

homing in

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

Spring 2024

Work is underway to install solar panels on hundreds of council homes across the city, find out more on page 3.



In this issue

- Taking action on damp and mould
- Have your say in housing consultations
- New council homes update
- Win afternoon tea on a vintage bus

Welcome to the spring issue of Homing In



In this issue we have news of an exciting new development providing the biggest single boost in council housing in recent years.

Families started moving into the 127 new council flats in Coldean earlier this year and we hope they will be very happy in their new homes.

The project is part of our ambitious programme to build new council homes, you can find out more on page 7.

We have updates from across our housing services, including important work to carry out electrical testing, and work to ensure all our council homes have a suitable smoke alarm.

We're also carrying out detailed surveys on our blocks of flats to update our information on the buildings, find out more on page 5.

This is all part of our investment to meet new national regulations and make sure we continue to provide safe, good quality council homes.

There's also information about how to have your say in consultations on how we allocate council housing in the city, and on our draft housing strategy.

And we have a round up of local events this spring and a chance to win afternoon tea for 2 on a vintage bus!

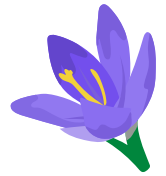
Have a good spring.

Councillor Gill Williams

Chair of the Housing & New Homes Committee



Tackling tenancy fraud



We're raising awareness of tenancy fraud to make sure our council homes are available for people who need them.

What is tenancy fraud?

- Subletting or giving up a council property to someone else without permission
- Passing the keys for a property to someone else for money
- Not telling the truth when applying for a property – for example, someone claiming to be homeless when they already own a property or live at an address elsewhere
- Leaving a council property and not telling the council
- Wrongly claiming succession rights by trying to take over a property tenancy without the right to do so



Tenancy fraud is a criminal offence and is not a victimless crime.

Council housing is in huge demand in the city, and fraudulent use of properties keeps homes away from people on the housing waiting list who need them more.

National figures suggest that it costs the public purse around £42,000 a year for each property, in terms of accommodating a family in temporary housing.

This year (2023/24) we've taken back 2 homes which were being sublet and one which was abandoned. Three homes have also been returned following wrongful succession applications.

If you suspect someone isn't living in their council house or is subletting it, you can report it in confidence. Please email anti-fraud@brighton-hove.gov.uk, visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/tenancy-fraud and fill in the online form, or call us on 01273 291847.

More than 140 homes switch to solar power

Solar panels have recently been installed on more than 140 council homes as part of action to help residents with the cost of living crisis and reduce carbon emissions.

The work is the start of a 3 year programme to install solar panels on around 800 council houses and bungalows across the city.

Priority is being given to homes with an Energy Performance Certificate rating of D or lower, those with electric heating, and areas with a higher likelihood of fuel poverty.

The potential benefits of solar panels for residents have significantly increased as energy prices have risen. This

means tenants could now save up to £250 on their electricity bill and the equivalent of 0.5 tonnes carbon dioxide (CO₂e) per year.

As part of the project, the contractor carrying out the installations has taken on 6 additional local staff. A Brighton based scaffolding company has been hired as a sub-contractor, providing valuable local economic benefits.

Residents in homes selected for the work will be contacted in due course so an initial survey can be carried out, to determine if it's technically feasible to fit solar panels at the property.

For more information, please email HousingSustainabilityandEnergyTeam@brighton-hove.gov.uk



Solar panels in Moulsecomb

Energy advice service

If you're worried about energy bills, there's help and advice available.

The Local Energy Advice Partnership works with the council and is a free service helping eligible people keep warm and reduce their energy bills. It offers:

- Energy saving advice
- Tariff and smart meter advice
- Free energy saving kit, such as LED lightbulbs and draught-proofing

The service is open to residents who receive one or more of a range of benefits or have a total annual household income of less than £31,000.

To find out more, visit www.applyforleap.org.uk or call free on **0800 060 7567**.

Energy Bills Discount Scheme: Heat Networks

To ensure tenants and leaseholders get best value for money on service charges for heating, we've registered our communal heating systems (heat networks) with the government's Energy Bills Discount Scheme.

As a member of the scheme we are required to notify tenants and leaseholders of this membership. The Energy Bills Discount Scheme does not apply if you have a domestic electric or gas contract direct with a supplier in your own home.

As our electric and gas contracts are competitive, we do not currently get any discount under this scheme, therefore it does not affect your service charge. If there is any change to the government scheme that will affect tenants we'll let you know.

For information about support with energy bills, visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/help-with-energy-bills

Taking action on damp and mould



Damp, mould and condensation can cause significant problems in homes, spoiling decorations and possessions and potentially causing respiratory health issues.

We are committed to tackling the causes of damp and mould. Our staff and contractors have visited a large number of properties in recent months to deal with these issues.

Our teams will attend to wash down the mould with a fungicidal solution, then stainblock and redecorate affected areas with a mould inhibiting paint.

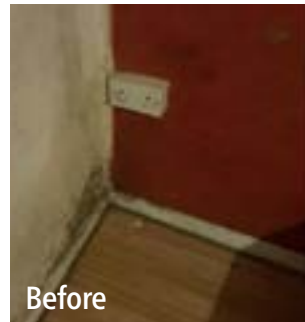
They also look into the causes of damp or mould in the property, so that action can be taken to prevent it recurring.

This may include installing or improving ventilation, dealing with structural issues, repairing leaks or ordering a specialist survey. Environmental sensors can also be installed to help diagnose the cause.

Please report any damp or mould to our Repairs Helpdesk

Call 0800 052 6140 (or 01273 294409 from a mobile), email repairs.helpdesk@brighton-hove.gov.uk or report online at www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/repairs.

Please tell us if your household includes children, older people, or anyone with a health condition.



Case study We recently attended a home where tenants with young children reported a problem with mould, and within 7 days inspected and diagnosed a significant condensation issue.

Installation of bathroom and kitchen extractor fans was arranged, and within a further 7 days the mould was treated and redecoration completed by a contractor.

We also worked with the tenants to make sure adequate heating was being used and clothes dried in well-ventilated areas.

New fast charging points

Fast chargers have been installed at 3 locations to help keep Repairs and Maintenance service electric vehicles charged up during the working day.

The new charging points have been installed with funding from the council's Carbon Neutral Fund at the following places:

- Brockhurst car park in North Whitehawk
- Ellen Street car park, which is part of the Clarendon Estate, Hove
- Dudeney Lodge car park off Upper Hollingdean Road, Hollingdean

Each site has 2 charging points, one exclusively for residents and the other for housing service vehicles between 8am and 8pm. They come into operation this spring.



Fast chargers take about 4 to 5 hours to reach a full charge and mean our vehicles can be charged up while staff are carrying out repairs and other services to council homes.

The Repairs and Maintenance service currently has 9 electric vehicles, and we hope this new equipment will help increase the fleet in future.

For more information about electric vehicle charging points in the city, visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/electric-vehicle-ev-charging

Visit the climate action hub to find out more about what the council is doing and how you can get involved www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/climate-action

Electrical testing

A project is underway to carry out electrical upgrades and testing at council homes across the city.

The purpose is to make sure electrical installations in all our homes and communal areas comply with regulations.



Over the next 3 years, testing will be carried out in all council homes that do not already have a satisfactory electrical test certificate issued within the past 5 years.

Upgrades will be carried out where needed and, if necessary, properties will be rewired.

Our Electrical Testing and Compliance Team will also be installing and upgrading hard-wired smoke and carbon monoxide systems as necessary, to meet the requirements of smoke and carbon monoxide alarm regulations.

This is important safety work and it is essential you give us access to your home.

We're writing to residents to arrange initial inspections. If you receive one of our letters and would like more information, or to book in an inspection, please email **ElectricalTesting@brighton-hove.gov.uk** or call **01273 290486**.

Checking smoke alarms in your home

We're beginning a programme to make sure all your homes have suitable smoke alarms fitted.

As a major project, we'll be scheduling this work based on the date that your home last received an electrical test. We're currently writing to all tenants where we do not have a record of smoke detection in their homes.

If you get a letter, please do get back to us to book in an inspection of the smoke detection in your home. If your home does not have a smoke alarm, and you do not receive a letter, please contact the team to let us know.

We will be installing hard-wired smoke alarms in any homes which don't have one. As a temporary measure, if you have an appointment with other repairs and maintenance trades and they notice there is no smoke alarm in your home they will fit temporary battery powered detectors to ensure your safety.

If you have any questions or concerns about the work, please contact our Electrical Testing and Compliance Team by emailing **ElectricalTesting@brighton-hove.gov.uk** or calling 01273 292804.

The East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service offer Home Fire Safety visits. Visit **www.esfrs.org/hsvs** or call 0800 177 7069 to arrange a visit.

If you're contacted by United Living or Axis Europe about a reported repair, these are contractors we've recently appointed to help us catch-up on the repairs backlog.

High rise surveys

As part of our investment to meet new national regulations and make sure we continue to provide safe, good quality council homes, we're carrying out detailed surveys on our blocks to update our information on the buildings.

A requirement of these surveys involves disruptive work within some flats, which we need to be unoccupied while the work takes place.

In blocks with no flats between lettings, we've offered a voluntary move to current tenants, either temporarily or through a transfer. These moves are not related to any issues with the flats or the buildings.

In all cases, we will refurbish and redecorate the flat once the survey work is complete.

Have your say



Housing allocations

Consultation is taking place on proposed changes to our housing allocations policy and we would like to hear your views.

This policy is the way the city's council and housing association homes are allocated.

With council homes and other social housing in huge demand, the aim of the proposals is to update the allocations policy and make sure available homes go to those in the greatest housing need.

One of the proposals also aims to make it quicker and easier for existing council tenants who need to transfer homes.

The consultation on the proposed changes is open until 24 May.

To see details of the proposals and take part in the consultation, visit yourvoice.brighton-hove.gov.uk

Draft housing strategy

We are also seeking your views on our draft housing strategy.

The strategy sets out our vision for housing in the city and outlines our proposed priorities for the next 5 years. These are to:

- Improve housing quality, safety and sustainability
- Deliver the homes our city needs
- Prevent homelessness and meet housing need
- Support independence and improved health and wellbeing for all
- Provide resident focused housing services

Please have a look at the draft strategy and have your say. The consultation runs until 19 May. To take part, visit yourvoice.brighton-hove.gov.uk

Please clean up after your dog

Dog mess is the most unacceptable and offensive type of litter on our streets, and something people are understandably concerned about.



Dog fouling is not only unpleasant, it's also a health hazard. While rare, contact with dog excrement can cause a nasty infection that can lead to dizziness, nausea, asthma and even blindness or seizures.



While most dog owners are caring, responsible individuals, there are still some people who do not clean up after their pets.

Anyone who fails to clear up after their dog can be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice of £80. If the case goes to court this could cost the owner or person in charge of the dog up to £1,000.

More than **100 new council homes** in Coldean

Residents started moving into a major development of 127 new council-rented homes in Coldean in January.

The homes in Coldean Lane are the second project delivered through the council's Homes for Brighton & Hove partnership with housing association, the Hyde Group.

The development, known as Denman Place, is due to be completed this spring.

The council homes are a mix of one, 2 and 3 bedroom flats and are being let to people in housing need on the city's housing register.

The homes are designed to be highly energy efficient, which will help keep energy bills low for residents.

Trees, shrubs and wildflowers have been planted as part of landscaping work around the new buildings, to provide attractive communal areas and encourage wildlife.

In addition to the council homes, there are 113 flats on the development which are shared ownership homes available through Hyde.



New homes at Denman Place



There are a further 2 wheelchair accessible flats rented through Hyde.

Homes for Brighton & Hove was set up to provide much needed low-cost homes for people in the city.

The partnership's first project was completed at Clarendon Place, Portslade last year, providing 49 council flats and 55 shared ownership flats. For more information, visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/hfbh

Moulsecoomb plans move ahead

Plans for a new community hub and more than 200 council homes in Moulsecoomb are moving ahead.

Demolition work is due to start imminently and we will shortly start the process of looking for contractors for the construction, which is expected to begin in 2025.

The plans are to develop a community building and the



new homes on land currently used by the Moulsecoomb north and south hubs, the 67 Centre and the surrounding area.

The aim is for the new community building to improve the services and facilities available for residents of Moulsecoomb and Bevendean.

Services and facilities that could be located in the hub include a GP Surgery, Moulsecoomb Library, adult learning and a community café. For more information, visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/mhchp

A chance to get involved in Tarner



Local residents are at the heart of a charity providing activities for children and young people in the Tarner area.

The Tarner Community Project runs a range of after school clubs, holiday play schemes, and youth clubs at its base in Tarner Park in Sussex Street, Brighton.

It also organises 2 popular community events in the park each year, Glow Fest and Tarner Fest, which are attended by hundreds of people.

Volunteers help with a range of activities at the project - more are always welcome and there are lots of different ways to get involved.

For example, this year the project is planning to improve its community garden and wants to start growing fruit and vegetables for local residents to enjoy.

It successfully bid for funds from our Estate Development Budget for plants, raised flower beds, and notice boards and hopes to recruit more volunteers to help with gardening.

If you are interested in helping in the garden or at Tarner community events, organisers would love to hear from you. Enthusiasm is more important than any particular skills!

For more information, email office@tarner.org.uk, call **01273 679940**, or visit www.tarner.org.uk.

Apply for money for community activities

If you have an idea that will help your community, there is funding available to make your ideas happen. You can apply to fund things like community outings and events, arts projects, gardening clubs and yoga.

To find out more please get in touch with the Community Engagement Team, email edb@brighton-hove.gov.uk, call **01273 291518** or visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/EDB



A ThirdSpace Theatre production

Take the stage at free drama club

A youth theatre group is running a new drama club in Hangleton with free sessions for 11 to 16-year-olds.

ThirdSpace Theatre applied for funds from our Estate Development Budget to open the new club, which started in February.

The club meets at the scout hall in Sherbourne Way on Mondays during term time from 4pm to 5.30pm.

Organisers are keen to welcome local young people and the club is all about having fun and learning new skills in a friendly, inclusive, and creative setting. No drama experience is necessary.

ThirdSpace Theatre already runs acting classes in other parts of the city, including free drama clubs at 4 other venues.

These are at The Crew Club in Whitehawk, Hollingdean Community Centre, Brighton Youth Centre, and West Blatchington primary school.

For more information or to register for one of the free clubs, visit www.thirdspacetheatre.co.uk or email info@thirdspacetheatre.co.uk

Stay strong and independent

Stay Strong, Stay Steady, Stay Independent is a programme of local events to support healthy ageing in Brighton & Hove.

Running from 17 to 30 April, the programme aims to raise awareness of the importance of strength and balance exercises.

A free live music event is being held at the King Alfred ballroom in Kingsway, Hove on 17 April from 10am to 1pm to launch the Stay Strong, Stay Steady, Stay Independent campaign.

Everyone is welcome to drop in for music, coffee and a raffle. The event is also a chance to find out about local exercise sessions and activities, and meet the people who run them.



Find an activity for you

Programmes can be picked up from local libraries from 25 March or viewed online at www.ageingwellbh.org/strength-and-balance/ Programmes will also be available at the live music event.

Artists Open Houses at seniors schemes

Artwork by residents at 2 seniors housing schemes in Brighton will be on display in May as part of the city's Artists Open Houses festival.

Residents at Rose Hill Court, in Rose Hill Terrace, will be showcasing a range of their work, including a tribute to John Morfett

(pictured), a member of their art group who died in January.



The display by the Rose Hill Rebels art group will be open on Saturdays and Sundays in May from 12 noon to 4pm.

At Sloane Court in Park Street, the scheme's Drawing Together art group, as well as 2 guest artists, will be showing paintings, photographs and prints on Sundays in May.

For more information, visit www.aoh.org.uk

Seniors Housing

We have 24 council-run seniors housing schemes across the city. For information about seniors housing, visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/seniors-housing, email seniorshousing@brighton-hove.gov.uk or ring 01273 293030 and ask for a call back from the Seniors Housing Team.

Learn a new craft

A furniture restoration taster session is being held at Leach Court seniors housing scheme in Kemp Town on 2 May, organised by Fabrica and the Wood Store recycling project.

For seniors housing residents and others who would like to learn more about furniture renovation, a 6-week course starts at the Wood Store in Kemp Town in May. The course is free for people on low income or not in work.

For details, email lucy.groenewoud@fabrica.org.uk or call 01273 778646.

News from the Leaseholder Action Group

Our annual Leaseholder Summit in February had over 60 leaseholders present in person and on Zoom, expressing many leaseholder concerns to elected councillors and council staff.

Councillor Gill Williams, chair of the Housing & New Homes Committee, talked about her work and addressed issues raised by leaseholders. We heard from council staff about the housing budget, plans for ensuring safety in housing blocks, and about major works projects underway and planned.

We launched the first version of our Leaseholder Charter, which describes who we are, what we want from our homes, what we expect from our freeholder, and what we will do in return.

A formal annual meeting heard a report on the year and elected a new committee and representatives to other groups.

An issue raised by many leaseholders was getting breakdowns of the costs in our service charges, and making those clear and accurate. We shall be working on this during the coming year.

To contact the Leaseholder Action Group (LAG), phone 01273 605225 (mornings or evenings best), email lag@clarend.com or look for B&H Leaseholder Action Group on Facebook. There is also a leaseholders' email group - email us if you'd like to join it.

Rosemary Johnson, LAG chairperson



Photos courtesy of Leaseholder Action Group

Join in family fun events

Free community events are being held at local Family Hubs to help parents and carers find out more about services and support available.

Family Hubs support families with children from birth to the age of 19, and up to 25 for young people with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND).

The hubs bring together a wide range of services under one

roof, from childcare support and parenting resources to employment and volunteering opportunities.

Events are being held at:

- Whitehawk Family Hub, Whitehawk Road, 10 April from 11am to 2pm
- Moulsecomb Family Hub, Hodshrove Lane, 30 May from 10.30am to 1.30pm
- Hangleton Family Hub, Harmsworth Crescent, 29 May from 11am to 2pm

The events will include activities for

children and young people, such as arts and crafts. Free snacks and refreshments will be provided.

Get involved

Do you have a child aged 0 to 19, or 25 with SEND? Would you like to get involved with decisions about how Family Hubs are run? If so, the Family Hubs Team would like to hear from you! Email familyhubs@brighton-hove.gov.uk to find out more.

For more information, call 01273 293545, or visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/family-hubs

Accessible Brighton & Hove

The council's new Accessible City Strategy aims to put accessibility at the heart of all council services and make it easier for everyone, particularly disabled people, to be able to enjoy the city.

To find out more, visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/brighton-hove-accessible-city-strategy-2023-2028

Here's a round up of some of the help and advice available locally.

Housing adaptations

If you have a disability or a long-term illness or health condition, you might benefit from changes to your home, to adapt it to better meet your needs. For information, visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/changes-your-home, email AccessPoint@brighton-hove.gov.uk or call 01273 295555.

Help with refuse and recycling collections

If you are unable to put out your bin or recycling box, it may be possible to organise an assisted collection. Visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/assisted-collections, email CityClean@brighton-hove.gov.uk or call 01273 292929.

Disabled person's bus pass

To find out how to apply for a disabled person's bus pass, visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/disabled-persons-bus-pass or call 01273 291924.

Helping Hand card

Bus users can apply for a Helping Hand card to advise of any assistance they may require. Visit www.buses.co.uk/helpinghand, email info@buses.co.uk or call 01273 886200.

Blue Badge scheme and disabled parking

To find out about the Blue Badge scheme, visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/blue-badge-scheme-and-disabled-parking or call 01273 296270.

Public toilets

For information about accessible toilets in the city, visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/accessible-public-toilets or call 01273 292929.



Beach accessibility

To hire an all-terrain beach wheelchair, visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/beach-wheelchair-hire or call 01273 292716. There's also a wheelchair accessible area on the beach near Shelter Hall and a boardwalk at Black Rock.

Local attractions

Check out the VisitBrighton website for accessibility information, including attractions and places to eat and drink, visit www.visitbrighton.com

Tenant Disability Network

The Tenant Disability Network (TDN) is a group of council tenants and leaseholders who work with council services and other organisations to improve and develop services for disabled residents.

The network is always keen to hear residents' views on the accessibility of council housing services and welcomes new members.

The TDN has a Facebook Group and has regular meetings. To find out more, contact the Community Engagement Team, email communityengagement@brighton-hove.gov.uk or call 01273 291518.

Possability People

Possability People is a citywide charity providing free, independent information and support to everyone including disabled people, their carers, families and friends. Contact their helpline on 01273 894050 for advice on local services and activities, or email hello@possabilitypeople.org.uk. If you are Deaf or hard of hearing, text 07718 42 42 14.

The charity runs a Shopmobility wheelchair and mobility scooter hire scheme to enable people to get out and about easily. Call 01273 323239, email shopmo@possabilitypeople.org.uk or visit www.possabilitypeople.org.uk for details.

How we've been doing

Here are some key performance results over the last quarter...

October to December 2023



Rent collection and current arrears

Our rent collection rate was 93.6%, slightly down from 93.7% the previous quarter.



Repairs and improvements

The proportion of 'Decent Homes' has increased from 95.9% to 96.6%. The Repairs Helpdesk answered an average of 291 phone calls per working day, and we completed 147 repairs per working day (a total of 9,267 during the quarter, of which 3,512 emergency and 5,755 routine).



Customer services

Housing Customer Services dealt with an average of 71 phone calls and 165 emails per working day. The most common queries were about resident parking and tenancy issues, including anti-social behaviour.



Moving home

We let 145 homes, which includes 11 new homes let for the first time. The number of empty homes decreased from 142 to 106.



Anti-social behaviour

Our officers responded to 156 new reports of anti-social behaviour from victims and witnesses.



Tenancy management

We've worked on 96 cases to support vulnerable tenants, including help with arranging benefit claims, repairs and care packages.

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 or call 01273 291229.

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

You can also contact the Housing Ombudsman for independent advice and mediation. If your complaint has not been resolved via the council's complaints procedure, the Ombudsman will then liaise with you and the council to seek satisfaction.

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

Recycling: Keep it clean, dry and loose!

We all want to recycle and putting the right stuff in the right bin is important. The wrong stuff is called 'contamination'.

If too many wrong items are put in the recycling, the whole lorry load of material can end up as waste instead of being recycled.

Yes please – items for recycling:

- Paper and cardboard - clean, dry and flatten boxes to fit your recycling bin
- All plastic bottles - rinsed and squashed with lids, pumps and triggers on
- Drink cans and food tins – rinsed
- Aerosol cans – empty



- Glass bottles and jars – rinse and recycle separately in your black box or glass bin



No thanks – the wrong items we see most often are:

- General waste and black bags of rubbish
- Plastic pots, tubs, punnets and trays – put these in your waste bin
- Plastic bags and soft plastics – reuse or take to larger supermarkets for recycling
- Food waste and food left on recycling – put in your bin and keep recycling clean
- Cartons and tetrapak – take to a carton bin
- Nappies and dog waste – wrap and put these in your waste bin

We all get recycling, now let's get it right – **check it before you chuck it!**

To find out more about what you can recycle, visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/recycleright

Help to buy fruit, vegetables, milk and vitamins

The NHS Healthy Start scheme provides parents or carers of young children on a low income, or those who are pregnant, help towards the cost of healthy food.

If you are pregnant or have at least one child under the age of 4 and receive a qualifying benefit, you could receive up to £4.25 a week towards the cost of fruit, vegetables, milk and vitamins.

Anyone eligible can apply for a prepaid card that can be used in shops.

Find out more and apply at www.healthystart.nhs.uk or call 0300 330 7010.





Photo: Brighton Festival/Jamie MacMillan

Festival fun

Brighton Festival begins on 4 May with the annual Children's Parade bringing a colourful mixture of costumes and music to the city centre, starting from Jubilee Street at 10.30am and finishing at Madeira Drive.

The festival runs until 26 May with a huge array of events and activities throughout the city.

This spring 3 Artist in Residence community projects will be held in Moulsecoomb and Bevendean, East Brighton, and Hangleton and Knoll, culminating in artworks to be showcased at the festival.

And in East Brighton, young people are involved in creating a sound installation for the festival inspired by Whitehawk Hill's historic Neolithic camp.

To find out more, visit www.brightonfestival.org

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.

At the time of going to print, dates for the next round of Area Panel meetings were still being finalised.

The dates will be published on the resident involvement diary at www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/ri-diary once they are confirmed, or you can contact the Community Engagement Team. Email communityengagement@brighton-hove.gov.uk or call 01273 291518.

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

City events

ABBA: One Week in Brighton

28 March to 4 August - Exhibition at Brighton Museum celebrating the 50th anniversary of ABBA's Eurovision win at Brighton Dome. A chance to discover the week in 1974 that catapulted the band to fame, through photographs, film, memories and memorabilia.

Brighton Marathon 7 April

Brighton Fringe 3 May to 2 June, various locations

London to Brighton Bike Ride 16 June

Find out about forthcoming events in the city at www.visitbrighton.com/whats-on and brightonmuseums.org.uk

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

Community meetings in Hangleton and Knoll

The West Area Health Forum is a chance to find out more information about local health services.

The forum is facilitated by the Hangleton and Knoll Project on behalf of patients and local residents. The next meeting is on 26 June from 10am at St Richard's Community Centre, Egmont Road, Hove, BN3 7FP.

Community Action meetings are held quarterly and offer an opportunity for Hangleton and Knoll residents to raise issues and ask questions about their neighbourhood.

The next meeting is at St Richard's Community Centre on 12 June from 10.30am to 12 noon. For more information, please call 01273 410858 or email claire.johnson@hkproject.org.uk

Win afternoon tea tour

Enter our free draw for a chance to win a traditional afternoon tea for 2 on a vintage Routemaster bus.

The winner will be able to sit back and enjoy delicious sandwiches and sweet treats as the Brighton Regency Routemaster takes a tour around the city.

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

- How many council homes have recently had solar panels installed?
- What is the closing date for consultation on the housing allocations policy?
- What type of vintage bus is the afternoon tea tour held on?

Send your answers by email to homingin@brighton-hove.gov.uk or by post to Homing In competition, Performance & Improvement, Housing Centre, Unit 1, Fairway Trading Estate, Eastergate Road, Brighton BN2 4QL. **Please include your name, full address, postcode and phone number.**

The closing date for entries is 22 April 2024. The winner will be notified and their name published in next issue of Homing In.

The draw is open to all households who receive Homing In by email or post.



About the tour

Brighton Regency Routemaster tours run on selected dates from March to October and the winner will be able to choose a tour date, subject to availability.

For more information, visit www.brightonregencyroutemaster.co.uk



Congratulations

Thanks to everyone who entered our winter draw to win a year's membership to enjoy activities at local leisure centres.

The winner was Debbie Budgen from Portslade.

New look for Hollingdean playground

Hollingdean Park playground has a fresh new look with lots of new play features and gym equipment to enjoy.

The play area was completely refurbished last year, with funding from the Housing Revenue Account and developer contributions. Improvements include a new wheelchair accessible multi-play unit, a multi-use games area, and outdoor fitness area.

More park playgrounds are due to be refurbished this year, including Wild Park and Hove Park. To find out more, visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/playgrounds



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

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.cabrightonhove.org
08082 787815

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

Leaseholder Action Group

lag@clarend.com
01273 605225
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

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

Go to the Housing Online system at
www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/housingonline

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

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Council meetings

The next council meetings have not been set
while discussions continue about changing
the constitution to move to a cabinet model of
governance.

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, please 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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email you when it is available on our website.

