



March 2025

Looking Forward: Our Vision for Lancing's Future

Dear Lancing residents,

While reflecting on our achievements gives us much to celebrate, looking forward fills me with even greater excitement. Our Strategic Plan for 2024-2027 outlines bold and transformative projects that will shape Lancing for years to come. Rooted in the aspirations you shared during the "Lancing: Now and Into the Future" consultation, these initiatives will enhance our community spaces, create new opportunities for connection, and build a more sustainable, inclusive village.

Orient Road Community Garden and Orchard: A Green Heart for Lancing

One of our most exciting upcoming projects is the transformation of Orient Road into a vibrant community garden and orchard. This initiative perfectly embodies our commitment to creating sustainable, inclusive spaces where residents can connect with nature and each other.

The Orient Road project will feature:

- A thriving community garden building on the success of the 'Fabric' Community Garden
- An orchard with seasonal activities like apple pressing days
- Expanded allotments to meet growing demand
- Pop-up farm shops selling locally grown produce
- Natural play areas for children to enjoy outdoor activities
- Biodiversity projects including rewilding initiatives, bee conservation, and potentially chicken keeping

The results from our recent community consultation have been overwhelmingly positive, showing strong support for this green initiative. We're establishing an action group to move this project forward, and I invite anyone interested in contributing to get involved. Together, we can create a space that nurtures both our community and our environment.

Widewater Visitor Centre and Café: Celebrating Our Natural Heritage

Another key project in our strategic vision is the development of a visitor centre and café at Widewater. This beautiful lagoon is one of Lancing's natural treasures, and this development will enhance the experience for both residents and visitors while promoting environmental education and conservation.

Our plans include:

- A welcoming visitor centre with displays about the lagoon's unique wildlife and habitats
- A café with indoor and outdoor seating areas
- Improved signage highlighting the ecological importance of this special place
- Enhanced opportunities for community engagement with this remarkable natural resource

We're currently in the consultation phase, beginning with key stakeholders such as the WOW (World of Widewater) group and the Residents' Association before engaging with the wider community. Your input will be vital in shaping this project to ensure it serves our community's needs while protecting and celebrating this precious environment.

Evolving Partnerships for Community Benefit

Building on the strong foundation of our existing partnerships, we're committed to developing even deeper collaborations with local organizations. By working together, we can maximize our impact and create a more connected, resilient community.

In the coming year, we plan to:

- Strengthen our relationship with Electric Storm Youth to explore the establishment of a Youth Council, empowering young people to have a voice in community decisions

- Continue supporting the No. 16 bus service through March 2025, ensuring vital transportation links remain available
- Expand our work with Adur Voluntary Action to nurture community initiatives and volunteering opportunities
- Further develop our relationships with sports organizations to promote healthy, active lifestyles
- Collaborate with local businesses to enhance economic opportunities, particularly for young people

These partnerships will be crucial in achieving our vision of a Lancing where everyone feels connected, supported, and empowered.

Enhanced Community Spaces and Infrastructure

Our commitment to improving shared spaces continues with several important projects:

- The completion of the Lancing Coastal Cycle Path, creating a safer, more enjoyable environment for cyclists and pedestrians
- Ongoing improvements to our Parish Hall facilities, including refurbishment of the public toilets
- Resurfacing the East carpark at Widewater to enhance accessibility
- Exploring lighting improvements for the alleyway from the Co-Op to Monks Rec, supporting safer travel through our community

Each of these projects directly responds to the needs and aspirations you've expressed, particularly around creating safer, more accessible public spaces and promoting sustainable travel options.

Our Invitation to You

As we embark on these exciting initiatives, your involvement remains essential. These projects aren't just for the community - they're by the community. Whether through providing feedback during consultations, volunteering with one of our action groups, or simply spreading the word about upcoming developments, your participation will help shape the Lancing of tomorrow.

In the spirit of transparency and collaboration that guides our work, we'll continue to share regular updates on these projects through our website, social media channels, and

community meetings. We welcome your questions, suggestions, and ideas as we move forward together.

The future of Lancing is bright, and by working together, we can create a village that truly reflects our shared aspirations: a place where local people can stay and enjoy, where everyone feels safe, where our economy nurtures our youth, where our high street thrives, and where our communities are well-connected and served by local resources.

I look forward to continuing this journey with you.

Warm regards,

Denyse Whillier - Chair, Lancing Parish Council