

COUNCIL PLAN 2020/21

Lewes Town Council proposes to initiate and complete (where possible and practical), or continue, the following major areas of work in the year 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021.

Status update

These are in addition to various projects and initiatives itemised in the Council's budgets and accounts and represent larger-scale activities deserving special attention.

Project	description	Status at February 2021	Status at April 2021
1 Town Hall repairs & conservation	Replace boilers; Council Chamber redecoration and replace carpet; Corn Exchange and Lecture Room replace lighting; Yarrow Room replace carpet	Specialist commissioned and system design and works preliminaries underway. Acoustic survey required to 'benchmark' ambient sound level for nearby homes – on-hold until normal activity levels resume.	No change
2 Pells Lake ecology project	Improvements to water quality. Introduction of aquatic plants. W/Party remit to consider structural integrity of lake perimeter. partially completed – specialist report obtained	Pending commencement of 3rd-party works in locality (flood defence structures and improvements to recreation facilities as conditions of North Street redevelopment planning consent) to achieve best value for money – links to item 3. May be revisited once status of new owners' revised planning application can be assessed.	No change
3 Pells Recreation Ground and kiosk/café development (with Pells Poll Community Association; North Street developers, and others)	Engagement with North Street developers and others to improve the "urban realm" in the area as an integral component of necessary flood-defence works; taking the opportunity to replace children's play equipment and introduce equipment for a wider age-range, and to provide an enhanced café facility for the swimming pool, recreation ground, and surrounding parkland.	See also item 2. Partially-developed plans on-hold pending improvements to local area as condition of North Street redevelopment planning consent to achieve best value for money.	No change. New owner of North Street land beginning to organize public consultations on future vision, and has declared intention to submit new application for Planning Consent within a year.
4 Malling (Bridgeview) Community Centre refurbishment	To carry out a comprehensive refurbishment of the community centre, with modern heating and lighting, with improved facilities for community use, including more flexible interior spaces and better integration of the sports changing-rooms with the adjoining sports pitches and recreation ground.	Completion imminent. LTC self-management agreed by Council 8 th October 2020. Steering Group formed and Members appointed, to supplant Building Working Party interest once works complete. Anticipated handover by contractor end March.	Practical Completion certified 26 th March 2021. Significant 'Snagging' list – reparations underway. Research underway iro catering concession opportunities. Equipment planning underway. Provisional discussions re integration of sport changing facilities with District Council pitch bookings. Steering Group to be convened early May. Anticipated re-opening mid-June.
5 Continuing programme of environmental enhancements and specific site improvements	Engage with appropriate projects arising from third-party initiatives (eg highway safety/traffic management). Continuing improvements to own assets (eg allotment sites)	Continuing programme. Emergency project <i>in</i> Ash die-back concluded March 2020. Summary report received by Council 18 th June 2020. Suggested liaison with Friends of Lewes <i>in</i> possible biodiversity initiative (refinement/extension of FoL town tree audit)	Continuing programme. Proposals to Council 29 th April 2021 re contribution to costs of surfacing improvements to Ouse Valley Way.
6 Devolution of assets & services	Provide for transfer of ownership of various assets/services from Lewes District Council. (currently subject to ongoing negotiation)	Continuing. LDC have withdrawn the offers of sale regarding 2 Fisher St and Market Tower. Discussions postponed <i>in</i> Mountfield Pleasure Ground and Stanley Turner Trusts.	No change
7 DECISIONS re Retirement of key staff	Prepare strategy for recruitment of Town Clerk Designate and further staff establishment changes.	Personnel Panel engaged in project. Specialist adviser engaged and progress reported to Council up to 5 th February 2021. Currently advertising. Application deadline 30 th March.	Personnel Panel short-listed seven candidates for interviews 10 th & 14 th May 2021. All candidates accepted invitation and will submit CREDO™ profiling questionnaire for assessment by specialist adviser. Second interviews scheduled for 21 st May.