

Rudgwick Parish Council

Weekly Clerk's Update: 21st – 27th October 2024 (Agenda November 2024)

To: Parish Councillors

c.c: Christian Mitchell (West Sussex County Councillor)
Richard Landeryou (Horsham District Councillor)

From: Anna Clayton

The weekly update provides information regarding:

- Announcements/delegated decisions by the Clerk
- Planning information
- Correspondence/communications from parishioners
- Correspondence/communications from outside organisations

List of organisations that communicate with the Council on a regular basis.

- AIRS (Action in Rural Sussex)
- APCAG (Association of Parish Councils Aviation Group)
- CAGNE (Communities Against Gatwick Noise Emission)
- CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England)
- HALC (Horsham Association of Local Councils)
- HDC (Horsham District Council)
- NALC (National Association of Local Councils)
- WSALC (West Sussex Association of Local Councils)
- WSCC (West Sussex District Council)

Clerk's announcements/delegated decisions:

- **£2,152.58 VAT reclaim (Jul, Aug, Sep) credited to current account**

GENERAL REMINDER: If you wish to speak face to face to a member of staff, please contact the Clerk on 07927 702321 during her office working hours (Monday – Wednesday 9.30 – 15.30).

Delegated Applications

Delegated Applications for noting at Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 11 th November 2024	
Application No:	Response:
Applicant:	

Reason for Application:	
Official Response Date:	

Applications for consideration at Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting

Applications for consideration at Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 11 th November 2024	
Application No:	Response:
Applicant:	
Reason for Application:	
Official Response Date:	

Decisions

HDC Council Decisions – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 11 th November 2024	
Application No: DC/24/1274	Response:/Comments: Permitted RPC - no objection
Applicant: Dale Cottage, Church Street, Rudgwick	
Reason for Application: Demolition of existing concrete garage and erection of replacement garage. Erection of a single storey rear orangery.	
Official Response Date: 26.09.2024	

Applications going to Committee

Applications going to Committee – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 11 th November 2024	
Application No:	Response/Comments:

Applicant:	
Reason for Application:	
Official Response Date:	

Appeals Lodged / Appeals Determined

Applications going to Committee – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 11th November 2024	
Application No:	Response/Comments:
Applicant:	
Reason for Application:	
Official Response Date:	

New Planning Compliance Issues

Applications going to Committee – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 11th November 2024	
Application No:	Response/Comments:
Applicant:	
Reason for Application:	
Official Response Date:	

Parish Councils Website

Rudgwick Parish Council's New Website is now live!
Thank you for your ongoing patience while this was under construction.

<https://rudgwick-pc.gov.uk>

Correspondence

Email dated 25.06.2024 from NALC
Special edition of the chief executive's bulletin

Working together to build stronger communities was the theme of our presence at the Local Government Association Conference in Harrogate this week. Our involvement included being one of the conference sponsors, a joint exhibition stand with the Society of Local Council Clerks, holding a fringe event on how working together can build stronger communities, and supporting Braunstone Town Council's showcase in the Innovation Zone.

I'm pleased to share some important announcements from the government that address critical issues we've been passionately advocating for, where we've served as a strong voice on the national stage. The deputy prime minister, Angela Rayner MP, announced in her [speech](#) that the government will consult on:

- Changes to the standards regime include removing the requirement for councillors' home addresses to be published and introducing sanctions.
- Allowing councils to use virtual attendance at council meetings. A [consultation paper](#) has been published with a closing date of 19 December. We will be responding, and I encourage all parish and town councils, county associations, and individual councillors and clerks to participate in this important consultation. Your responses are vital in demonstrating the strong support for this flexibility, building on the momentum from the previous call for evidence.

We look forward to working with the government to ensure these proposals extend to parish and town councils and to press other issues of concern to the sector.

On your behalf at the Local Government Association Conference, Keith, myself and other colleagues represented the sector in many ways, such as:

- Meeting with principal authority officers and councillors (including those from parish and town councils), exhibitors, national bodies, and other delegates to make the case for the role of parish and town councils in improving communities and helping deliver the new government's missions.

- Spreading awareness of the fantastic work parish and town councils do nationwide with our [Did You Know Flyer](#).
- Showcasing the work of our [Star Council Awards](#) Council of the Year 2023 winner, Braunstone Town Council, in the Innovation Zone at a packed standing-room-only session.
- Highlighting the importance of working together to build stronger communities at a fringe event with over 60 attendees. You can read more about what our impressive panel, which featured the National Youth Agency, Shrewsbury Town Council and the Town and Country Planning Association, had to say in their [articles](#).

For more highlights throughout the conference, please see [NALC's X \(formerly Twitter\) account](#), [Justin Griggs](#) and [my own](#).

I want to thank colleagues from NALC and SLCC for their hard work in the run-up to and throughout this week and the interest shown by conference attendees in our sector's tremendous work. Implementing the proposed changes above will make our sector's work a little easier.

Email dated 25.10.2024 from WSALC

Public Consultation Remote Meetings and Proxy Voting (lasts 8 weeks from 24th Oct 2024)

At the moment all local councillors are required by law to attend Parish and Town Council meetings in person. The Government is now consulting on introducing powers for Parish and Town Councils to apply to the relevant authority for a dispensation to attend formal council meetings remotely and vote by proxy in certain circumstances. Your council can agree to submit an agreed response on behalf of the Council to this consultation. Equally all Councillors can also submit a response individually. Full details can be found here:

[Enabling remote attendance and proxy voting at local authority meetings - GOV.UK](#)

Kind regards,



WSALC Limited

Phone 07724 545699

Website www.wsalc.co.uk

Eastgate House, Dogflud Way, Surrey, GU9 1UD

Email dated 25.10.2024 from WSALC
Sussex Resilience Forum - Local Risk Perception Survey

A new survey is set to reveal how prepared Sussex residents are for emergencies.

The survey <https://sussexpolice.welcomesyourfeedback.net/srf> aims to identify current levels of risk awareness and preparedness across the county. The results will be used to ensure residents have the information they need to help them become more resilient.

The top risks that Sussex faces, including flooding, wildfires and utilities disruption, are contained in the [Community Risk Register for Sussex](#), which provides an assessment of how likely these risks are to happen and the impacts if they do, so that local people can be better prepared in their homes, communities and businesses.

The Community Risk Register is produced by the Sussex Resilience Forum (SRF), whose membership covers the Sussex Police force area and includes the emergency services, local authorities, Environment Agency, health agencies, and voluntary and private sector organisations such as utility companies. The SRF provides a formal structure for these organisations to work together, to identify potential risks and produce and test emergency plans to either prevent or reduce the impact of any incident on local communities.

Commenting on the launch of the Local Risk Perception Survey, SRF Chair Assistant Chief Constable Steve Rayland, Sussex Police, said: "I urge residents to complete the local risk perception survey and share their views with us. The responses will help us identify what further support and information our communities require so that we can help them to be more resilient."

Please click [here](#) to complete the survey. It will only take 5 minutes to complete.

If you need any support to complete the survey please contact:

SussexResilienceForum@sussex.police.uk.



WSALC Limited

Phone 07724 545699

Website www.wsalc.co.uk

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Company no 8500937 registered in England

Email dated 24.10.2024 from WSCC
County Council improves safety of children's school journeys with active travel initiatives

NEWS RELEASE



County Council improves safety of children's school journeys with active travel initiatives

West Sussex County Council has recently completed over £1million worth of transport improvements outside primary schools as part of active travel to school schemes to encourage families to leave their cars at home and choose active, sustainable travel options for the school run.

A key part of this is the School Streets initiative which aims to reduce traffic and make the space outside the school gates safer, encouraging walking, wheeling, or cycling as a more desirable option for the journey to school. By restricting traffic on roads outside schools during drop-off and pick-up times, with exemptions for residents, emergency services, and Blue Badge holders, these areas become pedestrian and cycle only zones.

Following a successful trial, the experimental traffic restrictions outside the three schools, Arundel Church of England Primary School in Arundel, Thomas A Becket Junior School in Worthing and Swiss Gardens Primary School in Shoreham, have now been made permanent.

Now, 3 more schools will be implementing the School Streets initiative this school year; The Mill Primary, Crawley; River Beach Primary, Littlehampton; and St Joseph's Infant and Junior, Chichester. Over the coming months, the County Council will work closely with 'Sustrans', 'Living Streets' and the participating schools in advance of the schemes going live. Permanent Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) will soon be advertised, and it is hoped that the initiatives will begin at the start of the summer term.

West Sussex County Council also secured £1,014,000 capital grant funding from Active Travel England (ATE), to deliver further active travel, throughout 2024/25. These improvements include:

- Signalised crossing improvements with an upgraded uncontrolled crossing at Lavant CE Primary School.
- A new segregated cycle track on Lancing Beach Green between the western entrance and the skatepark, which will alleviate pedestrian/cycle conflict on the existing shared path in front of The Perch Café and kiosk. Improvements to the existing path could commence before the end of 2024 with construction of the new cycle track currently expected in spring 2025.
- Upgrading the existing puffin crossing on B2259 Felpham Way, Bognor Regis to a toucan crossing to support walking, wheeling and cycling to Felpham Community College and Downview Primary School. Construction is currently expected to commence before the end of 2024.

- A new puffin crossing outside West Worthing station. Construction currently expected to commence in spring 2025.

A number of additional active travel to school improvements have been delivered that include:

- Improved crossing facilities, with puffin style crossing points featuring low energy LEDs at Homefield Primary (formerly Chesswood Junior) School
- Footpath improvements at the end of the bridle way and school entrance at Birchwood Grove CP School
- A new shared pedestrian and cyclist path, as well as alterations to bus stops and parking restrictions to support the new pedestrian crossing at Yapton Primary School.

The new pedestrian crossing on Chesswood Road, Worthing supports safer journeys to several schools in the area, including Homefield Primary School (formerly Chesswood Junior and Lyndhurst Infant schools), Davison Girls High School, St Andrews High School, and Springfield Infant School.

The improvements were delivered following strong support from the schools and wider local community and aim to address a number of issues raised at this key junction. This crossing not only improves road safety but also supports travel, enhancing access to schools, local leisure facilities and nearby residential areas.

Cllr Joy Dennis, the County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, said: "I'm delighted that more schools are joining the successful School Streets initiative, and we are able to deliver more safety improvement projects outside our schools, as part of our commitment to making journeys to school safer."

"These changes make such a difference to school users and our local communities. We believe that by improving local facilities and partnering with local schools to implement Active Travel to school initiatives, we can help reduce congestion on our roads, improve air quality outside our schools, make travel safer for all road users, and will help nurture a culture of active travel choice to schools in West Sussex."

These projects are in line with the ambitions set out in **Our Council Plan**, the **West Sussex Transport Plan** and the **Active Travel Strategy**. For more information on the **School Streets initiative**, including the report from the first phase, visit [School Streets | Your Voice West Sussex](#).

Email dated 24.10.2024 from HDC

FINAL REMINDER - Community Support Networking Marketplace - 7th November 2024

Have you booked your place at the **Community Support Networking Marketplace** event - **7 Nov** yet? 😊

If not please note that **Bookings will CLOSE on Fri 1 Nov.**

Event details can be found in the revised invite, below.

We are thrilled that we now have 36 organisations confirmed to host stalls and over 50 community based professionals/advisors already booked to attend.

Places are FREE , but **please BOOK by Friday 1 Nov DEADLINE** to avoid disappointment.

To BOOK: – <https://bookwhen.com/hdc-community-development#focus=ev-so3p-20241107103000>

Once booked, you will get a reminder of the event details week or so before the event.

If you have any questions please do ask.

Many thanks, Kay

Kay Whiteley

Community Development Officer

Telephone: [01403 215643](tel:01403215643) | [07387 521987](tel:07387521987)

Email: Kay.Whiteley@horsham.gov.uk



Email dated 24.10.2024 from WSCC

Autistic and Wonderfully Weird Ambassadors Conference inspires children and young people



news release

Autistic and Wonderfully Weird Ambassadors Conference inspires children and young people

Positive messaging around autism in schools was at the heart of the West Sussex Autism and Wonderfully Weird Ambassadors Conference which took place earlier this week.

More than 15 ambassador groups from across West Sussex, made up of neurodivergent pupils and some of their neurotypical peers, attended the conference which was organised by West Sussex County Council.

The unique conference was made possible through the Autism In Schools project, which is funded by the NHS Sussex Integrated Care Board. One of the project's key objectives is to communicate positive messages about autism in schools and to ensure that the autistic perspective is heard, understood and acted upon in schools throughout the county.

Councillor Jacquie Russell, West Sussex County Council's Cabinet Member for Children, Young People, Learning and Skills, said: "The Autism Ambassadors, many of whom have lived experience of autism themselves, do a fantastic job during these events to help enable autistic people to have a voice.

"The success of the Autism and Wonderfully Weird Ambassadors conference enables an understanding of autism to spread amongst work and community colleagues, family and friends.

"It is always inspiring to hear from such interesting speakers, which is an important part of Our Council Plan's aim to help all of our residents and communities to fulfil their potential. I hope the young people who attended the conference share that inspiration and take it with them into the future."

NHS Sussex clinical lead for neurodivergence and mental health, Dr Bikram Raychaudhuri, said: "Identifying the unique strengths and talents that autistic children and young people have to offer, while providing the right support and environments they need in order to be able to thrive, can have a life-changing impact not only on them, but also their families and our wider community too.

"The conference and the wider Autism in Schools programme – which we are now rolling out across the whole of Sussex following a successful pilot in the west - has been about recognising and accommodating neurodivergence within school environments and prioritising inclusion support."

A total of 260 people attended the event, which was held at the Falmer Stadium, the home of Brighton and Hove Albion Football Club, with the ambassadors' ages ranging from eight to 25 and the majority being between 10 and 14. The event involved a range of activities including a graffiti workshop, which gave people the opportunity to create their own mural focusing on the positives of being autistic. There was also a number of speakers on the day

including autistic comedian Joe Wells, Paralympic gold medallist Jessica-Jane Applegate and also members from the West Sussex emergency services who each shared their own experiences of autism.

Speaking on the event, Prof. Nicola Yuill, Professor of Developmental Psychology at the School of Psychology, University of Sussex said: "Schools around Sussex are doing excellent work in creating more autism-friendly environments so that neurodivergent students can thrive in their education. At The Autism Community Research Network Sussex (ACoRNS), based in the School of Psychology, we've been very happy to work alongside them, bringing together academic research, pupil lived experience and educator expertise.

"This conference is a really ambitious and novel way to bring autistic students together into a space adapted for their needs and to showcase 'neuroaffirmative' approaches, with sessions from autistic people achieving in various fields, and a talk by Professor Julia Simner on the amazing autistic brain."

For more information on support for parent carers of children and young people aged up to 25 with special educational needs and/or disabilities visit the West Sussex Parent Carer Forum website [here](#).

West Sussex County Council also wants to hear from autistic people, their families and carers and professionals working with autistic people to help us make the county a better place for those with lived experience of autism.

A consultation made up of in-person workshops and online surveys is open until 16 December. The findings will help inform a new autism strategy that aims to improve services and support for autistic people of all ages in West Sussex.

Please see our [webpage](#) for more information about the consultation and how to take part.

Highways, Transport and Planning



Background

The Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and Access Ranger teams manage approximately 4100km of rights of way in West Sussex which includes:

Public Footpaths - pedestrians

Public Bridleways - pedestrians, horse riders & pedal cyclists

Restricted Byways - as Bridleway and non-motorised vehicles such as horse and cart

Byways Open to All Traffic (BOAT) – all of the above and motorised vehicles

Maintenance and Responsibilities:

In line with our responsibilities as the Highway Authority, we undertake routine maintenance inspections. Each path in the County is walked at least once every 15 months to identify any defects or potential issues.

As the Highway Authority we are responsible for:

- Surface condition and surface vegetation.
- Appropriate signage of the network.
- Assets such as bridges on the network (not all bridges are WSCC responsibility).

If the issue is considered to be a landowner responsibility, they will be contacted accordingly. Landowners are generally responsible for:

- Side and encroaching vegetation.
- Trees (maintaining and clearing).
- Structures such as gates and stiles.
- Animals (it is an offence to allow an animal that is known to be dangerous in an area crossed by a PRoW).

Any identified issues will be prioritised and either dealt with as part of the routine maintenance contractor visit or included in alternative work programmes. These

include the Capital Improvements programme which covers projects costing greater than £10,000, or the Volunteer Ranger programme which covers smaller scale surface improvements, vegetation clearance and smaller scale bridge replacements. Each improvement is will follow a planning, design, and consultation process.

Between April to August 2024, the team has delivered £118,221 worth of surface, drainage and bridge improvements under the [Capital Delivery Programme](#). Projects included:

Buchan Path, Buchan Country Park, Broadfield

In May, a 600m length of path was widened and had new surface material applied. Alongside this, drainage works were undertaken to help prevent water run-off degrading the path surface with a bridge installed to cross the new drainage ditch.



Buchan Path 'Before'



Buchan Path 'After'

Footpath 66Hu at Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common, Hurstpierpoint

This footpath is a popular route that became narrow, gullied, and difficult for users to navigate. The 100m length of path was cleared, re-graded and surfaced to make the path wider and accessible for users including pushchairs. The works were completed in May 2024.



Footpath 66Hu 'Before'



Footpath 66Hu 'After'

Restricted byway 639, Plaistow, Chichester

An 800m length of restricted byway which runs south-west of Rickmans Lane was impassable virtually all year round due to poor drainage. Works were undertaken to clear and surface the path along with ditch clearance and culvert installation to assist with the drainage. The works were completed in July 2024.



Restricted Byway 639 'Before'



Restricted Byway 639 'After'

Bridleway 2065, Lancing

560m of the bridleway that runs between Hoe Court and College Drive in Lancing was gullied and slippery in the wet season due to underlying chalk. The path was re-graded and surfaced to provide a wider, level path for users providing a useful off-road link between Lancing College and the South Downs. The works were completed in August 2024.



Bridleway 2065 'Before'



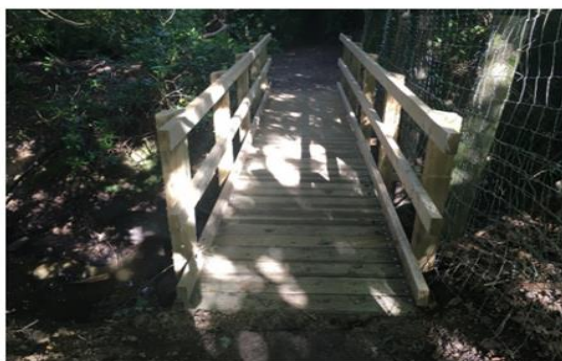
Bridleway 2065 'After'

Bridge Replacement in Leechpool Woods on Footpath 1697, Horsham

The bridge that crosses the stream in Leechpool Woods was damaged beyond repair by a fallen tree and required complete replacement. The path was closed until the bridge was replaced with a new 6.0m span timber footbridge which was installed in August 2024.



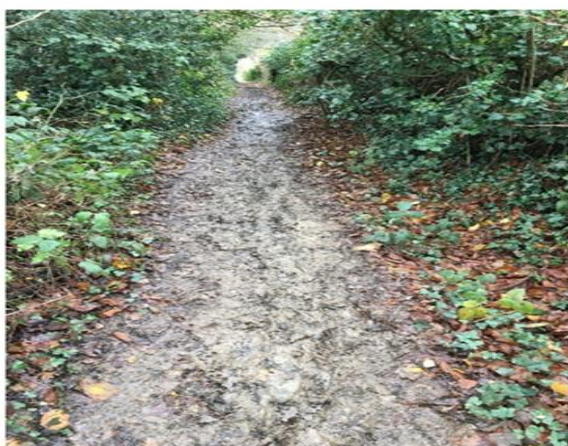
Footpath 1697 'Before'



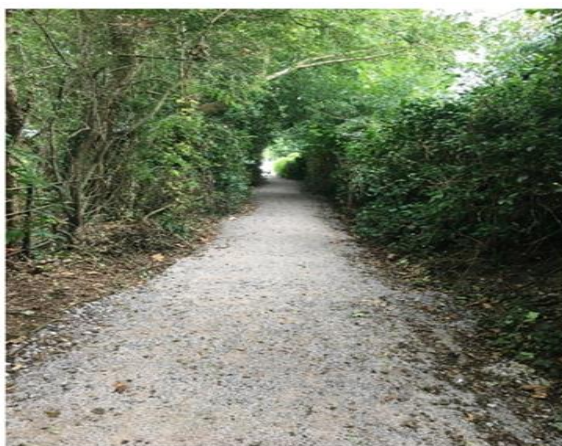
Footpath 1697 'After'

Footpath 18Bo, Bolney

This footpath runs west of The Street in Bolney to Bolney CoE School and is an important route from a housing development to the local Primary School. 140m of footpath was very muddy and impassable in wet conditions. The path was cleared and surfaced to provide a safe off-road route available to use all year round. The works were undertaken in August 2024.



Footpath 18Bo 'Before'



Footpath 18Bo 'After'

Bridleway 8C, Hassocks

475m of this bridleway, which runs to the east of College Lane was muddy and impassable during the winter. The path was cleared and surfaced to provide a usable bridleway link year-round. These works were undertaken in July 2024 and was funded using [Section 106](#) contributions.



Bridleway 8C 'Before'



Bridleway 8C 'After'

Footpath 300, Aldingbourne

This footpath which runs eastwards from Westergate Street in Aldingbourne, had 150m length of footpath which was very muddy and poorly drained making access difficult for users. The path had significant vegetation and ditch clearance carried out along with surfacing and a new wider plank crossings installed. These works were undertaken in August 2024 and was funded using [Section 106](#) contributions.



Footpath 300 'Before'



Footpath 300 'After'



Footpath 300 'Before'



Footpath 300 'After'

**We're working hard
to improve your roads**

Click here to follow our journey

**INVESTING IN
BETTER ROADS**

**Email dated 24.10.2024 from NALC
Chief Executives Bulletin**

NALC in parliament

Our ongoing [engagement programme](#) with the new government, parliament and stakeholders continued last week. I was pleased to join a rural roundtable hosted by Daniel Zeichner MP, the minister for rural affairs. This was a valuable opportunity to set out our offer on the part that governance in rural areas as our councils can play in helping the government achieve its missions and other priorities, such as community safety (more on that below). Our chair, Cllr Keith Stevens, met several new MPs (including co-leader of the Green Party, Adrian Ramsay MP), where he congratulated them, introduced NALC and county associations and briefed them on critical issues facing the sector. One priority issue is standards, so it was good that Keith had an extensive introductory meeting with the new chair of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, Doug Chalmers. The early meeting provided a great chance to learn more about the committee's evolving work programme, brief Doug on the sector, and reiterate our support for the previous report on ethical standards in local government.

Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2024/25

The Local Government Association (LGA) has informed us that the National Joint Council for Local Government Services has agreed on pay rates applicable from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025. For all spinal column points to 43, the agreed award was a flat payment of £1,290 per annum. For the scale points above, the increase was 2.5%. You can [find out more information](#) on our website.

New Local Council Award Scheme criteria

We are pleased to announce the launch of the new [Local Council Award Scheme](#) (LCAS) criteria. Several fundamental changes have been made after an extensive review, including public consultation and engagement with focus groups, stakeholders, and NALC committees. The [scheme levels](#) have been renamed Bronze, Silver and Gold. A [civility and respect](#) criteria have been added, starting from the Bronze Award, with requirements such as signing the [Civility and Respect Pledge](#), adopting dignity in work policy, and, for the Gold Award, providing evidence of supporting a culture of civility and respect. Additionally, the democratic mandate criteria have been strengthened, requiring parish and town councils to promote elections and democratic engagement at all scheme levels actively. Further amendments and new policy requirements have also been introduced. You can [find out more about the scheme](#) and how to apply on the NALC website.

On the blog: Utility Aid

[This week's blog](#) from Emily Berry, partnerships manager at Utility Aid, announces the launch of a new energy-switching site tailored for the charity and not-for-profit sector. As the UK's leading energy broker, Utility Aid supports organisations with energy contracts and resolves supplier issues while advising on renewable options and the journey to net zero. The new online switching platform simplifies the process, offering 24/7 access to utility quotations and chat with energy specialists during working hours. The site is designed for single-site properties, helping users save time and compare energy deals easily.

County associations conferences and AGMs

Our legal manager, Jane Moore, delivered a legal update for the Surrey Association of Local Councils on 17 October 2024. Jane spoke about upcoming legislation, such as the Employment Rights Bill and Martyn's Law, the new duty to prevent [sexual harassment in the workplace](#), and our legal team's recent work. Also, our member services manager, Anders Hanson, and improvement and development manager, Hazel Broatch, attended the Nottinghamshire Association of Local Councils Annual General Meeting. They ran a briefing and advice session on the Civility and Respect Project and provided support on using our new website. The event saw a speech from the Woodland Trust and the presentation of long service awards and the Best Kept Village Competition winners.

One Voice Wales Conference

Congratulations to colleagues at One Voice Wales for an excellent conference celebrating their 20th birthday and the 50th anniversary of the setting up town and community councils in Wales. There are now over 700 councils with around 8,000 councillors across Wales. In a rainy Builth Wells, we heard Jane Bryant MS, cabinet secretary for Housing and Local Government, stress the importance of a thriving and dynamic community council sector and thank community councillors for their dedication and hard work as "the backbone of communities." And there was cake!

Community safety campaign

Rural crime issues have featured prominently in our discussions with Rural Coalition colleagues this week and at a roundtable with Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) minister Daniel Zeichner MP. Rural crime is not just about the theft of farm machinery. Still, it includes anti-social behaviour, domestic abuse, county lines, and fly-tipping, as well as fear of crime in areas where the presence of police officers is stretched. Meanwhile, in a rural issues debate in the House of Lords, Baroness Hayden indicated, "We will tackle rural crime through a cross-government approach—for example, by increasing police patrols in rural towns and lanes, and by punishing anti-social behaviour, agricultural crime and county lines, with stronger laws to crack down on farm equipment theft and fly-tipping." In their community safety role, we will continue to flag that parish and town councils can be crucial in addressing these issues with other local partners. Also, in the [rural communities debate](#) on 15 October 2024, the Rural Coalition president, the Bishop of St Albans, drew attention to the [report](#) co-commissioned by NALC that concluded that the

right to support rural communities could add up to £19 billion to the national economy annually.

Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors online conference for parish and town councillors

Following our attendance at the recent political party conferences, we were pleased to continue our engagement through involvement in the Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors (ALDC) second online conference for parish and town councillors on 19 October 2024. Our president, Baroness Scott of Needham Market, opened the conference by thanking councillors for everything they do and reflecting on the general election, encouraging all councils to engage with their MPs. She also highlighted her advocacy in parliament over the last year on issues such as funding and standards. Our head of policy and communications, Justin Griggs, took part in a panel session on what councillors can achieve, where he called for councils to help us set up parish or town councils in unparished areas. Of course, we'd be happy to run similar sessions for other political parties at any of their events for parish and town councillors!

And finally...

This year's White Ribbon Day theme is 'It starts with men', so NALC asks: "How are you showing up as a male ally?" We seek a quote and/or a short video from men in the sector sharing how you support gender equality and challenge harmful behaviours. Your story could inspire others to act. The quotes and videos will be featured in our White Ribbon Day campaign. Please email your videos and quotes to daisy.petrow@nalc.gov.uk and be part of the change!

**Email dated 23.10.2024 from Sussex Police
It's National Rural Crime Action Week**



**Sussex
Police & Crime
Commissioner**

KATY BOURNE OBE





This week is National Rural Crime Action Week - it provides the opportunity to highlight the detrimental impact that rural crime has on communities and discuss how police forces are tackling crimes such as: hare coursing; fly-tipping and livestock worrying.

After securing public support for a precept increase in 2020, I was delighted to be able to use the funding so that Sussex Police could establish a dedicated Rural Crime Team who specialise in: agricultural crime; environmental crime; heritage crime; wildlife crime and dog theft.

On Monday, I attended a meeting with the [National Farmers' Union \(NFU\)](#) alongside Chief Constable Shiner. It was great to meet Andrew Strong and Martin Hole who are the West Sussex and East Sussex County Chairs of the NFU, to hear about what challenges our farmers are facing across the county when it comes to crime.

We were also joined by local farmers and the Chichester Branch Chair, Philip Velton who shared their experiences about reporting crimes and equipment theft, detailing how this affects not only their businesses but also makes them feel insecure and unsafe on their own land.

Chief Constable Shiner updated attendees about the recent work of our Rural Crime Team, which is now fully staffed and we discussed, in detail, the future of the team and how we can best work in partnership.

It was a positive meeting, with clear actions and outcomes for Sussex Police and I look forward to working closely with the NFU and partners on future projects and campaigns to ensure farmers know how best to protect their land, equipment and livestock.

Student officers to join Neighbourhood Policing Teams

On Friday, I held my Performance and Accountability Meeting (PAM). The meeting takes place each month and provides the opportunity for me to hold the Sussex

Police Chief Constable and her senior policing team to account on behalf of the public.

The meetings are webcast live and many of the agenda points are driven by what the public tell me through correspondence, engagement meetings or through my public surveys.

With many people letting me know they want to see more officers on foot across local communities in Sussex, in this month's PAM, I raised questions about Sussex's Neighbourhood Policing Teams.

It was good to hear that Sussex Police are currently undertaking a Neighbourhood Policing Review.

As part of this review, student officers who have finished their foundation training will now be embedded into our Neighbourhood Policing Teams, helping them to learn the challenges communities face right from the outset of when they start their independent patrols.

Previously, once student officers had finished their foundation training, they would have been embedded into response teams. Whilst this often means being the first on the scene at high-risk emergencies, it is not always offering the probationer an opportunity to learn those problem-solving techniques that you would pick up in a neighbourhood beat situation.

As I said during the PAM, it seems much more effective for both our student officers and the public, if our new officers are given the opportunity to get to know their local communities, engage with residents and understand the impact of crimes such as anti-social behaviour. It also means the public will see more of them.

With this change in place, as of this month, we have 76 student officers joining our Neighbourhood Policing Teams. I look forward to hearing updates from the Chief Constable and her team on how this review progresses and if this change brings positive difference. You can hear more by watching the replay of my PAM online.

www.sussex-pcc.public-i.tv/core/portal/home



Katy Bourne OBE
Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

Last chance to have your say



A final reminder that my current public survey closes on Thursday October 31st at 7am.

The survey asks for your feedback on the policing service you receive and will help to shape my Police & Crime Plan.

It doesn't take long to complete and what you have to say really matters.

Thank you to all who have taken the time to fill out the survey and share with family, friends and colleagues.



[SHARE WITH A FRIEND](#)

Email dated 22.10.2024 from HDC

Horsham District Local Plan 2023-40 Notice of Examination Hearings (Regulation 24)



Horsham District Local Plan 2023-2040

Notice of examination Hearings (Regulation 24)

The Horsham District Local Plan 2023-40 was submitted to the Secretary of State for examination on 26 July 2024. The Secretary of State has appointed Inspector Luke Fleming BSc (Hons) MRTPI to carry out the independent examination of the Plan.

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Regulation 24 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) that the examination hearings will commence on Tuesday 10 December 2024 at 9.30am.

Hearing days

Hearing days are currently scheduled to take place on the following dates:

- Tuesday 10, Wednesday 11, Thursday 12 December, with Friday 13 in reserve
- Tuesday 17, Wednesday 18, Thursday 19 December, with Friday 20 in reserve
- Tuesday 14, Wednesday 15, Thursday 16 January 2025, with Friday 17 in reserve
- Tuesday 21 and Wednesday 22 January, with Thursday 23 and Friday 24 in reserve.

Location

**The hearings will take place in the Main Conference Room at:
Horsham District Council, Parkside, Chart Way, Horsham, RH12 1RL.**

Sessions will normally begin at 9.30am (morning session) and 2pm (afternoon session), subject to final scheduling. Any updates to the hearing programme will be available on the examination webpage.

Find out more

Participants should refer to the Council's examination webpages for the full hearing programme, any changes to the programme, and all other examination documents

[Local Plan Examination](#)

All queries regarding the examination should be directed to the Programme Officer:

Kerry Trueman, Programme Officer Solutions Ltd.

Pendragon House, 1 Bertram Drive, Meols, Wirral, CH47 0LG

Email: programmeofficer@horsham.gov.uk

Telephone: 07582 310364



Stay connected



Parkside, Chart Way, Horsham,
West Sussex,
RH12 1RL



**Horsham
District
Council**

**Email dated 22.10.2024 from West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service
Fire service launches new community questionnaire**

We would like to invite you take part in West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service's new Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) questionnaire.

This new questionnaire has been designed to gather the views of everyone who lives, works or visits our county on the risks that concern them the most.

The findings of this questionnaire will be fed into the planning process of our next CRMP, which will run from 2026 – 2030.

I would urge you all to take five minutes to complete the survey and share your views.

You can do so using [our online survey](#), or if you would prefer to complete a printed copy of the questionnaire you can request one by emailing yourfireservice@westsussex.gov.uk or by calling 01243 786211.

Please do share this invitation with your councillors and encourage them to share their views.

The survey is open until December 15.

Kind regards,
Richard Abbot
Area Manager for Strategic Risk & Improvement
West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service

Email dated 18.10.2024 from ERTA
Battle for better rail links to/from Heathrow area 1

Please see revised diagram on the Heathrow Southern Rail Link Website:

<https://heathrowrail.com/proposed-route/>

Can you please make representations that they must consider the following:

1. extension to bay with Old Oak Common Station and a through tunnel to the Chiltern Main Lines
2. incorporate our west-north curve for direct waterloo running
3. incorporate and share tracks with the proposed 'Reading Arm' and
4. Support our calls for a rebuild of a modern Guildford-Cranleigh-Horsham-South Coast rail link for more and better access, capacity and through-puts creating space at 'congested' Guildford please?



BRTA needs these promoters on board, but also a power/authority to coordinate the bids for better rail links to Heathrow and how they may be accommodated/incorporated and used to inform support for connectivity.

I attach our ideas below.

Please write to your MP in support of what we are trying to achieve: <https://members.parliament.uk/members/commons>

and join/donate to BRTA to enable more and better: <https://brtarail.com/become-a-member/> Volunteers always welcome.

We also support:

1. A direct Tonbridge-Gatwick curve* and
2. A new-build Stone Cross-Polegate rail new-build for shaving 20 minutes off Brighton-Ashford and vice versa on the South Coast, A27 gets increasingly upgraded at £millions and land take, whilst rail lacks investment as we suggest and a fairly complacent landscape to rail choices generally here? Things must change, be part of it.
3. ***From above:** It does not diminish Redhill, rather creates more capacity for more trains and if our desire to see North Downs Railway Line electrified, would enable East Croydon-Guildford semi-fast direct running, maybe extended to Reading? That in turn releases rolling stock for redeployment.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Pill, BRTA CEO

<https://brtarailvolunteer.blogspot.com/>

Email dated 18.10.2024 from WSCC
Woodlands Meed update – 18.10.2024



news release

Woodlands Meed update – 18.10.2024

Following the collapse of the contractor for the works at Woodlands Meed College, ISG, WSCC immediately moved onto the site to make it secure and safe. In addition to security patrols the site is now fenced to ensure that there can be no illegal entry.

There are a number of outstanding snags regarding the main building which ISG sub-contractors have mostly declined to resolve. WSCC will be arranging for our own facilities management contractor to address these.

We are working with the college to prioritise the work and anticipate being able to address the most urgent works in the October half term. The remainder will be completed at a time agreed with the college.

The second phase of works was the main focus of ISG when the administrator was appointed. We are currently scoping the works to confirm what needs to be completed. We are looking at two options to move forward:

- Engage with a contractor which already has a good track record with us
- Use an existing framework.

Given the urgency of this project we are considering each of these options in parallel, with the aim of appointing a contractor as soon as possible and completing the works during summer 2025.

Our priority remains working with the college to ensure the works are completed as soon as possible and to the highest standard that we and the staff, pupils and parents expect.

Email dated 17.10.2024 from WSCC

West Sussex County Council asks public not to abuse its staff



NEWS RELEASE

West Sussex County Council asks public not to abuse its staff

West Sussex County Council is asking members of the public not to abuse its staff.

In recent months there has been an escalation of both verbal and physical abuse aimed at members of WSCC staff and our contractors who are carrying out vital work maintaining the county's highways and the council is saying it is not acceptable and will be dealt with.

Cllr Joy Dennis, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, said: "It completely baffles me that there are people who think it is acceptable to abuse our staff and those carrying out work on our behalf. I understand and appreciate that people are frustrated at delays caused by roadworks or at the speed of a pothole repair being completed, but to abuse the very staff who are there to rectify the situation just doesn't make sense. In some cases, the abusive behaviour has resulted in people having to leave the site which then further delays the process.

"I know that the majority of our residents understand and are patient with those who are out there in all weathers to keep our highways open and functioning. But there is a minority who think they have the right to abuse and threaten our staff. Let me be clear, they do not and we will not hesitate to take action against those who feel they have this right. Our staff, like all of our residents, have the right to work without fear of intimidation or threat and we will always support and protect them to ensure that they can do this."