove.gov.uk>

Information about Money Matters, Tax and Benefits  
[www.direct.gov.uk/en/MoneyTaxAndBenefits](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/MoneyTaxAndBenefits)

Homemove website [www.homemove.org.uk](http://www.homemove.org.uk)

Check out all housing online services at  
[www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/housingdoitnow](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/housingdoitnow)

## Useful contacts

### Housing Customer Services

[housing.customerservices@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:housing.customerservices@brighton-hove.gov.uk)  
01273 293030

### Housing Benefits

[housing.benefits@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:housing.benefits@brighton-hove.gov.uk)  
01273 292000

### Housing Income Management Team

[housing.incomemanagement@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:housing.incomemanagement@brighton-hove.gov.uk)  
01273 293224

### Repairs Helpdesk

[BHCC.repairs@marsgroup.co.uk](mailto:BHCC.repairs@marsgroup.co.uk)  
0800 052 6140

**Rise** (Charity supporting those suffering Domestic Abuse)

[www.riseuk.org.uk](http://www.riseuk.org.uk)  
01273 622822

### Carelink Plus Alarm Service

[CareLinkPlus@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:CareLinkPlus@brighton-hove.gov.uk)  
01273 673105

### Citizens Advice Bureau

[www.citizensadvice.org.uk/brightonhovecab](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/brightonhovecab)  
0845 1203710

### Job Centre Plus

[www.jobseekers.direct.gov.uk](http://www.jobseekers.direct.gov.uk)  
0845 604 3719

### Noise Nuisance

[www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/noise](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/noise)  
01273 292929 or  
01273 292229 for out of hours emergencies

## Council & Tenant Meetings

### Housing Management Consultative Sub-committee meetings:

Tuesday 18 December 2012 at 3pm

There is no meeting in January, the next will be held at 3pm on Tuesday 12 February 2013.

### Housing Committee meetings:

Wednesday 16 January 2013 & Wednesday 6 March 2013 at 4pm

All meetings will be held in the Council Chamber, Hove Town Hall.

All council meetings are open to the public – and you can submit public questions.

**The agenda and minutes will be available on the council website [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk)**

If you have any comments or items, e-mail [homingin@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:homingin@brighton-hove.gov.uk), call 01273 291496 or write to Homing In, Communications Team, Room G10, Kings House, Grand Avenue, Hove BN3 2LS. Homing In is produced by Brighton & Hove City Council's communications team and the Tenant Editorial Board.

### Save paper and get Homing In online

Email [housingcos@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:housingcos@brighton-hove.gov.uk) to stop receiving a paper copy of Homing In and we'll e-mail you when it is available on our website.

## Translations

Translation? Tick this box and take to any council office.

ترجمة؟ ضع علامة في المربع وخذها إلى مكتب البلدية Arabic

অনুবাদ? বক্সে টিক চিহ্ন দিয়ে কাউন্সিল অফিসে নিয়ে যান। Bengali

需要翻譯？請在這方格內加刷，並送回任何市議會的辦事處。 Cantonese

ترجمه؟ لطفاً این مربع را علامت‌گذاری نموده و آن را به هر یک از دفاتر شهرداری ارائه نمایند. Farsi

Traduction? Veuillez cocher la case et apporter au council. French

需要翻译？请在这方格内划勾，并送回任何市议会的办事处。 Mandarin

Tłumaczenie? Zaznacz to okienko i zwróć do kóregokolwiek biura samorządu lokalnego (council office). Polish

Tradução? Coloque um visto na quadrícula e leve a uma qualquer repartição de poder local (council office). Portuguese

Tercümesi için kareyi işaretleyiniz ve bir semt belediye bürosuna veriniz Turkish   
other (please state)

This can also be made available in large print, Braille, or on CD or audio tape