

homing in

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

Summer 2021



In this issue

Improving our estates

Building for the future

Celebrating 'Our Place'

Win free rides on the pier

Children are enjoying a new look play area in Portslade.

Find out more on page 9.



**Brighton & Hove
City Council**



Cllr David Gibson



Cllr Siriol Hugh-Jones

Executive Director appointment



Rachel Sharpe has been appointed Executive Director for Housing, Neighbourhoods & Communities.

Rachel joined the council as interim director last summer during the pandemic. Her appointment was made permanent earlier this year, following a competitive interview process.

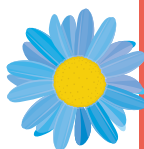
She previously worked for Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea Council where, as interim Director of Housing Needs & Supply, she worked on Grenfell rehousing.

Rachel also worked in director roles for London Borough of Lambeth Council including Commissioning Director for Housing & Communities.

She said: "I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to continue the important work of the directorate in delivering more and better housing and helping the council to achieve its vision of a fairer city with a sustainable future for our communities."



Welcome to the summer issue of Homing In



After a difficult year for everyone, we hope you get a chance to relax and unwind over the summer.

In this issue we have news of how residents celebrated their local communities at 'Our Place' events during the Brighton Festival.

There are ideas for getting out and about, including a trail of community gardens in August, volunteering opportunities at Stanmer Park, and a chance to win tickets for rides on the pier.

There's news from across housing services, with information about our new housing management computer system, which will help to improve the service we provide to you.

Plus there are updates on building projects to provide much-needed new homes in the city. We are delighted that we are achieving a faster and faster expansion of council housing. This year (2020/21) we achieved 144 additional homes while losing 24 to sale under the right to buy – our greatest net expansion of 120 to date.

Work is starting on developments in Coldean and Portslade, which will provide a total of 284 extra homes, and there's the latest on proposals for a new community hub and housing in Moulsecoomb.

Our annual report to tenants and leaseholders is included with this issue. The report is an opportunity for you to see how we have been performing, with information about housing work over the last year, how services adapted to the challenges of the pandemic, and plans for this year.

Thank you to everyone for continuing to play your part to control Covid. Have a good summer and stay safe.

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

Celebrating Our Place!

Residents celebrated local creativity at 'Our Place' held as part of the Brighton Festival in May.

From art trails and guided walks, to cabaret and outdoor theatre – there was something for everyone at free events organised by local residents in East Brighton, Moulsecoomb and Bevendean, and Hangleton and Knoll.

Moulsecoomb and Bevendean took part for the first time, and highlights included a trail of decorated willow arches made by local community groups, and fun performances by a giant puppet at Moulsecoomb Primary School.

Helen Jones, one of the organisers, said: "It was marvellous to see people coming along and getting involved, especially after lockdown. We are raring to go for next year!"

In East Brighton and Hangleton, open air 'Without Walls' shows celebrated the return of live performance from hip-hop to aerial dance. Performances outside the Manor Gym in Whitehawk included the 'Black Victorians' (pictured below).

In each area local people teamed up with an 'artist in residence' to create their own colourful displays of artwork.

Sara Gregory, who helped to organise events in Hangleton and Knoll, said: "One of the nicest things was being with other people and catching up in real life, after many things have been online for the last year."

Tanya Saunders, one of the East Brighton organisers, said: "We would like to thank everyone who helped to make it another great year."

Our Place is put together by local communities with the Trust for Developing Communities, the Hangleton and Knoll Project, and The Bevy community pub and café in Moulsecoomb.



Helen Jones and local resident John at one of the willow arches in Bevendean



Aerial dancer in Hangleton Park

Jamie MacMillan/Brighton Festival

Take part in the Citywide Conference

This year's Citywide Conference for tenants and leaseholders will take place on 18 September at Hove Town Hall.

The theme is 'Becoming a carbon neutral city by 2030' and resident groups will share ideas about how we can all make a difference.

There will be updates on action the council is taking to cut carbon emissions, and an opportunity to question managers and councillors about housing issues.

The conference is organised by residents and chaired by Chris El-Shabba, a tenant representative from Whitehawk. Subject to any Covid restrictions, people will be able to attend in person, online or by phone.

Chris said: "Last year we had a virtual conference, so we're looking forward to getting together in person again – although people are welcome to join online or by phone if they prefer."

The conference is open to all tenants and leaseholders, visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/citywide-conference

- For more details, or if you would like to be involved in the group planning and organising the event, email communityengagement@brighton-hove.gov.uk or call 01273 291211 or 291518.



Jon O'Brien/Brighton Festival

Housing services update

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

Housing Customer Services

Most services are available on our website www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/council-housing and this is often the best way to contact us. For example, you can tell us if you are moving, apply for a transfer, apply to Homemove, pay rent, ask for a repair, report anti-social behaviour, apply for a parking space, and more.

Phone lines are open from 10am to 4pm Monday, Tuesday and Friday, and from 9am to 1pm Wednesday and Thursday, call **01273 293030**. Or you can email the team housing.customerservices@brighton-hove.gov.uk

We are experiencing high levels of contact, so it may take us longer to respond than usual.

Gas safety checks

Annual gas safety checks on boilers and other gas appliances have continued for tenants throughout the pandemic.

Our contractors K&T Heating are wearing protective equipment and maintaining social distancing to ensure the checks are carried out safely, in line with government guidelines.

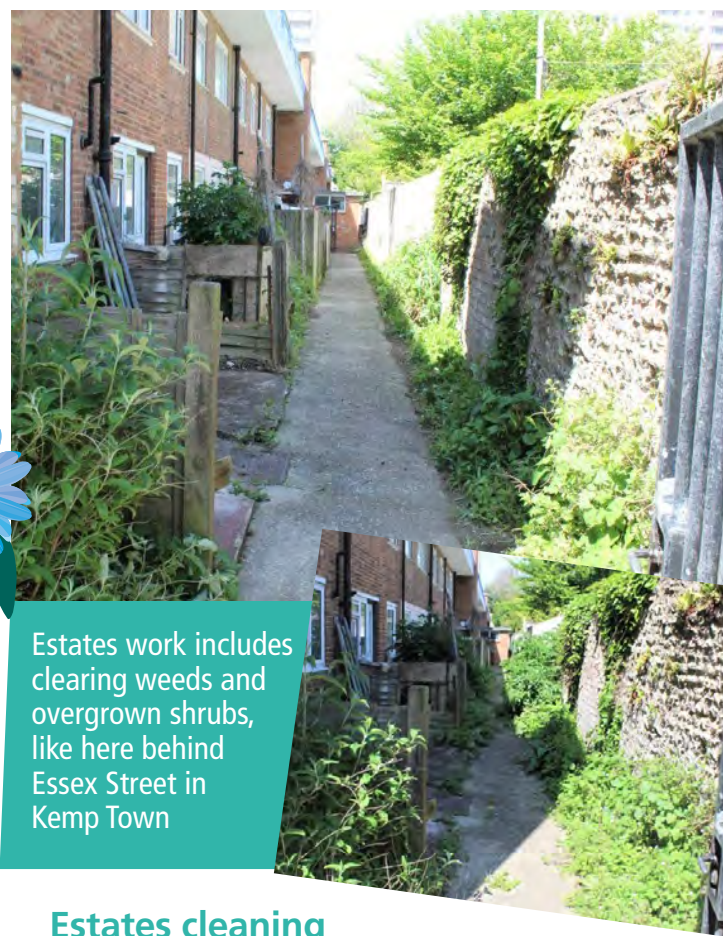
Having your boiler and other gas appliances checked each year is vital to make sure they are working safely and efficiently. Thank you to residents for your co-operation.

For more information, please contact K&T Heating on **01273 57153**.

Repairs

There is still a backlog of repairs due to the impact of the pandemic 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.

Please use our online form to request a repair, visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/repairs (if possible) Phone: **0800 052 6140** (or **01273 294409** if calling from a mobile).



Estates work includes clearing weeds and overgrown shrubs, like here behind Essex Street in Kemp Town

Estates cleaning

We've increased the level of cleaning over the last year, to help prevent infection, with extra cleaning of handles and rails in communal areas, for example.

Our estates cleaning crews have also stepped up work outside, clearing weeds, moss and litter from paths and drying areas, cutting back overgrown shrubs, and removing fly-tipped rubbish.

We will continue to make cleaning a priority and if there is an issue on your estate, please let us know. Visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/neighbourhoods-report-issue or contact Housing Customer Services.

Seniors Housing

Seniors housing scheme managers are providing a service remotely to reduce the risk of infection spread, and staff will continue limiting scheme visits to essential or emergency work only. We continue to offer phone and email contact, and a daily wellbeing call from Monday to Friday.

For Covid support and advice, see page 10.

New

NPS Housing



Housing Management system goes live

Our new Housing Management computer system, NPS Housing, will be launched this summer.

The new system will enable us to improve the service we provide to tenants and leaseholders.

Residents will be able to log in to a new Housing Online system to update contact information quickly and easily, or check the latest details on their tenancy and home, for example:

- ➔ their rent accounts
- ➔ when a repair is due to be completed
- ➔ find out about any work planned at their block of flats
- ➔ give feedback in customer surveys

It is a big change and staff are working hard to ensure the move to the new system goes smoothly.

Because of the amount of data to be transferred from our old IT system, there will be a limited service between Saturday 3 and Sunday 18 July. We apologise for any inconvenience this causes and thank you for your patience. Staff will still be able to view your records during that time and you'll be able to arrange repairs through the repairs helpdesk team as usual.

Residents currently using the Customer Online system will still be able to access the system, but it will not be updated after 3 July with any transactions (rent due or payments received).

The new IT system goes live on 19 July and we'll be launching our new Housing Online system about a month later. We've contacted everyone currently using Customer Online directly to update them and we'll be creating videos to help guide you through what's available on the new system and how to use it.

Empty council homes

Work has started to speed up the turnaround of empty council homes, following delays caused by Covid last year.

We currently have 280 empty council homes in the city. This includes around 134 which need major repairs and 24 properties recently bought back under our Home Purchase Policy.

The numbers rose during the Covid lockdowns due to a shortage of available tradespeople and unavoidable delays with procurement of new contracts for refurbishing empty homes.

This meant that the average re-let time was 97 days during the

2020/21 financial year, excluding time spent in major work.

We've been looking at all elements of the process to begin tackling the delays. This includes employing more staff and working with more contractors to carry out refurbishments.

Our priority is to make empty council homes available for new tenants as quickly as possible, with our target average turnaround time of 21 days.



This has started to have an impact, with the number of empty homes down from 311 at the end of March.

Latest on Moulsecoomb community hub plans

Following resident consultation, we've reshaped proposals for a new community hub and more than 200 council homes on a number of underused sites in Moulsecoomb.

The plans are to develop a new community building and homes on land currently used by the Moulsecoomb north and south hubs, the 67 Centre and surrounding area.

The new purpose-built centre will improve the services and facilities available for Moulsecoomb and Bevendean residents. It could include a GP Surgery, library, adult learning, community café, and youth services. Bringing services together into a new hub also frees up other sites to build more homes.

More than 200 residents attended 'planning for real' sessions last year and gave constructive feedback on the proposals and raised potential concerns.



Views given included the facilities and activities people would like to see in the hub, the type of housing, and transport.

In response to feedback, we've changed original proposals to have the hub on land next to Moulsecoomb Community Leisure Centre. It's now proposed to site it in the heart of the wider development. We're aiming to submit initial planning applications in the winter and work could begin next year.

As part of our commitment to cut carbon emissions, the scheme will be designed to make sure its carbon impact is as low as possible, both through construction and ongoing impact of the new buildings.

For the latest information, visit our webpages at www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/moulsecoomb-housing-and-community-hub-proposals

Work starts on Coldean homes

Work has begun on the development to build 242 low cost homes in Coldean.

The new homes, on land east of Coldean Lane, will be a mix of one, two and three bedroom flats.

The development is by Homes for Brighton & Hove, a partnership of the council and housing association, the Hyde Group.

Half of the new homes will be available for rent from the council, with the other half available to buy through a shared ownership scheme with Hyde.

The development will provide more trees and chalk grassland than are currently on the site, offer long-term wildlife management and incorporate large areas of natural habitat.

The homes are expected to be completed and ready for residents to move in from early 2023.

For more details, visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/hfbh

Homes welcome first residents

Homes in Hartington Road, Brighton, are making a real difference to the lives of residents.

A block of 38 flats purchased by the council is providing short-term temporary accommodation for people in housing need.

The first residents began moving in March and feedback from them has been positive. One said: "I like living at Hartington Road as it makes me feel safe."

These homes will reduce the need to house people in privately-owned short-term temporary accommodation.

The property is of a high standard, and it will be undergoing further improvements, such as the installation of wi-fi, a new heating system, CCTV, a laundry and a bicycle rack.

More council homes on the way

Work has started on 42 new council homes in Victoria Road, Portslade – one of the largest developments in our New Homes for Neighbourhoods building programme.

A mix of one, two and three bedroom flats are being built on land behind Portslade Town Hall, including four wheelchair accessible properties.

There will be a landscaped communal garden for residents with raised planters, trees, a small orchard, seating and grass amenity space, plus living green walls watered with recycled rainwater.

The scheme, due to be completed in October 2022, will also provide a new civic outdoor space with trees and seating for staff and users of the town hall. For more information, visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/nhfn

New sports pavilion

A new sports pavilion has opened nearby in Victoria Recreation Ground, as part of the development.

The pavilion is a new home for Portslade Bowls Club, whose previous base behind Portslade Town Hall was demolished to make way for the flats. It also has facilities for a local football club.

Amenities include an outdoor artificial all-weather bowling green, a short mat indoor bowls area, changing rooms, and a kitchen.

Membership of the bowls club has increased, thanks to the new pavilion and recent taster sessions.

Marion Whitney, club treasurer, said: "We are enjoying the new facilities. We feel part of the community now, people stop to chat as they go by and some come back to try bowls for themselves."

Drop-in sessions are being planned this summer for anyone interested, visit www.portsladebowlsclub.com or call 01273 410555 for details.

As part of our commitment to reduce carbon emissions, the homes will be highly insulated and solar panels will help to reduce electricity bills for residents.

Other sustainability features will include ground source heat pumps to extract heat from the ground for heating and hot water.



The new pavilion and bowling green in Portslade

Bringing back former council homes

We have brought back 112 homes into council ownership since our Home Purchase Policy started in 2017, to provide more rented properties for people on the housing register.

We've also purchased back an additional 30 homes for accommodation for former rough sleepers, through the Next Steps Accommodation Programme.

If you're a leaseholder or freehold owner of a property sold under Right to Buy, and would like to find out more about our Home Purchase scheme, visit:

www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/home-purchase-policy

Email housing.strategy@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Call 07961 659 157 or 07961 659 127.

Tackling racism

A new voluntary organisation aims to engage with individuals, businesses and the wider community to tackle anti-Black racism in the city.

The Brighton & Hove Black Anti-Racism Community Organisation (BARCO) was set up last year in response to the spotlight over the racism Black people face and Black Lives Matter protests.

Bud Johnston, one of the volunteer trustees, said: "We believe the racism Black people experience cannot be tackled within wider anti-racism initiatives that group together a vast variety of cultures, ethnicities and races. We are not a Black and minority ethnic group. We feel tackling racism is everyone's responsibility and BARCO was set up to inspire, educate, co-create and celebrate everything to do with being Black in our city.

"Our aim is to unite Brighton & Hove in the approach to anti-Black racism and ensure that Black people's experiences of living, working, studying and visiting our city are free from any form of racism."



BARCO

for us, by us, with us

BARCO recently held an open group discussion on Zoom about people's experiences in education, and sessions on other themes will follow each month. The group also plans to organise events to celebrate Black culture in the city.

BARCO is an independent Community Interest Company. To find out more or get involved visit www.brighton-barco.org

Becoming an anti-racist council

The council has pledged to become an anti-racist council. To find out more about action we are taking visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/becoming-anti-racist-city

How to report a racist incident

If you have experienced or witnessed a racist incident, you can report it to:

Community Safety Team Report incidents online at www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/asb or call **01273 292735** to speak to a community safety caseworker during office hours

Sussex Police In an emergency dial **999**
If it is not an emergency, contact the police on **101**

You can also email the police at contactcentre@sussex.pnn.police.uk or report online at www.sussex.police.uk



Free activities for young people

A wide range of clubs and activities are on offer for young people in Hangleton and Knoll.

The Hangleton and Knoll Project Youth Team offer free youth membership for 11 to 19-year-olds for council tenants and leaseholders, and up to 25 for those with special educational needs or disabilities.

Activities include boxing, table tennis, music, youth clubs, a young women's group, and volunteering.

The youth team work to enable young people to have a voice and influence in their community, build resilience and confidence, and develop life skills to learn, work, enjoy and achieve.

Helen Baxter from the project said: "If you or anyone in your household is interested in getting involved, we would love to hear from you."

To find out what's on offer this summer, please email info@hkproject.co.uk or call **01273 706469**.



More than £960,000 of estate improvements

Children are enjoying a new look playground at Downland Court in Portslade.

Colourful new play equipment with climbing frames, slides, and a scramble net have transformed the play area.

The work was carried out this year with money from the council's Environmental Improvement Budget (EIB).

Chrissie Hilton, chair of Downland Court Residents' Association, said: "We're really pleased with the revamped area, it's bright and colourful and the kids all play together in it.

"There's more for them to do now there, and it's great for them to be able to get outside and enjoy themselves after lockdown."

Two other play areas are being also refurbished this summer through

the EIB at Haig Avenue in Coldean, and Hodshrove Road in Moulsecoomb.

The Environmental Improvement Budget was set up in 2019 and aims to deliver work based on resident priorities. Since then a £964,747 package of projects has been approved.

Improvements carried out so far include:

- New bin storage areas to reduce litter and fly tipping
- Measures to improve access, such as widening pathways and putting in ramps and handrails
- Cutting back overgrown shrubs
- New planters
- Secure bike storage
- New security fencing
- Low level fencing to prevent parking on grass verges
- Facilities for community gardens



Having fun on the new play equipment at Downland Court!



Improved bin storage area at Hampshire Court in Kemp Town



Planters at Moulsecoomb Parade

Join your local resident group or start one!

What could you do?

- Keep in touch and share information
- Share your views
- Get funding to improve your community
- Organise community events

What could you get out of it?

- Help solve issues in your community
- Share your skills with others
- Meet other people
- Get free training
- Have more power with a collective voice

What are your priorities for your community, estate, or neighbourhood?

We will soon be contacting residents again with a survey to find out what you think needs improving in your environment. Look out for the survey on [Facebook.com/BHHousing](https://www.facebook.com/BHHousing), email and posters. Please contact the **Community Engagement Team** for more information.

All you need is a passion to help bring communities together.

Contact the **Community Engagement Team** to find out if there is already a resident group in your neighbourhood you could support, or for help to get one started:

Email

CommunityEngagement@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Visit

www.facebook.com/bhcccommunityengagement

Call **01273 291211** or **291518**



Keep Brighton & Hove safe

The Covid safety guidelines of hands, face, space, fresh air and routine testing remain crucially important while the NHS vaccination programme rolls out to reach all age groups – even for those people who have been vaccinated.

To stop the virus spreading and keep Brighton & Hove safe we must continue to:

- wear face coverings when away from home, if you can, and ensure they properly cover both nose and mouth
- regularly wash hands or use hand gel
- keep a safe distance from people that aren't in your household or bubble
- allow fresh air to circulate by opening doors and windows – outside is safer than indoors
- take symptom-free (LFD) tests at home or at work twice a week and report the result, both negative and positive
- if you have any symptoms of Covid-19 or a positive LFD test self-isolate immediately and get a PCR test
- book your first vaccination appointment as soon as you can
- get both vaccination doses – the first jab provides good protection but both doses are needed for the vaccines to be fully effective

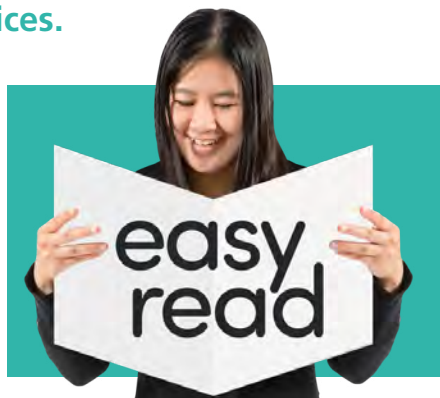
Each of these safety measures work in combination with each other to give the best overall protection.

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

New Easy Read web pages

We've published a new Easy Read section on our website. It explains how to contact the council and our services.

People with a learning disability or those who have trouble reading can find websites difficult to understand. Easy Read uses pictures and short sentences to explain.



If someone you know struggles to read the usual web pages please bookmark:

www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/easy-read

Support to self-isolate

If you have symptoms, test positive or are a contact of someone who has, it's really important to stay at home to prevent the spread of the virus.

A lot of people might be worried about self-isolating for fear of losing income, but the council will support you in any way we can.

If you can't work from home and will lose income as a result, you may be eligible for a one off £500 payment. We can also help you with any practical or emotional support you might need, including shopping or looking after someone.

Go to: www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/covidhelp

Or call: **01273 293117** (option 2)
Monday-Friday, 10am-4.30pm

keep doing this



News from the Leaseholder Action Group



We aim to have our annual meeting soon – in person, online, or a mixture. We hope to see you all there.

To contact the Leaseholder Action Group phone **01273 605225** or email lag@clarend.com



Peter in the garden at Lindfield Court

Remembering Peter Bentley

Peter Bentley, who helped to run the tenants' association at Lindfield Court seniors housing scheme in Hollingdean for many years, passed away in March.

Peter was a very popular resident and will be sorely missed at Lindfield Court, especially by his partner Helen.

He was a keen gardener and won many community awards over the years. He took great pride in growing from seed and gifting the fruit and vegetables to his neighbours. Peter leaves a green fingered legacy at Lindfield Court with the gardening club that he set up and greenhouse he supervised.

He was also a great event organiser, and the last Christmas party he arranged with his neighbours, before the pandemic, was a great success.

Elisabeth Neighbour,
Team Manager Seniors Housing

Getting creative in lockdown

A seniors housing resident was inspired by the pandemic to create a model church, in tribute to NHS staff, key workers, and those who have lost their lives to Covid.

Tuck, 95, who is virtually blind, lives at Rose Hill Court seniors housing scheme in Brighton, where he is a member of the Rose Hill Rebels art group.

Tuck served as a fireman during the Blitz, and he said: "Just like it was in the war, there are thousands of people who are helping in any way they can."

"They are heroes, and I wanted to celebrate what they are doing, and also the people who have died."

During the pandemic the 'rebels' have carried on working on art and photography projects, keeping in touch with artist Lucy Groenewoud who works with the group.

An online exhibition of their work was held in June as part of the Artists Open Houses festival. It included photos by Rose Hill resident, Lanie.

The group hopes to be able to welcome the public in person for another exhibition later this year.



Tuck working on one of his previous models



One of the exhibition photographs taken by Lanie

A novel achievement for George

Seniors housing resident George Coombs made great use of his time during lockdown by writing a book!

George, 73, who lives at Woods House in Hove, enjoys writing fiction and has previously written five other books. His latest novel is called Day's End.

George (pictured) said: "The book has been my lockdown project. It's kept me busy and I'm proud of the end result."

As well as writing, George enjoyed painting during lockdown and illustrated the cover for the book.



How we've been doing

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



Repairs and improvements

We completed 3,437 emergency (98.3% within 24 hours) and 3,902 other responsive repairs.



Customer services and complaints

Housing Customer Services answered 94% of 3,410 phone calls, and dealt with 5,442 emails.



Anti-social behaviour

208 new anti-social behaviour cases were reported, up from 155 during the previous quarter.

January to March 2021



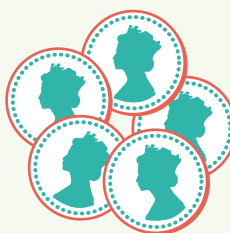
Estates Service

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



Tenancy management

We've helped 21 people to keep their tenancies which were at risk.



Rent collection and current arrears

We've collected 96.4% of rent and this is down slightly on the previous quarter. A quarter of households (25%) have someone on Universal Credit.



Moving home

We re-let 103 homes, up from 46 during the previous quarter.

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. For details, visit www.housing-ombudsman.org.uk email info@housing-ombudsman.org.uk or call **0300 1113000**.

Free IT support and courses

Did you know you can access free IT support and all sorts of courses?

If you're interested in learning a new skill or having some fun, the **Hangleton and Knoll Project** runs a range of different courses for people living in the west of the city. Membership is free for people living in council housing.

To find out more call **01273 410858** or email claire.johnson@hkproject.org.uk

Telephone and online IT support is available, and face to face slots can be booked with a tutor at St Richard's community centre. For details call **07422 665761** or email hakit@hkproject.org.uk

Whitehawk Inn provides free IT support and advice for council tenants and leaseholders in the east of the city and organises a variety of courses (some are free). For details visit www.bht.org.uk/services/work-learning-employment/whitehawk-inn or call **01273 682222**.

Getting back to nature!



The last year has been tough for everyone.

If your mental health has suffered, there's support and advice available – don't be afraid to ask for help.

Simple things like going for a walk, relaxing in a park or garden, and chatting to friends can all help our wellbeing.

Connecting with nature was the theme of Mental Health Awareness Week in May.

The week highlighted how nature helped people cope in lockdown and can carry on making a difference – whether it's enjoying birdsong outside the window or visiting a park, beach or countryside.

Community gardens, looked after by local residents, have proved invaluable for many people during the pandemic.

If you are interested in helping with a community garden, or setting one up, contact the Community Engagement Team. Email communityengagement@brighton-hove.gov.uk or call 01273 291211 or 291518.

Support and help for looking after your mental health

Every Mind Matters

www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters

Rise Above – help for young people

www.riseabove.org.uk

Community Roots – a network of local services offering a range of mental health and wellbeing support. Visit www.communityroots.org.uk or call freephone 0808 196 1768.

Sussex Mental Healthline – available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Freephone 0300 5000 101.

Mental Health Rapid Response Service – an urgent response service for people in Brighton & Hove. Call 0300 304 0078, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, www.sussexpartnership.nhs.uk/MHRRS

Samaritans – available 24hrs a day, 365 days a year, call 116 123.

Mental Health Foundation
www.mentalhealth.org.uk



Albion
Community
Garden

Get involved in garden trail

A trail of community gardens in the centre and east of the city is being planned for the weekend of 14 and 15 August.

Residents will be welcoming visitors to the Albion Community Garden in Albion Street each day from 11am to 5pm.

This glorious spot in the heart of the city has a formal fenced garden planted with flowers and shrubs, an allotment where neighbours grow food, and a community compost station.

Peter Spence (pictured), from Albion Community Association, is organising the garden trail.

He said: "We hope the trail will help people discover unexpected garden projects on their doorstep and see what's possible, even in just a small space."

Other gardens taking part will be confirmed nearer the time, check www.facebook.com/albioncommunitygarden for details or call 07434 665029.

If your community garden would like to be part of trail, email communitygardenbn2@gmail.com or call the number above.



Holidaying at home!



Lots of attractions are open again and summer is a great time to enjoy all the city has to offer.

Here are just a few ideas (please check in advance, as pre-booking is required for most attractions and amenities):

Take the plunge

Enjoy a dip in the sea or, for a less bracing swim, the King Alfred Leisure Centre pool in Hove and St Luke's pool in Brighton are open. (At the time of going to press the Prince Regent pool in Brighton was closed for repairs and due to reopen in mid-July. To check, visit www.freedom-leisure.co.uk)

Get active

Take to the great outdoors, whether it's hiring a BTN Bikeshare bike for a pedal along the prom, enjoying a picnic in one of the city's parks, or catching a Breeze Up to the Downs bus.

BTN Bikeshare, visit www.btnbikeshare.com

Buses to the Downs, visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/breezebuses or call 01273 886200.

Culture, history & Bowie!

The Royal Pavilion, Brighton Museum, and Preston Manor are all open again.

Check out the 'Rock 'n' Roll with Me' exhibition at Brighton Museum, featuring photographs of David Bowie, taken by his friend and travelling companion Geoff MacCormack (pictured below with David) between 1973-76.



Copyright Geoff MacCormack

Visit www.brightonmuseums.org.uk or call 03000 290 900.

For lots more ideas, visit www.visitbrighton.com

If you have a forthcoming event you'd like us to promote, please email homingin@brighton-hove.gov.uk or call Housing Customer Services on 01273 293030.



Allsorts Youth Project

Allsorts listens to, supports and connects children and young people who are LGBT+ or exploring their gender identity and/or sexual orientation.

Allsorts' three-pronged approach offers direct specialist youth services, family support services, and training and education to the wider community.

Online and in-person youth groups are now both available, and provide LGBT+ young people and their families with a

safe and non-judgemental space to connect, and feel valued and heard. To find out more, or to get in touch, visit www.allsortsyouth.org.uk



Dates for your diary

Area Panels

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

West	17 Aug	2pm
East	17 Aug	7pm
Central	18 Aug	2pm
North	18 Aug	7pm

Arrangements for the meetings will depend on any government restrictions, which had not been confirmed at the time of going to press.

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

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

Volunteering at Stanmer Park

Fancy trying your hand at some practical conservation work, surveying wildlife, welcoming visitors, or being a volunteer shepherd?

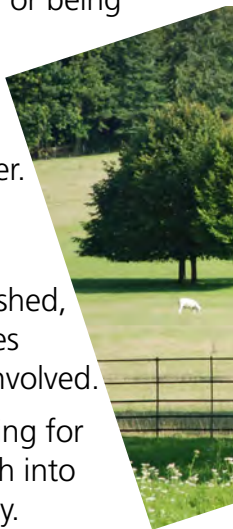
These are just some of the volunteering opportunities at Stanmer Park this summer.

It's all part of the Stanmer Park restoration project – with construction work finished, the focus is now on activities for the community to get involved.

The parks team is also looking for people to help with research into Stanmer's fascinating history.

It's hoped that volunteers may want to become part of new 'Friends of Stanmer Park' group.

To find out more about volunteering, visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/stanmerproject email cityparks@brighton-hove.gov.uk or call 07879 117348.





Win rides on Brighton Palace Pier

Enter our free draw for a chance to win four 'all-day unlimited rides wristbands' for a fun-packed day on Brighton Palace Pier.

The pier has rides for the whole family, from fairground favourites to the Turbo Coaster and Booster for thrill seekers!

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

- Where has a new sports pavilion opened?
- How much has been spent on estate improvements from the Environmental Improvement Budget?
- Name one of the rides on Brighton Palace Pier

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 2 August 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 the pier, visit www.brightonpier.co.uk or call 01273 609361.

Congratulations!

Thanks to everyone who entered our spring competition to win afternoon tea for two from Metrodeco tearoom in Kemp Town. The winner was Laurence Dowling from Brighton.



Sign up for theatre workshops

Brighton People's Theatre is running workshops in six locations this autumn.

It's a chance to be part of a regular, supportive group, make new friends and have fun.

Organisers say: "Don't worry if you've never done anything like this before. We really want to encourage people with little or no experience, but with curiosity to come along and play."

Workshops will be held in the city centre, Whitehawk, Bevendean, Turner, Portslade, and online, from 13 September to 18 October.

Cost: Pay What You Decide for those on low incomes, or £10 per workshop

Find out more and book at

www.brightonpeopletheatre.org/what-we-offer/our-workshops or call 07503 430188.

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

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



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Housing Committee Meeting

Wednesday 22 September 2021 at 4pm

The meeting will be held at Hove Town Hall and
public access will be subject to any restrictions on
gatherings in place at the time. It will be available
to view online.

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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