

# homing in

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

Winter 2022

Christmas lights are adding festive sparkle to the city centre.

The lights are paid for by 517 local businesses through the Brighton Business Improvement District.

Photo: [www.visitbrighton.com](http://www.visitbrighton.com)

## In this issue

Help and advice with cost of living

Energy efficient new council homes

Conference for tenants and leaseholders

Win a year of free leisure activities



**Brighton & Hove  
City Council**

# Welcome to the winter issue of Homing In

**With winter here and food and energy costs increasing, the cost of living crisis is hitting households across the city.**

In this issue we have a round-up of support and advice available for anyone struggling to make ends meet.

There's news of the Brighton & Hove Cost of Living Crisis Appeal, which has raised more than £49,000 to help residents facing hardship since it was launched in May.

Thanks to everyone who has been able to donate to the appeal, and to volunteers at food banks and other community groups who will be helping to bring some festive cheer during this difficult time.

We have an update on work to build new energy efficient council homes and are pleased to report that residents will be moving into 42 new flats in Portslade early next year. The homes in Victoria Road include a range of sustainability features to reduce carbon emissions and help the new tenants manage their energy bills. These 42 new homes form part of our programme for 164 additional council homes in 2022/23.



**Cllr Siriol Hugh-Jones**



**Cllr David Gibson**

There's also news from the Citywide Conference for tenants and leaseholders held in October.

Other items include news of our latest apprentices to join the repairs and maintenance service, details of refuse and recycling collections over Christmas and New Year, and a chance to win a year's membership to enjoy free activities at local leisure centres.

With best wishes for the festive season and 2023.

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



**Upgrading electrics in an empty property ready for a new tenant**

## New apprentices

**Welcome to Donnie and Ronnie (pictured) our two new electrical apprentices in the repairs and maintenance service.**

They join three other electrical apprentices who started their training earlier in the year.

Once qualified our apprentices will be doing a range of tasks as part of our in-house Repairs and Maintenance Team, including carrying out electrical safety checks and testing.

We'll also be encouraging them to progress their careers and apply for vacancies in the team.

We hope to offer further exciting apprenticeship opportunities in 2023 and we'll keep you updated in Homing In.



# Please don't put off paying your rent

We know this Christmas is going to be tough for many because of the cost of living crisis.

But it's important to keep paying your rent over the festive period and not be tempted to put it off. There are a range of different ways to pay.

If you are struggling to pay your rent, our Housing Income Management Team is here to help, call **01273 293224** or email [housing.incomemanagement@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:housing.incomemanagement@brighton-hove.gov.uk)



## Direct debit or standing order

Paying by direct debit or standing order is quick and easy and means your rent will be taken directly out of your bank or building society account.

You can set up a direct debit online at [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/rent](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/rent) or we can arrange it over the phone.

You can set up a standing order through your bank or building society.

To find out more about these and other payment methods call 01273 293065, email [rentaccounting@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:rentaccounting@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or visit [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/rent](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/rent)

## Other ways to pay

- Pay securely online with a debit card at [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/pay](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/pay) go to the 'housing rents' section.
- Call our 24-hour automated payment line on 01273 291908 to pay by debit or credit card.
- Use a PayPoint card at PayPoint outlets.

Did you know you can check your rent account, view your repairs, update your contact details and make payments online?

To find out more and register for our new Housing Online service, visit [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/housingonline](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/housingonline)

**Help and support is available if you're worried about money, see pages 4 and 5 for more information.**



## Have your say on the housing annual report

**Every year we include a copy of our housing annual report to council tenants and leaseholders in the summer edition of Homing In.**

The annual report is also on our website at [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/housing-annual-report](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/housing-annual-report)

Planning for next year's annual report is underway and we would really appreciate your comments on what you would like included. If you are interested in giving feedback, please email [housing.performance@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:housing.performance@brighton-hove.gov.uk)

# Help with the cost of living

If you are struggling to cope with rising costs, there's help and advice available

- Extra help is available for households struggling to pay for food, fuel and other essential costs as part of the government's Household Support Fund.  
To find out more, visit [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/household-support-fund](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/household-support-fund)  
If you don't have access to the website, call the council's Community Hub on **01273 293117** option 1 if you receive benefits, or option 2 for households not in receipt of benefits. The phonenumber is open Monday to Friday from 10am to 4.30pm.
- If you're facing a crisis and need help, the council can provide welfare advice, discretionary payments and other support.  
To find out more, visit [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/benefits/help-and-support](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/benefits/help-and-support) or call the Community Hub as set out above.

- For benefits advice call the Welfare Rights Team advice line, open Monday to Wednesday from 10am to 1pm, on **01273 291116** or email [welfarerights@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:welfarerights@brighton-hove.gov.uk)
- If you're having problems paying your rent, please call the Housing Income Management Team on **01273 293224** or email [housing.incomemanagement@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:housing.incomemanagement@brighton-hove.gov.uk)
- If you're in a low-income household and need help paying your Council Tax, you could get a Council Tax Reduction, visit [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/ctr](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/ctr)
- To check if your child is entitled to free school meals, visit [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/free-school-meals](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/free-school-meals) or call **01273 293497**.



To find out about Holiday Activities and Food for children who receive benefit-related free school meals, visit [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/HAF](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/HAF)

## Debt advice

Money Advice Plus

**0800 988 7037**

[www.moneyadviceplus.org.uk](http://www.moneyadviceplus.org.uk)

Citizens Advice

**0300 330 9033**

[www.cabrightonhove.org](http://www.cabrightonhove.org)

Visit [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/cost-living-support](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/cost-living-support) for the latest information on help with the cost of living, including a directory of free indoor activities and warm places to go across the city this winter.

## Sussex Mental Healthline

Money worries can have a serious impact on mental health and wellbeing.

Sussex Mental Healthline is a free 24/7 mental health telephone support and information service, call **0800 0309 500**.

For more information, visit [www.sussexpartnership.nhs.uk/sussex-mental-healthline](http://www.sussexpartnership.nhs.uk/sussex-mental-healthline)

## Tips for saving energy



These tips are from the Energy Saving Trust:

- If you are warm enough, try turning down your thermostat by one degree to save around £145 a year. (Heating your home to at least 18°C/65°F is important for your health and immune system, especially if you are 65 or over, have reduced mobility, or an existing health condition such as heart or lung disease.)
  - Keep a gap between your radiators and furniture, and make sure curtains aren't hanging in front of radiators.
  - It costs less to set your heating to come on when you need it, rather than keeping it on low all day.
  - Remember to turn your appliances off standby mode.
  - Remember to turn off lights when you leave a room.
  - Avoid overfilling the kettle.
  - Spend less time in the shower.
  - Swap your bath for a shower.
- For more information, visit [www.energysavingtrust.org.uk](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk)

## Winter Fuel Payment

If you were born on or before 25 September 1956, you could get between £250 and £600 from the government to help you pay your heating bills.

The amount you'll get this winter includes a Pensioner Cost of Living Payment of between £150 and £300.

If you get a state pension, you'll receive the Winter Fuel Payment automatically and you do not need to claim for it. The payment is usually made in November or December.

For more information, visit [www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment](http://www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment)

### Please do not use bottled gas heaters

Just a reminder, please do not use Calor gas heaters or any other bottled gas or paraffin/kerosene heater inside your home. For safety reasons, please only use the heating installed in your home (see page 10 for more information).



Volunteers at Brighton & Hove Food Partnership's Food Hub in Moulsecoomb are helping to supply food banks and affordable food projects

## Giving help to others

**An appeal set up in May by Brighton & Hove Citizens Advice and Brighton & Hove Food Partnership, with the support of the council, has raised more than £49,000.**

The Cost of Living Crisis Appeal is helping local people in poverty with their food and fuel costs through vouchers, food parcels and low energy items, such as slow cookers.

The funds are used to support existing schemes run by the Moneyworks Partnership, which is led by Citizens Advice, and the Food Partnership.

Volunteers at food banks around the city are helping to distribute food parcels as part of the appeal and will be aiming to add some festive treats at Christmas.

If you feel you could make a donation, please visit [www.justgiving.com/campaign/BHCostofLivingCrisis](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/BHCostofLivingCrisis)

## Be alert for scams

Trading standards officers are urging people to be on the alert for scams linked to energy bills and the cost of living crisis.

There's been a big rise in reports of energy scams nationally, including:

- scam energy rebate text messages
- energy tariff mis-selling by doorstep sellers
- loan sharks preying on vulnerable people affected by rising costs

Trading Standards stress the Energy Bill Discount for households of £400 this winter will be taken off energy bills directly in instalments over six months. You don't need to do anything – the rebate will be applied automatically by your energy company. Therefore, ignore any messages about energy rebates and only deal directly with your energy company using their published phone numbers and email addresses.

If you have a prepayment meter, you will be sent energy bill discount vouchers from the first week of each month to your registered contact details via SMS text, email or post.

These can be redeemed when you're topping-up your payments.

For advice and assistance, please call the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on **0808 223 1133**.

In addition, to report scams contact Action Fraud on **0300 123 2040** or visit [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)

For more information, visit [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/consumer-advice](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/consumer-advice)



# New homes update

Families will start moving into 42 new energy efficient council homes in Portslade in the new year.

The development of one, 2 and 3 bedroom flats in Victoria Road is one of the largest so far in our New Homes for Neighbourhoods building programme.

It is also our most sustainable new council housing scheme to date with a ground source heat pump system, solar panels, high levels of insulation, and will have planted 'living' walls.

The homes are due to be completed in January and are being let to people on the council's housing register.

A range of other projects are underway or in the pipeline to develop new council homes.

These include Rotherfield Crescent in Hollingbury where work is due to start in the spring on 3 new council houses.



New flats in Victoria Road will benefit from solar panels



For more information, visit [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/NHFN](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/NHFN)

## Homes for Brighton & Hove

Construction is progressing well on 104 low cost homes in Wellington Road, Portslade and 242 in Coldean Lane.

The flats are being developed by Homes for Brighton & Hove, a partnership of Brighton & Hove City Council and housing association the Hyde Group.

More than half of the new homes will be available as council homes on low rents, and the rest will be available to buy through a shared ownership scheme from Hyde.



The Portslade homes are due to be completed in the spring and Coldean homes in the summer. To find out more, visit [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/hfbh](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/hfbh)

**The new developments in Portslade (left) and Coldean (below)**



## Whitehawk

We have started consulting residents on proposals to develop a former play area site in Swanborough Drive for 39 new council homes.

Plans are at a very early stage and residents took part in 'planning for real' sessions over the last few months to have their say and be involved in shaping their neighbourhood.

Our Estate Regeneration Team will be looking at the feedback from the consultation events as well as results of a range of searches and surveys before progressing any development proposals.

## Moulsecoomb Hub

A planning application for a new community hub and more than 200 new council homes in Moulsecoomb is due to be considered by the planning committee.

The proposed development is on land currently used by the Moulsecoomb north and south hubs, the 67 Centre, and the surrounding area.

If the application is approved work is expected to start next year. Find out about the proposals at [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/mhchp](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/mhchp)

# Getting back together at conference

## Residents took part in the Citywide Conference for tenants and leaseholders at Hove Town Hall in October.



After two years of online conferences because of Covid, people were pleased to be able to meet in person again.

Councillor Siriol Hugh-Jones, Co-chair of the Housing Committee, welcomed residents to the event which had a theme of 'Living with disability, challenging stigma'.

Workshop sessions provided opportunities to share ideas about accessibility on council estates, find out about equipment and adaptations to help independent living, and hear how the council is developing a new Accessible City Strategy.

There was also a workshop on the housing budget for residents to find out more about how money is spent on council homes and estates.

A presentation from Mind Brighton & Hove highlighted the importance of looking after our mental health and the charity's local advice and support services.

Tenant representative, Chris El-Shabba, who chaired the conference, said: "It was absolutely great to welcome people in person again. The conference was on Zoom too, so we could also welcome people who preferred to take part online."

The conference is organised by residents. If you would like to help plan next year's event, email [communityengagement@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:communityengagement@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or call the Community Engagement Team on 01273 291211 or 291518.

## Protect yourself this winter

**Vaccines are the best way to protect yourself and those around you from serious illness, but protection wears off over time.**

The Covid autumn booster and the free flu vaccine are available now to those most at risk to boost your protection.

This includes those who are: aged 50 or over, pregnant, at greater risk, or who live with or care for people at risk. The flu vaccine is also available for many children.

If you're eligible, please take up the vaccines as soon as possible.

Book your autumn booster online at [www.nhs.uk/covid-booster](http://www.nhs.uk/covid-booster) or call 119.

**Book your flu jab through your GP surgery or pharmacy.**



Residents at the conference, with Chris El-Shabba who chaired the event (centre in middle photo)





# A workout with a difference



Volunteers from GoodGym (pictured below) braved heavy rain to clear weeds from pathways and communal areas around Somerset Point seniors housing scheme in Kemp Town in September.

GoodGym is a group of runners, walkers and cyclists who combine regular exercise with helping local communities.

Somerset Point resident Roy Lester helped organise the visit and a team of 8 volunteers ran and walked to Somerset Point to lend a hand.

It was GoodGym's second visit to Somerset Point and volunteers have helped at other seniors housing schemes as well.

Find out more about the group at [www.goodgym.org](http://www.goodgym.org)



## Drawing together at Sloane Court



**A drawing group at Sloane Court seniors housing scheme in Brighton has an acclaimed artist in its midst.**

Resident Janet Pavone set up the Drawing Together group before the pandemic and after a break for lockdown it's flourishing again.

The group meets weekly to socialise and work on different art projects and is open to residents from Sloane Court and other seniors housing schemes in the area.

Janet has been an artist for many years. In October her work was recognised at the Rome Film Festival, in a documentary film about murals she painted while previously living in Nicaragua.

Janet said: "The drawing group is coming along really well, and we would love for people in other seniors housing schemes nearby to come and join us."

The group meets on Thursdays at 11am at Sloane Court in Park Street. Members of the group are pictured above with Janet, second on the left.

### Seniors Housing

Sloane Court is one of 23 council-run seniors housing schemes across the city for people aged 55 and above. To find out more about seniors housing, email [seniorshousing@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:seniorshousing@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or call 01273 293030 and ask for a call back from a member of the team.



# Getting sporty in Woodingdean

## Woodingdean residents are enjoying a range of new sports facilities in Central Park.

A little used area of the park has been transformed to provide a community space for all ages, with a multi-use games area, gym equipment and table tennis tables.

The project has been a real community effort, led by Woodingdean Tenants and Residents Association, which carried out local consultation and applied for funding to bring about the improvements.

The new sports area was officially opened in September and since then it has been in constant use.

Funding for the gym and table tennis tables came from the Estate Development Budget (EDB).

The multi-use games area was a partnership between the council, with funding from the EDB and Environmental Improvement Budget, and The Deans Youth Project.



**The new games area**

## Estate Development Budget

**If you have an idea that would improve your estate or community, we'd love to hear from you.**

The Estate Development Budget funds improvements and projects such as play areas, community gardens, bike sheds and murals. It can also fund community activities, such as running a parent and toddler group or yoga class.

For more information, contact the Community Engagement Team: Call 01273 291211 or 291518, email [communityengagement@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:communityengagement@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or visit [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/edb](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/edb)



Janet Gearing, from the Tenants and Residents Association, said: "People are very enthusiastic about the new facilities and they are being used by all ages, from kids playing football and basketball to adults playing table tennis and using the gym equipment.

"It's made a real difference to the park and it's brilliant to see it being so well used."

## Giving nature a helping hand

**Is there an unused patch of land on your estate that you would like to see become a haven for wildlife? If so, please let us know.**

We're considering letting some verges and patches of green space grow wild, to encourage flowering plants and insects, such as butterflies, bees, and moths. This also helps other wildlife to thrive such as hedgehogs, birds and bats.

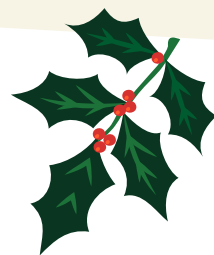
The idea has sprung from communications with a resident who was disappointed to see a flourishing green space near his home being cut back.



**An orchid on the Bristol Estate**  
Photo M.Gapper

Many people started to appreciate nature more over the pandemic, with wildlife helping our wellbeing, and we hope to introduce targeted 'wild patches' on housing land next year as a trial.

If the idea goes ahead, we'll keep nearby residents informed and the patches will receive fewer or no cuts during the main spring and summer growing season. However, the areas will still be tended to so that pavements or pathways and sightlines are kept clear.



Please contact Housing Customer Services to let us know your suggestions and views about the idea. Email [housing.customerservices@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:housing.customerservices@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or call **01273 293030**.

Boosting biodiversity and creating wildlife habitats is part of the council's commitment to become a carbon neutral city by 2030. Find out more at [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/climate-action](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/climate-action)

# Christmas fire safety advice

**Fire safety is important at every time of year, and the extra distractions of Christmas make it especially important to be vigilant during the festive season.**

★ **Never leave burning candles unattended.**

Keep candles out of the reach of children, and away from decorations, cards, wrapping paper, fires, lights and heaters.

★ **Make sure you switch off fairy lights and unplug them before going to bed or leaving the house.**

★ **Don't overload sockets.**

Use only one plug per socket and always turn off plugs when they are not in use (except those designed to be left on, like freezers).

★ **Never leave cooking unattended and always turn off kitchen appliances when you finish cooking.**

★ **Please keep communal areas and common ways clear in blocks of flats.**

Anything left in common ways poses a potential fire and smoke hazard and can block escape routes. This also means decorations and wreaths cannot be hung on the outside of flat doors.

For more fire safety advice visit the fire service website [www.esfrs.org](http://www.esfrs.org) or call **0800 177 7069** to arrange a home safety visit.

## Helping elderly and vulnerable neighbours



Please check on your elderly and vulnerable neighbours to see if they need help with getting food, medicine or care during cold weather.

If you know people who need support, please contact our Community Hub helpline on **01273 293117**.

### **Please do not use bottled gas heaters**

Just a reminder, please do not use Calor gas heaters or any other bottled gas or paraffin/kerosene heater inside your home – this is against the terms of your tenancy agreement

For safety reasons, please only use the heating installed in your home.

Heating costs are a big concern for households and there's more information about help with energy bills on our website, visit [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/help-with-energy-bills](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/help-with-energy-bills)

There's advice on the NHS website about staying warm and well in winter, visit [www.nhs.uk/live-well/seasonal-health/keep-warm-keep-well](http://www.nhs.uk/live-well/seasonal-health/keep-warm-keep-well)



## Keeping the city moving

**Let's hope we don't have severe weather this winter, but if we do, our gritters are ready.**

Keeping the city moving safely during the winter is a priority and the council's winter highways service includes salt gritting, snow ploughing, pavement clearing and filling grit bins for residents to use.

During severe weather we try to keep clear all major roads and prioritise bus routes and access to local hospitals.

For more information, or to report an on-street grit bin which needs refilling, visit [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/snow](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/snow)

If a grit bin on your housing estate needs refilling contact the Estates Team, email [estatesserviceteam@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:estatesserviceteam@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or call **01273 294769**.





# Buying back former council homes

We're buying back former council homes sold under Right to Buy to provide more homes for people on the housing register, as well as building new council homes.

Since our Home Purchase Policy was introduced 5 years ago, more than 250 homes have been brought back into council ownership.

If you own a former council home, you can make an offer to sell it back to us.

- If the home was bought from the council under Right to Buy in 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 the home was bought under the Right to Buy 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.

If you are interested in selling your home, visit [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/home-purchase-policy](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/home-purchase-policy) email [housing.strategy@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:housing.strategy@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or call 01273 293055 to find out more.

To find out more about new council homes being built in the city, see page 6.



## News from the Leaseholder Action Group

**The Leaseholder Action Group (LAG) is the representative voice of all council leaseholders.**

We are in plans to hold a new Leaseholder Summit, following on from the last summit just before Covid, and the reunion this spring.

This will cover the council's asset management plans, and eco-friendly housing proposals, plus plans for large-scale works we are all concerned about.

All council leaseholders will be very welcome to attend. Further details will be sent out later – book the date now:

**28 January 2023**

**10am to 1pm, Hove Town Hall**

**A phone and video conference link will also be available.**

**To contact LAG, phone 01273 605225 or email [lag@clarend.com](mailto:lag@clarend.com)**

**Rosemary Johnson,  
LAG Chairperson**

# How we've been doing

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

July to September 2022



## Estates Service

The team completed 1,608 mobile response jobs, including lock changes and light bulb replacements, and 744 jobs to move bulky items.



## Moving home

We let 172 homes, down from 198 during the previous quarter, and reduced the number of empty homes from 203 to 153.



## Anti-social behaviour

Our officers supported residents with 206 new reports of anti-social behaviour.



## Rent collection and current arrears

We've collected 94.58% of rent and over a quarter of households (30%) have someone on Universal Credit.



## Customer services

Housing Customer Services dealt with an average of 96 phone calls and 105 emails per working day. The most common queries were about residents' parking, tenancy issues and anti-social behaviour.



## Tenancy management

We've worked on 82 cases to support vulnerable tenants, including 20 tenancy sustainment cases involving help with arranging benefit claims, repairs, and care packages.



## Repairs and improvements

The proportion of 'Decent Homes' has slightly increased, from 95.9 to 96.2%. The Repairs Helpdesk answered an average of 250 phone calls per working day, and we completed 106 repairs per working day (a total of 6,759 during the quarter, of which 2,682 emergency and 4,077 routine).

## Feedback about housing services

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

Please send your feedback to [CustomerFeedback@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:CustomerFeedback@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or call 01273 291229.

Whether you make a compliment or a complaint, your right to receive a good quality service will not be affected.

The Housing Ombudsman service can give independent advice to tenants, and options available if you have used the council's complaints procedure and are unsatisfied with the outcome. For details, visit [www.housing-ombudsman.org.uk](http://www.housing-ombudsman.org.uk) email [info@housing-ombudsman.org.uk](mailto:info@housing-ombudsman.org.uk) or call 0300 1113000.





## Dates for your diary

### Area Panels

Area Panel meetings are a chance for residents to meet council officers and councillors to ask questions, share their views, and work with the council to improve housing services.

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

#### Central

- 2pm Tuesday 13 December
  - 2pm Tuesday 14 February
- Brighton Town Hall, committee room 2, Bartholomew Road, Brighton BN1 1JW

#### East

- 7pm Tuesday 13 December
  - 7pm Tuesday 14 February
- Whitehawk Library, ground floor meeting room, 179A Whitehawk Road, Brighton BN2 5FL
- The Vale Community Centre, 17A Hadlow Close, Brighton BN2 0FH

#### West

- 2pm Wednesday 14 December
  - 2pm Wednesday 15 February
- Hove Town Hall Council Chamber, Norton Road, Hove BN3 3BQ

#### North

- 7pm Wednesday 14 December
  - 7pm Wednesday 15 February
- St George's Hall, 140 Newick Road, Brighton BN1 9JG

These will be held in person, with the opportunity to also take part online on Zoom or join in by phone.

For more information contact the Community Engagement Team, email [communityengagement@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:communityengagement@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or call **01273 291211** or **291518**.

Agendas and minutes of meetings are available at [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/area-panel-meetings](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/area-panel-meetings)

## Try something new for free



### Hangleton and Knoll Project

The Hangleton and Knoll Project offers a wide range of workshops, courses and activities which are free for council tenants and leaseholders.

**Community learning courses** coming up in January include:

- 5 week Wellbeing course - focused on looking after yourself
- 5 week Singing for Wellbeing course - focused on singing in a small friendly group

The project also organises lots of groups and activities for young people aged 11 to 19, and up to 25 for those with special educational needs or disabilities.

**The youth programme** for 2023 includes youth clubs, street dance classes, football, boxing, plus trips and events in school holidays.

For more information, visit [www.hkproject.org.uk](http://www.hkproject.org.uk) email [info@hkproject.org.uk](mailto:info@hkproject.org.uk) or call **01273 706469**.

### Whitehawk Inn

A variety of free activities and classes are held at Whitehawk Inn. The sessions are a chance to socialise and learn a new skill. They include:

#### Worry Tree Café

Mondays 1.30pm to 3.30pm

#### Knitting club

Tuesdays 10am to 12noon

#### Mindfulness and meditation

Tuesdays 10am to 12noon

#### Bereavement Support Group

Wednesdays 10am to 11am

#### Computers (term time)

Thursdays 10am to 12noon

#### Drama

Fridays 11am to 1pm

The Whitehawk Inn is a friendly community centre in Whitehawk Road run by BHT Sussex. Sessions are open to all (subject to availability) and everyone is welcome.

To find out more call **01273 682222** or email [whitehawk.inn@bht.org.uk](mailto:whitehawk.inn@bht.org.uk)

## City Events

### Brighton Christmas Festival Daily until 24 December

Valley Gardens, Brighton

### Royal Pavilion Ice Rink Daily until 8 January

### Burning the Clocks 21 December

Winter solstice parade (pictured) finishing on Brighton beach

Find out about events in the city at [www.visitbrighton.com/whats-on](http://www.visitbrighton.com/whats-on)

If you have an event you'd like us to promote, email [homingin@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:homingin@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or call Housing Customer Services on **01273 293030**.



Photo: Burning the Clocks/ [www.visitbrighton.com](http://www.visitbrighton.com)

# Win a year of free leisure activities

Enter our free draw for a chance to win a year's membership to enjoy activities at local leisure centres.

The pass will give one person free admission to activities – such as exercise classes, gym sessions and swimming – at sports facilities managed for the council by Freedom Leisure.

It will be valid at

- King Alfred Leisure Centre
- Prince Regent Swimming Complex
- Withdean Sports Complex
- Moulsecoomb Leisure Centre
- Stanley Deason Leisure Centre
- St Luke's Swimming Pool
- Portslade Sports Centre



Send your answers by email to [homingin@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto: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 9 January 2023. 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.

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

- How many low cost homes are being built in Wellington Road, Portslade?
- Which seniors housing scheme has an art group called Drawing Together?
- How many leisure centres does the Leisure Card give discounts at?

## Leisure Card discounts

Did you know...residents on means tested benefits can get discounts at the 7 leisure centres listed above.

Simply apply for a free Leisure Card to receive a discount of around 40% on selected activities, including swimming, badminton, and table tennis.

To find out more and apply, visit [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/leisure-card](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/leisure-card) or call in at your local leisure centre.

## Congratulations

Thanks to everyone who entered our autumn competition to win tickets to the Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition at Brighton Museum & Art Gallery. The winner was E Owen from Brighton.



Photos: John Isaacson



# Christmas & new year recycling & refuse collection dates

Collection days are moving back a day over Christmas week this year – please put your refuse and recycling out by 6am on...

Usual day	Collected on...
Monday 26 December	Tuesday 27 December
Tuesday 27 December	Wednesday 28 December
Wednesday 28 December	Thursday 29 December
Thursday 29 December	Friday 30 December
Friday 30 December	Saturday 31 December



Collections return to your usual days from Monday 2 January

To check your collection days in 2023 and download your collection calendar if you have fortnightly recycling, visit

[www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/cityclean](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/cityclean) and put in your postcode.

Garden waste collections stop over Christmas and new year.

The last collection will be on Friday 16 December, with the service resuming from Monday 2 January

## Recycle this Christmas!

### Christmas trees

- Christmas tree recycling sites will be open from **Tuesday 27 December to Monday 9 January**. Please remove all decorations and the pot before leaving your tree! To find your nearest site, visit [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/christmas-tree-recycling](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/christmas-tree-recycling)
- Don't leave trees on the pavement, road or beside a communal bin. This is fly-tipping and you could be fined.

### Food and drink

- Plastic bottles can go straight in your recycling box or bin, washed and squashed.
- Rinsed drink cans and food tins can also go in your recycling, along with egg boxes, and cardboard sleeves for food packaging.
- Please keep all glass bottles and jars in a separate recycling box so glass doesn't contaminate the other materials.

### Wrapping paper and cardboard

- Please only recycle wrapping paper and plain Christmas cards - foil or paper covered in glitter can't be recycled.
- Flatten all your cardboard boxes and paper bags to make space in your recycling bins and boxes. Please keep all paper and cardboard dry!

### Batteries & electrical items

- Recycle batteries at your local supermarket or our household recycling sites.
- Recycle used electrical items, including old tech, at the recycling points in the city or the two household recycling sites.
- Batteries and electrical items are a fire hazard, so do not put them in your household recycling or rubbish.

### Household recycling sites

You can also take your recycling to a recycling point or one of the city's two household recycling sites.

For all you need to know about recycling in Brighton & Hove, visit our A-Z of recycling at [brighton-hove.gov.uk/recycling](http://brighton-hove.gov.uk/recycling)

Love our city

## Useful contacts

### Housing Customer Services

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

### Repairs Helpdesk

Report online at [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/repairs](http://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](http://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](http://www.advicebrighton-hove.org.uk)  
0800 9887037 or 01273 809288

### Citizens Advice Bureau

[www.cabrightonhove.org](http://www.cabrightonhove.org)  
0300 330 9033

### Help with domestic violence and abuse

[www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/domestic-abuse-help](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/domestic-abuse-help)  
Freephone 0300 323 9985

### Brighton & Hove Independent Mediation Service

[www.bhims.org.uk](http://www.bhims.org.uk)  
01273 700812

### Leaseholders Action Group

[lag@clarend.com](mailto:lag@clarend.com)  
01273 605225  
[www.facebook.com/groups/bhlag](https://www.facebook.com/groups/bhlag)



## Online services

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

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

Go to the Housing Online system at  
[www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/housingonline](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/housingonline)

Information about money matters, tax, benefits  
and more [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)



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## Housing Committee Meeting

**Wednesday 18 January 2023 at 4pm**

**The meeting will be held in the Council Chamber,  
Hove Town Hall, Norton Road, Hove, BN3 3BQ.**

All council meetings are open to the public,  
and you can submit public questions. People  
attending are encouraged to wear face masks as  
a Covid precaution.

Agendas, minutes and webcasts of council  
meetings are available at  
[www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/council-meeting](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/council-meeting)

If you have any comments or suggestions for  
future articles, email

[homingin@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto: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

**Homing In** is produced by Brighton & Hove  
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Tenant Editorial Board.

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