

Rudgwick Parish Council

Weekly Clerk's Update: 18th – 24th 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:

- 2x Battle Rope anchors installed at KGV for use by Surrey Fitness

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).

Applications for noting at Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting

Applications for noting at Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 10 th February 2025	
Application No: DC/25/0104 22.01.2025	Response/Comments:

Applicant: Little Millfields, Horsham Road, Rowhook	
Reason for Application: Prior notification for the demolition of a former stable building.	
Official Response Date: Not available / Determination 18.02.2025	

Applications for consideration at Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting

Applications for consideration at Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 10th February 2025	
Application No: DC/25/0093 21.01.2025	Response/Comments:
Applicant: Windacres Farm, Church Street, Rudgwick	
Reason for Application: Prior Notification for Change of Use of Agricultural Building to a single dwellinghouse.	
Official Response Date: 13.02.2025 / Determination 17.03.2025	
Application No: DC/25/0090 21.01.2025	Response/Comments:
Applicant: Monks Farm, Honeywood Lane, Okewood Hill	
Reason for Application: Prior Notification for Change of Use and extension of Agricultural Barn to 2no. dwellinghouses.	
Official Response Date: 13.02.2025 / Determination 17.03.2025	

Decisions

HDC Council Decisions – Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 10 th February 2025	
Application No: DC/24/1272	Response: Permitted / RPC Observations – Whilst noting the location of the Air Source Heat Pump is now shown on the elevation for the approved chimney position, there are no details provided, as yet, of the type of enclosure to be provided for the pump. All other points of objection (as per RPC consultation response submitted 30th September 2025) remain.
Applicant: Oakfield, Cox Green, Rudgwick	
Reason for Application: Variation of Condition 1 of previously approved application DC/21/2209 (Demolition of existing detached garage and outbuilding. Erection of two-storey detached dwelling and detached garage on existing garden land) Amendments to building envelope and Air Source Heat Pump to side (NorthEast) elevation.	
Official Response Date:	
Application No: DC/24/1807	Response: Withdrawn Application / RPC Observations – No objection provided the HDC Heritage Officer is satisfied that the setting of the listed building will not be affected by the development.
Applicant: Swains Cottage, Tismans Cottage, Rudgwick	
Reason for Application: Erection of an oak-framed carport, landscaping alterations including extension of gravel driveway and addition of new vehicle access to the highway. (Listed Building Consent).	
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:	
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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/25/0015 17.01.2025	Response/Comments: Pending consideration
Address: Eller Dean, Church Street, Rudgwick	
Nature of Complaint: Untidy site	
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 23.01.2025 from WSCC

Devolution update, help to cut drinking, could you be a firefighter, and more!



Welcome to the January 2025 edition of our Residents' eNewsletter, featuring the latest news and updates from your county council.



Step forward in plans for Sussex Mayoral Authority

West Sussex County Council and our partners have put ourselves forward to be at the forefront of plans for historic changes to local government across the country.

Together with East Sussex County Council and Brighton & Hove City Council, we're bidding to create a combined authority for Sussex that would be led by a mayor.

The government hopes plans to create more Mayoral Authorities in England will bring funding and local decision-making powers down from Westminster.

[Council Leader Cllr Paul Marshall said](#): “This is the time to make the most of the opportunity for devolution and be among the first to access the benefits we need to help the whole of Sussex prosper now and for future generations.”

Read more in the link below, including separate plans on local government reorganisation.

[More information](#)



Our proposed budget for the year ahead

Proposals to deliver a balanced budget for 2025/26 and provide support for vulnerable residents in line with Council Plan priorities were examined by our Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee yesterday.

You can watch a [webcast of the meeting](#) online.

We are proposing to spend more than £2.2 billion on day-to-day services to meet increasing demand pressures and cost of services.

The pressures facing us outweigh the funding received from government and a balanced budget is proposed by increasing council tax by 4.99% and spending reductions of £12.3m.

The Cabinet will consider feedback from our recent consultation at a meeting next week before recommending the budget to Full Council in February for a final decision.

[Read more about the budget](#)



Help to 'Call the Shots on Alcohol'

A new public health campaign is encouraging people in West Sussex to 'Call the Shots on Alcohol'.

Together with West Sussex Wellbeing and DrinkCoach, we are encouraging people to reflect on their drinking and to take the two-minute online DrinkCoach test to find out if it's putting them at risk.

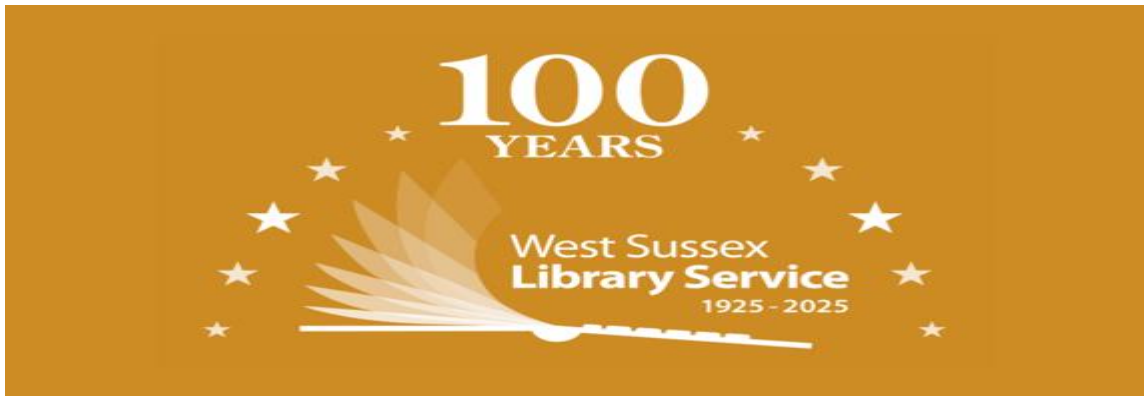
The campaign guides people to free, confidential alcohol support available in West Sussex, both online and face-to-face.

For both men and women, it is recommended to drink no more than 14 units of alcohol a week, spread across three days or more. That's around six medium (175ml) glasses of wine, or six pints of 4% beer.

In West Sussex, men are thought to be more likely to drink above these recommendations, with one in four men (26%) likely to drink to hazardous levels, compared to one in eight (13%) women. Men also appear to be less likely to access the range of early alcohol support available across West Sussex. [Find more information on these statistics here.](#)

Press the button below to take the test, get tips on reducing your drinking and find out about free local support.

Call the shots on alcohol



Celebrate with us

2025 marks 100 years of our library service being in the heart of the community.

We're overjoyed to have been a part of so many people's lives and communities across the county over the past century.

Join us in celebrating our centenary by taking part in a series of exciting events and activities.

From special half term activities and centenary-inspired crafting to tea parties and murder mystery events – there's something for everyone at our 36 libraries.

One of the main attractions will be the *Library of Possibilities and Wonder*, an exciting virtual reality project. We'll be bringing VR headsets, as well as 3D posters, to your local library during the year.

We'll also be delving into the archives and sharing photographs and memorabilia about the library service from 1925 to the present day.

If you're not already a member of the library, [it's free and easy to join](#).

Celebrate the centenary



Applications open to cut waste

The Waste Prevention Community Grant Fund is now open for applications from community-based projects to encourage people to repair and reuse items they no longer want or use.

The fund is a joint initiative by the county council and Biffa to help local groups develop innovative ways to reduce household waste.

It's open to community groups, residents' associations, charities, community interest companies and social enterprises to apply for grants of up to £5,000.

[More information](#)



Free support to stop smoking

There are almost immediate improvements to your health when you quit smoking.

Your body starts repairing the day you stop smoking and your longer-term risks of cancer, lung disease, heart disease and stroke will be significantly reduced.

The [NHS quit smoking website](#) notes that after just one year of quitting smoking, the risk of a heart attack halves compared to continued smoking.

There are also financial benefits - [calculations on the costs of smoking made in 2024](#) show that the average smoker could save up to £48 a week (around £2,500 a year) by quitting smoking.

You are much more likely to successfully quit with the right support; with professional help you're three times more likely to quit for good.

So visit [Smokefree West Sussex](#) or call 0330 222 7980 to get free, non-judgmental support from trained advisors to help you quit smoking for good. All provide quit aids such as nicotine patches or gum and some offer free vape starter kits too.

Support is planned around your needs and is available face-to-face, over the phone or by downloading the new [Smokefree app](#).



Could you become a wholetime firefighter?

Our West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service is recruiting for wholetime firefighters.

The service is looking for individuals who would be proud to serve the communities of West Sussex in a highly rewarding role that genuinely makes a difference to people's lives.

Chief Fire Officer, Sabrina Cohen-Hatton, said: "The role of a firefighter is hugely varied and involves so much more than just fighting fires. To be a great firefighter you must be empathetic, a good problem solver, able to communicate effectively and be physically fit."

[How to apply](#)



Discover our Digital Strategy

We've launched our Digital Strategy for how we'll use technology to make best use of resources and improve everyday life for our residents, businesses and communities.

It focuses on making council services easier to access, more user-friendly and efficient, while ensuring everyone can benefit from digital technology.

Highlights include enhanced access, inclusion for all, safety first to keep you and your information secure, and sustainability to protect our environment and support growth.

We'll be introducing new ways for you to connect with the council including, for example, AI chatbots to help analyse enquiries and provide swifter, more accurate and consistent information and advice.

[More information](#)

Environment and Climate Change News

Take a look at the [latest news about the environment and climate change](#), including burning wood and the link to health, plus find out how more local schools are set to benefit from zero carbon emissions.

More news



Head to our [Newsroom](#) to find all the latest news.

- Increase your skills and awareness on the road as a biker, pillion rider and/or general road user by taking part in a [free Biker Down course taking place at Shoreham Fire Station on 20 February](#).
- Do you have opinions on your local pharmacy services? Tell us about your experience of getting prescriptions and health advice from pharmacies and dispensing doctors to help improve future services. [Survey now open until Monday 3 March](#).
- Kind and caring people are needed who could offer a few hours each month to support a child in care. Join an informal online information session to find out more about becoming an independent visitor on [Wednesday 29 January 2025 from 12.30pm to 1.30pm](#) or [Wednesday 5 February 2025 from 7pm to 8pm](#) or email Independent.Visitors@westsussex.gov.uk.
- Take part and [give your views on sexual health and wellbeing in West Sussex](#). This work will support plans to improve people's sexual health and wellbeing.
- Becoming a school governor means you could make a difference to the lives of schoolchildren in your local community. There are no specific qualifications needed, you don't need to be a parent or have a background in education. [Book your place on an online information event](#) on 11 February to hear current school governors experiences and ask them questions. Alternatively contact governancesupport@westsussex.gov.uk for more information [or watch this video](#).

- Our Meals on Wheels customers have [received wheat bags to help provide warmth and comfort during the winter](#).
- From better crossings to safer speeds, your feedback shapes our Road Safety Strategy. [Review the strategy and complete the survey by 2 February](#).
- 25 things to do in Sussex in 2025! [Experience Sussex has curated a list to guide](#) you through the must-see places, unmissable events, and unforgettable adventures in Sussex this year.
- The results of [recent electric vehicle public consultations](#) held for new proposed chargepoint sites across the county have been published and are now available.

Did you know?



If you are newly engaged or planning your special day and need some inspiration, come along to [Edes House in Chichester on Sunday 26 January between 10am and 2pm](#) to meet a host of wedding suppliers from florists, jewellers, photographers, cake makers and more.

Did you receive this eNewsletter from a friend? [Sign up here](#).

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 23.01.2025 from WSALC
Neighbourhood Planning and Planning Reform

Please find [attached](#) a report commissioned by WSALC and written by our planning associate, Steve Tilbury, to inform councils on the latest planning reform and proposals for planning reform.

Steve also has a number of training sessions coming up which you/councillors can book onto:
Introduction to Planning – 5th February and 3rd March
Updates in Planning – 6th February and 10th March
Making Effective Representations – 11th March

I would be grateful if you could share the attached with your Councillors, and hope it is found to be useful.

Kind regards, Emily Simpson, WSALC

Email dated 23.01.2025 from WSCC
Formal proposals published to make Horsham secondary school co-educational



news release

Formal proposals published to make Horsham secondary school co-educational

Formal proposals to change Millais School in Horsham from a single sex girls' school to a co-educational school have been published by West Sussex County Council.

The proposals would increase the number of available secondary school places for boys in the Horsham area and help support the school's longer-term sustainability, following a decline in demand for places at Millais.

An initial public consultation was held between May and June 2024 and showed that a slight majority of respondents were in favour of Millais becoming a co-educational school.

The proposed change, if approved, would mean that Millais would admit boys and girls into Year 7 with effect from September 2026 and each year thereafter. There are no changes proposed to have co-educational provision for any of the existing year groups.

A report to the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Learning and Skills, Cllr Jackie Russell, also recommends the allocation of £1.5m capital funding for necessary refurbishment works to the school site, such as adapted changing and toilet facilities.

The council will be engaging with school staff and governors on the proposals, as well as other key stakeholders including neighbouring schools, the district council and the local Member of Parliament.

Members of the public also have until 27 February to make further representations on the statutory proposals by letter or email. It should be noted that these cannot be a repeat of the evidence already provided during the initial public consultation, but offers the opportunity to highlight new substantive information to the decision maker.

Visit <https://yourvoice.westsussex.gov.uk/millais> for more information about the proposals and how to submit representations.

Email dated 23.01.2025 from NALC Chief Executives Bulletin

New video tutorial on booking NALC events

I'm pleased to announce the release of a new video tutorial that provides a [step-by-step guide to booking to attend a NALC event](#). This tutorial covers browsing and filtering events, selecting your ticket, payment and invoicing options, and accessing "my events" features, which include adding to the calendar, viewing event details, editing your details, or amending your booking. This video and our other website tutorial videos can be found on the [Contact](#) page or on our [YouTube channel](#). We will continue to expand the collection of videos.

NALC quarterly activity report

This week, we published our [quarterly activity report](#) covering October to December 2024. This details progress in delivering our strategic plan, with a key highlight including the English Devolution White Paper, which includes many items we have been pressing for, such as a strengthened standards regime with sanctions, improvements to the local audit regime, hybrid meetings, and a reset of relations between the tiers of government. In his new year [open letter](#), our chair, Cllr Keith Stevens, reflects on a year of significant outcomes and sets out some priorities and challenges for the year ahead. We launched a comprehensive resource to support parish and town councils in enhancing [community safety](#) plus an [anti-terror checklist](#) developed by the Martyn's Law Steering Group. We [endorsed the Mumsnet campaign encouraging public sector organisations to publish their parental leave policies openly](#) and published our Staff Handbook. We also [supported White Ribbon Day 2024](#) and delivered a range of initiatives, including launching a brand-new digital [White Ribbon Toolkit](#). And, of course, we [launched our new website](#) which has been exceptionally well received, with over 5,000 users (and growing) already registering to access our exclusive resources. The subsequent report covers January to March 2025 and will be published in April 2025.

Fortnightly meeting with county associations

In this week's fortnightly meeting between NALC and county officers, we had a comprehensive update from the Parish Council Domains Helper Service. They highlighted the service's success in moving parish and town councils to .gov.uk domains, and although the funding to subsidise this has now ended, the service will continue to offer advice and support. Their guidance has also moved to [a new website launched today](#). The meeting also received a further update on the English Devolution White Paper, including timelines, expressions of interest by principal authorities for devolution and reorganisation, and proposals for support to county associations. We briefed county officers on our emerging response to the consultation on changes to the local audit.

Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments

Jane Moore, NALC's legal manager, attended the latest Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments (SAAA) board meeting on 15 January 2025 as the new NALC member director. The board considered its response to the government's consultation on local audits, including SAAA support for forming the Local Audit Office (LAO). Still, it argued that SAAA should sit outside LAO but work closely with it.

On the blog: Faversham Town Council

[On this week's blog](#), Louise Bareham, town clerk at Faversham Town Council, reflects on the council's journey to achieving reaccreditation for the Quality Gold Award in the [Local Council Award Scheme](#) (LCAS). Despite previously holding the award, Louise highlights how the process served as an opportunity to reassess, reflect, and demonstrate ongoing excellence. And that reaccreditation is not just a procedural task but a chance to ensure

alignment with community needs, update strategies, and showcase progress. She also encourages councils to embrace the LCAS as a tool to raise standards and prepare for future challenges, such as devolution.

Improvement and Development Board

The Improvement and Development Board's [Civility and Respect Task Force](#) recently met and welcomed Cllr Anya Sizer from Hackney Council, who shared insights about the work of [Compassion in Politics](#). Their work models politics around values of compassion, inclusion, and cooperation. Cllr Sizer highlighted their efforts to promote civility and respect in parish and town councils, such as the recent introduction of a pledge signed by 30 MPs. 1,668 parish and town councils have signed up to the [Civility and Respect Pledge](#). The task force is conducting a detailed review of the pledge to identify ways to increase signups. The task force strongly welcomed the government's [consultation on strengthening standards and conduct](#). It reiterated our call for all parish and town councils, councillors, and clerks to respond by 26 February 2025. The task force also noted the Welsh government's legislation enforcing zero tolerance for lying in public affairs and the Bullying and Respect At Work Private Members Bill. The Improvement and Development Board also oversees the joint NALC and Local Government Association (LGA) Corporate Peer Challenge (CPC) programme. Jane Moore visited Taunton Town Council recently as part of the review team's follow-up to the council's original review conducted in March last year. The team consisted of an LGA peer (Jill Scarr), a clerk peer (Andrew Tubb, Cirencester Town Council chief executive officer) and a member peer (Cllr Mike Drew of Yate Town Council), with Jane as the NALC peer. The team was pleased to see the progress made by the council, which came into being in May 2023, and how their recommendations have been implemented. [Find out more about the CPC on our website.](#)

Employer National Insurance Contributions campaign

Earlier this month, NALC worked with members of the House of Lords to propose an amendment to the National Insurance Contributions (Secondary Class 1 Contributions) Bill. The amendment aimed to protect parish and town councils from the proposed increase, given that the government does not propose to fund the additional cost. While the government did not support the amendment, both NALC and parish and town councils were mentioned several times during the Grand Committee stage of the bill in the House of Lords. Lord Forsyth of Drumlean asked why parish and town councils were being singled out as not getting additional support, in contrast to other parts of local government. Baroness Kramer thanked NALC for our briefing and acknowledged that parish and town councils would undoubtedly have to increase their precepts to cover the additional costs. NALC's vice-president, Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle, highlighted various projects run by parish and town councils, emphasising their close ties to the communities they serve. She cautioned that taking money away from that (through increased employer contributions) would have enormous consequences for communities. We will continue our advocacy on this issue and provide further updates.

Free virtual sessions on councillor safety

As part of the Local Government Association's [Debate Not Hate](#) campaign, free virtual counselling sessions on councillor safety are offered to provide practical guidance and support for addressing challenges in public service. The next session, [Handling Online Abuse and Intimidation for Councillors](#), will take place on 30 January 2025. It will cover strategies for managing defamatory, inappropriate, or threatening social media posts, provide an overview of the legal framework around online content, and offer tips on creating a safe and positive online presence. Another session, [Safer Canvassing](#), is scheduled for 6 February 2025, focusing on strategies for canvassing safely and productively while minimising risks of abuse or intimidation.

And finally...

[NotWestminster](#) is a free one-day event that brings together people who have something positive to say about local democracy and anyone who is up for the challenge of making it better. Their annual gathering is back in Huddersfield on 15 February 2025 and celebrates its 10th anniversary! There will be more of a focus than usual on the role of parish and town councils in supporting local community action via the first tier of democracy. In particular, there is a workshop on local council support for climate action. [Find out more and book your free place.](#)

Email dated 22.01.2025 from WSCC

Our Digital Strategy sets out a connected and innovative future for West Sussex



news release

Our Digital Strategy sets out a connected and innovative future for West Sussex



West Sussex County Council has launched its Digital Strategy, which sets out a clear vision for the use of digital technology to create a more connected and inclusive future for West Sussex residents, businesses, and communities.

The Digital Strategy is the foundation for a single, Council-wide digital approach, improving access to Council services and ensuring residents, staff, service users and partners are equipped, enabled, and supported to connect digitally. It sits within the context of the [Council Plan \(2021-2025\)](#) and aligns with the priorities of the council by keeping people safe from vulnerable situations, working towards a sustainable and prosperous economy, helping people and communities to fulfil their potential and making the best use of resources.

The strategy reflects feedback from residents, businesses, and local partners to ensure it meets the needs of our communities.

Key highlights include:

- **Enhanced Access:** Ensuring council services can be accessed quickly, easily, and conveniently, when and where they are needed.
- **More Choice:** Offering different ways to interact with the Council and find information. Traditional contact routes will remain in place, but we're adding new digital options for those who prefer them, ensuring everyone can reach us in the way that suits them best.
- **Digital Safety and Inclusion:** Promoting safe and secure use of technology whilst encouraging the development of digital skills across the county, helping everyone in our communities feel confident using technology and ensuring it is open to everyone.
- **Sustainability and Innovation:** Exploring how technology can help protect our environment and support innovation across West Sussex.

The strategy outlines specific actions and practical steps to achieve these goals and is underpinned by an action plan which will deliver the strategy outcomes. It includes clear commitments to improving accessibility, enhancing digital infrastructure, providing training opportunities, and offering digital support for those who need it. Over the next two years, we'll be introducing new ways for you to connect with us. This won't affect the quality of our services – we'll continue to provide essential support to safeguard residents.

Steve Waight, Cabinet Member for Support Services and Economic Development, said: "This Digital Strategy is about making life better for everyone in West Sussex. People are at the heart of this strategy, and we want to make it easier for residents to contact us and use our services with help from digital technology.

We also know that not everyone will want, have access to, or be able to, use digital technology. This strategy makes a commitment that we are expanding our current offer and increasing the ways you can interact with us, meaning existing contact routes will remain in place.

Additionally, this strategy supports the council's priority of making the best use of resources. By introducing smarter digital solutions, we can address the challenges posed by increasing demand and complexity of needs while working within limited resources. This approach ensures that we continue to deliver high-quality services efficiently and effectively."

For more information and to read the Digital Strategy, visit [West Sussex County Council Digital Strategy - West Sussex County Council](#).

Email dated 21.01.2025 from SOSCA
SOSCA - EFFLUENT RECYCLING - OFWAT CONSULTATION

Hampshire Water Transfer & Effluent Recycling Project

Dear Parish Councillors, Last year SOSCA was in touch with you all to warn you of the Southern Water's intentions over Portsmouth Water's Havant Thicket Reservoir. This reservoir will be filled with clean water from springs from the Bedhampton aquifers but which Southern Water now intend to fill with their recycled effluent from Budds Farm Treatment Works. We are in touch with you again as we wish to inform you further of the escalating complexities and the environmental and financial impact this whole scheme will inevitably have to a large area in the south of the country across parts of Hampshire and West Sussex. A consultation was produced that consisted of

hundreds of pages of dense figures, infrastructure details, future enlargements, costings, all taking a rosy view of what a wonderful idea this project was and how it will all go swimmingly well and that they have an answer to everything – even though this particular system has never been done before in the UK.

The consultation was presented just before – and one could say a deliberate piece of timing – over the Christmas period, thus making sure the public would be too occupied to create any form of challenge. Through the hard work and dedication of a few wonderful volunteers we managed to set out our challenges albeit at the 11th hour. We are dismayed therefore that we were understandably unable to give you time to respond to this latest consultation but unlike Southern Water we do not have taxpayers money to employ a raft of lawyers, technical professionals and civil servants.

The above attachment is SOSCA's objection to Ofwat's Gate 3 draft decision on funding for this project. This decision is about whether Southern Water should continue to receive funding for the development of the scheme, including the work needed to submit a Development Consent Application to the Planning Inspectorate. It is not to give consent for the scheme itself to be built. However, as can be seen from the attached there is a great deal of concern over the whole of this project. It is, in essence, the hijacking by Southern Water of the Portsmouth Water Havant Thicket Reservoir that originally received planning permission to store its spring fed water to protect its customer base from times of drought.

With Many Thanks, Libby Alexander

HTR - OFWAT OBJECT TO RAPID 3 - Jan 2025

Libby Alexander
On Behalf of SOSCA.org.uk
Save Our South Coast Alliance
07769 700 669
www.sosca.org.uk



Email dated 17.01.2025 from WSCC
Providing warmth and comfort with meals on wheels

news release

Providing warmth and comfort with meals on wheels



West Sussex County Council is helping to enhance the wellbeing of its meals on wheels customers by funding 1,000 wheat bags through the UK Government's Household Support Fund.

Delivered alongside their hot meals, the wheat bags have been provided to support customers during the colder months and arrived in time for the recent adverse weather conditions.

Health & Independent Living Support (HILS), commissioned by the county council, delivers over 3,000 meals each week to homes across the county, 365 days a year to residents in the community who are elderly, disabled, or housebound that want to remain independent in their own homes.

The service is vital for many residents and not only provides a nourishing hot meal but also social connection and reassurance for the client and their families. The service supports the council's priority in its Council Plan to keep people safe in vulnerable situations.

Barbara Platt, 93, was delighted to receive her wheat bag and explained why having a hot meal delivered to her daily is so important.

Barbara said: "Meals on wheels has been a lifeline for me since I came home from the hospital over four years ago after a fall. The meals are nice, and it gives me and my family peace of mind knowing someone checks in every day.

"I enjoy seeing my meals on wheels delivery driver as they bring life into my home and are always jolly.

"It's reassuring to know I will have a hot meal without the worry of cooking for myself."

The wheat bag initiative was funded through the Household Support Fund, a fund aimed at helping anyone who's vulnerable or cannot pay for essentials.

County council cabinet member for adults' services Amanda Jupp said: "This is a great initiative and will help many recipients of our Meals on Wheels service to keep warm and comfortable at home this winter. Alongside their daily hot and nutritious meals, the microwaveable wheat bags, which are made in the UK, offer an effective solution to providing extra warmth. They can also offer natural relief for aches and pains."

County council cabinet member for community support, fire and rescue Duncan Crow said: "Our Meals on Wheels service is vital for many residents as it provides a point of contact for people each day as well as a nutritious meal."

For further information about HILS meals on wheels visit www.hils-uk.org/ or call the Support Team on 0330 2000 103. Every visit includes a caring wellbeing check from Community Team Members.

Email dated 17.01.2025 from Sussex Police
Further funding to tackle anti-social behaviour



**Sussex
Police & Crime
Commissioner**

KATY BOURNE OBE



437

**IMMEDIATE
JUSTICE
REFERRALS**

**705
HOURS**

**OF REPARATIVE
ACTIVITY
COMPLETED**

**OVER
80%**

**COMPLIANCE RATE
FOR COMPLETED
CASES**



For the past two years, a dedicated team in my office has worked to embed Immediate Justice (IJ) across Sussex. The innovative IJ programme has been designed to reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour by giving offenders the opportunity to repair damage and 'put something back'. It also gives local people reassurance that the police take vandalism, graffiti and criminal damage seriously.

I'm delighted that Sussex is one of the best performing of the ten IJ pilot areas (funded by the previous Government) with 437 referrals to date and many meaningful reparative activities successfully delivered across our county.

Most of our IJ referrals are for youths aged 11-17. However, we have seen over 70 adults also come through the programme. Typical offences are assaults, criminal damage and vandalism, theft from shops, drug possession and public order offences.

By the end of 2024, my IJ Taskforce had dealt with over 416 referrals with incredibly high compliance rates for undertaking reparative activities. We've seen over 700 hours of reparative activity take place in our county and our compliance rate sits at over 80%, which is incredibly high compared to other areas. This means that offenders have not only undergone physical tasks to repair damage but have done so willingly – plus it's given our team the opportunity to teach each individual about the impact their offending has had on others.

My annual Safer In Sussex survey showed that, for residents, anti-social behaviour was their top concern and respondents were calling for effective initiatives to tackle it. So, with the new Government's disappointing announcement that it will not continue funding Immediate Justice, I have decided to allocate monies to ensure we can keep it going in Sussex for a further six months in the hope that there may be further funding streams for new 'initiatives' made available at a later date.

I am pleased to be able to continue supporting our innovative programme which is successfully delivering on what local residents have told me matters to them. You can [read more about how Immediate Justice is restoring community confidence on my website.](#)

Performance and Accountability



Yesterday, I hosted my first Performance and Accountability Meeting (PAM) of 2025 which, in the future, will be held and webcast on a Thursday rather than a Friday each month.

I scrutinised how Sussex Police have sought to maintain police officer, staff and PCSO numbers during 2024/25 and I asked for a forecast of the total number by the end of this financial year. I received assurances that by the end of March Sussex Police will have over 3,200 officers working in Sussex.

I also asked Chief Constable Shiner what was being done to reduce vacancies and what further improvements have been delivered as part of last year's precept investment into operational capacity, visibility and accessibility?

With the Government's expectations that all police forces in England and Wales should deliver hundreds of millions of pounds in efficiency savings by 2029/30, we discussed budgeted costs for the coming year and the savings requirement for the force. This will

help to shape my end-of-month decision regarding the police precept - the amount you pay in your local taxes for policing.

An important topic that will remain on my PAM agendas for the foreseeable future is 'Disclosure and Barring Service' (DBS) checks.

I share the frustrations of Sussex residents facing unacceptable lengthy delays when undergoing DBS checks. I now look at the performance each week with the Chief Constable and I have this as a standing item on our monthly PAMs so that everyone can see my focus on how the force is making changes to processes, deploying more resources and using technology to reduce the backlog. [You can watch the PAM on our archive](#) to hear the Chief Constable's response.



Katy Bourne OBE
Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

Prolific shoplifter given CBO



You may have seen on my [social media](#) that I recently shared positive news about a prolific shoplifter being given a Criminal Behaviour Order?

A man, who has stolen thousands of pounds worth of items from shops in Eastbourne, is now subject to a Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO). Sussex Police applied for the CBO against a man from Terminus Road, Eastbourne in a bid to prevent further offending.

He appeared before Brighton Magistrates Court on Tuesday 7 January, charged with two counts of shoplifting. He pleaded guilty to both charges and has been convicted of 50 counts of shoplifting since March 2024.

The CBO lasts for five years and prohibits the man from entering: any Co-Op and Sainsbury's in East Sussex; Marks and Spencer

in Terminus Road Eastbourne; any Tesco Store in Eastbourne; and Morrisons on Grove Road, Eastbourne. The CBO also prohibits the man from remaining on any retail premises within the county of Sussex after being asked to leave by the owner, any member of staff employed by that premises or any security staff operating at that premises.



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