

# **Nevill Residents Association open meeting, February 9th, 7.30, St Mary's Church Hall - minutes**

1) **Welcome** from NRA Chair (Carole Kirby)

2) **Neil Peters, Lewes DC's Community Recycling Engagement Officer: Improving waste & recycling**, including understanding its journey after collection.

***The detail of Neil's talk is at the end of these minutes, to make it more convenient to keep the notes on how to recycle more effectively.***

Neil explained that the purpose of his job is to get recycling rates up. He has worked for LDC for 4 years in the Environment First team. The team has five different sorts of vehicle and a team of around 100 people including operatives. They do occasionally miss bins but apologise for that! The timetable for bin collections changes this month, with household bins reducing to fortnightly. It is hoped that this will increase recycling rates, though Lewes is already pretty good compared to other council areas.

Food bins collections remain weekly - please don't put food in other bins! It ends up smeared onto bins and vehicles, then the humans that handle the waste and of course the food attracts vermin. We can get free compostable liner bins from the council office in Cliffe, the Climate Hub etc.

Neil went through guidelines on what can be recycled and how best to do it. The LDC website has an A to Z of Reduce, Re-use, Recycle: <https://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/wasteAtoZ>. This site tells you how to reduce the waste by changing *what* we use, as well as how to re-use or dispose of containers. He also described, and showed us how the facility in Kent that takes our recycling sorts it into re-useable specific materials. They have a commitment to develop their processing till they are turning out materials that don't have to go elsewhere for processing.

Neil had an excellent reception and was thanked for his presentation and answers.

3) **Introduction from Chair** re. NRA business (Carole Kirby)

*New committee member needed!* Robert Massey has had to leave the committee so we are looking for a new committee member please. Not very demanding!

Carole reminded us that the NRA manages to achieve lots of small improvements that residents may not notice. E.g. as part of transport study, NRA members pointed out the poor visibility of white lines and no-entry signs. The hedge has been lowered, signs repainted and more visible road signs.

4) **Treasurer's report** (John Somerville)

Since last meeting, expenditure and income = zero. There is £1,110 in the bank, of which £170 is held for future defibrillator costs. That will change, as we pay for the hire of the hall for meetings.

5) **Lewes town masterplan** - report on co-creation process (Silvia Clausin)

The purpose of Lewes Planning Group is to promote and improve social, economic and environmental wellbeing of the residents and business living and operating in Lewes. It is formed by people who are already in groups concerned with Lewes life. Silvia is involved via the School for Everyday Democracy: a National Lottery-funded group that supports communities in public engagement. Planning also takes into account the villages and towns that look to Lewes as a local centre. Working with as many local authorities, local groups / individuals as possible including Chamber of Commerce etc. The idea is to co-create the forward plan for Lewes. The event on 22nd October included SDNPA, ESCC, LDC, LTC, local active groups and local experts - all sitting in a room together for possibly the first time. Started with talks about the situation in Lewes, a video 'Other Voices' aiming to hear from people that don't normally participate in consultations. Then they broke up into 6 workshops: eg, housing incl affordable, transport, infrastructure, community engagement etc. Looking to arrive at a consensus but in fact the meeting participants were very much in agreement. SDNPA has been very participative and responsive, pleased with the engagement and hoping for an ongoing process.

Recently, a number of participants had a day with a transport and urban planning consultancy, including looking at bus routes (worst/most difficult for drivers etc). Very stressful for the drivers - 4 bus drivers in Lewes went off work with stress last year. Nevill is the route causing most stress, with Landport a close second. There will be more engagement in the future. The process is starting with the historic centre and working out to individual areas.

## 6) Parking issues

### a) **Bus clearway proposal** (Sarah O’Kane)

Checking that no objections to a bus clearway for the bus stop outside the shops. That would be an unbroken white line on which parking is forbidden. The application is going in now.

### b) **Parking across the estate** (Wendy Maples): There is a 2-year review by Highways. Deadline for parking requests is 27th February 2026 (can be removal of or additional restrictions)

Wendy is offering to collate parking requests that make it easier to manoeuvre around Nevill. The recent bus trip identified Firlie gate to the Downs as one pinch point, together with a couple of others. Wendy suggested we email or write to her, or get together with her and the map. Carole will agree a date to meet up with Wendy, but *please do make your views known: [cllr.wendy.maples@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.wendy.maples@eastsussex.gov.uk)*

Kevin reminded us that he’s already looked at the bus route. He’d put in a request for a change in parking before but it was rejected because residents hadn’t been consulted on, and agreed to the change. It is unknown whether (and it seems absurd that) we have to get agreement prior to application, when there is no way of knowing whether the change will be acceptable to Highways.

## 7) **Flooding with sewage** on the Nevill Road (Brian Kirby)

Brian has spent some time looking into the cause of flooding at Nevill Crescent opposite Christie Road, where sewage is mixing with highway flooding. One Nevill resident wrote to James McCleary to complain of the sewage problems. His reply and the Southern Water and ESCC replies were copied to NRA, and attracted Brian’s attention as being insufficient, so chased it up. Brian is now looking for drainage drawings so we can see which drainage goes where after that junction.

On Nevill, the sewers were designated to deal both with the rainwater draining from roads and roofs, and with sewage. Each house built also has/had a soakaway for downpipes drainage. All drains from the main estate - 637 houses - find their way to just one inspection chamber (manhole) at that junction. Then joined by drainage that comes down from Christie Road and the combined flow goes into one 9 inch sewer that goes down Nevill Road. That junction is the low point of all the roads surrounding it, including a small fall from the road by the hospital. Climate change is increasing high rainfall events that over-stress the system. Our system is inadequate for what is now required. Southern Water’s response is that they are working on plans to improve the Ham Lane pumping station. They say they will look at their budget to see if there is a way to ease the Nevill Road situation.

- Kevin said there are problems further down in Priory Ward where the Winterbourne seems to be filling the drainage system.
- Rob Elvery said the sewage reports from way back are available. Front garden run-off, as householders hard surface their front gardens, is increasing the problem.
- Carina highlighted that people are putting down paving with metal grills that then block and stop working. Could the NRA newsletter remind people to check and clear grills, and make sure that their hard surfaces are draining properly into soakaways or gardens?
- Silvia reminded people they can install green roofs on flat roofs, and more efficient water collection to stop water draining into the roads. NRA could do more to persuade people to look at other solutions.

Wendy thanked Brian for the work he has put into this.

## 8) **Salt bins** (Mike Fisk)

Mike looked last year at the price to fill the NRA bins - very expensive. Can buy considerably cheaper if we provide ourselves. The bin at the top of Mount Harry is the only one needing to be topped up. A ton of grit comes in at approx £180 compared to over £300 for Highways to fill bins. Taking a bit of a gamble that what we have in bins will be enough for this year. In summer, NRA will buy a pallet load, and Nevill Bonfire has agreed to hold the grit on their land.

## 9) **Community compost proposal** (Luke Williams)

Luke has lived on North Way for 14 years. Interested in sustainable development for an estate this size. Composting across the estate would be an option and he started a WhatsApp group a couple of weeks ago. There is a lot of interest. Fitzjohns Food Bank has food waste it can’t put into a food bin or compost. Silvia cited a restaurant in Brighton called ‘Silo’ with a fast composter. Perhaps there could be one at the shop?

## 10) **Proposal for a Nevill Community Trades CIC** (Luke Williams)

Plenty of enquiries about local, trusted traders for works. Householders are caused a lot of stress looking for a decent contractor, and traders invest a lot of time and energy building up their reputation. Maybe traders could outsource the money side of charging, and householders could save costs by going direct to local

traders. Unsure as yet of the local appetite amongst traders to get invested in pooling tools, vans, training etc. Might also de-stress things for householders. Luke asked that the NRA put in the newsletter to ask people who are interested to contact him.

We could also add a column on the Nevill Trades Directory WhatsApp group to show whether the trader lives on the Nevill Estate. This could indicate that the trader and householder could save cost, pollution and energy as a result of doing more local work.

*Carole asked that Luke continue to explore the ideas and invited him to report back to the AGM in April.*

## 11) **Any Other Business**

***Nevill Good Neighbour Service*** - Simmy reminded us about the service, which has more capacity for customers, and handed out fridge magnets to those who could use them or give them to someone who may need the service.

**Date for diaries! Our next open meeting is our AGM on 20th April, 7.30pm at St Mary's Church Hall**

Present: (\* NRA committee member): Carole Kirby\* (Chair); Lesley Healey\* (Minutes); Brian Kirby; Carolyn Blayney; Derek Blayney; Sarah O'Kane\*; Vicki Trenhaile\*; John Sommerville\*; Jenny Marshman; David Smith; Sue Tillman; Silvia Clausin; John White; Mike Fisk\*; Katie Greenwood; Alison Barnes; Rob Elvery; Jan Curry; Peta Jarmey; Bob Jarmey; Simmy Viinikka; Suzy Nelson; Luke Williams; Ann Link; Penny Ollosson; Cllr. Kevin West; Cllr. Wendy Maples; Carina Morissy; Dinah Morgan (Cllr.); 1 other (signature on attendance list unreadable)

Apologies: Ann Holmes; Jacky Chester; Cllr. Paul Keene; Cllr. Matthew Bird;

## **Neil Peters, Lewes DC's Community Recycling Engagement Officer**

**Improving waste & recycling**, including understanding its journey after collection.

Neil explained that the purpose of his job is to get recycling rates up. He has worked for LDC for 4 years in the Environment First team. The team has five different sorts of vehicle and a team of around 100 people including operatives. They do occasionally miss bins but apologise for that!

Nothing collected by LDC has gone to landfill since the incinerator in Newhaven opened. This is an 'Energy reclaim' facility that creates enough power for the facility itself and for around 40,000 homes on average. The ash created by burning goes away to be used in road building. Stuff that doesn't burn, like pottery for example, is sifted out and used as hardcore. Metals are removed and put into a barge to go to Belgium for recovery. Fumes are recirculated through the fire again and they then use a lime carbon-capture process that collects larger waste particles to filter them out. Lime plus the waste is shaken out and stored until there is a balancing product available through a different process to neutralise the lime.

The calendar and letter we all received recently told us about the new fortnightly waste and recycling schedule - a reduction for black bins from weekly collections - with weekly food collections maintained. Collections are now on the same day of the week to make it easier for customers. (This doesn't apply to garden waste.)

Neil went through guidelines on what can be recycled and how best to do it. The LDC website has an A to Z of Reduce, Re-use, Recycle. <https://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/wasteAtoZ>. This site tells you how to reduce the waste by changing *what* we use, as well as how to re-use or dispose of containers.

Recycling is sorted by hand, and food gets onto vans, sorters, attracts pests etc, so please wash things out!

- Any plastic bottle - rinse out, squash if possible, put the lid back on and put into recycling bin.
- Can also recycle spray dispensers (the ones with metal springs within a plastic tube and spray top, for example). No need to break them up
- Pots, tubs and food trays - anything that has had food in it. NOT polystyrene trays! Films from top of ready meals can go in if clean. No cling film!
- Recycling also takes bags..... Carrier bags, plastic bread bags, frozen food bags (like peas etc). All okay to put into recycling. This is a rarity country-wide so the bag *may* say 'recycle with soft plastics at supermarkets'. Not silver foil lined bags (like crisps, hula hoops etc), but supermarkets take those.
- Aerosol cans, any cans - whether or not magnetic (as they use a light process to catch non-magnetic metals.
- Bottles and jars - take the lids off please. Any metal lids on glass jars need to be separated. Wash out any food residue
- Toothpaste tubes, ointment tubes etc. Make sure they are empty, leave the cap on and put into the recycling bin. No need to wash out.
- Any cardboard, paper, paperback books etc can go in. Please crush/fold cardboard boxes and no wet or greasy cardboard please. Don't put in metallic wrapping paper or glittered cards.
- Shredded paper needs to go into a transparent bag so it can be spotted. Bread bags or a plastic veg bag is fine.

### ***NOT in Recycling bins!***

Polystyrene

Bric a brac

Food!

Nappies and sanitary wear

Cuddly toys

Upholstery

Wood

Foil-lined plastic bags, like crisp bags

Greasy cardboard (like pizza boxes)

Cling film

Plant pots (some nurseries / garden centres take these)

Blister packs from tablets can't be recycled by the council. However, Boots and Superdrug will often take these. There may not always be a bin for them though..... Boots is a bit unreliable. May need to ask.

Metals like screws, nails - put in black bin as they'll be picked out as part of the process. If a lot, take to recycling centre.

**Anglo Doorstep Collections** (<https://anglodoorstepcollections.co.uk/lewes-district-council/>) will collect a bag of goods for charities from your doorstep. Can include small electrical items, bric a brac, clothes etc.

## Collection and processing

Responsibility for bins prior to collection is ours, so if the contents get scattered we must pick it up. At collection, operatives may drop things and they do carry shovels, brooms etc to clear it up with, so *shouldn't* leave debris behind them.

**Recycling** goes to Light Brothers the other side of the Culfail tunnel. Recycling is emptied onto the floor, given a quick visual examination for contamination. Really important that contaminants are not put into the bin as a whole truck load will be rejected. LDC has one of the lowest contamination rates in the country! Neil showed us some slides of the recycling process and facility. Recycling is taken to Crayford in Kent for separation into specific materials. Conveyor belts lead into chambers that have people looking for specific types of waste that might clog up the mechanism. They also separate waste items to go into the 'magic' chamber where different mechanisms sort heavy from light, paper from heavier waste, small items are captured through holes (that then go to the 'smalls' chamber where sorted by hand). Cameras, infra red and lasers look for different types of materials. Plastics are sorted into type and then bailed up. These material-specific bails are then commodities to be sold. The destination of the various waste is tracked by Councils and by Government, and is known.

**Garden waste** goes to KPS in Isfield, to be composted into soil improver.

**Food waste** remains a weekly collection. See <https://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/foodwaste> It goes to a woodland facility at Whitesmith (Hailsham/Uckfield) directly opposite WRAS. Here it is composted, shredded with garden waste from other local authorities and is forced to mix together, and kept indoors till, within 8 weeks, it becomes soil conditioner that is then given to farmers.

38% of all household black bin waste, by weight, is food waste! Need to get it out of the black bin. Food bins for the roadside are lockable by pulling the handle forward and down. Almost any food can go in, including offal, bones, stalks etc. Please don't include liquids, fats or oils as these don't break down with other food. Put those into a container and then the black household bin or, if you have enough, you can take it to the recycling centre.

Please note - line bins with a *compostable* bag, not a biodegradable bag. Compostable bags break down on the same timescale as the food. We can collect free compostable bags from LDC in precinct, climate hub, etc. Or Aldi sells very cheap compostable bags. Look for a bag with the seedling logo as this is compostable. Waitrose bags for loose veg are compostable. Bags marked as 'biodegradable' cannot be put into the food bag.

There were lots of questions from the audience. A few extra points are:

- 'Chemicals' in the leaflet means weed killers etc that are toxic to humans.
- The company processing our recyclables have made a commitment to process plastic etc themselves into the state where they can be sold to be used to make other things, like nurdles etc.
- Nobody at the meeting knew the overall balance of cost to income. Aluminium is valuable. Cardboard is over-produced and not valuable. ESCC is the disposal authority, not LDC. Wendy undertook to ask for the balance of cost to income.