

homing in

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

Autumn 2019



Families in some of the city's oldest council homes are marking 100 years of council housing.

Full story pages 8 and 9.

In this issue

Plans for hundreds of new homes

New repairs & maintenance service update

Residents making a difference on their estates

Win Sea Life Centre tickets



**Brighton & Hove
City Council**

A century of council housing

Welcome to the autumn issue of *Homing In*.

I'd like to introduce myself as the new chair of housing. I'm taking over from my colleague Councillor John Allcock who, after a very busy few months in the role, took over as Deputy Leader of the Council and the chair of the Children, Young People & Skills committee last month.

I represent the East Brighton ward and will be continuing to work closely with our Green Party colleagues on our shared agenda to increase the supply of affordable housing, tackle rough sleeping and increase sustainability in housing.

In this issue we're celebrating 100 years of council housing, with a special feature on pages 8 and 9.

It's great to hear people's memories of their first council home, and how important it was to them, and their family, to have the security of a home of their own.

That's as true today as ever and, as well as looking back, we are very much looking to the future.

Councillor Allcock and Councillor David Gibson, the opposition lead on housing, welcomed some of the residents moving into 12 new council homes in Kensington Street recently. They heard what a difference these fantastic new homes are making to people.

These houses and flats in the North Laine are part of a range of new council developments taking place across the city to provide more housing (see page 5). Providing more council homes is a priority and



Councillor Gill Williams

we plan to deliver 800 additional homes over the coming years.

We've also got an update on the new in-house repairs and maintenance service being introduced next April, and news of how a resident group is helping us shape that.

And with winter on the way, there's information about the Warm Homes Discount scheme, which could help with the cost of your heating bills, and advice on checking your boiler.

There are also ideas for getting out and about this autumn, and a chance to win tickets to the Sea Life Centre.

Councillor Gill Williams
Chair of the Housing Committee

Do you qualify for £140 towards the cost of winter fuel?

Keeping your home warm in winter is important for health and wellbeing, but heating bills can be a big worry.

Help may be available as energy companies are currently announcing details of their 2019/20 Warm Homes Discount, which adds a credit of £140 to eligible customers' accounts.

You may qualify for this extra help, but you must apply early - details of how to apply will be on your energy provider's website.

The council's SHINE Project can assist tenants and leaseholders with applying for the Warm Homes Discount and wider energy saving advice.

If you'd like some help, email shine@brighton-hove.gov.uk or call 01273 293646.

It is also worth checking out energy tariffs from Your Energy Sussex, a local council-supported energy supplier. To find out more visit www.yourenergysussex.org.uk or call 0800 952 0001.

Dancing in the streets!



Hundreds of people joined in a joyful summer dance celebration in Tarnar, Queen's Park and venues across the city centre in June.

From Bollywood to Charleston, hula hooping to wheelchair tango, there was a chance for everyone to have a go and show off their moves!

The second Our City Dances Festival was presented by South East Dance, in partnership with Tarnar Festival, to get more people dancing in the build up to the opening of The Dance Space next year.

The Dance Space is part of the new Circus Street development, near Kingswood and Milner flats, and will offer a wide range of classes, community-led projects and performances.

Keen to get dancing?

Find out more at www.southeastdance.org.uk or call 01273 696844



Our City Dances Festival

Photos:
Jen O'Brien/
South East Dance

Proposals for a new neighbourhood hub for Moulsecoomb

A new neighbourhood hub bringing services and facilities together is at the heart of proposals to redevelop a number of underused sites in Moulsecoomb.

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

The proposals are to develop a neighbourhood hub building on land next to the Moulsecoomb Sports Centre, and redevelop the sites currently used by the Moulsecoomb north and south hubs and the 67 Centre.

Services and facilities that could be located in the hub include a GP surgery, Moulsecoomb Library, youth services, adult learning and a community café.

Bringing services together into a new purpose-built centre also frees up a number of sites to build around 250 much-needed new homes.

The plan is to deliver the housing through our New Homes for Neighbourhoods scheme building new council-rented homes across the city. We aim to build as many new council and low cost homes as possible.

It's very early days and our first stage is preparing a business case to go to the council's Policy & Resources Committee for approval aiming for early next year. If approved, we expect the development to take around four years.

We have already been speaking to local residents and will continue to involve them in drawing up the plans. Watch this space!

Countdown to new repairs and maintenance service

We're working hard on the new repairs, maintenance and improvement service.

The new in-house service will start on 1 April 2020 when our current contract with Mears comes to an end.

Lots of work is going on behind the scenes to make sure the changeover goes smoothly, and residents are helping us with this.

What the change will mean:

Responsive repairs

- You will still report repairs in the same way, by phoning us on the same numbers 0800 052 6140 or 01273 294409.
- Our commitment to start work on a repair within a set time will remain the same. For urgent repairs, we'll start within 24 hours and for routine repairs, within 20 working days.
- You may see new faces carrying out repairs and their vehicles will carry council branding, instead

of Mears. The staff will work for the council and will carry identification.

Planned maintenance and improvement programme

- Individual contracts for different types of work will be put in place and we'll be providing opportunities for local companies to bid for these.
- The contracts will last for five years, instead of ten, with an option for us to extend by two years.

Major works

- We'll be agreeing a list of approved contractors who will be able to tender for major works.
- Competitive tendering between contractors will help to ensure we get the best price at the best standard.
- Our agreement with these approved contractors will last for four years, instead of ten.

Thank you to everyone who took part in the consultation to help

shape the new repairs service. We've already acted on your feedback and will continue to keep you informed in Homing In.

You can find out more at www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/repairs-contract

There's also information for contractors and tradespeople interested in tendering for work at www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/rmi-tenders

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

Residents helping to shape the new service

A resident group is helping the council to shape the new repairs and maintenance service.

The 'Task and Finish' group is made up of 16 residents from across the city, and includes representatives of area panels and various resident involvement groups.

At their most recent meeting, the group was given an overview of the contracts that will be set up and taken through the official processes and legislation involved in selecting and awarding contracts.

The group are meeting monthly until the new service comes in, and a further three dates are planned after 1 April 2020 to make sure the transition goes smoothly.

News from the Leaseholder Action Group

Look out for our first newsletter which will be sent to all leaseholders with the Certificate of Expenditure packs arriving towards the end of September. We encourage attendance at meetings, either as an observer or to take part in discussions, as you wish.

Our next meet is scheduled for Saturday 9 November, 10.30am-12.30pm (venue to be confirmed).

If you wish to find out more, our contact details are lag@clarend.com or 01273 605225.

New homes update

First new homes on the way for housing partnership.

Plans to build a total of 346 low cost homes in Coldean and Portslade were approved in the summer.

The homes are being developed by Homes for Brighton & Hove – a partnership between the council and the Hyde Group aiming to build 1,000 new low cost homes for rent and sale for lower income working households in the city.

A development of 242 homes will be built on council-owned land to the east of Coldean Lane. This will

be a mix of one, two and three-bedroom flats in six and seven storey buildings, with a number of wheelchair-accessible homes on the ground floor. It will be the largest single development of 100% affordable housing in the city for a generation.

The second development is for 104 homes on the site of the former Belgrave Day Centre in Portslade. The homes will be in two blocks, between four and seven storeys. There will be 11

studio flats, 50 one-bedroom, 39 two-bedroom and four three-bedroom flats.

Half of the new homes will be available for rent to people through Homemove, with the other half available to buy as shared ownership homes.

Thank you to all local residents who took part in consultation on the proposals last year. Feedback helped improve the scheme before the plans were finalised.

For more information about Homes for Brighton & Hove, visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/hfbh

New homes in the North Laine

Residents are settling into 12 new council homes in Kensington Street in the heart of the city.

The development of three houses and nine flats is part of our New Homes for Neighbourhoods programme, which has seen 185 new council homes built across the city since 2015.

Some of the first tenants to move in were welcomed by Councillor John Allcock, chair of the Housing Committee at the time, and Councillor David Gibson, the opposition lead on housing, at an opening event in August.

Some have downsized from larger properties to move to Kensington Street, helping to free up larger homes for families who need them.

There are many more homes currently being built through New Homes for Neighbourhoods with further schemes planned:

- Construction work is underway on 30 flats in Selsfield Drive, Brighton - due to be completed next year
- 12 flats are being built on a disused garage site in Buckley Close, Hangleton
- A planning application has been submitted for 42 flats on the site of the old housing office in Victoria Road, Portslade

As well as providing much needed homes, the developments are making good use of redundant spaces on our estates and helping to improve neighbourhoods. For more information visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/nhfn



Cllr David Gibson (left) resident Ian Richards and Cllr John Allcock at the opening of Kensington Street homes

Hidden Homes

We're also converting 'hidden' or empty spaces within council-owned property into new homes. A former office at Swallow Court, Whitehawk has been transformed into three new flats, two extra flats have just been completed at Elwyn Jones Court in Patcham, and work has started on a new flat at Woods House in Hove.

Helping wildlife to flourish in Coldean



Coldean's green spaces are being given a new lease of life by local people.

Residents planted a mix of new trees on the greens at Arlington Crescent and Roundway, including crab apple and cherry trees.

Goal posts have been put up for young people who enjoy playing sport, and a new bench added.

Another part of the green is being left unmown, to allow flowers and wildlife to flourish.

It's been a real community effort with the Friends of Coldean Woods, the Coldean Residents Association, and others raising funds and working together on the project. This summer was a chance for people to enjoy the results.

Coldean resident Tom Harrison said: "We have been really pleased with the response, the green is being used a lot more now and there's more wildlife.

"On warm evenings this summer, it was lovely to see people out playing football and hear the crickets chirruping!"



Tidy-up volunteers

Staff from across the housing service swapped their normal day jobs to clear away weeds, and cut back overgrown shrubs, from pathways leading to flats in Stephens Road, Hollingdean, during a volunteering event in July.

The idea for the tidy-up came directly from council officers who wanted to do something extra to improve the appearance of housing areas across the city.

One resident in the flats commented: "It's a thousand times better, thank you."

STAR survey

We'll be carrying out our Survey of Tenants and Residents (STAR) during October and November.

For the first time we are using telephone contact, instead of posted surveys, to gather your feedback. We have chosen Prevision Research to randomly contact a sample of tenants to ask ten questions, so you may receive a call from 01908 278310 asking if you wish to take part.

We hope this new way will help achieve a better response rate and more detailed feedback on our performance.

Prevision Research are not allowed to use your contact details for any reason other than running this survey and conform to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Market Research Society Code of Conduct. All names and phone numbers will be removed from their systems as soon as the research is finished, and they will not share any data with the council which could identify anybody's answers (unless you give your explicit consent for them to share your feedback).

The council used the results from the last survey in 2016 to make some service improvements. For example, we have committed more resources to make environmental improvements in our neighbourhoods, as well as addressing issues arising from 'untidy gardens' and hard surfaces around estates.

We will feed back on the results in a future edition of Homing In.

New gym trail takes shape

Residents in Ingram Crescent, Hove, can keep fit on their own doorstep thanks to a new gym trail.

Six different pieces of exercise equipment have been installed around the Ingram estate, including balance beams and parallel bars.

The idea for the outdoor 'trim trail' came from residents and Ingram Crescent Residents Association who applied for funding from the Estate Development Budget.

Residents of all ages have been trying out the equipment and instructors from nearby Change Gym went along to a special opening event, to give ideas and advice on how to use it.

John Saward from the residents association said: "It's a great way of keeping fit without having to go far, and getting to know your neighbours better!"

The association holds regular social events and this summer's garden party was one of the most popular yet.



Trying out the new trim trail



To find out how to apply for funds to improve your road or estate visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/edb or call 01273 294651.

For information about local resident associations, contact the Community Engagement Team. Email communityengagement@brighton-hove.gov.uk or call the number above.

A big thank you!

Grateful resident Cathy Greene wants to say a big thank you to a Mears employee who filled up a bird bath on the hottest day of the year.

Cathy helps to tend the communal area around Kingswood flats in Brighton and has put in plants, along with bird baths, which she regularly fills.

As temperatures soared, she saw the Mears employee, who was on his way to a job, pour the contents of his water bottle into the bird bath for the waiting birds, just as she arrived to fill it.

Cathy said: "It was a little thing, but it was such a nice moment, it really made mine and my neighbours' morning. People are quick to grumble, so I wanted to say thank you."



Community spirit at Theobald House

A great community effort by a group of residents at Theobald House in Blackman Street, Brighton, has created a shared garden (pictured) for all who live there.

Residents from the flats are out most mornings tending to the plants and the garden is a welcome sight for residents and passers-by.

Celebrating a century of council housing



Moulsecoomb around 1950

We're putting the spotlight on 100 years of council housing.

2019 marks the 100th anniversary of the Addison Act. This law enabled councils to become large-scale builders of social housing to tackle the housing shortage after World War One.

Although council houses were already being built in Brighton at the end of the 19th century, the act led to a large scale effort from the government to create affordable housing.

The city's earliest council homes in St Helen's Road, finished in 1899, are still there today and are now a mix of council and private homes.

How the city's estates developed

The Addison Act led to work starting on the Moulsecoomb and Queen's Park estates in the 1920s and Whitehawk in the 1930s.

Slums around the Carlton Hill area in the city centre were cleared as residents began to move to the new suburbs. The estates continued to grow until the 1940s when World War Two brought a halt to development, and the last slums in the city were not cleared until the 1950s and 60s.

The 1960s also saw the development of several council high rise blocks off Albion Hill, and many more council homes were built in other areas, including Bevendean, Coldean, Hollingdean, Portslade and Woodingdean.

The 1970s saw lots of regeneration work in Whitehawk to 'remodel' the area, with one of the largest schemes of its kind in the country. This led to changes to the road layout with some roads replaced with smaller cul-de-sacs, the demolishing and rebuilding of properties, along with a new community centre and library.

By the 1970s, 42% of all housing nationally was council housing. However, from the mid-1980s there was a sharp decline in council house building and now 8% live in council housing.

In 2013, the first new council homes in over 20 years were completed at Balchin Court in Wellington Road, Brighton and, a century after the Addison Act, we are still building council homes. More than 180 homes have been built across the city over the last four years through New Homes for Neighbourhoods, with many more underway. See page 5 for more information.



Manor Farm, Whitehawk in the 1930s



Lower Bevendean in its early days

Residents' memories

“It was a big thing to have our own house”



John (pictured) moved into a newly built council house in Hollingbury in 1949 as a child.

John said: “My parents were well pleased, it was a nice semi-detached house, and it was the first time we had an inside toilet.

“It was a big thing to have our own house. Before that we had been living down in the town with my grandparents and my mum’s sister and her family.

“Hollingbury was a good place to grow up, everyone had nice gardens and there were lots of places to play out with my friends. The bus services weren’t what they are today though, and it did feel a bit in the middle of nowhere at times, especially in the winter.”

John and his wife Connie now live in seniors housing in Queen’s Park. John said: “We love it here, we have no complaints at all.”

“Everyone looks out for each other”

Lisa and Justin Weaver live in one of the oldest council homes in the city in St Helen’s Road.

Lisa said: “We love it here. It’s a very sturdy house and a very calm street, everyone looks out for each other.

“We have seen our kids grow up and the next generation coming along.”

Peter Avis and his brother, Michael, were born in their council house in St Helen’s Road in the 1960s and have lived there ever since.

Peter’s wife, Ross, said: “It’s been a real family home for years. The area has changed a lot over the years from when they were growing up, it’s busier and there’s more traffic now, but it’s still alright.”

“A home of our own”

Jean Phillips moved into her flat in Hangleton in 1962, a few years after the homes were built.

Jean said: “We had been living with my husband’s parents in Hove, which was a bit cramped, so it was lovely to get a home of our own.

“I came out of hospital one week with a new baby, and we moved in the next. We already had one son, so with the baby as well it was nice to have a bit more space.”

Share your memories

Do you have photos or memories of Brighton & Hove’s council homes over the years? Help us mark 100 years of council housing by emailing homingin@brighton-hove.gov.uk, or write to Homing In, Communications Team, Room 166, Hove Town Hall, Norton Road, Hove, BN3 3BQ or call 01273 293033.



Peter, Ross and Michael

Buying back former council homes

A total of 32 homes have been brought back into council ownership through our Home Purchase Policy scheme.

The scheme, which launched in 2017, is providing more rented homes for families on the housing register by buying back properties sold under the Right to Buy.

If you're a leaseholder or freehold owner of a property sold under Right to Buy, you can make an offer to sell it back to us.

- If you bought the home within the last 10 years, you must offer it back to the council if you wish to sell it. This is known as the Right of First Refusal.
- If you bought your home over 10 years ago you don't need to give us first refusal, but you can still offer to sell it to us.

To find out more visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/home-purchase-policy or call 01273 293030.

Don't wait for a cold snap – check your heating!

With winter on the way, now is a good time to check your heating.

Before temperatures drop, it's worth switching the heating on to make sure it's working okay.

You just need it on long enough for the radiators to warm up to make sure the boiler and heating system are running smoothly.

Any problems, call the Repairs Helpdesk on freephone 0800 052 6140 or our local number 01273 294409, or email BHCC.repairs@mearsgroup.co.uk

Information about Brexit

At the time of writing, there's still uncertainty over leaving the EU but the council is working with partners to plan as best as we can.

We have information on our website at www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/brexit, which we will be updating regularly.

We're proud that Brighton & Hove is a vibrant and diverse city. As a council, we value and encourage this diversity and we take a leading role to increase equality, inclusion and fairness across the city.

We know there has been a rise in hate crimes since the referendum. We do not and will never tolerate any hate incidents in our city.

If you have been a victim of a hate incident, our community safety team are here to support and advise you.

You can contact them by emailing communitysafety.casework@brighton-hove.gov.uk, by filling in our online reporting form at www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/asb or by calling call 01273 292735. In an emergency, always call the police on 999.

Large panel system building survey results

Earlier this year, we carried out structural surveys on our eight 'large panel structure' tower blocks. These were conducted by specialist structural engineers Pick Everard.

The survey was completed in June and found no structural issues with any of the buildings. The reports also stated that the buildings are generally in good structural condition.

Large panel structure systems were popular in the 1950s and 60s for building multi-storey residential buildings.

The buildings consist of reinforced floor and roof structures supported by precast concrete large panel walls.

The surveys were carried out to ensure our records are up-to-date, following concerns raised about certain types of 'large panel system' high-rise blocks nationally.

None of the city's tower blocks are of the same construction type as any that have raised concern. Throughout our regular maintenance programme, we'd found no indication of any issues with the blocks.

The report did highlight some non-urgent repairs and these will be scheduled into our maintenance programme.

We've been in touch with residents of the blocks about the survey results and will continue to survey all our buildings regularly.

Remembering the Windrush Generation

A special event to mark National Windrush Day was held at Brooke Mead seniors housing scheme in Brighton.

Actor Victor Richards performed 'Streets Paved with Gold', a play based on the arrival of the Empire Windrush, which brought 492 people from the Caribbean in 1948.

Residents from across the city took part in the event, which was organised to celebrate

and support diversity in our seniors housing schemes. After watching the play, they enjoyed a Caribbean buffet.

Windrush Day on 22 June marks the anniversary of the docking of MV Empire Windrush at the Port of Tilbury, near London, in the summer of 1948. The arrival of the ship was an important moment in Britain's history and has come to represent the rich diversity of the country.



Actor Victor Richards (top), and residents and staff mark Windrush Day

Join the Jampots at Lavender House

Fancy getting involved in a friendly, informal music group? Residents at Lavender House in Kemp Town run a weekly music session called Jampots, which is open to residents from other seniors housing schemes.

The Jampots sessions take place on Mondays from 2pm – 4pm at the seniors housing scheme in Lavender Street. No experience is necessary!

Andy, one of the residents who set up the group last year, enjoys sharing his love of music with others. He said: "We started with three regular attendees and many more now attend and join in with singing or play along. It's amazing how the group has taken off. We play songs from the music hall era to ABBA and everything in between."

The residents were inspired to set up Jampots after taking part in sessions run by Open Strings Music, a community music service, and are grateful for their help in setting up the group. For more information about Open Strings Music visit www.openstrings.co.uk.

Ageing Well Festival

Brighton & Hove Ageing Well Festival (formerly the Older People's Festival) runs from 30 September to 13 October.



Brighton Lindyhoppers are holding an event at the festival

It's a two week festival of celebrations and events for people aged 50 plus, at venues around the city, and is set to be the biggest yet!

There are lots of different activities to try, this is just a taster:

5 October - 11 to 11.45am Brighton Lindyhoppers - free beginners swing dance taster class at the Open Market.

9 October - 11am

Autumn healthwalk – meet outside Hollingdean Children's Centre.

12 October - 12 noon to 5pm Festival in a day – free event with live music from local bands and musicians at the Hop 50+ community centre in Palmeira Square, Hove.

12 October - 12 noon to 5pm Legends of Whitehawk FC – free session of football memories with the club's historian, a behind the scenes tour and chance to meet the players before kick-off.

The festival is organised by the Impact Initiatives charity, with support from the council, voluntary organisations and local businesses.

To find out more visit www.ageingwellfestival.org, call 01273 322940, or look out for programmes around the city.

How we've been doing

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

April to June 2019



Repairs and improvements

We completed routine repairs in an average of 12 days and kept 97% of appointments made.



Customer services and complaints

The Housing Customer Service team answered 90% of calls, and 88% of complaints were responded to within ten working days.



Anti-social behaviour

80% of people surveyed (four out of five) were satisfied with the way their anti-social behaviour complaint was dealt



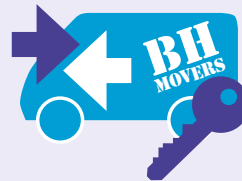
Tenancy management

We've helped 36 people to keep their tenancies which were at risk, and taken back five properties due to housing fraud.



Estates service

The team completed 85% of bulk waste removals within seven working days, up from 78% last quarter.



Moving home

We re-let 129 homes in an average of 25 days (excluding major work), an improvement compared to 33 days during the previous quarter.



Rent collection and current arrears

We've collected 97.51% of rent, down slightly on the previous quarter.

Help with moving

Is your home too big for you and getting too much to manage?

If you have a large family home you no longer need and are interested in moving to a smaller property, you could qualify for a one-off payment of up to £2,500.

Tenants who have a wheelchair-adapted property they no longer need could also qualify for the payment by moving to a home without adaptations.

It is all part of the council's Transfer Incentive Scheme which aims to free up family and wheelchair-adapted homes for people who need them.

Tenants giving up this type of accommodation are eligible for a one-off payment, priority banding on Homemove, our choice based lettings system, and support from a dedicated officer.

To find out more visit the website www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/tis or call 01273 293922 or 293030.

Share your memories of Stanmer Park

'Memory Days' are being held this autumn to encourage residents to share memories and photos of Stanmer Park over the years.

It's all part of a project to celebrate the history of the popular park, which is being restored and improved.

This is where you can get involved:

- **New Larchwood**
Waldron Avenue, Coldean
8 October 9.30am–12.30pm
- **St George's Hall**
Newick Road, Moulsecomb
8 October 2–5pm
- **Plumpton College Stanmer Park***
12 October 10am–2pm
- **Brighton Museum**
Royal Pavilion Gardens
26 October 11am–4pm

To find out more visit
www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/stanmernews or call
01273 292929.



Stanmer's greenhouse around 1945



Marking the start of restoration of Stanmer Park

*Plumpton College at Stanmer Park is located south-west of Stanmer House, along a narrow roadway leading left from the T-junction behind the church. Travel by bus using the weekend hourly number 78 bus, which goes right into the park. Get off at Stanmer Village and it's just a few minutes walk. Visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/breezebuses. Car parking on the college site is very limited.

Free Walking Cricket sessions

Fancy getting back to cricket or having a go if you are new to the sport?

Free Walking Cricket sessions are being held at the following venues:

Portslade Leisure Centre

Fridays 2–3pm

Moulsecomb Leisure Centre

Thursdays 1–2pm

King Alfred Leisure Centre

Thursdays 1–2pm

The sessions are run by coaches from Sussex Cricket Foundation and continue until March next year. They are open to all and ideal for over 55s.

For more information call 01273 827117 or email foundation@sussexcricket.co.uk

There are lots of other free and low cost activities this autumn as part of the council's Active for Life programme, delivered by the Healthy Lifestyles Team. They are a great way of keeping fit, having fun and meeting new people at the same time. Check out the website at www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/activeforlife or call 01273 294589.

Meerkat Discovery Trail

Nine Meerkats are hiding around central Brighton. Join the Meerkat Discovery Trail and see if you can find them all!

The trail is a chance for adults and children to have fun, enjoy being out and about together and learn about local places where the Meerkats are hiding. There are stickers to collect along the way and those who complete the trail will be in with a chance to win prizes!

Locations include Brighton Dome, the Theatre Royal, Jubilee Library, Prince Regent Leisure Centre and many more. The Meerkat Trail booklet with

the full list of locations is available to download on the council's website at www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/meerkat-trail

You can find the Meerkats from **1 October until 1 December.** Join in the fun by posting on social media using the hashtag #Brightonmeerkats

For more information contact transport.projects@brighton-hove.gov.uk



Roast Butternut Squash Soup

Try this seasonal recipe from Brighton & Hove Food Partnership for a thick warming soup. It can be made with butternut squash or other seasonal varieties such as pumpkins.



Ingredients – serves four

500 grams butternut squash
250 grams onions
3 cloves garlic

500 ml vegetable stock
200 grams coconut milk (optional)
2 tablespoons olive oil
large sprigs of rosemary

Method

- 1 Preheat the oven to 220C / 450F / Gas 8.
- 2 Peel, deseed and cut the squash into large chunks.
- 3 Peel 2 cloves of garlic.
- 4 Place the squash chunks, garlic and sprigs of rosemary, if using, in a large bowl with one tablespoon of the olive oil and mix well until evenly coated.
- 5 Place on a baking tray, season with salt and pepper, then roast for 35-40 minutes or until cooked.
- 6 While the squash is roasting chop the onions and fry them in a pot until browned.
- 7 Peel and finely chop the rest of the garlic then add to the browned onions and cook for 5 minutes.

- 8 Remove the squash from the oven, discard the sprigs of rosemary then add the roasted squash and garlic to the pot.
- 9 Add the stock and bring to the boil.
- 10 Reduce to a simmer and cook for 15 minutes.
- 11 Lastly add the coconut milk, if using, then blend the soup until smooth using a stick blender.
- 12 Bring back up to heat and serve.

This recipe makes a thick soup which can be thinned down to serve more people.

If you don't fancy coconut milk, you may like to serve with a dollop of plain yoghurt or creme fraiche.

For more recipes, local food news and events, check out the Brighton & Hove Food Partnership website or sign up for their fortnightly e-newsletter: www.bhfood.org.uk/sign-up

Dates for your diary... Area Panels

The next round of Area Panels will be held as follows. For more information contact the Community Engagement Team, email communityengagement@brighton-hove.gov.uk or call 01273 294651.

Central 23 October

2pm at Hampshire Lodge,
Hampshire Court, Brighton

East 21 October

7pm at Bristol Estate
Community Room,
Donald Hall Road, Brighton

North 17 October

7pm at the Housing Centre,
Moulsecomb

West 22 October

2pm at St Richard's Community
Centre, Egmont Road, Hove
The agenda and minutes of meetings
are available at www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/area-panel-meetings

City events

Brighton Digital Festival

12 to 25 October
Various venues

Family Fireworks Spectacular

2 November
Nevill Playing Field, Hove

Brighton Lions Fireworks Display

3 November Brighton Racecourse

London to Brighton

Veteran Car Run
3 November Ends on Madeira Drive

Black History Month

family activities
9 November Brighton Museum

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

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.

Win Sea Life Brighton tickets!

Enter our free draw for a chance to win tickets to Sea Life Brighton



The winner will receive four tickets to the aquarium and enjoy the new Day and Night Ocean Experience attraction which opened this summer after a major refurbishment. Simply answer the following questions, based on information in this issue:

- **When does the new repairs and maintenance service start?**
- **How many new low cost homes are planned in Coldean Lane?**
- **How many creatures are there at Sea Life Brighton?**

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, address, postcode and phone number.

The closing date for entries is **28 October 2019**. The winner will be notified 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.

About Sea Life Brighton

Take a fascinating journey inside the world's oldest operating aquarium and come nose-to-nose with over 5,500 mesmerising creatures including jellyfish, sharks and seahorses.

For more information visit www.visitsealife.com/brighton or call 0871 226 6770.

Congratulations to Keeley

Thanks to everyone who entered our summer competition, we had a record number of entries.

The lucky winner was Keeley Salih from Hove who won tea for two at the Hilton Brighton Metropole. Keeley said: "It was a real surprise to win, I never win anything! My daughter and myself had an amazing time."

Keeley is pictured with her daughter Kimberley.



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 ww2.brighton-hove.gov.uk

Go to the Housing Customer online system at www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/housingcos

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

 Follow us on twitter.com/BHHousing

 Like us on facebook.com/BHHousing

Useful contacts

Housing Customer Services

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

Repairs Helpdesk

BHCC.repairs@mearsgroup.co.uk
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 294651

Access Point for adult social care

AccessPoint@brighton-hove.gov.uk 01273 295555

Moneyworks Brighton & Hove

www.advicebrighton-hove.org.uk
0800 9887037 or 01273 809288

Citizens Advice Bureau

www.citizensadvice.org.uk/brightonhovecab
0845 120 3710

The Portal (advice and support for survivors of domestic or sexual abuse or violence)

www.theportal.org.uk Freephone 0300 323 9985

Brighton & Hove Independent Mediation Service

www.bhims.org.uk 01273 700812

Noise Nuisance

www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/noise
01273 294266 or 01273 293541 for out of hours

Housing Committee Meeting

Wednesday 13 November 2019

The meeting will be held at 4pm in the Council Chamber, Hove Town Hall, Norton Road, Hove, BN3 3BQ.

All council meetings are open to the public, and you can submit public questions.

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 **homingin**, Communications Team, Room 166, Hove Town Hall, Norton Road, Hove, BN3 3BQ or call 01273 293033.

homingin is produced by Brighton & Hove City Council's communications team and the Tenant Editorial Board.

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Email housing.customerservices@brighton-hove.gov.uk to stop receiving a paper copy of **homingin** and we'll email you when it is available on our website.

Translations

Translation? Tick this box and take to any council office

ترجمة؟ ضع علامة في المربع وخذها إلى مكتب البلدية.	Arabic <input type="checkbox"/>
অনুবাদ? বক্সে টিক চিহ্ন দিয়ে কাউন্সিল অফিসে নিয়ে যান।	Bengali <input type="checkbox"/>
需要翻译? 请在这方格内加副, 并送回任何市议会的办事处。	Cantonese <input type="checkbox"/>
ترجمه؟ لطفاً این مربع را علامتگذاری نموده و آن را به هر یک از دفاتر شهرداری ارائه نمایید.	Farsi <input type="checkbox"/>
Traduction? Veuillez cocher la case et apporter au council.	French <input type="checkbox"/>
需要翻译? 请在这方格内划勾, 并送回任何市议会的办事处。	Mandarin <input type="checkbox"/>
Tłumaczenie? Zaznacz to okienko i zwróć do któregośkolwiek biur samorządu lokalnego (council office).	Polish <input type="checkbox"/>
Tradução? Coloque um visto na quadrícula e leve a uma qualquer repartição de poder local (council office).	Portuguese <input type="checkbox"/>
Tercümesi için kareyi işaretleyiniz ve bir semt belediye bürosuna veriniz	Turkish <input type="checkbox"/>
other (please state) <input type="checkbox"/>	

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