

homing in

www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/council-housing

Spring 2021



Residents have transformed a communal garden in Hove with a range of features including wheelchair-accessible raised flower beds.

Find out more on page 5.



In this issue

Celebrating community gardens and orchards

Making homes more energy efficient

New homes update

Win afternoon tea for two



**Brighton & Hove
City Council**

Stay safe and stop Covid

Thanks to everyone for helping to slow the spread of Covid-19.

It is important we all continue to follow the government restrictions and keep washing your hands, wearing a mask and social distancing when you're out – even if you have been vaccinated.

keep doing this



Tens of thousands of people have already received their jabs at local vaccination centres, including the Brighton Centre.

When it is your turn to be vaccinated, the NHS will contact you to let you know how to book. If you have already been invited, please make sure you book an appointment as soon as possible. Please do not turn up for a vaccination without a pre-booked appointment.

For more information about the vaccination programme, please visit

www.sussexhealthandcare.uk/sussex-covid-19-vaccination-programme

For the latest on the government's restrictions visit www.gov.uk

Seniors housing resident Shirley Killick was first in line when the vaccination centre opened at the Brighton Centre in January. Shirley, from Elwyn Jones Court in Patcham, booked an appointment as soon as she got a letter inviting her to have the jab, and was interviewed on local TV and radio. Shirley said: "It was a relief to get the vaccine and everyone involved was so kind and efficient."



Cllr Siriol Hugh-Jones



Cllr David Gibson

Welcome to the spring issue of Homing In



The past year has been incredibly challenging for everyone – thank you to everybody for playing your part to control the virus and keep people safe. With the vaccine roll-out well underway and the start of spring, we can now hope for brighter times ahead.

In this issue we're celebrating spring by highlighting some great examples of community gardens and orchards being created by local people to get back to nature on their doorstep.

If you have an idea for a project in your neighbourhood, there's information on how to apply for a grant from our Estate Development Budget, plus details of how to get in touch with your local resident association.

We've also got news of how people are continuing to pull together in other ways to help each other, including community food stores and support for teenagers.

There are updates on our work to provide additional council homes in the city. We are delighted that, thanks to our joint housing programme, 200 additional council homes have been delivered in under two years – as many as the council achieved in the previous four years. We are also making progress towards more sustainable council housing, with energy efficiency measures such as solar panels, which will benefit the environment and residents, and more exacting carbon emissions standards.

We hope you get a chance to enjoy spring and make the most of the outdoors, subject to restrictions.

Stay safe,

Councillors David Gibson and Siriol Hugh-Jones
Joint chairs of the Housing Committee

Making homes more energy efficient

A range of work is being done on improving the energy efficiency of council housing.

Solar panels and air source heat pumps are being installed at ten new flats nearing completion in Oxford Street, Brighton and a new house to be built in Manor Hill, Whitehawk. (See page 7 for more about these and other new homes.)

The solar panels will provide free electricity for tenants whenever the sun shines, and the heat pumps will extract heat from the outside air to provide heating and hot water.

A new development of 42 homes to be built in Victoria Road, Portslade, will be highly insulated and have an innovative solar panel system which will benefit residents through lower electricity bills, plus ground source heat pumps which extract heat from the ground for heating and hot water.

And work is planned to start this year on installing solar panels on 1,000 existing council homes. This is in addition to more than 400 homes which already have solar panels.

With climate change in the headlines, we are committed to becoming a carbon neutral city by 2030, and these are some of the practical steps we are taking to reduce carbon emissions and protect the environment. To find out more, visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/climate-change



Housing services update

We are working hard to keep services operating during the pandemic.

Our customer service offices remain closed until further notice, however our staff are working remotely and will respond to emails and telephone messages.

Housing Customer Services

We are still experiencing high levels of enquiries, please contact us online where possible.

Email: housing.customerservices@brighton-hove.gov.uk
Phone: 01273 293030

Repairs

There is a backlog of repairs and we are prioritising repairs around safety issues, those that have a significant impact on residents and those likely to cause further damage to properties.

We are continuing to carry out surveys and health and safety inspections, including gas safety checks and fire risk assessments.

These are done in a safe way and in line with government guidance.

Please use our online form to request a repair if possible, visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/repairs

Phone: 0800 052 6140
(or 01273 294409 if calling from a mobile)

Estates cleaning

The Estates Service has increased the level of cleaning to help prevent infection spread. Extra staff have been employed and feedback from residents has been positive.

Seniors Housing

Scheme managers are providing a service remotely to reduce the risk of infection spread, and staff are limiting scheme visits to essential or emergency work only. We continue to offer phone and email contact, and a daily wellbeing call Monday to Friday. (See also page 8)

Supporting vulnerable residents

Information postcards giving details of a wide range of support available were sent to all households in the city in January.

Support is available from the council's Community Hub if you need help, for example, with shopping, collecting prescriptions, or applying for self-isolation payments. Visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/covidhelp or call 01273 293117

For advice on benefits, fuel bills, employment and training, contact the Housing Inclusion team. They can also refer people for independent money and debt advice. Email housingemploymentsupport@brighton-hove.gov.uk or call 01273 293030

For the latest information on council services, please visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/coronavirus

Community orchard takes root

A total of 70 trees are being planted in Bevendean, Moulsecoomb, the Bates Estate, and Coldean as part of a community orchard project.

The 'mini orchards' will give people a chance to enjoy delicious local produce grown on their doorstep and help to encourage wildlife.

In Bevendean 20 trees – including a mix of Sussex heritage apple varieties – are being added to the green in The Avenue, alongside fruit trees planted in 2019.

Other sites include Staplefield Drive in Moulsecoomb, and Roundway in Coldean where trees will include cherry plums, damsons and apples.

Brighton Permaculture Trust is leading the project and all the trees are due to be planted by the end of March.

Local communities have been consulted and there will be lots of opportunities to get involved with caring for the trees, such as watering, mulching and harvesting fruit.

There are also plans to set up an online community where local people can share their tree stories about their local mini orchard!

To find out more, email orchards@brightonpermaculture.org.uk or call 07746 185927. www.brightonpermaculture.org.uk

Interested in joining a resident association?

If you are interested in finding out more about local resident associations, or setting up one in your area, the Community Engagement Team can help. Email communityengagement@brighton-hove.gov.uk or call 01273 291211 or 291518.



Newly planted apple trees at The Avenue in Bevendean

The late orchard

Using the 'Plant Your Postcode' initiative, the Sylvan Hall Residents' Association, in partnership with the CPRE* Sussex, decided to plant an orchard in the spring of 2020.

Then came Covid, so planting was delayed until autumn 2020 and then again until January 2021.

As a result, the volunteers, residents of Sylvan Hall and Round Hill, were stood down and the orchard of apple and pear trees has been professionally planted.

The volunteers will be encouraged to adopt a tree and to tend to the plants and help them to crop in the autumn and to enjoy the fruit. The long wait will have been worth it.

Barry Hughes,
Chairman
Sylvan Hall Residents'
Association

**Tree planting
at Sylvan Hall**



(*CPRE the countryside charity – for more information see www.cpresussex.org.uk)

Growing success of estate garden

A community effort has transformed a neglected space into a glorious communal garden.

In the space of four years, residents on the Ingram Crescent estate in Hove have worked wonders.

Their community garden is bursting with plants, flowers, fruit, vegetables, and wildlife and is a haven for relaxing.

A team of volunteers care for the garden. They have raised money and applied for grants to buy plants and add features such as a tool shed, poly-tunnel greenhouse, waste bin, and compost boxes.

The latest additions are new wheelchair-accessible raised beds, or 'pods', in the rose garden, which are enabling more people to enjoy gardening.

Kim Foster, secretary of Ingram Crescent Residents' Association, said: "The garden has been absolutely invaluable over the last year, especially during lockdowns.

"It's somewhere to take time out and relax. People are using it for exercise, gardening, or sitting enjoying the sun, and there's enough space to keep a safe distance."

The resident association applied for money from our Estate Development Budget to pay for the pods and other improvements.



Kim with Woody the 'head gardener'!



Volunteers in the garden

Do you have an idea for improving your neighbourhood?

The Estate Development Budget (EDB) provides money for community projects that make a positive difference.

Projects which have benefited include:

- community gardens
- new footpaths
- cycle storage
- refurbished handrails

To find out more, visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/edb or call 01273 291211 or 291518.



Get involved at Whitehawk garden

A new community garden in Whitehawk is starting to take shape.

The garden is being created on land between Wellsbourne Health Centre and the library by a dedicated team of volunteers.

So far they have planted 25 silver birch, rowan and oak trees, laid wildflower turf, and planted hundreds of bulbs – look out for daffodils and tulips this spring.

The volunteers have also built a shed and put old pallets to good use to make tables and seats.

Lots more work is planned over the coming months and more volunteers are welcome – no experience needed and volunteering days are fun!

The Patient Participation Group at Wellsbourne Healthcare, the local GP surgery, is working with residents and community groups on the project.

To get involved, visit www.wellsbournehealthcare.org.uk/community-projects or call 07927 086399.



A young helper at Wellsbourne community garden

Field officers tackling community concerns

Field officers dealt with thousands of cases across the city last year, responding to concerns ranging from noise nuisance to fly-tipping.

The team investigated 3,521 cases in 2020, an increase of more than 1,000 from 2019. These included complaints about:

- bonfires, dust and smoke
- illegal street trading
- encampments on pavements and in parks

Noise triggers the most concerns, and prompt action by the team resulted in 90% of noise investigations being resolved without further complaints.

Dealing with noise nuisance and preventing further problems has been particularly important over the last year, with more people at home during lockdowns.

The field officer service was launched in 2018 to take council services out to local communities and tackle issues raised by residents and businesses.

The team works across a number of council services such as housing, environmental health and planning, to respond quickly to issues reported by residents through the services' usual routes.



Responding to a complaint about fly-tipping

If you need to report a problem on your estate, please see the 'Useful Contacts' list on the back page.

Do you have unwanted items for disposal?

The Estates Services team runs a recycling project and can collect unwanted furniture and household items in good condition, free of charge. These are used to help tenants in need.

White goods such as fridges are in high demand, but unfortunately cookers can't be recycled at present.

If items are not suitable for recycling, the team can dispose of them. There is a charge for this service. For information call **01273 294769**.

Cityclean runs a bulk removal service, with discounts for people over 60 and those on certain benefits. For details, visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/bulkywaste or call **01273 290798**.

Items can also be taken to the recycling centres in Hove (off Old Shoreham Road) and Brighton (Wilson Avenue). For opening times, visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/cityclean



Les Barnes (left) and Ivor Johnson from Estates Services at the furniture recycling project

In 2019/20 we cleared 5,600 fly-tipped items from our estates, including sofas, mattresses and TVs at a cost of £120,000. That's money which could be much better spent on improving homes and neighbourhoods.

We've made it easier to report illegal fly-tipping by creating a special hotline number **01273 295063**.

New homes update

We're converting 'hidden' or empty spaces within council-owned property into much needed new homes.

Ten new flats in a former housing office in Oxford Street, Brighton will be completed in the summer, through the Hidden Homes project.

And nine homes – a mix of studios and flats – are being created at blocks of flats on the Bristol Estate.

At Manor Hill in Whitehawk a former office is being transformed into two flats, and a new house will be built alongside.

Later this year work will get underway to convert disused spaces on the ground floor of Saxonbury and Highleigh flats in Ashton Rise, Brighton, to provide two extra homes in each block.

Thank you to residents living near these developments for your understanding while work is in progress.

New flats at Hawkridge Court



Katariina Jarvinen, Light Trick Photography



Homes completed last year in Buckley Close

Tackling the housing shortage

The Hidden Homes project is one of a range of ways we are providing more council homes. Since April 2019 around 200 additional homes have been provided, including:

• New Homes for Neighbourhoods

Thirty new flats were completed last year at Hawkridge Court in Selsfield Drive, Brighton and 12 at Buckley Close, Hangleton.

Later this spring work will start on 42 new one, two and three-bedroom flats in Victoria Road, Portslade.

This summer work is due to start on four flats in Frederick Street in the North Laine.



New homes to be built in Victoria Road

Find out more about our new homes building programme at www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/nhfn

• Buying back former council homes

97 homes were brought back into council ownership through our Home Purchase Policy scheme.

The scheme is providing more rented homes for families on the housing register by buying back properties sold under Right to Buy.

If you're a leaseholder or freehold owner of a property sold under Right to Buy, you can make an offer to sell it back to us.

- If you bought the home within the last 10 years, you must offer it back to the council if you wish to sell it. This is known as the Right of First Refusal.
- If you bought your home over 10 years ago you don't need to offer us first refusal, but you can still make an offer to sell it to us.

To find out more visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/home-purchase-policy, email housing.strategy@brighton-hove.gov.uk or call 07961 659 157 or 07961 659 127.

Major capital works framework

As part of the new repairs and maintenance service, we're setting up a multi-contractor framework agreement for major capital works to our properties.

Your feedback helped us to develop a set of clear objectives for the service, which includes:

- Excellent customer service and greater direct customer access to services.
- Increased transparency, control and accountability around cost, programme information and quality assurance.
- Demonstrating value for money combined with the inclusion of social value requirements, in order to secure added economic, social or environmental benefits for the local area.

We've now carried out a procurement evaluation process and prepared proposals on the various contracts.

The framework is set up with two 'lots' – Lot 1 for works up to and including £300,000 and Lot 2 for works over £300,000.

There are six places on each lot, with contractors limited to apply for inclusion on only one of the lots.

Five of the contractors in Lot 1 and two of the contractors in Lot 2 are Sussex-based.

The framework will last for four years and all projects let through it will be subject to a mini-competition between the six contractors in the relevant lot.

We're currently carrying out the next stage of leaseholder consultation on the proposals ahead of establishing the frameworks. The first projects are expected to begin later this spring.

For more information, visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/rmi-services

Covid safety in seniors housing

Cleaning at all our seniors housing schemes has been increased throughout the pandemic.

This includes extra cleaning of 'high touch' areas, such as door handles, and additional deep cleans where necessary.

We've also installed more hand sanitisers at all schemes and put up signs reminding everyone about Covid safety guidelines.

If you live in seniors housing and have any queries about cleaning or our service to you, please contact your scheme manager.

For more information about seniors housing, visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/seniors-housing

Special delivery at Leach Court

Residents at Leach Court seniors housing scheme in Kemp Town were determined to bring some Christmas cheer.

The social committee usually organises a festive party for residents, but it had to be cancelled because of Covid-19 restrictions.

Instead they delivered boxes of chocolates to nearly 100 people living at the seniors housing scheme and organised a free raffle, with festive hampers and gift vouchers as prizes.

Residents on the committee dressed up in Christmas jumpers and hats to distribute the gifts, using a trolley decorated with tinsel and baubles. They wore masks and maintained social distancing to make sure it was done safely.

Committee member Eileen Esposito said: "We didn't want people to miss out completely. It was fun, and people were surprised and pleased to receive the chocolates."



Resident Iris receiving her gift



SMASH message for teens

Free Covid 'kit bags' containing sanitiser, a mask, water bottle, and pocket guide to help young people cope during the pandemic, are available for teenagers in Hangleton and Knoll.

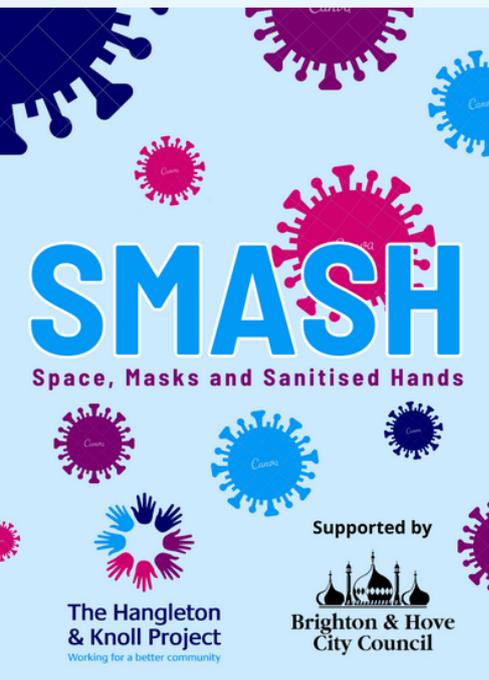
The kit bags are being given out by the Hangleton and Knoll Project Youth Team as part of an education programme called SMASH 'Space, Masks and Sanitised Hands', set up with a grant from the council's Covid-19 recovery fund.

Helen Baxter from the project said:

"We know young people have been receiving mixed messages and misinformation about the pandemic from social media, so we've produced a helpful, clear publication, which is included in the kits bags, and we are taking the SMASH message out onto the streets."

Kelsey and Robbie with the SMASH kit bag and guide

If your teenager would like a kit bag (while stocks last) or a socially distanced chat with a youth worker, email helen.baxter@hkproject.org.uk or call **07702 392339**.



The Hangleton and Knoll Project offers a range of other free youth services for council tenants and leaseholders, visit www.hkproject.org.uk or call the number above.

City's youth services offering support

More than 40 youth groups and organisations across Brighton & Hove are continuing to offer services to support young people through the Covid-19 crisis.

These include local charities, community groups, businesses, and the council's own services for young people.

The youth services directory is available on the council website, visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/directory-youth-services

Benefit Cap help

The Benefit Cap limits the amount of total welfare most households can receive. Since 2015 the cap in Brighton & Hove has been limited to £1,666 a month for families with children and £1,116 for families with no children.

There is an exemption if you receive certain disability benefits and families working prior to claiming Universal Credit are not capped straight away. This is called a 'Grace Period' and lasts for nine months.

On the tenth month of receiving Universal Credit the cap will apply and you may see a reduction in Universal Credit. This may mean you no longer have enough money to pay for your rent and council tax and the other things your family needs.

We have a dedicated team who can help, please contact the Benefit Cap Support team by emailing benefitcapsupport@brighton-hove.gov.uk or calling **01273 291954**.

BrightStore opens in Hollingdean and Hove

A new community food project set up by local residents is going from strength to strength.

BrightStore is a membership-based weekly social grocery store designed to give families and other residents in need access to high quality affordable food, which is mostly sourced locally and is surplus or donated.

The first BrightStore opened in Hollingdean in October and a second in Hove in January.

In return for an affordable weekly shop (significantly less than it would cost in a supermarket), members who sign up to be part of the project are encouraged to help run it. Roles include setting up the store and helping with deliveries.

The project is supported by Brighton & Hove Food Partnership. Membership costs between £4 and £10 a week, depending on household size, and is based on a pay what you can afford solidarity principle where members support each other. A limited number of free places are also available for those in particular need.

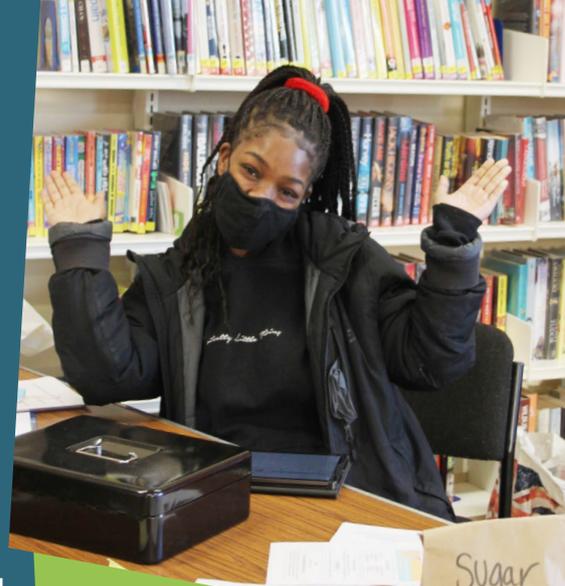
Opening times:

• Hollingdean

Tuesdays 1pm to 4pm at Hollingdean Community Centre, Thompson Road, Hollingdean

• Hove

Thursdays 1pm to 4pm at the Vallance Centre (next to Honeycroft Nursery) Conway Court, Sackville Road



A friendly welcome from one of the BrightStore volunteers

To find out more email info@brightstore.org, visit www.brightstore.org or call 07306 655432.

Brighton & Hove Food Partnership

For information about other low-cost community food projects in the city visit www.bhfood.org.uk or call 01273 234810.

£100,000 boost for community projects

A £100,000 package of grants is being made to community-led projects to help reduce carbon in the city.

We're supporting projects that, for example, promote active and sustainable travel, create and improve open spaces, or support a 'reduce, repair, reuse and recycle' approach.

A total of 21 local groups and organisations are benefiting from the grants from the council's Communities Fund.

Find out more:

How we plan to become carbon neutral, visit brighton-hove.gov.uk/becoming-carbon-neutral Communities Fund, visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/communitiesfund



The range of innovative ideas includes:

Old Boat Corner Community Association a community garden to grow sustainable food for the community centre in Hollingbury.

Albion Community Association funding for tools and equipment to start a repair café for residents, plus funding for a trike for a mobile composting scheme.

Whitehawk FC tackling climate change with a campaign to encourage football fans to make pledges which will limit their carbon consumption.

Woodingdean Community Association a wildflower project including activities for children and adults to encourage wildlife and insects.

Take part in online meetings by phone

You've probably heard a lot this last year about people 'meeting' each other over Zoom, whether family chats, resident association meetings, yoga classes or whatever.

If your eyes won't cope with computer or smart phone screens, or if you don't have that techie equipment, or the skills to use it, maybe you've been feeling frustrated and left out?

Well, there is good news: you can join a Zoom meeting on an ordinary telephone, like any ordinary phone call.

You won't see the other people on a screen, of course. But you can hear everyone, and talk to them, like a telephone conference, or an old party line if you remember those.

You'll need the meeting ID number – normally 10 or 11 digits – and maybe a 'password' which is another number, normally 6 digits long, and of course a phone number. The meeting organiser will be able to tell you all these.

You also need a phone, of course!

Any phone is fine, so long as it has a keypad with star (*) and hash (#) keys and goes 'beep' when you press a key. Just dial the telephone number, and an automatic voice will welcome you, guide you to enter the code numbers, and add you to the meeting.



If you can phone in a meter reading, you can Zoom.

For more information, or for a trial run, phone the Community Engagement Team on 01273 291211 or 291518.

Rosemary Johnson,
Acting Chair of the Leaseholders Action Group



The Whitehawk Inn and Hangleton and Knoll Project are both providing access to online learning, information and advice, and support to get online for council tenants and leaseholders.

For details of their courses and support:

Whitehawk Inn 01273 682222

Whitehawk.inn@bht.org.uk

Hangleton and Knoll 01273 881446

Email info@hkproject.org.uk

www.hkproject.org.uk

News from the Leaseholders Action Group

We represent all of you who own by leasehold a flat in a council block.

We are currently having to meet remotely due to Covid-19. You can join us either on the phone or on a Zoom video conference. We also have an email discussion group which welcomes all leaseholders.

Our current activities include concerns about works to our blocks - both ensuring that future works are specified and carried out well, and that any problems remaining after previous works are sorted out promptly. We are also working on future consultation and communication issues, including monitoring and reporting leaseholder issues to the councillors on Housing Committee.

We are still hoping to be able to reconvene the Leaseholder Summit, and hold our annual meeting, sometime this year. It will be great to be able to meet up in person again, when that is safe. Meanwhile, the committee elected at in 2019 are continuing, with two new faces.

For more information, or to join the email group or get news of meetings, please phone 01273 605225 or email lag@clarend.com

How we've been doing

Here are the highlights of our performance over the last quarter...

October to December 2020



Repairs and improvements

We completed 2,764 emergency (98.2% within 24 hours) and 2,847 other responsive repairs.



Estates Service

The team completed 98% of cleaning tasks, including handles and rails in common ways.



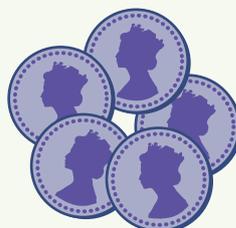
Tenancy management

We've helped 18 people to keep their tenancies which were at risk.



Customer services and complaints

Housing Customer Services have dealt with 7,889 emails, which remain high in volume since the start of the pandemic.



Rent collection and current arrears

We've collected 96.41% of rent and this is down slightly on the previous quarter. Almost a quarter of households (24%) have someone on Universal Credit.



Anti-social behaviour



155 new anti-social behaviour cases were reported, down from 209 during the previous quarter. Case numbers are generally higher during the spring and summer months.

Feedback about housing services

We want to know what you think about the service you receive so that we can build on our successes and make improvements where they are most needed.

Please send your compliments and complaints to the council's Customer Feedback team at CustomerFeedback@brighton-hove.gov.uk or on **01273 291229**. If you do make a complaint your right to receive a good quality service will not be affected.

The Housing Ombudsman service can give independent advice to tenants on how to make complaints and options available if you have exhausted the council's complaints procedure and remain unsatisfied with the outcome. It can be contacted at info@housing-ombudsman.org.uk or on **0300 1113000**.

Responding to concerns

Residents have raised concerns about rough sleepers gaining entry to communal areas in some blocks of flats in Kemp Town.

We are working to address the issue and a community meeting in the autumn (held on Zoom) brought together council staff, residents, police community support officers, and staff from the city's street outreach service who provide support and emergency services for homeless people.

As a result, the city's street outreach service is now being alerted quickly if rough sleepers are found in council housing blocks, so they can be moved and provided with the help and support they need.

If you're concerned about anyone rough sleeping, please let us know by reporting it to StreetLink via their website www.streetlink.org.uk or call **0300 500 0914**.

Get active this spring!

We'll soon be launching a campaign to encourage and support more walking and cycling in the city.



One Journey Better

The way we travel is changing

Find out more at brighton-hove.gov.uk/onejourneybetter



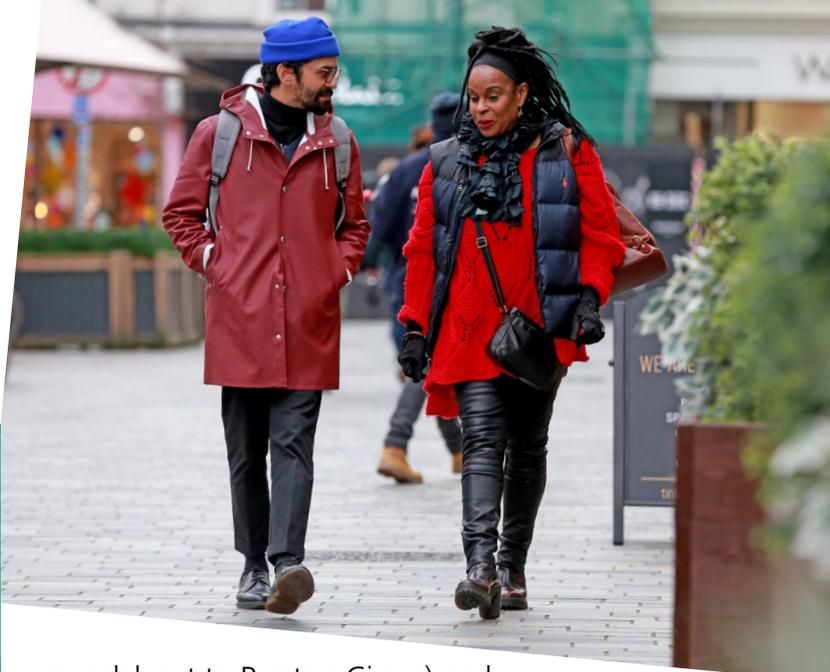
Over the last year there has been a change in the way people move around Brighton & Hove, with more of us choosing to travel on foot or by bike because of Covid-19.

As a result, using government funding, we have already taken some steps to make it safer and easier to get around and maintain physical distancing.

These include:

- Temporary cycle lanes on part of the Old Shoreham Road and the seafront road (A259)
- Widening pavements in busy locations in St James's Street, London Road and Western Road
- Temporarily closing Madeira Drive to traffic in one direction, to provide more space for pedestrians and cyclists, and additional disabled parking spaces

We've held a public consultation to get people's views on extending the temporary cycle lanes and permanent changes on the A23 (Patcham



roundabout to Preston Circus) and Western Road. Feedback will be considered by the Environment, Transport and Sustainability committee in the next few months to decide the next steps.

As well as a response to the pandemic, supporting active, inclusive and sustainable travel is important to reduce toxic emissions and improve the city's air quality.

Find out more about active travel at www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/onejourneybetter

You will also find details about our 'More for Change' challenge, powered by the BetterPoints app. Get rewarded for travelling actively and sustainably around the city.

Fancy getting out and about and exploring your local area this spring?

Check out Brighton & Hove's bike share scheme at www.btbikeshare.com

Find ideas for walks and trails at www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/walks-and-trail-guide



Healthy Hearts

A Healthy Hearts project run by Brighton and Sussex Medical School, Wellsbourne Healthcare CIC, and the Hangleton and Knoll Project is offering free healthy lifestyle coaching for people who want to improve their heart health.

Coaching will be done online in one-to-one sessions with local trained community health volunteers.

Do you live in Hangleton and Knoll or East Brighton, and want to get healthier in 2021?

If you are a Hangleton and Knoll resident and would like further information please contact Clare Hopkins on **01273 410858** or email clare.hopkins@hkproject.org.uk

If you are an East Brighton resident and would like more information please email SPICES.Sussex@bsms.ac.uk

To find out if you are eligible, visit www.is.gd/SPICES_SUSSEX2

Lemon drizzle cake

Try this tasty recipe from Brighton & Hove Food Partnership for a springtime treat that's cheap and easy to make.



Ingredients

- 3 tablespoons milk
 - 170 grams soft butter
 - 170 grams caster sugar
 - Juice and finely grated rind of a large unwaxed lemon
 - 3 eggs
 - 170 grams self-raising flour
 - 3 tablespoons caster sugar (for drizzle)
- If you want to reduce the amount of sugar to 100g add the zest and juice of another lemon to the mixture, it will still be lovely!

Method

- 1 Preheat the oven to 170°C, 325° F, Gas 3. Line a small roasting tin with baking parchment.
- 2 Using a wooden spoon, beat the butter and sugar together in a large bowl until they are pale and fluffy.
- 3 Beat in the lemon rind then slowly add the eggs.
- 4 Sift the flour into the mixture and fold it in with the milk.
- 5 Turn the mixture into the prepared tin and bake in the oven for about 30 minutes.
- 6 Cake will be coming away from the tin at the sides and will feel firm to the touch when it is cooked.
- 7 While the cake is baking, put the juice and sugar in a small pan and heat gently until the sugar has dissolved. Turn up the heat and let it boil for 2 minutes.
- 8 When the cake is ready, place it on a cooling rack and prick the surface all over with a fork. Pour the hot lemon syrup over the surface of the cake. Let it cool before serving.

For more recipes, local food news and events, check out the **Brighton & Hove Food Partnership** website www.bhfood.org.uk



Dates for your diary

Area Panels

The next round of Area Panels will be held as follows:

West	25 May	2pm
East	25 May	7pm
Central	26 May	2pm
North	26 May	7pm

These will be held through virtual meetings online. We are linking residents to digital support if they need this and welcome any council tenants or leaseholders to join the meetings. You can also join Area Panels by phone (see page 11 for details).

Agenda and minutes of meetings are available at www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/area-panel-meetings

For more information contact the Community Engagement Team, email communityengagement@brighton-hove.gov.uk or call 01273 291211 or 291518.

Brighton Festival

Brighton Festival will return to the city with a month-long celebration of art and culture from 1 May.

Subject to the latest government guidance, events will take place online, in unusual outdoor pop-up locations and from 17 May, live performances will open for socially distanced audiences in venues across the city if restrictions are eased.

Instead of the usual Children's Parade, the community arts charity Same Sky will be offering schools and groups alternative activities for children to make their own flags and artwork to honour the spirit of the event.

For more information visit www.brightonfestival.org or call 01273 709709.



Win afternoon tea for two



Enter our free draw for a chance to win afternoon tea for two from Metrodeco tearoom in Kemp Town.

The lucky winner will receive a delivery of teatime treats for a celebration at home. The afternoon tea will include a selection of scones, sandwiches and cakes and, of course, a choice of teas!

Simply answer the following questions, based on information in this issue:

- A total of how many trees are being planted in Bevendean, Moulsecomb, Bates Estate and Coldean as part of a community orchard?
- How many cases did the field officers team investigate in 2020?
- Where is Metrodeco tearoom?

Send your answers by email to homingin@brighton-hove.gov.uk or post to Homing In competition, Performance & Improvement, Housing Centre, Unit 1, Fairway Trading Estate, Eastergate Road, Brighton BN2 4QL.

Please include your name, address, postcode and phone number.

The closing date for entries is 26 April 2021. The winner will be contacted and their name published in the next issue of Homing In. The competition is open to all households who receive Homing In by email or post.

For more information about Metrodeco, visit www.metro-deco.com or call 01273 677243.



Stanmer Park welcomes you

A newly restored Walled Garden is due to open at Stanmer Park this spring, subject to Covid restrictions.

The garden has been transformed as part of the restoration of the city's largest park, an 18th century countryside estate.

Other improvements include new pathways and trails, including an off-road route alongside the central roadway for walkers, cyclists and those with mobility difficulties.

An information kiosk at the main park entrance will also open soon and will offer drinks and snacks, park bike hire and include public toilets.

For more information, visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/stanmerproject



Congratulations!

Thanks to everyone who entered our winter competition for tickets to Preston Manor. The winners were Hazel Kearns, Paul Kitching, Anthony Price, Marlene Reid, and Dean Ruckman.

Useful contacts

Housing Customer Services

housing.customerservices@brighton-hove.gov.uk
01273 293030

Repairs Helpdesk

Report online at www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/repairs
0800 052 6140 (local line 01273 294409)

Housing Income Management Team

housing.incomemanagement@brighton-hove.gov.uk
01273 293224

Housing Benefit

housing.benefits@brighton-hove.gov.uk
01273 292000 or 01273 290333 for people
with speech or hearing difficulties

Community Engagement Team

For information about tenant and leaseholder groups
communityengagement@brighton-hove.gov.uk
01273 291518 or 291211

Access Point for adult social care

AccessPoint@brighton-hove.gov.uk
01273 295555

Noise Nuisance

www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/noise
01273 294266 or 01273 293541 for out of hours

Other useful contacts

Moneyworks Brighton & Hove

www.advicebrighton-hove.org.uk
0800 9887037 or 01273 809288

Citizens Advice Bureau

www.citizensadvice.org.uk/brightonhovecab
0300 330 9033

Help with domestic violence and abuse

www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/domestic-abuse-help
Freephone 0300 323 9985

Brighton & Hove Independent Mediation Service

www.bhims.org.uk
01273 700812

Leaseholders Action Group

lag@clarend.com
01273 605225
www.facebook.com/groups/bhlag

Online services

Visit the council housing website to check out
all housing online services at
www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/council-housing

Pay online at www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/pay

Go to the Housing Customer online system at
www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/housingcos

Information about money matters, tax, benefits
and more www.gov.uk



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Housing Committee Meeting

Wednesday 23 June at 4pm

Meetings are currently being held online due to
restrictions on gatherings.

Agendas, minutes and webcasts of council
meetings are available at
www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/council-meetings

If you have any comments or suggestions
for future articles, email
homingin@brighton-hove.gov.uk or
write to **Homing In**, Performance &
Improvement, Housing Centre, Unit 1,
Fairway Trading Estate, Eastergate Road,
Brighton BN2 4QL or call 01273 293030

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