

Rudgwick Parish Council

Weekly Clerk's Update: 18th – 22nd November 2024 (Agenda December 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:

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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 9 th December 2024	
Application No:	Response: No objection
Applicant:	

Reason for Application:	
Official Response Date:	

Applications for consideration at Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting

Applications for consideration at Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 9 th December 2024	
Application No: DC/24/1793 21.11.2024	Response:
Applicant: Gravatts Farm, Guildford Road, Rudgwick	
Reason for Application: Erection of a stable building and hay/equipment store	
Official Response Date: 12.12.2024 (determination 15.01.2025)	

Decisions

HDC Council Decisions – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 9 th December 2024	
Application No:	Response:/Comments:
Applicant:	
Reason for Application:	
Official Response Date:	

Applications going to Committee

Applications going to Committee – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 9 th December 2024	
Application No:	Response/Comments:
Applicant:	

Reason for Application:	
Official Response Date:	

Appeals Lodged / Appeals Determined

New Appeals Lodged / Determined – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 9 th December 2024	
Application No:	Response/Comments:
Applicant:	
Reason for Application:	
Official Response Date:	

New Planning Compliance Issues

New Planning Compliance Issues – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 9 th December 2024	
Application No:	Response/Comments:
Address:	
Nature of Complaint:	
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 22.11.2024 from HDC

Election news: Denne by-election results



Election news and results

Denne ward by-election results

A Horsham District Council by-election for Denne ward took place on Thursday 21 November 2024.

Cheryl Sweeney (Conservative Party) is duly elected

View the full results on our [Elections results page](#).

[Denne ward by-election results \(PDF\)](#)



Email dated 21.11.2024 from NALC
Chief Executives Bulletin

NALC welcomes the government's brownfield passport proposals

This week, we responded to the government's latest paper on brownfield passports, which we broadly welcome. In [our response](#) to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's latest paper, we argued that it supports the principle of encouraging the development of brownfield land, particularly within urban settlements, while recognising that factors other than the planning status influence whether development occurs. We recognise that while national policy may influence the overall expectations regarding the minimum scale of development for urban locations, the optimum level of development is likely to be established at the local level, combined with robust design codes. The [paper](#) forms part of a series of working papers on different aspects of planning reform designed to inform further policy development in collaboration with the wider sector.

Employer National Insurance contributions

NALC's chair, Cllr Keith Stevens, has written to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rachel Reeves MP, about the recent Budget, where he calls for compensation for the increase in National Insurance contributions (NICs) and more engagement with the sector to ensure government policies align with local needs. In summary, Keith's letter congratulates the Chancellor on her first budget, highlights the vital role of parish and town councils in supporting communities, and raises concerns over the planned rise in employer NICs. The letter sets out how this would unfairly burden parish and town councils and increase their share of council tax. As we support devolution, our letter emphasises the need for parish and town councils to be empowered and involved in decision-making. Further priorities addressed include the rural economy, housing, and planning, reflecting the [motion approved by our recent Annual General Meeting](#). We've also been briefing MPs and Peers on the Budget and NICs. Ahead of a debate on the Budget in the House of Lords, we sent a briefing to Peers, and it was good to see the impact of NICs get raised several times. You can read the full transcript of the debate on [Hansard](#). I am pleased to see the new MP for Truro and Falmouth, Jayne Kirkham MP (who is also a Falmouth town councillor), use her speech on the Budget to highlight that many parish and town councils "have taken on so many of the services of which the unitary authorities have divested themselves, and as a consequence are often large employers with big budgets". We will continue to brief MPs on the Budget ahead of the second reading of the Finance Bill in the House of Commons on 27 November 2024.

Joint event with the Local Government Association

This week, we held another sold-out online [joint event](#) with the Local Government Association (LGA) about democracy in action on 13 November 2024. The event was hosted by Tamsin Hewett, a leadership adviser at the LGA (and formerly of NALC). Attendees heard excellent, incisive contributions from the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils county officer Neil Wedge, Ulverston Town Council and Westmorland and Furness District Council councillor Cllr Jackie Drake, and Loughton Residents Association representative on Epping Forest District Council Cllr Chidi Nweke. The event reviewed outcomes from the May 2024 local elections (at all levels of local government), de-mystifying the role of the local councillor and encouraging people to stand for election as local councillors in future elections. We have mapped out an [exciting event schedule](#), so please visit our website to learn more about them.

National Network: Super councils

Our [national network](#) for super councils met on 15 November 2024 to discuss Martyn's Law, the devolution of assets and services to parish and town councils, the Oxfordshire Councils Charter and the recent announcements in the Budget that the government is increasing the rate of employer NICs from 13.8% to 15% and reducing the per-employee threshold at which employers become liable to pay National Insurance (the Secondary Threshold) from 6 April 2025 to £5,000. Helen Ball, town clerk at Shrewsbury Town Council, provided an overview of Martyn's Law. She reminded councils of the existing legislation they already comply with to ensure attendees safety at events. She also offered tips for understanding and complying with the new law once enacted. These tips included reading about Martyn's Law, being aware of risks, upskilling clerks, councillors and volunteers (such as by undertaking the counter-terrorism training offered by [Protect UK](#)) and reviewing the national guidance on the Protect UK website. Will Austin, town clerk at Bridport Town Council and David Mears, town clerk at Bridgwater Town Council, delivered presentations on the assets and services that have been devolved to their councils in recent years, including a youth and community centre, tourist information centre, community bus service, six parks, street cleaning, markets and large-scale events. Lucy Dalby, county officer at the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils, discussed the development of the Oxfordshire Councils Charter, which aims to enhance partnership working amongst the different tiers of council in Oxfordshire. Finally, our head of policy and communications, Justin Griggs, set out the steps we are taking in response to the recent announcements in the Budget about NICs (read more above).

On the blog: British Heart Foundation

[This week's blog](#) by Clive Rowlandson of the British Heart Foundation highlights the organisation's efforts to improve survival rates from out-of-hospital cardiac arrests (OHCA) in the UK, where the current survival rate is only 1 in 10. Clive explains that early CPR and defibrillation are critical and outlines BHF's goal to triple survival rates by 2030 through two key initiatives: increasing the availability of defibrillators and expanding CPR training. To

support this, BHF offers an exclusive deal for local councils and non-profits on defibrillator packages, emphasising accessibility, registration on The Circuit (a national defibrillator network), and promoting the RevivR CPR training tool. Clive stresses the importance of defibrillator registration to enhance emergency response and encourages wider adoption of free, accessible CPR training via the 15-minute online tool RevivR. This initiative combines community engagement and resources to create safer communities and fund lifesaving research, advancing the mission to save more lives.

Out and about

It's been a busy week for our chair, Keith, promoting the sector's work at the Association of Drainage Authorities Annual Conference, representing over 230 members. He also attended the [Health and Safety Executive Prevention 2024 Summit](#) supporting their mission to reduce work-related ill health. Keith also joined our policy manager, Chris Borg, at the Surrey Association of Local Councils (SALC) Annual General Meeting, where he spoke about recent NALC developments, lobbying achievements and the benefits of NALC and county association membership. Chris covered our current campaign activity, including lobbying on behalf of parish and town councils on relevant bills in the recent government's King's Speech on 17 July 2024. Meanwhile, in Somerset, I heard the new unitary authority chief executive stress the importance of partnership working across the tiers at an excellently organised conference by the Somerset Association of Local Councils. I briefed them on our views on devolution, and [civility and respect](#).

Joint Panel of Accountability and Governance

The [Joint Panel of Accountability and Governance](#) (JPAG), responsible for setting proper practices for smaller authorities, met last week. It approved several significant changes, including new terms of reference and a name change to Smaller Authorities Proper Practices Panel (SAPPP). The panel agreed to commission a consultation on what the proper practices should include and to split the Practitioners' Guide into two documents. Proper practices, the legal requirements for governance and accounts in smaller authorities, and a new guide to the proper practices to support practitioners. It was also agreed to commission a full review of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) forms to support a complete redesign, which is the first step towards digitisation.

And finally...

I attended the first meeting of an advisory group supporting the [Independent Commission on Neighbourhoods](#), whose aim is to examine the role of neighbourhoods in people's lives, quantifying and qualitatively exploring the case for neighbourhood-focused regeneration as a contribution to achieving wider social and economic objectives, with a particular focus on the most deprived and left behind communities. Ministers support the commission and are aiming to report next year. We will be contributing evidence on the work of parish and town councils, and if any councils would like to showcase their work, don't hesitate to contact us at policycomms@nalc.gov.uk.

Email dated 20.11.2024 from WSCC

Your Town and Parish Council News budget consultation special



Budget consultation special edition

November 2024



Have your say on our 2025-2026 budget

The county council is running a public consultation on our budget, Our Council Plan, and how we spend taxpayers' money in the coming financial year 2025 to 2026.

The views of our residents across West Sussex are vital to the budget-setting process, ensuring we're making the best use of our resources and can continue to invest in and deliver services that support our communities.

That's why we're encouraging as many people as possible to take part.

Please could you encourage your parishioners to [complete the consultation via this link](#).

Anyone without access to the internet [can visit a library](#) or [family hub](#) to complete the consultation.

If you know anyone who would like to receive a printed copy of the survey and a freepost return envelope, please call our customer services team on 01243 777100.

An Easy Read survey is also available online on the consultation page via the link above.

If you are able to share our social media posts which are also encouraging people to take part that would be great too:

- [Facebook](#)
- [Twitter/X](#)
- [Instagram](#)

We also have a poster if you are able to [download it and print it out to display](#) and [an animation you are welcome to watch and share](#).

The consultation closes on Sunday 15 December and all comments will be considered as part of the budget setting process for 2025 to 2026.

The West Sussex County Council Cabinet is due to consider feedback from the public consultation at a meeting in January before recommending the Council Plan and budget to Full Council in February for a final decision.

Read more about our budget and finances from [Council Leader Cllr Paul Marshall](#).

Thank you for your help.

[View our budget campaign pages](#)

Email dated 19.11.2024 from WSCC

West Sussex County Council wins award for inclusive recruitment in Public Health



NEWS RELEASE

West Sussex County Council wins award for inclusive recruitment in Public Health



West Sussex County Council's Public Health Team has been honoured with the 'Best Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Employer' award at the Local Government Chronicle (LGC) Workforce Awards 2024, highlighting their innovative approach to recruiting staff from diverse backgrounds and communities.

The team's efforts to enhance inclusion and diversity within its workforce through advancing its recruitment practices were commended during a live judging panel. Celebrating diverse

cultures, listening to staff needs, and embedding support into practice, were also recognised in receiving the award.

In 2023, Public Health, supported by the Council's Human Resources team, launched an initiative to recruit two new Graduate Public Health Practitioner posts, funded by NHS England. This aimed to provide opportunities for local individuals from diverse backgrounds with qualifications in public health-related subjects to enter the workforce.

Reflecting on the support received, Lovelyn Okwara, WSCC Employee, said: "My line manager linked me to a mentor from the same ethnic background who has been supporting my personal and professional growth and development. This is very important for me as a graduate trainee and has helped me understand cultural differences and translating them into strengths."

The teams were also shortlisted for another three awards, Best Innovation in Recruitment, Best Innovation in Retention and Best Next Generation Employer.

Councillor Bob Lanzer, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing, said: "I am delighted that our Public Health team has received such worthy recognition. Our commitment to inclusivity not only strengthens our workforce but also enhances our ability to deliver effective public health services."

Councillor Steve Waight, Cabinet Member for Support Services, added: "Supporting a diverse and inclusive workforce is at the heart of what we do. The great work undertaken with our Public Health and Human Resources teams, demonstrates our dedication to being an employer that champions equality, diversity, and inclusion. We look forward to continuing this important work and making further improvements across the council, ensuring that we remain a great place to work for everyone."

If you are interested in working for the county council, search current jobs at westsussex.gov.uk/jobs

Email dated 19.11.2024 from HDC

Read the new Our District magazine: November 2024 edition



November 2024 edition, out now

The countdown to Christmas is on: join us for a jam-packed programme of festive fun across the District this winter! Plus, we celebrate a new award for Horsham Park, a summer of fun and 12 months of our Wellbeing Hub.

Keep an eye out for various 'Did You Know' stories offering schemes that could help you to save some money.

[Read the latest edition](#)

Read our top stories



[Enjoy the festive season in Horsham District](#)

From local food and drink and artisan gifts to festive entertainment and events, the magic of the season is right here in our District.



[A lifeline at the touch of a button](#)

How our Community Link service enables residents to live independently by providing affordable access to assistive technology.



[Volunteers help tackle invasive species](#)

The Wilder Horsham District project has been helping landowners deal with the threat of invasive species.



[Travel safely this festive period](#)

Safe travel options this Christmas and a message from our crews this Road Safety Week.



[Did you know? Cost of living support is available](#)

How to access free school meals, social tariffs, pension credit and the Priority Services Register.



[Cretaceous Horsham: the new Horsham Museum exhibition](#)

We find out about the new dinosaur exhibition coming to the museum in January 2025.

[Read all articles in the November 2024 edition](#)



Stay connected



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



**Horsham
District
Council**

Email dated 15.11.2024 from Southern Water
Southern Water's new Rivers and Seas Watch service

While we work hard to cut storm overflows across our region, as set out in our £1.5bn Clean Rivers and Seas Plan, it is key that communities can view information on all our storm overflow activity.

From 13 November 2024, our new [Rivers and Seas Watch service](#) replaced the Beachbuoy online monitoring tool.

Rivers and Seas Watch now includes all of our storm overflows including those inland, not just our coastal overflows.

Rivers and Seas Watch has been running in beta mode on our website since June. During this time, we collected feedback from users, including Beachbuoy subscribers, campaign groups and local stakeholders, to ensure Rivers and Seas Watch provides relevant information in an easy to read format. Technology experts also fed into our Beachbuoy Independent Review.

Key features of Rivers and Seas Watch include:

- Enhanced user experience across different devices (mobile, laptop, desktop), making it easier to find a location, and access and understand information
- Comprehensive and accessible information on how the service works
- An industry-leading mapping platform, presenting information in a clean and timely way
- Improved email notifications, including start times, impact times and the release status
- Integration with our overall plans to cut storm overflows, to help users understand what improvements are planned in each area

Improving how we communicate this important information to the public in a transparent, accurate and timely way is crucial. Rivers and Seas Watch has been created following a customer-first approach, engaging extensively with our community to understand their needs, wants and feedback from Beachbuoy.

Users can [sign up for alerts](#) for their local beaches on Rivers and Seas Watch, as data protection rules mean we cannot carry previous Beachbuoy users over.

If you have any queries, please do let me know.

Many thanks, Mike

Mike Russell

Stakeholder Engagement Manager - Sussex

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southernwater.co.uk

