

# Who is doing what, where and when

The Gensing & Central St Leonards Community Forum is a resident-led neighbourhood forum. It works in partnership with agencies and service providers to make the area a better place to live and work.

After consultation with local residents during November, the Forum will revise this draft local plan and send it to the Hastings Local Strategic Partnership. This partnership includes all the main service providers and agencies which operate in Hastings & St Leonards.

Once approved by the Local Strategic Partnership, the plan will be supported and put into action.



## WIN £100 CASH!

All completed forms will be entered into a prize draw. The winner will be notified in writing before Christmas.

### Further information

#### Gensing & Central St Leonards Community Forum

Carolyn Hodgson, Support Worker  
Silchester Community Resource Centre  
Silchester Mews, 17a Silchester Road  
St Leonards-on-Sea TN38 OJB  
Tel: 01424 438 291 Email: chodgson@hastings.gov.uk

#### Community Services

Shabana Bayjou, Coordinator, Hastings Borough Council,  
4 Robertson Terrace, Hastings TN34 1JE  
Tel 01424 781454 Fax: 01424 781319  
Email: sbayjou@hastings.gov.uk

#### Hastings Information Centre

Queens Square, Priory Meadow, Hastings, East Sussex TN34 1TL  
Tel: 01424 781111 Email: hic\_info@hastings.gov.uk  
www.hastings.gov.uk

#### The Regeneration Centre

45a Robertson Street, Hastings TN34 1HL  
Tel: 01424 429438 Fax: 01424 445992  
Email: contactus@ourfuture.org.uk  
Website: www.ourfuture.org.uk

# GENSING AND CENTRAL ST LEONARDS LOCAL ACTION PLAN

Produced with the Gensing & Central St Leonards Community Forum

This is our draft Local Action Plan for Gensing and Central St Leonards. It is based on a fuller list of priorities drawn up by the Forum.

After consultation with local residents and with the service providers it will be revised and finalised. It will then become part of the overall Community Strategy for Hastings & St Leonards.

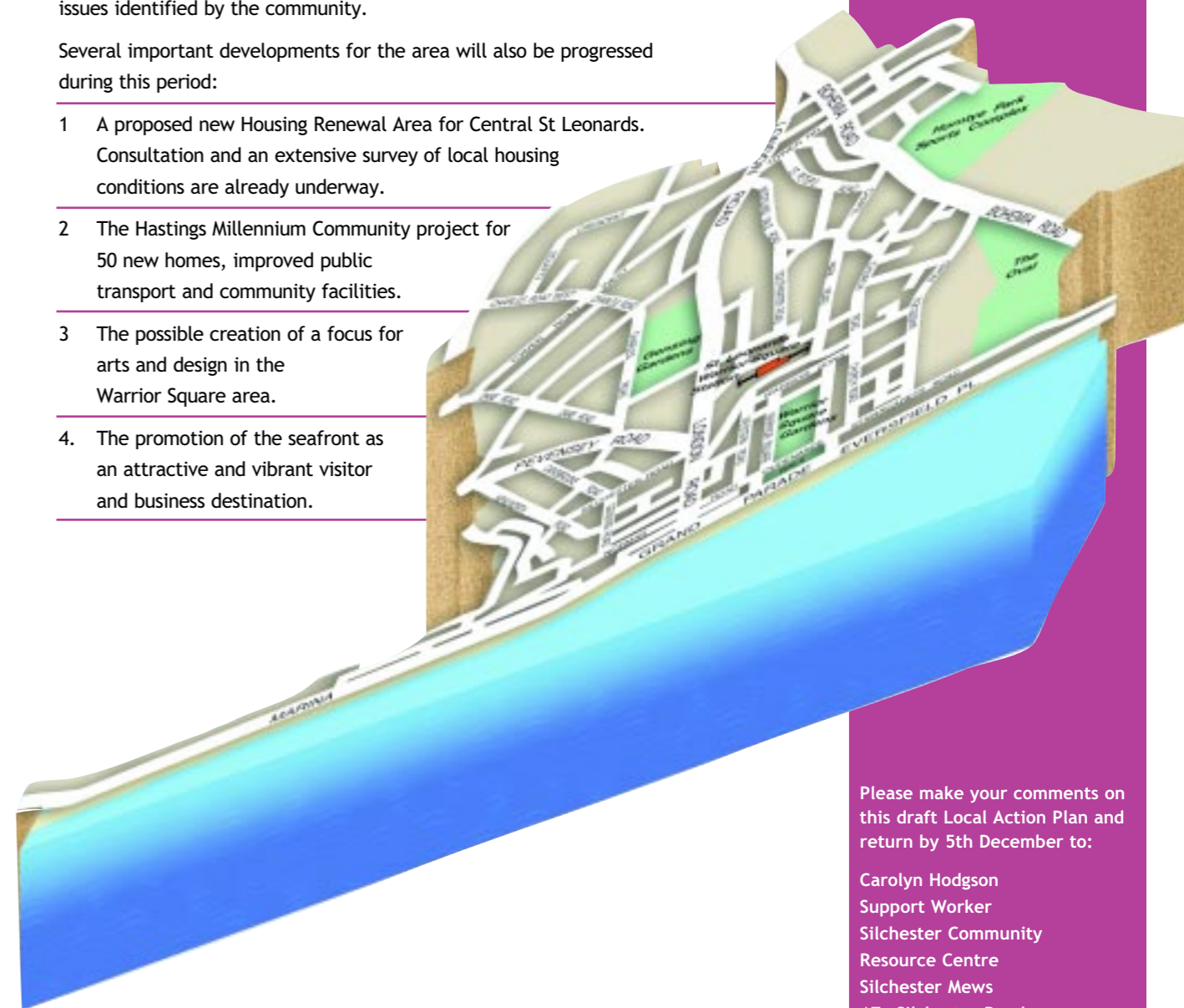
The Action Plan sets priorities for action over the next 12 to 18 months based on key issues identified by the community.

Several important developments for the area will also be progressed during this period:

- 1 A proposed new Housing Renewal Area for Central St Leonards. Consultation and an extensive survey of local housing conditions are already underway.
- 2 The Hastings Millennium Community project for 50 new homes, improved public transport and community facilities.
- 3 The possible creation of a focus for arts and design in the Warrior Square area.
- 4 The promotion of the seafront as an attractive and vibrant visitor and business destination.



your views wanted



## Please Complete

Complete your details below (optional) and return by 5th December to: Carolyn Hodgson, Support Worker, Silchester Community Resource Centre, Silchester Mews, 17a Silchester Road, St Leonards-on-Sea TN38 OJB. Or post to FREEPOST PTL

Name

Address

Telephone:  E-Mail:  Ethnic Origin:

Age Group  
 under 13  13 to 18  19 to 29  30 to 39   
 40 to 49  50 to 59  60 to 69  over 69

I would like to help by

General comments or suggestions



Public consultation material produced under contract by Clive Jacotine & Associates Limited with Nick Wates Associates  
Graphic Design: Intergrafix

Please make your comments on this draft Local Action Plan and return by 5th December to:

Carolyn Hodgson  
Support Worker  
Silchester Community Resource Centre  
Silchester Mews  
17a Silchester Road  
St Leonards-on-Sea TN38 OJB  
01424 438 291  
Email: chodgson@hastings.gov.uk

OR post to FREEPOST PTL (no stamp required)

**DON'T FORGET!** Your local consultation event - this Saturday 30 November  
 At Silchester Community Resource Centre, Silchester Mews, 17a Silchester Road, St Leonards-on-Sea  
 10 am to 2pm Exhibitions on all the new plans for Hastings & St Leonards and people to answer your queries.  
 Refreshments available and a children's play area.

# Key Issues

Do you agree that these are the key issues?  
Add any others and make comments in the spaces provided.

## 1 CRIME & SAFETY

- A High crime rate, with much of the crime funding drug habits.
- B High level of violent incidents in Central St Leonards.
- C Alcohol behind most domestic violence with many emergency admissions to hospital. On-street drinking common.
- D General fear of crime amongst public, particularly around Warrior Square Station. Many streets and alleys badly maintained and poorly lit, partly due to split responsibilities. Some local parks also feel unsafe.
- E Lack of police presence and local police surgeries.
- F Anti-social behaviour.

Other key crime issues and comments

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## 2 HOUSING

- A Much of the housing is in a poor state of repair and classified as unfit, with many empty homes.
- B High proportion of housing in multiple occupation with high levels of transience. This undermines the sense of community and makes it more difficult to deal with drugs and resulting crime.
- C Property owned by some Housing Associations is poorly managed, with anti-social behaviour not tackled.
- D One-third of housing is privately rented - over four times the regional average - and there is a low level of social rented housing in the area.

Other key housing issues/comments

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## 3 ENVIRONMENT

- A Poor street and pavement maintenance with no uniform standards.
- B Weak parking restrictions and enforcement.
- C Flytipping of mattresses and other rubbish.
- D Dog fouling.
- E The Greenway project does not extend to St Leonards.
- F Shortage of recycling facilities.

Other key environment issues/ comments

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## 4 EDUCATION & YOUNG PEOPLE

- A Lack of a co-ordinated approach to children and young people.
- B Shortage of facilities for all ages, especially play areas.

Other key education issues/ comments

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## 5 COMMUNITY FACILITIES

- A Several existing local facilities - like schools and the Marina Pavilion - are under-used by the general community.
- B Many people are confused by the number of different agencies and telephone numbers to access public services. The Forum is keen to see a one-stop drop-in shop in Central St Leonards.

Other key facility issues/ comments

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## 6 HEALTH

- A Not enough opportunities for physical activities which would improve health.
- B Poor eating habits, especially associated with poverty.
- C High rates of cancer and heart disease.
- D Highest rate of teenage pregnancy in Hastings.
- E High rate of mental illness.
- F High rates of drug and alcohol abuse.

Other key health issues/comments

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## 7 TRANSPORT

- A Poor public transport, particularly for the elderly.
- B Pedestrians in competition with motor traffic.

Other key transport issues/comments

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## 8 POVERTY AND UNEMPLOYMENT

- A 13% unemployment rate puts Central St Leonards in the worst 100 wards nationally (out of 8414 wards). It is within the worst 10 % of areas nationally for child poverty.
- B Lack of sufficient access to employment advice and guidance locally for the unemployed. Young people in particular need more help to get into work.
- C Black and minority ethnic people seem to be under-represented amongst major employers.
- D St Leonards has not had the same level of investment in housing and the environment as parts of Hastings.

Other key poverty issues/comments

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## 9 FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

- A Local people want to be more involved in planning the future of St Leonards.
- B The future of the Magdalen Road convent site needs to be discussed with the local community.
- C The housing tenure balance in the area is not conducive to a sustainable long-term community.

Other key future development issues/comments

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# Priorities for Action in the next 12 - 18 months

Do you agree these are the right priorities? Add any others and your comments in the spaces provided.

Agree Disagree Not sure

## 1 A SAFER PLACE

- A Tighter control and enforcement of licensed premises, with better training for staff.
- B Reduce levels of on-street drinking.
- C More visible police presence, with police surgeries held in local community facilities.
- D Dedicated police drugs team.
- E Review of street warden service with residents to increase effectiveness, and increase parks supervision.
- F Review street and park lighting levels with residents, and establish a single contract and control of lighting for streets, alleys and parks.
- G Provide alarms for the elderly and vulnerable.

Other priorities/comments

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## 2 DECENT HOMES

- A Promote the accreditation scheme for private landlords and the registration scheme for Houses in Multi-Occupation (HMOs).
- B Carry out inspections with effective enforcement against bad landlords.
- C Set up a joint board with residents to oversee the new Housing Renewal Area, and tackle unfit housing and empty homes.
- D Promote the area for accommodation for students from the new University Centre.
- E The Council and Housing Associations to agree with the Forum a local lettings policy.
- F Landlords, the police and the Council to work together to tackle anti-social behaviour and report quarterly on action taken.

Other priorities/comments

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## 3 A GOOD PLACE TO LIVE

- A Reduce to 2 days the time for dirty bulk rubbish like mattresses to be removed.
- B Council to reorganise its street-based staff to increase supervision of the streetscape and tackle flytipping.
- C Promote responsible dog ownership and enforce dog fouling laws.
- D Establish uniform standards for repairs and reinstatement of pavements and paths.
- E Extend the Greenway project into St Leonards.
- F Strengthen parking restrictions on some streets and enforcement everywhere.
- G Provide Business Tax incentives for shop maintenance.
- H Develop plan with residents for improving recycling facilities.

Other priorities/comments

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## 4 CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

- A Joint plan for local children and youth provision to be agreed with the Forum.
- B Produce a calendar of all youth-related events for next year.
- C Provide fenced ball play areas, and play areas in parks.
- D Establish a local Young Peoples Forum.

Other priorities/comments

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## 5 COMMUNITY SUPPORT

- A Local schools to provide facilities for out-of-hours community activities.
- B Support training for young people in community issues, and use this resource to audit local community facilities.
- C Make Marina Pavilion more available for local community use.
- D Simplify access to information about public services, with a single contact point and easy complaints procedure.

Other priorities/comments

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## 6 A HEALTHIER PLACE

- A Promote healthy lifestyles through physical activities, eating fresh fruit and vegetables, and reducing smoking.
- B Create a joint agency plan with residents for developing better support for disadvantaged individuals and families.

Other priorities/comments

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## 7 ECONOMIC SUCCESS

- A Provide business and employment advice locally.
- B Develop mentoring and work experience schemes for young people.
- C Survey the employment of black and minority ethnic people in major businesses.
- D Set up a flea market involving young people.
- E Balance investment more equitably between St Leonards and Hastings.

Other priorities/comments

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## 8 FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

- A Seek the Forum's views on major planning applications, and involve local people in all strategic planning issues.

Other priorities/comments

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Agree Disagree Not sure