

Rudgwick Parish Council

Weekly Clerk's Update: 11th – 17th January 2025 (Agenda February 2025)

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)
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Clerk's announcements/delegated decisions:

- **Construction of new S/B bus stop hardstanding (linking new bus stop to existing footway) plus installation of new N/B & S/B bus stop poles/flags and bus cage line markings. From approx. 50m north of Queen Elizabeth Road to approx. 40m south of Orchard Hill.**
- **VAT reclaim of £4,563.60 received from HMRC 14.01.2025**
- **Charity Commission Return 2023-24 submitted 17.01.2025**

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 10 th February 2025	
Application No: DC/25/0023 06.01.2025	Response/Comments:
Applicant: Land Opposite Pensfold Farm, Naldretts Lane, Rudgwick	
Reason for Application: Overhead lines	
Official Response Date: Not available / Determination 17.02.2025	
Application No: DC/24/1994 13.01.2025	Response:
Applicant: Rikkyo School, Guildford Road, Rudgwick	
Reason for Application: Variation of conditions 1, 12 and 19 of previously approved application reference DC/23/1912 (Erection of a detached two storey Dormitory building, with associated landscaping) to alter the design and reduce the scale of the dormitory building and alter the wording of two conditions.	
Official Response Date: 03.02.2025 / Determination 24.03.2025	

Applications for consideration at Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting

Applications for consideration at Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 10 th February 2025	
Application No:	Response:
Applicant:	
Reason for Application:	
Official Response Date:	

Decisions

HDC Council Decisions – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 10 th February 2025	
Application No:	Response:
Applicant:	
Reason for Application:	
Official Response Date:	

Applications going to Committee

Applications going to Committee – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 10 th February 2025	
Application No:	Response/Comments:
Applicant:	
Reason for Application:	
Official Response Date:	

Appeals Lodged / Appeals Determined

New Appeals Lodged / Determined – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 10 th February 2025	
Application No:	Response/Comments:
Applicant:	
Reason for Application:	
Official Response Date:	

New Planning Compliance Issues

New Planning Compliance Issues – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 10 th February 2025

Application No: EN/25/0007 09.01.2025	Response/Comments: Pending consideration
Address: The Levee, Loxwood Road, Rudgwick	
Nature of Complaint: Alleged: importation of material	
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 17.01.2025 from HDC

Waste Prevention Community Grant Fund

The Waste Prevention Community Grant Fund is now open for applications from community-based projects in West Sussex that encourage people to repair and reuse items they no longer want or use. **Please pass these details onto any groups in your local community who could benefit.**

A webinar on Tuesday 21 January 2025 at 6pm will explain the application process. To sign-up or ask questions in advance please email: wasteprevention.fund@westsussex.gov.uk.

The fund is a joint initiative by the county council and Biffa, to help local groups develop innovative ways to reduce household waste. It is open to community groups, residents' associations, charities, community interest companies (CICs) and social enterprises for grants of up to £5,000.

Please pass these details onto any groups in your local community who could benefit.

[How to apply for funding](#)

Best regards, Sarah Hogben

Communications and Marketing
Officer



Email dated 17.01.2025 from WSALC

TOWN & PARISH COUNCILS & VE DAY 80 - 8TH MAY 2025

Please see below for information on VE Day - 8th May 2025. If of interest, your Council can purchase a VE Day Flag from the following website: <https://the-flag-company.co.uk/veday80/>

Kind regards, Emily, WSALC



Dear Town or Parish Clerk,

RE: TOWN & PARISH COUNCILS & VE DAY 80 - 8TH MAY 2025

You should have received information regarding plans for celebrating the 80th anniversary of VE Day, taking place on 8th May 2025, from the National Association of Local Councils on two occasions now.

The Guide To Taking Part in VE Day 80, along with all the other aspects we are encouraging Town and Parish Councils to take part in, can be viewed and downloaded from the official VE Day website - www.VEday80.org.uk. We do hope therefore that your Council will take part in one or more of the activities planned, using the occasion to pay tribute to those that gave so much from within your local community, to ensure the freedom we all enjoy today.

Participating Councils and organisations are being asked to register their involvement as soon as possible by completing the Registration Form on the VE Day 80 website. However, if your Council has already received this information and you have confirmed your involvement, please ignore this email.

Email dated 16.01.2025 from WSCC
Yellow Cold Weather Alert

Weather Alert



The yellow cold health alert is in effect from **6PM on 17/01/2025 until 9AM on 21/01/2025** across the **South East**

- View more detail on the warning at the [Cold-Health Alert Map](#) site.

Cold weather can affect your health. The people most likely to be affected are the elderly, the very young, and people with pre-existing medical conditions.

If you know or look after someone that may be susceptible to the effects of this cold weather period please help make sure that they stay warm and well, and if possible check in advance that they are prepared for this cold spell.

- Stay tuned in to weather forecasts
- Check room temperatures and maintain it at 18C or warmer
- Keep warm and active and if you have to go out dress warmly and wear non slip shoes.
- If you are concerned about your own health or welfare or that of others please alert the [emergency services](#).

For more information

- Met Office [Cold-Health Alert Map](#)
- NHS [Keep Warm Keep Well](#) leaflet
- WSCC [Dealing with extreme weather](#)
- WSCC [Preparing for emergencies](#)
- WSCC [Report a road and footway issue](#)
- Follow us on Twitter for regular updates [@WSCCNews](#) [@WSCCResilience](#) [@wspublichealth](#)

What you do with your life could forever change someone else's

We urgently need more Foster Carers so please watch and share our latest fostering film.

Click here to watch



Email dated 16.01.2025 from WSCC

Proposed County Council budget to go before scrutiny committee



news release

Proposed County Council budget to go before scrutiny committee

Proposals to deliver a balanced budget for the year ahead will be examined by West Sussex County Council's Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee next week.

The [committee meeting](#) will be held on Wednesday 22 January at 10.30am. Members of the public are invited to attend the meeting at County Hall, Chichester, or follow the discussion online via a [webcast](#).

The proposals from the council's Cabinet set out how the council intends to deliver a balanced budget for 2025/26 and provide support for the most vulnerable in line with its Council Plan priorities.

The council's four priorities, which are underpinned by a cross cutting theme of 'Protecting the Environment', are:

- Keeping people safe in vulnerable situations
- A sustainable and prosperous economy
- Helping people and communities fulfil their potential
- Making best use of resources

In 2025/26, the County Council is proposing it will spend more than £2.2 billion on day-to-day services to meet increasing demand pressures and cost of services, particularly in social care, special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), and home to school transport. The proposed budget includes an additional £47.4m for those service demand pressures described as well as continuing additional investment in our roads.

This spend will be funded through several different sources – government grants, council tax, business rates, fees, charges, and rental income.

The pressures facing the County Council outweigh the funding received from government and a balanced budget is proposed by increasing council tax by 4.99% (2% for adults' social care and 2.99% for general fund services), and spending reductions of £12.3m.

Alongside the day-to-day revenue budget, a five-year capital programme is also proposed which will see £118.6m of capital expenditure in 2025/26 and £739.9m across the five-year period of 2025/26 to 2029/30. The main areas of capital investment are in the county's schools, the environment, and highway and roads.

The Cabinet is due to consider feedback from a public consultation at a meeting on 29 January before recommending the Council Plan and budget to Full Council in February for a final decision.

Despite the proposals to deliver a balanced budget for 2025/26, there remains a budget gap of between £50m and £191m between 2026/27 and 2029/30 depending on the level of Council Tax increase in these years.

The County Council continues to lobby government to highlight the need to have a national funding solution for social care, SEND, and home to school transport that meets local needs.

Email dated 16.01.2025 from Southern Water
Changes to Southern Water's surface water management policy

I write to advise you of the changes that we have made to our [surface water management policy](#), with the aim of reducing the impact of surface water on our foul and combined sewer networks.

The full details of the changes are set out in the policy, which is available on our website here [Handbooks and technical documents - Southern Water](#), but the significant change is how we assess surface water discharge into the 'foul only' and combined public sewers.

Moving forward, we will refuse any request to discharge surface water into our foul only sewer network, on the grounds that the discharge is prejudicial to our sewerage network and detrimental to the environment. This includes where the surface water hierarchy has been followed and all alternative options have been exhausted.

In addition, a surface water discharge to the combined sewer will only be permitted **under exceptional circumstances**. This approach ensures that we work together to better protect the environment, improve water quality, and reduce flood risk.

The policy update also supports our work to separate rainwater from sewage at source to meet storm overflow reduction targets under Defra's Storm Overflows Discharge Reduction Plan, as well as to reduce the number of sewer flooding incidents that are caused by hydraulic overload of our sewer network during rainfall periods.

We appreciate the challenges of delivering housing targets set out in local plans and we are grateful to those local authorities who have already added planning policy and/or conditions, stipulating that a surface water discharge into the foul sewer network will not be permitted. These conditions/policies support us in improving the environment and protecting our customers from foul sewer flooding.

More details on how the policy relates to a sewer connection application is set out on Page 6 of the policy document. If you have any questions, would like more information, or wish for a meeting to discuss the policy then please let me know and I will arrange this.

We will also be informing developers and local planning authorities of this updated policy and we are committed to working in partnership with all stakeholders to achieve a desirable outcome for all.

Many thanks, **Mike Russell**

Stakeholder Engagement Manager - Sussex

southernwater.co.uk



Email dated 16.01.2025 from NALC
Chief Executives Bulletin

NALC launches second edition of The Good Councillor's Guide to Finance

The [latest edition of The Good Councillor's Guide to Finance](#) was launched earlier this week. This updated guide is a valuable resource for new and experienced councillors, providing the tools and insights needed to effectively manage local council finances. It delivers a thorough overview of key areas such as budgeting, financial planning, monitoring, and governance. Also, it includes a new section explaining the annual governance assertions and accounting statements included in the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR). Given the significant role of parish and town councils in managing public funds, the guide aims to equip councillors with the knowledge required to uphold their financial responsibilities whilst maintaining public trust.

NALC in parliament

Since the House of Lords returned from recess, NALC, along with parish and town councils, has been mentioned frequently due to our proactive briefing on key campaigns. On 6 January, during a debate on the National Insurance Contributions Bill, NALC's vice-president, Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle, pointed out that parish and town councils were excluded from the government's public sector compensation scheme. She highlighted our parliamentary briefing, which estimates the cost of compensating our sector at £10 million annually, warning that this could lead to council tax increases of 1.5% to 3%. Lord Forsyth also raised the issue, and Baroness Kramer indicated the Liberal Democrats would explore the matter further. On January 9, Baroness Humphreys and NALC's President, Baroness Scott of Needham Market, questioned the government's lack of compensation for parish and town councils and its failure to follow its guidance regarding new burdens. In response, Baroness Taylor stated that funding for parish and town councils was not the government's responsibility. During a debate on the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill

on 7 January, Lord Anderson noted NALC's support for changes that would exclude small venues that could reasonably not be expected to host as many as 200 people from the Bill. And on 8 January, Baroness Bennett emphasised the role of parish and town councils in flood resilience, in response the minister Baroness Hayman acknowledged their importance in building community capacity for such issues.

Introducing the new name for the Joint Panel on Accountability and Governance

The Joint Panel on Accountability and Governance (JPAG) has rebranded to better reflect its mission. The [Smaller Authorities Proper Practices Panel](#) (SAPPP) is a new name that focuses on supporting smaller authorities and drainage boards in maintaining good governance and accurate accounting. Why the change? SAPPP is committed to helping smaller authorities prepare their AGAR and meet their reporting requirements. The new name clarifies that mission while also aiming to raise awareness of the vital work the Panel does behind the scenes. But the name change is just the beginning, as SAPPP is kicking off a comprehensive review of governance and accountability practices for smaller authorities. This includes updating the Practitioners' Guide. Stay tuned as SAPPP continues to simplify governance for smaller authorities and make compliance more straightforward and accessible.

Provisional local government finance settlement 2025/26

NALC recently welcomed the parish and town council exemption from council tax referendum principles for the 2025/26 financial year, as proposed in the government's recent [consultation](#). In its response to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) on the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2025/26, we expressed our full support for the government's recommendation that local councils should be exempt from excessive council tax increase referendum principles for the coming financial year. We also called for a multi-year settlement and reiterated that councils at all levels should be fully exempted in the future. However, we strongly argued that the government had not adequately considered the £10 million minimum cost impact of the employer National Insurance Contribution increases, which would likely result in a 1.5% to 3% average increase in precepts in the new financial year. We therefore urged the government to rethink its decision to exclude parish and town councils from the associated compensation package. The [consultation](#) invited feedback, particularly from local government representatives, on proposals for the local government finance settlement, which is an annual process to distribute core resources to local government and consists of grants, council tax, and locally retained business rates.

On the blog: Utility Aid

[This week's blog](#), by Emily Berry, partnership manager at Utility Aid, explores strategies for tackling rising energy costs and achieving net-zero goals. Key insights include fostering a culture of energy saving by engaging staff, reducing phantom energy consumption, optimising HVAC systems, and using Automated Meter Reading (AMR) devices to track real-time energy usage and identify inefficiencies. Additionally, understanding and addressing carbon emissions across Scope 1, 2, and 3 is crucial, emphasising sustainable suppliers and

waste reduction as actionable starting points for the often challenging Scope 3 emissions. These steps are designed to create long-term energy efficiency and financial savings.

National Network: Micro councils

NALC's [national network](#) for micro councils held its first meeting of the year on 14 January, chaired by Cllr Mark Valladares. The network received an excellent update on Demand Responsive Transport from Amelie Sundberg, UK partnerships principal at Via, who explained how Via supports transport solutions across the country ahead of the Buses Bill's journey through parliament. Network members also discussed how to promote wider use of the new WhatsApp group, which was created to facilitate the sharing of good practices and information between quarterly meetings. Additionally, attendees reviewed and discussed feedback from the recent good practice survey. The session concluded with an open forum item for members to raise issues relevant to their micro council, agreeing to have local government re-organisation and its impact on micro councils and place action groups in Cumbria as items on future session agendas.

LGA Independent Group Annual Conference

Our head of policy and communications, Justin Griggs, was at the [Local Government Association's Independent Group Annual Conference](#) last weekend, where, unsurprisingly, the English Devolution White Paper was the hot topic of conversation. [Justin took part in a panel discussion on the white paper](#) where he spoke about [our reaction](#) to the white paper, given there's plenty to welcome for our sector as this [power shift provides a real opportunity to stake our claim as the community tier of local government](#). The conference also allowed us to participate in workshop discussions on improvement and standards, network with councillors and council leaders, and promote our work more generally.

And finally...

This year marks the 80th anniversary of VE Day, and national commemorations will take place on 8 May. I want to encourage parish and town councils to take part in this significant anniversary, and there are many different ways to get involved. Registering your involvement on the [VE Day 80 website](#) will help highlight the number of activities across the country supported by parish and town councils.

Email dated 15.01.2025 from HDC

Latest news: Have your say to help shape Council's new Annual Plan | Discover Dinosaurs at Horsham Museum & Art Gallery | Sign up for our free health and wellbeing courses



Latest news and information

Help shape Council's new Annual Plan

The Council is inviting feedback on the draft of its new Annual Plan for 2025/26 and is encouraging as many residents and businesses as possible to share their views.

Our survey closes at 23:59 on 16 January

[Have your say](#)



“have
your
say”

Discover Dinosaurs at Horsham Museum & Art Gallery

Our new exhibition, **Cretaceous Horsham: Discovering Dinosaurs** opens at Horsham Museum and Art Gallery this **Saturday 18 January**.

Learn about the dinosaurs who once roamed Horsham District - including our very own Horshamosaurus - alongside the fascinating story of the Victorian scientists who discovered them.

[Find out more](#)



Get active in 2025: new free wellbeing courses

Horsham District Wellbeing is pleased to announce new Get Active courses in 2025 which will be available across the Horsham District, greatly expanding the availability of the Wellbeing team into surrounding villages.

Strength and Tone and Aquafit are new additions to the programme for the new year. Book now or recommend a friend.



[Read more](#)

New round of Community Climate Fund open

A new round of Community Climate Fund is open now. Apply for up to £5,000 to fund your voluntary group's climate-friendly project.

Take a look at our recent success stories for inspiration and **apply online before 31 January**

[Find out more](#)



New collection points created for vapes and batteries

Horsham District Council is trialling two new collection points for used disposable vapes and batteries at The Pavilions Leisure Centre in Horsham and the Chanctonbury Leisure Centre in Storrington.

Batteries, vapes and small electricals can cause fires if disposed of in wheeled bins and have recently been a major cause of fires in our waste collection vehicles.

In addition to drop off points, residents can book kerbside collections to dispose of used vapes safely.



[Read more](#)

Access new Business Training Programme workshops

Business across the District can access a range of training courses for 2025. Booking is open for courses which include talent management, SME Support, Social Media, and first aid.

Courses are part-funded by the UK government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.



[Find out more](#)

Sign up for Jobs, employment
and current vacancies

Sign up



Horsham
District
Council

Email dated 13.01.2025 from WSCC

County Council leader calls on the government to reconsider farming Inheritance Tax changes



news release

County Council leader calls on the government to reconsider farming Inheritance Tax changes

The leader of West Sussex County Council is calling on the government to reconsider changes to Inheritance Tax which he claims will have a 'devastating impact on many family farms'.

Councillor Paul Marshall has written to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Rt Hon Steve Reed MP, to help to preserve family farms, farmland, and the environment.

The letter highlights 'the essential role farmers play in managing our natural landscapes, contributing to biodiversity, protecting our wildlife, flood prevention and supporting sustainable local food systems within West Sussex'.

It follows a notice of motion debate at a meeting of the Full Council on 13 December 2024 where councillors highlighted their concerns about the impact of the changes in West Sussex on family farms and on the environment.

Notes to Editor:

Further information: [Leader of West Sussex County Council to write to Secretary of State regarding inheritance tax on farms - West Sussex County Council](#)

The letter is copied below:

Dear Secretary of State,

Family Farm Tax

I am writing to you following a notice of motion debate at West Sussex County Council's full council meeting on 13 December 2024 where the Council passed the following motion.

This Council recognises and values the essential role that farmers play in managing our natural landscapes, contributing to biodiversity, protecting our wildlife, flood prevention and supporting sustainable local food systems within West Sussex.

This Council notes that the recent 2024 Autumn Budget change to Inheritance Tax Relief announced by the Labour Government will introduce a Family Farm Tax which will:

- a. have a devastating impact on many family farms and on the farmers' ability to pass on their farms to the next generation of farmers.

- b. force farmers to sell land to developers for housing in order to pay their tax bills and therefore threaten the continuing viability of family run farms.
- c. threaten up to 70,000 farmers according to the Country Landowners Association.
- d. threaten tenant farmers livelihoods and homes.
- e. have little or no impact on those investing in land purely to avoid tax and will lead to the creation of more corporate owned mega-farms with no interest in protecting the environment and animal welfare.
- f. threaten the protection of our countryside, by hindering environmental projects and conservation efforts that rely on stable, family-owned farming operations.
- g. threaten the UK's food security at a time when we already import 46% of our food at a cost to the natural environment around the world such as the Amazon rainforest.
- h. have a detrimental effect on the rural economies of our country.

This Council further notes that:

- i. The emerging West Sussex Local Nature Recovery Strategy requires strong collaboration with local agricultural stakeholders, who together with many environmental partners will drive numerous Initiatives to protect and enhance biodiversity across the county. Farms that stay within family ownership are better positioned to continue practices that support wildlife corridors, habitat preservation, and sustainable land stewardship.
- ii. That the conservation and protection of the South Downs National Park, 75% of which is farmland, the farmland that forms an integral part of the Chichester Harbour National Landscape, and the High Weald National Landscape, as well as the numerous sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs) and nature reserves, are dependent on the co-operation of land owners and it is the family run farms, handed down through the generations, that better support these aims.

It is for these reasons that we call upon Government to reconsider this change to Inheritance Tax Relief and help preserve family farms and protect both farmland and the environment for future generations.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Paul Marshall

Leader, West Sussex County Council

Email dated 13.01.2025 from Mole Valley District Council
Mole Valley District Council - draft Supplementary Planning Documents consultation

Mole Valley is consulting on three draft Supplementary Planning Documents:

- Draft Affordable Housing SPD
- Draft Planning Obligations SPD
- Draft Design Guidance for House Extensions SPD

The Draft SPDs can be viewed online at:

<https://www.molevalley.gov.uk/planning-building/consultations/>

Consultation Period:

The consultation runs from **Monday, 13 January 2025 to Friday, 28 February 2025 at 5pm.**

Representations:

Email: planning.policy@molevalley.gov.uk

Post: Planning Policy, Mole Valley District Council, Pippbrook, Dorking, Surrey RH4 1SJ

Please provide your name and email address (email is preferred to postal addresses).

Please state clearly which paragraph(s) of which document you are commenting on.

Subject Matter:

The Draft Affordable Housing SPD provides details on the Council's requirements for affordable housing delivery, vacant building credit, build to rent schemes, rural exception sites, specialist housing and viability assessments.

The Draft Planning Obligations SPD provides information on Section 106 agreements generally and planning obligations for carbon offsetting, biodiversity, open space, play space, public realm and heritage assets, community safety, sports facilities, air quality, healthcare and natural flood management. It also provides locally specific information for planning obligations set by Surrey County Council.

The Draft Design Guidance for House Extensions SPD deals with issues such as whether planning permission is required, neighbourliness and character guidance for all the major types of house extensions.

All three SPDs cover the whole Mole Valley District.

Paper Copies:

Mole Valley District Council Offices Pippbrook, Dorking, RH4 1SJ	Mon-Fri: 9.00-14.30 (please make an appointment beforehand if possible)
Ashted Library Woodfield Lane, Ashted, KT21 2BQ	Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri: 10.00-13.00 and 14.00-17.00 Sat: 9.30-17.00
Beare Green Village Hall Merebank, Beare Green, RH5 4RD	Mon & Wed: 9.30-12.30
Bookham Library	Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri:

Townshott Close, Great Bookham, KT23 4DQ	10.00-13.00 and 14.00-17.00 Sat: 9.30-15.00
Dorking Library St Martin's Walk, Dorking, RH4 1UT	Mon, Wed, Fri: 9.30-17.30 Tues, Thurs: 9.30-19.00 Sat: 9.30-17.00
Leatherhead Library The Mansion, Church Street, Leatherhead, KT22 8DP	Tues-Sat: 9.30-17.00

Consultation Information Arrangements

Any responses received to the consultations will be held electronically for the purposes of meeting the Council's duties arising from reporting consultations. Consultation responses will be made public but your personal data, other than your name or the name of the person you are acting for, will not be made public. Consultation responses will be kept for two years post adoption of the documents.

Yours faithfully,
Duncan Clarke, Planning Policy Manager
Planning Policy Team

Email dated 10.01.2025 from Sussex Police
Happy New Year



I hope you all had an enjoyable festive season and are happily settling in to 2025 as well as wrapping up warm in this very chilly weather.

Throughout December, Sussex Police again took part in Operation Limit - the annual national campaign that aims to reduce the number of deaths and serious injuries caused by people driving under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol.

Officers carried out increased patrols and set up random stop check sites along busy driving routes.

More than 8,500 motorists were stopped and checked during the campaign this year. Last year's campaign totalled around 6,000 checks so I am pleased to see that Sussex Police have been even more proactive.

Police officers made 270 arrests on Sussex roads during the campaign and the majority of these were for drug-driving - more than 60 arrests were made following collisions.

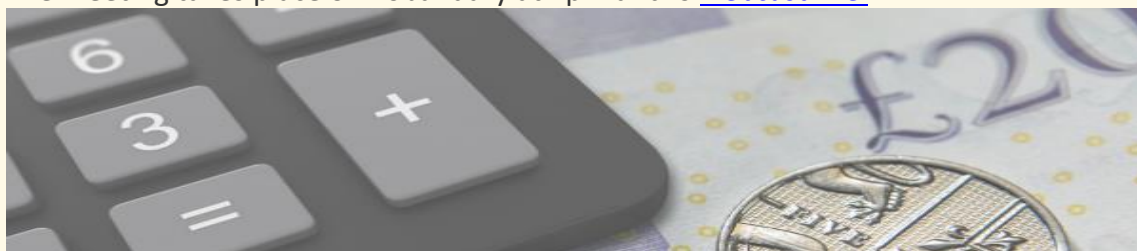
Whilst the officers' diligent work delivers results in making our streets safer, it really is disheartening that so many people still do not understand - or choose to disregard - the dangers and consequences of driving under the influence or perhaps they think they will get away with it.

This campaign, alongside the year-round work carried out by Sussex Police, should be a clear message to those who choose to drink and drug drive that it is only a matter of time until you get caught and face the consequences. This could include a driving ban, a criminal record or even prison time.

I want to thank the residents and visitors of Sussex who have reported suspicious driving activity especially if it was someone they knew who was drink or drug driving. Submitting those reports isn't always easy, especially when it means reporting family, friends or colleagues but it is always the right thing to do and it can save lives.

I'll be scrutinising the work of Operation Limit and asking how the Force plans to keep Sussex roads safer in my upcoming Performance and Accountability Meeting with the Chief Constable next week.

The meeting takes place on 16 January at 1pm and is [webcast live](#).



In December, the Government published the draft Police Grant Settlement for the coming financial year alongside announcements on proposed additional funding for neighbourhood policing.

The figures for Sussex Police amount to a possible total grant of £419 million for 2025-26 but it assumes that I will raise the local precept (the police element of your council tax) by the maximum amount allowed too.

Sussex Police have made huge efforts to make efficiencies over the past year without reducing services and we have saved £5.7 million. However, we calculate a necessary savings requirement of £5 million for the year ahead which will not be without its challenges.

This week, my office and Sussex Police met with members of the Police and Crime Panel Precept Working Group to look at these figures and funding pressures in more detail and to consider feedback on police performance, public confidence and funding options.

As PCC, I now have to consider what level of police precept needs to be set for the coming year to maintain policing services and my recommendation will be formally put before the full Police and Crime Panel at the end of this month for their approval.



Katy Bourne OBE
Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

Hundreds of e-scooters seized

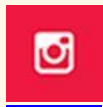
Over the past two weeks, I have spoken to multiple news outlets in interviews reminding the public about the illegal use of e-scooters on public roads.

Each year, Sussex Police seize well over a hundred e-scooters from people who are riding them illegally.

The first time a young person is seen breaking the law, police will approach them and educate them, explaining to them and their parents that this is illegal. If they are caught a second time they will be prosecuted.

If adults are caught illegally using e-scooters, you can face immediate prosecution with a potential fine of up to £300 and six points on your driving licence.

In 2025, I will continue to ask manufacturers and retailers to make sure members of the public who buy e-scooters are told that it is illegal to ride them on public roads.



SHARE WITH A FRIEND