Team 20

User Manual

Seaton Valley Council Android Application

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Contents

1. Overview

1.1 Introduction

The Seaton Valley Council android app acts as a central hub of all things a Seaton Valley resident needs. The app is extremely dynamic and auto-updates all core information and is optimised across all android devices.

The application also includes features that are directed towards tourists

1.2 Feature Highlights

The Seaton Valley Council app includes a range of features; these being:

〉 **News/Events** – Keep track of the latest news articles the council have posted and browse upcoming local events.
〉 **Twitter** – Browse the councils Twitter feed without leaving the app.
〉 **Places** – View local points of interest in Seaton Valley (Restaurants, Cafes, Shops, ATMS etc.).
〉 **Contact** – Communicate with the council, regarding any query, with the easy to use contact form.
〉 **Report** – Report any issues in the local area directly to the council.
〉 **Council** – All need to know information about Seaton Valley council and the council's councillors.
〉 **Info** – Information about the Seaton Valley region and local parishes.

1.3 Manual Terms

→	Sliding action with finger in arrow direction.
◎	Clicking action.
→	Resulting action.

Figure 1.1

2. Installation and Setup

2.1 System Requirements

The following are the minimum hardware requirements for the application:

- ⟩ Android 4.4 KitKat API Level 19
- ⟩ 200Mhz Processor
- ⟩ 32MB of RAM
- ⟩ 20MB of Storage
- ⟩ GPS/Location Services (optional)
- ⟩ Mobile Data 3G/4G or Wi-Fi

2.2 Installation

You can download the Seaton Valley Council APK file from our website at www.bit.ly/team-20-ncl or scanning the following QR code (figure 2.1).

Figure 2.1

To install the app from the APK file you simply open it from your device, however you may first have to enable to permission options in the devices settings.

Alternatively, you can find it in the Google Play store under "Seaton Valley Council App (Team 20)".

2.3 Uninstall

To uninstall the application simply use your devices default uninstall procedure. This can be either to click and hold the application icon displayed in your devices application menu and then dragging it to the uninstall icon (usually located at the top of the screen).

Alternatively, you could navigate to your devices settings page, click on "Storage", then "Apps" and then scroll till you find the Seaton Valley council application. Click the app and then click the uninstall button.

3. User Interface

The Seaton Valley council application follows Googles Material design principles, so the functionality of the interface should be quite intuitive.

3.1 Navigation

Figure 3.1 below shows the home page that is used for navigation through the application. To navigate to your desired page simply click on the pages icon in the bottom half grid.

The navigation side bar, seen in figure 3.2, can be opened at any point in the app by swiping right from the left-hand side of the devices screen (see figure 3.3). You can scroll up/down to see the pane content and click on the icons to navigate to the selected page.
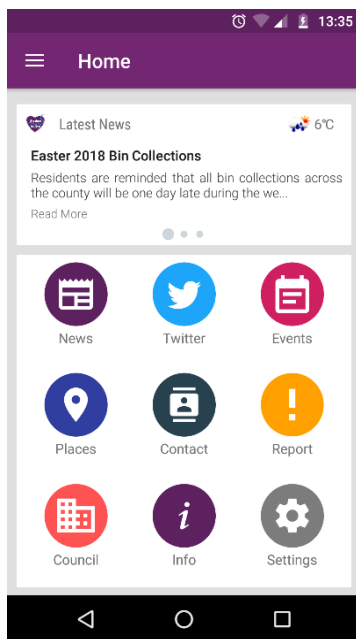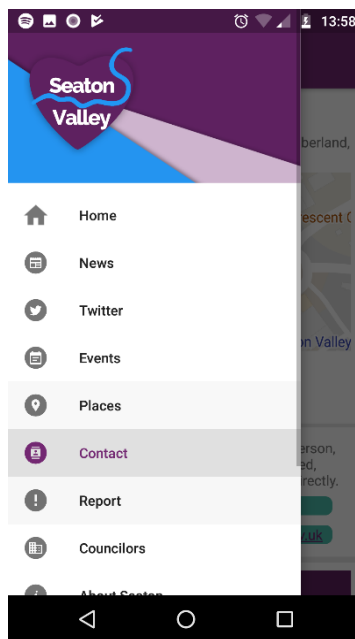

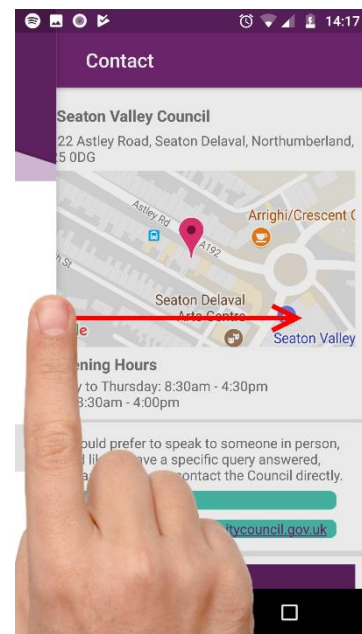*Figure 3.1 –Home Page*   *Figure 3.2 – Navigation Draw*   *Figure 3.3 – Action to open Navigation Draw*

The devices back button will take you to last open screen or exit the app when pressed while on the home page.

3.2 External Links

When presented with an underlined blue link you can tap on said link to perform an action on it. The action performed depends on the links purpose, a phone number for example will launch your devices Phone application and automatically configure it to all the clicked number, whereas an email address link would create an email, using your devices default email app, and automatically address it to the clicked link (see figure 3.4 for an example).
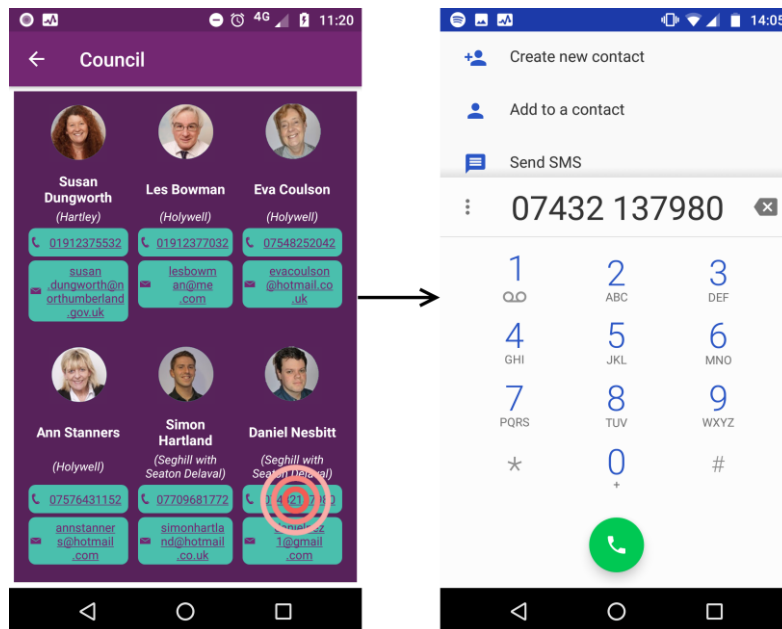

Figure 3.4 – Action of clicking a Phone Number External Link

4. Feature Breakdown

4.1 Homepage

As previously mentioned, and shown in figure 3.1, the home page includes a gird format of icons that are used to navigate to the different pages of the app.

4.1.1 Carousel

At the top of the home page is the latest news carousel. The carousel will automatically update to include the three most recent news posts from the council. To cycle to the next news post simply swipe either left or right (see figure 4.1.1).
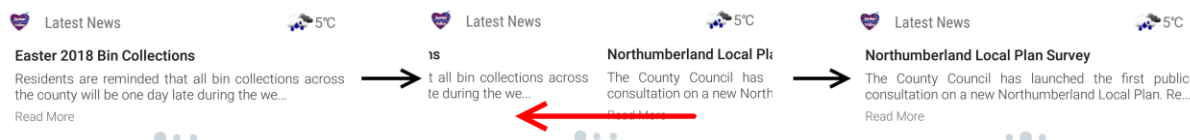

Figure 4.1.1 – Action of Swiping through Carousel News

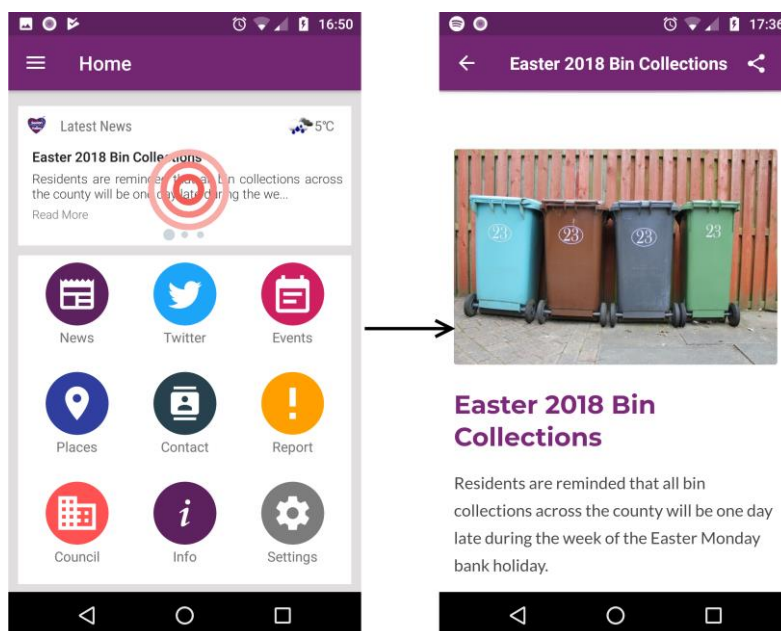Clicking on a post opens the full article in a separate screen (figure 4.1.2).

Figure 4.1.2 – Action of Opening an Article from the Carousel

The carousel content is cached; meaning if the application is launched without a data/internet connection then the last loaded news posts are still displayed.

4.1.2 Weather

In the top right of the carousel is the current weather (seen by the icon) and temperature of Seaton Valley. Clicking on the icon or temperature will open a more detailed weather report (figure 4.1.3).
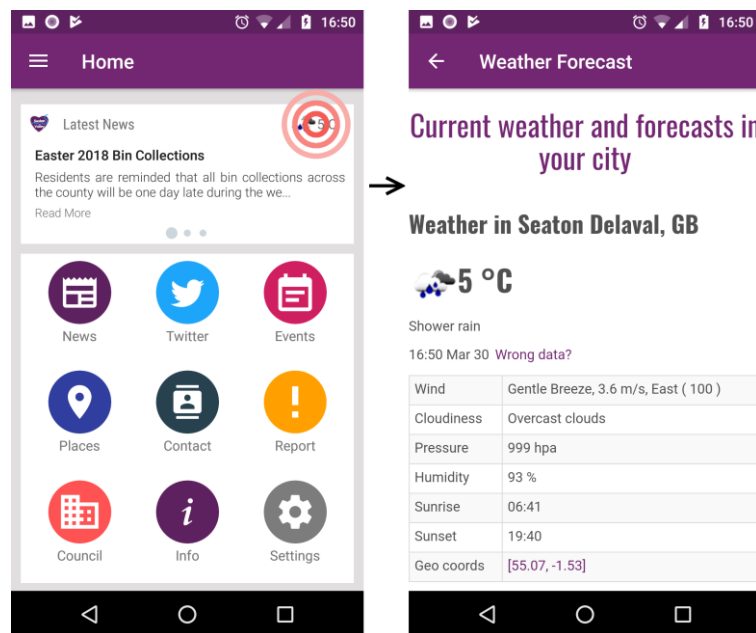

Figure 4.1.3 – Action of Opening Weather Report

The carousel content is cached, meaning if the application is launched without a data/internet connection then the last loaded news posts are still displayed, and is updated every time the app is launched (with a data/internet connection).

4.2 News

The News feature of the app displays a scrollable list of cards that resemble news articles that have been posted to the council's website. Each card contains the articles title and a snippet of the opening text. The number of cards to be downloaded and displayed is specified in the application settings menu.

Clicking on a card will open the article in question in a new web view, as seen in figure 4.2.1.
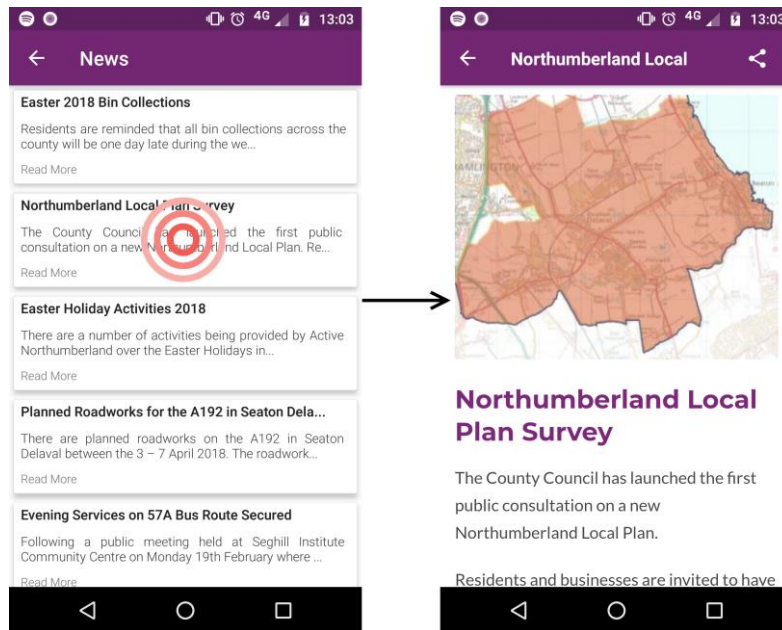

Figure 4.2.1 – Action of Opening a News Article

The news list (all cards) are cached on a successful load to enable future quick loads.

4.3 Twitter

The Twitter section of the app displays the full Seaton Valley Twitter timeline (@SeatonValleyCC), including the councils likes and retweets. The timeline is scrollable, so you can see all posts the council have ever made.

4.3.1 Opening a Tweet

Clicking on a post will open the post in your devices default application. This will either most likely be the official Twitter app, if your device has it installed, and you are logged in to a twitter account, or your devices installed browser. Your device may give you the option to choose what application to view the tweet in (figure 4.3.1).
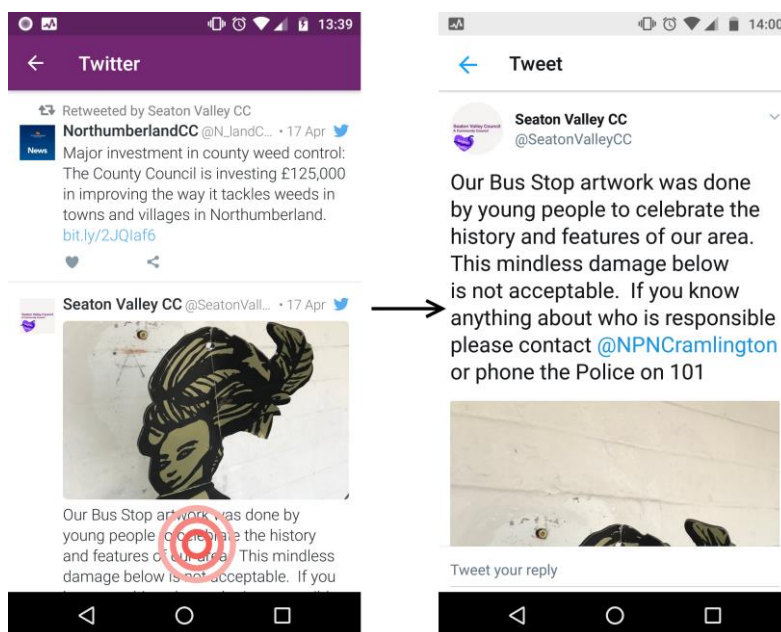

Figure 4.3.1 – Action of Opening a Council Tweet in the Official Twitter App

4.3.2 Sharing a Tweet

You can share a tweet by clicking the share icon located next to the favouring icon. This will allow you to share the tweet to a platform of your choosing.

4.3.3 Favouriting a Tweet

By clicking on the heart along the bottom of a tweet you can favourite the tweet. Upon your first time clicking the tweet you will be prompted to log in to a twitter account. Once you have successfully logged in the tweet will be favourited and you favourite further tweets without having to log in again. The process of this is shown in figure 4.3.2.
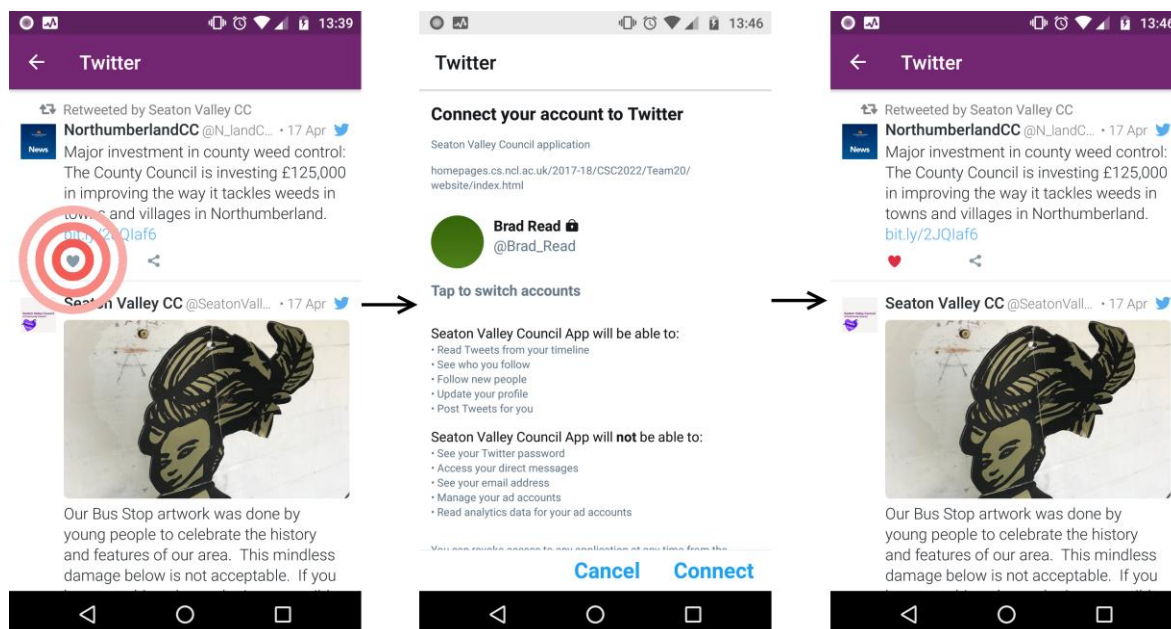

Figure 4.3.2 – Action of Favouriting a Tweet

4.3.4 Refreshing the Timeline

The councils time line can be refreshed by dragging down from the top of the page, see figure 4.3.3, and then releasing. An animated loading icon will then display for a short while, which afterwards will return a newly updated timeline.
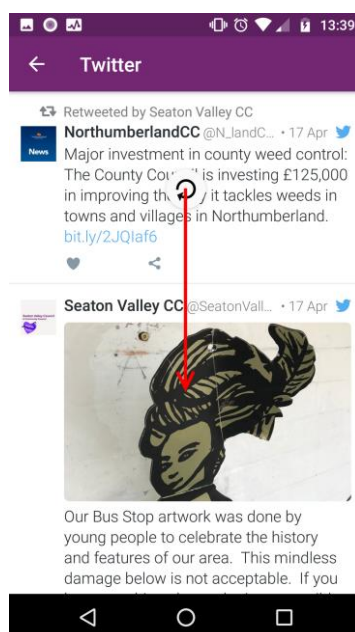

Figure 4.3.3 – Action of Refreshing the Timeline

4.4 Events

The Events feature of the app displays a scrollable list of cards that resemble events that have been posted to the council's website. Each card contains the events title and a brief description of the event. The number of cards to be downloaded and displayed is specified in the application settings menu.

Clicking on a card will open the event in question in a new web view, as seen in figure 4.4.1.
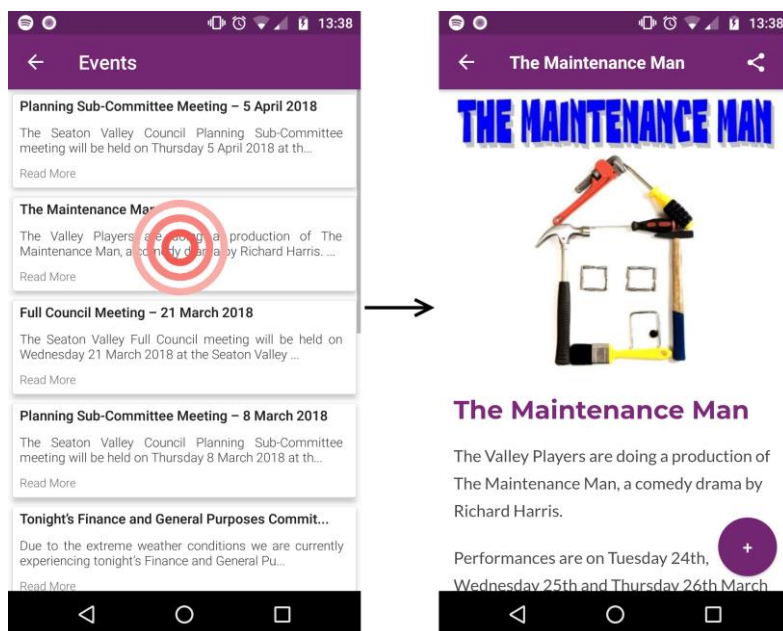

Figure 4.4.1 – Action of Opening an Event Page

The news list (all cards) are cached on a successful load to enable future quick loads.

4.4.1 Add to Calendar

Clicking on the "+" icon in the bottom right of an event will give you the option to add the event to your devices calendar, as seen in figure 4.4.2.
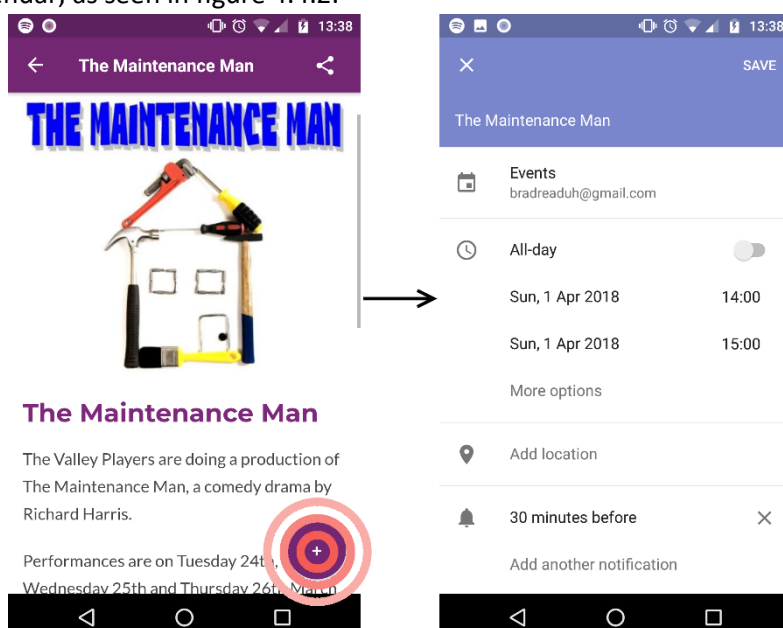

Figure 4.4.2 – Action of Adding an Event to the Devices Calendar

4.5 Places

The Places feature uses a combination of Google Places and Google Maps to bring you all the activities there is to do in Seaton Valley.

You can select from a range of categories, as seen in figure 4.5.1, and see establishments/places fitting that category, as seem in figure 4.5.2, with their address and rating (fetched from Google Places).
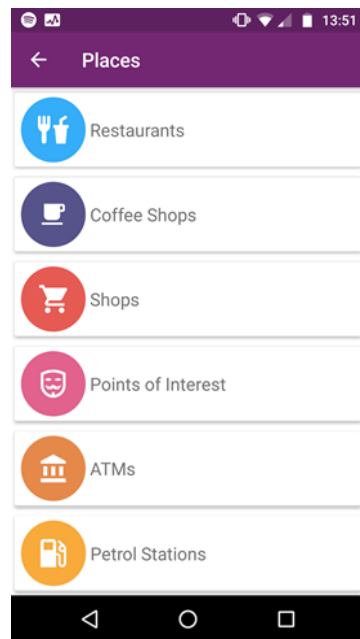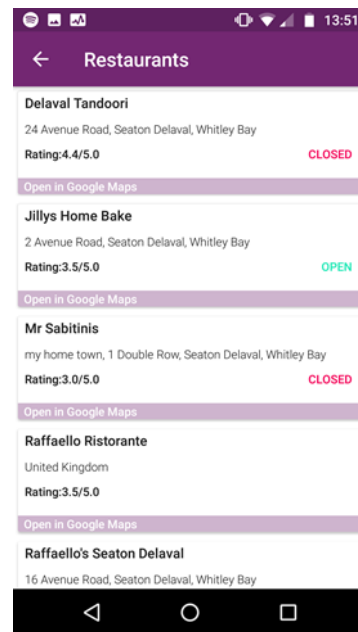

Figure 4.5.1 – Places Categories

Figure 4.5.2 – Places in Restaurant Category

4.5.1 Navigation

Once you have found a place that you would like to view in Google Maps or would like to navigate to you can click on its card and a separate screen will appear. This screen will pinpoint the place in question location using Google maps. The map is interactive, meaning that you can zoom in/out by pinching with 2 fingers and you can move your view point by dragging 2 fingers down/across the map.

Clicking on the pointer will display the places name and allow you to click on the navigation icons located at the bottom right of the screen (figure 4.5.3). This will open either the Google Maps app or Google Maps in browser (if your device does not have the Google Maps app) and automatically plot a route from your current GPS location (if your device has location services enabled) to the chosen place in question.
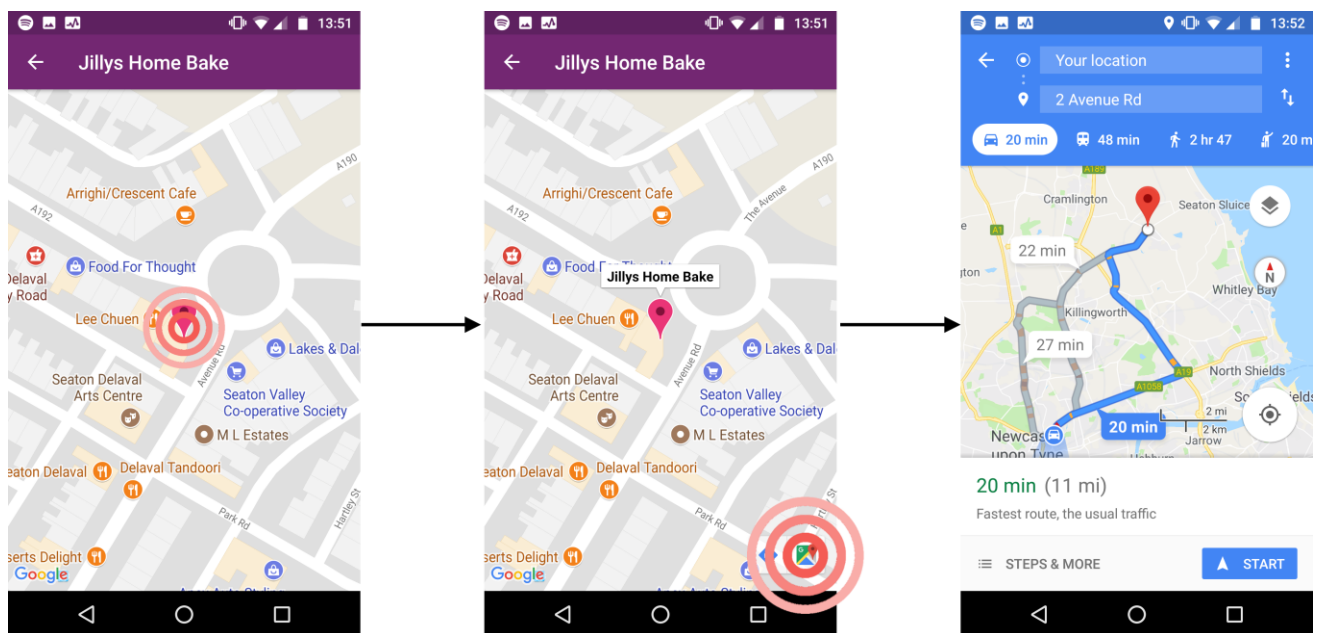

Figure 4.5.3 – Action of Navigating to a Place (Location Services Enabled)

4.6 Contact

The Contact page allows you to send an email enquiry directly to the council's email address. You can fill out your custom enquiry using the provided fields seen in figure 4.6.1.
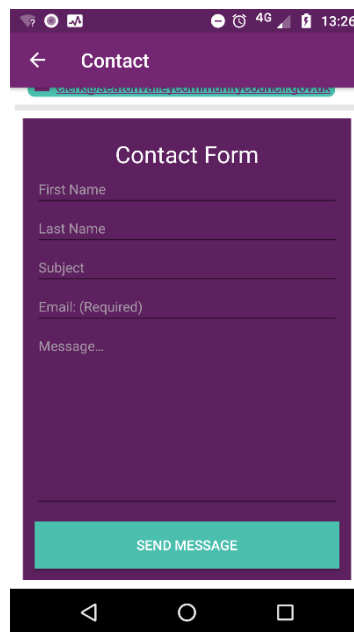

Figure 4.6.1 – Contact Form Fields

There are a few restrictions on the inputs into each field, these being:

〉 **First Name** – Required, cannot be empty.
〉 **Last Name** – Required, cannot be empty.
〉 **Message Text** – Required, cannot be empty and must be longer than 20 characters.
〉 **Email** – Required, cannot be empty and be in a valid email format.

Also, using the Google Map, you can navigate to the Seaton Valley councils' office using the steps listed in section 4.5.1 Navigation.

4.7 Report

The Report page allows you to report an issue to the council via an email enquiry. You can fill out your custom report using the provided fields seen in figure 4.7.1.
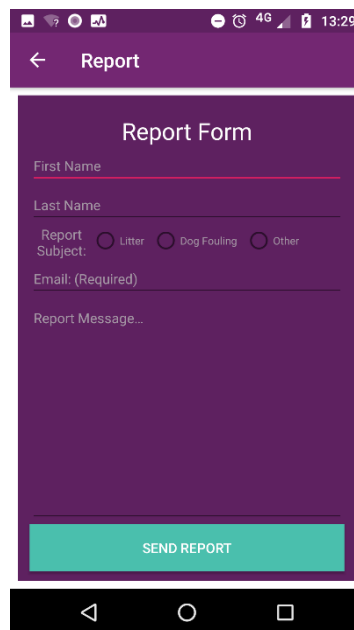

Figure 4.7.1 – Report Form Fields

There are a few restrictions on the inputs into each field, these being:

> **First Name** – Required, cannot be empty.
> **Last Name** – Required, cannot be empty.
> **Report Subject** – An option must be selected.
>> **Specify Field** (If other is selected) – Required, cannot be empty.
> **Message Text** – Required, cannot be empty and must be longer than 20 characters.
> **Email** – Required, cannot be empty and must be in valid email format.

4.8 Council

Introduction and brief description of Seaton Valley council. Contains the contact details of current councillors. Please refer to section 3.2 External Links to take full advantage of contacting the individual councillors.

4.9 Info

Information about each of the villages that make up Seaton Valley, ideal if you want to learn more about your local area.

The information included concerns the villages:

> Seaton Delaval
> Seaton Sluice
> Holywell
> New Hartley
> Seghill

4.10 Settings

The Settings page allows you to tailor the app to suit your preferences. You can turn the notification service off, so you will no longer receive real time notifications from the council. You can also select the amount of posts you would like to display from in the News and Events pages (smaller means less time spent loading). You can also clear the applications cache to save memory.
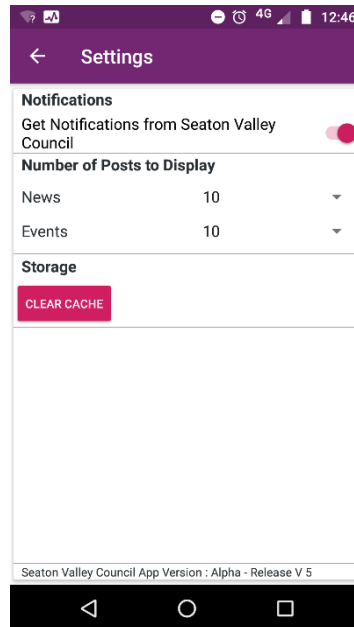

Figure 4.10.1 – Settings Page

4.11 Sharing

Sharing allows you to spread the word of the app or news/events, without leaving the app. The platforms you can share to are all compatible applications on your device (Text Message, Facebook Messenger etc.).

4.11.1 Sharing the Application

You can share the application through the "Share" tab in the bottom of the navigation draw. Clicking this will allow you to select a platform to share to and then spread the message of the app amongst your friends/followers.
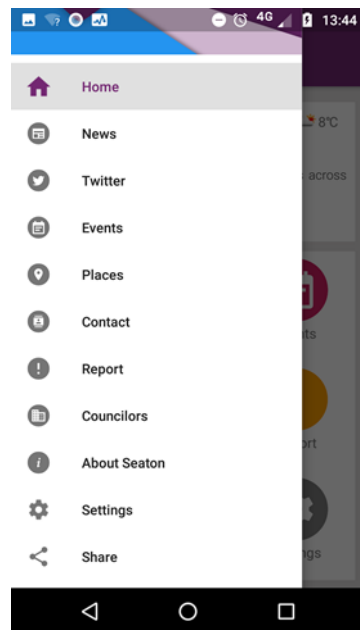

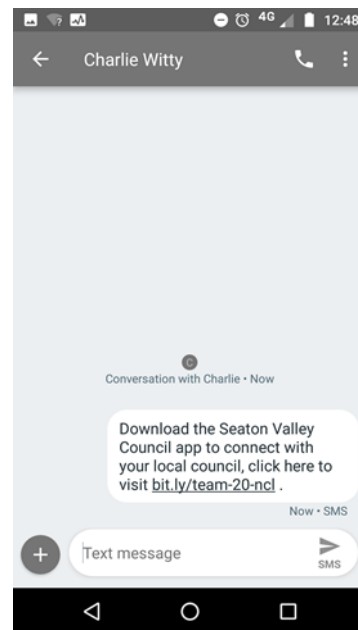*Figure 4.11.1 – Share tab at Bottom of Navigation Draw*

Figure 4.11.2 – Sharing Application via Text

4.11.2 Sharing a News Article/Event

You can also share specific articles/events. Once you have found an event or news article (news article in the case of figure 4.11.3) then you can share it by clicking the share icon in the top right of the screen. From there you select the platform you want to share it to. Figure 4.11.4 and 4.11.5 are examples of what it is like to share via text message.

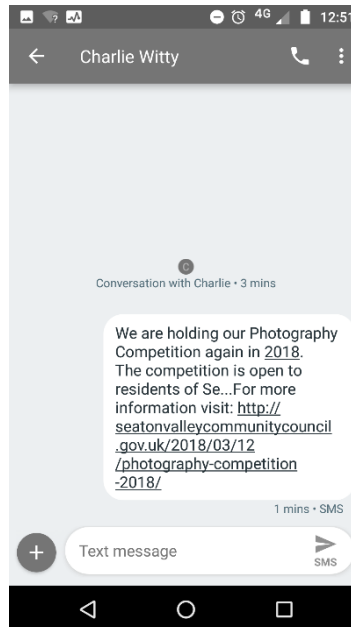*Figure 4.11.3 – Share at Top Right of News Article*

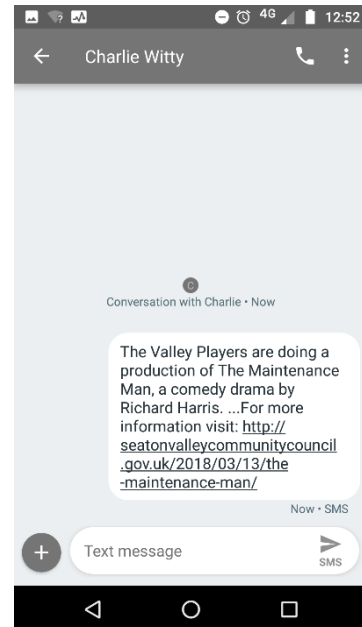*Figure 4.11.4 – Sharing a News Article via Text*

Figure 4.11.5 – Sharing an Event via Text

4.12 Notification Service

Seaton Valley council can send you real time custom notifications so that you can see urgent news (e.g. schools are closed due to heavy snow). Clicking on the notification will launch the Seaton Valley app.
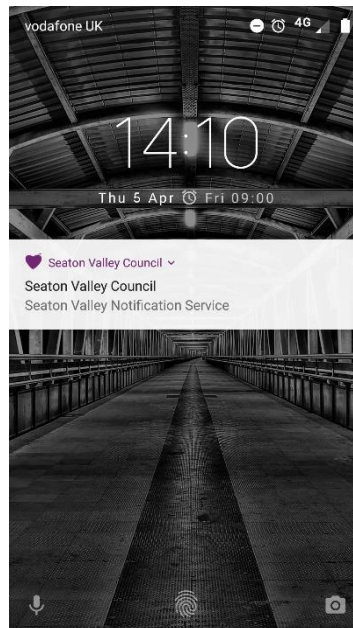

Figure 4.12.1 – Notification Service